

SUNNYBANK THEATRE GROUP PRESENTS
in association with Origin Theatrical

HOLMES AND THE RIPPER

by Brian Clemens



Directed by
Loretta Donnelly

March/April 2014

SETTING THE SCENE

In a dark East End alleyway a prostitute has been found brutally murdered. Why has Sherlock Holmes been warned off the case? Who is the mysterious visitor and what is his connection to the murders? With the aid of his friend Dr Watson and the clairvoyant Kate Mead, Holmes sets out to find the killer and the answers to these questions. More girls die and with near hysteria and the threat of riots in the street the trail leads to conspiracy and corruption. The famous detective faces his deadliest adversary in this blend of fact and fiction.

From the Director

There have been many theories about the identity of the serial murderer, or murderers, Jack the Ripper. Over the decades writers have presented several suspects with seemingly credible evidence as to their motives and possible psychoses. Subsequent writers give their own proof to refute these theories. This play is based on the ideas presented by Stephen Knight in his book "Jack the Ripper: The Final Solution".

Brian Clemens takes us on a journey in a fast moving dramatisation with a mixture of drama, humour and fear. With a long and illustrious career in television writing, best known for *The Avengers*, Clemens has cleverly taken the known historical facts from the Ripper's infamous reign of terror in Victorian London, and woven a Sherlock Holmes adventure with them. What the truth is we will probably never know but we're not letting it get in the way of this good story. We hope you will enjoy it as much as we have enjoyed bringing it to you.

We have been blessed with a talented cast, most of them new to STG, and I thank them for their hard work and dedication. I also want to thank the committee for giving me the opportunity to direct this play. I have also had wonderful support and help from Production Manager Colin Robinson, Veronica Witham and Deirdre Robinson. Thanks also to Linda for the costuming and all those involved with sound, lighting and set building and painting.

Loretta Donnelly

THE SCENE

The action takes place in Mr. Holmes' Baker Street rooms and in various other places in and around London in the year 1888 during the reign of Queen Victoria.



CAST (in order of appearance)

Howard Jones	Sir William Gull
Daniel Sheehy	Lamp Lighter, Potter, News Seller
Ellie Gale	Catherine Eddowes, Streetwalker Elizabeth, Asylum Inmate
Nathaniel Young	Netley
Denis Fadil	Sherlock Holmes
Alvin McDougall	Young Man, Policeman, Asylum Inmate
Katie Thomas	Young Woman, Annie Crooks
Doug Mawson	Anderson
Sara Mehmet	Kate Mead
Troy Granzien	Dr Watson
Scott West	The Stranger, Blind Beggar, Asylum Inmate
Linda Stevenson	Mrs Hudson
Harold Littler	Saunders, Asylum Inmate, Lord Salisbury
Ian Stevenson	Bradbury
Victoria Evans	Mary Kelly, Streetwalker Maisie, Asylum Inmate
Linda Hammond	Asylum Inmate

BEHIND THE SCENES

Director	Loretta Donnelly
Assistant Director	Veronica Witham
Production Manager	Colin Robinson
Stage Manager	Dierdre Robinson
Lighting Design	David Gemmell, Brad Wyeth
Sound Design	Loretta Donnelly, Brenda Hayes, Brad Wyeth
Lighting and Sound	Brad Wyeth, Joanne Sephton
Set Design	Mark Westby, Chris O'Leary
Set Construction & Scenic	Mark Westby, Chris O'Leary
Costume Design	Linda Hammond
Properties	Loretta Donnelly, Dierdre Robinson
Sword Design & Makers	Michael Baldwin (Beenleigh Theatre)
Stage Crew	Colin Robinson and cast
Program	Chris Guyler, Chris O'Leary
Photography	Kayleen Gibson

Director – Loretta Donnelly

Loretta has been working in theatre, both backstage and onstage, in New Zealand, overseas and Brisbane for several years. Her first role, at the age of 5, was 'The Sparrow' who killed *Cock Robin*. Among other places she has studied acting and theatre history at the Auckland Youth Theatre, the Christchurch Academy and the University of Canterbury. She has played a wide variety of roles including a 'Hot Box Girl' in *Guys and Dolls* with the Far Rockaway Theatre, 'Peace' in *Same Old Moon* with the Christchurch Repertory Theatre and one of several Ophelias in *Hamletmachine* at the University Theatre in Christchurch. Since joining STG several years ago, Loretta has been involved in many productions as Stage Manager, Assistant Stage Manager and our Props Coordinator for several productions, and we've seen her performing in some of the productions. She was also our Assistant Director for *Silhouette* back in 2009 and has since directed three successful one act plays. Her most recent performance was playing 'Frau Schmidt' in *The Sound of Music* last year.



Sir William Gull – Howard Jones

Having moved with his family from the UK in 2009, Howard began re-visiting his passion for acting. His main projects have been short films and music videos, but he has had experience on feature films and TV extras work. This is his second play since the move and he is looking forward to ‘getting his teeth into’ some drama work after doing comedy first time around.



Lamplighter/Potter/News Seller – Daniel Sheehy

A relative newcomer to the community theatre, Daniel has been involved in several productions at STG. Most recently he enjoyed playing the Judge as part of the well received Sunnybank production of *A Few Good Men*. Moving forward to *Holmes and the Ripper*, Daniel is relishing the opportunity to develop new skills, and of course enjoying the camaraderie and friendships that each new production brings.



Catherine Eddowes/Streetwalker Elizabeth/Asylum Inmate – Ellie Gale

Ellie’s passion for theatre started in primary school then at High School she joined Kids n Co talent, gaining a Diploma in Speech and Drama. She was awarded Best Supporting Actor at a Beenleigh Eisteddfod and has performed in America at Disneyland. Recently she’s been in a several productions, and currently working towards a Diploma in Musical Theatre through Trinity College London. She’s looking forward to her STG debut. In her spare time Ellie enjoys drinking tea and reading copious amounts of fan fiction.



Netley – Nathaniel Young

Brisbane born, Nathaniel has always enjoyed performing for his friends and family. With Drama and Film & Television being his favourite subjects, he studied for a Bachelor of Creative Arts at the University of South Queensland in 2010. He honed his skills as an actor and writer and has been involved in several productions including *Bye-Bye Birdie*, *Captain Pathos and his Army of Imaginary Friends*, *AllSortz* and *Richard III* to name but a few. Nathaniel is particularly excited to be cast in *Holmes and the Ripper* combining his three great loves of acting, Victorian clothing and British accents.



Sherlock Holmes – Dennis Fadil

As Shakespeare said “All the world is a stage” - Dennis is relatively new to acting; and having played the role of ‘Dennis’ since birth, he was ready for other parts by the age of 45! His first role, as Shylock in *The Merchant Of Venice* was followed by other great roles, Major Bolton in *Breaker Morant* and Steve Hubbell in *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Before this ‘acting bug’ his only previous performance experiences was as a musician. Dennis is delighted to have been cast as Sherlock Holmes, and is very much looking forward to the role.



Young Man, Policeman, Inmate – Alvin McDougall

This is the third time we’ve seen Alvin appearing on our Sunnybank stage with the most recent superb performance As ‘PFC Louden Downey’ in *A Few Good Men* last year, and the year before that we saw him in *Band Waggon!* He was also cast in the comedy *Seasons Greetings* with St. Luke’s Theatre Society, and is excited to get back on our stage in this popular play, *Holmes and the Ripper* and work with such a great cast and director.



Young Woman / Annie Crooks – Katie Thomas

Ever since Katie was young girl growing up with 5 brothers, being a ‘drama queen’ came naturally to her. During high school she did drama as a subject every year. She was also in the school productions *The Little Mermaid*, *VIII*, *Bugsy Malone* and *The Tempest*. Katie is doing a full time course at Southbank Institute of Technology to receive a Diploma of Arts (Acting). *Holmes and The Ripper* will be Katie’s first out of school production and she is excited to be accepted into such a fantastic theatre community. Some of Katie’s hobbies include reading, making a fool of herself and fangirling.



Anderson – Doug Mawson

Doug’s involvement in community theatre spanned several years, starting in childrens' theatre and high school productions in England. He continued in New Zealand and Australia, and has played several roles in a number of previous productions for STG, the most recent being a comedy role, the befuddled old man ‘Erronious’ in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. However, his most recent role was playing the ‘auctioneer’ in Savoyards production of *The Phantom of the Opera*. Doug is a retired high school teacher of Biology & Science, and recently graduated from the Queensland College of Art specialising in oil painting.



Kate Mead – Sarah Mehmet

Sarah was active in theatre during the '80s, playing many lead roles and winning several awards, including 'Anne', in *Anne of Green Gables* and Beauty in *Beauty and the Beast*. Then with work, study, marriage and a steady succession of babies she waited another 23 years to tread the boards again and now joins us to play 'Kate' after all that time. She also enjoys singing and hopes to do musical theatre in the near future. Sarah is a study support worker for the disabled but feels that her greatest role is as mother of three great kids and she particularly enjoys facilitating their interests in music and the performing arts.



Dr. Watson – Troy Granzien

Troy has been performing since he was 5 years old and from this early age, participated in variety concerts in his home town of Toogoolawah. Later he played such roles as Dracula in *Bats* and Conrad Birdie in *Bye Bye Birdie*. Troy made his debut with STG in *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* playing the role of Melvin P. Thorpe. Since then performing in a number of variety concerts and a Brisbane Broncos add campaign, you may have seen him on the back of a bus.



The Stranger (Prince Eddy) – Scott West

Scott is a keen young 16 year old who has been involved in three productions with different companies around Brisbane. Scott, born in Perth, is a singer as well as an actor and has also played baseball for Australia. He wants to take his acting to a whole new level and has a deep desire to use his God given talents to achieve his greatest wish to have the ability to make people smile.



Mrs. Hudson – Linda Stevenson

Linda was only four playing her first principal role in Sydney, as the fairy queen at pre-school. Her love of theatre, both as performer and audience, has never wavered. She moved to Brisbane's bayside and over the last seven years she has played singing and acting roles with Phoenix Ensemble, BTG and Savoyards, as well as employing her millinery skills for various productions and working 'front of house'. This is her first role with STG. Away from the theatre, Linda enjoys creative writing, travel, being in and around water, and making jewellery, hats and other wearable art.



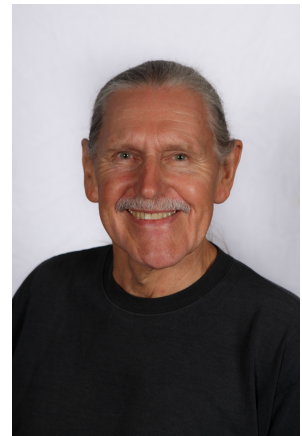
Saunders / Asylum Inmate / Lord Salisbury – Harold Littler

Harold joins us for the first time, but is no novice to theatre having numerous performances to his credit around Brisbane theatres in plays, musicals and theatre restaurants. He was nominated as Best Supporting Actor in his role as Henry in the Mates Theatre production of *COSI*. He's appeared in 11 of Savoyards Musical productions playing character roles including Doc in *West Side Story*, R.F. Simpson in *Singin' in the Rain*, and Elisha Whitney in *Anything Goes* to name but a few and even appeared on stage with Michael Jackson in his 1996 *History World Tour* at QE II Stadium. Harold is a solicitor and is also a lecturer at QUT.



Bradbury – Ian Stevenson

From an early age, Ian has been passionate about live performance, usually as audience but, when opportunity and time allow, as participant. Experiencing theatre from both sides of the curtain is truly satisfying. He has sung and still sings with a number of choirs in South East Queensland. In the past seven years, he has been cast in *South Pacific*, *Buddy* and *Twelve Angry Men* (Phoenix Ensemble), *42nd Street* (Savoyards) and *Pirates of Penzance* (Beenleigh Theatre Group). This is his first performance with Sunnybank Theatre Group. Another major passion of Ian's is travel which has afforded him some wonderful and sometimes quite unexpected theatrical treats across the world.



Mary Kelly / Streetwalker Maisie, and Asylum Inmate – Victoria Evans

As a teenager Victoria had her first taste of stage performing in a small show called *Bugsy Malone* in New Zealand. Despite her part being that of a character with no lines, Victoria recalled the experience as exhilarating and for the last 18 years has had the desire to once again be a part of a stage production. As a Legal Secretary and mother of one, Victoria welcomes the exciting change of scenery and the talent to which she is now being exposed. With thanks and appreciation to the cast and crew for the experience and a very large thank you to her husband Daniel for his support.



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In association with ORiGiN Theatrical

EDUCATING RITA

BY WILLY RUSSELL



Directed by Dierdre Robinson

Box Office Opens 3 May

Season from 30 May – 14 June

2014

PERFORMANCE CALENDAR

gilbert & sullivan's

The **MIKADO**

evening performances
begin at 7:30pm

in association with
David Roper Productions

director **Ashley Worsman**
musical director **Carleen Steele**

Feb 7 - 22

box office opens Jan 11

Holmes & the Ripper

a thriller by Brian Clemens

directors **Loretta Donnelly**
& **Veronica Witham**

in association with
CRON Theatrical

Mar 28 - Apr 12

box office opens Mar 1

Educating Rita

by **Willy Russell**

in association with
CRON Theatrical

director **Dierdre Robinson**

May 30 - Jun 14

box office opens May 3

DEATHTRAP

in association with
CRON Theatrical

a thriller by **Ira Levin**

director **Pam Cooper**

Jul 25 - Aug 9

box office opens Jun 28

'Allo 'Allo

by **Jeremy Lloyd & David Croft**

in association with
CRON Theatrical

director **Anne Ross**

Sep 19 - Oct 4

box office opens Aug 23

Guys & Dolls

a New York musical love story

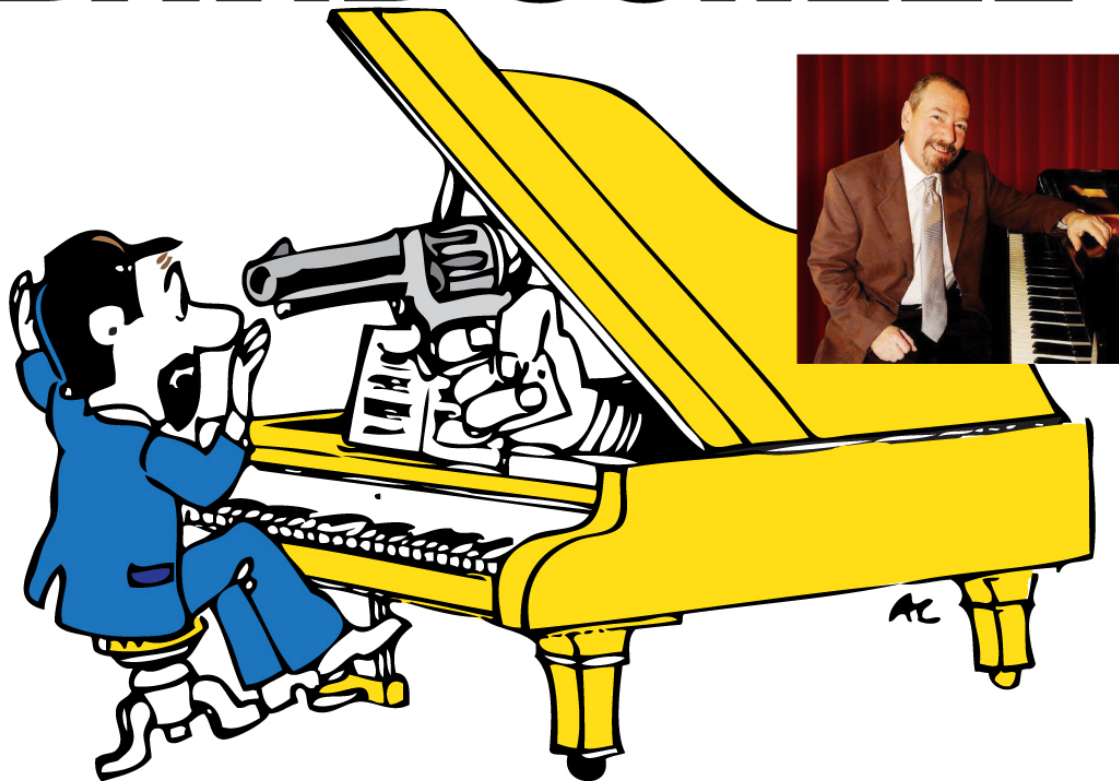
director **John Mordacz**

Nov 14 - 29

box office opens Oct 18

sunnybank theatre group presents

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AUGUST 17, 2pm

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\$35 including supper / afternoon tea