

LILYDALE ATHENAEUM THEATRE COMPANY

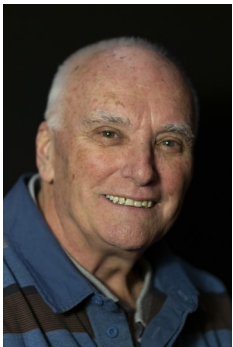


BACKSTAGE

Newsletter

June 2024

SPOTLIGHT ON... A DIRECTOR



Director **Bob Bramble** has been involved with the Lilydale Athenaeum Theatre (LATC) since the very beginning. It was in 1976, while working at Mt Lilydale College, a colleague suggested he audition for a melodrama, **Lady Audley's Secret**, where he got the part

of **Robert Audley**. Since then he has appeared in 14 productions here and has now directed seven shows (**Boeing, Boeing, Cash on Delivery, Murdered to Death** and more). A man who actively gets involved in all aspects of theatre, the early days of the LATC saw Bob assisting Geoff Page in the Box Office and acting as Production Coordinator in the '80s & '90s.

Bob has not only been involved in *our* theatre but also in many, many other eastern suburbs theatre companies over the years (Peridot Theatre, The Basin Theatre, Encore Theatre and more). He followed his theatrical passion while working as a Secondary Teacher of Physical Education, Biology, Science & Health Education. A busy, full life indeed.

It was in 1997 when he first turned his hand to directing in **How the Other Half Loves**. And now **SUITE SURRENDER** is Bob's seventh production as director with us... and it's a beauty of a comedy!

SUITE SURRENDER, written in 2011, is set in 1942 Florida, USA, where two of Hollywood's biggest divas have descended upon the luxurious Palm Beach Royale Hotel - there to fundraise for the war effort. In tow

are the assistants, copious luggage and a legendary feud with one another. Everything seems to be in order for their wartime performance... that is, until they are somehow assigned to the same suite! Mistaken identities, overblown egos, double entendres, a hotel full of servicemen up to mischief, and a lap dog named Miss Boodles—what could possibly go wrong. These characters and more round out this hilarious riot with a nod to the classic farces of the 30s and 40s.

The 1940s costumes are glamorous, the set is sumptuous, the music is romantic—what more could you want in a play.

SUITE SURRENDER is written by playwright Michael McKeever, who has written 35 full length plays that have been produced in theatres around the world.

SUITE SURRENDER opens on **Thursday 27 June** and runs through to **13 July**. We now have **four** matinees to choose from if you don't fancy going out on a cold evening. Curtain Up at 2pm for matinees.

2024 SEASON 3



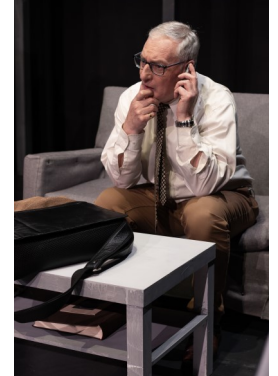
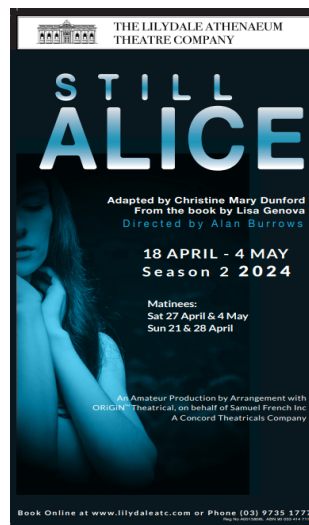
Book online at www.lilydaleatc.com, on the phone 9735 1777 or in person at the Box Office on Mondays, Tuesday and Fridays 10am to 2pm.

Book NOW as ticket sales are running hot!

**STILL ALICE adapted by Mary Dunford from the book by Lisa Genova
Directed by Alan Burrows**

REVIEWS FROM OUR AUDIENCE:

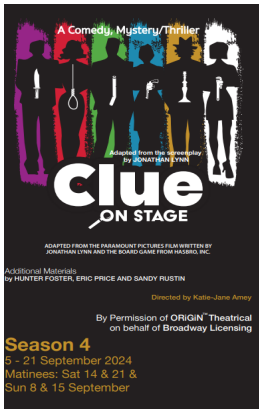
- Fantastic. I go to a lot of shows in the city and found this to be up there with them. Well done to all involved. – Natalie
- Congratulations to the director and cast. Well paced and a very moving set of performances from a well balanced cast. I shall be recommending this production as a “must see” to friends and family – Shayne
- This show was excellent in every way. Every part was well played. Story line was real and understated. Well done to everyone involved. – Linda
- I saw the show on Saturday night. It was raw and real and I too supported my mum through this awful disease. The scene where Alice couldn't find the toilet happened to my mum. Tears flowed. Congratulations to all, it was a moving and intelligent play with some wonderful actors. – Kim
- Brilliant. Incredible acting offering insight from both sides. – Cathy
- Thank you for a touching, well presented version of an enormously difficult subject. You included the audience so well and the voice inside Alice's head was a beautiful representation. Emotional but relevant. Sad yet poignant and positive. – Sue



Above: Cast & Crew of STILL ALICE

**NATIONAL VOLUNTEER
WEEK: 20–26 MAY**

SEASON 4 2024 5– 21 SEPTEMBER



From the director who brought us **COSI** (2022) and **SHAKESPEARE** (2023), Katie-Jane Amey brings **CLUE On Stage** to life on *our* stage. For those of you familiar with the board game **CLUEDO**, this play will be very familiar: Professor Plum, Miss Scarlett, Mrs Peacock, etc. all grace our stage.

The board game was adapted into a movie in 1985 with Madeline Kahn, Tim Curry and Christopher Lloyd to name but a few in the stellar cast. It has become a classic among adults in their 20s and 30s, with a huge following.

Six guests are invited to a dinner party thrown by an anonymous host. They are given aliases Colonel Mustard, Mrs White, etc ... It is soon discovered that all of them have fallen victim to the same blackmailer, the very host of the evening. Each is presented with a weapon and an option: pay their extortionist double the blackmail money or kill the innocent butler. What follows is a madcap, slapstick evening full of murder, mystery, and laughs as they seek to puzzle out the culprit amongst criminals.

If you are up for **a rollicking evening of fun DON'T MISS OUT**, book your tickets now! This one is selling out FAST!

Online www.lilydaleatc.com, in person at the Box Office or over the phone—9735 1777 - you will be sorry if you miss this one.

**UNDER 30s SUPER DISCOUNT
PRICES**

Have you heard... we've just introduced **Under 30's special ticket prices** on the last Wednesday's performance *for the rest of the year*. **At \$22** how can you go wrong!

Is there someone in your life who loves theatre and is under 30? Tell them about the offer—**SUITE SURRENDER** (Wed 10 July), **CLUE On Stage** (Wed 18 September) and **LITTLE WOMEN** (Wed 27 November)

National Volunteer Week was held on 20-26 May this year. This week-long event gave us the opportunity to highlight and celebrate the important role of volunteers in our community and to thank our own volunteers for the invaluable work they contribute to our theatre.

We at the Lilydale Athenaeum Theatre are hugely grateful for the time and effort our actors, directors, crew and production teams dedicate to create such high quality, excellent productions time and time again.

A enormous thank you goes out to our Front of House and Box Office volunteers, who are the heartbeat behind our shows — they unfailingly volunteer their time to keep our theatre thriving.

And we are especially appreciative of our fantastic subscribers and audience members who return year after year. Without you, our theatre would not exist!

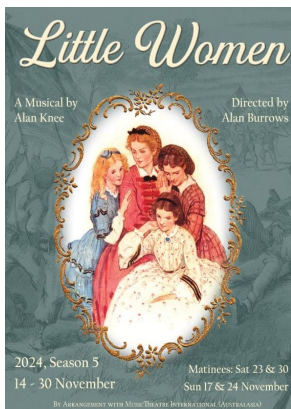
**THE WINNER OF THE BOTTLE OF
ROB DOLAN SPARKLING WINE
FOR WRITING A 'REVIEW' OF
'STILL ALICE' IS.....**

SHAYNE.... congratulations!!

Write a review when you next attend one of our shows and you'll have a chance of winning a bottle of sparkling wine from Rob Dolan Wines.



2024- SEASON 5



LITTLE WOMEN

The Broadway Musical
Thursday 14 November to Saturday 30 November 2024

LITTLE WOMEN, the Broadway Musical by Alan Knee, directed by Alan Burrows, is coming this November.

Be inspired this year for your work **Christmas Party**, book your team in for meal at a local restaurant and then come see our show in November - Tickets for Groups of 10+ are **only \$23 each**.



A SHORT HISTORY OF THE ORIGINS OF THEATRE

Have you ever wondered *how theatre came to be* ... how did it all start? For those of you who are curious, here is a potted version of “The Origins of Theatre”

Fun fact: the earliest records of theatrical performances come from ancient Egypt, beginning around 2500 BCE.

(500BCE – 5CE) It was in Athens where the origins of *drama* began - the god Dionysus was honoured with song and the singers would dress up in costumes and masks.

(100BCE – 1500CE) Roman/Etruscan tragedies and comedies staged in amphitheatres evolved in the Medieval Age (500-1500) to biblical events being staged in churches.

(1550-1600) To the Elizabethan Era where com-

panies of players were part of aristocrats’ households and performed seasonally. This is the era of William Shakespeare and Christopher Marlowe.

(1500 – 1700) Italian Commedia dell’arte was an early form of professional theatre in Europe. Actors improvised performances based on a scenario, eg The Tooth Puller and on particular characters, eg Pantalone, il Capitano

(1770s) Beginning in France, melodrama became the most popular theatrical form.

(1800s) The 19th Century theatre was dominated by Melodrama and Romanticism with historical accuracy in costumes and settings. In Britain, Shelley and Lord Byron were the most important dramatists of their time.

(1850s) Here we saw the rise of Realism and Non-Realism. However, melodramas, light comedies, operas, Victorian burlesque, pantomimes, French farces and operettas, continued to be popular in Britain.

(1850 – 1900) Of course, we are all familiar with comic operas of Gilbert and Sullivan - These operas were so popular that the growth in audience for musical theatre can be credited to them.

(1900s) Twentieth century theatre entered the Realism and Naturalism period and there was a great deal of experimental theatre that rejected all past practices.

Key playwrights of 20th-century theatre include: August Strindberg, Anton Chekhov, Eugene O’Neill, George Bernard Shaw, Gertrude Stein, Arthur Miller, Tennessee Williams, Samuel Beckett, Harold Pinter – of course there are many, many more of note.

Western/European theatre dominates our stages, but theatre was a practice that every country enjoyed: African countries, Asian countries, Turkiye & Persia. Their theatre practices are **as** interesting as our own western theatre practices.



LILYDALE ATHENAEUM THEATRE
COMPANY INC



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