

# Repertoire

OCTOBER 2011

Newsletter of Adelaide's oldest theatre group



THERE'S PLENTY ON OUR PLATE:

## 2012 Launches & 100 Lunches

**IT'S PARTY  
TIME FOR  
THE REP  
NEXT  
SEASON:  
SEE PAGE 4**



Barry Hill (centre) brings multiple hilarity in his roles as all seven waiters in *The Adelaide Repertory Theatre's 100 Lunches*. Theresa Sugars and Rodney Hutton play the romantic comedy leads, at *The Arts Theatre*, November 17 to 26, directed by Jude Hines. See more on Page 3.

Photo: Matthew Craig

## '39 Steps' another hit

The Adelaide Rep followed up the critical success of *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* with *The 39 Steps* also proving a hit.

"All in all, it's a top effort and makes for a terrific show! Two thumbs right up!" wrote *Adelaide Theatre Guide* reviewer Aaron MacDonald.

Richard Lane, in the Theatre Association of SA's *Encore* magazine, described *The 39 Steps* as "a fine piece

of quasi comic theatre and a tour de force for the cast, crew and the Adelaide Repertory Theatre".

Brian Godfrey of Theatrepeople.com.au congratulated The Rep "for mounting a slightly left-of-centre production with new young blood". Samela Harris of *The Advertiser* also liked the concept of attracting younger audiences with a debut director Esther Lamb and her dynamic young cast.



**The 39 Steps cast (clockwise) Sarah Agius, Tom Bayford, Sean Flierl and Samuel Rogers made more than 130 character swaps.**

Photo: Matthew Craig

It's brilliant.... Samuel Rogers is rather marvellous as the heroic stiff-upper-lip-type Richard Hannay....Tom Bayford and Sean Flierl are the funniest thing I have seen on stage all year ... Direction, by Esther Lamb, is universally good. The show features some great staging.

**Aaron MacDonald, Adelaide Theatre Guide**

Marvellous, zany production ... Sara Agius, Sean Flierl, Samuel Rogers and Tom Bayford, under the brilliant direction of Esther Lamb, play the (130 role changes) with a superb sense of farcical, Pythonesque and *Commedia del arte* style ... The complex sound pack by Hugh Hunkin works a treat ... Again, Laraine Wheeler has worked a multi-layered lighting plot ... Bayford and Flierl (play clowns) cleverly and with exquisite timing ... The ensemble work is first rate.

**Richard Lane, Encore magazine, Theatre Association of South Australia**

Two hours of almost non-stop laughter and a chance to see some fine local performers at work. Rogers and Agius are strong actors, but Bayford and Flierl steal the show with their fabulously funny antics ... Staged with minimum props ... the aerial search across the moors is one of the funniest, and cleverest, things you'll see in am-dram.

**Diana Carroll, Indaily**

Director Esther Lamb has a great feel for and understanding of the thriller and comedy genres. She has moulded ... a tight, well rehearsed, very cohesive ensemble. A good play is when the price of the dinner, theatre and babysitter are worth it. Trust me: they are more than worth it with this production.

**Brian Godfrey, Theatrepeople.com.au**

Turns a spy thriller into an hilarious comedy ... This great night of farce definitely has to be your first choice if you need a good laugh to shake off the winter blues.

**Barry Lenny, arts editor, Glam Adelaide**

## Griffiths gets more family grief in first Broadway role

Australian actress Rachel Griffiths is making her Broadway debut in *Other Desert Cities*, a play by Jon Robin Baitz, a writer for the TV series *Brothers and Sisters* which starred Griffiths.

Nominated for a supporting actress Oscar for another sibling drama, the 1998 film *Hilary and Jackie*, Griffiths said her expertise in family dysfunction owes some debt to her turbulent upbringing in Melbourne.

*My City*, Stephen Poliakoff's first new theatre play for over a decade, has had its world premiere at the Almeida Theatre, London.

Stephen Sondheim is to be honoured with New York City's highest prize for achievement in the arts: The Handel Medallion.



New York's Roundabout theatre group celebrates the centennial of the English playwright Terence Rattigan with a revival of *Man and Boy* directed by Maria Aitken, who delivered a hit for the company with *The 39 Steps*.

If you're looking for a fun and edgy Web blog on London theatre, try westendwhingers.wordpress.com. It's dripping with satire and humour. The blog received global attention in 2010 when its review of the Andrew Lloyd Webber

musical *Love Never Dies* redubbed the show "Paint Never Dries".

Closer to home, visit *The Adelaide Theatre Guide* website ([www.theatre-guide.com.au](http://www.theatre-guide.com.au)) or pick up their brochure at our Arts Theatre for listings of all our fellow theatre companies. Theatrepeople.com.au is another good resource for Adelaide reviews and info.

Congratulations to our friends at the Therry theatre company for their coup in getting *The Mousetrap* for a sold-out season at The Arts Theatre.

Did you know? Broadway's Tony Awards are named after Antoinette Perry (1888-1946), an actress, stage director and philanthropist who was a founder of the American Theatre Wing.

# Lunches worth waiting for



Charity Starr (Theresa Sugars) and Chuck Reynolds (Rodney Hutton) send the sparks of creative tension flying between courses in *100 Lunches*.

Photo: Matthew Craig

## TICKETS

\$20/\$15 concession. Students \$10

Generous group booking discounts and fundraising opportunities are available.

## HOW TO BOOK

Phone 8212 5777 now or email your booking request to [adelaiderep@e-access.com.au](mailto:adelaiderep@e-access.com.au)

Brian will be at the theatre between 10am and 2pm weekdays from Monday, November 7, for phone bookings and ticket sales.

BASS bookings 131 246 (service fee applies).

Our romantic comedy, *100 Lunches* (November 17 to 26), is a delicious tale of sweet revenge.

Successful mystery playwright Chuck Reynolds (played by Rodney Hutton) has had his plays lauded by all critics – except Charity Starr (Theresa Sugars).

When Charity shows up at his home and has the unmitigated gall to ask his expert help to write a play of her own, Chuck fiendishly insists their teacher/pupil sessions be held over lunch with Charity footing the bill at the most expensive restaurants in New York.

An array of lunatic waiters (all played by Barry Hill) provide a uniquely hilarious touch to these meetings.

Love blossoms between Chuck and Charity, despite the scheming of Chuck's amorous neighbor (Joanna Patrick). Charity's play opens and she finds out what it's like to be a target of all her fellow critics.

Other cast members are Myra Waddell and youngster Benjamin Maio Mackay.

## PERFORMANCE DATES

Thursday, Friday, Saturday,

November 17, 18, 19, 8pm.

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday,

November 23, 24, 25, 26, 8pm

Saturday matinee on November 26 at 2pm  
at The Arts Theatre, 53 Angas Street, Adelaide.

## OUR DIRECTOR & CREW

Director Jude Hines has an impressive CV as an actor and director in Adelaide theatre. In 2001, Jude directed the SA premiere of *Kid Stakes*, the first play in the acclaimed *Summer of the 17th Doll* trilogy for The Adelaide Rep. *Moon over Buffalo* allowed Jude to direct another exciting SA premiere for The Rep in 2002. Jude says *100 Lunches'* colourful characters and oneliners will keep the audience involved and smiling throughout the show: "It has romance and irony that everyone can relate to."

Production coordinator for *100 Lunches* is Meri Warneke, with Jill Stephens as stage manager. Creative and technical support also will be provided by Ole Wiebkin (set design), Vinnie Eustace (set construction), Laraine Wheeler (lighting), Mollie Birch (costumes), Desiree Lee (props), Hugh Hunkin (sound design) and Lenny Cenuich (sound).

# Party time for season 2012

David Williamson's classic, *Don's Party*, will be among the Adelaide Rep's 2012 season offerings.

Set in the 1969 Australian federal election night, *Don's Party* (later made into a film by Bruce Beresford) becomes a disturbing study of suburban ambitions and disappointments.

*Don's Party* will be directed by Megan Dansie, who has just completed

an acclaimed run with the Adelaide University Theatre Guild's production of *The Pillowman* by award-winning playwright Martin McDonagh.

The Rep will keep the spotlight on McDonagh in 2012 with *A Skull in Connemara*, the second play in his Irish trilogy. The Rep presented the first in that trilogy, *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, to critical success this

year. Kerrin White will again direct.

The plot (pun intended) for *A Skull in Connemara* revolves around a man whose job is exhuming skeletons in an overcrowded graveyard. His newest customer is the wife he was accused of killing years before.

The other two plays in our 2012 season will be announced as part of the official launch in December.

## Brian Wenzel returns to The Rep fold

Brian Wenzel was a very familiar name among the list of people who have joined our Repertoire Club this year.

After building on his Australian TV legend status from years in the ground-breaking series *A Country Practice*, Brian has returned to live in home-town Adelaide where the Rep was part of his early grounding in the acting craft.

Brian's first acting role with the Rep was in *The Ballad of Angel's Alley* by Harold Minear.

In the 1960s, Brian directed the Rep's sellout season of *Tom Jones*. His last play as an actor with the Rep was in *Travelling North*, with Jude Hines (director of our next production, *100 Lunches*) and Graham Duckett. The director was Brian's long-time mate Richard Lane.

Last year, Brian rounded out his long TV and theatre career (including a touring season in David Williamson's *Brilliant Lies*) with 12 months in the musical *Fame*.



**Brian Wenzel was much loved for his role as Sgt Frank Gilroy in *A Country Practice*.**

### Adam in 'Underbelly: Razor'

Another Rep actor who has graduated to national TV screens is Adam Tuominen, starring in *Underbelly: Razor*. He was in our 2010 hit, *Woman in Black*.

A subscription membership of the Rep entitles you to four vouchers to use in exchange for a seat to any of our 2012 shows, plus you get a bonus voucher to help introduce a friend to the Rep. This is great value at \$64 per person. Subscription members can also book extra seats for friends at a concession price of \$15.

Thanks to all those who joined our Repertoire Club. Winner of a 2012 subscription is Deborah Paszynska and two free tickets to *100 Lunches* go to Colleen Wallace, Arnold and Marie Ward, Jennifer Hales, David Willis, Michelle Juers and Bruce Roach.



**COUNT ON LOUISE'S CREATIVE TALENTS**  
The Adelaide Repertoire Theatre's finance officer Louise van der Merwe showed the extended range of her talents by winning the best painting prize at the Hamilton College art exhibition in the Education Department building in Flinders St.

## The Adelaide Repertoire Theatre Inc.

**Patron:** His Excellency Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce AC CSC RANR, Governor of South Australia

**Vice patron:** The Right Honourable The Lord Mayor of Adelaide, Stephen Yarwood

**President:** Lyn Pike **Vice president:** Michelle Hickey **Secretary/treasurer:** Trish Clarke

**Home venue:** The Arts Theatre, 53 Angas Street, Adelaide, 5000 **Phone:** 8212 5777 **Website :** www.adelaiderep.com  
email booking requests to adelaiderep@e-access.com.au

**Office hours:** Tuesday and Thursday 10am to 2pm; Monday to Friday during booking period.

Repertoire editor: Vicki Arnold vicki.arnold@internode.on.net