

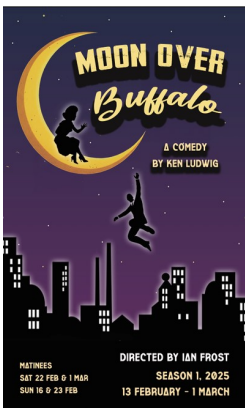
LILYDALE ATHENAEUM THEATRE COMPANY

BACKSTAGE

Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2025

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Welcome to the new year and what a year it is shaping up to be!

First up in our 2025 Season, is **MOON OVER BUFFALO**, by Ken Ludwig, directed by Ian Frost. A fast-paced comedy that will have you laughing non stop.

Playwright Ken Ludwig always had **CAROL BURNETT** in mind for the character of *Charlotte* and wrote the play to suit her style of comedy. It opened on Broadway on 1 October 1995 and **CAROL** was nominated for a **TONY AWARD** the following year for Best Actress in a Play.

What further credentials do you need, to know that this will be a great night out at the theatre!

If you haven't already booked, **do so now** as seats to this show will undoubtedly go fast and you wouldn't want to miss out!

Set in 1953 - so you know the costumes will be outstanding - two fading stars, George and Charlotte, are appearing in two plays concurrently—*Private Lives* and *Cyrano de Bergerac* in Buffalo, upstate New York—which couldn't be further away from Broadway. Their marriage is on the brink of ending, caused by George's 'interest' in a young actress. Word arrives that mega Hollywood director, Frank Capra, is coming to see their matinee... if he likes what he sees, it could be the big Hollywood break they are longing for. Of course mayhem and naked ambition mixed in with a little confusion take over as George and Charlotte do *anything and everything* in their power to make Capra **love** them!

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR SUBSCRIPTION TICKETS FOR 2025

How much do you enjoy coming to the theatre?

A regular theatre goer?

Then it's time to buy a **Subscription Package** to see all five shows for **\$110— that's \$22 per show!**

Subscription Tickets are now on sale at the Box Office, online or over the phone until **1 March 2025**.

Make sure you don't miss any show during the year by purchasing a Subscription!

LILYDALE ATHENAEUM THEATRE... LIVE THEATRE AT YOUR DOORSTEP

SEASON 2025

We are proud to announce the five shows for the 2025 season:

- * Moon Over Buffalo (Comedy)
- * Haunted (Comedy)
- * The Diary of Anne Frank (A Drama)
- * The Importance of Being Earnest (a Trivial Comedy for Serious People)
- * Sister Amnesia's Country Western Nonsense Jamboree (Musical Comedy)

Another year crammed full of entertainment here at the Lilydale Athenaeum Theatre!

2024- SEASON 5

LITTLE WOMEN The Broadway Musical by Allan Knee, directed by Alan Burrows

ANOTHER HIT WITH OUR AUDIENCE — SOLD OUT PERFORMANCES!

Our final show for 2024 was another hit with our audience, with many returning for a second viewing! With six SOLD OUT performances and an almost capacity house for the other performances, our audience enthused over the voices and acting of our very talented and versatile cast members. With the professionalism of the cast, who were mostly under 25, you could easily have thought you were attending a Broadway or West End show.

REVIEWS FROM OUR AUDIENCE:

What a brilliant show to end a year of great shows. Anna Bearsley was a brilliant Jo March and what a voice, fantastic—*Jim*

This was an amazing show. The singing is incredible, the acting is great. Very enjoyable evening!—*Marguerite*

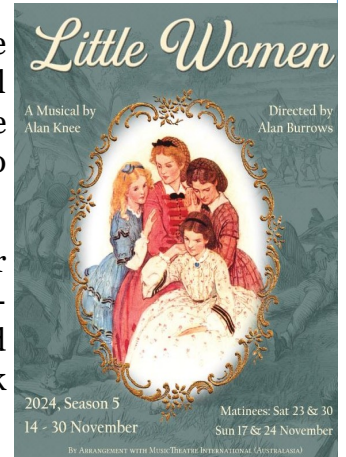
Fabulous show—loved the story as a kid—the musical tonight was an absolute joy! Congratulations to everyone—*Maree*

Really enjoyable show for all ages. We had a wonderful time. Great actors and amazing voices. Thank you.—*Natalie*

Absolutely magic. Thank you!! I will tell my family to beg, borrow or steal to get a ticket! - Liz

So exciting and bewitching. I hope I can see it again.—*Georgie*

Such a great production and talented cast. Loved it!! - *Olive*



UNDER 30s SUPER DISCOUNT PRICES

Is there someone in your life who loves theatre and is under 30? This past year we introduced **Under 30's special ticket prices** on the final Wednesday's performance of every show. **At \$22** how can you go wrong!

Tell them about the offer for **MOON OVER BUFFALO** (Wednesday 26 February) **\$22!**

SHAKESPEARE'S GLOBE THEATRE—MAIDEN LANE, SOUTHWARK, LONDON

When Shakespeare started writing for the stage in the late 1580s, London's professional playhouses were barely a decade old. The theatre business, as he knew it, was a start up industry—the first successful purpose-built theatre had only been built in 1576. Shakespeare knew this venue well: called 'the Theatre' in Shoreditch, it was the home of his company, **the Lord Chamberlain's Men**.

When **the Globe** was built on the Bankside in 1599, materials from 'the Theatre' were re-used in its construction. As well as amphitheatre style playhouses like the Globe and 'the Theatre' which relied on daylight to light the stage, London also had a range of indoor venues, lavishly lit by candles.

Shakespeare's company acquired the Blackfriars playhouse in 1609 and his plays were performed there indoors and outside at the Globe, as well as in a variety of locations including royal palaces, the Inns of Court, universities, town halls and private homes.

Clowning around

The men (and only men were allowed to perform on stage) who played the comic roles in William Shakespeare's company were some of the biggest theatrical stars of their day.

Audiences adored *Bottom* in **A Midsummer Night's Dream** and *Falstaff* in **Henry IV Parts 1 & 2** and **The Merry Wives of Windsor**. Both characters were performed by the same actor, **Will Kemp**, he was the Lord

Chamberlain's Men's clown for most of the 1590s and one of the company's original shareholders.

Kemp ensured his popularity with frequent athletic jigs and stand up routines as well as his scripted roles, but his freewheeling performances may have irritated other company members. Shakespeare himself gave some snide words about ad-libbing clowns to **Hamlet**.

After Kemp's departure, Shakespeare's clown parts were taken by **Robert Armin**, who brought his more thoughtful style and fine singing voice to roles such as *Feste* in **Twelfth Night** and the *Fool* in **King Lear**.

Scripts

Actors were only given the script the evening prior to performance or sometimes on the day of performance. They were only given the pages with *their* lines and the two cue lines before—but they never knew which actor would *say* the cue lines.!

Heckling by audience members during a performance occurred when they were dissatisfied by what they were seeing. When this happened the actor would step out of character, stop the play and heckle back. They would only stay in character when they were saying their lines. All other times they sat on the stage watching the play or cleaning their nails or lying about on stage.



INAUGURAL OPEN DAY SATURDAY

16 NOVEMBER 2024

Such a fun day was had by all at our inaugural OPEN DAY last year.

Held on the same day as the Lilydale Show, our theatre attracted family groups, couples and fellow thespians.

All were encouraged to try on costumes (some needed no encouragement at all!), to take selfies, join in a backstage tour, enter a raffle for two complimentary tickets and take in the magnificent ambience of this grand old dame of a building. Children enjoyed singing and dancing on stage while their parents recorded their talent on their phones!

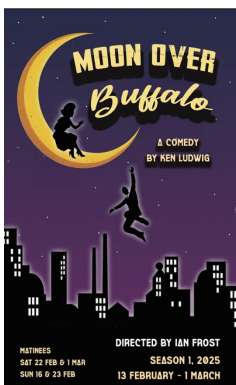
Pencil it in your diary for this year, **Saturday 15 November from 10am to 4pm OPEN DAY** at the theatre! Don't miss out on a day full of family fun.

THE WINNER OF THE BOTTLE OF ROB DOLAN SPARKLING WINE FOR WRITING A 'REVIEW' OF 'LITTLE WOMEN The Broadway Musical' IS.....

DIANNE.... congratulations!!

Write a review when you next attend one of our shows and you'll be in with a chance to win a bottle of sparkling wine from Rob Dolan Wines!

You never know unless you give it a go.



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