

## Black comedy and 1960s lust blossoms in latest show

NEVER invite someone into your home without considering the consequences – especially if you've confused lust for love.

Set in early 1960s London, the black comedy *No Bed of Roses* comes to the Old Mill Theatre this April and explores what happens when a controlling woman invites a stranger into her house and life.

She thinks she loves him and demands her husband accept the situation but, without realising who the stranger really is or what he wants, circumstances spiral out of control.

*No Bed of Roses* is written and directed by award-winning local writer Noel O'Neill (seen in *The Beast and The Beauty* last year), inspired by his time in London as a seven-year-old through to his mid-teens.

"I wanted to write this play because I have always somehow been locked into the '60s and the kitchen sink dramas that were popular in theatre at the time," he said.

"Those times come back to me very easily so I wanted to paint a picture of them, adding black comedy.

"Music was also important because it speaks for the times."



Nora (Nicola Chapman) tries to manipulate her mother's new boyfriend George (Joe Tareha) in *No Bed of Roses*.

Born in Ireland, Noel moved to New York in his late teens and studied acting with Lee Strasberg and Herbert Berghof, appearing in many off-Broadway productions including *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest* and *Of Mice and Men*.

In writing the play, Noel said he took the old question of "What if...?" and let the story unfold.

"The challenge was getting into the mindset of the characters and living with them as I put them down on paper," he said.

"It's an exhausting, beautiful experience to create characters out of thin air and God-gifted imagination.

"Directing the play was just a matter of adding actions to the script and allowing the actors the freedom to take it to another level."



Joe Tareha, left, Trish Farrell and Tom Rees are appearing in a play that lives up to its title – Noel O'Neill's *No Bed of Roses*.

Since moving to Perth 12 years ago, he has appeared on stage and directed and written numerous shows for the Old Mill and KADS Theatres, Graduate Dramatic Society and the Irish Theatre Players.

Noel has won numerous awards for writing, directing and currently lectures for the WA Academy of Performing Arts and Perth Actors' Collective.

"I previously directed *No Bed of Roses* at KADS Theatre two years ago but I always like to give other actors the opportunity to bring my work to life with a fresh take on the script," he said.

"In my classes, if I recognise someone is passionate about their craft I am more than happy to cast them in some of my plays."

The cast of *No Bed of Roses* features Trish Farrell, Tom Rees, Joe Tareha and Nicola Chapman.

**REMEMBER! Book for opening night and enjoy cheese and wine after the show... and also meet and mingle with the cast.**

**No Bed of Roses plays at 8pm, April 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 17, 18, 19 and 20 with a 2pm matinee April 14. Tickets are \$25, \$20 concession – book on 9367 8719, oldmilltheatre@inet.net.au or online at [www.oldmilltheatre.com.au](http://www.oldmilltheatre.com.au).**



# AUDITIONS

## A Conversation

By David Williamson  
Directed by Brendan Ellis

**Reading: 2pm Sunday, April 21**

**Audition: 10am, Saturday, April 27**

**Season: August 2-17**

When a single mother's son, Scott, is imprisoned for the rape and murder of a young woman, Coral arranges a meeting with the victim's upper-class parents and the prison psychologist who counselled Scott – and asks Jack Manning to mediate.

To support Coral are her brother Rob and Scott's siblings Mick and Gail. Are Coral's intentions of reconciliation pure or is there another motive?

This is an intense ensemble piece requiring strong actors. All cast are on stage throughout the whole play and are featured in various scenes. Given the subject matter, the play can be very confronting.

Auditions are by appointment and there may be callbacks. They will consist of a two-minute contemporary dramatic monologue of your choice, followed by a reading of selected scenes from the play.

**CAST REQUIRED (please note ages quoted are STAGE AGES):**

**Jack Manning: 30-40s.** Professional community conference convener. Intelligent, skilled, discerning and experienced.

**Lorin Zemanak: 30-40.** Prison psychologist. Recommended Scott's release following an earlier conviction. Feels partly responsible for Scott's re-offending and starts to doubt her own abilities. Intelligent with a strong facade.

**Derek Milsom: 40-50s.** Father of the victim, distraught, stubborn and angry but trying to cope.

**Barbara Milsom: 40-50s.** Equally affected by her daughter's death, bottling her emotions. Reserved, observant and strong-willed.

**Coral Williams: 40-55.** Mother of the perpetrator, still loves her son. Loving and kind but easily influenced.

**Gail Williams: mid-20s.** Coral's university-educated eldest child, attempts to explain her brother's actions. Intellectual and stubborn.

**Mick Williams: late teens to 20s.** Coral's youngest, unwilling to defend his brother. Good-natured and down-to-earth, loves his family but is understandably resentful.

**Bob Shorter:** Coral's elder brother. Has financially supported his sister and family and has a fondness for Scott. Proud, generous, defensive.

For more details, contact director **Brendan Ellis** on **0430 171 055** or **brenellis@yahoo.com.au**.

**Please note:** this is a confronting script, requiring dedicated actors. The play is considered suitable for mature audiences.

# Secret Bridesmaids' Success!

## ...I thought a riot would start...

*Nicole Meyer and Zoe Cole getting ready to get their bridesmaid on*



**Review by GORDON THE OPTOM**  
Extract from [www.theatre.asn.au](http://www.theatre.asn.au)

**SECRET Bridesmaids' Business** is a 1999 box office record-breaking Australian comedy, penned by NIDA-trained playwright Elizabeth Coleman.

The script of the play lacks lustre in the first act but certainly makes up for it in the second.

So good were the excellent actors in capturing their characters that the audience became like children at a pantomime, shouting comments like "don't do it" and "disgraceful" at the performers, finally booing two of them – in good humour – at the end.

The director is Mary Wolffa, well-known for her theatre work with children and is now tackling this adult comedy – and what a superb job she has done.

There was plenty of natural flow to the action at times when it could have looked clunky or staged.

The rapport and flow was fantastic, the married members of the audience really did connect with the dialogue.

Each member of the cast had a short monologue, putting forward their side of the relationship.

The arrogance of one person was such that I thought a riot would start.

The scenery was excellent with a genuine feel of a luxury hotel room. Jenny Prosser's costumes were perfect, helped by the generosity of sponsors Elegant Amore and The Bra Bar with their stunning outfits – certainly not like that in my day, unfortunately!

### New depth and perspective

I have seen this play performed a couple of times by professional companies and quite liked the script, however, this director has correctly concentrated on the depth of the characters rather than going for the easy laughs. This has given the play a whole new depth and genuine perspective.

A fun play but let your hair down and voice your disapproval at the appropriate places.

Tragic, funny and sexy are all apt adjectives but be prepared to see your own relatives portrayed with astonishing accuracy. Great fun.

## ~ VALE JOHN MILSON ~

**JOHN Milson, who directed *Hamlet* and *Falsettos* at the Old Mill in 2011 and 2012, died in January after a long battle with cancer.**

Just a week before his death, *Falsettos* won best musical, best director of a musical and best musical director at the Finley Awards.

In 2010, John celebrated a 40-year career as a director and lecturer, covering drama, opera, musicals and cabaret.

Originally from Sydney, he had been based in Perth since 1986 and was head of musical theatre at the WA Academy of Performing Arts for 12 years.

He worked with a vast array of students who went on to bigger and better things, including Hugh Jackman, Lisa McCune and Lucy Durack.

He also received an Order of Australia for his services to the performing arts and WA Equity Guild Awards for best director and lifetime achievement in the arts.

Ian Westrip worked with him many times over the years and said: "I have an understanding of how it was to be directed by this tyrant while receiving the benefit of his insight and knowledge."



"'Mils' was a difficult taskmaster and his vitriolic attitude and abrasive manner upset many, finding it a personal affront."

"But at all times he had the product and theatre at the forefront and wasn't interested in anything else – including personal relationships or people's attitude to him."

"This made it difficult to work with him. But a difference of opinion almost always ended with his point of view being correct."

"He was always keen to assist and promote those that showed talent (in his opinion), guiding many in their professional pursuits whether they were technicians, actors or opera singers."

"He will be missed by many, and less by others, but his contribution and dedication to theatre is unsurpassed."

John was surrounded by friends when he died, who gave him a standing ovation.

# Magnificent Millys



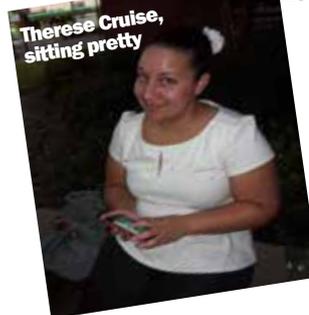
**Jessica Messenger: winner, winner, chicken dinner**



**Beastly fun with Phil Barnett, John Woolrych, Mark DeFriest, Siouxsane Martincic, Trevor Ryan and Graeme Johnson**



**Maree Grayden gets herself primed for the night...**



**Therese Cruise, sitting pretty**



**Half of Team V comes together: Jennifer McGrath, Sinéad Bevan, Jessica Russell**



**Sweet sounds with strings attached**

**THE results are in - the winners of the 2012 Milly Awards have been announced during a fun-filled evening of mirth, merriment and more.**

There were play excerpts, gourmet canapes, the sounds of a string quartet, chairman Phil Barnett reprising his role as the beast to MC the event and several measures of fun juice all round (that's drinks at the bar for the uninitiated).

*Adjudicators: Jarrod Buttery, Maree Grayden, Graeme Johnson.*

## BEST SET

Nominees: *Flesh Wounds, The Beast and The Beauty, Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?, Plaza Suite.*

Winner: *The Beast and The Beauty.*

## BEST COSTUMES

Nominees: *Flesh Wounds, The Beast and The Beauty.*

Winner: *The Beast and The Beauty.*

## BEST STAGE MANAGER\*

Henriette Lawrence, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*

## BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR

Nominees: David Bowyer (*Falsettos*), Charles McComb (*Flesh Wounds*), Noel O'Neill (*The Beast and The Beauty*), Trevor Ryan (*The Beast and The Beauty*), Mat Young (*The Beast and The Beauty*).

Winner: Trevor Ryan (*The Beast and The Beauty*).

## BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS

Nominees: Madelaine Page (*Flesh Wounds*), Rebecca Garlett (*Parramatta Girls*), Anka Ckic (*Parramatta Girls*), Britni Leslie (*Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*).

Winner: Rebecca Garlett (*Parramatta Girls*).

## BEST ACTOR

Nominees: Tyler Jones (*Falsettos*), Andy Hopkins (*Flesh Wounds*), Gareth Jay (*Flesh Wounds*), Matt Elverd and Phil Barnett (shared nomination, *The Beast and The Beauty*), Garry Lawrence (*Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*), Robert Whyte (*Plaza Suite*).

Joint winner: Matt Elverd and Phil Barnett (*The Beast and The Beauty*).

## BEST ACTRESS

Nominees: Sharon Wisniewski (*Falsettos*), Bonnie Coyle (*Flesh Wounds*), Susan Lynch (*Parramatta Girls*), Anastatia Ward (*The Beast and The Beauty*), Bev Lawrence (*Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*), Sally Barendse (*Plaza Suite*).

Winner: Bev Lawrence (*Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*).

## CONSTANCE ORD AWARD FOR BEST DIRECTOR

Nominees: John Milson (*Falsettos*), Jessica Messenger (*Flesh Wounds*), Siobhan O'Gara (*Parramatta Girls*), Mark DeFriest (*The Beast and The Beauty*), Megan Burley (*The Vagina Monologues*), Garry Lawrence and Noel O'Neill (*Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*), Susie Conte (*Plaza Suite*).

Winner: Jessica Messenger (*Flesh Wounds*).

## BEST PRODUCTION

Nominees: *Falsettos, Flesh Wounds, Parramatta Girls, The Beast and The Beauty, The Vagina Monologues, Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?, Plaza Suite.*

Winner: *The Beast and The Beauty.*

## ADJUDICATORS' CERTIFICATES

**Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble Cast:** Nicole Pearce, Sinéad Bevan, Cicely Binford, Laila Gampfer, Jennifer McGrath and Jessica Russell (*The Vagina Monologues*).

**Lighting Award:** John Woolrych and Ben Davis for invaluable work on *The Beast and The Beauty* and *Plaza Suite*.

**Outstanding Achievement in Makeup:** Siouxsane Martincic (*The Beast and The Beauty*).

**Newcomer Award:** Kit Leake (*The Beast and The Beauty*).

**Newcomer Award:** Fraser Paterson (*Plaza Suite*).

**Outstanding Performance in a Lead Role:** Garry Lawrence (*Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*).

**Sound Effects:** Special thanks to Graeme Johnson (*The Beast and The Beauty*).

## SILLY MILLY AWARD

Matt Elverd's entrance - several scenes too early - during one performance of *The Beast and The Beauty*.

## ADJUDICATORS' ACHIEVEMENT AWARD (MEMORABLE MILLY)

Garry Lawrence for initially directing *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* then stepping aside to assume the lead role.

## MEMBER OF THE YEAR\*

Tim Prosser

\*Denotes awarded by the Old Mill Theatre board.

## WHAT'S ON ELSEWHERE?

### A MONTH OF SUNDAYS Roleystone Theatre



Touching comedy with a lot of heart from writer of *As Time Goes By*.  
8pm April 5, 6, 10, 12 and 13  
and 2pm matinee April 7.  
Book on 9397 5730.

### RABBIT HOLE Melville Theatre



Explores how family members survive a major loss.  
8pm April 12, 13, 18, 19, 20,  
25, 26 and 27 and 2pm matinee  
April 21. Book on 9330 4565.

### ABIGAIL'S PARTY Limelight Theatre, Wanneroo



Suburban situation comedy and social satire of lower-middle-class suburbia.  
8pm April 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 18,  
19 and 20. Book on 9571 8591.

### Stephen Sondheim's COMPANY Subiaco Arts Centre



Broadway musical comedy.  
7.30pm May 1, 2, 3 and 4 and  
2pm May 4. Book on 132 849 or  
at [www.ticketek.com.au](http://www.ticketek.com.au)

### MAUL OF THE DEAD Phoenix Theatre, Hamilton Hill



Disco zombies let loose in horror comedy. 8pm, May 10, 11, 16,  
17 and 18 and 2pm matinee  
May 18. Book on 9255 3336 or  
[www.TAZTix.com.au](http://www.TAZTix.com.au).

**Colour your world: check out the colour version of this edition at [www.oldmilltheatre.com.au](http://www.oldmilltheatre.com.au)**



# COMING SOON

IT'S no rest for the wicked as 2013 rolls on - not only is Noel O'Neill the man behind the Old Mill's latest show *No Bed of Roses* but he's also co-directing the next production with Maree Grayden.

Written by Garson Kanin, *Born Yesterday* follows the uncouth, corrupt rich junk dealer Harry Brock who brings his showgirl mistress Billie Dawn with him to Washington DC.

When Billie's ignorance becomes a liability to Brock's business dealings, he hires journalist Paul Verrall to educate his girlfriend.

In the process of learning, Billie realises

how corrupt Harry is and begins interfering with his plans to bribe a Congressman into passing legislation that would allow Brock's business to make more money.

*Born Yesterday* was made into a 1950 film with Judy Holliday and William Holden and again in 1993 with Melanie Griffith.

It also had two Broadway revivals in 1989 and 2011.

***Born Yesterday* runs from June 1 to 15 at the Old Mill Theatre.**

For updates, go to [www.oldmilltheatre.com.au](http://www.oldmilltheatre.com.au).

The Old Mill Times  
PO Box 1390  
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## \$6 for bubblin' barbecue fun!



CIN cin! It's time again for the Old Mill Theatre's annual champagne breakfast from 9AM, SUNDAY, APRIL 14, with lots of bubbles of sparkling fun and a morning-has-broken selection of eggs, bacon, sausages, toast and fruit salad.

Members only - but you may bring a guest. And the good news? It's only \$6 per person (pay on the day).

But bookings are **ESSENTIAL** for catering purposes (otherwise how do we know how much food we should buy?).

Call 0402 249 249, 9367 8719 or email [oldmilltheatre@iinet.net.au](mailto:oldmilltheatre@iinet.net.au) by April 10.

## Old Mill Theatre 2013 Board of Management



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