

The Genesian Theatre Company

the
young
&
idea

by
Noel Coward

3rd May -
8th June 2013



ACT 1

15 minute interval

ACT 2

“Just say the lines and don't trip over the furniture.”

He makes it sound very easy...

In 1921, the 22-year-old Noël Coward sent a copy of his second comedy *The Young Idea* to George Bernard Shaw. Shaw wrote back, "Never read or see anything of mine again as long as you live". Coward was the first to admit that the characters of the children, and the plot line, were 'borrowed' very heavily from the twins in Shaw's *You Never Can Tell* and yet Shaw was gracious enough to follow up his rebuke by suggesting an additional scene.

The Young Idea was Noël Coward's second comedy and first real success. The play opened in London in 1923, running for seven weeks, with Mr. Coward in the role of Sholto.

The playwright John Osborne said, "Mr Coward is his own invention and contribution to this century. Anyone who cannot see that should keep well away from the theatre." And therein lay the fear. To confess, whilst reading this play for the first time, I did wonder how we were going to transfer these eccentric and often erratic individuals from page to performance without slipping into the murky area of stereotype and parody, which can happen with characters that are so easily identifiable as creations of Mr. Coward.

Fortunately, I have been given a ridiculously talented, and attractive, cast and the combination of these people and the words of one of the finest playwrights of the 20th century has made this challenge exciting and, hopefully, attainable. The Master's witty, astute and acerbic observations are a wonderful gift and I only hope that this performance serves them well.

I would like to thank, as well as the cast and crew, my Assistant Director and Stage Manager, Kathy Petrakis and Symeon Thompson. These are two wonderful and dedicated people whose organisational and creative skills are second to none, along with their willingness to find other ways when lesser-hearted folks would have, simply, said 'no'.

I must also mention Peter Henson for his, as always, breathtaking costumes, Owen Gimblett for his wonderful set, Michael Schell for the perfect sound design, I am also grateful to Daniel Hitchings, Mehran Mortezaei, Georgiana Pinwill and the board of The Genesian Theatre for trusting me with this treasure.

Laura Genders.
Director.

Cast



Paul Barbary-Eustace Dabbit

Paul is a graduate of The Drama Studio, London. He balances a teaching career with a love of acting and has been a member of The Genesian Theatre for 4 years. He has appeared in *Journey's End*, *And Then There Were None*, *The Adventures of a Bear called Paddington* and 2 workshop productions.



Kerry Day-Jennifer Brent

Kerry trained at Mountview Theatre School, London. She moved to Melbourne in 1989 and then Sydney in 1999. She has played many parts in the UK and Australia but her two favourites have been God in the musical play *Creation* at the Edge Theatre, Newtown, written by her son Oliver Cowley and Jackie the drunk mum in *Flame of the West* a film written and directed by her daughter Hannah. She was thrilled to be offered the part of Jennifer in *The Young Idea*, not being related to anyone in cast or crew she felt she might have got it on merit!



Anita Donovan-Gerda Brent

Anita has been in a range of production both from her school life and Holyroyd Musical and Dramatic society, including *Alice in Wonderland*, *Aladdin* and *Peter Pan*. A big fan of Shakespeare, she has also participated through her school in the Shakespeare festival, performing Marc Antony's "Friends, Romans, countrymen". During 2011, she attended a year-long drama studio course at NIDA, which she believes greatly improved her abilities, where her most notable show so far lies in the group's final performance, Susan Glaspell's *The People*. This is her first show with the Genesian and she hopes to do many more in the future.



Rob Drew-Huddle/Hiram J. Walkin

Rob's introduction to the plays of Noel Coward occurred when he played the lead role of Charles in *Blythe Spirit* for The Genesians. He revisited the Master again last year when he was a cast member of *Coward at Christmas*. *The Young Idea* proves a welcome return. Some of the roles that he has enjoyed playing the most include Polonius in *Hamlet*, Mr. Jagers in *Great Expectations* and most recently Alfieri in Arthur Miller's *A View From a Bridge*.



Lachlan Edmonds-Munro-Sholto Brent

Lachlan discovered his love of theatre whilst at school, taking part in performances of *Guys and Dolls*, *Paris* and *Comedy of Errors*. He is currently a student at Sydney Theatre School where he has enjoyed roles in *Pullman Car Hiawatha* and *As You Like It*. This is Lachlan's second outing with The Genesian having debuted as Pip in last years production of *Great Expectations*.



Dearbhla Hannigan-Cicely Brent

Dearbhla was an actress in her home country of Ireland before abandoning the stage, her family and the incessant rain for beautiful sunny Sydney. She came back to the theatrical fold with the Genesians and has appeared in *Crown Matrimonial* and *Coward at Christmas*. Her family remain abandoned in the rain.

Carlin Hurdis-Roddy Masters

Carlin is currently completing a degree in English literature from Sydney University. Previously, he has worked as a journalist and taught English to Korean students. This is his second production with the Genesian Theatre and follows his role as Jack in *Charley's Aunt*. Carlin has started preparations for Movember six months in advance and he reminds audience members that they can support prostate cancer and men's mental health programs all year round.



Matt Jones-George Brent

Matt is a trained actor (Royal Welsh College of Drama) and has a deal of experience on stage and film, most recently with 'Bard on the Beach' at Balmoral in *Twelfth Night* and *MacBeth*, and *Boo* at King's Street Theatre. Recent films include a number of IFSS projects, one of which was selected for the Short Film Corner at Cannes International Film Festival. We are delighted to welcome Matt back to the Genesian after his performance in *Dead White Males* in 2010.



Diana Kalfas-Priscilla Hartleberry

Diana is very happy to be involved in her first play with the Genesian Theatre. It is the second time she has had the good fortune to work with wonderful director Laura Genders, the first being her theatre debut as Wendy in Atmosphere's *Peter Pan* earlier this year. Diana is studying business at the University of Sydney and tries to spend every spare moment she has playing on stage. Diana is a keen dancer and choreographer having been involved in many dance concerts and musicals throughout school and at university. A new style for her, Diana was very excited to kick up her heels and experiment with the foxtrot.



Rebecca Latham-Sybil Blaith/Maria

Rebecca Latham is a recent Sydney University Graduate. She received a BA (Hons) in English. During her time at University she was a member of the Dramatic Society and performed in productions including Edward Albee's *Zoo Story* and Lord Byron's *Manfred*. She hopes to continue performing and working in the Arts. In October, Rebecca is relocating to London in order to immerse herself further into the theatre world. She also likes Wednesdays.



David Ross-Claud Eccles

David is a passionate and committed actor. He has studied and performed in London and Los Angeles, and is a former student of the Beverly Hills Playhouse and the Method Studio in London. David has a Theatre Studies degree from The University of New England, and has appeared in numerous Theatre productions and short films, both in Australia and abroad.



Jane Thorpe-Julia Cragworthy

Jane has been playing quirky characters on various stages since the age of 9. Previous performances at The Genesian include the ghostly Gothic maid Annette in *Northanger Abbey* and Mary, The Princess Royal in *Crown Matrimonial*.



PRODUCTION

Director	Laura Genders
Assistant Director	Kathy Petrakis
Set Design	Owen Gimblet
Costume Design	Peter Henson
Lighting Design	Mehran Mortezaei with Mark Banks
Sound Design	Michael Schell
Photography	Craig O'Regan
Program/Poster/Graphics	Ross Oblea, Tom Massey

CREW

Stage Manager	Symeon Thompson
Assistant Stage Manager	Georgiana Pinwill
Lighting and Sound Operator	Mehran Mortezaei Daniel Hitchings

CAST

Sholto	Lachlan Edmonds-Munro
Gerda	Anita Donovan
George	Matt Jones
Cicely	Dearbhla Hannigan
Jennifer	Kerry Day
Roddy	Carlin Hurdis
Priscilla	Diana Kalfas
Claud	David Ross
Julia	Jane Thorpe
Hiram J. Walkin	Robert Drew
Sybil/Maria	Rebecca Latham
Eustace	Paul Barbary

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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 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 or seven main stage productions each year we run classes, workshops and many other activities.

Membership of the company is open to all people over the age of eighteen.

The building that houses The Genesian Theatre Company was originally St John the Evangelist 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 Genesis Theatre...



J.B. Priestley's

Dangerous Corner

5th July -

10th August 2013

Subscriptions are available
www.genesiantheatre.com.au