

## What the Dickens? Classic Christmas tale becomes a musical

A MUSICAL re-telling of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* is being brought to life at the Old Mill Theatre this December.

Written by James Leisy and directed by Justin Freind, *Scrooge* is closely adapted from the music and screenplay from the 1970 film of the same name.

It follows the classic tale of Ebenezer Scrooge who, through greed, has lost all that is good but undergoes redemption on Christmas Eve after being visited by the ghosts of Christmas past, present and future.

"Composer James Leisy calls *Scrooge* 'a musical play'," Justin said. "It has all the wonderful characters we know and love from *A Christmas Carol* and it's a lot of fun for all the family.

"One of the biggest challenges directing this show is how to stage it – the Old Mill Theatre stage isn't exactly huge so it's been an interesting challenge trying to work out how we are going to set it and make it work.

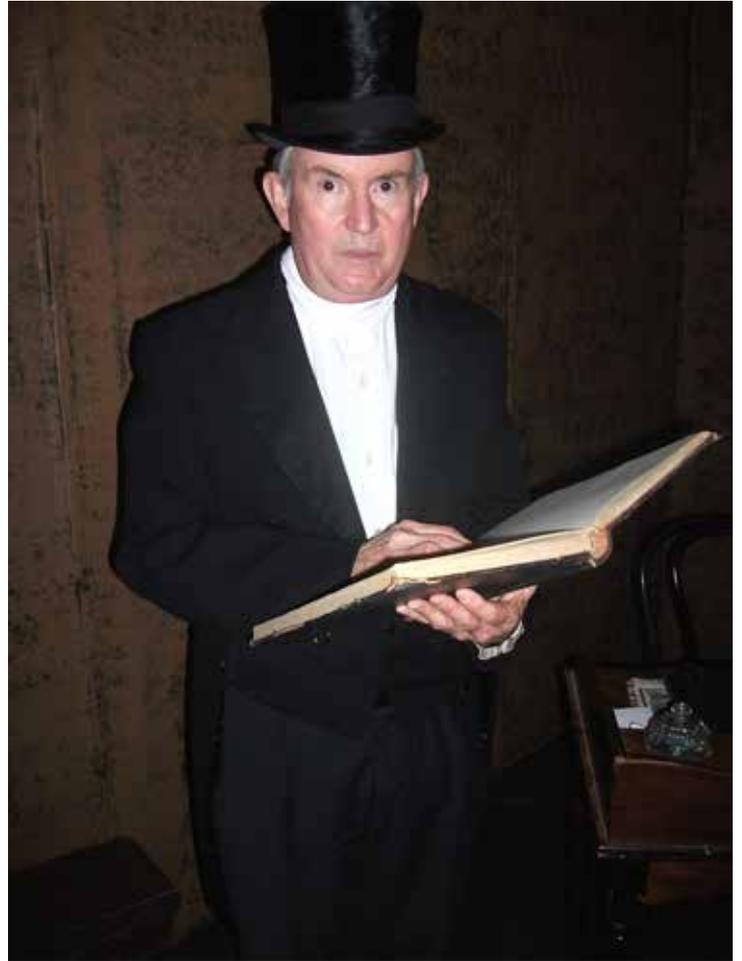
"Also, with a cast of about 25, it's a challenge where they will all go, even off-stage. I may have to hang some of them from the rafters because we only have two dressing rooms.

"But that's the fun of live theatre and, in the end, it's usually the challenges that make us want to do this."

First performing at age seven with the Bridgetown Repertory Club, Justin has been on the stage ever since.

He has appeared with the Midnite Youth Theatre Company, Music Theatre Company of WA, Regal Opera, Gilbert and Sullivan Society of WA, Music Spectrum and the West Australian Opera, as well as working in the UK and New Zealand.

"When the Old Mill Theatre was looking for a show to end 2016, I straight away thought of *Scrooge*," Justin said.



Barry Park plays the title role in *Scrooge*, a musical version of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*.



Atira Shack, left, Hayley Grant, Craig Menner, Orlando Borg and Tahlia Menner play the Cratchit family in *Scrooge*.

"I was musical director of the show at Melville four years ago and it's a great one to do again."

*Scrooge* plays at **7.30pm** December 2, 3, 7, 9, 10, 14, 15 and 16 with 2pm matinees December 4 and 11.

The cast features: Barry Park, Blake Jenkins, Cooper Jenkins, Ashley Garner, George O'Doherty, Grant Malcolm, Matilda Jenkins, Nelson Clemente, Orlando Borg, Craig Menner, Hayley Grant, Tahlia Menner, Atira Shack, Bonnie Kerlake, Eliza Malcolm, Claudia Sciano, Harriet Du Pont, Jenny Trestrail, Bradley Paulet, Tashie Baker, David Major, Jamie Buttery, Felix Malcolm, Jade Gibbons, Wesley Williams, Georgia Dixon, Isla Bunnage, Natasha Bunnage and Cassidy Pemberton.

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



# Milly Awards



**MARK** Friday, January 20, in your diary – and give way to doing anything else that night!

Yes, the Milly Awards are back for another year, the Old Mill Theatre's own night-of-nights celebrating all the theatrical achievements of the past 12 months. And it's a FREE event!

What could be better? A glass of champagne on arrival, gourmet canapes, entertainment and drinks available from the well-stocked and well-priced Old Mill bar, before the launch of the 2017 seasons at 8pm.

## AWARD CATEGORIES

Awards for 2016 will also be announced including best production, set, costumes, stage manager, actor, actress, supporting actor and actress, member of the year and the Constance Ord Award for best director.

And everyone's favourite, the Silly Milly Award, will highlight the best stuff-up within the theatre (on or off the stage) for the year.

Always a night of fun-filled evening of mirth, merriment and more. Remember, it's a FREE event but an RSVP is required.

Email [oldmilltheatre@iinet.net.au](mailto:oldmilltheatre@iinet.net.au) or call 9367 8719 by **January 13**.

## HONOUR: "...a punchy little show that all married couples should see..."

Extract by **GORDON THE OPTOM**

Source: [www.ita.org.au](http://www.ita.org.au)

*Honour* is a poignant tale, written in 1995 by the audacious Mount Eliza-born playwright Joanna Murray-Smith whose plays have been performed in three dozen countries.

*Honour* – great pun on a character's name – was awarded the 1996 Victorian Premier's Literary Award.

Greg Aylmore and Les Hart's set is quite simple but very effective. Too much clutter would have detracted from the dialogue.

All of the walls are black. To one side is George's dining area with a raised, white front-panelled food preparation space. There is a table and chairs, also in black and white.

On the other side of the stage is Claudia's flat with a couple of comfortable, dark suede chairs.

There were 18 mini-acts, smoothly handled by stage manager Maureen Harvie. The incidental music was well-selected by Grant Windsor.

With her laptop on the dining table, 30-year-old journalist Claudia (Ruhama Geiger) is taking notes for the cover and promotion of middle-aged author George's (Alan Kennedy) latest book.

George, who still has his youthful charisma and good looks, has done very well out of his writing.

However, Claudia's interviewing



Maree Grayden and Alan Kennedy in *Honour*.  
Picture: Sarah Christiner

technique is a little more invasive and probing than one would normally expect.

In fact, could this strikingly attractive, very independent woman be seducing this father figure?

Soon, George is giving his wife Honor (Maree Grayden) some bad news.

After 32 years of loyal, loving service to her husband, Honor is now redundant.

Their 24-year-old daughter, Sophie (Jessica Warriner) is stunned, never having had someone so close announce such traumatic news – she is numb.

Will Honor remain her husband's doormat? Will George get his comeuppance?

Joanna Murray-Smith is renowned for not writing stage directions, descriptions of her characters or the story's timeframe.

This can make direction very difficult but multi-award-winning director and Old Mill Theatre board member Dale James has produced another triumph.

She has dexterously taken the actors through each vignette, where two of the four characters confront each other.

Dale has helped the actors subtly allow the audience to see their true personae.

The cast have clearly shown their admirable acting talents, as they each in turn change from a position of power to that of weakness and vice versa.

This tender, beautifully-observed play is a little slow to start but soon some of the self-righteous comments and acerbic lines have the audience gasping or bursting out with laughter.

I am sure that everyone in the audience will have thought "That is just like XYZ from down the street!"

A punchy little show that all married couples should see – with their partners.



Alan Kennedy and Ruhama Geiger.

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

# Deja vu... memberships still due!

YES, it's true – some of your memberships are still due. We have a handy form below you can fill in and cut out or, alternatively, go to [www.oldmilltheatre.com.au](http://www.oldmilltheatre.com.au), click on 'About', then 'Get involved' and then click the green 'Membership Form' link – you can download exactly the same form as required.



**OLD MILL THEATRE**  
 PO Box 1390, South Perth WA 6951  
 ☎ (08) 9367 8719 / e: [oldmilltheatre@iinet.net.au](mailto:oldmilltheatre@iinet.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 2017.

**APPLICATION or RENEWAL—NEWSLETTER/ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP 2016-2017**  
 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, 2016, will be unchanged:**  
 Newsletter only: \$12 per year, full membership: \$20 per year (double/family \$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 .....

# Finley Award tix on sale

**TICKETS** for the 42nd annual Robert Finley for a night of celebration. Awards are still available. The evening includes performances from The awards will be held at 7.30pm, December nominees, award presentations, hall of 17, at the Heath Ledger Theatre. fame inductions and a commemoration of The Finley Awards, organised by the Independent Theatre Association, bring together the best of WA community and independent theatre

Go to [www.ita.org.au](http://www.ita.org.au) to book via the Ticketek link.

## WHAT'S ON ELSEWHERE?

**LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS**  
 Roleystone Theatre



The popular horror comedy musical spoof.  
 8pm Nov 23, 25, 26, 30, Dec 2 & 3.  
 Book on 9490 9306 or at [www.roleystonetheatre.com.au](http://www.roleystonetheatre.com.au)

**BLITZ! THE MUSICAL**  
 Limelight Theatre, Wanneroo



Stirring World War II musical at the height of the Blitz.  
 8pm Nov 24, 25, 26, 30, Dec 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9 & 10.  
 Book on 0499 954 016 or at [www.limelighttheatre.com.au](http://www.limelighttheatre.com.au)

**THE BRICK AND THE ROSE**  
 Subiaco Arts Centre



1950s Hell's Kitchen brought to life in novel stage experience.  
 7.30pm Nov 24, 25 & 26.  
 Book at [www.ticketek.com.au](http://www.ticketek.com.au)

**THE ADDAMS FAMILY**  
 Phoenix Theatre, Hamilton Hill



A new musical – and it's every father's nightmare.  
 8pm Nov 24, 25, 26, Dec 1, 2, 3, 8, 9 & 10; 2pm Dec 4.  
[www.darkpsychicproductions.com](http://www.darkpsychicproductions.com)

**ONE MAN, TWO GUVNORS**  
 Melville Theatre



Silly outrageous fun with new spin on popular tale.  
 8pm Nov 25, 26, Dec 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10; 2pm Dec 4  
 Book on 9330 4565 or at [www.meltheco.org.au](http://www.meltheco.org.au)

# !..coming soon..!



WITH the end of the year rolling around, what better time to announce the Old Mill Theatre's seasons for 2017?

1. *Fat Pig* by Neil La Bute, directed by Les Hart and Siobhán O'Gara, February 10-25.

2. *Design for Living* by Noël Coward, directed by Barry Park, April 21-May 6.

3. *Cloudstreet* by Nick Enright and Justin Monjo (based on Tim Winton's novel), directed by Brendan Ellis, June 16-July 1.

4. *Marry My Son*, written and directed by Noel O'Neill, August 4-19.

5. Serial Productions presents *Don't Dress for Dinner*, August 20-September 9.

6. One-act play season, September (to be confirmed).

7. *Camelot* by Lerner and Lowe, directed by Neroli Burton, December 1-16.

*Please note: dates and productions are subject to change so please check with the theatre or website for up-to-date information.*

The Old Mill Times  
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Registered by AUSTRALIA POST  
PP 642409/00009

# AGM February 1

THE Old Mill Theatre's annual general meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 1.

It's **YOUR** chance to have your say on what's going on at the theatre so get your skates on and come along!

Plus we need members there so we reach official quorum for the meeting.

It's a 7.30pm for an 8pm start... for all queries relating to the AGM, call Norma Davis on 9367 8719 or email [oldmilltheatre@iinet.net.au](mailto:oldmilltheatre@iinet.net.au).

## Old Mill Theatre 2016 Board of Management



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