

Agatha Christie's

THE MOUSETRAP

Genesian Theatre

1st September - 15th October 2011

Act 1 – Late Afternoon

Act 2 – The Following Afternoon

There will be an interval of 15 mins

Act 3 – Ten Minutes Later

Director's Notes

For many decades The Genesian Theatre has prided itself on its productions of the many Agatha Christie plays, something that gives so much pleasure to our loyal patrons. It was assumed The Mousetrap would never in our lifetimes be released for non-professional performance, so it was a lovely surprise when this opportunity suddenly appeared.

Christie shows her classical understanding in the structure of the play. The title comes from the play within the play of Hamlet, where the actors attempt to entrap the wrongdoers by revealing the crime within the script. In our play the policeman attempts to entrap the “wrongdoers” and hence force them to reveal themselves.

Perhaps less well known is the fact the play is based on a real life event, a case of child cruelty so shocking at the time that it led to a wholesale change of the rules related to fostering and to better investigation of suitability of foster parents. How these sorts of events lead to severe psychological problems later in life is something most of us are very aware of.

It's fair to say the fame of this play relates mostly to its inaccessibility, playing in one theatre in London since 1953, but aficionados of Agatha Christie will recognise all the elements. Isolation, suspicious characters, darkness and red herrings will be very familiar. Enjoy but don't tell anyone the ending!

Barry Nielsen



Elizabeth Gibney graduated in drama from QUT in 2007. In Sydney she has appeared in Short & Sweet, Elective's *Hybrid Dreams* at Pact and for ATYP, *The Laramie Project* and *Rio Saki and Other Falling Debris*. There she also was AD for *Ishmael* and *The Return of the Dugongs*. This is Liz's first project with the Genesians and she is just loving the experience and the fabulous cast.



Michael Dowling is a native of Brisbane (aka Brisneyland), and has performed in several musical productions including *Avenue Q* (Brian), *Chicago* (Amos "Mr Cellophane" Hart), *Hairspray* (Wilbur Turnblad) and *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* (Lawrence Jameson). This is his second production with the Genesians, after *The Fantasticks* as Mortimer. "For My Wife, Tiffany".



Alexander Frank hails from Perth and has been involved in various independent films and theatre productions since the age of 13. He has moved to Sydney to pursue his acting career and is thrilled to be involved in one of the first ever productions of this play outside London.



Shane Bates has had a long love affair with the theatre since 1987. Joining the Genesians in 1996, Shane first trod its boards as Lady Catherine de Burgh in *I Have Five Daughters*. Since then she has acted in over 30 productions including Moxie in *Relative Values*, Lady Angkatell in *The Hollow* and Dotty in *Noises Off*. In recent times Shane has turned her hand to directing, her latest being *The Adventures of a Bear Called Paddington* earlier this year. In her spare time she and her husband of 20 years try to rear their 18 years old son.



Noel Camilleri became interested in theatre at an early age after seeing his grandfather in many plays. After finishing his Business studies he undertook *The Core* at the Actor's College for Theatre and Television. Shortly afterwards he joined the Genesians and appeared in *Rope*, *Verdict*, *Miranda* and *Devil May Care*. His ambition is to dramatise a number of *Jeeves and Wooster* short stories for this theatre.

Dani Gross has been involved in acting and performance since she was a teenager and became involved with the National Youth Theatre (UK) and then theatre studies at university. Highlights are *A Midsummer Nights' Dream*, a 24-hour playathon and her very near failed attempt as MC in *Oh! What a Lovely War*, it involved singing! She has spent the last 18 months travelling the world to find herself, in vain, getting a tan and deciding to settle in Sydney. She is enjoying this first experience at the Genesians and her long-term goal at the moment is to be able to stay in Australia as a resident.



Cheyne Fynn graduated from the Australian Academy of Dramatic Arts in 2007. Since then he has been involved in several short films, commercials and theatre productions, most recently the Bakehouse production of *The History Boys*. This is his first production at the Genesian Theatre and he is enjoying the experience.



Sebastian Wang has been banged-up abroad in Singapore, New York and various other international petri dishes of debauchery. After 13 years of scouring the globe he has finally returned to Oz and is “planning” to get serious and give up his life of thought-crime. He most recently appeared in Roger Gimblett’s *Tant Pis*. He is giving serious thought to that surname. McWang? FitzWang?



Barry Nielsen (Director) decided to go into directing because no one would give him an acting gig. He translated and directed Lorca’s Spanish classics, *Blood Wedding* and *The House of Bernarda Alba* for the Genesians. Actually, he does get acting gigs and has appeared in various TV commercials and his stage highlights include *Speaking in Tongues*, *Noises Off* and the triple gendered role in *Sylvia*.



Laura Genders (Assistant Director) has been involved in community theatre since the age of 3 when she debuted as a Gingerbread man in *Hansel and Gretel*. *The Mousetrap* marks Laura's first production with the Genesians. She is thrilled to be involved with such a high profile play and remarkable cast.



Cast

(in order of appearance)

Radio Announcer.....Jordan Watt
Mollie Ralston.....Elizabeth Gibney
Giles Ralston.....Michael Dowling
Chris Wren.....Alexander Frank
Mrs Boyle.....Shane Bates
Major Metcalf.....Noel Camilleri
Miss Casewell.....Dani Gross
Mr Paravicini.....Cheyne Fynn
Det Sgt Trotter.....Sebastian Wang

Crew

Stage Managers.....Janina Olmos-New
Laura Genders

Bio Box operators.....Wendy Greenfield
Rivka Morley

Technical Crew

Director.....Barry Nielsen
Assistant Director.....Laura Genders
Set Design.....Owen Gimblett
Lighting Design.....Tim Carter
Sound Design.....Michael Schell
Construction Supervision.....Roger Gimblett
Grant Fraser
Costume Design.....Nicola Griggs
Susan Carveth
Programmes and Posters.....Tom Massey
Ross Oblea
Photography.....8th&Goes Fotografia

Special thanks to Tim Carter, Mark Banks,
Rivka Morley, Debbie Smith and the Cast

About the Genesian Theatre

Born in 1944 and named for St Genesius, Patron Saint of Actors, The Genesian Theatre Company has developed into a strong community-based organisation that boasts among its alumni numerous household names in Australian theatre.

The Company is a non-professional group operating from an historic church in Kent Street. While still retaining links with our origins, the Catholic Church, we do not shy away from meeting the challenges of plays that comment on the human condition.

The building which houses the Company was originally St John's Church, and dates from 1868. It has served as a church, a poor school, and was the first Matthew Talbot Hostel. Since 1954 it has been the home of The Genesian Theatre Company.

Over the years The Genesian Theatre Company has become a community theatre 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 six main stage productions each year we run classes, workshops and many other activities.

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...

An Ideal Husband



Subscriptions are available
www.genesiantheatre.com.au