

HAY FEVER

By Noel Coward



Genesisian Theatre

4th July - 8th August 2009

Act I - A Saturday afternoon in June

There will be an interval of 15 mins

Act II - After dinner that night

There will be an interval of 10 mins

Act III - The next morning

About the Production

Hay Fever is Noel Coward's first masterpiece, as true in its gossamer way as any of the great plays of the 20th century. Indeed one of the first things Laurence Olivier did when he was appointed to create the National Theatre was to invite Noel Coward to direct it, assuring the play of its rightful place in the English theatre repertoire and giving Noel a cast of brilliant young stars including Maggie Smith, Lynn Redgrave, and Derek Jacobi, and in her last major role, Dame Edith Evans.

It is extraordinary that so much of what we think of as quintessentially English, the speed and precision, the outrageousness, the eccentricity of *Hay Fever* was largely based not on an English family but on American actress Laurette Taylor and her family. Their houseparties were notorious for the family's behaviour, for the obscure and outlandish games to which guests were subjected, and for the heady atmosphere of flirtation, all of which the young budding playwright Noel Coward experienced first hand. He captured it all in one hectic week-end of writing and always maintained that *Hay Fever* was his favourite play.

You can imagine that when the Genesian Theatre Board asked me to direct *Hay Fever* I jumped at the chance to bring this delightful play to you.

Nanette Frew



MARISA-CLARE BERZINS - Sorel Bliss Marisa-Clare Berzins decided at age two that her home was the stage and has been residing on one ever since. Mostly performing in Musicals she has played roles including Maria in *West Side Story*, Belle in *Beauty and the Beast* and Josephine in *HMS Pinafore*. *Hayfever* is her first production with The Genesians and she is thrilled to be part of it.

MICHAEL SUTHERLAND - Simon Bliss I started acting in high school, performing in a variety of plays: *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* by Tom Stoppard, *The Cid* by Piere Conielle. After leaving St Ignatius in 2003, I attended many short courses at the Actors Centre Australia. However I have been focused on TV for the last couple of years, appearing in various commercials, film clips, and documentaries. Recently I had a small role on *Home and Away*.



HILARY MILLER - Judith Bliss Hilary trained at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music & Drama & Central school of Speech & Drama U.K. where she worked as an actor teacher & director. Australian productions include *Duet for One*, *Too Young for Ghosts*, *Planter of Malata*, *Playing Beatie Bow* and more recently the Genesian's *Blood Weddings*.

SUSAN CARVETH - Clara Susan was in *Ring Round the Moon*. Other Genesian roles in: *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll*, *Lipstick Dreams*, *Dinkum Assorted*, *I Have Five Daughters*, *Mansfield Park*, *Shadowlands*, *The Chalk Garden*, *The Forsyte Saga*, *Lady Windemere's Fan*, *Morning Sacrifice*, *Verdict*, and *The Conditional Pardon of Felix Heyward*. Ryde Dramatic Society *Steaming*, Phoenix Theatre *Grapes of Wrath* and Rockdale Light Opera *Viktorija and Her Hussar*.



TIMOTHY BENNETT - David Bliss Timothy has been a member of the Genesians for many years. Past roles include *Harvey* (Elwood), *Shadowlands* (C.S. Lewis), *The Dream* (Bottom), *Wind in the Willows* (Badger), *Twelfth Night* (Aguecheek), *The Imaginary Invalid* (Argan), *Something's Afoot* (Colonel), *The Tempest* (Trinculo), *Bus Stop* (Dr Lyman), and the Inspectors in *Spider's Web* and *Dial M for Murder*. He has directed five major productions.



MARK FRANKLIN - Sandy Tyrell Mark Franklin was involved in independent and musical theatre during his later school years. After leaving school he took a break from acting to travel the world. 7 years later he finally returned to acting to complete a years training with Sydney Theatre School in 2008 which culminated in his playing Macbeth at the NIDA theatres.

MELANIE ROBINSON - Myra Arundel For the Genesian Melanie's credits include *School for Scandal*, *Valentine's Day*, *The Hollow*, *Blithe Spirit* and *Noises Off*. For Epicentre Melanie appeared in *Daylight Saving* and *Harbour*, and during WYD08 she was in *A Twist of Faith* at the Parade Theatre, NIDA. She recently appeared in Chester Street's *Competitive Tenderness*. Melanie majored in Theatre Studies at UNE, and then completed The Core with ACTT.



JORDAN WATT - Richard Greatham Jordan trained at the Actor's Centre and has performed on stage for a number of theatres over the last eight years. He particularly enjoyed being in *Speaking in Tongues* and having a triple-gendered role in *Sylvia* as well as various productions for the Genesians. He has also appeared in short films and commercials and been a TV vet.

VICTORIA INDIA COTMAN - Jackie Coryton Victoria has trained extensively in dance, singing, and acting at the University of Wollongong, Actors Centre Australia and finally Springboards Performing Arts North Sydney. She considers working at the Genesian Theatre an important step up in what she hopes will be a long career.



PRODUCTION

Director

Nanette Frew

Set Design

Debbie Smith

Costume Design

Susan Carveth

Lighting & Sound Design

Michael Schell

Set Construction

Grant Fraser, Paul Gilbert

Continuity

Frances Milat

Photography

Chris Smith 8th&Goes Fotografia

Graphic Design

Tom Massey, Michelle Hickson

Acknowledgements

Nicola Huber-Smith, Robert Smith,

Meg Mooney, Rod Moffet,

Timothy M. Carter, Lynn Trainor,

Alan Hayter, Sandra Truelsen,

Mitchell Johns, Pymble Players,

Hunters Hill Theatre Company

CREW

Stage Manager

Diane Henderson

Lighting & Sound Operation

Timothy Abrams, Lily Ho

CAST

Sorel Bliss

Marisa-Clare Berzins

Simon Bliss

Michael Sutherland

Judith Bliss

Hilary Miller

Clara

Susan Carveth

David Bliss

Timothy Bennett

Sandy Tyrell

Mark Franklin

Myra Arundel

Melanie Robinson

Richard Greatham

Jordan Watt

Jackie Coryton

Victoria India Cotman

About the Genesian Theatre

Born in 1944 and named for St Genesius, Patron Saint of Actors, The Genesian Theatre Company has developed into a strong community-based organisation that boasts among its alumni numerous household names in Australian theatre.

The Company is a non-professional group operating from an historic church in Kent Street. While still retaining links with our origins, the Catholic Church, we do not shy away from meeting the challenges of plays that comment on the human condition.

The building which houses the Company was originally St John's Church, and dates from 1868. It has served as a church, a poor school, and was the first Matthew Talbot Hostel. Since 1954 it has been the home of The Genesian Theatre Company.

Over the years The Genesian Theatre Company has become a community theatre group providing a training ground for young actors and a place where those who love the theatre can meet, share, and extend their knowledge of the performing arts. The Genesian Theatre is one of Sydney's most active theatre companies. In addition to six main stage productions each year we run classes, workshops and many other activities.

Membership

If your interest is in acting, directing, stage management, sound, lights, publicity, admin, etc, or if you just want to experience being a member of the group, we would welcome you as a member. You don't need to be experienced, we can provide training and can cater to different levels of involvement. Please see our web site for further information.

Coming next to the Genesian Theatre...

Intent to Murder

By Leslie Sands



22nd Aug - 3rd Oct 2009

**Subscriptions are available
www.genesiantheatre.com.au**