

From page to stage: curtain up on *Cloudstreet*

THE classic Australian novel *Cloudstreet* by Tim Winton will open its pages onto the Old Mill Theatre stage this June.

Adapted by Nick Enright and Justin Monjo and directed by Brendan Ellis, it spans 20 years in the lives of the Pickles and the Lambs, two families thrown together by fortune in a large, haunted house in Cloud Street, Perth.

The deeply moving, funny and tragic tale of Aussie suburbia tells a universal truth about the meaning of home and urges of the human heart, as two utterly mismatched families crammed under one crumbling roof learn to live together.

Cloudstreet has been described as an allegory for the Australian experience, touching on subjects as diverse as the isolation of indigenous people and sexual revolution of the 1960s.

While the original novel won the Miles Franklin Award in 1992, the stage version has gone on to triumph in Zurich, Dublin, London, New York and Washington, picking up the 2002 Helpmann Award for Best Play.

"Every full-length show I've directed so far has been Australian and I wanted to continue that trend because I think it is so important to see Australian works on stage," Brendan said.

"*Cloudstreet's* dialogue is full of beautiful imagery, faithfully adapted by the playwrights, and there are so many great characters that I can guarantee audience members will be able to relate to at least one and say 'I've been there'.

"A lot of content has been removed or is only alluded to in the play - the big milestone moments remain but the smaller details have taken a back seat.



Kit Leake, left, Nathan Hambly, Oliver Kaiser, Cynthia Pickering and Liam Crevola, at back, and Hayley Derwort, Chelsea Brickell and Rhiannon Cary.

"They will be portrayed by the actors through physicality and their emotion, rather than through dialogue."

Involved in theatre for more than 15 years, Brendan has appeared with Stirling, Playlovers, Limelight, Marloo, Melville, Garrick and Groovy Boots Theatres and ARENAarts in productions such as *Maskerade*, *Miranda* and *Twelve Angry Men*, among many others.

He directed David Williamson's *A Conversation* at the Old Mill Theatre in 2013, winning the annual Milly Award for best director and best production, and also directed *Ninety* at Garrick Theatre in 2014, another best production winner.

"*Cloudstreet* is by far the largest show I've ever directed," Brendan said. "It has 17 cast members and more than 100 scenes across three acts.

"Scheduling rehearsals has been a struggle but the actors are so smooth and the scenes go by so quickly that I think audience members will be surprised by how fast the show goes."

The cast features Gino Cataldo, Nkki Di Camillo, Chelsea Brickell, Liam Crevola, Rhiannon Cary, Brad Albert, Madelaine Jones, Cally Zanik, Nathan Hambly, Oliver Kaiser, Hayden Tognela, Cynthia Pickering, Phil Barnett, Kit Leake, Hayley Derwort, Taylor Russert and Leoni Leaver.

Cloudstreet plays at 7.30pm June 16, 17, 22, 23, 24, 28, 29, 30 and July 1 with 2pm matinees June 18 and 25.

Please note: the show is rated M15+ and features coarse language and implied sex scenes.

Tickets are \$25, \$20 concession - book at <http://oldmilltheatre.com.au/tickets> or phone 0475 895 701



Cloudstreet features Hayden Tognela, left, Phil Barnett, Madelaine Jones, Leoni Leaver and Brad Albert as the Pickles family.



Champagne breakfast



THE annual members champagne breakfast will be held 9am, Sunday, June 11.

All members and friends welcome – for the very low price of \$6.

Enjoy a glass of champagne and the usual barbecue breakfast.

Please RSVP for catering purposes on 9367 8719 or oldmilltheatre@iinet.net.au.

Instagram/ Twitter



DID you know the Old Mill Theatre is now on Instagram?

Yes, that's right... basically, it's another avenue where people can share photos relating to the theatre – and it's also another way of keeping you up-to-date.

Check it out at www.instagram.com/oldmilltheatre.

Our Twitter account has also been re-activated – you can follow the Old Mill's tweets at twitter.com/oldmilltheatre.



DESIGN FOR LIVING: “some very clever direction and performances”

Extract by KIMBERLEY SHAW

Source: www.stagewhispers.com.au

THIS once controversial, and even banned, play by Noël Coward, is a delightful time capsule of upper-class life in the 1930s.

Still funny and cleverly penned, it played to capacity audiences at the Old Mill Theatre.

Central character Gilda, in love with both Otto and Leo (also very fond of each other), is gorgeously played by Nyree Hughes.

Elegant and sophisticated, she owns the stage, in a clever, sophisticated, performance.

She is also the most exquisitely attired in this fabulously costumed production – with costumes by Jennifer Prosser (assisted by Dinah Zaikos, Nyree Hughes and Jeffrey Watkins).

Jeffrey Watkins may well have been born to play Noël Coward. A lovely performance as Otto that is nuanced, clever and cosmopolitan.

The third party in this love triangle is Leo. Played by Garry Davies, a late-



Nyree Hughes... “owns the stage”. Picture: Linda Hewell

in-rehearsal replacement, he belies his shortened preparation time and works well as the third corner of the relationship.

Excellent support from “old friend” Ernest, very earnestly and genuinely played by Neale Paterson.

Julie Holmshaw is an audience favourite in two very different and beautifully presented roles.

Charlie Young is strong as both Mr Birbeck and Henry Carver. Praveen Hooda makes the most of his brief appearance as valet Matthew and Rebecca Calwell is lovely in her post-10.15pm appearance.

The set for *Design for Living* is design delight. Constructed by Greg Aylmer, we see three very different rooms created. All are finished superbly with distinct and polished ambience.

Sheila Wileman has excelled with decor and properties and John Woolrych's lighting design is ambient and appropriate.

Sound is also strong, featuring recordings by Justin Freind and operated by Nina Doherty.

A lovely nostalgic night at the theatre, with some very clever direction and performances.



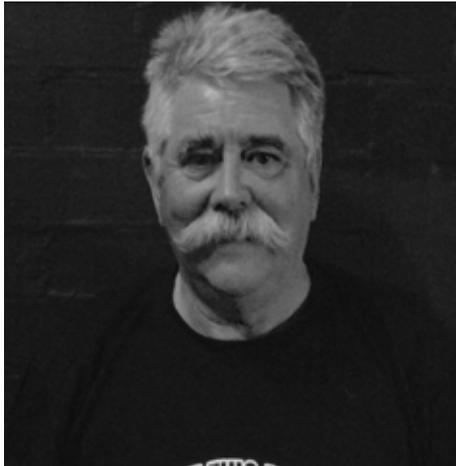
Julie Holmshaw, Charlie Young and Rebecca Caldwell in *Design For Living*. Picture: Linda Hewell

Colour your world: check out the colour version of this edition at www.oldmilltheatre.com.au

Chairman's report from AGM

WE finally did it! The AGM, after a couple of delays, was held on April 3.

Below is an extract from the chairman's report (we have space limitations here – the full report can be read at www.oldmilltheatre.com.au).



WELCOME, my name is Rex Gray and, as chairman, I am presenting this year's report.

This year has been a very busy and productive one for the theatre.

Our first show of the year, held in February, was the hilarious *It's All Greek To Me Too*, directed by an old favourite, Noel O'Neill.

It proved to be the most successful with almost every show sold out – the old adage certainly applies... “when you are on a good thing stick to it” which Noel and his cast proved.

This was followed in April by *The Habit of Art* directed by Tony Howes, which also proved to be successful.

It looked at the unsettling desires of two difficult men and at the ethics of biography.

In June, we had *Closer*, ably directed by Trevor Dhu and, although controversial with the warning “strong language and sexual references”, it also proved to be a great success.

Closer focused on the complex relationships, politics and morality of four people trading partners in search of love and lust.

The Old Mill Theatre's August season was 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 was again under threat but this time it was a haunting causing concern.

September saw the one-act season with three plays: *Moby Dick*, written by Michael Green and directed by Sarah Christiner and *Under The Rainbow* and *Widow's Peak*, both written and directed by Noel O'Neill.

Our final show was the delightful *Scrooge*, directed by Justin Freind, which was a musical re-telling of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, closely adapted from the music and screenplay from the 1970 film *Scrooge*.

It followed the classic tale of Ebenezer Scrooge who, through greed, lost all that

was good but he was redeemed on Christmas Eve after being visited by the ghost of Christmas past, present and future.

Justin Freind, of Bel Canto Productions, continued his series of Sunday afternoon concerts, which attracted an audience that enjoyed the varied

program of mostly well-known songs from shows, along with an afternoon tea.

These have continued into this year and are always well-received.

Significant changes to the management of the theatre

In 2016, the board concluded the workload was not being spread evenly and agreed, if the workload was spread evenly across the board, the position of theatre manager would no longer be necessary.

Consequently, based on this, we asked Norma Davis to step aside as theatre manager.

On that note, we would like to thank Norma for her efforts over the years and she remains a valuable life member of our theatre.

Her involvement with the theatre is still appreciated and has continued in various duties since she ceased as theatre manager.

The board has further concluded that, in the interests of efficiency, the bar needs an overhaul and, as such, has obtained two quotes for an update and expansion.

We also embarked on a new ticketing system using TryBooking and this seems to be working both effectively and efficiently.

We are also in the process of cataloguing all theatre items, as well as endeavouring to change and update our membership renewal system to better keep track of our members, in an effort to offer a more streamlined, efficient service.

We ask that you consider joining us in keeping up the legacy of the Old Mill Theatre, passed onto us by so many before us.

This is your theatre... your club... become active in it – you can help in many ways.

WHAT'S ON ELSEWHERE?

GREENWICKS

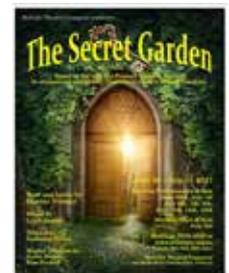
Limelight Theatre, Wanneroo



The great supermarket musical with laughs at the right price!
8pm June 7, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16 & 17; 2pm June 17
www.limelighttheatre.com.au

THE SECRET GARDEN

Melville Theatre



The beloved Victorian classic blossoms into a musical
8pm June 30, July 1, 6, 7, 8, 13, 14 & 15; 2pm July 9
www.meltheco.org.au

HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL

Roleystone Theatre



Disney's "Grease for Generation Y"

8pm June 30, July 7, 14, 15;
2pm July 1, 5, 8 & 12
Book on 9397 5730 or at
www.roleystonetheatre.com.au

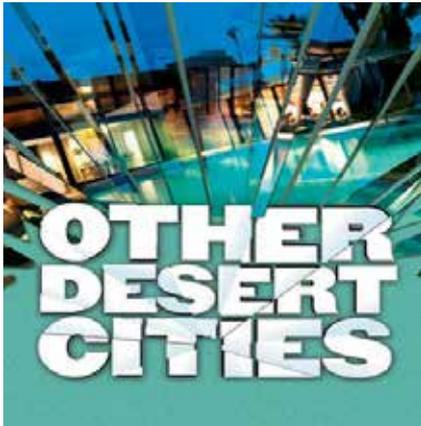
ELIZABETH KEMP CHARACTER DREAM MASTERCLASS

Subiaco Arts Centre



Learn skills from Hugh Jackman's acting coach
July 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
actorshubperth.com.au

COMING SOON



DUE to a gap in the Old Mill Theatre's line-up, the August season has been given to the currently homeless Playlovers.

Other Desert Cities is written by Jon Robin Baitz and directed by Barry Park, responsible for *Design For Living* in April-May.

A richly satisfying fine-tuned balance between comedy and intense family drama, the 2012 Pulitzer Prize-winner examines the lies we tell to protect each other and the damage they cause.

The Wyeth family Christmas holiday erupts when daughter Brooke arrives bearing a soon-to-be-published memoir, dredging up

a pivotal and tragic event in the family's history.

It's a wound they don't want re-opened – the suicide of Brooke's brother Henry who had been involved with a radical underground subculture.

"Baitz's script sparkles with a deep understanding of the turmoil boiling beneath the surface of his characters and it is chockful of wonderful lines." – Associated Press

Other Desert Cities plays at 8pm August 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 17, 18 and 19 with 2pm August 6 and 13.

For updates, go to www.playlovers.org.au (don't worry, we'll also link to it at www.oldmilltheatre.com.au).

The Old Mill Times
PO Box 1390
South Perth WA 6951

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changing of the board

IF YOU take a quick look to the right, you can see there's been a few changes to the board, following the AGM.

Firstly, it's a big thank you to former board member Madeleine Rennie for her many years of loyal service – and, don't worry, you'll still see her welcoming face as she does front-of-house duties.

Also hats off to former chairman and vice chairman Phil Barnett for his marathon charge, leading the way for the past five years or so (you can see him soon in *Cloudstreet*).

Coming on board (pun half-intended) for 2017 are Sarah Christiner, Judith Gedero, Sheila Wileman and Jenny Trestrail. Welcome all.

• Chairman's report, page 3.

2017 Old Mill Theatre Board of Management



Rex Gray
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Justin Freind
Vice Chairman



Jenny Trestrail
Treasurer



Mary Wolfia
Board Member



Dale James
Board Member



Sarah Christiner
Board Member



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Board Member



Sheila Wileman
Board Member