

**LADY
WINDERMERE'S
Oscar Wilde FAN**



Director's Note

"Ladies and Gentlemen. I have enjoyed this evening *immensely*. The actors have given us a *charming* rendering of a *delightful* play, and your appreciation has been most intelligent. I congratulate you on the *great* success of your performance, which persuades me that you think *almost* as highly of the play as I do myself." - Oscar Wilde, following the first performance of *Lady Windermere's Fan* in 1892.

As we all know, the not so subtle digs at the upper echelon of English society creates the Wilde world - where etiquette is more of a performance than the lavish balls that were attended, and scandal and gossip are the most reliable sources of information. Whilst *The Importance of Being Earnest* may be Wilde's most well known comedy, I think there is a great argument for *Lady Windermere's Fan* to share a larger part of that spotlight - witty dialogue and intriguing relationships create a focused insight into 'the way we talk of good and bad women' and reminds us that there is always room for grey in a world of black and white.

After two years of unease and isolation, I hope it also serves as a reminder to treat others with kindness - we never know what secrets and personal battles lie underneath a strong or cold or charming exterior.

I am indebted to the cast and creative team behind this sweet play, who have come together through plague and floods to bring Wilde's words to life - and to our wonderful audiences, flocking back to the theatre and burning the light brighter.

Jess Davis
Director

Oscar Wilde (1854 - 1900) was an Irish wit, poet and dramatist with a flair for social commentary infused with humour and cheek. *Lady Windermere's Fan* marked his first hugely successful comedy, followed swiftly by *A Woman of No Importance*, *An Ideal Husband*, and *The Importance of Being Earnest*. In addition to his penchant for comedy, Wilde is well remembered for his novel *The Picture of Dorian Gray* and several other, darker plays such as *Salome*, *The Duchess of Padua*, and *Vera; or the Nihilists*. The latter part of his life was plagued by the narrowmindedness of Victorian society, and 117 years after his death, he was posthumously pardoned for homosexual acts as they were no longer considered criminal offences in 2017.

Synopsis Of Play

Act 1 - Lord Windermere's house, Carlton House Terrace, 5pm

Act 2 - Lord Windermere's house, Carlton House Terrace, 10.30pm

Act 3 - Lord Darlington's rooms, Belgravia, 2am

Act 4 - The Windermere's, Carlton House Terrace, 1pm the following day

JESS DAVIS - Director Jess is a Sydney based director and co-founder of independent theatre company Eye Contact Theatre Company. She is a 2018 graduate of the University of New England's Bachelor of Theatre and Performance. Directing credits include; *The Unexpected Guest*, *Sherlock Holmes and the Ripper Murders*, *The Bear / The Proposal* (Genesian Theatre), *The Park* (New Theatre), *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)*, *The Female of the Species* (Lane Cove Theatre Company), *Broken* (Theatre Travels), *Hairworm* (Eye Contact Theatre Company).

TUI CLARK - Assistant Director Tui is a graduate of the NIDA Directors Studio and Prague Film School Filmmaking Summer Workshop. In 2018, she wrote and directed her first short film. Since then she has worked on several short films & music videos. This is her first role with the Genesian Theatre Company. Later this year, Tui will direct *Unreasonable Situations* for Short+Sweet Sydney. She is also an astrophysicist.

TOM FAHY - Set Design Tom has been involved with Set Construction at the Genesian Theatre for the last five years. This is his third foray into Set Design following *Towards Zero* in 2019 and *Home Chat* in 2021. He has worked, particularly in musical theatre, as an actor and director in Toowoomba, Queensland for many years.

PETER HENSON - Costume Design A freelance set and costume designer and maker, with an MA qualification in Theatre Studies and a BA (Honours) in Fine Arts, Peter has worked extensively at the New Theatre, the Zenith Theatre, and the Guild Theatre, as well as with the Genesians. *Lady Windermere's Fan* completes his Wilde cycle having previously designed *A Woman of No Importance*, *An Ideal Husband*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, an adaptation of *Lord Arthur Savile's Crime* and the premiere of *After Oscar* in Melbourne in 2021, where he now resides. Forthcoming work includes a new full length narrative ballet.

MICHAEL SCHELL - 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* (Chippen Street).



AIMEE HONOR - Lady Windermere Aimee made her stage debut in 2016 as Elizabeth Bennet in *Pride and Prejudice*. Since then she has gone on to act in over a dozen plays across Sydney and the Central Coast. This is Aimee's first show with the Genesian Theatre Company and it also happens to be one of her favourite plays!

KENDALL DRURY - Lord Windermere Graduating from The International Screen Academy Sydney in 2016 Kendall is an Actor and Voice Over Artist who has appeared on stage, onscreen, and in a popular YouTube Comedy. This is his third production with the GTC, previously appearing as Captain Wentworth in *Persuasion* in 2019, and as Paul Ebony in *Home Chat* in 2021.



SAM WALTER - Lord Darlington Sam Walter trained at Actors Centre Australia. He has been cast in a broad range of characters, such as Major Robbie Ross the frightening antagonist in *Our Country's Good* to playing Andrey, the foolish but endearing brother in *Three Sisters*. This is his debut at the Genesian.

MICHELA NOONAN - Mrs Erlynne At 15, Michela debuted as Juliet in ATYPs *Romeo and Juliet*. She has worked extensively in television and is AFI (AACTA) best actress nominated for the feature film *Strange Fits of Passion*. She received the Gallio best actress award for the Italian feature *Quore*. She is also a criminal lawyer.



DAVID M BOND - Lord Augustus Lorton David Bond trained at The Shakespeare Centre in Stratford-upon-Avon and has appeared in over 40 plays including several of Wilde's; he played the man himself in Genesian's rehearsed reading in 2020. A long time after Baker in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, aged 8!

LIZ GRINDLEY - Duchess of Berwick Excited to be making her first appearance on the Genesian stage, Liz's previous experience includes: *84 Charing Cross Road* (Helene Hanff); *Our Town* (Mrs Webb); *Calendar Girls* (Chris); *Moon Over Buffalo* (Charlotte Hays) for Hunters Hill Theatre. For Tower Theatre (London): *The Changeling* (Tomazia); *Suddenly Last Summer* (Nun).



MAY HNIN - Lady Agatha Carlisle / Rosalie May Hnin has been a member of Genesian Theatre since 2018. From her first role as James Morland in the staged reading of *Northanger Abbey* to covering the role of Mary Aldin for three days in *Towards Zero*, she has also done bio-box operating for *Persuasion* and *Towards Zero*.



CARLIN HURDIS - Mr Dumby Carlin is appearing on stage at the Genesian for the sixth time. While five of the roles have required an English accent, Carlin's most recent appearance was in a one-act play set in regional Australia (*Decline and Fall*); perhaps from habit, he played the country priest with an English accent, too.

PETER DAVID ALLISON - Cecil Graham Peter David Allison is a prolific stage actor with some two dozen stage credits since 2017. This is his fifth appearance at the Genesian, after *A Murder Is Announced* (2017), *The Unexpected Guest* (2018), *Sherlock Holmes and the Ripper Murders* (2019) and *Home Chat* (2021).



JAMES TREVORROW - Mr Hopper Recently trained in theatre at Sydney Theatre School (STS), and film at the National Institute of Dramatic Arts (NIDA), James has appeared in numerous TVC's and STS performances. This is his first Genesian Theatre performance. He is also a professional engineer, co-founder of technology company Wundar, and venture incubator Apollera.

JILL KINGSTON - Lady Plymdale Jill has acted in a number of short films in Brisbane and Sydney. She completed the Showreel Course at Screenwise in 2018. She is currently studying a Masters of Screen Business at AFTRS. She has also produced and written a number of award-winning short films.



ROD STEWART - Parker This is Rod's 14th play for the Genesian; his last being *The Secret of Chimneys* in 2021. He has also appeared in 11 plays for the Lane Cove Theatre Company; the last as Yurtle the Turtle in *Seussical Jnr*, in 2018. Rod has written 6 musicals. *Devil May Care* and *Vicki* have been workshopped by this theatre.

SUSAN CARVETH - Lady Jedburgh A long time member of the Genesian, Susan has appeared as Philostrate/Cobweb in *A Midsummers Night's Dream* and Clegg in *Witness for the Prosecution*. Her other roles in *Pygmalion*, *Hay Fever*, *Shadowlands*, *Mansfield Park*, *Away*, *Verdict*, *Death Takes a Holiday*, *Lipstick Dreams*, and *The Women* were performed at Macquarie University.



DANIELLE HENDERSON - Mrs Cowper Cowper Danielle completed studies at The Ensemble Youth Theatre Performing Arts Program and has a background in theatre as a trained ballerina. Completing her RAD at the Australian Ballet School led to a scholarship at the English National Ballet School performing with the Company in ballets *Nutcracker* and *Swan Lake*.

Production

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

Set Dressing
Milliner, Costume Assistant
Wig Stylist
Photography
Graphic Design
Ticketing
Transport
Acknowledgements

Jess Davis
Tui Clark
Tom Fahy
Peter Henson
Michael Schell
Jess Davis, Michael Schell
Roger Gimblett
Tom Fahy, Paul Gilbert, Peter Curtis,
Sean Brehon, Members of the Company
Sandra Bass, Susan Carveth, Aimee Honor
Helen Kohlhagan
Sharon Case
Craig O'Regan
Trudy Ritchie, Tom Massey
Tom Massey
Mark Nagle
Robyn Arthur, Cathy Grylls,
Wendy Richmond, Susan Carveth,
Sandra Bass, Helen Kohlhagan,
Roger Gimblett, Jack Edwards,
Verica Nikolic, Amy Roberts,
Anna Desjardins, Shane Bates,
Janice McLeay, Debbie Smith,
Brad Davis, Josh Shediak

Crew

Stage Manager
Lighting and Sound Operation

Hannah Dunwell
Chris Dunwell

Cast

Lady Windermere
Lord Windermere
Lord Darlington
Mrs Eryllyne
Lord Augustus Lorton
Duchess of Berwick
Lady Agatha Carlisle, Rosalie
Mr Dumbo
Cecil Graham
Mr Hopper
Lady Plymdale
Parker
Lady Jedburgh
Mrs Cowper Cowper

Aimee Honor
Kendall Drury
Sam Walter
Michela Noonan
David M Bond
Liz Grindley
May Hnin
Carlin Hurdis
Peter David Allison
James Trevorrow
Jill Kingston
Rod Stewart
Susan Carveth
Danielle Henderson

About the Genesian Theatre

The Genesian Theatre Company celebrates our 78th year as a company in 2022! For 68 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...

