

THE LADYKILLERS



Graham Linehan

Director's Note

When I first read the script of *The Ladykillers* I couldn't put it down, I was so intrigued and entertained. I couldn't think of a better play to launch the 2020 season with. Adapted by Graham Linehan in 2011 from the Ealing studios film originally written by William Rose, the story has been brilliantly reworked by Linehan to suit a theatre audience. His interpretation is very comic with Linehan expanding on the characters more than the robbery itself. If we look at the story as an allegory about a troubled Britain in transition then *The Ladykillers* is still extremely relevant. Mrs Wilberforce represents a fading tradition of gentility while the bizarre criminals are a cross-section of a nation in decline.

Being my first production with the Genesian Theatre Company I am so pleased to have had the chance to work on a wonderful play and also the pleasure of working with an extremely talented and dedicated cast. As a testament to the script and the creativity of the cast there were days in rehearsal where we couldn't stop laughing due to the hilarious interpretation of a scene an actor had found for their character. We hope this transfers out of the rehearsal room and into the theatre.

Walter Grkovic

Director

Graham Linehan (1968 -) Linehan is an Irish comedian who has written or co-written numerous television comedies such as the sitcoms *Father Ted*, *Black Books*, and *The IT Crowd*. Graham Linehan has also made numerous cameos appearances on various television shows and was awarded an International Emmy for writing *The IT Crowd*.

Synopsis Of Scenes

The action takes place in Kings Cross, London, from the 5th to the 9th November 1956.

WALTER GRKOVIC - Director Walter is a graduate of NIDA having worked in all areas of the entertainment industry. He has appeared with Sydney Theatre Co, Melbourne Theatre Co, Belvior St, Gordon Frost, Jacobsen Entertainment to name a few. Walter has also appeared in many television series and various Australian and international films. His directing credits include *Three Sisters*, *A Lie of the Mind*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Stepping Out: The Musical*, *Hello From Bertha and Other Plays*, *Deuce Cooper: The Bloomfield Case* and was Resident / Assistant Director on the original Australian tour of *Shout: The Legend of the Wild One*.

GRANT FRASER - Set Design Grant Fraser has been contributing to the construction of sets on the Genesian stage for the last 40 years. Whilst he concedes that there are much better designers than him his skill is in arranging the basic set to allow the set detailers and decor people to work their magic to make it look "right" for the play.

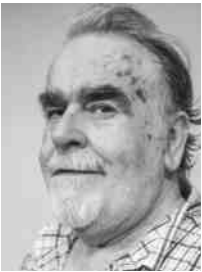
SUSAN CARVETH - Costume Design Susan has worked as the designer / costumier on dozens of Genesian productions - a few favourites being: *Figaro*, *Under Milkwood*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Three Musketeers*, *Far from the Madding Crowd*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *A Man for All Seasons*, *An Ideal Husband*, *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll*, *Witness for the Prosecution*, *Hay Fever*, *Murder on the Nile*, *Richard III*, *Frankenstein*, *Twelfth Night*, *Forsyte Saga*, *The 39 Steps*, and *Blood Wedding*. She has also worked for Opera Australia, the ABC and BBC as a costume coordinator, and costume maker for *Tall Poppeas* (Ondine Productions - Opera Bites) and *Deadhouse* (Blancmange Productions).

MICHAEL SCHELL - Lighting and Sound Design Michael has been a member of the Genesian Theatre for over 40 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*, *Spider's Web*, *Three Sisters*, *Our House*, and *Dracula*.



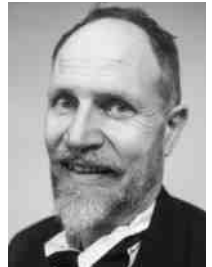
ROD STEWART - Constable Macdonald, Guest This is Rod's twelfth play for the Genesians. The last was playing Admiral Croft in Jane Austen's *Persuasion* last year. He has appeared in 11 plays with the Lane Cove Theatre Company; the last as Yurtle the Turtle in *Suessical Jr* in 2018. As well as enjoying acting Rod also writes musical plays. He fell in love with musical theatre after seeing *West Side Story* as a teenager. He has written five musicals: His last two: *Devil May Care* and *Vicki* have been workshopped by the Genesian Theatre. *Vicki* had three performances at the Lane Cove Theatre in February 2018.

PAMELA WHALAN - Mrs Wilberforce Pamela is a Life Member and former Theatre Director of the Genesian Theatre. She has appeared in and directed many productions for the Genesians, the latest being *Towards Zero*. Pamela has worked as actor and director for NTC, DAPA, Theatre on Brunner and Club 71. She has written several children's plays and has adapted all of Jane Austen's novels for the stage. These have had successful productions both in Australia and overseas. For twelve years she judged the City of Newcastle Drama Awards and adjudicates the short play festivals Micro Theatre in Newcastle and FLASH in Woy Woy.



MARTY O'NEILL - Professor Marcus Initially discovered in a reed basket in the Tank Stream under the Kent St premises, Marty studied theatre at the Bell, Book and Candle Academy attached to St Mary's Cathedral: he has appalled, sorry, appealed to Genesian audiences as Col Judd *Dead White Males*, Stephen *Money and Friends*, the Archbishop *Saint Joan*, Professor Moriarty *Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure*, Captain Catt *Under Milk Wood*, and Grimesby Roylott *Sherlock Holmes and the Speckled Band*... He hopes to once again appeal, sorry, appal as Professor Marcus in his most challenging role to date... Marty enjoys French and Scandinavian "film noir"!

STEPHEN DORIC - Major Courtney NIDA graduate (Acting) 1978. Credits include *Young Doctors* Reg Grundy Productions played Brian. *Taming of the Shrew* Rocks Players, played Gremio. *Discovering Australia* by John Stone, Griffin Theatre played Bullawong, *The Ruling Class* by Richard Barnes, Auburn Community Theatre, directed. *Bananas* by Richard Bradshaw, Balmain Loft, played Mr Darwin, Rocks Players. *Werriwa* by Simon Adams, film, 2006, played Mike. *Romeo & Juliet* Auburn Community Theatre, played Capulet & directed. *Dog on a Chain* by Ryan Simpson, film, 2017. After a long absence from the stage Stephen returned last year to be a member of the Genesian.





DOUG WISEMAN - Harry Robinson A dancer of nineteen years, Doug is a professionally accredited performer. Having completed a Certificate IV in Dance at Brent Street in 2016, he has recently undertaken study once more to further his knowledge and versatility with a Diploma of Music at JMC Academy. He has performed internationally, his highlight being a 2014 classical ballet production of *Peter Pan*, where he played the titular role, at Sadler's Wells Theatre in London, Disneyland Hong Kong and Disneyland Paris.

Doug continues to refine his craft, with the ambition of becoming a professional actor. *Ladykillers* is Doug's debut performance with Genesian Theatre Company.

PAUL RYE - One-Round Paul is a Sydney based actor whose most recent work was with Ruby Productions in *Lend me a Tenor* as the outrageous and over the top Bellhop. Paul has been working with like minded individuals over the past year at several of Australia's leading acting institutes including NIDA and Actors Centre Australia. Paul has a strong love of Film, Television, and Theatre and enjoys every part of the process whether it be behind the scenes, engaging with cast and crew or learning and adapting to the script and the characters involved.



BARRY NIELSEN - Louis Harvey Barry has appeared in a number of plays for the Genesians and elsewhere and has played from Algernon to the triple-gendered role in *Sylvia* and all the female roles in *Complete Works of Shakespeare*, his most recent appearance. There have been plenty of TV commercials and pointless student films along the way and he amuses himself by being Genesian President, being a vet and teacher, and growing bonsais.

PAULINE GARDNER - Mrs Tromleyton Pauline has performed extensively for theatre groups such as Genesian Theatre group, in shows *Far from the Madding Crowd*, *Cards on the Table* and *Wind in the Willows*. For Bankstown Theatre co she has been in Australian classics such as *Cosi* and *Hotel Sorrento*. For Riverside Lyric Ensemble Theatre she has appeared in *Who's life is it Anyway* and *And Then There Were None*. For Darlo Theatre she appeared in *Lovepuke* and *Who's Afraid of the Working Class*. With Sutherland Theatre Company she first performed in 2013 *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* followed by *Dearly Beloved*, *Fox on the Fairway*.



Production

Director

Walter Grkovic

Set Design

Grant Fraser

Costume Design

Susan Carveth

Lighting and Sound Design

Michael Schell

Production Manager

Tom Massey

Set Construction

**Grant Fraser, Paul Gilbert,
Peter Curtis, Members of the
Company**

Set Detailing

Meg Mooney, Barry Nielsen

Photography

Craig O'Regan, Tom Massey

Graphic Design

Trudy Ritchie, Tom Massey

Ticketing

Tom Massey

Transport

Barry Nielsen

Acknowledgements

**Pamela Whalan, David Stewart
Hunter, Timothy Bennett, Ted
Crosby, Roger Gimblett, Craig Blair,
Vaughan Massey, David Angell**

Crew

Stage Manager

Alishia Keane

Assistant Stage Manager

Alexis Worthing

Lighting and Sound Operation

Ian Whalan

Cast

Constable MacDonald

Rod Stewart

Mrs Wilberforce

Pamela Whalan

Professor Marcus

Marty O'Neill

Major Courtney

Stephen Doric

Harry Robinson

Doug Wiseman

One-Round

Paul Rye

Louis Harvey

Barry Nielsen

Mrs Tromleyton

Pauline Gardner

Guests

**Eve Lichtnauer, Rod Stewart,
Susan Carveth**

About the Genesian Theatre

The Genesian Theatre Company celebrated our 75th year as a company in 2019! For 65 years we have been operating from our home at 420 Kent St in the Sydney CBD. We boast among our alumni numerous household names in Australian theatre and film such as Angela Punch, Bryan Brown, Baz Luhrmann, Coral Lansbury, Judi Farr, John Bell, Peter Carroll, and Nick Enright. We are also just as proud of the hundreds of other talented actors, directors, stage managers, set and costume designers, lighting and sound specialists, stage and production staff who have contributed to Sydney's unique little theatre. We are particularly proud of all our members who volunteer their time to work Front of House to help you enjoy your visit to the Genesian Theatre.

Over the years the company has developed into a theatre providing a training ground for young theatre professionals and a place where those who love the theatre can meet, share, and extend their knowledge of the performing arts. The Genesian Theatre Company 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 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.

The Genesian Theatre Company acknowledges the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation as the traditional custodians of the land our theatre stands on.

Membership

If you're interested 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...

