



# The Garrick Gazette

Issue 626  
February 2025

Garrick Theatre Club Inc.  
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The Garrick Theatre Club Inc. Est. 1932  
IN CAHOOTS WITH  
THE MIDDLING COVE PLAYERS PRESENTS  
**Midnight Murder**  
**at Hamlington Hall**

DIRECTED BY  
Kirstie Francis & Sarah House

2025 PERFORMANCES  
March – 27, 28, 29 at 7.30pm / March – 30 matinee at 2pm  
April – 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12 at 7.30pm / April – 5, 6 matinees at 2pm

THE GARRICK THEATRE CLUB INC.  
16 MEADOW STREET, GUILDFORD WA 6055  
MIDNIGHT MURDER AT HAMLINGTON HALL  
BY MARK KILMURRY AND JAMIE OXENBOULD.  
BY ARRANGEMENT WITH DAVID SPICER PRODUCTIONS.  
COMMISSIONED AND FIRST STAGED BY THE ENSEMBLE THEATRE.

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## **MIDNIGHT MURDER AT HAMLINGTON HALL**

**TICKETS ON SALE NOW!**

Inside this issue:

**President's Message**

**Comedy Carousel Reviews**

**Meet the Directors of  
*Midnight Murder at  
Hamlington Hall***

**Garrick Awards  
and Winners List**

***Sweeney Todd...*  
Audition Report**

**Curtains Up: A new curtain at  
the Garrick**

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Hello Everyone,*

Here we are at the end of February and what a hectic period the last three months have been.

In December, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* was running, auditions had been held back in October for the three one-acts in *Comedy Carousel*, and rehearsals were underway. Auditions held, and rehearsals commenced for *Midnight Murder at Hamlington Hall*. Five productions all vying for dates and times. There were Committee meetings, Finley Nominations Night, Christmas and New Year, and commercial cleaning of the theatre (which meant that we couldn't use the theatre for two days and nights), production meetings and very importantly the Adjudicators' meeting. There were actors who had to pull out of roles and frantic recasting, and then Covid reared its ugly head again, causing consternation and jerking us all out of complacency.

Suddenly we were in February and the preview was on us, followed by a successful sellout season. Congratulations to all involved. The cooperation between the directors, casts and crews of all three plays was amazing. Special thanks to Don Allen and Geoff Holt, ably assisted by Sandra Cechner, who spent an astronomical number of hours, tagging, repairing, replacing, resetting and bringing the lighting system up to speed. Then designing the lighting and sound for the one-acts.

The Awards Night celebrating full length productions in 2024 has been and gone. We were delighted to have special guests to help with the presentations (keep on reading to see who). The brand-new Curtain, installed the previous day, was shown off and I have to say, I do like the traditional red.

Congratulations to all nominees and winners. Thank you to Alan Morris who was our Master of Ceremonies. Thanks also to Terry Brown who chaired the Adjudicators' meeting, recorded the results, organised trophies and certificates, and guarded them with his life from prying eyes. Thanks to Geoff for manning the bio box, Donna May for serving our drinks, and last but certainly not least, eternal thanks to Yvonne Starr and Sandra Cechner for missing all the fun whilst slaving away in the kitchen preparing the magnificent supper.

On the same weekend as the Awards night, auditions for *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*, were held. I'm told that there has been some serious talent cast, and I anticipate an exciting season.

Meanwhile – The set for *Midnight Murder...* is under construction, safe in the expert hands of he who must not be named, Alistair Woodcock, assisted by Karen Woodcock. Bookings are open and tickets are selling fast. Make sure you don't miss this one, as it's certain to be another sellout.

That's all from me for the time being. Handing over to Carly, who is busy writing the newsletter. Stay Safe Everyone.

*Lynne Devenish*

## Acknowledgement of Country

*Garrick Theatre would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of this land on which we meet, the Whadjuk people. We acknowledge and respect their continuing contribution to the culture and life of this region and recognise the strength, resilience and capacity of Noongar people of this land.*



# THE REVIEWS ARE IN!

GARRICK'S ONE ACT SEASON COMEDY CAROUSEL wrapped up this month, but not before selling out shows to a packed-out auditorium. Three casts, their crew and front of house teams delighted their audiences, especially Kimberley Shaw writing for STAGE WHISPERS and Carmen Jenner reviewing for WHAT'S THE SHOW. Of course, we've included some of our favourite bits, but please see the links below to check them out further!



## STAGE WHISPERS KIMBERLEY SHAW

[STAGEWISPERS.COM.AU/REVIEWS/COMEDY-CAROUSEL](https://STAGEWISPERS.COM.AU/REVIEWS/COMEDY-CAROUSEL)

*"...ridiculous (and at times quite funny) ..."*

*"...plenty to admire, with its large cast having fun, and a promising directorial debut [by Ali Louise]."*

**[All I Really Need to Know I Learned by Being in a Bad Murder Mystery]**

*"Nicely directed by Carly Ranger... three strong performances, in this 'played in real time', slightly absurdist therapy session. A solid play that ran well."*

**[Therapy-Go-Round]**

*"Expertly directed by Lynne Devenish, this well-written show was pacy and exciting. The four women were fabulously characterised."*

**[The Heist]**



## WHAT'S THE SHOW?

CARMEN JENNER

[WHATSTHESHOW.COM.AU/COMEDY-CAROUSEL/](https://WHATSTHESHOW.COM.AU/COMEDY-CAROUSEL/)

*"...director, Ali Louise, did a fantastic job of herding the high-energy cast by encouraging them to be as wacky as the show within the show. Among the tantrums... this tight-knit troupe delivers cohesive chaos with many laugh-out-loud moments."*

**[All I Really Need to Know I Learned by Being in a Bad Murder Mystery]**

*"...incredible... calibre of talent."*

**[Therapy-Go-Round]**

*"...strong characterisation creates an evocative sense of place and poignant storytelling to the background soundtrack of the borough's sirens as Guildford's trains and planes thunder by."*

**[The Heist]**



# MEET THE *Directors*

MIDNIGHT MURDER AT HAMLINGTON HALL IS CURRENTLY IN REHEARSAL ON THE GARRICK STAGE. CARLY RANGER, GARRICK GAZETTE'S EDITOR, SAT DOWN WITH THE DIRECTORS SARAH HOUSE AND KIRSTIE FRANCIS TO TELL US MORE ABOUT THE PLAY, THEIR PROCESS AND THE PRODUCTION.



**Carly:** Sarah and Kirstie, welcome to the Garrick Gazette. Your play, *Midnight Murder at Hamlington Hall* is currently in rehearsal, with the opening night on Thursday, 27 March. How has the rehearsal process been so far?

Kirstie and Sarah: *Rehearsals have been great so far. We are fortunate to have an experienced cast (and crew) and they have been a pleasure to work with.*

**Carly:** Yes, I have seen your amazing cast list, you have Jim Brown, Jack Riches, Jarrod Buttery, Meredith Hunter, Jay Shaw and Olivia Keary - what a line up! What have been your memorable moments?

Kirstie and Sarah: *The play is about actors putting on a play, so we have had fun exploring the idea of doing a play within a play – with a lot of laugh-out-loud moments during rehearsals.*

**Carly:** What inspired you both to choose this particular play for your production?

Kirstie: *Sarah's sister went to see a play put on by the Ensemble Theatre in Sydney and she messaged Sarah and said we should consider it. She knows one of the writers (Mark Kilmurray) and said he would love to see other theatres put the show on. We have talked about directing a play together for a while and have been looking at plays for the 2025 season and when Sarah's sister mentioned this play, we agreed that it looked like it would be a fun play to put on. We also love that it's recent, Australian and deals with the difficulties of putting on a show when actors are unable to turn up because they are unwell. Very timely!*

**Carly:** Indeed, I think we can all recall a production we knew, having periods of uncertainty due to sickness. On that note, can you share any challenges you've faced while directing this play?

Kirstie and Sarah: *Oh yes! The 'play within the play' presents some acting, blocking, costume and prop challenges. The actors play many roles and keeping up with all the changes is indeed a challenge.*

**Carly:** Given that some of the Garrick audiences have never before set foot on a stage, how do you think they will react to the comedic elements of the 'play within a play'?

Kirstie and Sarah: *We hope they will be laughing and enjoying the antics presented on the stage. We think they will marvel at how the actors manage to change from one character to the next, as we have, and nail the comic timing. I also hope they will feel the heart of the play and connect with community theatre performers knowing that the "show must go on".*



**Carly: What has been the most rewarding part of working on this production?**

Sarah: *For me, it's been working with such a talented cast and crew. It's also learning the finer aspects of directing – particularly blocking. Kirstie has taken on the task of blocking the play (thank goodness!) and it's been great watching the process of that. Also, thoroughly enjoying the rehearsal process. Not only the laughs but the problem-solving.*

Kirstie: *It has been the challenge of directing a play that has such importance on comic timing to keep it funny but without tipping into the hammy side of theatre. The actors have made it a lot easier as they naturally have comedic timing and the ability to jump into different characters easily.*

**Carly: How do you both approach the balance between comedy and the mystery elements in the play?**

Kirstie and Sarah: *The idea of a murder mystery is the key element of the show, so we need to get the mix of comedy and mystery right. The audience will be familiar with the mystery genre and the comedy will come from that.*

**Carly: Can you tell us about your association with the Garrick Theatre and its significance to you?**

Sarah: *I've been involved with the Garrick for over 20 years. I was president in 2003/4 and I have been involved in the newsletter, directing one-act plays, stage managing and performing. Kirstie has been involved with productions at Garrick but is the first time directing here.*

**Carly: I've recently debuted as a director - I'd be interested to know what advice would you give to aspiring directors who want to work in community theatre?**

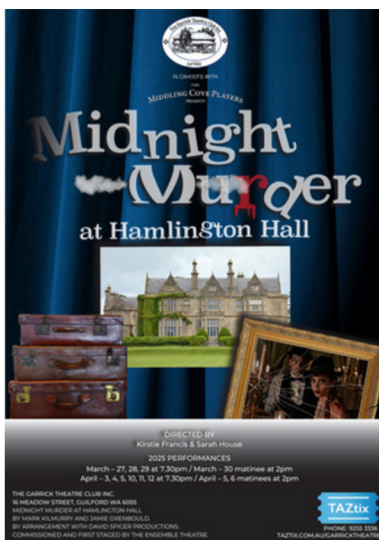
Kirstie and Sarah: *Give it a go! You need time (lots of it) and you need a good mentor. Surround yourself with experienced people and don't be afraid to take advice and ask for help. It helps to know what you want and to be able to work with people. A huge part of directing is negotiating and problem solving - probably my favourite part - and it's fun!*

**Carly: We're almost out of time (and newsletter space), but speaking of spaces, how do you think the unique setting of the Garrick Theatre enhances the experience of this play? We know it can be a bit spooky at times...**

Kirstie and Sarah: *It's uncanny. This play feels like it was written for this space. It even mentions the hall next door. The actors in the play have to finish the play by a certain time because there's a party due to start and they don't want the music to disrupt the play so having the pub close by to this theatre, there is often band music coming from there which the actors on stage have to overcome so very fitting for this particular production. It's also a community theatre space and this play is about community theatre actors putting on a play because they have the same passion as we all do.*

**Carly: As we say in the play-world, Chookas to the cast and crew of Midnight Murder at Hamlington Hall!**

Kirstie and Sarah: *Thanks Carly, and thank you Garrick Gazette.*



**NOW SELLING!**

**MIDNIGHT MURDER AT HAMLINGTON HALL**

*A comedy by Mark Kilmurray and Jamie Oxenbould*

*Directed by Kirstie Francis and Sarah House*

**Performance Dates 2025:**

**March 27, 28, 29, April 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12 at 7.30pm**

**March 30, April 5 & 6 at 2pm**

*\*contains moderate adult language*

Tickets: Adult \$28, Concession \$23, Members \$22

[TAZtix.com.au/event/garricktheatre/](https://TAZtix.com.au/event/garricktheatre/)  
or phone TAZ Tix on 9255 3336



# GARRICK THEATRE

## Awards Night

ON SATURDAY, 22 FEBRUARY, THE 2024 PRODUCTION CASTS AND CREW, MEMBERS, AUDIENCES AND COMMITTEE MET FOR THE GARRICK'S AWARDS NIGHT. THE DRESS CODE WAS: 'DRESS WITH PIZAZZ' AND OUR ATTENDEES DID NOT DISAPPOINT!

FROM THE PAIR OF EYE-POPPING SKY-HIGH GOLD SHOES, SPARKLING TIARA'S, TO THE STYLISH SUITS AND GORGEOUS GOWNS IN EVERY COLOUR OF THE RAINBOW. CAST AND CREWS CAUGHT UP AND SHARED MANY MEMORIES AND LAUGHTER.

OUR SPECIAL THANKS TO MAYOR TANYA RICHARDSON, DEPUTY MAYOR IAN JOHNSON, CR SARAH HOWLETT AND STEVE CATANIA AS OUR INVITED GUESTS WHO PRESENTED AWARDS ON THE NIGHT. THANK YOU TO OUR ADJUDICATORS FOR YOUR COMMITMENT TO THE GARRICK THEATRE.

OUR SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL WHO PUT TOGETHER SUCH A FUN EVENING OF CELEBRATION. WE LOOK FORWARD TO DOING IT BIGGER AND BETTER IN 2026!







*Photo Credit:  
Paris Romano  
Jenner*





# 2025 GARRICK AWARDS WINNERS LIST



Best Supporting Actor 2024  
STUART RIDGEWAY  
'PYGMALION'

Best Supporting Actress 2024  
ALLYSON CORTI  
'PYGMALION'

Best Actor 2024  
MARTYN CHURCHER  
'THE LISBON TRAVIATA'

Best Actress 2024  
CATHERINE LEESON  
'PYGMALION'

Norma Standing Award  
Best Characterisation of a Role 2024  
GINNY MOORE PRICE  
'POE: DREAMS OF MADNESS'

Ailsa Travers Award  
Best Costumed Play 2024  
'PYGMALION'  
Carly Ranger, Maggie Adams and Janice Phillips

Award for Best Set 2024  
'PYGMALION'  
Designed by Fred Petersen

The Fred Petersen Presidential Award 2024  
TO THE LARGE AND YOUTHFUL CAST  
FOR ENCOMPASSING COMPLEX STORY LINE  
AND INDIVIDUAL CHARACTERISATION  
'POE: DREAMS OF MADNESS'

The Paul Brown Award for Outstanding Direction 2024  
BARRY PARK  
'THE LISBON TRAVIATA'

The Philip Jamieson Award for Best Production 2024  
'THE LISBON TRAVIATA'  
DIRECTED BY BARRY PARK

Ken Smith Merit Award 2024  
DON ALLEN  
FOR OUTSTANDING OVERALL  
CONTRIBUTION TO THE GARRICK  
THEATRE CLUB OVER THE PAST 12  
MONTHS

## ADJUDICATOR'S AWARDS:

RUSSELL FELLOWS  
FOR OUTSTANDING COMEDIC PERFORMANCE  
IN 'THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE'

Outstanding ensemble performance  
'STEEL MAGNOLIAS'

Ray Egan  
for design and construction of a phonograph for  
Pygmalion

Geoff Holt  
For the rain effect in Pygmalion

Cody Fellows  
Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe  
Transition to maturity of his character Edmund

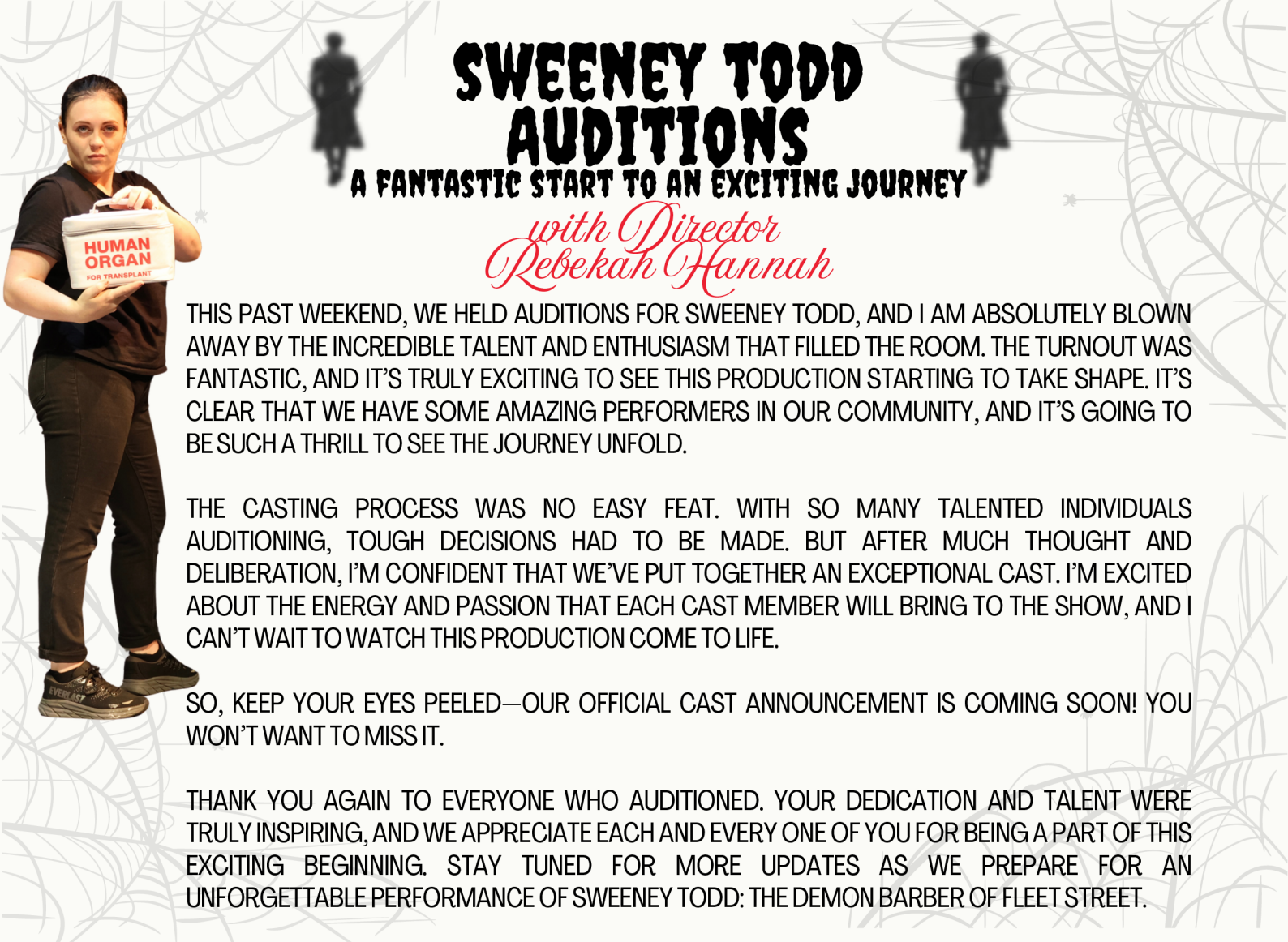
Heather Marshall  
Steel Magnolias  
Consistency of character  
including non-verbal dialogue.

Poe: Dreams of Madness  
Front of House Presentation,  
setting the mood for the performance.

Steel Magnolias  
Decoration of the set,  
particularly the painting of the floor.

Ali Louise  
Diversity of characters.  
The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe.





# SWEENEY TODD AUDITIONS

A FANTASTIC START TO AN EXCITING JOURNEY

*with Director  
Rebekah Hannah*

THIS PAST WEEKEND, WE HELD AUDITIONS FOR SWEENEY TODD, AND I AM ABSOLUTELY BLOWN AWAY BY THE INCREDIBLE TALENT AND ENTHUSIASM THAT FILLED THE ROOM. THE TURNOUT WAS FANTASTIC, AND IT'S TRULY EXCITING TO SEE THIS PRODUCTION STARTING TO TAKE SHAPE. IT'S CLEAR THAT WE HAVE SOME AMAZING PERFORMERS IN OUR COMMUNITY, AND IT'S GOING TO BE SUCH A THRILL TO SEE THE JOURNEY UNFOLD.

THE CASTING PROCESS WAS NO EASY FEAT. WITH SO MANY TALENTED INDIVIDUALS AUDITIONING, TOUGH DECISIONS HAD TO BE MADE. BUT AFTER MUCH THOUGHT AND DELIBERATION, I'M CONFIDENT THAT WE'VE PUT TOGETHER AN EXCEPTIONAL CAST. I'M EXCITED ABOUT THE ENERGY AND PASSION THAT EACH CAST MEMBER WILL BRING TO THE SHOW, AND I CAN'T WAIT TO WATCH THIS PRODUCTION COME TO LIFE.

SO, KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED—OUR OFFICIAL CAST ANNOUNCEMENT IS COMING SOON! YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS IT.

THANK YOU AGAIN TO EVERYONE WHO AUDITIONED. YOUR DEDICATION AND TALENT WERE TRULY INSPIRING, AND WE APPRECIATE EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU FOR BEING A PART OF THIS EXCITING BEGINNING. STAY TUNED FOR MORE UPDATES AS WE PREPARE FOR AN UNFORGETTABLE PERFORMANCE OF SWEENEY TODD: THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET.

## A DROP OF RED FOR GARRICK THEATRE

DURING THE SHOW RUN FOR POE: DREAMS OF MADNESS, GARRICK'S CURTAIN HAD A BLUE MOMENT AND DECIDED TO START FALLING APART. AFTER MUCH DELIBERATION AND QUOTE GATHERING, THE COMMITTEE DECIDED IT WAS TIME TO NO LONGER BE BLUE AND BRING BACK A SPLASH OF RED! OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS WITH MANY BACK-AND-FORTH EMAILS, AND VISITS TO THE THEATRE, GARRICK AND THE PA PEOPLE DECIDED TO WORK TOGETHER TO REPLACE THE OLD AND BRING IN THE NEW. SEWN IN SYDNEY AND DRIVEN OVER IN THE BACK OF A TRUCK, THE NEW CURTAIN WENT UP ON FRIDAY 21ST FEBRUARY, JUST IN TIME TO RISE FOR THE AWARDS NIGHT. THIS BRINGS A WELCOME SPLASH OF VIBRANCY TO THE THEATRE AND GOES A LONG WAY TO RESTORING THE STAGE.

**ALI LOUISE - VICE PRESIDENT**



# MEMBERSHIPS AT GARRICK

Join the Club!



Garrick Theatre is always open to new members, whether you're interested in performing, working behind the scenes, or assisting front of house.

There are numerous roles to participate in, such as acting, lighting, sound, set construction, directing, front of house, bartending, and many more. We welcome individuals of all skill levels and experiences.

With membership\* you are entitled to reduced price show tickets, exclusive club nights for members, participate in productions and club events, nominate for the committee and vote at general or special meetings. *\*See our website for details on membership categories and their inclusions.*

Join our Garrick community to create lasting friendships and unforgettable memories.

## NEW MEMBERS

New Members need to complete a Member Application Form. To do this you can:

- Pick up an application form in our foyer OR
- Visit our website, where you can complete an application online. See link below.

## CURRENT MEMBER RENEWALS

Membership Renewals do not need to complete another Member Application Form unless your contact details have changed.

- To pay your renewal, simply visit: [trybooking.com/1318239](http://trybooking.com/1318239)

**Go to: [garricktheatre.com.au/membership/](http://garricktheatre.com.au/membership/) for more information.**



# Committee Members

## AND PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

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COMPLIANCE OFFICER	VACANT		



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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**MIDNIGHT MURDER AT HAMLINGTON HALL - OPENS 27 MARCH 2025**  
**SWEENEY TODD - CAST ANNOUNCEMENT - MARCH 2025**