

A photograph of an ancient Egyptian temple, likely the Temple of Isis at Philae. The central focus is a large, circular structure with a domed roof, supported by several columns. The architecture is made of light-colored stone, possibly granite or limestone, and shows signs of weathering and repair. The sky is a clear, bright blue. The overall scene is bathed in warm, golden light, suggesting a sunny day.

# APPOINTMENT WITH DEATH

by Agatha Christie

## Director's Note

The Middle East was an area well known to Agatha Christie, having visited with her husband, the archaeologist Sir Max Mallowan. She also spent time as a young woman in Cairo and so it is little wonder the romantic and mysterious settings should have captured her imagination. At the peak of her fame during the 30's and 40's she tantalised the imaginations of a grim post-Depression public with the allure of something exotic and unknown. Very few people of average means could even dream of travelling to such extraordinary places.

Of course death is her speciality and death is the business here tonight. But Agatha shows us her knowledge of the human condition, an understanding of the effects of mental cruelty and the limits to which people can be pushed.

Be swept up into the romance of its time and place and hope you never have an appointment like this, an appointment with death.

*Barry Nielsen*  
Director

## Synopsis of Scenes

### Act One

Scene One: The lobby of the King Solomon Hotel, Jerusalem.

Scene Two: The traveller camp at Petra one week later.

### *Interval*

### Act Two

Scene One: Later that night.

Scene Two: The next morning.

Scene Three: Later that afternoon.

**BARRY NIELSEN - Director** Barry Nielsen has translated and directed Lorca's tragedies *Blood Wedding* and *The House of Bernarda Alba* at the Genesian and also directed the smash hit of *Mousetrap*. He has appeared in the usual commercials and short films and has appeared in numerous plays, the most recent being *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare* on this stage.

**DANIEL HITCHINGS - Assistant Director** Daniel loves the theatre and has been passionately involved in a broad range of aspects at the Genesian since 2013. This is the first directing experience he's had since directing a Lego version of *Julius Caesar* in Year 8 but he would love to do more directing, both of Lego figures and real people. He also enjoys music, magic, philosophy, Lego design and making chocolate cakes.

**OWEN GIMBLETT - Set Design** Owen has over 25 mainstage Set Design credits to his name at the Genesian alone and countless more in his native New Zealand. Over a 50 year career he has worked on plays, ballet, and major musicals, and enjoys the challenges of Genesian's intimate stage with *The Tempest* and *Great Expectations* being particularly memorable designs. In a change of hat, Owen directed *Pygmalion* and *Pride and Prejudice* for the company.

**SUSAN CARVETH - Costume Design** Susan, a long term member, is Wardrobe Co-ordinator for the Genesian Theatre. Her wardrobe credits are extensive and include *A Man for All Seasons*, *An Ideal Husband*, *Dead White Males*, *Crown Matrimonial*, *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll*, *By Jeeves*, *Witness for the Prosecution*, *Hay Fever*, *Murder on the Nile*, *Star Child*, *Morning Sacrifice*, *Richard III*, *Frankenstein*, *The Three Musketeers*, and *Go Back for Murder*. She has also worked for Opera Australia, ABC, and BBC, as costume co-ordinator and costume maker for Tall Poppeas, Ondine Productions, and Opera Bites. Sometime she even gets to tread the boards!

**MICHAEL SCHELL - Sound & Lighting Design** Michael has been a member of the Genesian Theatre for over 35 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*, and *Three Sisters*.



**LEILANI LOAU - Mrs Boynton** Leilani is delighted to be making her Genesian debut. Her other credits include Officer Welch in *Rumors*, Kate in *The Cripple of Inishmaan*, Clint, Maria, and the Foley twins in *The Small Poppies*. Leilani is a student of acting coach par excellence Anthony Brandon Wong.

**BRENDAN RAYMOND - Lennox Boynton** As well as acting Brendan sings and writes music. His credits include *A Midsummer's Night Dream*, *A Happy and Holy Occasion*, Sir Bedevere in Monty Python's *Spamalot*, Jan Warwick in *The Unexpected Guest*, as well as the upcoming Australian film *Hacksaw Ridge*. A dreamer, thinker and lover of life and story Brendan relishes the opportunity to return to the works of Christie.



**GRACE O'CONNELL - Nadine Boynton** Grace graduated Sydney Theatre School's full-time programme in 2015. Recent productions include *Pool (No Water)* and *Misfits* with STS and she toured the latter to Adelaide Festival. In 2014 she toured *Oleanna* to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and has been dreaming of returning to the festival again one day soon.

**DAVID BELCHER - Raymond Boynton** Coding by day, acting by night David is a software developer and theatre enthusiast. Fresh out of acting classes and high school productions this is his triumphant public theatre debut. Roles include Uncle Henry in *The Wizard of Oz* and Newspaper Boy #1 in *Sherlock Holmes*. In his spare time he practises his lines, rehearses his scenes and anything else he promised the director he'd definitely do. No, really!



**REBECCA SUTHERLAND - Ginevra Boynton** Having recently moved Rebecca is making her debut on the Sydney stage. She has a degree in drama from University of London and previous roles include a number of oddball teenagers such as Veruca Salt, Kelly in *Birthrights*, and Miranda in *The Tempest*. She is dreading the day a director figures out how old she really is.....?

**SANDRA BASS - Lady Westholme** Sandra is a long-standing member of the Genesians and her previous appearances include Lady Bracknell, Lady Merton, and Lady Catherine de Bourgh but she is quite triumphant that with Lady Westholme she has finally realised how the British nation conquered the world.



**LOIS MARSH - Miss Pryce** Lois is delighted to be returning to the Genesian stage. She appeared as Mrs Winslow in *The Winslow Boy*, and in *Great Expectations*, *Coward at Christmas*, and *Pride and Prejudice*. She also performed in Agatha's *Black Coffee* and in *Dinkum Assorted* in the last year. A guide in Croatia said, "I always knew you were English because your speech sounds like singing". She wonders what he would say if he heard the Welsh lilt.



**ROD STEWART - Mr Higgs** Rod has appeared in eight Genesian plays and three workshops since joining in 2008. He also writes and composes and has been fortunate the theatre has workshopped his musical plays *Devils May Care* and *Vicki*. He has also performed many plays for Lane Cove Theatre. This is his third Agatha play.

**VINCENT O'NEILL - Dr Wilhelm Gruber** Vincent tries to hide his age but admits that he performed in the concert of 1959 that celebrated the centenary of the separation of Queensland from the colony of NSW in 1859 and has been on and off the stage ever since!



**ANNA HITCHINGS - Dr Sarah King** This is Anna's first return to the Genesian stage since the eponymous role in *Daisy Pulls It Off*. She studied at ACTT and has performed in musicals, short films, and plays including *The Tempest*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, and the Arthurian production *Sword of Sorrow*. She has been involved in other ways in Genesian productions and while pursuing a career in journalism she always finds herself drawn to the stage.

**EMMANUEL SAID - The Dragoman** Emmanuel has been involved in off and on stage roles for over 10 years and this is his 15th production with the Genesians. Previous productions include *Lady Windemere's Fan*, *Sense and Sensibility*, *Wind In The Willows*, *Valentine's Day*, and most recently the villainous innkeeper in last season's *Three Musketeers*.



**DAVID STEWART-HUNTER - Colonel Carbery** For the Genesians David has played Arthur in *The Winslow Boy*, Sir Rowland in *Spider's Web*, 4th Tempter Knight in *Murder In The Cathedral*, and Chesney in *Charley's Aunt*. He's happy to play knights and colonels because he can still do the accent. He played Verges and Friar Francis in *Much Ado About Nothing*. David has spent his life performing, as an advertising executive and latterly as an English teacher.

**BARRY JAMES ACOSTA - Jefferson Cope** Barry comes to us from New Orleans. He has a BA from Centenary College. He has performed in New Orleans, Shreveport, and NYC. Favourite roles include Tom Sawyer in *Big River*, Giuliano in *Big Love*, Hanschen in *Spring Awakening*, and Guildenstern in *Hamlet*. Barry is delighted to bring Jefferson to life and hopes everyone enjoys the show. He also enjoys directing, writing, and improvisation.



**KUNAL LAKHANI - Clerk / Waiter** Kunal has recently completed two courses at NIDA and this is his Sydney theatrical debut. Originally from London, he is interested in theatre, screen, and voice acting. When not pursuing his passion he is a private banker and has travelled the world and also worked in London, Singapore, and Melbourne.

## **Production**

Director

**Barry Nielsen**

Assistant Director

**Daniel Hitchings**

Set Design

**Owen Gimblett**

Costume Design

**Susan Carveth**

Lighting & Sound Design

**Michael Schell**

Production Manager

**Meg Mooney**

Set Construction

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

Set Decoration

**Meg Mooney**

Photography

**Mark Banks**

Graphic Design

**Tom Massey**

Ticketing

**Shane Bates**

## **Crew**

Stage Manager

**Di Henderson, Janina Olmos-New**

Lighting & Sound Operation

**Eleni Pyretzis, Amy Roberts**

## **Cast**

Mrs Boynton

**Leilani Loau**

Lennox Boynton

**Brendan Raymond**

Nadine Boynton

**Grace O'Connell**

Raymond Boynton

**David Belcher**

Ginevra Boynton

**Rebecca Sutherland**

Lady Westholme

**Sandra Bass**

Miss Pryce

**Lois Marsh**

Mr Higgs

**Rod Stewart**

Dr Wilhelm Gruber

**Vincent O'Neill**

Dr Sarah King

**Anna Hitchings**

The Dragoman

**Emmanuel Said**

Colonel Carbery

**David Stewart-Hunter**

Jefferson Cope

**Barry James Acosta**

Clerk / Waiter

**Kunal Lakhani**

# About the Genesian Theatre

The Genesian Theatre Company celebrated our 70th year as a company in 2014. For over 60 years we have been 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 also just as proud of the hundreds of other talented actors, directors, designers, lighting and sound specialists who have contributed to Sydney's unique little theatre.

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.

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.

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