

A vintage-style photograph of a wooden desk. In the center, a silver revolver with a wooden handle lies on a piece of aged, greenish paper. To the right is a black rotary telephone. In the background, a typewriter is visible. In the foreground, a dark hat is partially shown. The title 'MURDERED TO DEATH' is written in large, red, dripping letters across the middle of the image.

MURDERED TO DEATH

Peter Gordon

Director's Note

My love affair with all things Agatha Christie started in my early teens when my mother suggested I read one of her many volumes: *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* - I was hooked! Over time it became clear that the reader had no chance of solving the mystery as some of the most crucial evidence was kept until the inevitable "suspect gathering" where Marple or Poirot would reveal facts not mentioned previously!! *Murdered to Death* captures this beautifully, however when left to the hapless and incompetent Inspector Pratt - only the murderer confessing will solve this crime! All the absurdity of the genre is on display in this hilarious spoof which will keep you guessing till the very end!

Elizabeth (Liz) Munro

Director

Peter Gordon (1950) Born in York, 1950, Peter has written nine comedy plays and a psychological thriller. He is well known for his murder mystery spoofs featuring the incompetent Inspector Pratt. *Murdered to Death* was first published in 1983 and first produced in London in 1997. *Murdered to Death* is part of a trilogy that has had over 13,000 professional and amateur productions around the world.

Synopsis Of Play

The action of the play takes place in the lounge of Bagshot Manor in the 1930's

Act 1

Scene 1: On an autumn evening

Scene 2: The following morning

Act 2

Scene 1: Two hours later

Scene 2: The same day in the early afternoon

ELIZABETH (LIZ) MUNRO - Director Liz has been an active Genesian since 2013 having stage managed her way to assistant director for several productions, most notably *A Room with A View* and *Ladies in Black* both in 2019. She has now decided to give this director malarkey thing a go... how hard could it be? What could possibly go wrong? She has decided that comedy is not as easy as it looks. Making it look effortless, finding that comedy "sweet spot" and understanding that comedy is ironically about restraint - is what attracted her to the play - that plus rehearsals were a hoot! This is her directorial debut of a major production, so if you don't laugh - it's her fault.

ELLA MONTI - Assistant Director Artist and author with a deductive mind for science and technology; and a passion for performing arts. Having joined forces with the Genesian Theatre in Spring 2019, Ella crewed as a Light & Audio Operator for sell-out performances of *Ladies in Black*. She was delighted when the lights didn't catch fire and the audience gave way to riotous applause. Returning as Head Button Pusher for *Sherlock Holmes & The Death on Thor Bridge*, she now continues her capers in multiple capacities for *Murdered to Death*. As Assistant Director, she will pass the buck if you don't laugh.

DEBBIE SMITH - Set Design Although a life-member of the GTC, Debbie gave up active theatre pursuits two years ago when she moved to Hobart. But how could she pass up the opportunity to get her pencil and drill out one more time, to design and build the set for *Murdered to Death*? It's a great play - the set has to be functional to support the comedy, and it also shows elements of art deco design to support the story. Over the years, her favourite designs have been *Cards on the Table*, *Frankenstein*, *Enchanted April*, *Intent to Murder*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Journey's End*, *Pygmalion*, and *Elephant Man*. Despite being very handy with sharp and blunt tools - she insists she is not the murderer.

SUSAN CARVETH - Costume Design (Male costumes and costume accessories) Susan has worked as the designer/costumier on dozens of Genesian productions - a few favourites being: *Ladykillers*, *Persuasion*, *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*, *Witness for the Prosecution*, *Hay Fever*, *Murder on the Nile*, *Richard III*, *Frankenstein*, *Twelfth Night*, *39 Steps*, *Forsythe Saga*, and *Blood Weddings*. 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).

ILDY IZSO - Costume Design (Female costumes) Ildy is a costume and wearable art designer. Telling a story of a character in her designs is very important to her. Be it historically accurate costumes or crazy wearable-art garments her designs are filled with details and created with enthusiasm. Ildy enjoyed designing the ladies' garments for the play, focusing on period styles that support and enhance their individual personalities and their role in *Murdered to Death*. This is her first show with the Genesian Theatre.

MICHAEL SCHELL - Sound and Lighting Design Michael has designed sound for over 200 productions ranging from children's plays (*Robin Hood Clemben* [Australian Tour]) to Opera (*Die Fledermaus* (Sydney Conservatorium) and nearly every form of theatre in between. He has worked with many major companies in Australia including Nimrod (*Upside Down At The Bottom Of The World*), Sydney Theatre Company (*Revenger's Tragedy*) and The Q Theatre (*You Can't Take it With You*). Recent productions include *Elephant Man* (PACT), *Deathtrap* (Exit Game Productions), *Vice* (Emu Productions), *Not About Heroes* (RGP Productions [Australia & New Zealand Tour]), *Sherlock Holmes & The Death On Thor Bridge* (Genesian Theatre) and *Rabbit Hole* (Chippin Street).



DENISE KITCHING - Mildred Bagshot Denise has been involved with the Genesian Theatre since 1965, when she was awarded the Most Promising Actor award at the Genesian Drama School Festival. Recent roles at the Genesian include *Go Back for Murder* and *Ladies in Black*. This year she won two Community Radio Awards for narrating *Days in Australia*.

PHOEBE KENNEDY - Dorothy Foxton I am a British northern lass who travelled with a backpack successfully conning Australia to accept me. A triple 'threat' having performed for 20 years; this will be my second Genesian Theatre performance! We now have freedom ... but will I ever escape to another country to flee from my misdeeds?



STEPHEN HOLLAND - Bunting Stephen Holland joined the theatre as an escapologist but struggled to make a living. Turning to comedy, he has been reasonably funny in *The 39 Steps*, *Charley's Aunt* and *Bloody Murder*, at The Genesian Theatre. Stephen has written comedy for TV, and performs stand up in the pubs of Sydney.

SANDRA BASS - Joan Maple Sandra has played the part of Jane Marple several times on the Genesian stage, and tonight she presents Joan Maple. Joan is also an avid knitter and amateur detective, but since she lacks a talented biographer like Agatha Christie she has remained an obscure spinster. Sandra has welcomed the chance to give her due recognition.



DAVID STEWART-HUNTER - Col Charles Craddock David has played a selection of Knights, Lords, and Colonels at the Genesian, notably in *The Winslow Boy*, *Spider's Web*, *Emma*, and *The Secret of Chimneys*. He has also played Jeeves at Hunters Hill, a crooked policeman at Cronulla, and a priest at Pymble. He has yet to attempt an Australian accent.



EMILY SAINT-SMITH - Margaret Craddock After a 10-year hiatus, Emily returned to the stage in 2021 with Lane Cove Theatre Company in *Jekyll & Hyde*, where she played an English society woman, stalked by a murderer. She is delighted to be making her Genesian debut in *Murdered to Death*, where she plays an English society woman, stalked by a murderer.

MITCH MCCAUSLAND - Pierre Marceau Mitch makes his Genesian debut in *Murdered to Death*, after appearing as a henchman in WOFTAM Productions's *In Bondage - a 007 Parody Musical* in early 2021. After seeing everyone else's credits in Genesian shows, Mitch feels like he conned his spot on the show. At least it's on brand for Pierre.



ALICE BENDALL - Elizabeth Hartley-Trumpington Starting at the tender age of 2 with a brilliant Pavarotti impersonation, Ali slowly [but loudly!] moved through the genres. Since graduating from ArtsEd London, she has worked as a choreographer, voiceover artist, actor, teacher, and director all over the West End, Europe and now - Sydney. Ali relishes the opportunity to play the sophisticated socialite Elizabeth.

BEN BRIGHTON - Constable Thompkins As a marketing graduate from UNSW, Ben began his adult life by deciding to do what most people do in that position, pursue a career in acting. He had an illustrious start that featured a Sprite commercial and his left foot in a Mitsubishi campaign, sadly never to occur again after what happens to his feet in this show!



WILLIAM BALTYN - Inspector Pratt William has been acting for many years in the UK and recently, Australia. Notable roles include Prince Charles in *War of the Waleses* (RSC, London and Edinburgh), Jeeves in *Jeeves & Wooster* (London) and Jim Casey in *Grapes of Wrath* (Sydney). He's disturbingly good at acting incompetently, so this is a role he was born to play!

Production

Director

Assistant Director

Set Design

Costume Design

Lighting and Sound Design

Costume Assistant

Props Design

Production Manager

Set Construction

Photography

Graphic Design

Ticketing

Transport

Audition Personnel

Accountancy

Crew

Stage Manager

Lighting and Sound Operation

Cast

Mildred Bagshot

Dorothy Foxtot

Bunting

Joan Maple

Col Charles Craddock

Margaret Craddock

Pierre Marceau

Elizabeth Hartley-Trumpington

Constable Thompkins

Inspector Pratt

Elizabeth (Liz) Munro

Ella Monti

Debbie Smith

Susan Carveth, Ildy Izso

Michael Schell

Madelaine Caban, Trish Gracanin

Ella Monti

Amy Roberts

Debbie Smith, Tom Fahy,

Paul Gilbert, Grant Fraser,

Mitch Latham, Mik Pastore Garcia,

Paloma Pastore Garcia,

**Owen Hirschfeld, Members of the
Company**

Vicki Skarratt Photography

Roger Gimblett, Trudy Ritchie,

Tom Massey

Tom Massey

Debbie Smith, Mark Nagle

Mark Nagle, Emma Whitehead,

Jane Thorpe, Denise Kitching,

Sandra Bass, Chris Dunwell,

Georgia Jarrett, Douglas Spafford,

Janice McLeay, Ken Coleman,

Paul Gilbert, Chris Dunwell,

Helen Kohlhagen

Scott Wastell Stellar Profits

Ella Monti, Amy Roberts

Ciarn Byrne, Emmanuel Said

Denise Kitching

Phoebe Kennedy

Stephen Holland

Sandra Bass

David Stewart-Hunter

Emily Saint-Smith

Mitch McCausland

Alice Bendall

Ben Brighton

William Baltyn

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...

