

THE GARRICK GAZETTE

ISSUE No. 622

SEPTEMBER

2024



Garrick Theatre Club Inc. 16 Meadow Street, GUILDFORD WA 6055
PO Box 122, Guildford WA 6935 - www.garricktheatre.com.au
EDITOR : LYNNE DEVENISH PRINTED BY DOCUPRINT

Published by: The Garrick Theatre Club (Inc)

Printed by: Docuprint

ISSN (Print Edition): 2652 – 4678 ISSN (Online Edition): 2652 – 4686 Copyright 2021

**GARRICK THEATRE CLUB
INC./TEENS AT GARRICK**
Proudly presents
An Eccentric Mystery...

POE DREAMS OF MADNESS

By **Elissa Hynes**
Directed by
**Paris Romano Jenner
and Gail Lusted**
Produced by special arrangement
with Pioneer Drama Service, Inc.,
Denver, Colorado

September
27th, 28th Evening
29th Matinee

October
4th, 5th, 11th, and
12th Evening
5th and 6th Matinee

Curtain up
7:30pm Evening

Ticket Prices:
\$28 Adults
\$23 Concession
\$22 Members

Bookings:
TAZ Tix Phone: 92553336
TAZtix.com.au/garricktheatre

Garrick Theatre
16 Meadow St, Guildford

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello Everyone,

Goodness me - A lot of water has flowed under the bridge since the last newsletter. First things first –

We must congratulate the master, Fred Petersen, and his cast and crew on the highly successful *Pygmalion*. What a wonderful season. I certainly enjoyed it immensely, and so did everyone that I have spoken with. The fabulous reviews were well deserved. Bravo everyone.

I've barely had time to breathe after *Steel Magnolias* closed, due to taking on the role of Acting President, and I do need to say what a fabulous cast and crew I was blessed with. They all brought so much to the table, and long-lasting friendships have been forged. There were some wonderful reviews received for the last 2 productions – *Pygmalion* and *Steel Magnolias*. I have included some of them in this issue.

October and November are busy months. As I write, *Poe- Dreams of Madness* is in final rehearsals and opens on Friday 27th September. Remember this is a shorter season and as with all TAG involved shows, tickets sell well, so make sure you book your seats asap.

Auditions for the One-Act plays, a *Comedy Carousel*, will be held on Saturday 19th October. Watch for details in newsletter, on social media and website.

The Annual General Meeting is set for Friday 8th November. We are calling for nominations and we look forward to forming a cohesive and proactive committee.

Sandra Cechner is organising a special social event for Saturday 16th November.

Watch out for details of Auditions for Season 1 – March 27th to April 12th 2025. Details will be available soon, in newsletter, on social media and website.

Director Roxi Moore has held her auditions for *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* with overwhelming response. First table read is done, rehearsals underway, and I've heard that she is very happy. See cast list inside.

We were sad to hear of Gwyne Marshall's passing last month. The church was bursting at the seams with so many saying their last goodbyes.

On a serious note – It has come to my attention that some people have not handed their keys back to the theatre. This could be an oversight, so if you do still have a Garrick key, I'd really appreciate it if you got in touch to organise the return of same. Call or email me direct please.

0488 906 076 or winchesterphp@hotmail.com Thank you so much.

See you at the theatre,

Lynne Devenish

Pygmalion - Reviewed by Kate O'Sullivan

110 years on from its first performances, Garrick Theatre's current production is *Pygmalion*. Whilst perhaps more well-known in the musical form of *My Fair Lady*, the plot is very much the same here, looking at class and social mobility through the lens of language.

The performances are the highlight of this version of this production. Peter Clark brings a wonderfully dislikeable Henry Higgins, with some lovely variance across the show. Catherine Leeson is every moment the Eliza we want with well-crafted accent work and stage presence. All three of the Eynsford-Hills are also played well, with nicely true-feeling relationships between all three. For some of the other characters, the accents tended to wander a touch, especially in a show that is so dedicated to language and the power of phonetics.

It's always a challenge when mounting a show that is so well known. This production does a good job of fulfilling the audience's expectations, while also feeling like its own version. There are some moments where some of the blocking feels a little arbitrary and stilted, but this is more down to the stage size making some of the larger movements feel abrupt rather than sweeping. The first half suffers the most for this, as we want to feel the movement of both Eliza and Alfred in full flight as their lower-class selves. Additionally, some characters end up upstaging themselves, making it harder for them to be understood by the older members of the audience.

The set is well crafted, using the revolve well to quickly switch us between Covent Garden, Wimpole Street and Mrs Higgins's abode. The scene changes are as swift as you could ask, and where the sets are simple, the use of clever lighting to change both wall colours and to add atmosphere in the initial scene works wonderfully. The costumes for this production set the tone well, especially for the women. It would have been nice to see similar care and details in the men's costumes, but the dresses, especially those for Mrs Higgin's 'at home' day are a triumph.

All in all, a solid take on a classic piece of theatre. With new faces and old hands sharing the stage, it's well worth the trip out to Guildford.

Kimberley Shaw – Stage Whispers

Classic plays are held in esteem for a reason, and it is always a pleasure to see a well performed classic play hit our local stages. Garrick's production of George Bernard

Pygmalion is a five act play featuring three quite different settings, and clever design from director Fred Petersen allows this to happen on the pocket-sized Garrick stage. Although sets are simple rather than grandiose or opulent, they serve the show well. As a period-piece, costumes are important, and the women's costumes in this production are excellent. Great work from Carly Ranger, Maggie Adam, and Janice Phillips. Costume fans would be happy to pay the price of admission to admire Eliza's boots alone. Geoff Holt is responsible for both lights and sound, creating an impressive rainstorm in Act One.

Catherine Leeson makes a superb Australian and Community Theatre debut as Eliza Doolittle, in her first performance as an adult. An Irish doctor, recently arrived in Australia, we see no trace of Irish accent as we journey through Eliza's journey from cockney flower girl to duchess quality English. A beautifully acted performance.

Peter Clark makes a welcome return to the stage, after a five-year hiatus, inhabiting the prickly, lacking in manners Henry Higgins with conviction, in a likeably unlikeable performance. Stuart Ridgeway is a worthy partner-in-crime as the more mannerly and gentlemanly Colonel Pickering.

Marsha Holt has a wonderful combination of authority and compassion as Mrs Higgins, although I felt more thought needed to be given to accent. In the other parental role, Adam Skelton was given a difficult task, being forced to play upstage for much of his first appearance as Alfred Doolittle – but he came into his own as reluctant member of the middle-class later in the show.

Jan Phillips plays Mrs Eynsford-Hill with quiet sophistication and considerable depth. Daughter Clara is played by Sorcha Leary, another young Irish doctor making an excellent Australian debut. James Skellham takes on the difficult role of Freddy – as is appropriately understated.

Allyson Corti returns to the stage after a nearly twenty-year absence, noticeably growing in confidence on opening night, as Mrs Pearce, while Juliette Hyland, yet another recent arrival from Ireland, in her first Australian appearance, is particularly impressive as the Parlour Maid, giving this young woman a distinct personality. Stage Manager Sarah Durack and director Fred Peterson

Stage Whispers – Kimberley Shaw

Steel Magnolias, Robert Harling's dramatic tribute to the strength of women in the Southern United States, is somewhat of a modern classic. Garrick Theatre's latest production is a warm, feel-good production, with a lovely ensemble cast.

Ali McNamara's set design nicely evokes Truvy's enclosed garage beauty parlour, the site of all the action over a two-and-a-half-year period during the 1980s, supported by sympathetic sound and lighting by Geoff Holt. Costumes by Carly Ranger, Maggie Adams and cast are generally very good, sympathetic to both character and era, although I questioned the choice to have Osier's first appearance be in a "nice dress" when so much can be said about Ouiser with costume.

Lea McCall, in what I believe is her first appearance in Perth, has a long history with this play having played Clairee in Albany and directing the show in Northam. A great sense of control and ownership of the space, she was a delight to watch, with outstanding non-verbals. Her assistant, new-to-town Annelle, was sweetly played by Allison Sermon, giving her character a lovely arc.

Catalyst character Shelby Eatonton-Latcherie was superbly played by Grainne Kennedy - another sign that young Irish doctors are not only a boon to our health system but are making a great impact on our community theatre scene - especially at Garrick - a superb and beautifully acted performance. Sally Forbes played her mother M'Lynn, doing particularly well with M'Lynn's tragic monologue.

Heather Marshall was elegant and sincere as widowed Claire Belcher, while Kylie Calwell stole scenes with her loveably rough-as-guts interpretation of Ouiser.

While the action ran fairly smoothly on stage, the scene changes were a little laborious. The radio announcements should bridge and cover the scene changes, rather than start the scene.

Always a fun show. *Steel Magnolias* runs for one final weekend.

Theatre Reviews Perth – Jordan D'Arcy

Steel Magnolias is a classic play, written by Robert Harling, about six women who catch up each day by visiting the local salon owned by one of their own, Truvy Jone. It's a very slice-of-life piece and jumps months at a time between scenes to progress the plot....

...Director Lynne Devenish has done a wonderful job of assembling a really coherent and smooth production. *Steel Magnolias* is set in a small Southern American country town, and Lynne's cast pulled off the task of committing to the Southern drawl with consistency.

Lea McCall as Truvy had an engaging stage presence and was every bit the wise, if somewhat simple at times, salon owner. Kylie Calwell as Ouiser was an audience favourite, with excellent comedic timing. Heather Marshall was sweet as Clairee. Sally Forbes and Grainne Kennedy, as M'Lynn and Shelby respectively, created a believable mother-and-daughter dynamic. Both had significant heavy plot points revolving around their characters and skillfully handled the deeply emotive scenes they were tasked with. Allison Sermon was a beautiful contrast to the rest of the cast with her portrayal of the soft and naïve Annelle.

Acting while you're speaking is one thing but remembering to stay in character whilst you're not directly engaged in the dialogue is another. One thing this cast did really well is that they often had significant portions of scenes where they were listening to the salon goings on and not contributing dialogue but still totally engaged in what was happening, which had me feeling like I was there with them in the room.

The costumes (a group effort by Carly Ranger, Maggie Adams, and the cast) overall were excellent. There were a couple of clothing pieces that blended into the set and made the actors hard to see for that scene, but otherwise, costumes and hair were very good. In particular, the 80s-style hairdos that are important to this show particularly were done excellently.

The set was beautiful – very clearly a hair salon, very clearly 1980s. There were a couple of instances where set and/or props felt underused. An example is the mirror on the wall at the haircut station, which was only used maybe twice, as the rest of the time the fourth wall was used as the mirror. *Steel Magnolias* was an enjoyable production, and the team should be proud of themselves. It is definitely one of the best productions I've seen on the Garrick stage.

THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE

CAST LIST

Aslan – Todd Halverson

Peter – Aaron Wilkes

Susan – Amy Lock

Edmund – Kody Fellows

Lucy – Mia Fellows

Mr Tumnus – Ali McNamara

The White Witch – Rebekah O'Brien

Professor Diggory/Mr Beaver – Andy
Markland

Mrs MacReady – Heather Burrett

Mrs Beaver – Amanda Bird

Maugrim – Quentin Mitchell

Stage Manager – Jason Blaine

*Congratulations one and all. We are
looking forward to seeing the final
Season of 2024*

GOLDEN GAZZUNDA NOMINATIONS

For those of you unfamiliar with this award, it originally started out as the Wooden Spoon. The spoon itself was large, made in the workshop of Auntie ABC in the late 70's, early 80's. Suddenly the spoon disappeared, never to surface again, so a replacement trophy was created. Namely the Golden Gazzunda.

This prestigious award goes to the biggest, funniest blunder during a show, regardless of who committed it.

I am calling for nominations from all 2024 seasons:- One Acts, The Lisbon Traviata, Pygmalion & Steel Magnolias. Shows yet to come are Poe: Dreams of Madness and The Lion, The Witch & The Wardrobe. So, would all those who were involved in a show, on stage, back stage, technical, construction, front of house- anybody - please send me nominations. Don't be shy, or worried about people's feelings, it's open slather and nobody is exempt.

Give me a call 0488 906076 or email

winchesterphp@hotmail.com

Lynne Devenish

VALE GWYNE MARSHALL.

The Community Theatre world was rocked by the sudden passing of the legendary Gwyne Marshall last month. Gwyne was a long time member of Darlington Theatre Players, Marloo. She was the person you spoke to about bookings. She was always in the ticket box greeting everyone with a ready smile and a chat. A regular supporter of Garrick, coming to nearly all our shows, the most recent kind gesture she made was to take home a whole load of costumes from Pygmalion to launder. She came to see Steel Magnolias and I shall cherish the chat and hug from her as she was leaving. Our sympathies to Les, Claire and family.

You'll be missed so much Gwyne. RIP.

GARRICK THEATRE CLUB INC.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024

**The 2024 Annual General Meeting will be held at the clubrooms
16 Meadow Street, Guildford**

on

Friday 8th November 2024 at 7.30pm (registration from 7pm)

All nominations for committee must be received no later than **5pm Friday 18th October** and no nominations will be accepted after this date. Nominations will be published in the Garrick Gazette. The Nomination for Committee form is included in this issue.

You must be a financial ordinary member to vote so please ensure your membership is current. Junior, Student or Production Members are not eligible to be either the Proposer, Seconder, or to be nominated, for any Committee positions, and they also cannot vote at the AGM.

ALL COMMITTEE POSITIONS ARE DECLARED VACANT :- President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and 8 Committee Members.

Here are some of the portfolios that your hard working Committee Members fill.

Newsletter Editor - Publicity - Minute Secretary - Maintenance Supervisor - Front of House Co-Ordinator (Box Office, Rosters etc) - Lighting & Sound Supervisor - Set Construction Supervisor - Props & Shed Supervisor - Wardrobe Co-Ordinator - Bar Manager (Rosters, Supplies etc) - Social Convenor - Membership Development - City of Swan Liaison Officer - Website

The Management Committee meets on the first Tuesday of the month, with sub-committees meeting at other times. We also hold regular Strategic Planning meetings with an eye to our future.

GARRICK THEATRE CLUB INC. OFFICIAL NOMINATION FORM FOR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2025

***MEMBER NOMINATED:** _____

Position for which nominated _____
(*President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Committee Member*)

Postal Address of Nominee: _____

Preferred Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Declaration of Eligibility:

I hereby declare that I have not been convicted of, or imprisoned, in the previous five years for:

- i. An indictable offence in relation to the promotion, formation or management of a body corporate;
- ii. An offence involving fraud or dishonesty punishable by imprisonment for a period of not less than three months;
- iii. An offence under Part 4 Division 3 or section 127 of the Associations Incorporations Act. (*Note these provisions relate to breaches of the provisions relating to responsibilities of committee members to exercise due care & diligence, act in good faith etc. and the incurring of debts when insolvent*)

I also declare that I am not a bankrupt or a person whose affairs are under insolvency laws.

Signature of Nominee: _____

***Proposed by:** _____

Signature of Proposer: _____

***Seconded by:** _____

Signature of Seconder: _____

Please post or email to:
The Returning Officer, Tom Goode,
15 Harold Street, Mount Lawley, WA, 6050
Email: tomgoode@aussiebb.com.au

Nominations must be received by 5pm Friday 18th October 2024

***The Nominee, Proposer and Seconder must all be current financial members**
(Please see overleaf)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR NOMINEES

1. To be nominated for any position on the Garrick Management Committee you must be a current financial member of the Club.
2. Both your Proposer and Secunder must also be current financial members of the Club.
3. **PLEASE NOTE:** Junior, Student or Production Members are not eligible to be either the Proposer, Secunder, or to be nominated, for any Committee positions.
4. If you wish to nominate for more than one position, you must complete a separate nomination form for each such position. Legislation imposes restrictions on eligibility for being elected to a Management Committee. You must meet these requirements as detailed in the Declaration of Eligibility in the nomination form.
5. The completed nomination form must be posted or emailed to:

**The Returning Officer, Tom Goode,
15 Harold Street, Mount Lawley, WA, 6050
Email: tomgoode@aussiebb.com.au
Mobile: 0419 900 751**

in sufficient time to reach him no later than 5.00pm on Friday 18th October 2024.

Nomination forms received after this time will not be accepted.



COMEDY CAROUSEL – AUDITION NOTICE

Saturday 19th OCTOBER

Half hour time slots between 9:00am and 2:00pm

Three hilarious one act plays with plenty of roles up for grabs!

All I Really Need to Know I Learned by Being in a Bad Murder Mystery, written by Werner Trieschman and directed by Ali McNamara.

Therapy Go Round, written by Sean Guy and directed by Carly Ranger.

The Heist, written by Shirely Toohey and directed by Lynne Devenish.

Find out more about each of the shows and the great roles up for grabs: <https://garricktheatre.com.au/.../audition-notice-2025...>

Performance Dates: 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 14 and 15 February 2025

Rehearsals: TBA

Book your audition slot here: www.slottr.com/sheets/18285093

Auditionees will be required to read excerpts from the one act scripts. Please arrive at least 15 minutes before your timeslot to complete an audition form.

***All I Really Need to Know I Learned by Being in a Bad Murder Mystery* - Written by Werner Trieschman. Directed by Ali McNamara**

Characters – All ages and genders flexible, however 16 y/o and above please.

Narrator - who really doesn't want to be there Stage Manager - who is stressed

Director - who is caffeine addicted Actor - who is obsessed with Nachos

Actor - One who says "Flapjack!" every time someone else says it

Actor - who loves Agatha Christie Actor – who says Bum Bum Bum at random times

2 x Intimidating Actors

An accent coach - who absolutely SUCKS at accents

Plus, an arrangement of 'other' roles – some performers may be required play more than one 'role'

For more information, please contact Ali: Ph: 0449 932 132 or

Email:- alithegarrick@gmail.com

***Therapy Go Round* - Written by Sean Guy. Directed by Carly Ranger**

Characters – Genders can be flexible

Rook/Brooke ...has just been through a rough break up (Ages 28-40+)

Therapist ...is extremely professional. Most of the time. (30-50+)

Jamie/Janine ...is doing their best. (30+)

For more information, please contact Carly: Ph: 0431 971 631 or

Email:- carly.garrick.theatre@outlook.com

***The Heist* - Written by Shirley Toohey. Directed by Lynne Devenish.**

Characters – Set in the Bronx, NYC – Accents required..

Muriel 78+

Delia 78+ Camila 78 +

Ingrid – 85

Lenny – 30

For more information, please contact Lynne Ph:- 0488 906 076 or

Email:- winchesterphp@hotmail.com

HANDY CONTACT LIST OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND PORTFOLIO HOLDERS.

ACTING PRESIDENT- Vice President	LYNNE DEVENISH	0488 906 076	winchesterphp@hotmail.com
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The Garrick Gazette

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Western Australia
Print Post Approved
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SEASON 4

POE - DREAMS OF MADNESS

Sept 27, 28, 29*mat. Dec 3, 4, 5*mat, 5, 6*mat, 11, 12.

Curtain up Evenings 7:30pm Matinees 2:00pm

Bookings: TAZtix.com.au OR Ph: 9255 3336

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Season 4 Poe: Dreams of Madness. Opens Friday 27th September