

Black Comedy



By Peter Schaffer

Genesian Theatre

27th November - 12th December 2010

Horizons

There will be an interval of 15 mins

Black Comedy

Black Comedy is presented by arrangement with Dominie Pty Ltd

We are proud to present as a curtain raiser *Horizons* by Roger Gimblett, a member of the Genesian Theatre.

The action of the play takes place in the London studio of the rising young sculptor, Brindsley Miller, on an evening in the mid sixties

About the Production

Peter Schaffer has written some of the most exciting work for theatre that has come out of the 20th century. His plays *Equus*, *Amadeus* and *Royal Hunt of the Sun* are very well known. The Genesis Theatre is proud to present one of his earlier works, *Black Comedy*, which carries all the hallmarks of his more famous later work. It is a well crafted work, beautifully written and with a wonderful grasp of just how far theatrical boundaries can be pushed. It is also hilariously funny.

He takes a tradition of reversal from Japanese Noh theatre and applies it to a contemporary situation. When the curtain opens the stage is in darkness but the actors move about as though they have full light. A fuse blows plunging the characters into darkness but the stage is then flooded with light so that the audience can see everything that is hidden from the characters as they blunder about in the dark. And the dark is not just the physical lack of light but also the characters understanding of themselves, others and their relationships.

When the play was first produced several young actors starring in it made the theatrical world sit up and take note. They were Maggie Smith and Derek Jacobi. In the last few months a number of people have approached me to tell me that they saw that first London production and how they enjoyed it and continue to chuckle over it. As that production took place in 1965 it is a testament to the quality of the play that it has remained such a happy memory for so long.

This is a joyful farce that should set you in the mood for the Christmas season. I hope that you enjoy it as much as those people who remember the first production and that it will remain as a happy memory for you too. I want to thank my cast and crew for their enthusiasm and hard work as we put this production together and all of us hope that it will be the perfect way for you to start your enjoyment of the festive season.

Pamela Whalan

Black Comedy Cast



DANIEL FELKAI – Harold Gorringe

Training as an actor at the University of Wollongong Daniel's theatre credits include *Romeo and Juliet*, *Russian Egg Flip*, *True Times Three*, *Bondi Legal* and *Undercover Lawyer*. Genesian patrons will remember him in *By Jeeves!* and more recently in the title role in *Lord Arthur Savile's Crime*. He has also appeared in a number of short films and TV commercials.

LISA HARRISON – Miss Furnival

Since joining the Genesian Theatre in 2003 Lisa has appeared in many of our productions including *Away*, *Worrywarts*, *A Man for All Seasons*, *Enchanted April*, *Intent to Murder* and memorably as Joy Gresham in *Shadowlands*.



JUSTINE KACIR – Carol Melkett

Justine studied acting at the Australian Academy of Dramatic Art in Sydney and has since been involved in several theatre and short film productions. This is her second role for the Genesian Theatre having appeared in *Pygmalion* earlier this year.

BILL LAMONBY – Colonel Melkett

Bill studied speech and drama in London and has appeared in productions in the UK, Canada and Western Australia. For the Genesian Theatre his credits include *A Tale of Two Cities*, *Merry Wives of Winsor* and *Spider's Web*. It is a pleasure to welcome him back to our stage as the fierce Colonel Melkett in *Black Comedy*.



MATT ORCHARD – Brindsley Miller

Matt moved to Sydney from New Zealand several years ago and since his arrival has played the role of Doug in *Cosi* for Liverpool Players and appeared in the 2010 season of *Short and Sweet*. He wrote the winning play for Crash Test Drama's grand final in 2009. We welcome him to the stage of the Genesian Theatre.

PATRICK MATIJEVIC – Franz Schuppanzig

After studying at The Actors Centre Patrick has played in short films, TV ads and in one feature horror film. His last role for the Genesian Theatre was as Lester in *Verdict*. The role of Schuppanzig provides him with a welcome change of pace.



PAULA SEARLE – Clea

Paula has worked with a number of companies in Sydney including Pymble Players and Darlinghurst Theatre. She has been a member of the Genesian Theatre for some years and has been in productions as varied as *A Man for All Seasons*, *Verdict* and *Enchanted April*. Many of our audience members will remember her fine performance as Hedda Gabler in Ibsen's great classic.



DEREK LOH – Georg Bamberger

This is Derek's first appearance on the stage of the Genesian Theatre. He is on a giant learning curve as he has also taken on the role of Assistant to the Director and it is his talent that has provided us with the paintings that decorate the set.

Horizons Cast



JOHN BUENCAMINO (Chris) was a budding painter until the stage whisked him away. Since then he has studied acting part-time at The Actors Centre and The Australian College of Theatre and Television. Recent theatrical work includes *In the Company of Ants* (Max), performed at the inaugural Colourblind Project Short

Play Festival (also to be performed at Short And Sweet 2011), and *Dogs Barking* (Neil), performed at the Actors Centre. He is also involved in independent film and has just finished filming a TV Pilot, *The Pass*.

JENNY JACOBS (Liz) trained in the 70's at the Ensemble Theatre under Hayes Gordon and at the New Theatre with Brian Syron. Over the years, she has worked in children's theatre, educational television and musical theatre. More recently, Jenny has performed for Phoenix Theatre in *The Underpants* (Gertrude) and



in *Peter Vs The Wolf* (District Attorney). As a member of the Genesian Theatre she has played in the workshops *Bus Stop* and *Dimensions* and in the productions of *Enchanted April* (Costanza) and *The House of Bernarda Alba* (Bernarda). She has recently tried her hand at directing with *And Then There Were None*, also at the Genesian.

Production

Black Comedy Director: Pamela Whalan
Horizons Director: Maggie Scott
Assistant to the Director: Derek Loh
Set Design: Debbie Smith
Costume Design: Susan Carveth
Lighting Design: Eric Bicknell
Sound Design: Tom Massey
Horizons Set Detailing: Catherine Lock
Sculpture: Jesse Neale
Paintings: Derek Loh
Photography: Chris Smith [8thandgoes.com]
Graphic Design: Derek Loh, Ross Oblea
Acknowledgements: Mary Ann Hill, Joy Longworth,
Timothy M Carter, Paul Gilbert,
Cynthia Gibbs, Paul Barbary,
Timothy Bennett, George Wright,
Heather Scott.

Crew

Stage Manager: Frances Etheridge
Lighting and Sound Operator: Amy Roberts, Ian Whalan.

Black Comedy Cast

Brindsley Miller	Matt Orchard
Carol Melkett	Justine Kacir
Miss Furnival	Lisa Harrison
Colonel Melkett	Bill Lamonby
Harold Gorringe	Daniel Felkai
Clea	Paula Searle
Franz Schuppanzig	Patrick Matijevic
Georg Bamberger	Derek Loh

Horizons Cast

Chris	John Buencamino
Liz	Jenny Jacobs

About the Genesian Theatre

The Genesian Theatre Company is a non-professional group 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 are, however, just as proud of the hundreds of talented amateur 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 group 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 seven main stage productions each year we run classes, workshops and many other activities.

Membership of the company is open to all people over the age of eighteen.

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 your interest is 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 Genesian Theatre...

The Adventures of a Bear called Paddington



By Alfred Bradley &
Michael Bond

8th - 30th January 2011



Music by
Harvey Schmidt,
book and lyrics
by Tom Jones

15th January
-
19th February 2011

Subscriptions are available
www.genesiantheatre.com.au