

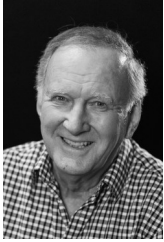
BACKSTAGE

Newsletter

April 2024

LILYDALE ATHENAEUM THEATRE COMPANY

2024- SEASON 2



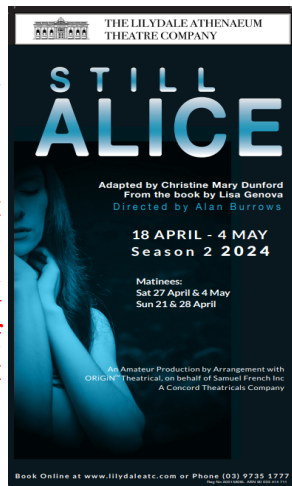
Alan Burrows

Published in 2007, Lisa Genova's New York Times bestselling novel, *STILL ALICE*, tells the story of Alice Howland, a 50-year-old woman who is a cognitive psychology professor at Harvard University and a world-renowned linguistics expert. She is married to an equally successful husband, and they have two grown children. When Alice notices a forgetfulness creeping into her life, confusion clouding her thinking and becoming increasingly disoriented and forgetful, a tragic diagnosis changes her life and her relationship with her family and the world.

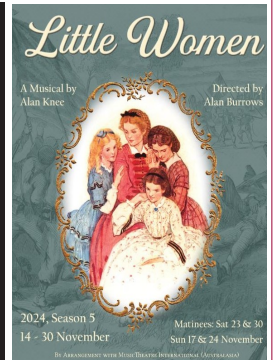
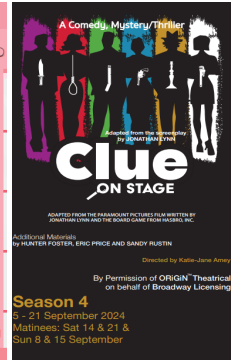
From the novel, *STILL ALICE* was then adapted by Christine Mary Dunford into a play. This play premiered in Chicago in April 2013.

In 2014 *STILL ALICE* was made into a movie starring **Julianne Moore** as *Alice Howland* and **Alec Baldwin** as her husband, *John*. **Julianne Moore** won the Best Actress Academy Award for her portrayal in *STILL ALICE*. With **Alan Burrows** at the directorial helm, this production portrays a difficult subject with humour, lightness, sensitivity and emotion. His use of projection, evocative soundscape and lighting will keep you thoroughly engaged in this tale of the human condition.

This heartbreaking but hopeful play provides the audience with an extraordinary window into the experience of living with dementia – it packs a powerful emotional punch.



2024- SEASON 3, 4 & 5



SUITE SURRENDER has been cast and **CLUE ON STAGE** has held auditions – rehearsals will be underway in the next few months.

Auditions for **LITTLE WOMEN** will be held early May (a joint production with Malvern Theatre Company).

It's an exciting eight months coming up.



SUBSCRIBER TICKETS 2025

As you can see from the 2024 line up of shows, it's a fabulous variety of entertainment **and the 2025 season will shape up to be just as good.**

Don't miss out on **ANY** of our shows. The best way to ensure you get your favourite seat on your favourite night/day is by buying a Subscriber Ticket.

It is such incredible value when you buy Subscriber Tickets at \$110 (that's \$22 per show).

We will be sending out an email in August inviting you to subscribe – keep an eye out for your invitation!

SEASON 1 - PIECE OF MIND by Emma Wood Directed by Susan Rundle

REVIEWS FROM OUR AUDIENCE:

- Pure Pandemonium. Brilliant. Just excellent – *Gerard*
- A brilliant use of space, lighting & stagecraft. The perfect space for a comedy. Loved it! No improvements (except more productions) – *Ryland*
- Absolutely sensational! Loved every moment. Thank you – *Kathy*
- Just wanted to thank you for a hilarious play. Good times from a well-done play and a great audience. I love Melbourne's community theatre scene – *Jon*
- Sat with a smile the whole night. Those guys were great. I was just surprised how fantastic it was. It was really very fantastic. Absolutely fabulous. All the shows are good but that really stood out. Brilliant! – *Wendy*
- I loved this play. It was unique and extremely well performed and staged. Will tell my friends to come tomorrow to see it. I have

never not been thoroughly impressed and loved every play and performance I have seen you produce. So much so, that I have taken up a subscription to ensure I never miss another performance. Bravo to all and thank you...PS the bubbles at the end is always delightful too! – *Elisa*



***THE 'REVIEW' WINNER OF THE BOTTLE OF ROB DOLAN SPARKLING WINE IS
.....TERRY M congratulations!***

Why not be like Terry and write a review next time you attend one of our shows? You'll have a chance of winning a bottle of sparkling wine from **Rob Dolan Wines**.

LILYDALE SHOW & LILYDALE STREET FAIR 2023

Were you at the Lilydale Show (November) or Lilydale Street Fair (December) last year?

Did you catch a glimpse of the Lilydale Athenaeum Theatre marquee?

With the help of a team of wonderful volunteers, we greeted passers-by, dressed them up in costumes and gave them an insight into our theatre.

Keep an eye out this coming November on the Lilydale Show weekend, when the theatre will be open to a **behind the scenes** tour experience!



Volunteer, Louise Walker



TOURS OF THE THEATRE

To impart the fascinating history of this 135 year old building to interested passers-by has to be the most pleasurable part of our job. We welcome everyone who enters the building with an offer of a tour of the theatre, where we convey the history of the building, the history of the theatre, Dame Nellie Melba's story in the Melba Room and a tour of the auditorium.

...Cont'd page 3

Cont'd

Individual tours are available Monday, Tuesday and Fridays 10am to 2pm... just drop in.

Since we started offering **Group Tours**, many local clubs (and not so local clubs—*Probus Club Cheltenham*) have availed themselves of a tour of the theatre.

For these larger groups we take bookings. These are conducted by our very knowledgeable volunteer **Steve Nichols** who is often accompanied by his wife **Elaine**.

On group tours, Steve will convey the Mechanics Institute building's story, the story of the LATC and then he will take you behind the scenes to the prop/costume room, the Dressing & Green Rooms and finally a tour of the backstage area. This tour lasts about one hour.

And... it's all free, no charge.

We do this because we are part of the community, we want to share something special and give back to our community.

Are you part of a group and looking for a social outing?

Why don't you do what the *Montrose Probus Club* did in February...book a tour of the theatre then go out to lunch together: a perfect social outing.

Ring the friendly staff at the Box Office during office hours and they can arrange a tour when it suits you.

GROUP BOOKINGS FOR SHOWS

The wonderful thing about the Lilydale Athenaeum Theatre is that a band of friends, a group of professionals or retired folk, can get together to plan a lunch or dinner then have an entertaining afternoon/evening at a live show!

Our theatre has many groups and clubs (Probus, Church, Tennis clubs) who patronise our theatre by booking a group to see each production.

It is a fabulous way to have a successful and enjoyable social time together. Now with four matinees available, our shows are accessible to many who don't like to travel at night. Groups who prefer matinees can still have lunch out then have an entertaining afternoon's show.

We offer a special price for group bookings: **\$23 per person for 10+**

Are you part of a club or group? Looking to do something together that doesn't cost the earth? Then do what *Anne O* from the *Croydon Park Probus Club* has done many, many times and book your group in to see our next production *STILL ALICE*.

In Anne's words, "*We always love coming to this theatre, such a nostalgic and fascinating one with a great atmosphere. Everyone appreciates the service by your staff and all volunteers. Were would we be without them? The tea and coffee and the wine afterwards always make it a really special night.*

And what a coup! To be the inaugural theatre in Australia to show 'PIECE OF MIND'. I am entering this photograph into two Probus magazines to promote your theatre and to advise that you have tours 'behind the scenes.'—*Anne O*



Montrose Probus Club



Croydon Park Probus Club

OFFICE STAFF UPDATE

On Friday 8 March, we bid farewell to our Friday Box Office team member **Angela McCulloch**. Angela has been working at the office for 18 months and has been an invaluable, friendly team member. She leaves to reclaim her Fridays in semi retirement – but she will still be seen volunteering here at the Box Office during our shows or occasionally return backstage as Stage Manager (as she had done for many years).

As one team member exits left, another enters right - we welcome **Julie Austin** as our Friday Box Office team member. Another friendly, helpful face to help you with your bookings.

A further new face in the office is **Gina Ingham** who is working as an intern with LATC on video and photographic projects including archiving the LATC history in photos.

If you are passing by the theatre, drop in to say hello – you are always welcome.



Gina and Julie

LYREBIRD AWARDS 2 MARCH 2024

At the recent Lyrebird Awards, the Lilydale Athenaeum Theatre was proudly **nominated** for an outstanding **33 awards**. The venue was the fabulous new theatre, *The Round* at Nunawading where the nominees attended the glittering award ceremony and LATC garnered an amazing **11 awards!**

Best Sound in a DRAMA, winner **Helen Ellis**, Switzerland

Best Lighting in a DRAMA, winner **Craig Pearcey**, Switzerland

Best Set in a COMEDY, winner **Claire Bamford**, Barefoot in the Park

Best Set in a DRAMA, winner **Helen Ellis** and **Claire Bamford**, Switzerland

Best Costume in a DRAMA, winner **Maria Smedes**, Switzerland

Highly Commended Performance in a COMEDY, winner **Mark Clunning**, Fracked!

Best Performer in a Supporting Male Role COMEDY, winner **Brett Hyland**, Fracked!

Best Performer in a Lead Male Role COMEDY, winner **Samuel Barson**, Barefoot in the Park

Best Performer in a Lead Female Role DRAMA, winner **Angela Glennie**, Switzerland

Best Director DRAMA, winner **Helen Ellis**, Switzerland

Best Production DRAMA, winner **Switzerland**

Congratulations to all our nominees and winners... you deserve all the accolades that come your way!



Office Hours: MON, TUE, FRI 10am—2pm

Phone: 9735 1777

Email: a.t.c@bigpond.net.au Website: www.lilydaleatc.com