



Three Sisters

by Anton Chekhov
Translated by Brian Friel

By arrangement with ORiGIn Theatrical, on behalf of Samuel French Ltd

Director's Note

Anton Chekhov (1860 - 1904)

'My real profession is medicine but I sometimes write in my spare time'. At the age of 19 Chekhov enrolled in medicine and was the sole support of his large family. He made money by contributing stories and sketches to magazines. He wrote his best known plays in the last years of his life: *Uncle Vanya* (1899), *Three Sisters* (1901), and *The Cherry Orchard* (1903). The generation to which Chekhov belonged lived on the eve of a tremendous social upheaval and this is often foreshadowed in his work. Sadly he died before his time. His work as a doctor was exceptional and as a writer he produced a special and inspiring collection of plays and short stories.

Brian Friel (1929 - 2015)

One of the greatest English language dramatists, his remarkable original works include the sublime *Dancing at Lughnasa*, *Lovers*, *Philadelphia Here I Come*, *Faith Healer*, and *Performances*. Displaying great sensitivity and admiration for Russian playwrights he has also adapted Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya*, Turgenev's *A Month in the Country* as well as *The Yalta Game* from Chekhov's short story *The Lady with the Lapdog*.

In directing *Three Sisters* it was important to select a version that was faithful to the original and accessible to audiences including those to whom the original was unknown. Brian Friel has captured all the beauty, warmth, sadness, and humour of Chekhov's masterpiece. I am extremely grateful to a dedicated and talented cast, production team, and crew who have who have worked with great commitment on the play, and to the strong and tireless support of the Associate Director (Roger Gimblett) and Production Manager (Shane Bates). Enjoy the performance.

Timothy Bennett
Director

Synopsis of Scenes

The action takes place in the Prozorov house situated beyond a provincial Russian town.
The time is the final years of the 19th century.

Act One: A drawing and dining room, Sunday 5th May, midday.

Act Two: The same. Late January, over a year and a half later.
Eight o'clock in the evening.

Interval

Act Three: Olga's and Irina's room. Eighteen months later.
About 3.00am, mid-summer night.

Act Four: The garden. Two years later.

TIMOTHY BENNETT - Director Timothy previously directed *An Ideal Husband* for the GTC in 2011 and *Lord Arthur Savile's Crime* in 2010. He has also acted in a number of recent productions for the Company including *Pygmalion* (Pickering), *The Fantasticks* (Henry), *Great Expectations* (Pumblechook/Wemmick), *Charley's Aunt* (Spettigue), *Pride and Prejudice* (Mr. Bennet), and *Amadeus* (Van Swieten).

ROGER GIMBLETT - Associate Director Roger has directed 12 productions for the Genesian since joining in 1998 and numerous plays and musicals elsewhere including productions of *Hamlet*, *Brideshead Revisited*, and *Forty Years On* with his own company. He is the current Theatre Director of the Genesian Theatre. He has much enjoyed the opportunity to work with Timothy Bennett on *Three Sisters*.

OWEN GIMBLETT - Set Design Owen has over 25 mainstage Set Design credits to his name at the Genesian alone and countless more in his native New Zealand. Over a 50 year career he has worked on plays, ballet, and major musicals, and enjoys the challenges of Genesian's intimate stage with *The Tempest* and *Great Expectations* being particularly memorable designs. In a change of hat, Owen directed *Pygmalion* and *Pride and Prejudice* for the company.

PETER HENSON - Costume Design Peter is a freelance set and costume designer and maker whose training includes an M.A. in Theatre Studies, and a B.A. Honours in Fine Arts with an emphasis on historical costume on stage and in film. He has worked extensively with the New Theatre, the Zenith Theatre, and the Guild Theatre, as well as with the Genesians. Recent productions include *Amadeus*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Charley's Aunt*, and *An Ideal Husband*.

TIMOTHY M CARTER - Lighting Design An accomplished Lighting Designer, Musical Director and Composer, Tim's formal studies include a Bachelor of Creative Arts (Music Composition), Master of Creative Arts (Theatre Production) and Master of Creative Arts - Research (Theatre Production). Recent Genesian lighting credits include *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Hotel Sorrento*, *Murder on the Nile*, *Richard III*, *The Mousetrap*, and *Northanger Abbey*. Musical Director credits include *Spamalot*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, the Sydney premiere of Andrew Lloyd Webber's *By Jeeves*, and the world premiere of *The Star-Child*. Composition credits include *The Glass Menagerie*, *Saint Joan*, *Charley's Aunt*, *The Living*, *A Chaste Maid in Cheapside*, and a devised production based on his suite *Fragments*.

MICHAEL SCHELL - Sound Design Michael has been a member of the Genesian Theatre for over 35 years. A professional Sound and Lighting Designer, his Genesian credits include *Great Expectations*, *St Joan*, *The 39 Steps*, *Terra Nova*, *Frankenstein*, and *Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure*. Other recent Genesian sound design credits include *Pride and Prejudice*, *The Mousetrap*, *Crown Matrimonial*, and *Spider's Web*.

SHANE BATES - Production Manager Shane has been a member of the GTC for 17 years and has directed and acted in over 40 productions during that time. Most recently she was Mrs Bennet in *Pride and Prejudice*, Abbess/Mother in *The Three Musketeers* and directed *Hotel Sorrento* in Jan 2014. She is supported by her set building husband Garry, her son Cameron, and Jenny the cat.



ELIZABETH MACGREGOR - Olga Elizabeth's credits include: *Morticia (Addams Family)* StageArtz; *Kovac (Amanda)* OMP; *Milady (Three Musketeers)*, *Queen Elizabeth (Richard III)*, *Olwen (Dangerous Corner)*, *Beggar Woman (The Star-Child)* GTC; *Diana (Lend Me a Tenor)*, *Florence (Chess)*, *Gabby/Bobbi (City of Angels)*, in Adelaide.

LANA KERSHAW - Masha Lana studied Theatre at UNE. Recent credits include *Ophelia in Hamlet* (Sydney Shakespeare Company), *The Eternal Feminine in Wittenberg* (Brevity), *Elizabeth in The Crucible* (Q Theatre), *Siren in The Lighthouse* (Sydney Chamber Opera), *Miranda in Tempest* (Sydney Fringe), *Rita in Educating Rita* (Newtown Independent).



DOMINIQUE NESBITT - Irina Dominique developed a love of performance through ballet. At school she participated in several productions; most notably as *Glinda in The Wizard of Oz* and as *Juliet* in the school's Shakespeare program. She made her debut at the Genesian Theatre last year, playing the precocious *Pippa in Spider's Web*.

TOM MASSEY - Andrey Tom trained at AADA in the 90's and at Atlantic in NYC in 2012. He has worked in all aspects of theatre. Tom appeared in the Australian premiere of Parsley's adaptation of *Brideshead Revisted* for RGP. His most recent of many stage appearances was as *Desmond Curry in The Winslow Boy* for the Genesian Theatre earlier this year.



SUSAN FARRELL - Natasha This is Susan's second performance at the Genesian having appeared as *Miss Peake in Spider's Web* last year. While training at NIDA she played *Lapin in Illyria* directed by Tanya Goldberg. Other performances include *Barbara in Black Comedy*, *Maire in Translations*, *Gert in Big Maggie*, and *Clea in Black Comedy*.

TED CROSBY - Kulygin Ted is an actor and filmmaker and a co-founder of Unpathed Theatre Company. Ted is passionate about theatre. He's been inspired by some great teachers including Serhat Caradee, Kevin Jackson, and especially acting coach Lynette Sheldon. Ted is excited to be involved in the Genesian production of *Three Sisters!*



MARTIN BELL - Vershinin Studied part-time including NIDA, ACA, and Barrow Group in NYC. Shakespeare inspired early love of theatre and has performed in a dozen Shakespeare's. Martin appeared here in *Hotel Sorrento*. Contemporary favourites include *Influence*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *Haywire*, *Our Town*, *Money and Friends*, *Blythe Spirit*.

MARTIN SEARLES - Baron Tusenbach Martin has been acting since 2001. Some of his favourite theatre credits include *Diary of Anne Frank (New)*, *Privates on Parade (New)*, *Spider's Web (Genesian)*, *Romeo and Juliet (Impulse)*, *St Joan (Genesian)*, *Great Expectations (Genesian)*, *Angels In America (Papermoon)*, and *Earnest (Free Rain)*.





TOM MARWICK - Captain Solyony This is Tom's third foray at the Genesian, having played Mr Woodvine in *Simpson, J. 202* (2015) and Mr Bingley in *Pride and Prejudice* (2014). He's played Eugene in *Grease* and Shakespearean manservant Speed. In 2005 Tom was 'Young Wellington Actor of the Year' in the two-man show *An Unseasonable Fall of Snow*.

JAMES MOIR - Doctor Chebutykin James and his beard have appeared in several productions for a number of theatre companies over the last few years. You may recognise the beard and the man from *Equus* (Nomadic Artists / Sydney Fringe), *Saint Joan* (Genesian), *Terra Nova* (Genesian), or *Journey's End* (Genesian).



DARIEN WILLIAMS - Fedotik Darien first performed a Monty Python skit for his parents at the age of 5. At high school and uni he moved onto Shakespeare and Beckett. He's very fond of his pigeon and when not performing as Fedotik, Darien enjoys riding his bicycle across the countryside and chatting to people.

NICHOLAS CARTER - Roddey Nicholas first took an interest in acting in 2014, he wanted to challenge himself with a new art, after he retired from international sport. His 2015 theatre credits include: *Mucedorus* in the role of Prince Mucedorus for Shakespeare by the River and *The Three Musketeers* for the Genesian Theatre in the role of the Musketeer Athos.



ROBERT DREW - Ferapont Although he most definitely doesn't feel old, Robert is well aware that he is now at that stage of life where men play what is politely termed "senior" roles! This marks his 16th production for the Genesians since 2005. Some of his favourite performances at the GTC are *Hamlet*, *Great Expectations*, and *Amadeus*.

PRISCILLA BONHAM-CARTER - Anfisa Priscilla grew up performing in plays and operettas and sang in three tours with the NZ Opera Company. Europe and many different occupations intervened. She has retired to the theatre finally joining the Genesian this year and working with *The Three Musketeers*. Anfisa is her first stage role with the Genesian.



KATHRYN HUTCHINS - Maid New to the theatre but with a lifelong interest in performance, Kathryn has recently studied acting with Darlo Drama where she was introduced to the stage. She lives in Sydney where she continues to pursue her studies in acting and spends much of her spare time playing the violin.

Production

Director
Associate Director
Set Design
Costume Design
Lighting Design
Sound Design
Production Manager
Set Construction

Properties

Costume Assistants
Photography
Graphic Design
Publicity
Transport
Acknowledgements

Crew

Stage Manager
Lighting & Sound Operation

Cast

Olga
Masha
Irina
Andrey
Natasha
Kulygin
Vershinin
Baron Tusenbach
Captain Solyony
Doctor Chebutykin
Fedotik
Roddey
Ferapont
Anfisa
Maid

Timothy Bennett
Roger Gimblett
Owen Gimblett
Peter Henson
Timothy M Carter, Daniel Hitchings
Michael Schell
Shane Bates
Grant Fraser, Garry Bates, Paul Gilbert,
Debbie Smith, Roger Gimblett,
Members of the Company
Shane Bates, Garry Bates, Ekaterina
Obuhova, Susan Carveth
Sandra Bass, Helen Kohlhagen
Craig O'Regan
Tom Massey
Shane Bates, Tom Massey, Carlin Hurdis
Debbie Smith
Ekaterina Obuhova, Rebekah Jennings,
Sandra Bass, Mehran Mortezaei,
Glen Harman, Tobias Poulton, Paul Barbary,
Noemie Jounot, Philp Whelan

Liz Munro, Glen Harman
Emmanuel Said

Elizabeth MacGregor
Lana Kershaw
Dominique Nesbitt
Tom Massey
Susan Farrell
Ted Crosby
Martin Bell
Martin Searles
Tom Marwick
James Moir
Darien Williams
Nick Carter
Robert Drew
Priscilla Bonham-Carter
Kathryn Hutchins

About the Genesian Theatre

The Genesian Theatre Company celebrated our 70th year as a company in 2014. For over 60 years we have been operating from an historic church in Kent Street, in the heart of the Sydney CBD. We boast among our alumni numerous household names in Australian theatre and film such as Bryan Brown, Baz Luhrmann, Judi Farr, and John Bell. We're thrilled that some of our more recent cast members such as Rowan Witt, Lib Campbell, Aaron Glenane, and Bianca Bradey have gone on to carve out their own space in the industry in the past few years. We are also just as proud of the hundreds of other talented actors, directors, designers, lighting and sound specialists who have contributed to Sydney's unique little theatre over the years.

Over the years the company has developed into a theatre providing a training ground for young actors and a place where those who love the theatre can meet, share and extend their knowledge of the performing arts. The Genesian Theatre is one of Sydney's most active theatre companies. In addition to six main stage productions each year we run classes, workshops and many other activities.

The building which houses The Genesian Theatre Company was originally St John's Church, and dates from 1868. It has served as both a church and a poor school until 1932 when it became the Kursaal Theatre, housing the Sydney Repertory Company. In 1938 it became the first Matthew Talbot Hostel. Since 1954 it has been the home of The Genesian Theatre Company which was formed in 1944.

Membership

If you're interested in acting, directing, stage management, sound, lights, publicity, admin, etc, or if you just want to experience being a member of the group, we would welcome you as a member. You don't need to be experienced, we can provide training and can cater to different levels of involvement. Please see our web site for further information.

Coming next to the Genesis Theatre...



*The Picture of
Dorian Gray*

www.genesiantheatre.com.au