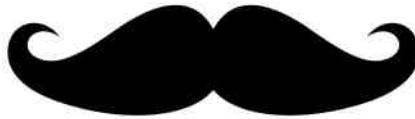
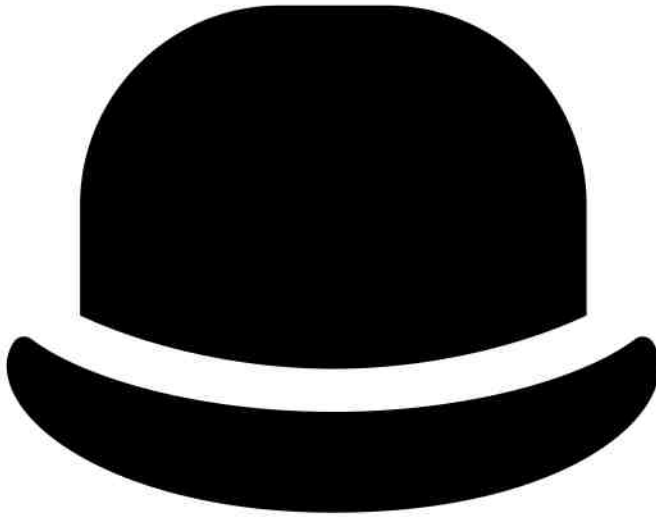


HERCULE POIROT'S FIRST CASE



Adapted by Jon Jory

Based on *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*

by Agatha Christie

Director's Note

I have read at least 50 of Christie's 66 detective novels and most of her short stories and find myself returning to them year after year for a re-read. Many of them I've probably read half a dozen times each - it's perhaps easy to dismiss them as whodunnit genre novels, but they are such well crafted and enjoyable books; there's a reason Christie is by far the best selling novelist ever.

As such I've always been somewhat interested in directing one of her works for the stage, however many of the adaptations available aren't best suited to my directing style. This new fast paced adaptation by Jon Jory with multiple scenes but no pauses I feel is a good fit for the style of directing I've developed working on plays such as *The 39 Steps* and *Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)* - minimalist and pacy, with all the theatrical gears on display and buzzing away for the audience to appreciate. There's something tremendously thrilling about this sort of work!

We have had lots of fun working on this production - but of course rehearsing in Covid times has also meant a number of challenges! I am so grateful for my supportive cast and crew who worked through these challenges with good humour and patience. I hope you enjoy our production of *Hercule Poirot's First Case!*

Tom Massey
Director

Agatha Christie (1890 - 1976) was an English writer known for her 66 detective novels and 14 short story collections, particularly those revolving around fictional detectives Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple. She also wrote the world's longest-running play, *The Mousetrap*, which has been performed in the West End since 1952, as well as six novels under the pseudonym Mary Westmacott. In 1971, she was made a Dame (DBE) for her contributions to literature. Guinness World Records lists Christie as the best-selling fiction writer of all time, her novels having sold more than two billion copies.

Jon Jory (1938 -) As the Producing Director at Actors Theatre of Louisville, Jon Jory directed over 125 plays and produced over 1,000 during his 32-year tenure. He conceived the internationally lauded Humana Festival of New American Plays, the SHORTS Festival, and the Brown-Forman Classics-in-Context Festival. He was also the Artistic Founding Director of Long Wharf Theatre in New Haven, Connecticut, and he has been inducted in New York's Theatre Hall of Fame.

Synopsis Of Play

The action of the play takes place at the country manor Styles, the surrounding grounds, and the nearby village, shortly after the Great War.

TOM MASSEY - Director Tom trained at the Australian Academy of Dramatic Arts in the late 90's and at Atlantic Acting School in NYC in 2012, in addition to multiple short courses over the years. He has worked in all aspects of theatre both on and off stage. Tom appeared as Bridey in the Australian premiere of Parsley's adaptation of *Brideshead Revisted* for RGP. Recent stage appearances include Andrey in *Three Sisters* and Sir Walter in *Persuasion* for the Genesian Theatre. As a Stage Manager Tom has worked with a number of independent companies including subtenuance, Sure Foot, Eclective, Pacific Opera, and the New Theatre. For the Genesian Theatre he has directed six productions including *Noises Off!*, *The 39 Steps*, *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)*, and its follow up *William Shakespeare's Long Lost First Play (Abridged)*.

BARRY NIELSEN - Assistant Director Barry translated and directed the Lorca tragedies *Blood Weddings* and *House of Bernarda Alba* for the Genesian Theatre, and has the dubious distinction of directing the Genesian Theatre's biggest ever hit, *The Mousetrap*. It was the writing that was dubious. Barry has also appeared on stage (most recently in 2020's *The Ladykillers*) and also in *Complete Works of Shakespeare*, the triple-gendered role in *Sylvia*, and *Speaking in Tongues* to name a few. Being a vet, teaching at TAFE, and maintaining bonsais takes up a lot of his spare time.

SUSAN CARVETH - Costume Design Susan has worked as the designer/costumier on dozens of Genesian productions - a few favourites being: *Ladykillers*, *Persuasion*, *Figaro*, *Under Milkwood*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Three Musketeers*, *Far From the Madding Crowd*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *A Man for All Seasons*, *An Ideal Husband*, *Witness for the Prosecution*, *Hay Fever*, *Murder on the Nile*, *Richard III*, *Frankenstein*, *Twelfth Night*, *39 Steps*, *Forsythe Saga*, and *Blood Weddings*. 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).

MEHRAN MORTEZAEI - Lighting Design Mehran has been involved in numerous shows as a writer, director, designer, stage manager, and actor in Iran, NSW, QL, and Denmark. His most recent light and sound designs were for and at *Dark Voyager* at the Pavilion Theatre, *Necrophilia* in Limelight Theatre, *My Night with Reg* and *Pygmalion* at The New Theatre, and *Persuasion* and *William Shakespeare's Long Lost First Play* at the Genesian Theatre. Mehran started his theatre journey while he was in high school and then continued it by doing B.A. and M.A. in Theatre and Performing Arts at the University of Tehran. He is a lighting design tutor at Excelsia College, and Technical Manager at The New Theatre and Actors Centre Australia. Genesian was Mehran's first theatre home in Australia and he comes back home anytime he has a chance.



PAUL ADDERLEY - John Cavendish Paul has been immersed in Community and Pro-Am theatre since 2011 since when he has been cast in, mainly lead roles, for over 35 shows playing roles such as The Lecturer in *Reefer Madness* (RMS 2017), Carl Hanratty in *Catch Me If You Can* (Regals 2017), Fagin in *Oliver!* (BTC 2018) and Alfred P Doolittle *My Fair Lady* (BTC 2019).

PATRICK GALLAGHER - Lawrence Cavendish Patrick Gallagher is an actor, writer, and director involved in Sydney theatre for over a decade. He is excited to be in another Christie, having played Ted Lattimer in *Towards Zero* and Sergeant Cadwallader in *The Unexpected Guest*. Recent roles include Marshal Willard in *The Crucible*, and many roles in Macquarie Uni's theatrical society.



DELMAR TERBLANCHE - Hastings Delmar Terblanche is an actor, writer, director, and self-described "Shakespeare groupie". He's worked across mediums, and during the past two years has focused his attention largely on radio plays, directing and writing multiple well-reviewed shows with British companies, but is now ecstatic to be back on a live stage in his hometown.

RUBA EL-KADDOUMI - Evie Howard Ruba trained as an actor at the Art of Acting Studio (LA) and at The Stella Adler Studio of Acting (NYC). She appeared as Athena in the *Euripides Summer Festival* (NYC 2019), and as Andromache in *A Time To Live* (NYC 2019). Ruba was last seen as Mavis Wittersham in the Genesian Theatre's run of Noel Coward's *Home Chat*.



ALICE BENDALL - Mary Cavendish / Dame Agatha Heavyweather Since graduating from ArtsEd London with a degree in Musical Theatre, Ali has worked as a choreographer, voiceover artist, actor, teacher, and director all over the West End, Europe, and now - Sydney. After having a brilliant experience in *Murdered to Death* Ali rejoins the Genesians for this fast-paced Mystery.

ROS BILBE - Emily Inglethorp A Life Member, Ros appeared in many Genesian productions. Playing the Countess of Marshwood in Coward's *Relative Values*, she was mother to Tom Massey in his first appearance on the Genesian stage. She is relishing the role of Emily and discovering what a fine director Tom has become. Ros began her stage career as an international dancer.



DENISE KITCHING - Emily Inglethorp Denise has been involved in acting since school. Awarded Most Promising Actor 1965 in the Genesian Drama School Festival. Studied Trinity College of London completing Grade 8. Recent roles with the Genesians include Miss Williams (*Go back for Murder*), *Nothing Personal* (Carla), Mrs Crown (*Ladies in Black*) and Mildred (*Murdered to Death*).



FREDERIC CLAUDEL - Alfred Inglethorp Frederic is from Belgium and studied Classical Ballet in Belgium, then he studied musical theatre and acting at London Studio Centre. Frederic has appeared in various commercials and ads on TV and worked front and back of the camera for different TV channels ITV, BBC, BBC, Channel 4-UK, and Australian Channels.

EMILIA KRIKETOS - Cynthia Murdoch / Annie / Mace Emilia is an actor, singer, and dancer who graduated with a Diploma of Musical Theatre from Brent Street, and a Bachelor of Arts (Music Theatre) at Federation University. Her recent performance credits include: *Undetermined Title* (KXT), *Pygmalion* (New Theatre), and self devised cabaret, *Ladies Who Vlog* (Slide Lounge).



PETER GIZARIOTIS - Hercule Poirot Peter is an actor with over 12 years experience and training. Credits include: Pymble Players in *12 Angry Men* as lead Juror #8, Hunter's Hill Theatre in *Gaslight* as Manningham and in *Beethoven's 33 Variations* as Schindler. In 2021 directed in Short+Sweet, winning Judge's Choice. He will be seen in the new film, *The Lonely Spirits Variety Hour*.

THOMAS SOUTHWELL - Dr. Bauerstein / Detective Inspector Japp Thomas found his passion for the performing arts with Marian Street Theatre's *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* in 2010, before turning to student theatre at Macquarie University. Thomas has since had a prolific run of 'Aggie' show performances at the Genesian, beginning with *Unexpected Guest* 2018.



LAURA WALLACE - Dr. Wilkins / Phillips Laura Wallace has trained at Anthony Meindl's Actor Workshop and American Arts Film and Television Academy. With a passion for both the screen and stage. With short films such as *Dear Mary*, *In the Wake of it All*, and *Something in the Water*. This is Laura's debut play in Sydney.

MEG GIRDLER - Dorcas / Manning Meg caught the bug for acting and singing at an early age and was cast in productions around Sydney and Wollongong. Meg received professional on-camera and acting fundamentals training in Colorado and performed in a professional short-play festival in Denver. This is Meg's first role with the Genesian and is thrilled to play Dorcas and SM.



EMMANUEL SAID - Coroner Wells / Judge Over the last 20 years Emmanuel has been active as an actor & production roles in theatre, film, tv & web series. This has included *Sense & Sensibility*, *Valentine's Day & Appointment with Death* (Genesian), *Pride & Prejudice* (Ruby) & *Marat / Sade* (New) ; *Risen*, *Skinford Moth Boy*, *According to Otto* (film) & *After Nightfall* (web).

Production

Director

Tom Massey

Assistant Director

Barry Nielsen

Set Design

Tom Massey

Costume Design

Susan Carveth

Lighting Design

Mehran Mortezaei

Sound Design

Tom Massey

Accents and Voice Coach

Benjamin Purser

Set Construction

Members of the Company

Set Detailing

Barry Nielsen

Photography

Tom Massey

Graphic Design

Tom Massey

Ticketing

Tom Massey

Transport

Barry Nielsen

Audition Assistants

Janice Mcleay, Mary Abraham,

Sandra Bass, Denise Kitching

Crew

Stage Manager

Meg Girdler

Lighting and Sound Operation

May Hnin, Alexis Worthing,

Mary Abraham, Sangeeta Tandon

Cast

John Cavendish

Paul Adderley

Lawrence Cavendish

Patrick Gallagher

Hastings

Delmar Terblanche

Evie Howard

Ruba El-Kaddoumi

Mary Cavendish / Dame Agatha Heavyweather

Alice Bendall

Emily Inglethorp

Ros Bilbe

Emily Inglethorp

Denise Kitching

Alfred Inglethorp

Frederic Claudel

Cynthia Murdoch / Annie / Mace

Emilia Kriketos

Hercule Poirot

Peter Gizariotis

Dr. Bauerstein / Detective Inspector Japp

Thomas Southwell

Dr. Wilkins / Phillips

Laura Wallace

Dorcas / Manning

Meg Girdler

Coroner Wells / Judge

Emmanuel Said

About the Genesian Theatre

The Genesian Theatre Company celebrates our 78th year as a company in 2022! For 68 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...

