

## Plus-sized laughs in play that brings home the bacon

AN AWARD-winning comedy that takes a politically incorrect look at our obsession with appearance is the Old Mill Theatre's first season of 2017.

Written by Neil LaBute and directed by Les Hart, *Fat Pig* focuses on a good-looking young man who becomes involved with a plus-sized librarian.

When Tom falls in love with Helen, he is ecstatic – but is conflicted when his work colleague is highly insulting about the relationship due to Helen's weight and appearance.

The play follows Tom and Helen's journey through a poignant and eye-opening production that hits on the topics of outside influences on decision-making and the human tendency to choose beauty over substance.

Winning the Outer Critics Circle Award for Outstanding Off-Broadway Play, LaBute was inspired to write *Fat Pig* after an experiment with dieting – as his weight decreased so did his focus on writing.

Les said the play will challenge audiences about some of their prejudices.

"In this case, the focus is on size but it could just as effectively



Briana Dunn is appearing as the librarian Helen in *Fat Pig*, a play that looks at our obsession with appearance.



Carter (Steven Hounsome, left) and Helen (Briana Dunn) in *Fat Pig*.

tackle sexuality, religion or colour," he said. "Of course, the title would need to be changed for those.

"But it really is about moving past that first impression and getting to know the individual. The world could do with less intolerance. I'm hoping this play makes people assess their own thinking."

Involved in theatre since the early 1970s, Les cut his teeth with the Kwinana Theatre Workshop at age 12 before moving to Newman and starting the Newman Amateur Theatrical Society in 1983.

He resurrected the Port Hedland Playhouse in 1995 after another move and returned to Perth two years later, directing shows for the Old Mill Theatre and Playovers.

*Fat Pig* is the first show Les has directed in a decade, after living overseas for the past nine years.

"The first challenge was the casting – how do you request a person that is plus-sized and comfortable enough with themselves be referred to by the title?" he said.

"The other is keeping the balance so the show doesn't get too heavy with the audience feeling like they're being lectured. There needs to be the lighter moments."

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

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



# AGM: March 1



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

It's **YOUR** chance to have your say on what's happening 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 9367 8719 or email oldmilltheatre@inet.net.au.

## Did you know?

- Shakespeare's Globe is the only building in London allowed to have a thatched roof since the Great Fire in 1666.
- Before becoming Pope, John Paul II wrote a play called *The Jeweller's Shop* that played the Westminster Theatre in 1982.
- Under the pseudonym Doctor Spin, Andrew Lloyd Webber released a top 10 single in 1992 called *Tetris*.
- The character of Elphaba in *Wicked* was named after *The Wizard of Oz* author L. Frank Baum.
- Two seats are permanently bolted open at the Palace Theatre for the theatre ghosts to sit in.
- *The Intimate Revue* holds the record for the shortest run in West End history, closing before the end of its first performance.
- Noël Coward ran the British propaganda office in Paris during World War II.

Source: [http://www.whatsonstage.com/london-theatre/news/20-amazing-theatre-facts\\_34626.html](http://www.whatsonstage.com/london-theatre/news/20-amazing-theatre-facts_34626.html)

# SCROOGE: "...a warm, feel-good way to end the year..."

Review by **KIMBERLEY SHAW**

Source: [www.stagewhispers.com.au](http://www.stagewhispers.com.au)

**SCROOGE** was the second stage version of Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* that I saw within days. Although family-friendly, this was not a production that shied away from the darker themes while still allowing for light and fun.

Barry Park was an excellent choice in the title role. Strangely likeable, even when being mean and miserly, he was an excellent protagonist who trod this character tightrope beautifully.

Some lovely ghostly manifestations in this production with Grant Malcolm a repentant but unnerving Joseph Marley, Matilda Jenkins a beautiful ethereal and caring Ghost of Christmas Past and Nelson Clemente a jovial and flamboyant Ghost of Christmas Present – all singing very nicely.

Great support from a silent but imposing Ghost of Christmas Future (Grant Malcolm again) and a ghostly ensemble.

Craig Menner made an amiable Bob Cratchit, nicely matched with Hayley Grant (Mrs Cratchit), Atira Shack (Martha Cratchit), Tahlia Menner (Belinda Cratchit) and a sweet Orlando Borg (Tiny Tim).

Scrooge's employees, Thomas, Richard and Harold, were played with tight teamwork and some lovely song and dance by Blake Jenkins, Cooper Jenkins and Ashley Garner.

Lots of great work in the smaller roles, including George O'Doherty's youthful and earnest Fred.

The ensemble, despite (or perhaps



Barry Park and Grant Malcolm in *Scrooge*.

because of) having many very youthful members, was tight, well-drilled and always acting.

Costumes were generally very nicely chosen and the set was solid and effective.

Lighting, designed by John Woolrych (and operated by Ian and Nina O'Doherty), was particularly striking with some lovely creative moments while sound was well-balanced.

A very solid production of a beloved classic story and a warm, feel-good way to end the year for the Old Mill. Well done to all involved.

## Finley Award success!



**CONGRATULATIONS** to Cal Silberstein, left, who picked up the Finley Award for Best Supporting Actor (Play) for his role in *The Habit of Art* at the Old Mill Theatre last year.

His fellow *The Habit of Art* actor Barry Park also received a nomination in the same category.

Justin Freind, who also appeared in the show, was nominated in the Best Actor in a Play category.

Both *The Habit of Art* and *Honour* were named in the top 10 plays of the year.

Georgina Hamer, who appeared in *Closer*, received an encouragement certificate for her diverse body of work in 2016 and regular Old Mill lighting guru John Woolrych was inducted into the ITA Hall of Fame.

A full rundown of winners can be found at [www.ita.org.au](http://www.ita.org.au).

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

# MILLY AWARDS: Winners are grinners



Best Director, Justin Freind, centre (*Scrooge*).



Photos: Sarah Christiner

ANOTHER year has been and gone which means we get to announce the results of the Milly Awards!

Adjudicators: Jarrod Buttery, Meredith Hunter, Vanessa Jensen

## AWARDS

- Best Set: *It's All Greek to Me Too!*
- Best Costumes: *Scrooge*
- Best Stage Manager: Megan Burley (*Scrooge*)
- Best Supporting Actor: Craig Menner (*Scrooge*)
- Best Supporting Actress: Jessica Warriner (*Honour*)
- Best Actor: Alan Kennedy (*Honour*)
- Best Actress: Georgina Hamer (*Closer*)
- Constance Ord Award for Best Director: Justin Freind (*Scrooge*)
- Best Production: *Scrooge*
- Adjudicators' Achievement Award (Memorable Milly): Grant Malcolm (*Scrooge*)
- Adjudicators' Achievement Award (Memorable Milly): Nelson Clemente (*Scrooge*)
- Silly Milly: David Major (*Scrooge*) - he missed a performance, totally forgetting the show was on
- Member of the Year: Madeleine Rennie

## ADJUDICATORS' CERTIFICATES

- Outstanding Ensemble Performance: The cast of *Widow's Peak*
- Outstanding Comedy Performance: Valerie Dragojevic (*Hail Mary 2: The Haunting*)
- Outstanding Comedy Performance: David Heder (*Moby Dick*)
- Outstanding Comedic Teamwork: Aimee Claire Nicholls and Cameron Leese (both from *It's All Greek to Me Too!*)
- Outstanding Diversity of Performances: Barry Park (*The Habit of Art* and *Scrooge*)
- Recognition of a Strong, Subtle Performance: Andrew Hobbs (*Under the Windmill*)
- Recognition of Innovative Set Design: *The Habit of Art*
- Recognition of Technical Expertise: Nina and Ian O'Doherty (*Scrooge*)
- Recognition of Non-Conventional Effects: *Closer*
- Recognition of Moments of Raw Emotion: Georgina Hamer, Anna Head, Dylan James, Jeffrey Watkins (all from *Closer*)



## WHAT'S ON ELSEWHERE?

### DOLORES

Laneway Lounge, Perth CBD



A true portrayal of the complex relationship of sisters.  
6.15pm Feb 3, 4, 10 & 11  
[www.fringeworld.com.au](http://www.fringeworld.com.au)

### SHYLOCK

All Saints' College



Olivier Award-winning actor returns for star turn as Shylock.  
7.15pm February 9. Book at [www.trybooking.com/233998](http://www.trybooking.com/233998)

### CAMP ROCK: THE MUSICAL

Kalamunda Performing Arts Centre  
Koorliny Arts Centre, Kwinana



High-energy musical with classic story of rivalry and power.  
KPAC: 7pm Feb 17, 18, 24 & 25; February 18, 19, 25 & 26.  
[www.trybooking.com/NRPM](http://www.trybooking.com/NRPM)  
Koorliny: 7pm March 17 & 18;  
2pm March 18 & 19.  
[www.koorliny.com.au](http://www.koorliny.com.au)

### MOONLIGHT & MAGNOLIAS

Limelight Theatre, Wanneroo



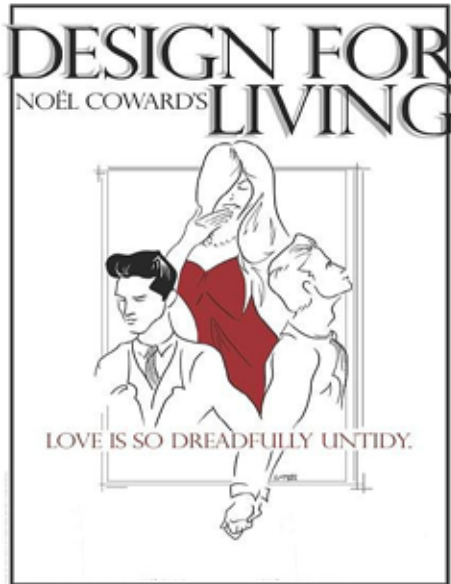
Behind-the-scenes look at the filming of *Gone With The Wind*.  
8pm Feb 23, 24, 25, March 1, 2, 3 & 4; 3pm Feb 26.  
Book on 0499 954 016 or at [www.limelighttheatre.com.au](http://www.limelighttheatre.com.au)

### CALVIN BERGER

Roleystone Theatre



Hip and hilarious story of high school students' unrequited love.  
8pm March 10, 11, 15, 17, 18, 22, 24 & 25; 2pm March 19  
Book on 9397 5730 or at [www.roleystonetheatre.com.au](http://www.roleystonetheatre.com.au)



# COMING SOON

COMING soon to the Old Mill Theatre is Noël Coward's *Design For Living*, directed by Barry Park.

The wickedly, witty dark romantic comedy was initially banned in the UK and portrays three amoral, glib and stylish characters and their hopelessly inescapable – if also unconventional – emotional entanglement.

From 1930s bohemian Paris to the dizzying heights of Manhattan society, a tempestuous love triangle unravels

between vivacious interior designer Gilda, playwright Leo and artist Otto – three people unashamedly and passionately in love with each other.

With Coward's trademark piquant style, this lively, funny but also atypical play looks at dazzling, egotistical creatures and their self-destructive dependence on each other.

Noël Coward's *Design For Living* runs from April 21 to May 6.

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

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