

FIGARO

by Charles Morey

based on the play
by Beaumarchais



Director's Note

The word Figaro usually conjures up images from Mozarts famous opera *The Marriage of Figaro* written in 1786 but few realise that it is based on the play called *Le Mariage de Figaro* written by Pierre de Beaumarchais in 1778. Originally it was not passed by the French censors due to its witty attacks on the aristocracy and it was only after Beaumarchais moved the setting to Seville in Spain that it was allowed to be performed. Ironically Marie Antoniette was instrumental in having it publically performed as she had seen a private performance of the play and adored it. Beaumarchais was an early participant in the early stages of the French Revolution and this is reflected in his language and his views on the class structure at that time.

This is a new adaptation written by Charles Morey in 2012 and what struck me as I read it was how very little things have changed despite all our wars and revolutions during the past 200 years. Figaro's speeches are full of the increasing differences between the rich and the poor the have's and the have nots, which we can still all relate to. However, it is very much a comedy, fast and pacy with very clever dialogue, a great challenge for any cast and Director to put together and we have certainly enjoyed doing so.

I would like to thank the Board of Directors for allowing me the opportunity to indulge my passion for comedy and send a special thanks to my Assistant Director Sandra Bass, my Stage Manager Liz Munro and my husband Garry Bates for all their work and patience.

Shane Bates
Director

Synopsis of Scenes

The play takes place over the course for a single day
at the Chateau of Count Almaviva in Seville Spain.

Act 1 Scene 1 – early morning in a room in the Chateau

Act 1 Scene 2 – mid morning in the Countess's boudoir

Act 2 Scene 1 – a hall in the Chateau

Act 2 Scene 2 – evening in the garden of the Chateau

SHANE BATES - Director Shane has been a member of the Genesian theatre since 1997. During her time she has been involved with over 40 productions as either an actor, production manager, Assistant Director, or Director. Her recent credits as an Assistant Director are *The Complete Works of Shakespeare* and *Dracula*. She has previously directed *Death takes a Holiday* (2005), *Mad About Men* (2006), *The Adventures of a Bear Called Paddington* (2010), *Charley's Aunt* (2013), and *Hotel Sorrento* (2014). Shane is a life member and a member of the Board of Directors.

SANDRA BASS - Assistant Director Sandra Bass is an experienced stage actor whose last role at Genesians was Miss Marple in *A Murder is Announced*. Her film credits include *Tap into the Heart* and *Twisted Sisters* as well as cameo roles for ACC. She is the convenor of the Genesian Playreaders Committee and has also worked on props, costumes and theatre presentations. Her last AD collaboration with Shane Bates was on the highly successful *Hotel Sorrento*.

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 Coordinator for the Genesian Theatre. Her credits are extensive and include *The Three Musketeers*, *Far from the Madding Crowd*, *Appointment with Death*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *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*, *Twelfth Night*, and *Go Back for Murder*. She has worked for Opera Australia, ABC, and BBC as costume coordinator; and costume maker for Tall Poppeas, Ondine Productions, and Opera Bites.

MICHAEL SCHELL - Lighting and Sound 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*.



TED CROSBY - Figaro Ted is an actor and filmmaker and is passionate about theatre. He's been inspired by some great teachers including Serhat Caradee, Kevin Jackson, and especially acting coach Lynette Sheldon. Ted has previously appeared on the Genesian stage in David Williamson's *Nothing Personal*, Chekhov's *Three Sisters*, and Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*.

YASMIN ARKINSTALL - Suzanne Yasmin dreams of pursuing a career on the stage. She's a young soprano in her fourth year at the Conservatorium of Music, studying a Bachelor of Music. A lot of her performance has taken place at the Con, but she has also performed in many corporate events such as the Western Sydney Campaign Launch 2013, and as a soloist for the Women in Banking Forum. Last year she played Polly Peachum in FAMS production of *The Beggar's Opera*. This is Yasmin's first experience in straight theatre and she's having a riot of a time as Suzanne.



PAUL MURTON - Count Paul returns to the Genesian Theatre stage after appearing as Abraham van Helsing in our 2016 production of *Dracula* following 20 years of performing only in musicals and operas. Originally from New Zealand, he first performed in Sydney as Guido Contini in Richmond Players' 2013 staging of *Nine*, followed by playing Major-General Stanley in Chatswood Musical Society's 2014 production of *The Pirates of Penzance*. Prior musical/operatic appearances have included *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Orpheus in the Underworld*, *Don Giovanni*, and *Don Pasquale*.

MOLLY HADDON - Countess Molly Haddon attended Macquarie University to study Media and is currently training at AFTRS, doing a Graduate Certificate in Cinematography. She began acting at an early age, but now works behind the scenes. Molly is happy to be returning to the Genesian stage for a second time this season. Stage Credits: *A Murder is Announced*, *Murder on the Nile*, *The Removalists*, *The Tender Age*, *Hamlet*, *Cursed Hearts*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Film Credits: *Alex and Sam* and *Restroom*.



MELANIE ROBINSON - Marceline Melanie is a familiar face on the Genesian Theatre stage, having appeared in 15 productions since 2005. Her favourite roles include *Our House*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Hotel Sorrento*, and *An Ideal Husband*, as well as recent roles in *Parramatta Girls* for Rough Hewn Theatre Troupe, *Over the Moon and Far Away* and *Transparency* with the Theatre on Chester, and *The Female of the Species* for Castle Hills Players. She also serves on the Genesian Theatre Board of Directors.

DOUGLAS RUMBLE - Dr Bartolo Doug has been onstage since the age of 7. He has played a variety of roles including the King of England in *Spamalot*, Trekkie Monster in *Avenue Q*, Gaston in *Beauty and the Beast*, and Audrey 2 in *Little Shop of Horrors*. He has recently moved to Sydney and this is his first role at the Genesian Theatre. He is mainly a musical theatre actor but is loving the challenge of a straight acting role.





TIM MURPHY - Cherubin / Doublemain Figaro is Tim Murphy's first production not only with the Genesians, but also out of school. He has performed in numerous pieces within his school's Drama department, namely focusing on Shakespeare. So to play a character like Cherubin in a modern comedy has been a challenge. However, he believes you will thoroughly enjoy this piece of Theatre and hopes you find Cherubin as funny as he did when he first read the script!

EDRIC HONG - Antonio A movement coach by profession, Edric Hong made his foray into acting to extend his passion for movement into the performative arts. His theatre credits include award-winning *The Peasant Prince* (Monkey Baa, 2016), *Convict Footprints At The Farm: Through The Years* (Bella Vista Farm Park, 2016); *Winter Retreat* (Short+Sweet Sydney Wildcard finalist, 2015); *Like Whiskey On The Breath Of A Drunk You Love / Lunch* (Golden Jam, Old Fitz, 2015); *And Now To Bed* (subtlenuance, 2015). Edric is thrilled to debut at Genesian Theatre in this production of *Figaro*.



ROD STEWART - Bridoisson This is Rod's ninth Genesian play since becoming a member in 2008 - his third playing a Judge. Rod also writes and composes and has been fortunate to have this theatre workshop his musical plays *Devil May Care* and *Vicki*. He has also performed in nine plays for the Lane Cove Theatre.

CONSTANCE KHOO - Fanchette Connie has always been interested with people, places, and psyches. Since completing short courses in NIDA, Amsterdam Creative Centre, and Darlo Drama, she has performed as Hermia in *Midsummer Night's Dream*, as Mary in Liam Burke's *Neptune's*, performed in 2017 Short+Sweet, played Mary in *Our Country's Good* for Sydney Fringe, and Celia in *I Don't Know who to Feel Sorry for* with Darlo Drama. She most recently performed as Sebastian in *Twelfth Night* with Darlo Drama. She's really looking forward to playing Fanchette in *Figaro*!



MATTHEW GRASSO - Basile Matthew grew up in North Queensland, Townsville and graduated in 2010 with a Bachelor of Engineering-Bachelor of Computer Science from James Cook University. Throughout high school and university he practiced contemporary Kung Fu and played club soccer. After moving to Sydney, Matthew took an interest in acting and began taking short courses and performing. Matthew's productions include George Wilson in *The Great Gatsby* (Epicentre Theatre Company) and Borachio in *Much Ado About Nothing* (Genesian Theatre Company).

Production

Director

Assistant Director

Set Design

Costume Design

Lighting & Sound Design

Set Construction

Costume Assistants

Wigs

Dressing Gown

Audition Assistants

Photography

Graphic Design

Ticketing

Transport

Acknowledgements

Shane Bates

Sandra Bass

Owen Gimblett

Susan Carveth

Michael Schell

Garry Bates, Members of the Company

Tracey Lucan, Denise Costello, Kitty Allen,

Sandra Bass, Marianne Peters

Rebekah Knight Hair

Peter Henson

Timothy Bennett, Tom Massey

Ted Crosby, Tom Massey

Patrick Magee, Tom Massey

Shane Bates

Debbie Smith

Hunter Douglas

Crew

Stage Manager

Lighting & Sound Operation

Elizabeth Munro

Wendy Greenfield

Cast

Figaro

Suzanne

Count

Countess

Marceline

Dr Bartolo

Cherubin/Doublemain

Antonio

Bridoison

Fanchette

Basile

Ted Crosby

Yasmin Arkininstall

Paul Murton

Molly Haddon

Melanie Robinson

Douglas Rumble

Tim Murphy

Edric Hong

Rod Stewart

Constance Khoo

Matthew Grasso

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 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 Bryan Brown, Baz Luhrmann, Judi Farr, and John Bell. 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 to the
Genesian Theatre...

BLOODY MURDER

by Ed Sala

