



charley's **AUNT**

by Brandon Thomas



SEASON: 12th JAN - 23rd FEB 2013
PREVIEW NIGHT 11th JAN

*The action of the play takes place in
the closing years of the 19th Century.*

Act I - Jack's rooms at Oxford

There will be an interval of 15 mins

Act II - The grounds of St Olde's College

Act III - Spettigue's sitting room

Director's Note

Charleys Aunt was first performed in 1892 and ran for 1,466 performances. At the time it was heralded as being "the funniest play ever written" and audiences flocked to it in droves.

The playwright Brandon Thomas and his friend W S Penley first came up with the idea while travelling on a train and after its huge success there was some dispute as to how much was actually Penley's input.

While Brandon Thomas would have liked to have been known as one of the great actors of his times he said while dying that he "feared he would for ever be known as the man who wrote *Charleys Aunt*".

I wonder if he realised just how successful his play would be.

Although he wrote other plays none have ever been as well received as *Charleys Aunt* and over the past 120 years every year it is performed somewhere in the world.

As always I would like to thank the Board of the Genesian theatre for allowing me to direct this play. Particularly pleasing has been working with such a professional cast and my right hand man Noel Camilleri. I would also like to thank Mark Banks for his Lighting, Tim Carter for his music and Tom Massey for my sanity.

A very special thanks to all the Genesian members who do the thankless jobs of building and painting sets, manning the biobox and looking after our patrons.

Shane Bates



CARLIN HURDIS - Jack Chesney Carlin is currently finishing his Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of Sydney, majoring in English literature. He has done limited acting in theatre since high school, but has performed in Sydney theatresports groups and written film and theatre reviews for street publications. He is delighted to be involved with the Genesian Theatre and he believes strongly in the value of community groups. This is Carlin's first production with the Theatre.

THOMAS GREADER - Charley Wykeham Ever the creative type Thomas studied Theatre/Media at Charles Sturt University, performing in numerous plays, most notably as Bernard Nightingale in Tom Stoppard's *Arcadia*. Also a passionate writer, director and film maker he has written, directed and starred in a range of plays and short films; the most recent of which was selected for a screening during the Sydney tour of *The Canadian Film Festival: Possible Worlds*. When not on stage Thomas can be seen daily as the presenter of *SkillsOne Television* on Foxtel's Aurora Channel and Free-to-air's *TV4ME*. This is his second outing for The Genesian Theatre Company, having previously played John Thorpe in the 2011 production of Jane Austen's *Northanger Abbey*.



NICHOLAS POND - Lord Fancourt Babberley Nicholas Pond has previously appeared in the Genesian production of *Great Expectations* as Herbert Pocket, and in *Northanger Abbey* as James Morland. He is excited to return to the stage and has relished the opportunities and challenges of playing Lord Fancourt Babberley. He works as a publisher and writer, and only occasionally dresses as a woman in his private life.

JUSTINE KACIR - Kitty Verdun Justine studied acting at the Australian Academy of Dramatic Arts in Sydney and has since been involved in several theatre and short film productions. This is her fourth role for the Genesian Theatre having appeared in *Pygmalion*, *Black Comedy*, and *Northanger Abbey*.



KATE PARKER-FROST - Amy Spettigue Kate is thrilled to be back at the Genesian after performing in the Dickens classic *Great Expectations* and as part of the St Genesius Day celebrations in *The Bench* by Mark Langham. She moved from the UK last year after training at Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts in London and has performed and toured many theatre productions including the European premiere of *Silence! The Musical* and the International premiere of *The Last Maharajah*. Kate has toured the UK in *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* and India in Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure*. She loves to perform at The Genesian and looks forward to taking part in many more productions.



LILIANNA KOMLJENOVIC - Ela Delahay Lilianna has been involved in many Genesian Theatre productions. She played various characters in *Wind in the Willows*, Miranda in *The Tempest* and Sarah Pocket in *Great Expectations*. She assistant directed *An Ideal Husband*, 'stage mum-ed' *Great Expectations* and stage managed *Saint Joan*. She has taught drama at Ark Drama Workshops and has been a member of the Genesian Board for just over a year. She is delighted to be back on stage.

STEPHEN HOLLAND - Brassett Stephen Holland trained at the Sydney Acting School and Darlinghurst Theatre. His stage credits include *The Recruit* and *The Luger* for Short'n'Sweet, *The 39 Steps* at the Genesian, and *Under Milk Wood*, *The Killing Game*, and *Free Sex and Beer* for Darlinghurst Theatre. Stephen has worked in community radio, and used to read the evening news and narrate children's books on 2RPH, Sydney's news reading service. A comedy writer (credits include *Comedy Inc* for Crackerjack Productions, Channel 9), Stephen has also performed stand-up comedy in Sydney. *Charley's Aunt* is his second production for The Genesian.



DAVID STEWART-HUNTER - Colonel Sir Francis Chesney David is making his debut for the Genesians after a 30-year absence from amateur dramatics. His last roles were as Captain Solyony in Chekhov's *Three Sisters* and Harry Domain in Capek's *RUR*. His inability to sound Australian despite constant practice has turned out to be an advantage in his current role.

LYNN TURNBULL ROSE - Donna Lucia D'Alvadorez Lynn Turnbull Rose trained at The Drama Centre London and studied Performance Studies at Sydney University. She has recently played Judy in the award winning play *Room* by Peter Malicki and featured as Joan Dart in two seasons of the TV series *Spirited*. Her theatre work includes Paines Plough Touring Company and Sarah in Elizabeth Bond's *The Messiah of Ismir* at The Young Vic London. She has played Titania in *A Midsummer Nights Dream* in Holland Park Theatre London and Goneril in *King Lear* at Bondi Pavillion. Lynn's last appearance at the Genesian Theatre was as Miss Kingsbury in *Morning Sacrifice*.



TIMOTHY BENNETT - Stephen Spettigue Last year Timothy appeared in *Great Expectations* as Pumblechook & Wemmick after directing two successful productions for the Company, *An Ideal Husband* & *Lord Arthur Savile's Crime*. A member of the Company for many years his other roles include *Shadowlands* (C S Lewis), *The Fantasticks* (Henry), *Harvey* (Elwood), *Pygmalion* (Pickering), *Dial M for Murder* (Inspector), *Hay Fever* (David), *The Imaginary Invalid* (Argan) & *Stepping Out*.

PRODUCTION

Director	Shane Bates
Associate Director	Tom Massey
Production Assistant	Noel Camilleri
Set Design	Owen Gimblett
Costume Design	Peter Henson
Lighting & Sound Design	Mark Banks
Composer	Timothy M Carter
Set Construction	Owen Gimblett, Grant Fraser, Members of the Company
Photography	Craig O'Regan, Tom Massey
Graphic Design	Matt Roden, Tom Massey

CREW

Stage Manager	Symeon Thompson
Lighting & Sound Operation	Members of the Genesian Theatre

CAST

Jack Chesney	Carlin Hurdis
Charley Wykeham	Thomas Greader
Lord Fancourt Babberley	Nicholas Pond
Kitty Verdun	Justine Kacir
Amy Spettigue	Kate Parker-Frost
Ela Delahay	Lilianna Komljenovic
Brassett	Stephen Holland
Colonel Sir Francis Chesney	David Stewart-Hunter
Donna Lucia D'Alvadorez	Lynn Turnbull Rose
Stephen Spettigue	Timothy Bennett

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 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

Richard

III

Opening March 8th 2013