

## Look into *The Glass Menagerie*

TENNESSEE Williams' most powerful and haunting play *The Glass Menagerie* is being staged at the Old Mill Theatre this September.

Directed by Susie Conte, the classic American drama is a stirring portrait of a family that struggles with the past, future – and each other.

Amanda Wingfield desperately struggles to provide her fragile daughter with at least one “gentleman caller” while her son Tom dreams of escaping his job at a warehouse and oppressive life at home.

The semi-autobiographical play is filtered through Tom's memory, reflecting on the glories of times past with echoes of loneliness, fragility and innocent hope.

*The Glass Menagerie* was Williams' first successful play, catapulting him to the forefront of American theatre with other works such as *A Streetcar Named Desire* – seen at the Old Mill Theatre in 2009 – and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*.

“While it first appeared on stage more than 60 years ago, the play's themes continue to resonate with today's audiences,” Susie said.

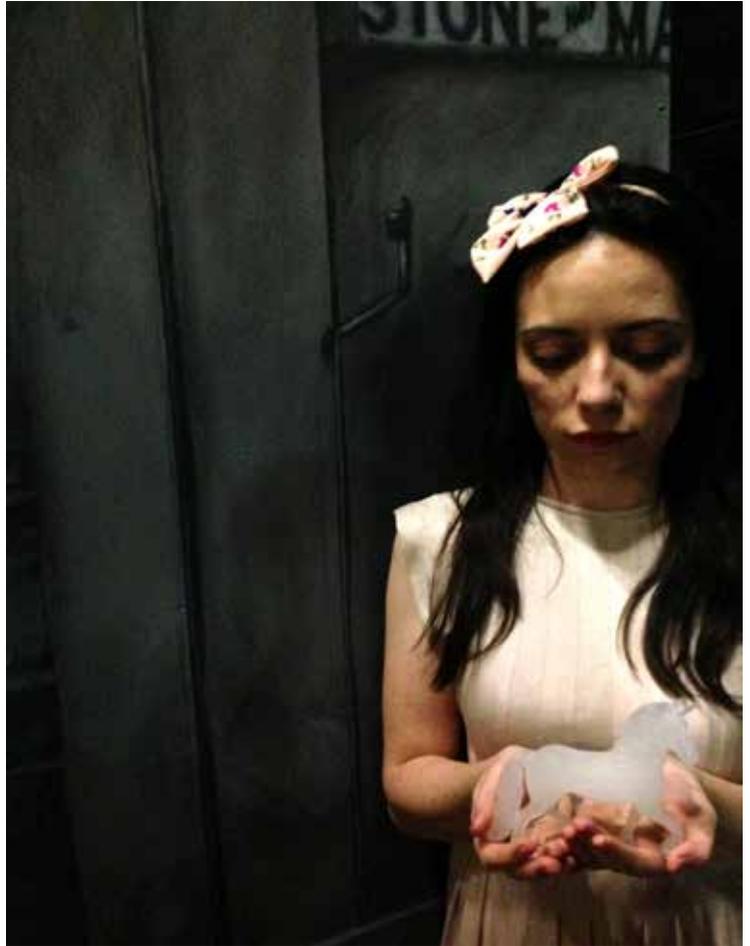
“Balancing family duty and self-exploration, overcoming anxiety and an overbearing parent are timeless issues that certainly carry over to the 21st century.

*The Glass Menagerie* is renowned because the story examines the universal conflict between the right and wrong pathways we all must walk, not by choice, but by necessity and circumstance.

“It's not a tragedy of heroes or villains but of all the individuals in the story who must make their own paths.”

With an extensive background as an actor and director, Susie has appeared in Shakespeare's *The Comedy of Errors*, *Macbeth* and *The Tempest*, *Oh What A Lovely War* and *The Misanthrope* at the 1998 Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

She directed *The Vagina Monologues* at the Subiaco Arts Centre in 2010 and worked as assistant director and stage manager for *Ghosts* at the same venue before directing *Plaza Suite* at the Old Mill Theatre in late 2012.



Aisling McGroghan is playing Laura Wingfield in *The Glass Menagerie*.

Last year, Susie scored numerous awards for her production of Harold Pinter's *The Dumb Waiter* and was responsible for the well-received *Fifteen Minute Hamlet* at Fringe World.

“*The Glass Menagerie* appealed because I really wanted to highlight the characters who, although desperate, are longing to accomplish something,” she said.

“It's a very strong exploration of a family fighting to maintain itself – you often see the ferocity but underneath is a love holding them together which is twice as strong.”

*The Glass Menagerie* plays at 8pm, September 6, 11, 12, 13, 17, 18, 19 and 20 with a 2pm matinee September 14. Tickets are \$25, \$20 concession – book at <http://oldmilltheatre.com.au/tickets> or on 9367 8719.

The cast features Aisling McGroghan, Maree Grayden, Joe Tareha and Yad Sand.

**REMEMBER!** Book for opening night and enjoy cheese and wine during interval, then mingle with the cast after the show.

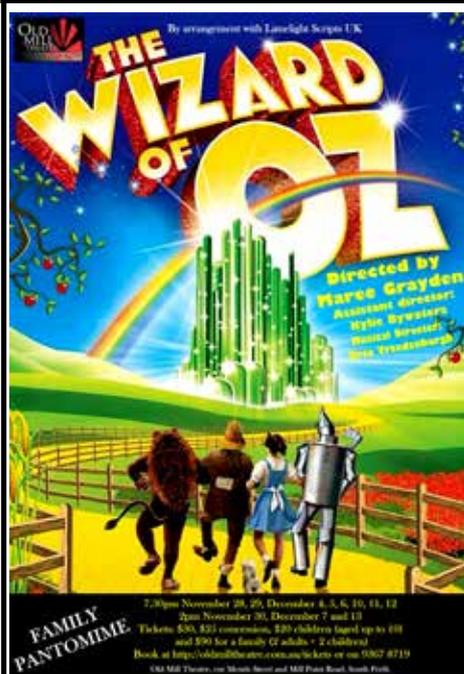
**Tickets are \$25, \$20 concession – book at <http://oldmilltheatre.com.au/tickets> or call 9367 8719.**



Jim O'Connor (Yad Sand, right) is seen by Laura (Aisling McGroghan) as a knight in shining armour in *The Glass Menagerie*.



# WIZARD CAST!



**THE Wizard of Oz has been cast!**  
After extensive auditions one early August Saturday afternoon, director Maree Grayden, musical director Bree Vreedenburgh and assistant director Kylie Bywaters have chosen the following actors:

## ENSEMBLE

Dorothy – Arianne Westcott King  
Toto – Harrison Wake  
Aunt Em – Trish Theisinger  
Olga – Craig Menner  
Glinda – Nicole Miller  
Letita – Trevor Dhu  
Elvis – Ted Bull  
Scarecrow – Tim Prosser  
Lion – Neil Cartmell  
Tinman – Sarah Christiner  
Doctor/Woodsman/Gatekeeper/Wizard – Rex Gray

## CHORUS: Monkeys/Citizens

Aaron Skinner (lead monkey), Matthew Styles (lead monkey), Digby Petit, Nicholas Hooker, Madeline Hooker, Ally Sator, William Sator, Megan Grayden, Kasey Pavlinovich, Georgia Weston Arnold, Alexander Broadbent, Ryan Drummond, Matthew Hutchinson.

## Munchkins/Villagers/Citizens

Atira Shak (lead munchkin), Grace Poolley (lead munchkin), Abbey Bruest, Naomi Skinner, Brooke Skinner, Anna Grayden, Hannah Harrison, Charlotte Broadbent, Kian Cartmell, Caiden Cartmell, Indigo Ellis. Tahlia Menner, Kate Sisley.

**The Wizard of Oz runs November 28 to December 13.**

## Review: THE HATPIN

“...excellent talent... a must-see...”

Review by **KIMBERLEY SHAW**

Source: <http://www.stagewhispers.com.au/reviews/hatpin-1>

THIS relatively new Australian musical by WAAPA graduates Peter Rutherford and James Millar is being performed for the first time in Western Australia at the atmospheric and era-appropriate Old Mill Theatre in South Perth.

Darkly themed, it is inspired by the true story of Amber Murray, who in Sydney in 1892, put her infant son in to the care of the Makin family, with tragic results.

*The Hatpin* has the dark themes and musical feel of a Sondheim musical, with harmonies as complex as those of Richard Rodgers. It is hugely challenging both emotionally and musically and a fascinating journey for the audience.

Most of the cast, especially the younger women, handle the challenges of this show with ease.

Sarah Cosstick, is lovely in the central role, inhabiting the luckless young mother beautifully and singing wrenchingly from the heart.

The trio of young women who have been ‘in trouble’ (Danni Close, Hayley Currie and Sarsi Elsberry) maintain beautiful harmonies and clearly establish their own stories.

Madeleine Shaw plays the strange Clara Makin in an unnerving performance and



“Beautiful harmonies” from the young women in *The Hatpin*.

## ABC’s Old Mill Theatre

AS PART of 720 ABC Radio’s ‘What’s all that about?’ series, the Old Mill Theatre was featured in early August:

The 115-year-old federation building in South Perth dates to back to the suburb’s earliest days and has housed the municipal council, numerous schools and, since 1948, it has been the home of the local dramatic club.

The theatre started life as a Mechanics’ Institute hall as the fledgling suburb of South Perth began to grow at the end of the 1800s, explained Richard Offen from Heritage Perth.

The association of the hall with theatre began in 1948, when a dramatic club was cre-



The courtroom scene in *The Hatpin*.

her delivery of the title song, the climax of the story, is excellent.

Agatha and Charles Makin are well-played by Andrea van Bertouch (making a welcome return to the stage after a lengthy absence) and Angelino Schintu, who create a formidable team and disturbingly believable characters.

Judi Johnson plays Harriet Piper with rough kindness and finds much of the comedy in the role.

Adam Salathiel gives authority to the role of Justice Stephen while Tim Prosser gives credence to the show-pony defence barrister.

There is a promising stage debut from Nicholas Cruse and a West Australian debut for Mitchell Crouch, both doing well in minor roles. David Cosgrove and Luke Heath nicely round out the cast.

Thoughtfully blocked by director Graeme Johnston, the show is performed on an almost bare stage, nicely designed by Ben Davis.

The backdrop, a Sydney street, painted by Tim Prosser, with almost photographic realism, is amazing. Danni Close’s film montage helps to create the period.

The unseen six-piece orchestra, conducted by Paul Lawrence Olsen, plays to a very high standard.

*The Hatpin* is an intriguing and interesting show, with some excellent talent and a must-see for those with an interest in Australian music theatre.

ated in South Perth and they put on a night of one-act plays in the hall.

In 1958 the club renamed the building the Old Mill Theatre and in 1960, when the council built a new civic centre in South Perth, the dramatic club asked to convert the hall into a theatre.

“In return, the club was prepared to improve and care for the interior of the building and to provide a venue for anyone interested in live theatre to learn and practise their craft,” Mr Offen said.

Read the full interview at <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-08-04/old-mill-theatre-south-perth/5647254>.

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

SERIAL PRODUCTIONS IS DELIGHTED TO PRESENT  
FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE GOOD PEOPLE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA  
MR CURTIS & MR ELTON'S MUCH ADMIRED COMEDY

# BLACKADDER

## THE THIRD

PERFORMED WITH APPROPRIATE SCENERY, DRESSES, ETC. BY  
EDMUND BLACKADDER, BUTLER TO THE PRINCE, MR. JOE ISAIA  
BALDRICK, A DOGSBODY, MR. KEITH SCRIVENS  
THE PRINCE REGENT, THEIR MASTER, MR. RODNEY VAN GRONINGEN  
MRS. Miggins, A COFFEE SHOPPEEKEEPER, Ms. JACQUELINE WARNER

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 1 TO SATURDAY OCTOBER 11, SHOWS COMMENCING AT 8PM.  
2 MATINEES - SUNDAY OCTOBER 5 AND SATURDAY OCTOBER 11 COMMENCING AT 2PM.  
\$27.00 ADULT, \$24.00 CONCESSION, \$22.00 GROUP (10+)  
WWW.SERIALPRODUCTIONS.COM.AU • WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/EKRS  
ENQUIRIES: 0416 565 135

DIRECTED BY MR. DAVID GREGORY  
THE OLD MILL THEATRE, SOUTH PERTH

SERIAL Productions is back at the Old Mill Theatre this October with *Blackadder The Third*.

Following successful productions of *Blackadder Goes Forth* and *Open All Hours*, the company has hired the theatre for another stage adaptation of a TV classic.

Written by Ben Elton and Richard Curtis, *Blackadder The Third* is set during the Regency period with Edmund head butler to the Prince of Wales, a spoiled, foppish idiot.

Despite Edmund's intelligence and abilities, he has no personal fortune to speak of.

*Blackadder The Third* plays at 8pm, October 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 with 2pm matinees October 5 and 11.

For **\*ALL\*** bookings, go to [www.trybookings/EKRS](http://www.trybookings/EKRS). For enquiries, call 0416 565 135.

More details are available at [www.serialproductions.com.au](http://www.serialproductions.com.au).

## WHAT'S ON ELSEWHERE?

### PICASSO'S WOMEN

Chrissie Parrott Arts, Maylands



A fascinating insight into the wives and lovers of Picasso.  
7.30pm August 20, 21, 22, 23, 27, 28, 29 & 30. Book at [www.trybooking.com](http://www.trybooking.com).

### SPIKE HEELS

Melville Theatre



Provocative comedy from award-winning *NYPD Blue* writer.  
8pm Sep 12, 13, 18, 19, 20, 25, 26 & 27; 2pm Sep 21. Book on 9330 4565 or at [www.meltheco.org.au](http://www.meltheco.org.au).

THE BRAIN FROM PLANET X  
Phoenix Theatre, Hamilton Hill



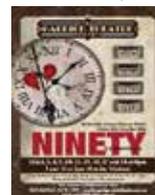
Australian musical premiere of '50s sci-fi movie spoof.  
8pm, Sep 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20, 25, 26 & 27; 2pm Sep 21.  
Book on 9255 3336 or at [www.TAZTix.com.au](http://www.TAZTix.com.au)

DRAMAFEST 2014  
Playlovers, Floreat



The annual state one-act play drama festival.  
7.30pm, September 22, 23, 24, 25, 26 & 27; 1.30pm Sep 27 & 28. Tix \$20 per session: [www.ita.org.au](http://www.ita.org.au)

NINETY  
Garrick Theatre, Guildford



A husband gives his wife 90 minutes to save their marriage  
8pm, Oct 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17 & 18; 2pm Oct 5 & 12.  
Book on 9378 1990 or [bookings@garricktheatre.asn.au](mailto:bookings@garricktheatre.asn.au)



### OLD MILL THEATRE

PO Box 1390, South Perth WA 6951

(08) 9367 8719 / e: [oldmilltheatre@inet.net.au](mailto:oldmilltheatre@inet.net.au)

Membership fees are due on October 1 each year. Please complete ALL areas of the form below and post to the above address to receive information on the interesting mix of plays and theatre activities planned for 2015.

APPLICATION or RENEWAL—NEWSLETTER/ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP 2014-2015  
TAX INVOICE ABN 19250378001

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

POSTCODE.....

PHONE.....(H).....(W).....(M)

email.....

We appreciate people completing this form, even if you are a long-time member, because it helps us maintain up-to-date records. Please write email addresses LEGIBLY. If no change, write "as before". If you're a new member, welcome aboard!

SUBSCRIPTIONS from October 1, 2014, will be unchanged:  
Newsletter only: \$12 per year, full membership: \$20 per year (double \$30)  
[Full membership entitles you to act, direct and be an active member of the theatre. Our "membership year" runs from October 1 to September 30]

FOR ALL MEMBERS: If you would like to assist with front-of-house during a season, please tick this box and we will contact you.

For active members: please tick your areas of special interest: ACTING  SINGING   
DIRECTING  STAGE MANAGEMENT  SET BUILDING  LIGHTING/SOUND   
PUBLICITY  WARDROBE/COSTUMES   
ANYTHING ELSE?  (please indicate).....

Cheques should be made payable to the Old Mill Theatre and sent with this completed form to the address at the top of the page. Alternatively, you can pay by credit card:

VISA/MASTERCARD number: ..... Exp.....

Amount: \$

OFFICE USE: Date received ..... Amount ..... Cheque/credit card

Receipt ..... Category .....

# Two short plays in September



THE Old Mill Theatre is presenting two short plays by Noel O'Neill in late September.

*Under Any Old Gum Tree* is the story of Martin O'Meara VC and what's been described as "one man's journey into hell" as he came from Ireland to Australia and then from No Man's Land to insanity. The show includes songs and music written and dedicated to Martin O'Meara. It has previously played to sell-out crowds.

*October* is a new two-person play from Noel... a mother is dying of cancer. She has accepted her fate but her daughter has trouble with it.

Both plays are on at 8pm, September 23, 24 and 25. All tickets are \$20.

Book on 9367 8719 or [oldmilltheatre@iinet.net.au](mailto:oldmilltheatre@iinet.net.au).



The Old Mill Times  
PO Box 1390  
South Perth WA 6951

Surface  
Mail

Registered by AUSTRALIA POST  
PP 642409/00009

## REMEMBER to be a member!

JUST a friendly reminder to renew your memberships - they are due on October 1.

Costs remain the same: \$20 single active membership, \$30 double (one newsletter), \$12 newsletter membership.

Membership forms can be downloaded at [www.oldmilltheatre.com.au](http://www.oldmilltheatre.com.au) (click About, Get involved and then Membership Form) or use the form inside this newsletter.

Please fill out ALL the details... the Old Mill database is continually being updated, so it's important your details are correct and up-to-date.

For enquiries, call 9367 8719 or email [oldmilltheatre@iinet.net.au](mailto:oldmilltheatre@iinet.net.au)



## Old Mill Theatre 2014 Board of Management



Phil Barnett  
Chairperson



Maree Grayden  
Vice Chairperson



Michiel Van Doorn  
Treasurer



Madaleine Rennie  
Board Member



Rex Gray  
Board Member



Ben Davis  
Board Member



Tim Prosser  
Board Member



Mary Wolfia  
Board Member