



# The Garrick Gazette

Issue 630  
June 2025

Garrick Theatre Club Inc.  
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Garrick Theatre and TAG  
proudly present...

## The Canterbury Tales

adapted by Lindsay Price from Chaucer

Directed by Gail Lusted

### Performance dates 2025:

August 1st, 2nd, 3rd\*,  
8th, 9th, 10th\*,  
14th, 15th, 16th –  
evening shows 7.30pm,  
\* matinees 2.00pm

### Tickets:

Under 18s \$15  
Members \$22  
Concession \$23  
Adult \$28

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*"From every shire's end of England they travel to Canterbury to seek  
the holy blessed martyr who helped them when they were sick."*



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**HEAR YE!  
HEAR YE!  
CANTERBURY TALES  
TAKES THE STAGE  
THIS AUGUST.  
GET YOUR TICKETS  
NOW!**

### Inside this issue:

President's Message

Sweeney Todd Wraps

General News

*Thespian Tragedy at the Garrick*  
Tom Goode reveals the truth

*Canterbury Tales* Rehearsals

*Hansard* Cast Announcement

*Teens At Garrick (TAG)* Update



Good morrow followers of the thespian community,

What a month June has been!

We've had a whole show come and go! *Sweeney Todd* was an amazing show with sell out audiences. I could not be more proud of the cast and crew for how much hard work they have put in!

Next on the list is *Canterbury Tales...teen edition they says!* This is to quote the hilarious pre-show announcement we had Grace Edwards (who played Beggar Woman in *Sweeney*) record for us. Please make sure you grab your tickets. You may be surprised to find the most mature cast of this production are NOT the adults! I am at the theatre doing bump in as I write this, so it's all hands on deck with this President!

Previously this month, we had a meeting to secure our shows for 2026, as well as the end of year show...please watch this space for announcements! Thank you to all who submitted their interest, we'll be in touch soon.

*Hansard* has also been cast, which is very exciting for our second last show for 2025.

We're prepping for our Busy Bee in July so keep an eye out for those dates and come along to help us with our pre-spring spring clean!

I hope June has wrapped up to be a wonderful month for you!

Until July!

Ali

### 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.





# SWEENEY SLAYS

## SELL-OUT SEASON

Garrick Theatre's thrilling production was more than just a sell-out success, but a reminder of what community theatre can achieve when passion, talent and teamwork collide. Here's a look back at a season that carved its place in our hearts.  
By Carly Ranger

*Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* wrapped its acclaimed run with every seat filled, thunderous applause, and a cast and crew forever changed by the experience.

Directed by Rebekah Hannah and proudly presented by Garrick Theatre, this bold adaptation transformed the Guildford stage into a shadowy slice of 19th-century London. With a cast of 22, vivid costumes by Merri Ford, a minimalist but effective set from Mark Nicholson, and musical direction by maestro Ben Clapton, the story surged to life with chilling elegance.

For those of us involved - myself included in the ensemble, it wasn't just a show. It was a shared adventure. From the late-night rehearsals, the endless wonder and bemusement to Stephen Sondheim's challenging musical scores, to the post-rehearsal runs to Mimmos for an ice-cream, or warming our hands at the roaring fire over at Alfreds, enjoying a pea and ham soup and chips and gravy. Who could forget the unforgettable midnight performance on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> of June where the audience were so electric...so present, so with us? Every moment in this show shimmered with something rare.

What made it unforgettable wasn't only the music or the applause, but the people: front of house volunteers, tech crews and cast - all gave their time freely and generously. We still can't believe that it is over. As a testament to our close-knit bonds - we're still messaging one another daily, even after that final curtain. We're reminiscing the songs and the times that was *Sweeney Todd*. That camaraderie we built together was the true magic. A reminder of the value of community theatre and the sense of belonging it gives so many of us.

### The audiences were just as enchanted:

"Amazing job in such a small theatre. Congrats to all of you x" – Ana F.

"Amazing show you won't want to miss out!!" – Kellie F.

"All sold out! Can you put on an extra week or reschedule another set of dates later this year?" – Paula S.

"I attended *Sweeney Todd* on Thursday night in Row B (fantastic show by the way, thoroughly enjoyed, my first show I've seen at Garrick Theatre and will certainly be attending more shows in the future)" – Karwin M.

As the curtains fall and the razors are packed away, one thing is certain: *Sweeney Todd* wasn't just a sell-out season. It was a triumph of creativity, community, and connection and for everyone involved, an experience to treasure for many years to come.





# Garrick


## GENERAL NEWS

- **New Garrick Event -  
Writer's Workshop**
- **Hansard Cast  
Announcement**
- **In memoriam**
- **Busy Bee  
SAVE THE DATE**



 *Garrick Theatre Presents:*  
*A night of writing with Noel O'Neill*

Drawing upon the Ethos of the Hagen Berghof Studio in New York, Garrick Theatre wishes to invite you to a night of artistic exploration. The aim is for the participants to bring along the first 6-7 pages of an idea or script that will be workshopped amongst the participants in a collaborative manner to build artistic cohesion.



**When: 25<sup>th</sup> July**  
**Time: 7.00pm**  
**Where: Garrick Theatre**  
**Soup & Bun \$5 PP**  
**Bar will be open for sale**  
**Free Tea & Coffee**

*We are looking for full length and one act plays*

 **HANSARD**  
BY SIMON WOOD  
DIRECTED BY BARRY PARK

**CAST ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Grant Malcolm**  
*as Robin Hesketh*

**Suzannah Churchman**  
*as Diane Hesketh*

**SEASON OPENS SEPTEMBER 2025**

### *Sale* BARBARA REYNOLDS

We are saddened to share the passing of Barbara Reynolds, who left us peacefully on 9 June at Midland Hospital.

Barbara was a cherished member of our community. A talented actor, director, and singer. Her performances in *White Horse Inn*, *The Kingfisher*, and an early staging of *The Boyfriend*, among many others, left an indelible mark on our stage and in our hearts.

She will be fondly remembered, especially by those who shared the spotlight with her and witnessed her love for the theatre.

With gratitude and remembrance,  
The Garrick Theatre



 **Busy Bee**  
**FROM 10 AM**  
**SATURDAY 26 JULY**  
**SAVE THE DATE!**

**THE GARRICK IS HAVING  
THEIR ANNUAL BUSY BEE.**

**PLEASE SPARE AN HOUR OR  
TWO?**  
**ALL HELP WELCOMED**





# Thespian Tragedy at the Garrick



By Tom Goode

The whispers have floated around the Garrick Theatre like stray feathers from a particularly dramatic costume, of a performer meeting their end mid-scene on our hallowed stage. Was it true, or just backstage folklore passed down through the years? As it turns out, the tale is no mere theatrical fable. What began as a rollicking rehearsal full of laughter but took a tragic and unforgettable turn.

While Garrick has seen many dramatic - and some funny - deaths on stage over the years, those involved have accepted it as part of the play, remained focused on their roles, and carried on. On one occasion, however, a real tragedy was played out in the midst of a hilarious rehearsal.

From the 1950s to the 1980s, Australia benefited from a wave of British migrants who brought with them their talents, skill, and interest in theatre. Garrick was fortunate in that many of these newcomers found companionship and common interest in theatrical performance.

William (Bill) Bovill arrived with his wife, Dorothy, as part of this wave and joined Garrick, becoming an active member of the club and was elected as President in 1963 and 1964.

During 1964, Bill and Dorothy returned to the UK. In 1966, Bill returned alone to find a house for his family, who were following by ship. He had rejoined Garrick and was cast in Max Harvey's revue when tragedy struck. Meg Tanner, Garrick stalwart and author of *Garrick's Golden Years*, was present and recorded the event:

A lot of us were involved in a delightful revue, *Haughty Culture*, which had been written and was being produced by Max Harvey. It was full of fun, music, dancing, and had some very clever sketches (original ones). One of these involved all the men in the cast dressed in old English-type smocks and those dreadful felt hats which make even the most handsome of men look slightly simple—pulled down over their ears.

This was a dress rehearsal, and I was sitting at the piano, convulsed with laughter at these idiot “peasants” who were “nurdling”. Now, no one really knows what “nurdling” was. Each character was equipped with a long pole which he threw or hurled right across the stage, one after the other. After each throw, they would all shake their heads, look at one another in a forlorn way, and say in a deep southern English accent, “E never nurdled!”

Suddenly, one did actually nurdle, and they all rolled around shrieking with laughter, patting one another on the back, yelling, “E nurdled – did ya see, 'E nurdled!”

Bill threw himself backwards and was making very strange noises. Someone said, “Oh come on, Bill, aren't you overdoing it?” And then everyone was quiet. Something was very, very wrong. Bill was having a stroke! Les Layton gave him mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, but it was no good. Bill was dead.

It was a terrible experience for everyone, and there followed interviews with the police, etc. The president, Les, and Noel did everything they knew to try to keep it out of the papers and off the radio, until the police contacted the ship by radio and the purser broke the news to Dorothy and the children. The funeral was organised by Bill's employer, Bell Brothers, and delayed until Dorothy arrived. Afterwards, Dorothy and the family returned to the UK. A case of life reflecting art?

In an afternote, about three years ago, during a matinee performance, one of Bill's daughters called in to see the place where her father had died. She was able to tell us that Dorothy and the family had ended up moving to Queensland.

**Moments like these remind us that theatre, at its core, mirrors life in all its poignancy and that those we lose, always remain a part of the story. Vale, Bill Bovill.**





## Garrick Theatre and TAG prepare for the hilarious *Canterbury Tales*

TEENS AT GARRICK (TAG) AND GARRICK Theatre are hard at work rehearsing their upcoming production of *The Canterbury Tales*, set to open in August. This year's play promises to be a wild and entertaining ride, bringing Chaucer's cheeky tales to life with a modern twist.

In addition to rehearsals, the cast has been busy behind the scenes. On Sunday, 29 June, they dedicated their time to set and prop construction, adding a personal touch to the production's visual elements.

Both teen and adult actors have fully embraced the comedic spirit of *The Canterbury Tales*, tackling multiple characters and staying sharp on stage. The cast is delivering committed and chaotic performances that are sure to entertain audiences.

*The Canterbury Tales* opens Friday, 1 August at the Garrick Theatre. Don't miss this opportunity to see this talented cast bring this hilarious world to life!

## Leaps and Bounds at TAG

18 May: *The Yip Yip Circus* ran a circus skills workshop where the students learned the art of circus skills including basic circus skills encompass a wide range of physical and performance techniques, often involving balance, coordination, strength, and agility. These skills are used in circus acts but can also be found in other performance settings. Common categories of circus skills include aerial acts, acrobatics, object manipulation, and equilibristics.

1-7 June: The short film *Are We OK?*, featuring TAG's own Juliette and Piper in the lead roles, won 'Best International Film'; at the *Vancouver International Youth Film Festival*. This opportunity arose after the young director saw Garrick's 2024 production of *Poe: Dreams of Madness* and invited Piper and Juliette to audition.

28 June: TAG members participated in a mime workshop facilitated by Ali Louise. Mime skills are known to enhance an actor's physical expression, improve focus and create compelling stage presence.

We look forward to seeing how all these newly acquired skills help our TAG students shine!





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AND PORTFOLIO HOLDERS  
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## A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Before we wrap up this month's newsletter, I'm happy to confirm that on Tuesday, 24 June, the committee met to prepare for our final show of 2025. We're thrilled about how the 2026 seasons are shaping up, and we'll be making some announcements very soon.

In the meantime, we're seeking 1–2 one-act plays for our upcoming One Act Season in February 2026. Each play should be between 20 and 50 minutes in length and include at least two cast members. If you or someone you know has a fantastic one-act play (no directing experience necessary, as we'll provide plenty of support), please get in touch at [garricktheatreguildford@gmail.com](mailto:garricktheatreguildford@gmail.com) as soon as possible.

Hope you're all rugging up and keeping well. See you at the Garrick soon!



# The Garrick Gazette

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## The Canterbury Tales



Directed by Gail Lusted

Performance Dates 2025: August 1, 2, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16 at 7.30pm  
August 3 and 10 at 2pm

Adult \$28, Concession \$23, Members \$22, Under 18s \$15

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or phone TAZ Tix on 9255 3336



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

WRITER'S WORKSHOP - 25 JULY  
BUSY BEE - 26 JULY  
CANTERBURY TALES - OPENS 1 AUGUST  
HANSARD TICKETS - OPENING SOON  
FINAL SHOW OF 2025 - ANNOUNCING JULY