

Agatha Christie's

spider's WEB

30th August ~ 11th October

The Genesisian Theatre

Spider's Web

The action of the play passes in the drawing-room of Coplestone Court, the Hailsham-Browns' home in Kent. Time: 1950's

ACT 1

An evening in March

Interval

ACT 2

Ten minutes later

Directors' Notes



I love Agatha Christie. From my early teens being curled up on the couch Sunday afternoon watching Poirot, or Miss Marple, was one of my favourite parts of the week. To say nothing of the inspiring actors who have played these parts over the years.

There is something about the stories that draws us in. We know someone is going to be murdered, but how and why? Most importantly, who did it?

Agatha Christie is about the journey, and the clues along the way. Everyone is hiding something, but what and why? Who is the most suspicious character? Can we solve the mystery before the last thread unravels?

This show will mark my directorial debut after finishing my degree. I couldn't have asked for a more giving group of people. Sometimes in our lives we are lucky enough to meet a group of people who inspire us to be the best we can be. The cast and crew of 'Spider's Web' for me have been such a group of people. Not to mention my rock through this production, Tim Bennet, whose quiet presence has always been felt. "Murder is a serious business", but oh, what serious fun it has been along the way. Now I hand it over to you, and I asked you....

Supposing you were to find a dead body in the library, what would you do?

Cast



Sir Rowland Delahaye - David Stewart-Hunter

David's previous knightly appearances at the Genesians include Sir Francis Chesney in *Charley's Aunt* and 4th Knight/4th Tempter in *Murder in the Cathedral*. Earlier this year he played Friar Francis and Verges in Pymble Players' production of *Much Ado about Nothing*. He has spent his working life performing, first as an advertising executive in the UK and Australia, and latterly as an English teacher.

Hugo Birch - Vincent O'Neill

Vincent first appeared on stage in North Queensland at the age of ten when he walked off with a Melvin Starr bike as first prize after improvising as a Vincent's APC. He has performed with many Sydney theatre companies. His most memorable role was as Thenardier in *Les Miserables*.



Jeremy Warrender - Christopher Butel

Christopher recently completed his studies at SAE Institute graduating with a Bachelor of Film Production. Towards the end of 2013 he completed an advanced acting techniques short course at NIDA. This is his second role with the Genesians, previously appearing in *Pride and Prejudice* as Mr. Collins.

Clarissa Hailsham-Brown - Julia Kennedy Scott

Julia graduated from Actors Centre Australia in 2011. Since graduating her credits include: *Oneness* (Sydney Opera House), *Timon of Athens* (Old 505 Theatre), *Hamlet* (Q Theatre), *Gaspung* (New Theatre), *Suddenly Last Summer* (The Cell Block Theatre), *Baby with the Bathwater* (New Theatre), and *Wild in the Heart* (ABC Radio National). Julia is thrilled to be playing Clarissa and being immersed in her world of supposing.



Pippa Hailsham-Brown - Dominique Nesbitt

Dominique studied Ballet for seven years, during which time she developed a love and passion for performance. At school she took up Drama, where she played Juliet in her school's Shakespeare program. During her four years at university, she played in various productions with SUDS.

Mildred Peake - Susan Farrell

Susan Farrell has previously performed with Tallaght Theatre in Dublin playing Maire in *Translations* by Brian Friel, Gert in *Big Maggie* by John B Keane and Clea in *Black Comedy* by Peter Shaffer. She studied at the Actors Studio in NIDA in 2013 and played Lapin in a performance of *Illyria* by Bryony Lavery directed by Tanya Goldberg.



***Elgin, the butler* - Danny Nercessian**

Danny started out in theater and performing from the age of six including dance. In 2012 he was selected to take part in The Musical Performer course at NIDA and since then has performed in film, television and made regular appearances on Sydney's Burlesque scene.

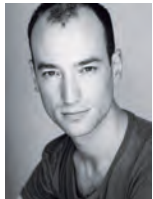


***Oliver Costello* - Michael Heming**

Spider's Web marks Michael's second appearance with Genesians, having previously performed in *Frankenstein*. Michael's other credits include *Guys and Dolls* as Nathan Detroit, *Hairspray*, *Urinetown*, and new Australian musicals *It Was That Way When I Got Here*, originating Deputy Headmaster Barnaby Tolfree and *The Department of Heaven* as Sigmund Freud.

***Constable Jones* - Isabelle Kohout**

Isabelle was born acting as shown by numerous home videos and preschool plays. Unfortunately she has not grown out of this passion. She has played the role of *Antigone* in the Greek tragedy of the same name by Jean Anouilh.



***Inspector Lord* - Martin Searles**

Martin has been acting regularly on stage and screen since 2001 in Canberra and Sydney. Some of his favourite theatre credits include *Privates on Parade* (New Theatre, 2014), *Romeo & Juliet* (Impulse Theatre, 2013), *St Joan & Great Expectations* (Genesian Theatre, 2012), *The Importance of Being Ernest* (Free Rain, 2010), *Sense and Sensibility* (Free Rain, 2009) and *Angels In America Parts I & II* (Papermoon, 2008). Martin studied drama at ANU, graduating with Honours in 2007.

***Henry Hailsham-Brown* - Tommy Deckard**

Tommy is a fan of Shakespeare, Harold Pinter and the scripts of Mellis and Scinto. He has performed *Fire* (Short+Sweet), and most recently, three roles in Louis Nowra's *The Jungle* (Darlo Drama), at the Eternity Playhouse.

Production Team

DIRECTOR and SET DESIGN – YLARIA ROGERS

Ylaria finished a Bachelor of Music Theatre at the Australian Institute of Music in December last year. Despite directing small projects at university and children's theatre prior to her degree, this will mark Ylaria's first full length show as a director. Some of her previous credits as an actor include a *Lies, Love and Hitler*, *Rent*, *As You Like It*, *Urinetown* and *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

COSTUME DESIGN – ELIZABETH “BESS” ELWELL- COOK

An experienced historical costumier who runs her own business, 'Cote & Cutler Outfitters'. Her Leonardo da Vinci costume was featured in the exhibition Leonardo da Vinci: Anatomy to Robots. Past credits include *The Tempest – Steampunked!* and a 1920s razor-gang-themed *All's Well That Ends Well* as well as screen productions & medieval fairs. Bess has just accepted the post of Head of Wardrobe for Cumberland Gang Show (Riverside Theatre, Scouts/Guides Assoc, annually).

SOUND DESIGN –MICHAEL SCHELL

Michael has been an active member of the Genesian Theatre for over 25 years. A professional sound and lighting designer his recent credits for the Genesian Theatre include sound design for *Crown Matrimonial* and *The Mousetrap*, lighting and sound for *Great Expectations*, *St Joan*, *The 39 Steps*, *Terra Nova*, *Frankenstein*, *Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure* and sound for *Pride and Prejudice*.

LIGHTING DESIGN – DANIEL HITCHINGS

As a child Daniel developed his lighting skills as an amateur pyromaniac. As a more mature adult, Daniel has assisted in the lighting design for *Dangerous Corner*, *Hotel Sorrento* and the 2014 Genesian Season Launch. He currently works for Glen St Theatre as a technician and focuses solely on lighting up stages in a non-combustible way.

STAGE MANAGER – GLEN HARMAN

Glen has been involved with 27 productions for the Genesians since 2001, including stage management for *Mansfield Park*, *The Shoe-Horn Sonata*, *A Man for All Seasons* and most recently *Hotel Sorrento*.

LIGHTING AND SOUND OPERATION – AMY ROBERTS

Amy has spent most of her life in and around theatres. She has been involved with the Genesians for the past 8 years, occasionally getting a chance to tread the boards. She was last seen on stage in *Daisy Pulls it Off*.

Production Crew

<i>Director</i>	Ylaria Rogers
<i>Assisiant Director</i>	Timothy Bennett
<i>Set Design</i>	Ylaria Rogers
<i>Costume Design</i>	Elizabeth Elwell-Cook
<i>Lighting Design</i>	Daniel Hitchings
<i>Sound Design</i>	Michael Schell
<i>Stage Manager</i>	Glen Harman
<i>Lighting/Sound Operation</i>	Amy Roberts
<i>Set Construction</i>	Garry Bates, Paul Gilbert & Members of the Company
<i>Programme</i>	Ross Oblea
<i>Photography</i>	Mark Banks
<i>Transport</i>	Glen Harman
<i>Ticketing</i>	Shane Bates, Tom Massey
<i>Wardrobe Construction</i>	Ylaria Rogers
<i>Special Thanks to:</i>	Timothy Carter, Kate Hastings Shane Bates, Susan Carveth, Macushla McGowan, Carlin Hurdis, Debbie Smith, FOH staff



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.

Originally constructed in 1868 as the Church of St. John the Evangelist served as both church and poor school until 1927. The school was operated by the Sisters of St. Joseph and was visited on many occasions by Mother Mary MacKillop now St. Mary of the Cross. In 1932 it was converted into the Kursaal Theatre and later, from 1938, was the first site of the Matthew Talbot Hostel. Since 1954 it has been the home of the Genesian Theatre 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...

AMADEUS

by Peter Shaffer

25th October - 29th November

Subscriptions are available
www.genesiantheatre.com.au