

President's report



As we come to the end of Spring, thoughts are turning to Christmas and the New Year period, and what 2016 will bring. Before we focus on that, I'd like to revisit all that we have achieved this year and send out a big thank you to everyone involved.

I had the pleasure of directing our second production for 2015, *Zigzag Street*, and send a big "cheers" to everyone who helped to get the show to the stage. I also had the unexpected experience of getting to act in the production for opening weekend, due to an injured actor. Happily, Nicolle was back on stage for the rest of the run, and I was able to enjoy the show from the audience. Hopefully those who came to see it, got as much enjoyment out of it as those of us on the production side did. Photos from the production and opening night are on page 2.

A large Stirling Players contingent celebrated our achievements of the preceding 12 months, at the Adelaide

Theatre Guide Curtain Call Awards dinner. Photos from the evening and a summary of our success can be found on page 3.

In addition to our usual stage based antics, we also had a lovely time at Viki and Kevin Burrett's house, reading the very funny Alan Ayckbourn play *A Small Family Business*. These relaxed gatherings are always a fun annual event and we're on the look-out for what to read next year.

The coming twelve months will again see Stirling Players bringing two exciting shows to the stage. The first, *Variation on a Theme*, has already begun rehearsals and is set to be a beautifully classy piece of theatre. See page 4 for more details.

Finally, I'd like to remind everyone that the Stirling Players do a wonderful Christmas BBQ every year and it's coming up in just a week's time! Santa is all lined up to make an appearance and we very much hope you can come along and join in the good times. Happy holidays to all! Stay safe.

Cheers
Miriam

THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

President - Miriam Keane **Vice President** - Heather Jones

Secretary - Viki Burrett **Treasurer** - Maurice Kneen

Members - Jane Bleby, Kevin Burrett, Joshua Coldwell, Mo Johnson,

Lori Nielsen, Glenys Newel, Debbie Tester, Kate van der Horst

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Or post to PO Box 455 STIRLING 5152

www.stirlingplayers.sct.org.au

Zigzag Street: A few of our old favourites

Photos by Mark Anolak



Opening Night



Christmas Party Time!

Join us on December 5th from 12:30pm at Maurice and Madeline Kneen's house in Mylor for our Christmas celebration.

As always, it's BYO drinks and chairs, plus a plate to share. A barbeque will be fired and ready to cook your favourite meat or vegetarian mains, so don't forget those!

RSVPs, to stirlingplayerssecretary@gmail.com by Dec 4th, would be appreciated, so that Santa knows for how many people he needs to arrange Christmas cheer.

Directions to the venue can be provided, just ask at the time of RSVP.

This is always a day full of delightful silliness and we hope you can join us for the festivities!

Annual General Meeting

Our annual general meeting will take place at the Stirling Community Theatre on Sunday February 7th at 4pm.

Nominations are now invited for the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, as well as for general committee members.

Come along and hear a summary of our activities for 2015 and join us in look forward to what is to come in 2016.

Drinks and nibbles to follow.

Adelaide Theatre Guide "Curtain Call" Awards dinner

We were delighted to receive two awards at this year's dinner, Best Comedy and Best Technical (costumes) in the amateur categories for *The Beaux' Stratagem*.

Congratulations all!



Variation on a Theme



A beautiful sunny deck in the French Riviera is the setting of The Stirling Players' opening production for 2016.

Enchanting socialite Rose, has her next millionaire husband lined up and is enjoying the entertainments on offer in this delightful location. After a spot of bother at the casino, dashing young ballet dancer Ron comes to her rescue, and presents an alternative direction for Rose's life to take. As she sips her way through another brandy, will Rose be won over by the allure of the younger man, or will the realities of her life bring everything crashing down?

Based on Alexandre Dumas' *La Dame aux Camélias*, Terence Rattigan's self-professed variation on this theme originally debuted in London in 1958, but has rarely been performed over the intervening half-century. Director Dave Simms will apply his distinctive flare in bringing this story of desire, deception,



and disenchantment to the Stirling Community Theatre. While the production retains the original 1950's setting of Rattigan's adaptation, the themes continue to resonate in a world where those with money have the power, and those with aspirations may be willing to put the attainment of wealth and social standing above all else.

The cast is led by Stirling favourite Allison Scharber as Rose, with the ever-impressive Julie Quick relishing the role of her disapproving companion Hettie, and Nick Duddy making his Stirling Players debut as Ron. Also featured are Alan Crawford, Kate van der Horst, Rebecca Kemp and Jonathan Pheasant. Together they present a classy night of entertainment that highlights the emotional turmoil, shady dealings and hard realities that can hide behind a glamorous façade.



Auditions for Our Country's Good

Our Country's Good is based on the novel *The Playmaker* by Thomas Keneally, which deals with the staging of the first theatrical production staged in the penal colony in Sydney in 1789. Although a fictional account, most of the characters are based on actual people and the events are based on journals and other written accounts from the time.

The play has love, death, comedy, drama and serious philosophical reflections on human nature, as it deals with conflict between the officers at odds with Governor Phillip's wish to bring some degree of civility to the convicts, as well as with the mixed emotions of the convicts who are to act in the production of George Farquhar's *The Recruiting Officer*.

The play requires a strong ensemble of at least 10 actors. Traditionally *Our Country's Good* has been cast with 6 males and 4 females, with all but the actor playing Ralph Clark having multiple roles. However, a larger number may be cast for this production. Various British accents will be required. Some of the play is sexist and violent. Actors will need to be both physically and emotionally resilient.

Open auditions will be held at the Stirling Community Theatre, Avenue Road, Stirling on Tuesday 22 March at 7.30pm with a call back for short-listed auditionees on Thursday 24 March.

On the Tuesday night auditionees will be required to give a 3 minute prepared presentation of their own choice to showcase their ability and versatility and to do short 'cold readings' from the script with other auditionees.

A list of the roles available, with a brief description, can be found on the Stirling Players website: www.stirlingplayers.sct.org.au.

All potential auditionees are encouraged to contact John Graham for further information via email jandkgraham@bigpond.com or phone 8391 2861.

Do you have what we need?

Can you help? We're currently searching for a 1950s era portable turntable and portable reel-to-reel tape player, for use in our upcoming production, *Variation on a Theme*. If you think you can help, please contact us!

Memberships for 2016

Our 2016 season will feature two wonderful shows, and the best value for money is to take out a Stirling Players membership and enjoy both!

For just \$30 (\$25 concession) your annual membership (valid for one calendar year, Jan 1st - Dec 31st) gives you two ticket vouchers.

These can be used for either of our 2016 shows, *Variation on a Theme* (February/March) or *Our Country's Good* (September/October). Use both for the same show or one for each, it's entirely up to you.

In addition, you'll have voting rights to elect our 2016 committee at the Annual General Meeting (or nominate to join us) and be eligible to attend our special member events throughout the year.

Join online at www.stirlingplayers.sct.org.au

Winter play reading - Everyone joins in

