



The Ghost Train

By Arnold Ridley

Director's Note

While many people today have horror stories of public transport, it was an event back in 1923 that started an entirely different experience. Ridley wrote *The Ghost Train* from a similar situation he had while being stranded overnight at a railway station. It was through this misfortune that a myriad of 'stranded with strangers' stories sprang to life and have become a most used trope in today's performing arts scene due to the success of Ridley's work.

When reading *The Ghost Train* for the first time it was easy to see the appeal of a mysterious and possibly supernatural unknown capturing our imagination. Through this thinking, the main challenge with this production was taking an entirely original plot nearly a century ago and making it not fall into cliché by today's standards. Luckily, I've been blessed with an amazing ensemble of creatives who have cited my ticket and led me to my destination safely. Without them, this blessing of an additional play into the Genesian's already illustrious season could not have happened in such a short timeframe.

Through the performance you're about to see, I hope you experience the highs and lows of these passengers who have been thrown together by a force greater than themselves and transition from laughter to a feeling of dread as the story of *The Ghost Train* unravels. No matter your belief in the paranormal or the British railway timetable, please sit back and let all possibilities wash over you as the only aim we have here is to keep you enthralled and entertained anyway we can. However, we will need to check your ticket before I direct you any further.

Stephen Lloyd-Coombs
Director

All scenes and acts are set in:
Waiting Room - Unknown Country Railway Station, 1923, England

STEPHEN LLOYD-COOMBS - Director Stephen is an actor, director and presenter. His Directorial Theatre credits include *Amadeus* (Genesian Theatre), *The Picture of Dorian Gray* (Genesian Theatre), *Smudge* (KXT), *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* (The Kings Fools) and more. His acting credits include *Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind* (Sydney Fringe), *The 39 Steps* (StageArtz), *Lord of the Flies* (New Theatre), *The Merchant of Venice* (Genesian), and various others. He's extremely proud of putting another feather in his cap for the Genesian Theatre with *The Ghost Train*.

ALEXANDRA KELLY - Assistant Director Alexandra is a performer and theatre maker. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre and a Diploma in Classical Acting from LAMDA. This is Alexandra's second show at the Genesian. Her theatre credits include *The Unexpected Guest*, *Lear in King Lear*, *The Beaux Stratagem*, *Whipped*, *Word Made Flesh*, *Maid in Three Sisters* for Sport for Jove, *Cara in Voices*, *Rachel in 13*, and *Vera in A Month in the Country*. Alexandra's first feature film was *Zelos* (2017). She has also directed the original play *The Westermark Effect* and creates her own theatre. Alexandra is a MEAA Member.

ASH BELL - Set and Costume Design Ashley is a production designer, visual artist, and art teacher from Sydney, having graduated at the Australian Film Television and Radio School (AFTRS) and COFA. Ash has spent the last 8 years designing set and costume across music video, advertising, theatre, and feature film for clients such as Qantas, Absolut Vodka, Secret Garden festival, and Unbirthday.

MICHAEL SCHELL - Lighting and Sound Design Michael has been a member of the Genesian Theatre for over 40 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*, *Three Sisters*, *Our House*, *Dracula*, and *Sherlock Holmes and the Speckled Band*.



MARK LANGHAM - Saul Hodgkin, Herbert Price Mark has been acting professionally for almost 35 years. Credits include *One Way Mirror* (subtluance), *The Becoming* (Red Line/Old Fitz), *Marat/Sade* (New), *House of Games* (New), *The Poor Kitchen* (subtluance), *Tant Pis* and *Life after Pablo* (RGP), *Amanda* (New/Sydney Fringe), *Book of Days* (New), *Return to Earth* (Arthur/Griffin Independent), *Televation* (Miss Charlotte), *The Liar's Bible* (SITCO), *Nothing* (Old Monk). Mark's play *Big Crow* was produced by Brave

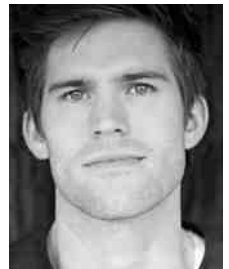
New Word in 2017 and he is a winner of the National One Act Play competition and twice winner of the Carnival of Flowers One Act Play competition.

ZOË CRAWFORD - Elsie Winthrop Originally from Victoria, Zoë studied acting at the University of Ballarat Arts Academy, and her credits include *Killing Game* (Baker's Dozen), *Morning Sacrifice* (White Oak Theatre), *Single Admissions* (Milkbar Productions), and *Love and Information* (NIDA). After taking some time off to travel and teach drama in a US summer camp, Zoë has recently moved to Sydney, and is looking forward to getting involved in the NSW theatre scene. Highlights for Zoë have been performing the role of Dr Faustus at University, and seeing Shakespeare performed at the Globe during a visit to London.



JOHN WILLIS-RICHARDS - Richard Winthrop John made his first appearance at the Genesian in 2010 as Elyot Chase in *Private Lives*. In 2014 he played Holmes in a well received production of *Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure*. Further credits with Genesian include Lord Goring in *An Ideal Husband*, Emperor Joseph in *Amadeus*, and Cardinal Richelieu in *The Three Musketeers*. John began his acting career in Canberra. He then went on to study performance at UWS Nepean and San Francisco State University. He is happy to back after a long break from acting, and to be working with such a talented bunch of people.

KIERAN FOSTER - Charles Murdock Kieran Foster is a 2008 graduate of ACTT. His theatre credits include *Go West* (Griffin Theatre), *The Mousetrap* (Zenith Theatre), *God's Ear* (Seymour Centre), *Great Expectations* (ATYP), *MilkMilkLemonade* (New Theatre), *King Lear* (Old Fitzroy Theatre), *Measure for Measure* (Old Fitzroy Theatre), *Smudge* (KXT) and *SUPERHAL* (NIDA's Parade Theatre). In 2016 he co-wrote *Drift* with Tara Clark, performing its first production at ATYP, presented by Two Peas. *Drift* has since been published by Australian Plays. It performed its second production at New Hayman Theatre in Perth. Kieran has been a proud member of MEAA since 2008.





NICOLE WINEBERG - Peggy Murdock Nicole is a graduate of Theatre Nepean. Credits include; *Visiting Hours* (bAKEHOUSE), *Edward Gants Amazing Feats of Loneliness* (Polyamorous Productions), *Osama The Hero*, *Year of the Family*, *Scenes from an Execution*, and *Electra* (Tooth and Sinew), *Three Sisters* and *Jesus* (Factotum Theatre), *Miss Julie*, *In The Slaughterhouse of Love*, and *As You Like It* (No White Elephant), *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Hamlet*, *Taming of the Shrew*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *Macbeth* (Sydney Shakespeare Festival). Nicole performed in the Genesian's *Amadeus* and is looking forward to working in this wonderful theatre for the second time.

LIB CAMPBELL - Miss Bourne, Julia Price Having just returned from the US, Lib was last seen starring in *Peppa Pig's Big Surprise* on Broadway and the subsequent international sellout tour. Recent film credits include *Los Angeles Overnight* (Amazon) & indie cult classics *Beats of Rage*, *All Superheroes Must Die*, and *Ultraman Ginga*. She has been a regular host on the Disney Channel and a presenter for *The Shak* on the Nine Network. Lib's theatre credits include *The 39 Steps*, *Noises Off*, *Crooked*, *All in the Timing*, and *The Magic Finger*. She is thrilled to return to the Genesian stage for *The Ghost Train*.



TRISTAN BLACK - Teddie Deakin Since 2011, Tristan has performed characters for visiting exhibitions at the Powerhouse Museum, including *Narnia*, *Harry Potter*, *Sherlock Holmes*, and *Egyptian Mummies: Exploring Ancient Lives*. He was the Thursday Drive presenter on 2ser Radio while completing his law and media degree and has since featured as a voice actor in numerous animations and advertisements. Tristan was recently hired as an actor-presenter by the Anzac Memorial in Sydney to portray Frank in Morris Gleitzman's *Loyal Creatures*. *The Ghost Train* is Tristan's first play since his days at Newtown High School of the Performing Arts, and his first show at the Genesian.

ELIZABETH MACGREGOR - Dr Sterling Elizabeth's credits with Genesian include *Three Musketeers*, *Richard III*, *The Star Child*, *Dangerous Corner*, and *Witness for the Prosecution*. She has also played the role of Morticia in *Addams Family Musical*, Florence in *Chess*, and Buttercup in *HMS Pinafore*, and recently was honoured to play the role of Molly in a brand new musical, *Haunted* (written/composed by Roger Gimblett and Timothy Carter). Elizabeth has also appeared in television and short film, and, when not on a stage, can usually be found flailing her arms about wildly in a flamenco class.



Production

Director

Stephen Lloyd-Coombs

Assistant Director

Alexandra Kelly

Set and Costume Design

Ash Bell

Lighting and Sound Design

Michael Schell

Production Manager

Roger Gimblett

Lighting Assistant

Timothy M Carter

Lighting Desk Programming

Carlin Hurdis

Set Construction

Debbie Smith, Paul Gilbert,

Members of the Company

Photography

Ash Bell

Graphic Design

Tom Massey

Ticketing

Shane Bates

Transport

Debbie Smith

Acknowledgements

Tim Bennett

Crew

Stage Manager

Di Henderson, Alexis Worthing

Lighting and Sound Operation

Ian Whalan

Cast

Saul Hodgkin, Herbert Price

Mark Langham

Elsie Winthrop

Zoë Crawford

Richard Winthrop

John Willis-Richards

Charles Murdock

Kieran Foster

Peggy Murdock

Nicole Wineberg

Miss Bourne, Julia Price

Lib Campbell

Teddie Deakin

Tristan Black

Dr Sterling

Elizabeth MacGregor

About the Genesian Theatre

The Genesian Theatre Company will celebrate our 75th year as a company in 2019. For nearly 65 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.

2019 season announced soon!

www.genesiantheatre.com.au