

Issue No 2

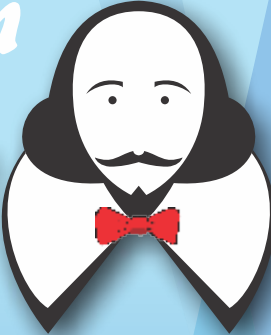


June 2025

R E P E R T O I R E

Newsletter of Adelaide's oldest theatre group

Shakespeare in HOLLYWOOD



By Arrangement with ORiGiN™ Theatrical
On Behalf of Samuel French
A Concord Theatricals Company

by Ken Ludwig
directed by Jude Hines

*A comedy that transports the magic of Shakespeare's
"A Midsummers Night's Dream" to the glitz and glamour
of 1930's Hollywood*

17 -19 July 7.30pm

20 July 2.00pm

23-25 July 7.30pm

26 July 2.00pm



Arts Theatre - 53 Angas St. Adelaide 8212 5777
Tickets now available at: [TicketSearch Online](#)



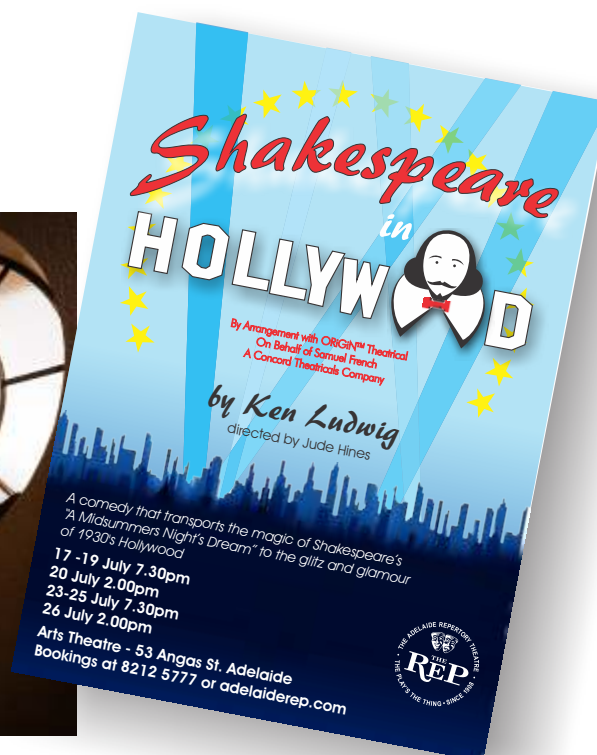
July 2025

Shakespeare in Hollywood

Written by: Ken Ludwig

Directed by: Jude Hines

Get ready to be transported to the golden age of Hollywood in a dazzling mix of comedy, chaos, and Shakespearean mischief! The acclaimed play *'Shakespeare in Hollywood'* by Tony Award-winning playwright Ken Ludwig is set to enchant audiences with its witty dialogue, fast-paced humour, and star-studded intrigue.



Based on the original film, it's a 'don't miss' screwball comedy with supernatural elements, a fun-filled romp that pays homage to both Shakespeare and the golden age of Hollywood.

It's 1934, and Shakespeare's most famous fairies, Oberon and Puck, have magically materialised on the set of the Warner Brothers film set of *'Midsummer Night's Dream'*. Smitten by the glitz and glamour of show biz, the two are ushered onto the silver screen to play (who else?) themselves the least.

Don't miss this chance to revel in Ludwig's witty storytelling and Shakespearean charm!

Step into the Spotlight with Ken Ludwig's Hilarious "Shakespeare in Hollywood"



The Adelaide Repertory Theatre Inc.

Patron: Her Excellency the Honourable
Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia
Vice Patron: Phillip Martin, Deputy Mayor, City of Adelaide

Venue: ARTS Theatre, 53 Angas St, Adelaide 5000

Ph. 8212 5777 **Web:** www.adelaiderep.com

Email: enquiries@adelaiderep.com

Photography: Richard Parkhill

Editor: Penni Hamilton-Smith

Board:

David Sinclair, Skye Wild, Gary Anderson, Lise Windsor,
Rosie Whittaker, Jay Antoney and Tom Carney



Ken Ludwig

Early life and Education

Ken Ludwig was born in York, Pennsylvania. His father, Jacob S. Ludwig, was a doctor, and his mother, Louise Rabiner Ludwig, was a former Broadway chorus girl.

Ludwig was educated at York Suburban Senior High School, York PA. He received a BA in Music Theory and Composition from Haverford College, where he also studied Shakespeare with Ralph Sargent.

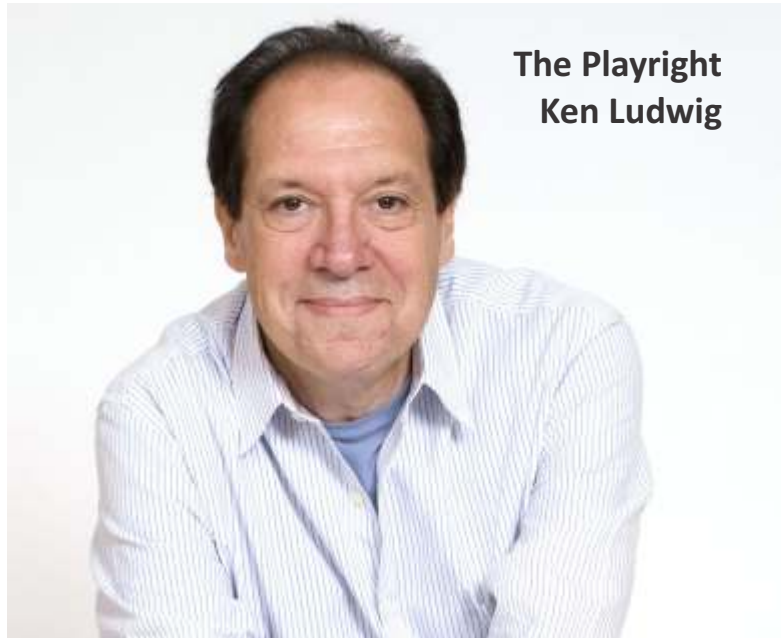
At Harvard University, he studied music with Leonard Bernstein. He received his Juris Doctor from Harvard Law School and an LLM (Master of Laws) from Cambridge University (Trinity College).

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The Playwright
Ken Ludwig

Ken Ludwig is an American playwright, author, screenwriter, and director whose work has been performed in more than 30 countries in over 20 languages. He has had eight productions in London's West End and six productions on Broadway, and his 34 plays and musicals have been staged throughout the United States.

Ludwig wrote several comedies *'Shakespeare in Hollywood'*, which premiered at Arena Stage in Washington, D.C., in 2003; *'Leading Ladies'*, which premiered at the Alley Theatre in association with the Cleveland Play House in 2004, and which Ludwig directed; *'Be My Baby'*, which premiered at the Alley Theatre in 2005 starring Hal Holbrook and Dixie Carter; *'A Fox on the Fairway'*, which premiered at Signature Theatre in 2010, directed by John Rando; *'A Comedy of Tenors'*, featuring the continuing adventures of several characters from *'Lend Me a Tenor'*, which premiered as a co-production of the McCarter Theatre Center and the Cleveland Play House in 2015; *'The Gods of Comedy'*, which premiered at the McCarter Theatre Center in association with The Old Globe Theatre in 2019; and *'Lend Me A Soprano'*, a re-imagining of *'Lend Me a Tenor'* featuring women in all the leading roles, which premiered at the Alley Theatre in 2022.

'Shakespeare in Hollywood' won the 2004 Charles MacArthur Award for Outstanding New Play or Musical.

The Director Jude Hines



Jude Hines is a talented renowned director of Ludwig's plays, musicals and other award-winning productions. In 2024 Jude directed the stunning production of *'Jersey Boys'* for Therry Theatre.

The Cast includes a Hollywood's 'Whose Who' featuring Penni Hamilton-Smith as Louella Parsons, Malcolm Walton as Joe E Brown, Tom Adams as James Cagney with Stephen Bills and Emily Burns as the irrepressible, magical Oberon and Puck and an ensemble of actors playing many roles of famous Hollywood stars and movie moguls.

Don't miss this chance to revel in Ludwig's witty storytelling and Shakespearean charm!

Rounding out the year

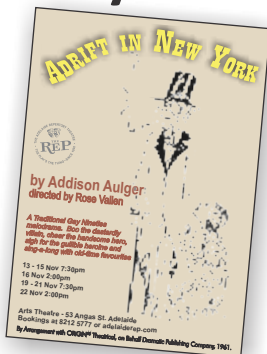
To round out the year The Rep presents *'Adrift in New York'* in November.

Melodrama at its finest! *'Adrift in New York'* is a thrilling tale of virtue, villainy, and Victorian-style suspense.

When an innocent young heroine is cast adrift in the big city, fate, fortune, and a fiendish scoundrel conspire to test her resilience. Will justice prevail? Will true love triumph? Expect dastardly deeds, dramatic twists, and a hearty dose of theatrical nostalgia in this rollicking classic.

A delightfully over-the-top adventure brimming with heroics and heart—don't miss The Rep's spirited revival of this vintage gem.

Director Rose Vallen can't wait to get you involved in this traditional gay nineties melodrama where you can boo the dastardly villain, cheer the handsome hero, sigh for the gullible heroine and sing-a-long with old time favourites. It will be a night to remember!



Become Involved Why not be part of the Rep Team

You don't need to be an actor to be involved with the Rep.

Every production is supported by teams of behind the scenes volunteers.

We need people who can prompt, paint, design, construct, show people to their seats, move sets, or sew costumes.

People who like to play with sound and lights, people to make tea and iron costumes.



Email your details to

enquiries@adelaiderep.com

Moore St Parking

\$10.00 Undercover parking
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opposite the Arts
Theatre stage door!!



Newest Board Member

Rosie Whittaker



Following the recent AGM on March 25th Rosie was elected to the Board.

Currently, Rosie is a Solicitor and in her time away from the office she instructs yoga.

She was previously Executive Assistant to the CEO and Office Manager of Law and Behavioural science Flinders Uni.

Prior to her EA role Rosie was a Marketing consultant with extensive experience in sales and marketing development. Strategic international Marketing on multiple platforms and delivered Sales Strategy and Market Analysis.

Rosie is looking forward to be able to apply her skills and working as a member of the board

Publicity Photo Shoot



BECOME INVOLVED- VOLUNTEER

The Rep needs a Volunteer Front of House Manager

A Front of House Manager (FOH Manager) is responsible for the day-to-day operation and management of the reception and seating area of a theatre. They are responsible for supervising the Front of House volunteers. The house manager assumes control of "the front of the house" - this means the space beginning at the outside entrance to the theatre and extending to the foot of the stage. The front of house manager is tasked with supervising the box office roster (the volunteer selling and booking tickets for a show) and caring for the health and safety of audience members.

If this is a position you might be interested in please contact us. The email address for Adelaide Repertory Theatre Inc. is enquiries@adelaiderrep.com You can also contact us by phone at 08 8212 5777.



Douglas Gautier AM is retiring

You may have heard that renowned arts administrator, Douglas Gautier AM is retiring.

Mr Gautier lived in Hong Kong for around 25 years, where he worked in various roles in the arts and entertainment world, before being appointed CEO and artistic director of the Adelaide Festival Centre Trust in 2006. But you may not know that in 1969, on the 19th April, whilst just a teenager, Douglas appeared at the ARTS in the Rep's production of 'A Mighty Man is He' directed by Robert Perry. Also appearing were Geoffrey Ashton, Stuart Lowry, Kay Weideman, Michele Turnbridge, Nancy Thorpe, Barbara Saunders, Glenys Stokes and Neil Lawson.

Thank you so much to our Vice Patron, Phillip Martin, Deputy Mayor of the City of Adelaide, who reminded us of this piece of South Australian history, and kindly invited Gary Anderson, Vice President of the Rep and Life Member Penni Hamilton-Smith to attend a farewell reception which was held for Mr Gautier at the Adelaide Town Hall.



Above
Douglas Gautier in
Adelaide Festival
Centre.
Picture: Claudio
Raschella

Right L-R.
Dr Ray Taylor,
Penni Hamilton-Smith
and Gary Anderson



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Vale Laraine Wheeler 1942 -2025

Laraine was a highly respected Lighting Designer, Head Electrician, Lighting Switchboard Operator, Stage Manager, and Assistant Stage Manager and dog lover.

She brought her expertise to numerous companies, designing lighting for The Adelaide Repertory Theatre, Theatre Guild, Stage Company, Troupe Theatre, Gilbert and Sullivan Society, State Opera of South Australia, Vitalstatistix, Co-Opera, the Olde Kings Music Hall and more.



She began her work with State Theatre Company South Australia before the company moved into the Adelaide Festival Centre and maintained a close professional relationship as a member of the AFC lighting department. Known for her dedication, she was often seen at work with her dog by her side.

For STCSA, Laraine designed the lighting for Magpie's acclaimed 1992 production Funerals and Circuses. Her contributions to the arts were recognised in 2004 when she received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Adelaide Critics Circle.



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Snaphots

Lifer's Lunch

A celebration lunch was held with some of the Rep's Board members, past and present and Life members, to welcome newest life member, Penni Hamilton-Smith.



Farewell Douglas



Douglas Gautier, Phillip Martin (deputy mayor and Rep Vice Patron) and Mayor Jane Lomax-Smith at Mr Gautier's farewell ceremony at Adelaide Town Hall.

Q and A session

After the matinee performances of *'The Other Place'*, successful Q & A sessions were held giving the opportunity for the audience to ask questions of the cast and crew and to discuss some of the issues raised in this fine production.



The Two Colonels

Two of the Rep's performers, Chris Meegan and Penni Hamilton-Smith were invited to sing WW1 and WW11 songs by Sandy Whitelaw,



Front of House Team

Some of our friendly Front of House team L-R Chris, Tom, Sue and Maggie



the Costume Collection Curator at the National Trust, at her recent Anzac Day presentation of fashion between the wars. After the performance a presentation was made to the performers, Sandy Whitelaw, Sandi McMenamin (keyboards and vocals), Chris Meegan and Penni Hamilton-Smith.

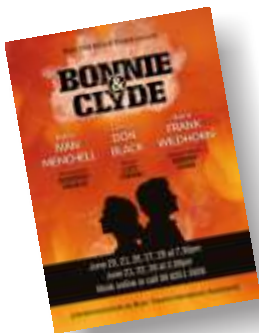


From the Wings: What's on and What's on next at the Arts Theatre

The Arts Theatre has been alive with extraordinary performances and passionate audiences this year. We're thrilled to celebrate two recent critically acclaimed seasons—'*La Cage Aux Folles*' by The Met delighted audiences with its glittering charm and heart, while G&S Society's '*Merrily We Roll Along*' drew praise for its emotional depth and musical sophistication.

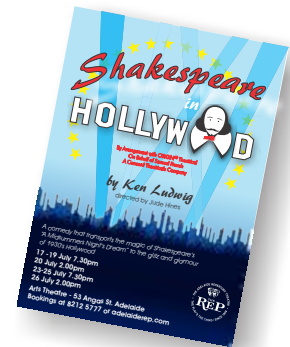


THE
ARTS
THEATRE



Looking ahead, we're proud to host the South Australian premiere of '*Bonnie and Clyde*' the musical, presented by Marie Clark Musical Theatre. Based on the true-crime story of Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow, the two small-town nobodies from West Texas who became America's most notorious folk heroes during the height of the

Great Depression...



The Adelaide Repertory Theatre brings Ken Ludwig's delightful '*Shakespeare in Hollywood*' to life this winter, and anticipation is building for the amateur premiere of '*Come From Away*', a landmark moment for Therry Theatre and the local theatre community.



Behind the scenes, major fire safety upgrades are underway, including essential work on our stage curtain drencher system. We're also continuing the costly but vital maintenance of our fly system—one of the few remaining in a community-run Adelaide venue—and urgently need to invest in modern technical equipment to support future productions.

The Arts is proudly South Australia's last mid-sized, affordable theatre in the CBD for community and amateur performance. We're here for the artists and audiences—but we can't do it without your help.



Please consider making a donation to support our technical upgrades and keep the curtain rising for generations to come.

Make a donation now – every dollar makes a difference!



The Rep Theatre Company A journey through the decades An exhibition for the History Festival May 2025

Did you know that the Adelaide Repertory Theatre Company is the oldest surviving amateur theatre company in the Southern Hemisphere, and the first repertory company established in Australia?

The birthplace of the Rep was Elder Conservatorium at Adelaide University, where students first met to read and discuss plays at Bryceson Treharne's Classes in 1908.

A performance from 1908



Since its inception, the Rep has performed in some of Adelaide's oldest and most iconic theatres including Queen's Hall, The King's, Victoria Hall, The Tivoli (now Her Majesty's), and Australia Hall (now The Royalty). It has

nurtured some incredible talent including stars of stage, screen and radio such as Keith Michell, Ruby Litchfield, Vivienne Cundell, Brian Wenzel, Phyllis Burford, Mimi Mattin, Carmel Millhouse, Brenton Whittle, Nancy Thorpe and Elspeth Ballantyne (to name a few!).



Bryceson Treharne's Class, where it all started

In 1963 the Rep moved into its current home, the Arts Theatre in Angas Street, after decades of planning and fundraising.

The Rep is the custodian of a significant collection of items that form part of a very important and rare history of amateur



A program from the 20's

theatre in South Australia, comprising play scripts, photographs, programs, posters and other ephemera collected over its 117-year history.

These items were gathered together and displayed in chronological order for the first time at the recent History



1930's 40's and 50's

A journey through the decades

Festival exhibition held at the Arts Theatre. The exhibition was held in the Thomas Nave rehearsal room and traced the Rep's history through the decades from the 1900's to the present day, including sumptuous costumes from each decade.

1960's



explore their family's association with the Rep and were delighted to be directed to the items they were looking for.



1970's



**History Festival
Exhibition May 2025
Thomas Nave Room
ARTS Theatre**



Visitors to the exhibition were amazed at the size and uniqueness of the collection and many spent hours looking through photos, programmes and other ephemera, and admiring the beautiful costume display.



Joanna Tsalikis performed with the Rep in the 70s

A number of ex-actors and family members came to



1980's and 90's

A journey through the decades



Irving Johnston's son



Generations of the Noblet family visiting the exhibition

Thanks to the small group of dedicated volunteers who did an enormous amount of work to curate and staff the exhibition and answer the many questions that visitors had!

And a big THANK YOU to Jude Hines and Sandy Whitelaw for curating the costume display which added so much colour and authenticity to the exhibition.

The history team continues the mammoth effort to sort and catalogue the items in the collection.

Are you having trouble finding a car park when you come to the theatre. Have you tried?

Car parking is near the ARTS Theatre around the corner at 14-22 Moore St.

Covered parking is only \$10 for theatre patrons when a show is on. Park in any space, ignore what the ticket machine says and pay \$10 only, by special arrangement with the ARTS.

Saturday and Sunday it's only \$10.00 for 12 hours

- 1 Press the blue button to activate machine
- 2 Press the yellow button to increase time
- 3 When the screen indicates \$10 stop.
- 4 Press the green button to confirm transaction
- 5 tap card
- 6 collect your ticket



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