

By arrangement with David Spicer Productions

VIAGARA FALLS and the 70 Year Old Virgin

FEB 14 - 29 | SEASON 2020



by **Janet Findlay** and **Alan Youngson**

Directed by **Alan Youngson**

Setting

The play is set at the Serenity Gardens Retirement Village, Cemetery Road, Sunnybank.

The time is the present.

The play takes place Inside and outside the Community Hall and Ian and Kitty's unit.

From the Director

Laughter is still the world's best and most needed medicine - especially for Seniors, Retirees, Pensioners, Baby Boomers and Aged Care residents – who are now familiar with types of humour and forms of theatre that differ greatly from those with which they grew up.

Realising that there was a comedy style gap in the Live Theatre market, Alan Youngson established RED Ticket Comedy Theatre, as he saw the potential for providing clever, witty and slightly “risqué” live shows - for 60 to 80 year olds (currently, 22% of the population and growing weekly) – performed by aspiring and somewhat experienced “Mature Seniors - aged 60 to 80.”

Looking for similar aged comedy collaborators, Alan renewed contact with Janet Findlay, an experienced performer, singer and writer with a similar philosophy of entertaining over 60s audiences. In 2016, they co-devised, directed and performed the revue show, *Adventure Before Dementia* starring the Two Merry Gerry-Atrics and The Babbling Trillbillys.

We hope you LOL - Laugh Out Loud - and then persuade your friends, family and networks to attend one of the remaining performances



(formerly Gold Coast Theatre Awards)

Sunnybank Theatre Group is a participant in the 2020 Gold Palm Theatre Awards

The Authors

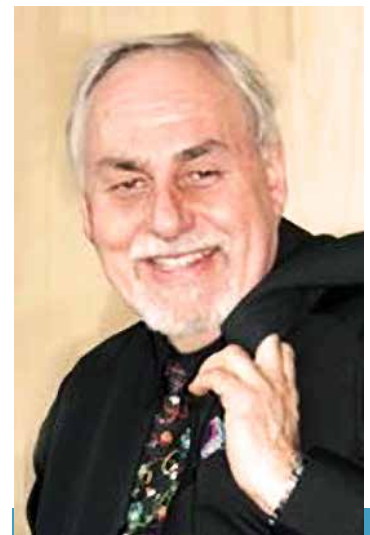
Since graduating from the NZ National Drama School in Wellington, Janet has worked professionally for over 40 years in a variety of theatre companies and performed for audiences of all ages in Australia, New Zealand and the US.

A play she co-wrote with Cathy Downes, *The Heartache & Sorrow Show*, was staged at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. She has also made TV appearances on NZ *Playschool* as well as in *Australia's Funniest People* and *Australia's Got Talent*. As one half of the music/comedy duo, The Babbling Trillbillys, Janet has written humorous lyrics for over 50 songs, performing them with Joy Winnel, in their 3 successful shows *Better Late Than Never*, *High on the Hog* and *The Janet & Joy of Christmas* at Ipswich Civic Centre's, Studio 188. In 2016, she performed with Alan in his revue show, *Adventure Before Dementia* and in February 2019, *Viagara Falls - Sweeten Up!*



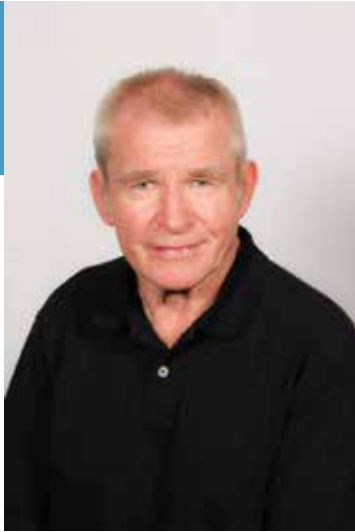
Janet Findlay

Alan Youngson was born and high school educated in Scotland. He completed his BA (Hons.) in both English and Theatre Arts and B.Ed specialist Speech & Drama teacher training in Canada. Throughout his 45 year Performing Arts Management career in Australia, Alan has been involved in and employed by 4 Performing Arts Centres, 3 Theatre Companies, 2 Education Departments and 1 Arts Festival - as Artistic Director/Producer (54 shows), General Manager of Arts Centres, 5 years as Executive Producer of Brisbane Warana Festival Ltd, Drama & Arts Curriculum Consultant, Character Actor in 70 shows, Speech and Drama Teacher, Trainer & Executive Coach of Speaking, Presenting and Acting.



Alan Youngson

His speciality is directing comedy, farce and revue shows - most recently, *Run for Your Wife* for Centenary Theatre Group and world premieres of *Adventure Before Dementia* in August 2016 and *Viagara Falls - Sweeten Up!* in February / March 2019 - as well as writing, performing and winning several humorous Toastmasters Speech Contests over the last 10 years.



Laurie Webb

Eric Meakin

During the past 29 years, Laurie has performed with Sunnybank Theatre Group, Nash Theatre, Brisbane Arts Theatre and Centenary Theatre Group (CTG).

Most recently, he appeared in *Run for Your Wife*, *Dad's Army*, *The Spring Heeled Terror of Stepney Green!* and *The Shifting Heart* for CTG. Other interests include music, croquet and, until a couple of years ago, flying. Prior to his retirement, Laurie had a wide ranging career as an engineer.



Annette Page

Fran Foster

As a child, Annette started "acting up" in the late 1940s and then became a very good debater in the 1950s. In the 1960s, while nursing in New York, she studied at the American Academy of Dramatic Art. Returning to Australia in the 1970s, she became very involved with Community theatres and had a few small roles in TV dramas. With STG, Annette has performed in *Ladies Day* and *Tally Hall* as well as *Stepping Out* and *St. Swithins* for

Village Green Theatre Group, Logan Village.



Lyn Kesby

Jane Parker

While Lyn has been a regular theatre goer for many years, she didn't feel she had the time or confidence to tread the boards due to a very busy 16 year job in a solicitor's office plus family health commitments and her passion for cross-stitching.

Retiring in 2015, Lyn took up the acting challenge in 2017 and became one of the original members of Shining Lights - STG's Seniors Drama Group. In 2018, she made her acting debut in *Murder, Magic and Mayhem* & in 2019, *House of Tomorrow*.



Gail Payne
Kitty Bell

Gail's interest in acting was sparked at Sholing secondary school in England by a wonderful drama teacher, Miss Gale. Arriving in Brisbane in the 1980s, Gail joined the Sunnybank Variety Group, as STG was then called, and was cast in a variety of plays. During next twenty years in Brisbane, she also trod the boards at Arts, Fringe, Edward Street Theatres.

Sunnybank Theatre (STG) holds many happy memories and it is where she has made life-long friendships. After a hiatus of a few years, Gail reignited her passion for performing by becoming a member of the STG Seniors Drama Group, Shining Lights, and performed in one act plays in 2017, 2018 and 2019.

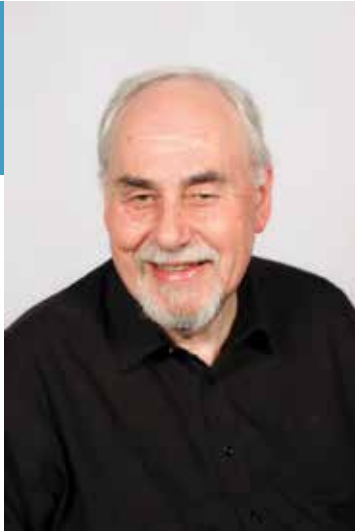
In February/March 2019 for STG Gail played the dramatic title role of *Marjorie Prime* who suffered from dementia. As a contrast, she is delighted to be in STG's 2020 opening comedy - farce alongside other talented mature age actors.



Ian Ogle
Ian Bell

Ian has performed to many different audiences as a chorister, member of a male quartet, MC at weddings, trivia nights & anniversaries. Prior to retirement, Ian's career was in the teaching profession rising to Senior Lecturer at QUT.

With a flair for parodies of musical items including Xmas carols, songs, G&S Mikado (I've Got a Little List). His party piece is a musical version of the tale of 'The Three Little Pigs' in which Ian assumes all roles (literally wearing six different hats).



Alan Youngson

Jock McPherson

Alan has created 70 characters over 50 years including: Algernon, the Bunburyist in *The Importance of Being Earnest*; Sir Henry Dithering, retired Detective Chief Inspector, in *Agatha Crispie*; Shylock, the Jewish moneylender, in Shakespeare's *Merchant of Venice*; Davies, the derelict Cockney tramp in Harold Pinter's *The Caretaker*; Elyot, the suave English womaniser in Noel Coward's *Private Lives*; The inept German Col-on-el von Strom in *'Allo, 'Allo*; Murdoch, the strict Scottish Schoolmaster in *Brigadoon*; Baldassare, the Spanish Brigand in *Maid of the Mountains* and the melodramatic title role of Edward in *The Drunkard*; as well as 12 different accents in Revue shows - *Beyond the Fringe*, *Tomfoolery Tonite* and *Adventure Before Dementia!*



Katie McKeen

Sergeant Pam Harding

After 20 years in Public Service Administration, Katie took early retirement so that she could help out with her five grandchildren as well as further pursue her own interests including lawn bowls, jazz and her life-long passion for dancing. Not only has she learned ballet, tap and hip hop but, most recently, added belly dancing.

In 2017, she was a founding member of Shining Lights and has acted in their *House of Tomorrow*, *Out the Window* and *A Fractured Fairytale* as well as dancing and acting in *Stepping Out* for Village Green Theatre Group, Logan Village.



Richard Edwards

Dr Sadhu

Richard first trod the boards in 1968 in roles ranging from Shakespeare - as Duke Orsino in *Twelfth Night*, Malcolm in *Macbeth* through Operettas to Theatre of the Absurd as the hapless Lucky in *Waiting for Godot* and the title role of Sloane in Joe Orton's black comedy, *Entertaining Mr Sloane*. All of these made him adaptable in his various employment roles in IT as Sales, Marketing, Business Development and Consultant to running small businesses including Art Craft Shop, Coffee House and Manufacturing home insulation. In retirement, his hobbies and interests are painting, poker, golf, chess, fishing, theatre and as an ambassador giving talks for the Heart and Stroke Foundation around southeast Queensland.

The Crew

Set Design

David Finn (Ipswich Civic Centre)

Set Construction and Painting

Greg Day, Damien Egan, Brian Creese, Steve Fletcher

Stage Manager

Greg Day/ Steve Fletcher

Stage Crew

Steve Fletcher, Diane Fletcher

Costumes, Hair and Makeup

The cast

Props and Set Dressing

Barbara Phillips, Christine Bucholz

Lighting Design and Operators

Chris O'Leary, Allan Hare

Moving Images

Janet Findlay

Voice Over Poems

Alan Youngson

Slides

The Vernacular

Program Design

Chris O'Leary

Marketing

Alan Youngson, Kayleen Zoethout, Chris Guyler and cast

Poster Design

Damon Howey (Dubbo Printing Works)

Cartoonist

David Green (Newcastle)

Photography

Kayleen Zoethout

Front of House

Pam Cooper, Dierdre Robinson and our tireless volunteers



Sunnybank Theatre Group (inc) is one of Brisbane's most affordable non-professional theatre companies. Since 1965, we have presented a variety of dramas, thrillers, comedies, pantomimes and musicals.

APR 17 – MAY 2 | SEASON 2020



THE BEAUTY QUEEN OF LEENANE

Maureen Folan lives in Leenane, Connemara with her mother, to whom she acts as a caretaker. When young Ray Dooley brings news of his older brother's return, Maureen finds what could be her first - and last- chance to find love. But old Mag Folan likes the way their life is now, and will do everything in her power to keep it that way.

Don't miss this 1996 dark comedy/drama by Irish playwright and film director Martin McDonagh.

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