



# WITNESS

*f o r t h e*

# PROSECUTION

*by Agatha Christie*



8th SEPT - 20th OCT 2012  
PREVIEW NIGHT 7th SEPT

## Henry Jennings - Director



This will be Henry's second play he has directed for the Genesian having steered *Private Lives* to the stage last year. He has directed many other plays including *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Mojo* and *Don's Party*. He is also an experienced actor himself having appeared in Genesian Theatre's production of *Noises Off* as ironically the Director! He has also appeared on *Underbelly*, *All Saints* and most recently on a commercial as 'Lawnmower Man'!

He enjoys both acting and directing in equal measure but revels in the rehearsal process and delights in bringing out the best in his actors. Currently studying for a BA in Theatre at UNE, Henry loves working with such a fabulous group of committed actors and is delighted to be working with all the wonderful volunteers at the Genesian Theatre again.

## Directors Notes

**First I would like to thank all my wonderful cast and crew and especially Owen Gimblett for the set design and Laura Genders my wonderful assistant director. It's only possible with your efforts. And so to the play....**

Agatha Christie conjures up such evocative images of theatre. Miss Marple, Poirot and other beautifully carved characters. In this, one of her most famous plays, she has created another fine piece of character driven mystery. Written back in the fifties and made into a memorable film with Charles Laughton and Marlene Dietrich with one of the finest film directors ever, Billy Wilder at the helm, the desire to direct this play was irresistible. In its day it would have been quite a rare (one would hope) spectacle to see the Old Bailey and the process of law. However over the years thanks to the swathe of legal programs stretching back to Rumpole and more recently shows like *Boston Legal*, the drama and spectacle of a court has been diminished. However the power of good writing, a twisting plot together with the central tenets of human nature, greed and envy, remain. It is a testament to the great author Agatha Christie, that this play has stood the test of time and remains as entertaining today as it was back in 1955.

The central question in any Agatha Christie mystery is a 'Whodunit' and this is no different despite the absence of the traditional cast of suspects and motives gathered in a drawing room. This play is far simpler with the question of whether Leonard Vole is 'Guilty or Not Guilty'. It's that simple. As the jury must decide, so must you but this time the prosecution has one surprise for you. A woman who testifies against her husband. Unheard of perhaps but then this is *Witness for the Prosecution* after all!

And as the credits rolled in the film, the voice over announces:

"The management of this theatre suggests that for the greater entertainment of your friends who have not yet seen the picture, you will not divulge, to anyone, the secret of the ending of *Witness for the Prosecution*."

And I hope you all take heed and do the same.

Enjoy the show

Henry Jennings

## Cast

### **Ross Scott** - Mayhew



Ross trained with the Q Theatre Workshop and has appeared with several Sydney companies. His recent credits include Charlie in *Death of a Salesman* and Rev John Hale in *The Crucible*, for Epicentre, Bob Smalley in *Second Childhood* for New Theatre, and Malcolm Boyce in *The Marvellous Boy* for Phoenix. This is his first appearance with the Genesians and his first Agatha.

### **Daniel Felkai** - Leonard Vole



Daniel Felkai has trained as an actor at Wollongong University, NIDA, and Screenwise, among other places. His theatre credits include *The Underpants*, *True Times Three*, *By Jeeves!*, *Bondi Legal*, *Lord Arthur Savile's Crime*, *Undercover Lawyer*, and *Black Comedy*. His screen credits include *Footy Legends*, and *Australian Enemy*, as well as appearing in a number of short films and TV commercials.

### **Rodney Stewart** - Mr Justice Wainwright



Now in the late autumn of his acting and writing career, Rod joined Genesians after appearing in *By Jeeves* in 2008. Since then he's had roles in four other Genesian productions, the latest being this one. He has also played in two workshops and been very fortunate to have two of his musical plays workshoped at this theatre.

### **Sheree da Costa** - Janet Mackenzie



Sheree da Costa is an actor/singer/dancer with thirty-seven years of stage experience, yet she still feels like she learns something new every day, which she loves. She is married to Peter Zellner, and is delighted to be sharing the stage with her husband in his debut role as Dr. Wyatt.

### **Peter Zellner** - Dr. Wyatt



Peter Zellner comes to the *Witness* cast with a wealth of experience, if playing *Babushka* in primary school, complete with fake set of boobs, can be called experience. He also specializes in playing trees and rocks rather well. Seriously though, Peter is married to Sheree da Costa who plays Janet MacKenzie, and is delighted to be a part of the *Witness* cast.

### **Barry Moray** - Sir Wilfrid Robarts, Q.C



Barry loves flying boats, sailing planes, walking cars and driving dogs. He lives up the mountains with humans, dogs, cats and rosellas. Previous performances include *Pygmalion*, *The Play of Daniel*, *Top of the Ladder*, *Our Town*, *Flint*, *The Happiest Days of Your Life*, *The Miracle Worker*, *Hot Pants*, *Not Now Darling*, *The Garage Sale*, and *The Last Tango in Glenbrook*.

### **Noel Camilleri** - Carter/Usher



Noel Camilleri became interested in theatre at an early age after seeing his grandfather in many plays. After finishing his Business studies he undertook "The Core" at the Actors' College of Theatre and Television. Shortly afterwards he joined the Genesians and appeared in *Rope*, *Verdict*, *Miranda*, *Devil May Care* and *Mousetrap*. His ambition is to dramatise a number of *Jeeves and Wooster* short stories for this theatre.

### **Elizabeth MacGregor** - Miss Myers,Q.C

Elizabeth MacGregor hails from Adelaide, where she spent many years doing theatre, musical theatre and operetta. Her favourite roles to date include Diana in *Lend Me A Tenor*; Victor/Victoria in *Victor/Victoria*; Gabby/Bobbi in *City of Angels*; Florence in *Chess*, and Buttercup in *HMS Pinafore*. This is Elizabeth's first production with Genesian.



### **Olivia Thorburn Corr** - Greta

Olivia started acting at a young age. She attended a Rudolf Steiner school which focuses on the arts. From playing the Snow Queen in year one, Olivia fell in love with the theatre. She has been building her experience over the years and has studied through NIDA part time courses and attended AIPAH from year 11. Highlights of her career include *Chatroom* at Parramatta Riverside Theatre and *Twelfth Night* at the Globe Education Centre in London. The role of Greta marks Olivia's debut with The Genesian Theatre.



### **Andrew Avecedo** - Foreman

To overcome his shyness, Andrew enrolled in a short acting course at a community college. The experience opened a whole new world to him. He has worked as a support artist on numerous films and television programs. He is delighted to return to the theatre and his only regret is not becoming a member of The Genesian Theatre earlier in his career.



### **Wendy Greenfield** - Inspector Hearne

Wendy became a member of the Genesian Theatre 6 years ago and in that time not only has appeared on stage, but has been active as a play reader and lighting and sound operator as well as stage managing some of our workshops. Her acting credits include Lady Mark Berkeley in *Lady Windermere's Fan* and Mrs Bradman in *Blithe Spirit*. Wendy is thrilled to be involved with her first Agatha Christie play for the Theatre and is looking forward to the season.



### **Penny Morgan** - Romaine

Penny Morgan has just arrived home from Los Angeles and London where she trained extensively in theatre technique and Meisner Technique. *Witness For The Prosecution* is her first play since arriving back in Australia. Prior to this Penny studied for film and Television at The National Institute Of Dramatic Art. Penny has worked on Television Program's such as *East West 101* and was the lead role in Australia's iconic play *Away*.



### **Susan Carveth** - Clegg

A stalwart of the Genesian, Susan is equally at home as costume designer as she is on stage where credits over many years have included roles in *Pygmalion*, *Hay Fever*, *Shadowlands*, *Morning Sacrifice* and *Steaming*.



## ***Production***

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| Director             | <b>Henry Jennings</b>   |
| Assistant Director   | <b>Laura Genders</b>  |
| Set Design           | <b>Owen Gimblett</b>  |
| Construction Manager | <b>Grant Fraser</b>   |
| Transport            | <b>Debbie Smith</b>   |
| Set Construction     | <b>Paul Gilbert, Caroline Gage and<br/>Members of the Company</b> |
| Costume Design       | <b>Susan Carveth</b>  |
| Lighting Design      | <b>Mark Banks</b>   |
| Photography          | <b>Mark Banks</b>   |
| Programme            | <b>Ross Oblea</b>   |

## ***Crew***

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| Stage Manager              | <b>Symeon Thompson</b>                           |
| Lighting & Sound Operation | <b>Lauren Churm &amp;<br/>Samantha Eccleston</b> |

## ***Cast***

|                 |                             |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Mayhew          | <b>Ross Scott</b>           |
| Vole            | <b>Daniel Felkai</b>        |
| Sir Wilfrid     | <b>Barry Morai</b>          |
| Inspector       | <b>Wendy Greenfield</b>     |
| Romaine         | <b>Penny Morgan</b>         |
| Judge           | <b>Rod Stewart</b>          |
| Dr Wyatt        | <b>Peter Zellner</b>        |
| Clegg           | <b>Susan Carveth</b>        |
| Janet Mackenzie | <b>Sheree da Costa</b>      |
| Foreman         | <b>Andrew Acevedo</b>       |
| Greta           | <b>Olivia Thorburn Corr</b> |
| Myers           | <b>Elizabeth Macgregor</b>  |
| Carter          | <b>Noel Camilleri</b>       |



## 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.

The building that houses The Genesian Theatre Company was originally St John the Evangelist 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 Genesisian Theatre...



# Saint Joan

by George Bernard Shaw

Directed by Kevin Jackson

3rd November - 1st December 2012

Subscriptions are available  
[www.genesiantheatre.com.au](http://www.genesiantheatre.com.au)