

August 2021

Winter Edition

2021 Committee

Members

President
Mo Johnson

Vice President
John Graham

Secretary
Bronwyn Chapple

Treasurer
Rob Andrewartha

Georgi Clough

Brian Donaghy

Maxine Grubel

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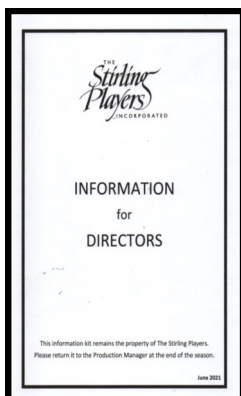
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Resident group of the Stirling Community

Greetings from the President

I hope that by the time you are reading this Winter Newsletter, the lockdown has come to an end and that the rain has stopped falling but I have to say that as I write this here at Tiers View, both are happening. But it doesn't stop me from wishing you all well and warm.

This year has certainly been difficult not just for our community theatre, but for all local theatres in general what with the ups and downs of COVID closures. Happy to say that the Stirling Players have risen to the challenge. In March we presented *Cosi* with its fabulous set and directed by Megan Dansie and with only 50% seating, we had "full houses" for every performance.

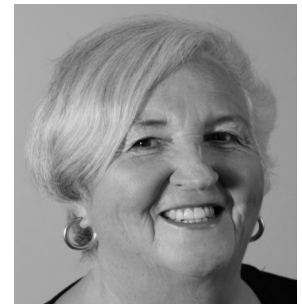
Almost immediately after bump-out, rehearsals began for the September produc-

tion of *The Hypochondriac* and although COVID restrictions have seriously interfered with rehearsals, you may rest assured that Angela Short, the director, and her production team, will pull out all the stops to bring to you this comedic and panto-esque adaption of Moliere's 17th century play. Opening night is 10 September.

2022 is also an exciting year as it is our 50th anniversary of the formation of the Stirling Players.

There will be a Gala Dinner in August preceded by a special fun afternoon on stage at the theatre. I do hope that you will all join us for this quite significant event.

Auditions also have been held for the production of *Amy's View* in March 2022 to be directed by Tim



Williams, and in September 2022 Jethro Pidd will be directing an abridged *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare*.

I am sure you will agree that the Stirling Players continues to bring to you and the community rewarding and entertaining shows supporting both the Stirling Community Theatre & the local community. See you there!

Best wishes.
Mo Johnson, President

AGM & SGM February 7th 2021

The Stirling Players AGM was held on February 7th 2021. It was attended by 19 interested people. A Special General Meeting was scheduled to follow the AGM to allow members to vote on acceptance of a revised version of The Stirling Players Inc. current Constitution.

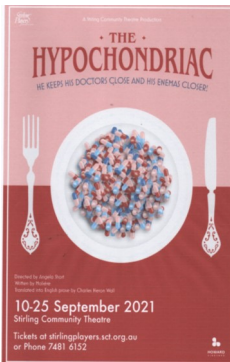
Following the difficulties encountered in forming a committee for 2020, the new Management Committee decided to appoint a sub-committee to undertake a review of the current Constitution and develop a Governance Policy outlining the

practicalities and procedures related to the everyday operation of the group - a document that could be amended to reflect changes in policy and procedure in a timely way.

The Constitution content was simplified in compliance with the requirements of the relevant Act, and an amended draft version sent to members for comment and ultimate approval. After discussion, the **draft Constitution was accepted and will be implemented** once the Government approval process is completed.

Twelve information kits, clearly outlining the responsibilities & requirements of the production team roles have been collated, printed and ring-bound for distribution to the current production team. These will be retained by The Stirling Players for future use and amendment as required.

A motion to slightly increase annual **membership fees - Full \$32 to \$35 & Conc \$27 to \$30** was also accepted by members and will come into effect in 2022. Membership fees will continue to include 2 complimentary tickets.



In rehearsal when COVID permitted

Current Production—'The Hypochondriac' by Moliere

People have been laughing at *The Hypochondriac* for nearly 350 years. They will be at it again at the Stirling Community Theatre in September, when The Stirling Players stage Molière's classic farce.

The Hypochondriac, which opened in 1673, was Molière's last play, satirising the wealthy French bourgeoisie and the medical profession of the time. He himself played the lead role but was genuinely ill with tuberculosis and died backstage after one of the performances. The play has been revised in various forms many times since then, in theatres from

Russia to the US. The Stirling Players' production is based on the translation by Charles Heron Wall, a nineteenth century school teacher in England, known for his translations of several of Molière's plays.

"I feel we need a bit of a laugh at the moment," Director, Angela Short says.

"Why did I choose this play? Firstly because I love Molière and it is very funny."

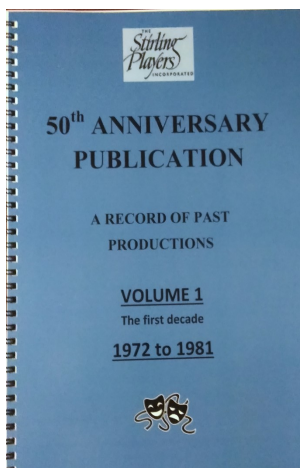
She says she aims to bring together elements of Commedia dell'arte, Pantomime and French-style black comedy.

"I love how life can be quite farcical and yet very real. That is what we are aiming for." It is still early days in rehearsal, so we are saying 'Push it as far as you can.'

"The excellent actors we have in this production are really going for it! Molière did not hold back on his use of toilet humour in his plays, and I feel it would be rude not to appreciate it."

The play opens on Friday, September 10 at the Stirling Community Theatre in Avenue Road Stirling. It runs for three weekends, with the last night on Saturday September 25.

50th Birthday Celebrations 2022



In 2022, The Stirling Players will celebrate their 50th anniversary. A sub committee has been formed to plan and coordinate activities.

Major Productions

It was decided that the two major productions should have an underlying theme "theatre or mounting a theatrical production." A drama, 'Amy's View' and a comedy, 'The Complete Works of Shakespeare (abridged)' were chosen.

Gala Event

A Gala event is also planned for **Saturday August 20th** which will include an 'old style' studio type **Radio Show** on stage with the sound effects desk in full view! and a fun-filled program provided by a cast/crew of 'older' Stirling Players who were attracted to the idea that they wouldn't need to learn lines or build a set! **3pm to 5pm** Followed by a **dinner** to give people a chance to catch up **6.30 for 7pm**. More later!

Past Productions Booklets

Posters & cast/crew lists from the 148 productions produced over the last 50 years have been collated into 5 'decade' booklets and will be available for sale.

Booklet years:

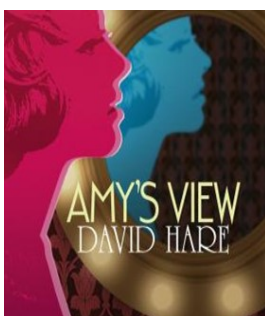
1972-1981	1982-1991
1992-2001	2002-2011
	2012-2021

A trip down Memory Lane? Further information?

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March Production 2022 — Amy's View by David Hare



Amy's View takes the audience on a tense and emotional journey between a strong mother and her loving daughter. The action takes place over a sixteen year period, from 1979 – 1995 and is set in England.

Well-known West End actress, Esme Allen, receives a visit from her daughter Amy, together with her new boyfriend, Dominic Tyghe. This sets in motion a series of events which only fully

come into shape sixteen years later.

David Hare is one of Britain's most internationally performed playwrights and *Amy's View* is a powerhouse of a play.

It premièred in 1995, and after a sold-out season at the National, transferred to the West End, & later with a revival to Broadway in 2006 which subsequently went on tour in Britain.

To be directed by Tim Williams for The Stirling Players, the cast includes Joanne St Clair, Rose Harvey, Jill Morrell, Steve Marvanek and Jackson Barnard. The role of Dominic is still to be cast

The play opens on Friday, March 25, 2022 at the Stirling Community Theatre in Avenue Road Stirling. It will run for three weekends, with the last night on Saturday April 9th

September Production 2022— Shakespeare (abridged)

We are excited to announce a very different show for our second production in **2022**; - *'The Complete Works of William Shakespeare' (abr)* written by Adam Long, Daniel Singer, and Jess Winfield, collectively known as *'The Reduced Shakespeare Company'* a three-man comedy troupe that takes long, serious subjects and reduces them to short, sharp comedies. It will be directed for us by Jethro Pidd.

The show is a fast-paced, romp through the Bard's plays parodying all 37 of his plays (plus the sonnets!) in less than two hours and in two acts! Done with such delight, they are sure to win over even the most sceptical.

The characters run across the stage and keep you guessing how they will pull off the next play. Clever use of interesting costumes adds to the fun and the actors speak directly to the audience during much of the show.

Improvisation forms an integral part of performances with the actors deviating from the script and initiating spontaneous conversations about the material with each other and with the audience. Each performance can differ even with the same cast!

As London's longest-running comedy followed by success in the USA & Canada, it justly attracted considerable praise.

"Stupendous, anchorless joy!" The London Times

"Shamelessly heretical!" Time Out – London

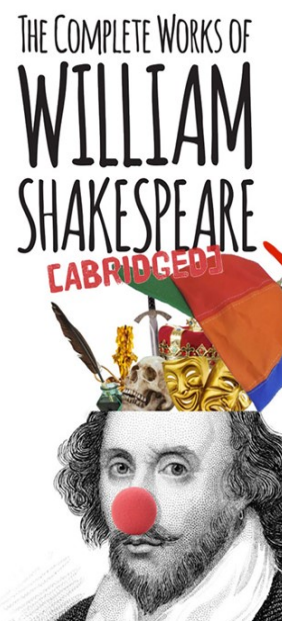
"Gloriously, relaxingly funny." Financial Times

"Wildly funny. Masterful!" Los Angeles Times

"Shakespeare as it was back in the Bard's day: bawdy, irreverent, sublimely entertaining." Miami Herald

"The funniest show you are likely to see in your entire lifetime." Montreal Gazette

Stirling Community Theatre
9th -24th Sept 2022



Profile — Lori Nielsen — Thank you

Lori Nielsen has recently retired from The Stirling Players Management Committee and she will be missed. Her association with the group began in 1986 after seeing a Players' poster in a shop window.

Over the years she performed, or was involved in, most of the 'behind the scenes' roles. Importantly she took on the role of managing the Players' website

and the online ticketing which she was still doing very efficiently up to the time of her retirement.

Lori's interest in drama and theatre began as a young teacher at Minlaton High School and later at Woodville High School where she managed their Theatre Guild for 5 years. Later she had the unique experience of being elected the first female, and first Australian, President of

the Himalayan Amateurs (HAMS) in Kathmandu, where, for 4 years, she reported handling as much drama off stage as on!

In recognition of her many years of commitment to The Stirling Players, Lori was awarded a Life Membership so will remain connected.

A big thank you from The Stirling Players, Lori. All the best in your retirement.



Become Actively Involved? - Join us

Getting involved with a theatre group is unlike almost any other volunteering role. For a start, there are no specific age, gender or skills requirements, and there's a wide range of activities to get involved in. What's more you can devote a little time or a lot of time as your life style allows.

If you would like to be actively involved behind the scenes as part of a

show's production team, there are various roles to choose from. If you can write, hammer, paint, sew or organise, we can find a place for you in our production crew.

Or if you think you could be an usher or a program seller, or part of the publicity team that brings the crowds in, or part of the admin group that keeps the shows and the group running, then please contact us.

We also welcome experienced Stage Managers, Back Stage crew, and Designers of Set, Costume, Lighting, and Sound, but for those who would like to learn these skills, our experienced people are more than willing to offer mentoring.

So don't be shy. You will be with a supportive team.

Interested? Contact us at:
bronwyn@skymesh.com.au
or text on 0419 150 143

"You can devote a little time or a lot of time as your life style allows"