



J.B. Priestley's

Dangerous Corner

5th July -
10th August 2013

ACT 1

15 minute interval

ACT 2

Director's Notes

J B Priestley – English playwright, novelist, broadcaster and man of letters – is best known today for his play *An Inspector Calls*. *Dangerous Corner* was his first play; it premiered in 1932 in London's West End, directed by the legendary Tyrone Guthrie.

In *Dangerous Corner*, a wealthy young couple in the publishing industry are entertaining guests at their country retreat. A chance remark by one of the guests ignites a series of devastating revelations, the disclosures of which have tragic consequences.

Priestley was a lifelong socialist, and he believed that beneath the surface veneer of bourgeois respectability, there exists a web of deceit and lies, which the Establishment fights to maintain to keep its grip on society intact. In *Dangerous Corner*, his target is the Bright Young Things – a generation of hedonistic, amoral young men and women in upper middle class and aristocratic Britain in the inter-war years. The play is a metaphor for what he saw as an Empire in decline, as Britain lost its place as the preeminent military and economic world power in the 1920s and 30s.

But why should today's audiences care to spend evening in the company of the Bright Young Things of the 1930s in what could, in careless hands, prove to be a crusty old melodrama from a bygone age?

Period drama always does well at our Theatre – many of our productions are set in the late Victorian, Edwardian and interwar periods of Britain. And costume dramas are popular, not just with Genesian audiences but theatre-goers in general – and amongst TV and film audiences too. Witness the popularity of *Downtown Abbey*; *Upstairs, Downstairs*; *Brideshead Revisited* etc etc.

What we've tried to do is make this production fresh and relevant. We've taken a modern approach to the design and the set, and in particular to the performances of the actors – using contemporary method-acting and directing techniques to make those performances real and vibrant. We hope we've given you an entertaining and powerful evening of family drama.

About the Director - Peter Lavelle

This is Peter's second major Genesian production; in 2012 he directed David Williamson's *Money and Friends* at the Theatre. Other credits include: director at Short and Sweet in 2012 and 2013, writer of three radio drama scripts for ABC radio, and writer/director of a play *Lipstick on a Gorilla* (Stables Theatre 2002). He is directing his own play *The Mahler Syndrome* at the New Theatre in September as part of the 2013 Sydney Fringe Festival.

Cast



Kirsty Jordan (Maud Mockridge)

Kirsty was a proud member of Shopfront Theatre from the age of 13 before completing her acting studies at UWS Nepean in 1993. Her favourite roles have been Hermia in *Midsummer Nights Dream*, Solange in *The Maids* and Mother in *Blood Wedding*. Most recently she has worked behind the scenes as well as on screen with Art Resistance Video Production where she continues as in house voice over artist. No longer able to ignore that live performance itch she has returned to the stage and is pleased to be involved with her first production at the Genesian Theatre.



Elinor Portch (Freda Caplan)

Elinor is from the UK. She completed her undergraduate degree in Drama and Theatre Arts at Birmingham University where she most enjoyed playing the part of Marlene in her third year assessed performance of *Top Girls*. After University, Elinor performed for two weeks at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, playing Voltore in a production of *Volpone*. In 2006 Elinor moved to London where she began (and continues to enjoy) a career in publishing. In Jan 2013 a work opportunity prompted a move to Sydney. Encouraged by her partner Martin, Elinor decided to revisit her passion for acting and was delighted to be cast as Freda in The Genesian Theatre's production of *Dangerous Corner*.



Elizabeth MacGregor (Olwen Peel)

This is Elizabeth's third production with Genesian, having recently played Queen Elizabeth in *Richard III* and Myers in *Witness for the Prosecution*. Elizabeth hails from Adelaide, where she spent many years involved in musical theatre and operetta. Her favourite roles to date include Florence (*Chess*), Buttercup (*HMS Pinafore*) and Victor/Victoria in *Victor/Victoria*. When not on a stage, Elizabeth can be found in her garden or flailing her arms about wildly in a flamenco class.



Amy Fisher (Betty Whitehouse)

Amy is an Actor/Singer/Dancer, graduating with a Bachelor of Performance from AADA in 2012, where she performed Prospera in *The Tempest*. Since graduation, Amy has performed in the Short & Sweet Festival, *Viva Princess* directed by Nick Parsons and recently played Cathy in *Sex, Death and Chocolate*, directed by Roz Riley, Factory Space Theatre. Amy is excited to be performing with the Genesian in *Dangerous Corner*.

John Willis-Richards (Gordon Whitehouse)

John was recently seen and executed on stage, in Genesian's Hitchcock inspired *Richard The Third*. In other Genesian productions he was saved the bullet, and played the executioner in *Saint Joan*, a reluctant king in *Crown Matrimonial* and a dandy in Oscar Wilde's *An Ideal Husband*.. John began his acting career in Canberra as Shakespeare in *Dead White Males* with ANU theatre society. He has since studied theatre overseas at San Francisco State University and at home at UWS Nepean.



John Grinston (Charles Trevor Stanton)

John Grinston made his professional debut as 'The Fox' in *Adventures of Brer Rabbit*, an original Australian musical at the New England Theatre Company. He has appeared in *The Informer* with Kinetic Energy Dance Company, in *The Tempest*, *Queen Christina*, *After The Fall*, *Privates on Parade*, *The Diary of Anne Frank* and other productions at New Theatre; in *Wallaroo Goes Walkabout* at Bondi Pavilion; in the world premiere season of Alex Buzo's *StingRay* at the Stables; and in *Chess* at Theatre Royal. TV roles have included 'Henry Lawson' in *Michael Willessee's Australians* and the solicitor in *A Place to Call Home*. In 2012 he was co-winner of the 'Best Actor' prize at the Sydney Film School Festival of Short Films at the Chauvel Cinema for his performance in *Magnum Opus*. *Dangerous Corner* is his second appearance at Genesian Theatre, following last year's *St Joan*, directed by Kevin Jackson.



Tom Massey (Robert Caplan)

Tom trained at AADA in the mid 90's, and has performed in a number of roles since then. 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 Magwitch in *Great Expectations*. In 2012 Tom studied at Atlantic Acting School in NYC. He was thrilled on his return to Australia to stage manage *The Credeaux Canvas* for Sure Foot Productions. For the Genesian he has directed *Noises Off*, *Dead White Males*, and *The 39 Steps*.



PRODUCTION

Director	Peter Lavelle
Assistant Director	Shane Bates
Costume Design	Peter Henson
Set Design	Peter Lavelle with Debbie Smith
Set Artistry	Noel Camilleri
Lighting Design	Timothy M Carter and Daniel Hitchings
Sound Design	Mehran Mortezaei
Set Construction and Technical Assistance	Mark Banks, Garry Bates and Carlin Hurdis and members of the company
Photos	Craig O'Regan, Mark Banks
Programme/Poster/Graphics	Ross Oblea, Tom Massey, Matt Roden

CREW

Stage Manager	Mehran Mortezaei
Tech Operators	Janina Olmos-New, Theresa Sukkar and Miranda Natecki

CAST

Maud Mockridge	Kirsty Jordan
Freda Caplan	Elinor Portch
Olwen Peel	Elizabeth MacGregor
Betty Whitehouse	Amy Fisher
Gordan Whitehouse	John Willis-Richards
Charles Trevor Stanton	John Grinston
Robert Caplan	Tom Massey



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 Genesisian Theatre...

Murder on the Nile

by Agatha Christie

23rd August -
5th October 2013



Subscriptions are available
www.genesiantheatre.com.au