

Post Winter Newsletter September 2022

Committee News



Introducing
JOE THORP
OUR TREASURER

We welcome back Joe Thorp to the Stirling Players committee. Joe originally joined the group at age 18 when he was cast in a production of *'The Barretts of Wimpole Street'* which played in March 1982. He was elected President of the Stirling Players at the AGM in 1983 - he says "because no one else nominated!" Joe served for several years as President as well as serving on the committee of the Hills Festival of One Act Plays (including as Chair) and also on the SA Jubilee 150 Stirling Community Committee from 1984-1986.

Joe was a regular performer over the years 1982-1993, and when not performing, was either production coordinator, stage manager, stagehand, publicity or whatever needed doing! He directed two productions: *'Marsupials'* for the Hills One Act Plays Festival in 1989 and *'The Perfectionist'* in 1991 and also performed with the Hills Musical Company, The Rep, and in *'Murder in the Cathedral'* at the Church of the Epiphany, Crafers.

A busy business career pulled Joe away from the theatre - initially as an executive at the now defunct Electricity Trust, and at AGL as Marketing Director, then into an International business career as GM of Seeley International, MD of Lancer, and CEO of a SA Government Agency before stepping away from full time executive life.

Since then he has served as a member and in leading roles on many committees (too many to list!). Among other roles, he now serves the Anglican Diocese of Adelaide as Registrar and Secretary of Synod, and is Chairman of the State Theatre Company of SA.

Joe has a BA in History & Politics, a Master of Business Administration and a Company Directors Course Diploma and is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. We are very pleased to have you back, Joe!

Our Current Production

For the final production in our 50th-anniversary year, we are presenting something completely different – ***'The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abr)'*** by Adam Long, Daniel Singer and Jess Winfield: -staging all of Shakespeare's plays and some sonnets in less than two hours! Part bawdy comedy, part melodrama, part parody, it is a highly energetic, irreverent and yet affectionate tribute to the one playwright whom absolutely everyone has heard of, and many may even have read. Director Jethro Pidd has chosen a diverse cast of six.

Read what the reviewers have had to say:

"A wonderful production, combining terrific performances, physical theatre, comedy, music and a lot of general silliness. Immense energy is required for only 6 actors to cover the 1122 roles which are in Shakespeare's complete works and the cast recruited audience members to assist" **GLAM ADELAIDE**

"This production is as high energy as you can imagine. The stamina of this group of actors is something really quite astonishing. They commit every ounce of themselves to every moment they share the stage, and manage to create an inspiring amount of semi-controlled chaos." **TASA**



2 more weekends till September 24. Don't miss it!
Book at stirlingplayers.sct.org.au
or phone 0488 746 951

Gala Day Celebration

CLASSIC RADIO COMEDY, LIVE ON STAGE

As part of the celebrations for their 50th anniversary, some 'older' members of The Stirling Players performed a series of 16 classic radio comedy sketches from the 1950's and 60's: -from Australia, Canada and the UK, live on stage. Complete with non-digital sound effects, this was radio as you have never seen it.

Remember *The Naked Vicar Show*? *Monty Python? I'm sorry, I'll read that again?* *At last, the 1948 Show?* Running for just under two hours, with a break for refreshments, the sketches ranged from *Rinse the Blood off My Toga* to *The Curse of the Flying Wombat*. *The Glums* lived again, if you could call it living! and *'The Parrot'* was definitely dead. There were even classical quips for those who remembered their Latin:

"Give me a martinus."

"You mean 'martini'?"

"If I want two, I'll ask for them"

Forget the sets, the costumes, the roar of the greasepaint, the smell of the crowd – this show was perhaps best watched with your eyes shut. Before Tik Tok, YouTube, CGI or even the internet itself, there was the wireless, and great **pun** was had by all.

A once-only performance at 3pm on Saturday, August 20, to an appreciative, packed audience at the Stirling Community Theatre in Avenue Road, was followed by an enjoyable anniversary dinner at the Aldgate Village Well.



Ian Thomson waits for his sound effect cue, watched anxiously by colleague Kathy Strauts.



Roger Chapple, Maxine Grubel and Joe Thorp in 'Rinse the Blood off my Toga



The Radio Cast: Josh Coldwell, Geoff Phillips, Maxine Grubel, Joe Thorp, Malcolm Walton, Bronwyn Chapple. Roger Chapple hidden behind Josh!

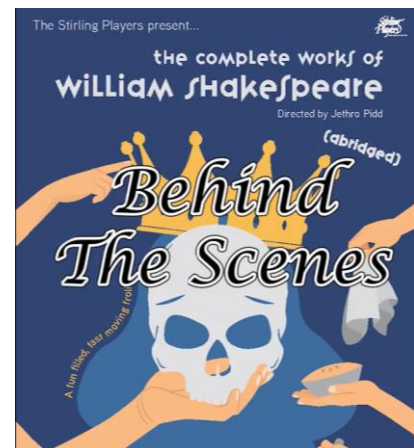
All the world's a stage

AFTER 50 YEARS OF DRAMA, THE STIRLING PLAYERS ARE DEEPENING THEIR ROOTS IN THE HILLS COMMUNITY.

by Committee member, **Brian Donaghy**

At the turn of the last century, the first moving pictures were made in the US. A few saw it as a threat to traditional theatre, but there was little impact. Almost 30 years later came the "talkies" and the cinema industry boomed. Live theatre, everywhere, surely, was doomed. But it wasn't! In the 50s, television soon put visible drama into every living room – but the curtains still went up on the world's stages. The internet has brought us social media, YouTube, live streaming & still the shows go on!

The Stirling Players have been treading the boards now for 50 years and this year thumbed their noses at history. They embraced the latest rival technology, using 30-second video documentaries to promote their most recent live stage performance, *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)*. Featuring extracts from rehearsals and tongue-in-cheek interviews with cast members, the mini-docos were posted on Facebook, Instagram and Tik Tok.



Traditional theatre hasn't died because the live experience is different. Every audience is different, every performance is different, and when it works, it is powerful. Sometimes, of course, it doesn't. The ever-present risk that this time it will all be a frightful flop helps to get the adrenalin going for everyone involved.

The Stirling Players have survived for 50 years because it is fun for everyone involved. Fun at every level, whether it is painting scenery, making costumes, directing the show, being part of the cast, selling raffle tickets, choosing plays, borrowing furniture or trawling the local op shops for cheap second-hand props.

Apart from a small budget for publicity, no one gets paid. Actors rehearse once, twice and even occasionally three times a week for months, even though most of them are also working full time and raising families. They love it.

What the audience doesn't see are the many roles behind the scenes. "There are two types of volunteers," the Players' secretary, Bronwyn Chapple, says. "There are those who want to get involved and do a little bit when

All the world's a stage (cont)

they are able to, and they are 'gold'. But we also need the ones who will commit to the three months of a production time in the cast or crew – particularly the crew."

Over the past couple of years The Stirling Players has been increasingly focused on encouraging more local people and especially younger people to become involved at every level. As part of that drive they have produced a series of booklets on how it all works. How to be a director, or stage manager, or production coordinator, or set designer. How to handle front-of-house, media, props, lighting, and the money.

The Players are also actively encouraging the more experienced to mentor new or younger members who want to expand their skills. Rory Miller-Frost, for example, co-directed the recent *'Complete Works'* under the wing of the director, Jethro Pidd. Next year he and fellow actor Louie Collins will direct *The Flick*, by Annie Baker. Both are relatively recent graduates of the Players' sister company the Hills Youth Theatre.

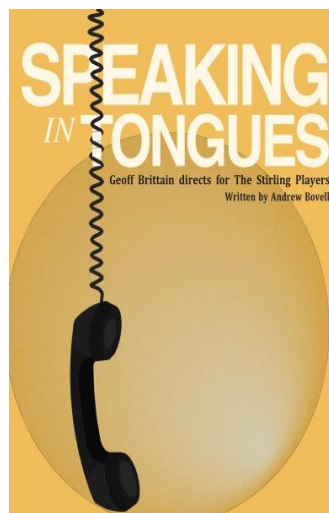
Unlike most amateur companies, The Players have a permanent home, in the council-owned theatre in Avenue Road, Stirling, and stage at least two productions each year. The committee which runs the theatre underwrites the Players' productions, and in return, the Players' profits go back to the theatre, helping to ensure that this community asset remains viable, not only for the Players, but also for the Hills Musical Company, the Hills Youth Theatre and other companies seeking a venue to hire.

And most importantly the iconic old building now known as the Stirling Community Theatre continues to thrive as an important 'Performing Arts Hub' for the Adelaide Hills Community after being saved from demolition by a passionate group of people 50 years ago, back in 1972! October 2022 will see the installation of new carpeting and auditorium seating!



The Stirling Players 2023

FIRST PRODUCTION 2023



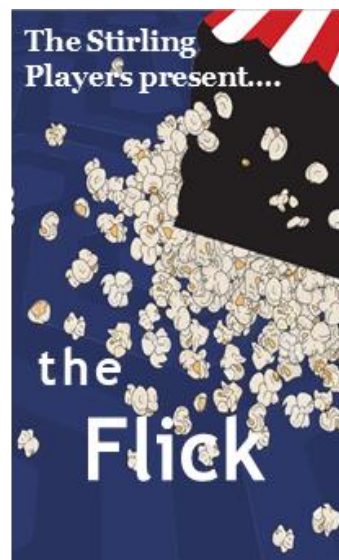
Filmed as the award-winning movie *'Lantana'*

The play follows nine different characters (played by four actors) who are all connected by affairs & infidelity.

17 March -1 April 2023

Stirling Community Theatre
Directed by Geoff Brittain

SECOND PRODUCTION 2023



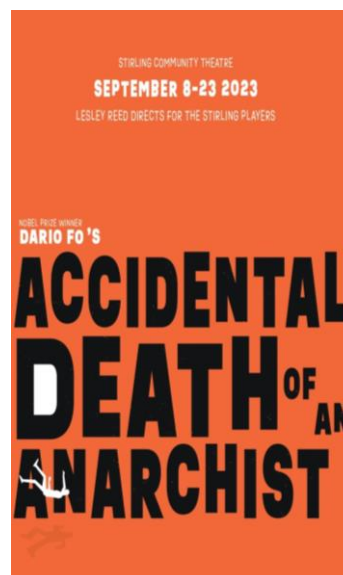
The Flick is a hilarious and heart-rending cry for authenticity in a fast-changing world.

In a run-down movie theatre three underpaid employees mop the floors and attend to one of the last 35mm film projectors in the state.

14-23 July, 2023

Stirling Community Theatre

THIRD PRODUCTION 2023



Written to show up and send up institutional corruption after an actual event, Dario Fo's 1970 farce *Accidental Death of an Anarchist* remains relevant, allowing us to laugh in the face of high level cover ups.

8-23 September 2023

Stirling Community Theatre
Directed by Lesley Reed