



# TOWARDS ZERO

By Agatha Christie

31 AUG - 12 OCT

An Amateur Production by arrangement  
with ORiGiN™ Theatrical on behalf of Samuel French Ltd

## Director's Note

*A murder is the culmination of a lot of different circumstances, all converging at a given moment at a given point ... The murder itself is the end of the story. It's Zero Hour.*

Sir Mortimer Tresilian, a retired Supreme Court Judge, built Gulls Point on a cliff overlooking an estuary in Cornwall. Sir Mortimer is now dead but Lady Tresilian still reigns supreme, inviting old friends and family to visit. It would seem that Gulls Point is a time capsule of the Edwardian Era but in 1956 life has moved on. Murderers are still hanged but there is agitation for abolition of the death penalty. Britain still boasts of her colonies although post-colonialism is gaining strength. Divorce is more prevalent than it had been but it is still a messy and scandalous business. Times are changing and Gulls Point is about to have its serenity disturbed as many circumstances converge towards Zero Hour.

I would like to thank my cast, crew, and the many members of the Genesian Theatre Company who have helped to bring this production to you.

*Pamela Whalan*  
Director

**Dame Agatha Christie** (1890 - 1976) In one of her rare interviews Agatha Christie said "Once I've been dead ten years I'm sure nobody will ever have heard of me." Fortunately, she was wrong. She died in 1976 and is probably more famous now than she was in her lifetime. She wrote 76 novels, numerous short stories, and a number of plays. Many of her novels have been adapted for the theatre by other playwrights but the ones she adapted herself, or wrote specifically as plays, are particularly successful. Peter Saunders who produced her plays and Wallace Douglas who directed several of them both spoke highly of her understanding of the practicalities of writing for theatre. She adapted her novel *Towards Zero* for the stage in 1956. It has stood the test of time.

## Synopsis Of Scenes

The action of the play takes place in the sitting room at Gulls Point, the home of Lady Tresilian at Saltcreek, Cornwall.

SCENE 1: A morning in September, 1956  
SCENE 2: After dinner, several days later  
SCENE 3: The following morning  
SCENE 4: Two hours later  
SCENE 5: The next morning  
SCENE 6: The same evening

There will be one interval of 20 minutes between Scenes 3 and 4.

**PAMELA WHALAN - Director** Pamela is a Life Member of the Genesian Theatre and a former Theatre Director. This is the twelfth major production that Pamela has directed for the Genesians. She has also appeared in and directed many productions for other companies including NTC, DAPA Theatre, Theatre on Bruncker, and Club 71 Dinner Theatre. Pamela has written a number of plays, including several children's plays and adaptations of all six of Jane Austen's novels which have had successful productions in Australia and overseas. For twelve years she judged The City of Newcastle Drama Awards (CONDA's) and she adjudicates the short play festivals Micro Theatre in Newcastle and FLASH in Woy Woy.

**CARLIN HURDIS - Assistant Director** Last year, Carlin was the assistant director on two shows: *Travelling North* at the Genesian Theatre and an independent production of *Elephant Man* (Exit Game Productions). He has acted in three productions for the Genesians and has also performed with Pymble Players, Sydney University Dramatic Society, Players in the Pub, and in improvised theatre. He has operated lights and sound at both the Genesian Theatre and the New Theatre. In 2018, Carlin also served as stage manager on a youth production of *Cosi* (The Acting Experience) at Zenith Theatre.

**TOM FAHY - Set Design** Tom has been involved with Set Construction at the Genesian Theatre for the last four years. This is his first foray into Set Design. He has worked, particularly in musical theatre, as an actor and director in Toowoomba, Queensland for many years.

**SUSAN CARVETH - Costume Design** Susan has worked as the designer / costumier on dozens of Genesian productions - a few favourites being: *Figaro*, *Under Milkwood*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Three Musketeers*, *Far from the Maddening Crowd*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *A Man for All Seasons*, *An Ideal Husband*, *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll*, *Witness for the Prosecution*, *Hay Fever*, *Murder on the Nile*, *Richard III*, *Frankenstein*, *Twelfth Night*, *Forsythe Saga*, *The 39 Steps*, and *Blood Wedding*. She has also worked for Opera Australia, the ABC and BBC as a costume coordinator, and costume maker for *Tall Poppeas* (Ondine Productions - Opera Bites) and *Deadhouse* (Blancmange Productions).

**IAN WHALAN - Lighting and Sound Design** Ian has been working in Sound and Lighting Operation, Programming and Design for professional and non-professional theatres across Sydney and Newcastle for 27 years. His recent credits include: *Trial by Jury* (Opera Hunter/NTC), *Vicar of Dibley* (Theatre on Bruncker), *The Property of the Clan* (Constellations/NTC), *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Genesian), *Ghost Train* (Genesian). Ian's first production was *Corpse* in 1992 here at the Genesian and he has worked on many productions with our company since.



**THOMAS SOUTHWELL - Thomas Royde** Thomas began his active interest in theatre and performance with Marian Street (*The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, Danny in the Toybox*). He was involved in Macquarie Uni's DRAMAC, MacMS, and Shakespeare MQ. Performance credits include *King Lear, Pygmalion, Much Ado About Nothing, Carrie, Sweeney Todd, The Yellow Wallpaper, As You Like It, Dracula, and Gaslight*. He was in Genesian's *Unexpected Guest*.

**ALANNAH ROBERTSON - Kay Strange** Alannah graduated from Screenwise with a Dip of Screen Acting. Credits include; *Good Grief!* (Sydney Fringe) *Punk Rock (SLAP), Mothers (Improvising Change), Quay to the City (ATYP), Beyond Cinema's: The Great Gatsby Experience, and The Cherry Orchard*. Film credits include: *Ladies in Black, Fragmentary, Sweetheart, and Lead Me Astray* in which she won Best Actress at the Independent Horror Movie Awards.



**AMBER WILCOX - Mary Aldin** Amber has a BA (Acting) from CSU, now studying BA (Music) at CQU. Credits include: Director of *At Home with Larry & George* by Gavin Roach for Short & Sweet; Sound Designer/Operator for *House of Games* by David Mamet for New Theatre. Stage credits include: *The Star Child* (Genesian); PACT Ensemble *Beguiled* and *Stars in the Morning Sky, Macbeth, Romeo & Juliet, The Cherry Orchard* for CSU Theatre Ensemble.

**PAUL BARBARY - Matthew Treves** Paul has appeared on the Genesian stage in *Journey's End, And Then There Were None, The Young Idea, The Adventures of a Bear Called Paddington, and Much Ado About Nothing*. Outside of the GTC Paul has appeared in an ABC Children's Television episode of *Mr Squiggle* and in numerous roles for nine seasons of *Shakespeare By the Sea*. His theatre training includes The Drama Studio, London and NIDA.



**NELSON SCOTT - Neville Strange** Nelson has trained at the NYC School of Film and Television and Sydney Actors Association. Recent TV credits include US crime series *Deadly Women* and independent web series *Dingo*. On stage Nelson has recently performed in *Bruntat 107 Redfern* and *Buried Child* for SUDS. He has also appeared in a number of award-winning short films. *Towards Zero* is his first show with the Genesian Theatre.

**ROS BILBE - Lady Tresilian** Ros has appeared in numerous productions with Genesians and is a Life Member. Her plays include *Coward at Christmas, Miss Havisham in Great Expectations, Mrs Higgins in Pygmalion, Noel Coward's Relative Values, Something's Afoot, Merry Wives of Windsor, Appointment with Death (1999), I Hate Hamlet, 84 Charing Cross Road*. Ros began her theatre career as a dancer with the famous Bluebell Girls in the 1950s and 60s.





**MOLLY HADDON - Audrey Strange** Molly attended Macquarie Uni studying Media, and AFTRS studying Cinematography. She trained at Screenwise in Advanced Screen acting. Molly's stage credits include *Figaro*, *A Murder is Announced*, *Murder on the Nile* (Genesian Theatre), *The Removalists*, *Hamlet* (Old Andean), *Tender Age* (SOH/Version 1.0), *Cursed Hearts* (ATYP), *Midsummer Nights Dream* (QW). Film credits include *Alex and Sam*, *Restroom*.

**PATRICK GALLAGHER - Ted Latimer** Patrick is an actor, writer and director who has been involved in theatre for over a decade. He played Sergeant Cadwallader in last year's Genesian production of *The Unexpected Guest*. Other roles include Marshal Willard in *The Crucible*, the Colonel in *Journey's End*, the Earl of Gloucester in *King Lear*, Harry Hope in *The Iceman Cometh*. He has written and directed five plays for Macquarie University's theatrical society.



**JAMES SUGRUE - Superintendent Battle** James moved to Australia from Ireland 15 years ago. He was involved in many productions in early childhood and resurrected his acting career in 2014. He has performed at KXT, Eternity Playhouse, Old 505. James studied Meisner & Eric Morris techniques and is completing the Showreel course at Screenwise. Recent roles include playing Ruben in *Ruben Guthrie* and Mal in *Don's Party* at Darlo Drama.

**ZAC DI FERDINANDO - Inspector Leach** Zac is a graduate of AFTT. He received his BA in stage and screen performance from UNE and the Advanced Dip of Stage and Screen Performance from AFTT. He trained in Meisner, Morris and Stanislavsky including screen, movement and dance, voice, and has performed in contemporary, naturalism, and restoration plays. Zac has appeared in TVC's such as Holden Astra and in Lui's TV series *Kiki and Kitty*.



**JESSICA WHITE - P.C. Benson** Jessica studied acting at Moore Grace Acting Studios whilst attending Deakin University. She has recently completed a NIDA Open short course and is currently part of the Emerging Actors Ensemble at The Hub Studio. Jessica became a member of The Genesian Theatre Company at the beginning of this year.

## **Production**

Director

Assistant Director

Set Design

Costume Design

Lighting and Sound Design

Production Manager

Set Advisor

Set Construction

Set Decoration

Foyer Illustration

Photography

Programme

Ticketing

Transport

Acknowledgements

**Pamela Whalan**

**Carlin Hurdis**

**Tom Fahy**

**Susan Carveth**

**Ian Whalan**

**Roger Gimblett**

**Debbie Smith**

**Tom Fahy, Paul Gilbert,**

**Peter Curtis, Debbie Smith,**

**Members of the Company**

**Meg Mooney, Pamela Whalan**

**Waine Grafton**

**Grant Fraser, Craig O'Regan**

**Tom Massey**

**Shane Bates**

**Carlin Hurdis**

**Jess Davis, Mark Nagle,**

**Melanie Robinson, Elizabeth Munro,**

**Janice McLeay, Rosanna Hurley,**

**Mehran Mortezaei**

## **Crew**

Stage Manager

Lighting and Sound Operation

**Di Henderson, Waine Grafton**

**Ian Whalan, May Hninn**

## **Cast**

Thomas Royde

Kay Strange

Mary Aldin

Matthew Treves

Nevile Strange

Lady Tresilian

Audrey Strange

Ted Latimer

Superintendent Battle

Inspector Leach

P.C. Benson

**Thomas Southwell**

**Alannah Robertson**

**Amber Wilcox**

**Paul Barbary**

**Nelson Scott**

**Ros Bilbe**

**Molly Haddon**

**Patrick Gallagher**

**James Sugrue**

**Zac Di Ferdinando**

**Jessica White**

# About the Genesian Theatre

The Genesian Theatre Company celebrates our 75th year as a company in 2019! For 65 years we have been operating from our home at 420 Kent St in the Sydney CBD. We boast among our alumni numerous household names in Australian theatre and film such as Angela Punch, Bryan Brown, Baz Luhrmann, Coral Lansbury, Judi Farr, John Bell, Peter Carroll, and Nick Enright. We are also just as proud of the hundreds of other talented actors, directors, stage managers, set and costume designers, lighting and sound specialists, stage and production staff who have contributed to Sydney's unique little theatre. We are particularly proud of all our members who volunteer their time to work Front of House to help you enjoy your visit to the Genesian Theatre.

Over the years the company has developed into a theatre providing a training ground for young theatre professionals and a place where those who love the theatre can meet, share, and extend their knowledge of the performing arts. The Genesian Theatre Company 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 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.

The Genesian Theatre Company acknowledges the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation as the traditional custodians of the land our theatre stands on.

## 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...



LADIES  
IN  
BLACK

Book by Carolyn Burns.  
Music and Lyrics by Tim Finn.  
From the novel **WOMEN IN BLACK**  
by Madeleine St John

26 OCT - 7 DEC

By arrangement with David Spicer Productions