

A high-contrast, black and white photograph showing the profiles of a man and a woman facing each other. The man is on the left, and the woman is on the right. Their faces are in deep shadow, with only the highlights of their noses, lips, and hair catching the light. The background is a stark, bright white, creating a dramatic and intimate atmosphere.

Love From A Stranger

By Agatha Christie
Adapted by Frank Vosper

An Amateur Production By Arrangement With ORiGiN™ Theatrical
On Behalf Of Samuel French, A Concord Theatricals Company

Director's Note

Welcome to *Love From a Stranger*!

The tale of a young bride ensnared by obsession and love has passed down through the generations - from Ovid in Ancient Greece to T.S. Eliot, onwards to Agatha Christie, and finally to us at the Genesian Theatre here in Sydney.

The cast and crew have collaborated closely to bring this story to life. We are fortunate to perform this play on the land of the Gadigal people of the Eora nation and I appreciate the warmth and support I've received from the community at the Genesian Theatre for my directorial debut.

We invite you to explore this tale of obsession with us by delving into the world of darkness and light. A duality that has defined most of our lives in the past three years. The dark days of the pandemic gave us a moment to reflect. Tonight we offer you a moment to indulge as we join Bruce and Cecily in their whirlwind romance.

I leave you with an excerpt from *The Wasteland* - should you find a moment to catch your breath!

I hope you enjoy the show!

Director
Tui Clark

Above the antique mantel was displayed
As though a window gave upon the sylvan scene
The change of Philomel, by the barbarous king
So rudely forced; yet there the nightingale
Filled all the desert with inviolable voice
And still she cried, and still the world pursues,
"Jug Jug" to dirty ears.

T.S. Eliot

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.

Frank Vosper (1899 - 1937) was an English actor who appeared in both stage and film roles and a dramatist, playwright, and screenwriter. He made his stage debut in 1919 and was best known for playing urbane villains. In 1936 he appeared in his own play *Love From a Stranger*, adapted from the short story *Philomel Cottage* by Agatha Christie.

TUI CLARK - Director Tui Clark is a director by day and an astrophysicist by night. She is a deep explorer of human emotion and relationships. Clark's style is often conceptual and avant-garde, while still keeping a foot within reality. This is her directorial debut at the Genesian Theatre.

HANNAH DUNWELL - Assistant Director Hannah is a long-time member of the Genesian, and a graduate of the University of Sydney, with a master of creative writing. She has stage managed a number of productions for the company including *The Three Musketeers*, *Travelling North*, *A Room With A View*, *Persuasion*, *William Shakespeare's Long Lost First Play*, and *Lady Windermere's Fan*. She served as Production Manager for *A Passage to India*, and is thrilled to be beginning to move toward her ultimate goal of directing her own shows one day.

KRISTINA INGEGNERI - Assistant Director Kristina studied Communication Design at James Cook University, Directing at NIDA and is a multi-discipline creative who works across film, painting, graphic design, photography, and writing. Kristina has written, directed, and toured two national roadshows, directed Short + Sweet productions *Code* (2021) and *Inhuman Nature* (People's Choice Finalist 2019), directed music videos for local Sydney artists, directed short animation and film and produced an extensive suite of corporate video content for the 6th most valuable global brand.

TOM BANNERMAN - Set Design Tom Bannerman is a Sydney-based set-designer whose body-of-work covers half a century. His most recent design for Genesian Theatre was *Sherlock Holmes & the Death on Thor Bridge*, which must claim the all-time record for the longest-standing set in this theatre's long history, thanks to the pandemic's interruption of its sold-out season. Other recent works include: *Eight Gigabytes of Hardcore Pornography* and *Mark Colvin's Kidney* (Drill Hall, Mullumbimby), *Chimerica* and *Glengarry Glen Ross* (New Theatre). This is his 282nd set-design.

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).

MICHAEL SCHELL - Lighting and Sound Design Michael has designed sound and lighting for well over 300 productions ranging from children's plays - *Robin Hood Clemben* [Australian Tour] to Opera - *Tales of Hoffmann* [Chatswood Musical Society] and nearly every form of theatre in between. He has worked with many major companies in Australia including Nimrod (*Upside Down At The Bottom Of The World*), Sydney Theatre Company (*Revenger's Tragedy*) and the Q Theatre (*You Can't Take it With You*). Recent productions include *Peer Gynt* (Endangered Productions) and *Chimerica* (New Theatre). Michael has been a member of the Genesian Theatre since 1973 and has designed the lighting and sound for over 160 of our productions including *Richard III*, *A Room With a View*, *Deathtrap*, *A Passage to India*, and *Lady Windermere's Fan*.



EMILIA KRIKETOS - Cecily Emilia holds a Bachelor of Arts (Music Theatre) from Federation University. Prior to this, she studied a Diploma of Musical Theatre at Brent Street. Her recent performance credits include: *Pygmalion* (New Theatre), *Hercule Poirot's First Case* (Genesian Theatre), and *My Family and Other Animals* (Genesian Theatre). Emilia co-choreographed and performed in the absurdist play *Undetermined Title* for Kings Cross Theatre's 2022 Panimo Pandemonium Festival. Emilia is excited to be performing in Genesian Theatre's opening production of their 2023 season.

SAM WALTER - Bruce Sam Walter is well known at the Genesian Theatre. He is a versatile actor who enjoys the challenge of finding truth in complex characters. His transformative abilities are notable in his roles as Lord Darlington (*Lady Windermere's Fan*) and Tom Ripley (*Switzerland*). This is his first lead role at the Genesian Theatre.



CHARLOTTE LAUNAY - Aunt Lou, Dr Gribble Charlotte Launay is a French primary teacher fond of theater. A graduate of the French Lyon acting school, she has been involved in local theater companies everywhere she has lived. Thus she performed with Le théâtre à la Derive in Mexico City, with the Korean Art Sans Frontiere company at the Seoul National Theater and co founded in Seoul the Korean Art and Theater International Company (www.kitac.co). Member of the Genesian company in Sydney, she loves committing herself in educative theater projects as an actress, a director or an operator with both adults and children.

KIMBERLEA SMITH - Mavis Kimberlea is thrilled to be making her debut with Genesian Theatre, having performed with community theatre groups across Sydney since 2013. She most recently appeared as Harriet Smith in *Emma*. Other credits include Cecily Farr in *84 Charing Cross Road*, Rose Gwynn in *Nell Gwynn* (nominated – Best Supporting Actress in a Play, Broadway World Theatre Awards 2020), Mary Bennet in *Pride and Prejudice*, Julia Bertram in *Mansfield Park*, Lucy Steele in *Sense and Sensibility*, and Celia in *As You Like It*.





MATT DOHERTY - Nigel Matthew has performed in a variety of theatre shows around the Sydney area. Some of Matthew's previous roles include: Demetrius and Bottom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Kenneth Tynan in *Orson's Shadow*, Sebastian in *The Tempest*, Antiochus and Lysimachus in *Pericles Prince of Tyre*, Mercutio in *Romeo and Juliet*, Graham in *Third World Blues*, Parkes in *Caravan* as well as a variety of characters in *Cloud Street*. Matthew is very excited to be a part of this fresh take on an Agatha

Christie classic.

CLAIRE JI EUN YI - Ethel Claire is excited to be part of Agatha Christie's *Love From a Stranger*. Claire performed as a young woman on death row and a severely autistic child in *Caress / Ache* by Susie Miller. She was also the main supporting character and a delusional patient in *Code Name: Angel Star* by D.M. Cameron at Innerwest Drama. Claire has pursued acting through multiple places including classes with Jo Briant and Meisner method with Richard Muller from L.A. Playhouse West. Claire's ultimate goal to become a strong role model for girls through stage and screen.



ROD STEWART - Hodgson This is Rod's 15th play for the Genesian; his last being *Lady Windermere's Fan* in 2022. He has also appeared in 11 plays for the Lane Cove Theatre Company; the last as Yurtle the Turtle in *Seussical Jnr*, in 2018. Rod has written 6 musicals. *Devil May Care* and *Vicki* have been workshopped by this theatre.

Production

Director

Tui Clark

Assistant Director

Hannah Dunwell, Kristina Ingegneri

Set Design

Tom Bannerman

Costume Design

Susan Carveth

Lighting and Sound Design

Michael Schell

Choreographer

Ali Bendall

Production Manager

Helen Kohlhagen

Set Construction

**Grant Fraser, Paul Gilbert, Peter Curtis,
and Members of the Company**

Properties

Emily Saint-Smith, Kristina Ingegneri

Upholstery

Sandra Bass

General Assistants

David Bond, Shane Mackney

Photography

Craig O'Regan

Graphic Design

Tom Massey

Ticketing

Tom Massey

Transport

Barry Nielsen

Crew

Stage Manager

Hannah Dunwell, Stephen Keosseian

Lighting and Sound Operation

**Cian Byrne, Chris Dunwell, Paul Adderley,
Paul Uhrig**

Cast

Cecily

Emilia Kriketos

Bruce

Sam Walter

Aunt Lou, Dr Gribble

Charlotte Launay

Mavis

Kimberlea Smith

Nigel

Matt Doherty

Ethel

Claire Ji Eun Yi

Hodgson

Rod Stewart

About the Genesian Theatre

The Genesian Theatre Company celebrates our 79th year as a company in 2023! For 69 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, and pay our respects to their Elders past and present.

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.

**See our website and social media
to find out what's coming next!**

