

ABERCAVENNY

THE
WINSLOW
BOY

by Terence Rattigan
17th January ~ 14th February

Director's Note

The Genesian Theatre Company, operating from this wonderful venue in the heart of the CBD for the last 60 years, has always striven to bring you the best of theatre from the greatest of playwrights as diverse as Shakespeare, Shaw, and Stoppard, to Agatha Christie. This weekend it is *The Winslow Boy* from distinguished writer Terence Rattigan.

1910 was one of the most volatile years in British politics - the struggle of the English women for the vote only part of it. In the story of the Winslow family we see this part of their life but also the more dramatic issue of whether Arthur Winslow can fight the establishment to secure justice for his 12 year old boy accused of stealing a 5/- postal note.

Terence Rattigan based his play on the case of George Archer-Shee - the 13 year old Osborne Royal Navy cadet who himself was dismissed from the Navy for a similar offence. His case was taken up by barrister Edward Carson (of Oscar Wilde trial fame). It caused a sensation at the time - plenty of dramatic content for the playwright.

The theme of the play “Let right be done” comes at great cost.

You may well ask yourself, at the conclusion of this play, whether Ronnie Winslow did indeed steal the 5/- postal order because he wanted to leave the tough discipline of the Navy and go back to the bosom of his family.

Was the price his father and the rest of his family paid to secure justice worth all the deprivations and heartache? It has been my pleasure to explore this question with my talented cast.

Nanette Frew
Director

NANETTE FREW - Director Nanette has been involved with the Genesian Theatre since the 1970's, working in all aspects of the theatre including serving on the Board and the play reading committee to select plays for production. She has directed nearly 20 productions for this theatre. Some highlights would include her productions of *Death Trap*, *Hay Fever*, and *Murder on the Nile* for the Genesian. She has also frequently appeared on the Genesian stage in a wide variety of roles during her long association with the theatre - she particularly enjoyed acting in *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* and *Lord Arthur Savile's Crime*. In addition to her work with the Genesian Theatre, Nanette has directed and acted for numerous other independent Sydney theatre companies over the past 40 years. She hopes you enjoy her production of *The Winslow Boy!*

OWEN GIMBLETT - Set Design Owen has designed, directed, technically directed, and stage managed dozens of plays, musicals, and ballets since he first volunteered to assist backstage for a musical theatre production back in 1955! He has now designed nearly 30 productions at the Genesian with notable designs including *The Tempest*, *Northanger Abbey*, *Great Expectations*, *Wuthering Heights*, and *Rebecca*. He particularly enjoys working at the Genesian, with its lovely atmosphere and unique challenges.

PETER HENSON - Costume Design A freelance costume designer with an MA in Theatre Studies, a BA Honours in Fine Arts, currently enrolled in a PHD on historical costume, Peter has been designing and making costumes for several decades at Genesian Theatre, New Theatre, Guild Rockdale and Zenith Chatswood. Other 2014 designs: *Amadeus* and *Pride & Prejudice*.

TIMOTHY M CARTER - Lighting Design An accomplished Lighting Designer, Musical Director and Composer, Tim's formal studies include a Bachelor of Creative Arts (Music Composition), Master of Creative Arts (Theatre Production) and Master of Creative Arts - Research (Theatre Production). Recent Genesian lighting credits include *Pride and Prejudice*, *Hotel Sorrento*, *Murder on the Nile*, *Richard III*, *The Mousetrap*, and *Northanger Abbey*. Musical Director credits include *Spamalot*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, the Sydney premiere of Andrew Lloyd Webber's *By Jeeves*, and the world premiere of *The Starchild*. Composition credits include *The Glass Menagerie*, *Saint Joan*, *Charley's Aunt*, *The Living*, *A Chaste Maid in Cheapside*, and a devised production based on his suite *Fragments*.

MICHAEL SCHELL - Sound Design Michael has been a member of the Genesian Theatre for over 35 years. A professional sound and lighting designer his Genesian credits include *Great Expectations*, *St Joan*, *The 39 Steps*, *Terra Nova*, *Frankenstein*, and *Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure*. Other recent Genesian sound design credits include *Pride and Prejudice*, *The Mousetrap*, *Crown Matrimonial*, and *Spider's Web*.



MATTHEW BALKUS - Ronnie Winslow Matthew is thirteen and spent most of his primary years at John Colet School in Sydney, where the emphasis is on Shakespeare plays. He took leading roles there in six abridgements, including *The Tempest*, *Hamlet*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *As You Like It*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *Richard III*. He recently completed a semester course in drama conducted by the Australian Theatre for Young People, and sings with the Gondwana Voices. He has commenced serious studies in acting with Anne Looby. His second love is

music, having progressed to a high level in piano studies, and is currently enjoying composition with Henrique Dib.

MEG MOONEY - Violet Meg has appeared in several productions since joining the Genesians in 1997 including *Hedda Gabler* as Berta, *The School For Scandal* as Mrs Candour, *Dead White Males* as Jessica, *Richard III* as Margaret. She has also assisted as Stage Manager, assistant director, sound & lighting operator and creator or many props as well as set design. She is delighted to be a part of Terence Rattigan's classic drama *The Winslow Boy* as the irrepressible house keeper Violet.



LOIS MARSH - Grace Winslow Lois is delighted to return to the Genesian stage in this classic Rattigan period drama. Previous appearances here include Mrs Gardiner in *Pride and Prejudice*, Camilla and Molly in *Great Expectations* and various characters in *Coward at Christmas* and the workshop *After Liverpool*. She has also appeared as Sagot in *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* and Aunt Lanyon in *Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde* at Hunters Hill Theatre. In the 80s Lois trained at the Independent Drama School in North Sydney.

DAVID STEWART-HUNTER - Arthur Winslow David's previous appearances with the Genesian include Sir Rowland Delahaye in *Spider's Web*, 4th Tempter/4th Knight in *Murder in the Cathedral*, and Sir Francis Chesney in *Charley's Aunt*. He is always happy to play English gentlemen because he can still do the accent. In a break with typecasting he played Friar Francis and Verges in a recent Pymble Players production of *Much Ado about Nothing*. David has spent his working life performing, first as an advertising executive in the UK and Australia, and latterly as an English teacher.



SONYA KERR - Catherine Winslow Sonya Kerr graduated from the Flinders University Drama Centre in 2002 and is a proud member of the MEAA. Sonya's stage credits range from playing Lady Macbeth with Phrankly Theatre in Melbourne to playing The Internet itself in subtlety theatre's *A Quiet Night in Rangoon* in Sydney. Her film appearances have seen her take on the roles of an ASIO assassin, a billionaire heiress, a vengeful ghost, and even a survivor of a zombie apocalypse. Sonya currently hosts an online show called *Kapow* which reviews comics, anime and collectibles. *The Winslow Boy* is Sonya's debut performance with the Genesian Theatre Company.



LACHLAN MCNAB - Dickie Winslow Lachlan started acting at an early age: about 4 or 5. Skipping forwards a bit, he has since done shows and roles of varying shapes and sizes with the Macquarie University Drama Society (Including *The Iceman Cometh*, and *The Night of the Living Dead*); The Pymble Players (*The Shape of Things*, and *Much Ado About Nothing*); The Hornsby Musical Society (*The Producers*); and has done one previous show with The Genesian Theatre Company (*Murder on the Nile*). He was also technical operator for *The Mercy Seat* at SITCO, and

was the lead role in the student film *Glimpse* which took the People's Choice Award at Macquarie University's Screen Production Awards just recently.

DAVID PRICKETT - John Watherstone David is delighted to be playing John Watherstone in this classic and much loved play. This also continues his completely accidental personal practice of always playing a well-dressed character. Whether playing an army officer, accountant, murderer, psychiatrist, scientist or Italian gigolo he is nothing if not always well dressed for the occasion. David is excited to be involved with his first Genesian Theatre production and loves working with such a friendly cast and crew.



TOM MASSEY - Desmond Curry Tom trained at AADA in the 90's, and has worked in all aspects of theatre. *The Winslow Boy* is his 14th appearance on stage for the Genesian. Tom appeared in the Australian premiere of Parsley's adaptation of *Brideshead Revisted* for RGP. He has worked behind the scenes on many Genesian productions. For the Genesian he has directed *Noises Off*, *Dead White Males*, and *The 39 Steps*. In 2012 Tom trained at Atlantic Acting School in NYC. Tom has spent most of his time for the past year working as stage manager for independent theatre companies, including Sure Foot, Eclective, subtenuance, and the New. His most recent project was working as SM for Gale Edwards with Pacific Opera.

JANE THORPE - Miss Barnes Jane has a penchant for playing the quirky character and Miss Barnes makes a brief and "tactless" pit stop in *The Winslow Boy*. Jane's favourite roles for the Genesians have included Lady Cynthia in *The Real Inspector Hound*, Mme, the French Mistress in *Daisy Pulls it Off*, and Annette, the Gothic Maid in *Northanger Abbey*.



ROGER GIMBLETT - Sir Robert Morton Rogers last appearance on the Genesian stage was as the titular character in *Richard III*. Other roles have included Sir Robert Scott in *Terra Nova*, Henry Higgins in *Pygmalion* and Alfred Deakin, the former PM, in a new play staged at The Sydney Theatre. He recently played the role of WWI poet Siegfried Sassoon in the acclaimed drama *Not About Heroes* at the Sydney Opera House and on tour to Tasmania. Roger has a penchant for playing pompous Englishmen and men of the law and is delighted to be doing both in one

of his favourite plays.

Production

Director
Assistant Director
Set Design
Costume Design
Lighting Design
Sound Design
Production Manager
Set Construction

Choreography
Milliner
Wig Stylist
Costume Assistant
Photography
Graphic Design
Audition Assistants

Text Control
Acknowledgements

Crew

Stage Manager
Lighting & Sound Operation

Cast

Ronnie Winslow
Violet
Grace Winslow
Arthur Winslow
Catherine Winslow
Dickie Winslow
John Watherstone
Desmond Curry
Miss Barnes
Fred
Sir Robert Morton

Nanette Frew
Mark Banks
Owen Gimblett
Peter Henson
Timothy M Carter
Michael Schell
Sahn Millington
Grant Fraser, Gary Bates,
Debbie Smith, Chris Dunwell,
Members of the Company
Ylaria Rogers
Sandra Bass
Sharon Case
Helen Kohlhagen
Mark Banks
Matt Roden, Tom Massey
Thomas Atkins, Pat Foley, Kate Hastings,
Timothy Bennett, Fiona Connolly,
Claire Ross, Bec Piplica, Hannah Dunwell,
Martin Bell, Adrian Thyne
Susan Farrell
Wayne Dempsey, Pymble Players,
Hunters Hill Theatre, Timothy Bennett,
Diane Henderson

Mehran Mortezaei
Alex Creagh, Hannah Dunwell

Matthew Balkus
Meg Mooney
Lois Marsh
David Stewart-Hunter
Sonya Kerr
Lachlan McNab
David Prickett
Tom Massey
Jane Thorpe
Mehran Mortezaei
Roger Gimblett

About the Genesian Theatre

Celebrating our 70th year as a company in 2014, The Genesian Theatre Company has been operating for 60 years 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...

★★ *William Shakespeare's*
a MIDSUMMER
NIGHT'S ★
dream
28th February ~ 28th March

Subscriptions are available
www.genesiantheatre.com.au