

Intent Murder

By Leslie Sands



Genesian Theatre
22nd Aug - 3rd Oct 2009

The action occurs in the 1950s, set in the living room of Tarn House, Janet Preston's home on the Yorkshire moors.

Act 1

Scene 1 - Saturday evening

Scene 2 - Morning a week later

There will be an interval of 15 mins

Act 2

Scene 1 - After 10pm, five days later

Scene 2 - The following day

About the Production

Janet Preston is a successful writer of romantic novels. But disillusioned by an unsatisfactory marriage with a scoundrel from whom she has been separated for six years, Janet is fantasizing a new story with herself as the romantic heroine. Real life, however, intervenes with dramatic effect.

Set in 1950 in Janet's country cottage in Yorkshire, there are many twists and turns in this play which are reminiscent of Agatha Christie's classic plots. The playwright Leslie Sands, who was a successful British actor, was encouraged by J. B. Priestley to put pen to paper and wrote a number of plays of some renown. *Intent to Murder* is one of his best.

I have tried to faithfully recreate the look and attitudes of the early fifties, which are somewhat different to today's. My intent is to bring you a thriller that is entertaining and shocking and also encapsulates the values and mores of that time.

There are six very diverse characters in this play and our talented cast has enjoyed delving into their interesting lives. We hope that you enjoy *Intent to Murder*.

Joyce Birch



LISA HARRISON - Janet Lisa Harrison has performed in numerous plays including *Oliver*, *Plaza Suite*, *The Bald Prima Donna*, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, *Steel Magnolias*, *The Lady's not for Burning*, *Dead White Males*, *Lipstick Dreams*, *Away*, *Worry Warts*, *A Man for all Seasons*, *Shadowlands*, *A Twist of Faith* and *Enchanted April*. She trained at the Royal Qld Youth Theatre & Canberra Uni.

CHRIS SMITH - George Chris has been acting for many years both in Sydney & in London. Recent roles with the Genesian include Tony Wendice in Frederick Knott's *Dial M for Murder* and Anthony Wilding in Matthew Barber's *Enchanted April*. Chris has also appeared for the Richmond Players (UK) in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Twelfth Night*, *Oliver*, *Forty Tudor* and *An Inspector Calls*.



STEFANIE FUNNELL - Chris Stefanie has been involved with the dramatic arts since she was a child. She was a member of the Central Coast Drama Ensemble, and also toured Sydney in *Cinderella*. Last year she graduated from AADA. Stefanie appeared in *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll* at the New Theatre and *Short & Sweet* 2009. She is looking forward to her debut at the Genesian.

ANDREW O'CONNELL - Larry Andrew is a relatively new member of the Genesian Theatre, making his first appearance as Horatio in Roger Gimblett's *Hamlet*. Before that Andrew played train crash survivor Stu in *A Day in December* (NIDA) which dealt with the Glenbrook rail disaster of 1999. Andrew also enjoys writing and is currently having some of his plays workshopped.



COLM GRACE - Henderson Colm Grace is an avid theatre-goer. His interest in acting as a performer was kindled here in Sydney with Darlo Drama and the Actors Centre Australia. His recent performances have included Harry in Michael Gow's *Away*, Stephen in David Williamson's *Money and Friends* and Stafford in Tony McNamara's *The John Wayne Principle*.

MEG MOONEY - Mrs Bunting Meg Mooney's love of the theatre stems from her early years growing up in Armidale. She has studied film and theatre as part of her degree course at UNSW. She has appeared in several Genesian productions including *Silhouette*, *Twelfth Night*, *Morning Sacrifice*, *Gaslight*, *A Murder is Announced*, and *Hedda Gabler*.





JOYCE BIRCH - Director Joyce Birch has been involved with the Genesian Theatre as a director and actor for many years. *Intent to Murder* is the 20th play she has directed for the Genesian Theatre. Her most recent productions as director are *Ring Round the Moon*, *Antony and Cleopatra* and *A Man for All Seasons*.

DEBBIE SMITH - Set Design Debbie Smith has designed the set for several productions for the Genesian Theatre including *Cards on the Table*, *Shadowlands*, *Enchanted April*, and *Hay Fever*, and worked on other sets such as *Noises Off*, *Sense and Sensibility*, *The Real Inspector Hound*, and *Mad About Men*.



SUSAN CARVETH - Costume Design Susan's professional costume work has been with the BBC, ABC, Opera Australia as Wardrobe Co-ordinator, and with Tall Poppea's production of *Troppo Amore*. Susan has designed costumes for *A Man for All Seasons*, *By Jeeves*, *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll*, *I Have Five Daughters*, *Term of His Natural Life*, and co-coordinated numerous other plays.

MICHAEL SCHELL - Lighting & Sound Design Michael has been associated with The Genesian Theatre since 1973 and has designed lighting & sound for nearly 90 productions. Recent designs include *Hamlet*, *Ring Round The Moon*, *Noises Off*, *By Jeeves*, *Dial M For Murder*, *The Tempest*, *The Forsyte Saga*, *Worry Warts*, *A Man For All Seasons*, *Antony & Cleopatra* and *Term Of His Natural Life*.

GLEN HARMAN - Stage Manager Glen joined The Genesian Theatre in 2001. He has been stage manager for a number of productions, including *Rebecca*, *Away*, *A Man for All Seasons*, *Gaslight*, *Kindertransport*, *Mansfield Park*, and *Verdict*. He has also spent many years serving in various administrative positions for the theatre.

PRODUCTION

Director

Joyce Birch

Assistant Director

Paul Treacy

Set Design

Debbie Smith

Costume Design

Susan Carveth

Lighting & Sound Design

Michael Schell

Production Manager

Debbie Smith

Set Construction

**Paul Gilbert, Debbie Smith, Roger Gimblett
and members of the company**

Lighting Rigging

Roger Gimblett

Rehearsal Prompt

Frances Milat, Del Dines, Timothy Bennett

Rehearsal Assistant

Sandra Bass

Photography

Chris Smith, Craig O'Regan

Graphic Design

Tom Massey, Michelle Hickson

Transportation

Debbie Smith

Acknowledgements

**Nicola Griggs, Robert Smith,
Timothy Bennett,
Mitchell Road Auction House**

CREW

Stage Manager

Glen Harman

Assistant Stage Manager

Jon Mariott

Lighting Operation

Mitchell Johns

Sound Operation

Janina Olmos-New

CAST

Janet

Lisa Harrison

George

Chris Smith

Chris

Stefanie Funnell

Larry

Andrew O'Connell

Henderson

Colm Grace

Mrs Bunting

Meg Mooney

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...

The house of Bernarda Alba

By Federico Garcia Lorca



17th Oct - 14th Nov 2009

Subscriptions are available
www.genesiantheatre.com.au