



**HOMIE  
CHAT**  
**NOËL COWARD**

## Director's Note

It seems almost unbelievable to be presenting an Australian premiere of a Noël Coward play in 2021, but *Home Chat* is that great rarity in modern theatre, a play that essentially disappeared from view. Its themes of female empowerment and a rather casual view of marriage were quite confronting for a 1920's audience, Coward never reworked it and the time for it never seemed right. He moved on to other things. In 2015 it was rediscovered and revived and now it will be seen for the clever writing it is. The Genesis Theatre is thrilled to have this opportunity of entertaining you with a little chat, at our home.

*Barry Nielsen*

Director

**Noël Coward** (1899 - 1973) was an English playwright, composer, director, actor and singer, known for his wit, flamboyance, and what Time magazine called "a sense of personal style, a combination of cheek and chic, pose and poise".

## Synopsis Of Play

Act 1

Scene 1 – Paul and Janet Ebony's house

Scene 2 – Peter Chelsworth's flat - the following morning

Act 2

Scene 1 – Continuation of the previous scene

Scene 3 – Paul and Janet Ebony's house – two weeks later

**BARRY NIELSEN - Director** Barry translated and directed the Lorca tragedies *Blood Weddings* and *House of Bernarda Alba* for the Genesian Theatre, and has the dubious distinction of directing the Genesian Theatre's biggest ever hit, *The Mousetrap*. It was the writing that was dubious. Barry has also appeared on stage (most recently in last year's *The Ladykillers*) and also in *Complete Works of Shakespeare*, the triple-gendered role in *Sylvia*, and *Speaking in Tongues* to name a few. Being a vet, teaching at TAFE, and maintaining bonsais takes up a lot of his spare time.

**NOEMIE JOUNOT - Assistant Director** Noemie is trained as an actress from a French Acting school and through various workshops and part-time courses. She studied Geopolitics and philosophy at Uni but recently started to work as a Graphic Designer. Her first acting part in Australia was at the Genesian in 2013 and since then, she has been involved in the theatre community. Noemie is very happy to be a part of *Home Chat*, her first time as assistant director.

**TOM FAHY - Set Design** Tom has been involved with Set Construction at the Genesian Theatre for the last four years. This is his second foray into Set Design following *Towards Zero* in 2019. He has worked, particularly in musical theatre, as an actor and director in Toowoomba, Queensland for many years.

**SUSAN CARVETH - Costume Design** Susan has worked as the designer/costumier on dozens of Genesian productions - a few favourites being: *Ladykillers*, *Persuasion*, *Figaro*, *Under Milkwood*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Three Musketeers*, *Far From the Madding Crowd*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *A Man for All Seasons*, *An Ideal Husband*, *Witness for the Prosecution*, *Hay Fever*, *Murder on the Nile*, *Richard III*, *Frankenstein*, *Twelfth Night*, *39 Steps*, *Forsythe Saga*, and *Blood Weddings*. She has also worked for Opera Australia, the ABC, and BBC as a costume coordinator, and costume maker for *Tall Poppeas* (Ondine Productions), *Opera Bites*, and *Deadhouse* (Blancmange Productions).

**IAN WHALAN - Lighting Design** Ian has been working in Light & Sound Operation, Programming & Design for professional & non-professional theatre across Sydney & Newcastle for the past 30 years. His recent design credits include: *Trial by Jury* (Opera Hunter), *Glorious* (NTC), *The Secret of Chimneys* (Genesian). Ian's first production was *Corpse* in 1992, here at the Genesian, and has worked on numerous productions with our company since then.

**MICHAEL SCHELL - Sound Design** Michael has designed sound for over 200 productions ranging from children's plays (*Robin Hood Clemben* [Australian Tour]) to Opera (*Die Fledermaus* (Sydney Conservatorium) and nearly every form of theatre in between. He has worked with many major companies in Australia including Nimrod (*Upside Down At The Bottom Of The World*), Sydney Theatre Company (*Revenger's Tragedy*) and The Q Theatre (*You Can't Take it With You*). Recent productions include *Elephant Man* (PACT), *Deathtrap* (Exit Game Productions), *Vice* (Emu Productions), *Not About Heroes* (RGP Productions [Australia & New Zealand Tour]), *Sherlock Holmes & The Death On Thor Bridge* (Genesian Theatre) and *Rabbit Hole* (Chippen Street).



**ROBERT GREEN - Pallet / Turner** Robert has been a fan of all things Coward since the tender age of 15. Over the years he has quietly built up a noisy following for his cabaret shows of Noel's songs. He is delighted to have the opportunity to perform in one of his plays. Recent roles at the Genesian include the father in *Ladies in Black* and the property developer in *Our House*.

**RUBA EL-KADDOUMI - Mavis Wittersham** Ruba trained as an actor at the Art of Acting Studio (LA) and at The Stella Adler Studio of Acting (NYC). She appeared as Athena in The Euripides Summer Festival (NYC 2019), and as Andromache in *A Time To Live* (NYC 2019). Ruba was cast in the Short film *Postcards From The Orient*, which won best experimental in this year's Melbourne Short Film Festival and has been selected into this year's Beirut International Women Film Festival.



**KENDALL DRURY - Paul Ebony** Kendall trained at the International Screen Academy in Sydney from 2013 to 2016, he has gone on to perform on both stage and screen, most notably as Patrick in the comedy web series *1 For All*, and as Sam in the independent feature film *We All Lie My Darling*. This is his second appearance with the Genesian Theatre, having previously appeared as Captain Fredrick Wentworth in *Persuasion* in 2019.

**JENNY JACOBS - Mrs Chillham** Jenny fell in love with theatre playing Eliza Dolittle at school. In her early years, she studied acting under Hayes Gordon and Brian Syron and worked in children's theatre and television and then later in musical theatre. She has performed with the Phoenix, Hunters Hill, and Insomniact Theatres and is a proud member of the Genesian where most memorable productions have been *Enchanted April*, *The House of Bernarda Alba*, *Ladies in Black* and her very favourite, *Horizons*, written by our own Roger Gimblett.



**LOIS MARSH - Mrs Ebony** Lois has been treading the boards at the GTC for the last 10 years. Memorable productions include *The Winslow Boy*, *Appointment With Death*, *A Murder is Announced*, and most recently *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Last year, in an age of COVID, Lois appeared in *The Mousetrap* at Hunters Hill Theatre and at the time, with London's West End closed, it earned the honour of being the only production of this play worldwide.



**SCARLET HUNTER - Lavinia Hardy** Scarlet was born in Spain to English parents and moved to Australia when she was six. She started dancing at age two and has always pursued her love for the arts. Scarlet is a Brent Street Performing Arts and International Screen Academy graduate. Her previous theatre works include Miss Julie in Patrick Marber's *After Miss Julie*, *Antisocial Media* at Short and Sweet Festival 2020 (judges pick), most recently Witch 2, Porter and Seyton in *Macbeth*:

*The Installation*, along with various screen credits. This is her debut at The Genesian Theatre Company.

**ABBIE LOVE - Janet Ebony** This is Abbie's second Genesian play, having played Billie Eversleigh in this year's premiere of *The Secret of Chimneys*. After a hiatus from theatre, in 2020 Abbie completed a NIDA residency (singing and acting studio) and undertook contemporary singing training at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. Abbie has previously featured in theatre performances and an award-winning independent film in the UK, and is a trained voiceover artist.



**CAMERON HUTT - Peter Chelsworth** At the end of 2019 Cameron was given the opportunity to study at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA) and complete his dream of international training. Now, armed with an MFA in Classical Acting, Cameron has returned to Sydney to continue his theatrical pursuit. His performances include: *The Importance of Being Earnest* at the Genesian Theatre, *4000 Miles* at the Pavilion Theatre, *Twelfth Night* at New Theatre, and *Hamlet* at Casula

Powerhouse.

**PETER DAVID ALLISON - Alec Stone** Peter has been a prolific stage actor in Sydney for many years, with close to thirty stage credits in the last five years alone. This is his fourth appearance at the Genesian Theatre, having previously been seen in *A Murder is Announced* (2017), *The Unexpected Guest* (2018), and *Sherlock Holmes and the Ripper Murders* (2019). He was last seen onstage this year in *The Wizard of Oz* (with HMDS) and *Macbeth* (with CTGi).



## **Production**

Director

**Barry Nielsen**

Assistant Director

**Noemie Jounot**

Set Design

**Tom Fahy**

Costume Design

**Susan Carveth**

Lighting Design

**Ian Whalan, Michael Schell**

Sound Design

**Michael Schell**

Set Construction

**Tom Fahy, Paul Glibert,**

**Peter Curtis, Grant Fraser,**

**Members of the Company**

Set Decoration

**Noemie Jounot, Barry Nielsen**

Photography

**Craig O'Regan**

Graphic Design

**Roger Gimblett, Trudy Ritchie,**

**Tom Massey**

Ticketing

**Tom Massey**

Transport

**Barry Nielsen**

Audition Personnel

**Di Henderson, Trudy Ritchie,**

**John Grinston, Roger Gimblett**

Acknowledgements

**Sandra Bass, Kate Beere,**

**Indiana Tali, Lois Marsh**

## **Crew**

Stage Manager

**Alexis Worthing, Marica Fumanti**

Lighting and Sound Operation

**Molly Smith**

## **Cast**

Pallet / Turner

**Robert Green**

Mavis Wittersham

**Ruba El-Kaddoumi**

Paul Ebony

**Kendall Drury**

Mrs Chillham

**Jenny Jacobs**

Mrs Ebony

**Lois Marsh**

Lavinia Hardy

**Scarlet Hunter**

Janet Ebony

**Abbie Love**

Peter Chelsworth

**Cameron Hutt**

Alec Stone

**Peter David Allison**

# About the Genesian Theatre

The Genesian Theatre Company celebrated our 75th year as a company in 2019! For 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.

Coming next...

