

Sunnybank Theatre Group
in association with The Agency, Holland Park, London
presents

Keeping Up Appearances

by ROY CLARKE

directed by Nathaniel Young



July 14 - July 29

The old adage "Dying is easy, comedy is hard," seems fitting to this situation, especially since my last directorial effort involved a dying character. I think this is partly due to the cruciality of comedic timing and partly due to humour being highly subjective. What one person finds hilarious, someone else finds groanworthy and vice versa. There've been many times throughout this process I've wondered are people going to find this funny? Luckily, I'm working with a solid script which has something for everyone: a bit of wordplay, a bit of innuendo, puns, misunderstandings plus visual and physical humour. *Keeping Up Appearances* blends the characters we know and love from the tv show with a few modern twists and new faces, which has been a lot of fun to play with.

Obviously, even the best scripts are no good if you don't have the right cast to bring it to life. Fortunately, I have found a tremendously talented and delightfully dedicated cast and crew, who've all gotten on board from day one. As is often necessary in local theatre, they've all pitched in with costuming, finding props and set building, in addition to all their characterisation and line-learning, so a HUGE thank you to everybody involved. A special thankyou to my stage manager, Dierdre, as well as Paul and the STG community for this fantastic opportunity. Last, but by no means least, thank YOU, the audience for your ongoing support of this little theatre of ours!

So sit back, enjoy the show, and remember: "It's pronounced BOO-KAY!"



Director : Nathaniel Young

(All together now...)

Chances are you've seen Nathaniel on stage in a number of productions with Sunnybank Theatre Group since 2014: *Relatively Speaking*, *Key for Two* and *Third Week in August* to name a few. A graduate of USQ's Bachelor of Creative Arts degree, Nathaniel has written, produced and performed in shows as part of the Brisbane Anywhere Festival, including *Arrivederci* and *Adamo Mortem*. (Very good!)

"Nate," as he is colloquially known, has also appeared in *Dad's Army*, *Dangerous Corner*, and *A Little Murder Never Hurt Anyone* with Centenary Theatre Group. Earlier this year, he debuted with Nash Theatre in a radio play adaptation of *The Philadelphia Story*. After masterminding *Beyond Reasonable Doubt* at STG in 2016, he is honoured (and a mite bewildered) to be back in the director's chair for *Keeping Up Appearances* and hopes you enjoy the show!



Hyacinth : Joanne Oliver

Joanne is thrilled to be performing once again at Sunnybank Theatre. After previously portraying Mrs Slocombe in *Are you being Served* and Edith in *'Allo 'Allo* – she is very excited for the challenge of Mrs Hyacinth Bucket.

Some of her previous show are *The Odd Couple* (female version), *When the Cat's Away*, *Crèche and Burn* and *The Importance of Being Earnest* to name a few.

It is always a challenge to play a character that is known and loved by many – retaining parts of the original while making the character your own. So Joanne is hoping that her “Mrs Bouquet” offers you just as much enjoyment and pleasure. *Keeping up Appearances* has been such a joy to be in, with a wonderful cast and a fabulous director.

Joanne hopes that you enjoy the show as much as she has in performing in it.

p.s Your invitation to a “candlelight supper” is in the mail.



Emmet : Gary Kliger

It's a trifecta for Gary at STG this year! Going from Neville Winthrop in *Third Week in August*, on to Juror 4 in *12 Angry Men*, then to the nearly hysterical, in all senses of that word, Emmet in *Keeping Up Appearances*, trying desperately and failing miserably to get “that Bucket woman” out of his way and out of his play. Gary has found Emmet to be a joy to play. It's back to the broad comedy that he loves and he hopes that our audiences will too, regardless of whether you are well acquainted with the TV show upon which this is based. Gary has been involved in both straight dramatic theatre as well as musical theatre in Brisbane and earlier in Sydney and Melbourne. His favourite role is always the one he's currently playing or rehearsing, but he also remembers with great

fondness his other appearances here, in productions as diverse as *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, where he played Senex, and *Trap for a Lonely Man*, where he played the tramp. It's an all out battle between he and Hyacinth which he's never going to win, so sit back and enjoy!



Daisy : **Debe Dewey**

Having been on the other side of the stage recently, Debe thought it time to enjoy being back ON Stage which is her first passion. She considers herself very lucky to land the part of Daisy in this very funny show.

With a long history in community theatre, most of her theatre experience has been in NZ and Debe is thrilled to be working here in Brisbane with STG. Having recently directed *Third Week in August* for STG, she is pleased to be working alongside talented former cast members Gary, Joanne and Helen. Having swapped roles with Nate she's having a lot of fun, and hopes you will enjoy the show.



Onslow : **Brad Oliver**

Brad became involved in Brisbane live theatre only a couple of years ago. In 2015 he appeared in Sunnybank Theatre's production of *Are You Being Served* in 2 roles...a Scottish customer and a Spanish Revolutionary. Last year he also performed in a one act play - *Post Its* also at Sunnybank. Late 2016 saw him in Centenary Theatre's production of *A Little Murder Never Hurt Anybody* as the bumbling, wise cracking Detective Plotnik. His most recent role was as the Jury Foreman in Sunnybank's production of *12 Angry Men*. Brad runs a financial services business by day and is an avid golfer on weekends.



Liz : Helen Ekundayo

Helen began dancing at the age of 5, and moved into acting as a teenager. She has performed in various musical productions with groups such as *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* with the Ignations and *Singing in the Rain* with Ocean Theatre Company. In more recent years she has performed in *Five Women Wearing the Same Dress* and *Rough Crossing* with Villanova Players and *King Lear* with HeartBeast.

This is Helen's second venture with Sunnybank Theatre Group, having so enjoyed playing Sue in *Third Week in August* earlier this year that she decided to continue the fun dodging the Bucket woman in *Keeping Up Appearances*.



Rose : Hannah Davies

Keeping Up Appearances marks Hannah's return to Sunnybank - and what a way to make a comeback. She is delighted to be playing Rose in this iconic comedy and hopes she can successfully unlock her inner 'man eater'.

Hannah was last seen on stage at Beenleigh in February, playing Donna-Marie in the musical *Blood Brothers*. She previously appeared as the "charming halfwit" Peg, in *Dusty -The Original Pop Diva* at Sunnybank in November 2015.

Performing is definitely in her blood. As well as being related to Sir Cliff Richard, Hannah is also an entertainment journalist. When she's not writing about entertainment she's creating it.



Milly : **Tanaka Utete**

Tanaka was recently a part of Shakespeare Globe Centre New Zealand's Young Shakespeare Company 2014, a youth company which performed an adaptation of Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* on Shakespeare's Globe stage in London. He has played the lead, Tevye, in a high school production of *Fiddler on the Roof* and minor character roles in a production of *The Great Gatsby*.

Tanaka achieved his ATCL Diploma with distinction in Speech and Drama Performance in 2014 and is on the path to completing the teaching aspect of this qualification.

Tanaka is also musically inclined, composing his own music ranging from folk to hip hop.



Mrs Debdon : **Doon-Louise Loosemore**

Doon-Louise is embracing being back on the scene after a long hiatus from acting and looking forward to her third role in the last twelve months as Mrs Debdon, in *Keeping Up Appearances*. Doon-Louise's more recent stage appearances have been as the court clerk in *Beyond Reasonable Doubt* and Mrs Fraser, the eccentric piano player in *Stepping Out* at St Luke's.

Growing up on the North coast of NSW in a large musical family, Doon-Louise was classically trained on both piano and clarinet and is delighted to be able to continue her love of music and creative expression with her latest role at Sunnybank Theatre.



Daddy : Ian Daniels

Ian burst onto the stage of life in the 1950's and has surprised and startled crowds since that time. He has spent time enhancing over 50 workplaces and another 50 NFPs while also flitting through over 50 residences and travelling to over 50 countries. All this and more well qualifies him to be a "Daddy" through which role he will make his sensibly and carefully managed debut appearance on stage. There is little doubt that with the confidence he will gain in this role, he will leap up onto another stage soon. Be warned!

The Crew

Stage Manager

Dierdre Robinson

Set Construction

Kelvin Davies

Yi Junyuan

Costumes

The Cast

Props

Joanne Oliver and The Cast

Wig Wrangler

Lauren Oliver

Lighting/Sound

Chris O'Leary

Paul Marshall

Allan Hare

Joanne Sephton

Paige Williams

Steve Tonks

Yi Junyuan

Photography/Media

Kayleen Zoethout

Program

Chris O'Leary

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Sex Scenes

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