

Sunnybank Theatre Group presents
in association with ORIGIN Theatrical

Shirley Valentine

by Willy Russell

Directed by Dierdre Robinson



November 22 – December 7, 2019

Many of us have been amazed at the concept of an ordinary woman, falling in love, and running away to a Greek island. How exciting! How romantic! How daring! But that is not what Shirley Valentine is really all about. We were treated to seeing Shirley, played by the delightful Pauline Collins, on the big screen in 1989 and since then she has become somewhat of a symbol for escapism from reality, a symbol of adventure and excitement. But Shirley is much, much more.

Beautifully written by Willy Russell as a one-character play in 1986, Russell also wrote the screenplay for the movie, which very closely follows the dialogue of the original play. The film and its star were nominated for many awards including the Oscar, BAFTA and Golden Globe, and received BAFTAs for both, together with the British Comedy Award and the Evening Standard Best Actress Award.

Many years ago I was fortunate to have the honour of playing Shirley and since then I have searched for an opportunity to bring her to life again with a younger actress. I have a fierce love for Shirley and the journey she takes. Many women will empathise totally, and may even think’if only’. So, it is with great happiness that I have been able to direct Lesley as she too has come to love this very wonderful lady.

Here at STG we rely on so many fantastic volunteers to bring our plays to you. For this season, the marvellous talents of Ashley Worsman who designed and built our set are on display. Chris O’Leary gave us light, and my right hand John Mordacz was always available with his insight and assistance. And of course, our Shirley, Lesley. My thanks.

Thanks also to all the other STG members who have had a hand in bringing you Shirley Valentine – Booking Office People, Green Room Staff, Ushers, Lighting Operators etc.

We hope you enjoy and love Shirley as much as we do.

Dierdre Robinson
Director



Sunnybank Theatre Group is a participant in the 2019 Gold Palm Theatre Awards

Shirley Valentine - **Lesley Davis**

Lesley is no stranger to the theatre, having appeared on stage for the first time at the ripe old age of 6. She is undoubtedly a familiar face around STG, having been an active member for many years now, both on the stage and behind the scenes, including involvement on committees where she contributes to the future direction of Brisbane's friendliest theatre company. It is certainly a far cry from her 'day job', for which she rocks up every day to help keep the cogs of government in motion.

Lesley has enjoyed bringing multiple characters to life in many productions including **Wait Until Dark**, **Sr Amnesia's Coutry Western Nunsense Jamboree**, **A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum**, **The Sound of Music**, **Ladies Day**, **And No More Shall We Part** and **Key for Two**.

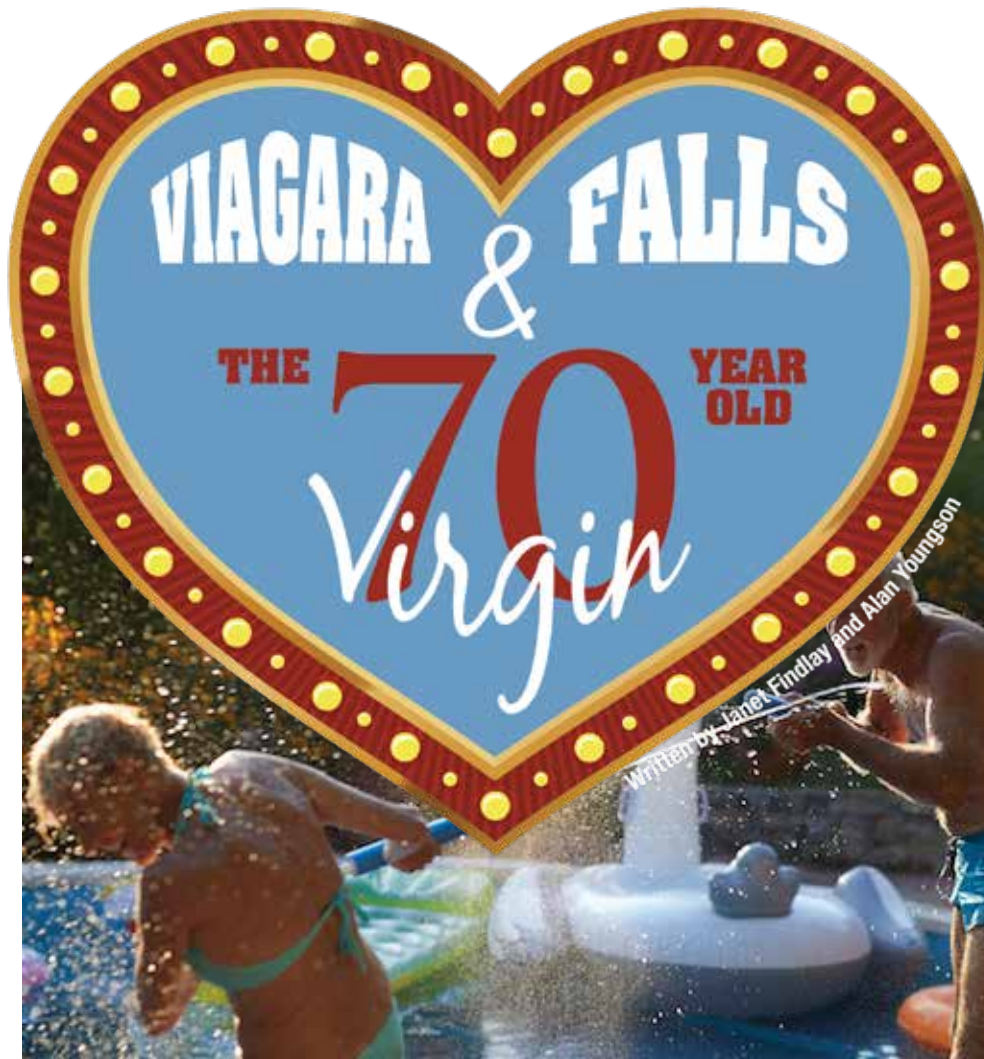
Lesley has been nominated in the Best Actress category in the Gold Palm Theatre Awards for her performance in **Chapter Two** earlier this year.

Lesley has found Shirley an exciting challenge, and a truly wonderful character to bring to life - what she considers a bit of a 'bucket list' role. She now invites you to sit back, relax, and enjoy what promises to be a heartwarming journey through the eyes of an ordinary housewife.



Director	Dierdre Robinson
Assistant Director	John Mordacz
Stage Managers	John Modacz, Dierdre Robinson
Set Design and Construction	Ashley Worsman
Lighting Design	Chris O'Leary
Lighting Operators	Joanne Sephton
	Stuart Sephton
Program/Poster	Chris O'Leary
FOH, Green Room and Box Office	STG Volunteers

Coming in 2020



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LEENANE

BY MARTIN MCDONAGH
APRIL 17 - MAY 2



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