

## CLOSER: Powerful and pertinent passion play about falling in and out of love



**SEX, dishonesty and betrayal come to the fore as strangers become lovers – and lovers become strangers – in a play at the Old Mill Theatre this June.**

Written by Patrick Marber and directed by Trevor Dhu, *Closer* explores the raw nerve of pain that comes with the territory of love as the romantic lives of four characters intertwine in contemporary London.

Over four years, Dan, Alice, Larry and Anna pursue their own desires as lives collide and fates change in an instant with each character crossing the line between love and sex and then lust.

*Closer* won the 1998 Laurence Olivier Award for best new play and has been translated into 30 languages and produced in more than 200 cities across the world.

In 2004, Marber adapted the play into a film featuring Julia Roberts, Jude Law, Natalie Portman, and Clive Owen. He also wrote the screenplay for *Notes on a Scandal*.

“*Closer* is like watching life through a voyeuristic point of view and sharing the sex, lust and loss,” Trevor said.

“Everyone loses – one character doesn’t want to have a relationship again and another marries on a premise, not love.

“Another character disap-



Dylan James and Georgina Hamer explore lust, dishonesty and betrayal in Patrick Marber’s *Closer*.

ABOVE: Georgina Hamer, left, Jeffrey Watkins, Anna Head and Dylan James are in appearing in Patrick Marber’s *Closer*.

pears, preferring a life of chance, and then someone else ends up alone, regretting a return to mundane life.

“Getting the actors to perform realistically and confront a difficultly-written play with so many scene changes is the main challenge.

“The method required by the actors needs to draw on some aspect of their past, not be a contrived style of acting.”

Involved in the performing arts for as long as he can remember, Trevor has worked with Patch and Playhouse Theatres, Perth City Ballet and did extensive professional work with the Australian Dance Theatre in the eastern states.

More recently, he has directed, choreographed and acted in various productions at the Mandurah Performing Arts Centre – most notably *West Side Story* and *Jesus Christ Superstar* – and also performed and directed at Harbour, Roleystone, Old Mill and Melville Theatres.

Last year, Trevor directed *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll* at the Old Mill Theatre, winner of several Milly Awards.

“*Closer* interested me because it kind of reflected a difficult period in my life,” he said.

“I wanted to express this somehow and an international author recommended Patrick Marber’s play to me.”

*Closer* plays at 8pm June 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 22, 23, 24 and 25 with 2pm matinees June 12 and 19.

Please note: the play features strong adult language and themes.

**Tickets are \$25, \$20 concession – book at <http://oldmilltheatre.com.au/tickets> or call 9367 8719 or [oldmilltheatre@inet.net.au](mailto:oldmilltheatre@inet.net.au)**



# AUDITION: Hail Mary 2

# Champagne breakfast bubbles runneth over!

Director: Noel O'Neill  
Auditions: 2pm, June 11  
Location: Old Mill Theatre  
Season: April 8-23

WHO says nuns have no fun? One actress, stage age 35-45, is required for *Hail Mary 2: The Haunting* by Noel O'Neill at the Old Mill Theatre.

Sister Marilyn is the senior nun - a sensible person but, having the cares of the convent on her shoulders, she is inclined to lose her cool at times.

Auditions will be held 2pm, Saturday, June 11, at the Old Mill Theatre. Season dates are August 16-29.

For all enquiries, contact production manager John Spurling on 0449 714 763 or email john.spurling1@bigpond.com.

THEY came, they cooked, they champagned... the Old Mill Theatre's annual champagne breakfast brought together members and friends to delightfully quaff bubbles while a storm was thus cooked up.

All photos by Sarah Christiner except one by Phil Barnett (obviously not the one with him in it).



The relative merits of yacht rock as a musical genre was discussed.



An explanation of how to do the moves to the Macarena.



Michiel: "Kiss me, I'm the chef!" Rex, non-plussed, instead tries to bring home the bacon.



Is this all it's cracked up to be?



Obligatory annual Phil-at-the-barbecue pic.



## ITA events



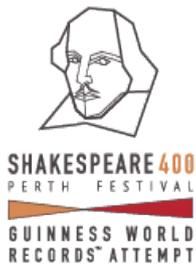
SO WHAT'S happening in the world of the Independent Theatre Association, better known as the ITA among theatre types?

Look no further: the year is mapped out for you below:

- Sundowner at KADS Theatre, 7pm, Saturday, June 4.
- ITA Performing Arts Exhibition and Tradeshow, St Norbert's College, 10am-5pm, Saturday, July 16.
- Youthfest, Stirling Theatre, September 17-18.
- Dramafest, Stirling Theatre, September 23-26.
- Finley Award nominations night, Irish Club, Saturday, December 11.
- Finley Awards, State Theatre Centre, Saturday, December 17 (to be confirmed).

Be sure to visit the ITA website at [www.ita.org.au](http://www.ita.org.au) for reviews, what's on, auditions and other items of interest.

# Shakespeare 400 Perth



## WHEREFORE ART THOU ROMEO?

In affiliation with the University of Western Australia, October 22nd 2016 will mark the Shakespeare 400 Festival's attempt to set a Guinness World Records™ for...

THE MOST PEOPLE PERFORMING SHAKESPEARE.



### DO YOU want to be involved in a fun Shakespeare Guinness World Record attempt in Perth?

2016 marks the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death. As part of the Shakespeare 400 Festival Perth celebrations, a Shakespeare Festival Day is being held at Riley Oval, UWA, on October 22.

A world record for 'The Most People Performing Shakespeare' will be attempted.

The balcony scene from *Romeo and Juliet* has been chosed with surrounding text from other characters to flesh out the scene to fit official requirements.

Organisers need a minimum of 300 performers.

Guinness World Record requirements:

- 30-minute minimum duration.
- Scene to be performed in one location.
- Scene to be performed in unison.
- No scripts can be used during the

performance and all lines need to be learnt.

Organisers need numerous Romeos, Juliets, Benvolios, Mercutios and Nurses.

Beween now and October 22, the group of performers will rehearse in unison with the abridged script.

On the day, each performer is to wear a coloured T-shirt (provided by themselves) demonstrating their character: Romeo (blue), Juliet (red), Benvolio (yellow), Mercutio (green) and Nurse (white).

Each performer will be provided with individual wrist bands.

If organisers do not get numbers required, they will not be able to conduct the attempt.

They ask that, once committed, there is a follow-through to the performance day.

For more details, email [info@shakespeare400.com.au](mailto:info@shakespeare400.com.au) or call 9388 6762.

## WA Verse Past and Present

## NEXT PLAY READING

WELL-Versed, which has concentrated on performing works of established traditional writers for the past four years, has now invited authors of recent prize-winning verse to join them in a celebration of poetry in WA.

The result is *Western Australian Verse Past and Present*, to be presented at the Fellowship of Australian Writers in Swanbourne, from 2.30pm to 4pm, June 6.

Members of Well-Versed will read some of their favourite items by well-known figures: Mary Durack, Randolph Stow, Dorothy Hewitt, Nicholas Hasluck, Olive Pell, Fay Zwicky and others.

Among those who will present in person, reading their own works, are Shane McCauley, Glen Phillips and Peter Bibby.

For bookings, call Rayden James on 0488 938 501, leaving your name and phone/email details, to allow for confirmation.

GRADS (Graduate Dramatic Society) presents Well-Versed in association with the Fellowship of Australian Writers (WA).



THE next Old Mill Theatre play reading will be Wednesday, August 3, featuring a selection of one-act plays.

Time: 6:30pm for light refreshments and 7pm for the start of the play reading.

Further play readings for 2016 will be September 28 and November 16.

Keep an eye on the website, our Facebook group and *The Old Mill Times* for play titles as they are confirmed.

For enquiries, contact Siobhán O'Gara on 9361 1530, 0409 374 731 or [siobhanog@westnet.com.au](mailto:siobhanog@westnet.com.au)

## WHAT'S ON ELSEWHERE?

THE GLORIOUS OLD TIME MUSIC HALL  
Limelight Theatre, Wanneroo



A mix of song, dance, comedy and variety acts.  
8pm June 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17 & 18.

Book on 0499 954 016.

MICHAEL GOW'S AWAY  
Latvian Centre Theatre, Belmont



A quintessentially Australian story, mixing drama, humour and home truths.

8pm June 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24 & 25; 2pm June 12 & 19  
[www.trybooking.com/LCNW](http://www.trybooking.com/LCNW)

UNDER THE BLUE SKY  
Melville Theatre



Three subtly connected love stories that reveal lust, sacrifices and unrequited passions.

8pm July 8, 9, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22 & 23; 2pm July 17

Book on 9330 4565 or at [www.meltheco.org.au](http://www.meltheco.org.au).

BAD GIRLS – THE MUSICAL  
Chrissie Parrott Arts, Maylands



Blak Yak Theatre presents the musical based on the popular British TV series.

8pm July 28, 29, 30, August 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, & 13; 2pm August 7

Book at [www.blayak.com.au](http://www.blayak.com.au)

# Hail Mary 2: The Haunting



THE Old Mill Theatre's August season is a joint production with Maverick Theatre Productions and a sequel to Noel O'Neill's *Hail Mary*, originally seen in 2014.

In *Hail Mary 2: The Haunting* – again penned by Noel – the convent of Our Lady of the Vines is again under threat but this time it's a haunting causing concern.

Having previously saved themselves from closure by various slightly-questionable means, the nuns again face the threat

of closure from the church hierarchy unless the “haunting” can be exorcised.

The nuns, as is their wont, rally to try and cast out the devil that plagues them – and their efforts lead to some hilarious consequences.

*Hail Mary 2: The Haunting* will play August 16-29. Bookings open in early July and will be through [trybooking.com](http://trybooking.com).

A link will be provided to the Try-booking site on the Old Mill website.

The Old Mill Times  
PO Box 1390  
South Perth WA 6951

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## HONOUR Advance audition notice

ONE for your diaries... auditions for *Honour* will be held at the Old Mill Theatre at 2pm, Saturday, August 20.

Written by Joanna Murray-Smith and directed by Dale James, this frank, honest play cannot fail to move anyone who has ever put their trust in another human being.

George and Honour have been happily married for 32 years. They have a perfect understanding of each other until a beautiful female journalist, sent to profile columnist George, methodically sets out to challenge that understanding.

With love, hope and raw emotion, *Honour* tells this affecting tale of thoughtless conceit from the perspective of the three women involved.

To express an interest in auditioning, email [dalejames911@iinet.net.au](mailto:dalejames911@iinet.net.au)

## Old Mill Theatre 2016 Board of Management



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