

The Adventures of a Bear Called Paddington

By Alfred Bradley & Michael Bond

Genesian Theatre

8th - 30th January 2011



Act I - 50 mins

There will be an interval of 10 mins

Act II - 50 mins

About the Production

When I first read this play, it brought back some wonderful childhood memories of my all time favourite children's character. I fell in love with Paddington Bear all over again. While in a discussion with my 17 year old son he turned to me and to my horror said Paddington who? I was stunned - how could I possibly allow my son to get to his age without knowing who Paddington Bear was?

It was then I decided that the Theatre must bring this delightful character to life. Luckily the Board of the Genesians were very keen to explore childrens theatre. Although not our usual genre we were captivated by the set of adventures that Paddington engages in and decided to perform this play in the form of a pantomime.

With the assistance of Tom Massey, and a very talented team of actors and production crew, I am delighted to bring this stylised childrens play to the stage. Our rehearsal process has been one of exploration and we hope that you will enjoy the finish product as much as we enjoy bringing it to you.

Shane Bates



COURTNEY BAIN - Jennifer Courtney Bain has been acting since the age of six, with thirteen years of A.M.E.B. and A.S.C.A. training. She acted in several PLC productions: *Our Town*, *Women of Troy*, and *The Merchant of Venice*. Her 2007 HSC Performance *Take Me Out* earned her a place in ONSTAGE. Last year she performed in Epicentre's *Don Quixote*? This is her first Genesian production.

PAUL BARBARY - Mr Brown Paul has performed roles as varied as Macheath in *The Threepenny Opera*, *Macbeth*, *Othello* and Malvolio in *Twelfth Night*. His actor training includes The Drama Studio, London and NIDA. He has appeared for The Genesian Theatre in *Journey's End* and an Agatha Christie play. His childrens television appearances include a guest role on the ABCs *Mr Squiggle*.



SANDRA BASS - Mrs Bird Sandra Bass is a familiar face to Genesian audiences. Audiences may remember her performances as Miss Marple, Miss Jean Brodie, Nurse Carey in *Mad About Men*, Bridie in *Shoehorn Sonata*, and most recently as Lady Julia Merton in *Lord Arthur Savile's Crime*

PAUL CASHMAN - Mr Curry This is Paul's first time with Genesians. Recent appearances are as The Actor in *Woman in Black*, Doolittle in *Pygmalion* with Castle Hill Players. Pauls credits include Abenazer in *Alladin* with Chaplins (UK), Widow Twonky in *Dick Whittington* with Funtime (UK) and Daffodil in *Cinderella* with Jampac (Aust).



RACHEL COLEMAN - Mrs Brown Rachel Coleman is a trained actor and full time drama teacher. In 2007 she performed in Stoppard's *The Real Inspector Hound* at the Genesian Theatre, and in 2009 she appeared in *Ring Round the Moon*. She has also worked in the biobox operating lighting and sound.

HAL CONYNGHAM - Paddington Hal has appeared in a number of productions, including *Birth, Death, and Everything in Between* (TAP Gallery), *The Crucible* (New Theatre), *The Piper* (merelyplayers), *Pinocchio*, *The Pied Piper*, and *Beauty and the Beast* (all with Marian Street Theatre for Young People). She was born in Paddington, Sydney.





BROOKE DAVIDSON - Miss Block, Flo, Nurse This is Brooke's 3rd production with the Genesian. Brooke has been performing for over ten years, including *Our Town* – Epicentre, *All About Eve* – Guild, *Mad About Men* – Genesian, *The Underpants* – Henry Lawson, *Soulmates* – Hunters Hill, *I Hate Hamlet* – Pavilion and *Arsenic and Old Lace* – Campbelltown. Brooke hopes that you enjoy the show.

REBECCA LAMOND - Judy Rebecca has had a love of theatre and singing for most of her life and with 10 years of tuition, AMEB Certificate of Performance, and Bachelor of Singing Performance, it is her dream to make a career from her voice. Musical credits include *A Nasty Piece of Work*, *Cats!*, *Madame de*, and *Frank Christie*, *Frank Clarke!* She thanks her partner and family for their support.



ROWENA McNICOL - Narrator Rowena works as an early childhood teacher. Prior to that she lived and worked in the UK where she toured with Theatre In Education Companies. Roles have included Juliet in *Romeo and Juliet* as well as Helena in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Rowena is excited to be appearing for the first time with The Genesian Theatre Company.

AMY ROBERTS - Washing Machine 12 Amy has been a member of the Genesian Theatre for 4 years and is usually found operating the Lights and Sound. She has performed in numerous productions for other companies, with highlights including *Daisy Pulls it Off* and *Alice in Wonderland*. Amy will make her stage debut for the Genesian Theatre in *Paddington Bear*.



MICHAEL STERBAL - Trolley Man, Scrape, Sir Archibald Michael has been a member of the Genesian for 5 years, acting in *Shadowlands*, *The Hollow*, *The Real Inspector Hound* and *Hamlet*. Michael also enjoys operating the biobox and stage managing. Michael runs his own production company *Roaring Fish Productions*, making short films, building props, and recently creating puppets.

ROD STEWART - Mr Gruber This is Rod's fourth role at the Genesians. The others in: *By Jeeves*, *Lord Arthur Savile's Crime*, and *And Then There Were None*. He also writes musical plays and had *Rikky* workshopped in this theatre in August 2009. His latest *Devil May Care* will be workshopped here later this year.



PRODUCTION

Director
Assistant Director
Set Design
Costume Design
Lighting & Sound Design
Washing Machine Costumes
Set Construction
Choreography
Photography
Graphic Design
Acknowledgements

Shane Bates
Tom Massey
Catherine Lock
Susan Carveth
Michael Schell
Nicola Griggs, Lissa Knight, Susan Carveth
Members of the Company
Shane Bates and Members of the Company
Craig O'Regan
Tom Massey
Wendy Greenfield

MUSICIANS

Rehearsal Pianists
Musical Arrangement
Performance Pianist

Rachel Driessen, Hal Conyngham
Hal Conyngham
Adam Dobrzycki

CREW

Stage Manager
Assistant Stage Manager
Lighting & Sound Operation

Janina Olmos-New
Amy Roberts
Members of the Genesian Theatre

CAST

Jennifer, Washing Machine 11
Mr Brown
Mrs Bird
Mr Curry
Mrs Brown
Paddington
Miss Block, Flo, Nurse
Judy
Narrator
Washing Maching 12
Trolley Man, Scrape, Sir Archibald
Mr Gruber

Courtney Bain
Paul Barbary
Sandra Bass
Paul Cashman
Rachel Coleman
Hal Conyngham
Brooke Davidson
Rebecca Lamond
Rowena McNicol
Amy Roberts
Michael Sterbal
Rod Stewart

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 longest running musical in history!



Music by Harvey Schmidt

Book and Lyrics by Tom Jones

15th January - 19th February 2011

**Subscriptions are available
www.genesiantheatre.com.au**