

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Jane Austen wrote her novels at the beginning of the 19th century and yet their appeal is as immediate today as it was two hundred years ago and half a world away. Her work remains fresh because of her ability to understand and record the frailties and foibles of human beings. Human nature does not change so when you watch this adaptation of Jane Austen's work you will recognise in its characters aspects of people you know. We have all met a version of Mrs Norris, constantly busy without achieving much, or Mrs Price, always intending to do something but never quite getting around to it, or Henry Crawford, charming and unwilling to commit himself.

In adapting this most complex and sophisticated of Miss Austen's novels I have had to sacrifice some of the incidents, but have attempted to capture the essence of the characters that were so fully created in *Mansfield Park*. I have also attempted to recreate the world of Mansfield Park – calm and respectable on the surface but full of discontent, unfulfilled ambition, unstated desire and the need to break free from the restraints of constricting formality.

Before I began to write this play I thought I knew the novel well. The writing helped me to find even more layers of meaning, but the discussion of set and costume requirements with my designer, Peter Henson, and of character development with the actors during rehearsal, showed me that there is no end to discoveries one can make when exploring the work of a writer of genius. If you are familiar with the novel *Mansfield Park* I hope that this production will send you back to read the original with renewed fervour. If this is your introduction to Miss Austen's characters I hope it will encourage you to become better acquainted with the works of one of the world's most respected authors.

COMING ATTRACTIONS



Fasten your doublet
and hold on to your
hose....

Our next production is

Shakespeare's
**Merry Wives
of Windsor**

Designed and directed by
Gary Dooley

Join Sir John Falstaff and a host of the
bard's most colourful characters in this
lively romp through Elizabethan England.

March 9th–May 4th, 2002

GENESIAN THEATRE COMPANY Inc
420 Kent St Sydney

presents



Adapted from Jane Austen's novel
by Pamela Whalan

5th January - 23rd February, 2002

Friday, Saturday 8.00pm,
Sunday 4.30pm

For Bookings call MCA ticketing
(02) 9645 1611

MANSFIELD PARK: A PLAY

Adapted from Jane Austen's novel
by Pamela Whalan

Directed by
Pamela Whalan

Set and costume design by
Peter Henson

- Act 1 Scene 1* The Common Drawing Room,
Mansfield Park, an evening in July 1812
Act 1 Scene 2 The same, a day in August 1812
Act 1 Scene 3 The same, a day in September 1812
Interval
Act 2 Scene 1 The Common Drawing Room,
Mansfield Park, a day in November 1812
Act 2 Scene 2 The same,
an evening in December 1812
Act 2 Scene 3 The same, two days later
Interval
Act 3 Scene 1 Mrs Price's Parlour,
Portsmouth, a day in March 1813
Act 3 Scene 2 Mrs Fraser's Drawing Room,
London, a day in April 1813
Interlude Portsmouth, several days later
Act 3 Scene 3 The Common Drawing Room,
Mansfield Park, a day in September 1813



Cast (in order of appearance)

Lady Bertram	Meg Mooney
Fanny Price	Keira Daley
Baddeley	Peter Dunstan
Julia Bertram	Lucie-Jane McElwee
Maria Bertram	Rebekah Jennings
Edmund Bertram	Darran Moran
Mrs Norris	Robyn Williams
Mary Crawford	Loretta Tolnai
Henry Crawford	Gil Balfas
Tom Bertram	Eric Bicknell
Mr Rushworth	Steve Andrews
Sir Thomas Bertram	Timothy Bennett
Mrs Price	Susan Carveth
Voice of Mr Yates	P.W. Ryan
Voice of Sam Price	Matthew McWilliams
Voice of Mr Price	Peter Dunstan



Crew

Director	Pamela Whalan
Assistant Director	Jane Kempler
Set Design	Peter Henson
Set Construction	Grant Fraser Paul Gilbert and members of the cast and crew
Scene Painting	Steve Andrews assisted by Meg Mooney and Robyn Williams
Furniture Detailing	Steve Andrews, Helen Cambourn and members of the cast and crew
Costume Design	Peter Henson
Costume Construction	Peter Henson Susan Carveth and members of the cast and crew
Lighting Design	Eric Bicknell
Sound Design	Jane Kempler and Pamela Whalan
Stage Manager	Glen Harman
Lighting Operator	Jennifer Johnson
Sound Operators	Trish Chigwidden Kit Messham-Muir
Photographs	John Prescott

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Ruth Ford, Del Dines and members
of the Genesian Theatre Company Inc.