



# G R E A T **EXPECTATIONS**

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*by Charles Dickens*



SEASON: 26th MAY - 30th JUNE 2012  
PREVIEW NIGHT 25th MAY

Act I - 1 hour 15 mins

*There will be an interval of 15 mins*

Act II - 1 hour 15 mins

A NOTE:

In adapting a 480 page novel for the stage it is inevitable that some conflation will be required and some characters omitted. I apologise if your favourite character is notable by his or her absence this evening!

I am extraordinarily grateful to a most hardworking cast and crew who didn't look too much askance as I cut lines, put them back in and then cut them again!

I have tried in this adaptation to be as faithful as possible to Dickens' original dialogue. There is a joy in his writing and a natural authenticity of period that I trust we have managed to maintain.

It is always a challenge to put an 'epic' in our very small theatre but I hope, should he glance down, Mr Dickens would not be too disapproving as we celebrate 200 years since his birth.

*Roger Gimblett*

# Charles Dickens

***He had a large loving mind and the strongest sympathy with the poorer classes. He felt sure a better feeling, and much greater union of classes, would take place in time. And I pray earnestly it may.***

Queen Victoria in a diary entry (11 June 1870)



Charles Dickens was born in Portsmouth, England, on February 7, 1812, to John and Elizabeth Dickens. John Dickens was imprisoned for debt and Charles went to work at a blacking warehouse when he was twelve. His concern for social justice and reform which surfaced later in his writings grew out of the harsh conditions he experienced in the warehouse.

After his father's release from prison, Charles continued his education at the Wellington House Academy. He taught himself shorthand and launched a career as a journalist. He also experimented with acting and stage-managing amateur theatricals. His experience with acting would affect his work throughout his life - he was known to act out characters he was writing in the mirror.

His connections to various magazines and newspapers as a political journalist gave him the opportunity to begin publishing his own fiction at the beginning of his career. He would go on to write fifteen novels. While he published several sketches in magazines, it was not until he serialized *The Pickwick Papers* over 1836-37 that he experienced true success. A publishing phenomenon, *The Pickwick Papers* was published in monthly installments and sold over forty thousand copies of each issue. Dickens was the first person to make this serialization of novels profitable and was able to expand his audience to include those who could not normally afford such literary works. *Great Expectations* was first published in serial form in Dickens' weekly periodical *All the Year Round* from 1 December 1860 to August 1861.

Within a few years, he was regarded as one of the most successful authors of his time, with approximately one out of every ten people in Victorian England avidly reading and following his writings

In 1858, in response to his increasing fame, he had begun public readings of his works. These exacted a great physical toll on him. An immensely profitable but physically shattering series of readings in America in 1867-68 sped his decline, and he collapsed during a 'farewell' series in England.

On June 9, 1870, Charles Dickens died. He was buried in Poet's Corner of Westminster Abbey.



**SAM SECCOMBE - Pip (Younger)** Sam came to Sydney from England in 2007. At junior school he was involved in many plays including the senior productions of *Narnia* and *Annie*. He is now in year 8 at The McDonald College for Performing Arts where he has performed in several showcase productions. This is his first role in a Genesian Theatre production.

**TOM MASSEY - Magwitch** Tom trained at AADA in the mid 90's. In 2006 Tom appeared as Bridey in the Australian premiere of Parsley's adaptation of Waugh's *Brideshead Revisted* for RGP. Notable roles include Vladimir in *Godot* for SUDS, Caliban in Shakespeare's *Tempest* and Mole in *Wind in the Willows* for the Genesian. His most recent appearance was as Amundsen in *Terra Nova*. For the Genesian he has directed *Noises Off*, *Dead White Males*, and *The 39 Steps*.



**MARTIN SEARLES - Joe Gargery** Martin moved to Sydney from Canberra in March of this year. *Great Expectations* marks his Sydney acting debut. In Canberra, he has been involved in theatre for over 12 years, including in award-winning productions of *The Importance of Being Earnest* (2010) and *Angels in America* (2008).

**SAMANTHA ROYLANCE - Mrs Joe** Samantha has a Bachelor of Theatre Studies from U N E. This is her first time on stage at The Genesian. Previous experience includes *A Rat in a Hat* (Short & Sweet 2012), Ben Elton's *Gaspig, Women, Power & Culture*, Aaron Sorkin's *The Farnsworth Invention*, *Burnt by the Sun* (New Theatre), *Raining Bacon* (Short & Sweet 2011), and numerous performances during her studies at University. Samantha has also appeared in student short films and Tropfest entries.



**TIMOTHY BENNETT - Uncle Pumblechook / Wemmick** After directing the Company's recent productions of *An Ideal Husband* & *Lord Arthur Savile's Crime* Timothy is staying in the 19th century, this time acting. Previous roles include *Pygmalion* (Pickering), *Shadowlands* (C.S.Lewis), *Hay Fever* (David), *The Dream* (Bottom), *Wind in the Willows* (Badger), *Twelfth Night* (Aguecheek), *The Imaginary Invalid* (Argan), *Something's Afoot* (Colonel), *The Tempest* (Trinculo), and *Dial M for Murder* (Inspector).

**KIRA ZAHER - Estella (Younger)** Kira is very excited to be "treading the boards" in her first theatre role at the Genesian. Kira has many years experience in the Australian Girls Choir, various dance schools, NIDA and atyp workshops but in recent times has discovered a passion for acting. Kira currently attends a leading Sydney performing arts high school.



**ROS BILBE - Miss Havisham** Ros began her stage career as a dancer, performing in many exotic locations, from Las Vegas to Paris, London, Rome, Madrid and Cairo! She is thrilled to be cast in *Great Expectations*, and to be working with Roger Gimblett again, who played her son, Henry Higgins, in *Pygmalion* when last they acted together, at this gem of a theatre. Having been a Genesian member for many years, she has appeared in countless productions, beginning with *84 Charing Cross Road* in 1990.

**LACHLAN EDMONDS-MUNRO - Pip (Older)** Always seeking attention, Lachlan was immediately drawn to acting. He loves drama, so in school he performed in two musicals *Guys and Dolls* and *Paris* and William Shakespeare's *Comedy of Errors*. He is currently studying at Sydney Theatre School where he has just completed a self devised piece *Changes* directed by Malcolm Frawley. Now he has set his eyes on *Great Expectations* where he is hoping he can do Pip justice.







**KATE PARKER-FROST - Biddy** Kate is delighted to join the Genesian after moving to Sydney from London. She trained at Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts in London. She toured India in *Measure For Measure* (Out of Cocoon) and played Penelope in *The Odyssey* (Faction Theatre). Other credits include the European premiere of *Silence! The Musical*, world premiere of *The Last Maharajah*, *Blood Wedding* and *Ward No. 6* (Act Provocateur International), *Dead Language* (Foolish People), *Tequila Mocking Birds* (First Draft Theatre).

**ALEXIS FARR - Estella (Older)** Alexis is new to the theatre scene and is making her debut performance with the Genesian Theatre Company. She has performed as Alice (and associated friends) from *Alice in Wonderland*, and as both Myrtle May and Dr Sanderson in the Sydney Girls High production of *Harvey*. She has a tendency to play the part of a snooty young female, and her role as Estella is no exception.



**NICHOLAS POND - Herbert Pocket** Nicholas Pond returns to the Genesian stage, having recently played the part of James Morland in last year's production of *Northanger Abbey*. He studied writing and performance at UTS, and has written, directed and appeared in a number of indie film projects. He is a columnist and publisher, and is currently working on his first play.

**ROB DREW - Mr Jaggars** With over 40 productions to his credit in theatres all over Sydney, Robert returns to Genesians after a well-earned break. He began in musical theatre, *Fiddler on the Roof* being his favourite. He has performed in plays as diverse as *Hamlet*, *Sleuth*, *Abelard and Heloise* and *Valentine's Day*.



**JASON THORNE - Drummie** Jason has enjoyed acting as a consuming hobby since his first role in junior school as Pharaoh in *Joseph and his Technicolour Dream Coat*. Keen to get involved, he has worked in a number of performances including a modern rendition of *Romeo and Juliet* set in a disco, *Daughters of Heaven*, *Move Over Mrs Markham* and *City of the Plains*. Most recently Jason played the Devil in *Devil May Care*, a rock and roll musical romance written by Genesian member Rod Stewart.

**LOIS MARSH - Camilla / Molly** This production marks a return to the stage for Lois after a long absence. In the early 80s she trained at the Independent Drama School at North Sydney and appeared on stage in numerous drama productions. In the eighties Lois was seen in many television commercials and had guest spots in the popular series of the time including *The Restless Years* and *The Young Doctors*.



**LILIANNA KOMLJENOVIC - Camilla** Lilianna first burst onto the Genesian stage in 2006 playing various roles in *The Wind in the Willows* and has since played Miranda in *The Tempest* and was assistant director for *An Ideal Husband*. She feels privileged to be working alongside the cast and crew of *Great Expectations* in her most important roles yet as 'stage mum' and Miss Sarah Pocket.

**TIMOTHY M CARTER - Compeyson** Further to a Bachelor of Creative Arts (Music Composition), Master of Creative Arts (Theatre Production) and a Master of Creative Arts – Research (Theatre Production), Tim has been involved with several hundred productions and events. Although he works mostly in the design and technical aspects of theatre, Tim has been known to tread the boards over the years.



## **PRODUCTION**

Director & Adaptation  
Assistant Director  
Assistant Director/Children's Supervisor  
Set Design  
Costume Design  
Lighting & Sound Design  
Construction Manager  
Set Construction

Wig Stylist  
Milliner  
Costume Assistants

Catering  
Photography

Graphic Design

Transport  
Acknowledgements

Roger Gimblett  
Laura Genders  
Lilianna Komljenovic  
Owen Gimblett  
Peter Henson  
Michael Schell  
Grant Fraser  
Members of  
the Company  
Sharon Case  
Barbara Gear  
Natalia Minana,  
Fiona Barry  
Wendy Gimblett  
Craig O'Regan,  
Tom Massey  
Matt Roden,  
Tom Massey  
Debbie Smith  
Lauren Churm,  
Paul Barbary

## **CREW**

Stage Manager  
Lighting & Sound Operation

Caroline Gage  
Sabrina McCarroll,  
Amy Roberts,  
Mehran Mortezaei

## **CAST**

Pip (Younger)  
Magwitch  
Joe Gargery  
Mrs Joe  
Uncle Pumblechook  
Estella (Younger)  
Miss Havisham  
Pip (Older)  
Biddy  
Estella (Older)  
Herbert Pocket  
Mr Jaggers  
Wemmick  
Drummle  
Camilla  
Sarah Pocket  
Compeyson

Sam Seccombe  
Tom Massey  
Martin Searles  
Samantha Roylance  
Timothy Bennett  
Kira Zaher  
Ros Bilbe  
Lachlan Edmonds-Munro  
Kate Parker-Frost  
Alexis Ward  
Nicholas Pond  
Rob Drew  
Timothy Bennett  
Jason Thorne  
Lois Marsh  
Lilianna Komljenovic  
Timothy M Carter

# About the Genesian Theatre

The Genesian Theatre Company is a non-professional group operating from an historic church in Kent Street, in the heart of the Sydney CBD. We boast among our alumni numerous household names in Australian theatre and film such as Bryan Brown, Baz Luhrmann, Judi Farr, and John Bell. We are, however, just as proud of the hundreds of talented amateur actors, directors, designers, lighting and sound specialists who have contributed to Sydney's unique little theatre over the years.

Over the years the company has developed into a theatre 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.

The building which houses The Genesian Theatre Company was originally St John's Church, and dates from 1868. It has served as both a church and a poor school until 1932 when it became the Kursaal Theatre, housing the Sydney Repertory Company. In 1938 it became the first Matthew Talbot Hostel. Since 1954 it has been the home of The Genesian Theatre Company which was formed in 1944.

## 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...



# **MONEY** & **friends**

*by David Williamson*

by special arrangement with the Cameron Creswell Agency



SEASON: 21st JULY - 25th AUG 2012  
PREVIEW NIGHT 20th JULY