

Playlovers at Old Mill Barry Park at the helm!

HE WOO-ED Old Mill audiences earlier this year with his production of Noël Coward's *Design For Living* and now Barry Park is back with another show.

Barry is directing *Other Desert Cities* for the currently-homeless Playlovers, who are filling a gap in the Old Mill's 2017 schedule.

Written by Jon Robin Baitz, *Other Desert Cities* is 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 – and it's a wound they don't want re-opened.

"In the play, interesting developments and gradual revelations build steadily towards an unexpected and totally satisfying twist at the end," Barry said. "The dialogue is intelligent, with hilarious, witty comments contrasted with razor sharp, sarcastic banter that verges on outright warfare at times."

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

Tickets are \$20, \$15 concession – book at www.trybooking.com/QGYV

Winner of the Outer Critics Circle Award for Outstanding New Off-Broadway Play
Finalist for the 2012 Pulitzer Prize

There is nothing hidden that won't be revealed!

OTHER DESERT CITIES

Jon Robin Baitz

Directed by Barry Park

Old Mill Theatre, South Perth

8pm: Aug 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19

2pm: August 6, 13

Bookings: www.trybooking.com/QGYV

Playlovers Inc. PO Box 164, Wembley, WA 6913

0415 777 173

www.playlovers.org.au

<https://www.facebook.com/PlayloversWA>



Presented by arrangement with Creative Artists Agency, 405 Lexington Avenue, 19th Floor, New York, NY 10174



Wife After Death features Anna Head, left, Rodney van Groningen, Susan Meikle, Jacqui Warner, Andrew Govey and Sandro Sando.



Kevin (Rodney van Groningen, left) and Jane (Susan Meikle) in *Wife After Death*.

Laughs aplenty with Wife After Death

A SECRET life will soon be exposed at a funeral and the bombshell will cause tempers – and ashes – to fly.

It's all part of Serial Productions' latest show *Wife After Death*, written by Eric Chappell and directed by Rob Warner at the Old Mill.

Set at the funeral of successful television comedian Dave Thursby, his friends and family soon discover they know less about him than they imagined.

A series of revelations uncover some home truths while everyone tries to keep up appearances for the sake of his widow – and then an unexpected and unexplained mourner arrives.

Playwright Eric Chappell is an English comedy writer who wrote several of the UK's biggest sitcom hits during the 1970s, '80s, and '90s, including *The Squirrels*, *Rising Damp*, *Only When I Laugh*, *The Bounder*, *Duty Free*, *Singles*, *Haggard* and *Home to Roost*.

"I loved the script for *Wife After Death* and thought it was very clever and funny," Rob said. "I also liked the fact it was a small cast and quite easy to stage."

"Having to build a set off-site is quite a challenge so it's nice to have a relatively straight forward set to construct – in this case, it's a drawing room."

Wife After Death plays at 8pm August 25, 26, 29, 30, 31, September 1, 2, 6, 7, 8 and 9 with 2pm matinees August 27 and September 3.

Tickets are \$25, \$22 concession – book at www.trybooking.com/QMCH



Old Mill sundowner



MARK Saturday, August 26, in your diaries and head down to the Old Mill Theatre for an awesome sundowner.

Starting 6pm, the sundowner is for all members, volunteers and friends.

The great news is that it's a free event and light refreshments will be provided.

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

FOH volunteers

HEAR the call! If you can spare some time volunteering and helping out with the box office or front-of-house duties, we'd love to hear from you.

To express an interest, please email oldmilltheatre@inet.net.au or call 9367 8719.

Old Mill raffle

HAVE you ever wondered where the money from the raffle goes after each performance?

After the most recent AGM, the board decided the proceeds from our raffles would be donated to worthy charities and groups.

So far this year, we have donated to The Esther Foundation and Kalparrin.

Thank you to everyone that helps by buying tickets.

CLOUDSTREET: "level of acting rarely seen in community theatre"

Extract by **GORDON THE OPTOM**

Source: www.ita.org.au

THE scene is a rambling, crumbling house in Cloud Street, Subiaco, over the period 1943-1963. This era covers the horrors of events such as World War II, the Korean War and the assassination of President Kennedy, mingled with the wonderful neighbourhood atmosphere and Australian dream of being a homeowner that existed at the time.

The incredible script and instantly recognisable situations make this play possibly one of the most demanding and complicated to direct.

At first glances, one may think that it looks like any family soap opera, however, this rich script contains immense detail for every character, and how they all fit together in their domestic community jigsaw.

I must be honest, even though Brendan Ellis has directed some very good plays, he is still a young man and I thought this lengthy, multi-faceted but stunning Australian play may be beyond his capabilities.

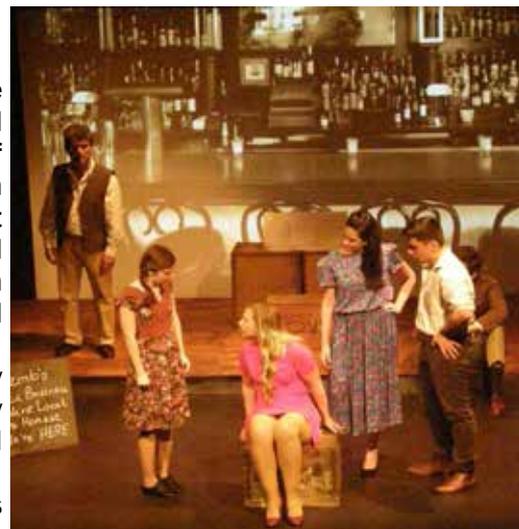
However, I was wrong – very wrong. Brendan and his assistant director, Gino Cataldo have selected an amazing cast.

The cast were flawless in their delivery, perfectly paced, and presented a real depth to their characters – many of the cast had several personalities to establish in a few seconds.

With an intricate three-hour play, often the performers' concentration can drift, the pace can drop off and the odd fluff



Nathan Hambly and Madelaine Jones in *Cloudstreet*. Picture: Sarah Christiner



Gino Cataldo, left, Madelaine Jones, Leoni Leaver, Nikki Di Camillo and Hayden Tognela.

appears – not with this troupe, they were immaculate.

The director used several entrances in the auditorium for entrances and exits; employed the walkway between the front row of the audience and the stage apron; thus, the audience became an integral part of the play.

One felt slightly tense as a police officer searched for a murderer among the patrons. All of these clever tricks helped make us part of the two households.

Whether it was the ineffectual Lester, the introverted Quick, or the depressed Oriel, you could really connect with their emotions.

Then there was a level of acting rarely seen in community theatre: Phil Barnett as the total irresponsible, self-centred father, Leoni Leaver as the randy yet pathetic wife who had suffered a rough childhood and her daughter Rose (Madelaine Jones) who, likewise, never had a scrap of love or appreciation in her sad life.

The other players gave solid performances, backing the main characters. Great teamwork and chemistry.

A special mention must go to Oliver Kaiser as the loving but brain-damaged son. Oliver must have really studied this part, memorising and conquering every nuance of nervousness, excitement and the particular mannerisms. A top-rate performance, well-observed and stunningly executed.

Almost every night of the season was sold out within a couple of days of the tickets being released.

You will gasp and cry or, to slightly misquote Mem Fox: "If you have not seen *Cloudstreet*, your life is diminished".



Remember to check us out on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter!



WHILE the Old Mill Theatre doesn't have any one-act plays scheduled for this year, we thought we should keep you up-to-date with all the festivals taking place.

There's bound to be someone from the Old Mill involved in a show somewhere about the place, so get out and get into it!



Hills Festival of Theatre

Hosted by Darlington Theatre Players at Marloo Theatre, this year's Hills Festival of Theatre runs from September 15 to 17.

The weekend typically sees up to 14 one-act plays performed from Friday night through to Sunday morning, finishing with a barbecue on Sunday afternoon.

This year's adjudicator is Joe Isaia with awards for best overall production (\$350 prize), best director, best actor, best original play and various adjudicator's awards.

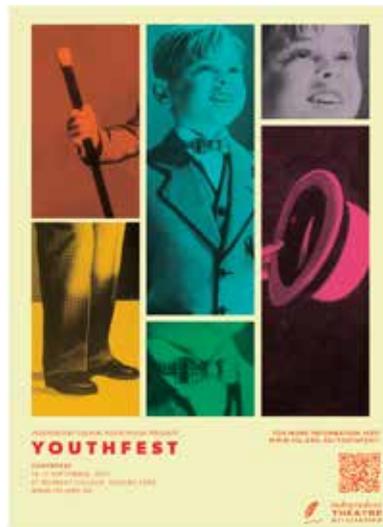
Head to www.marlootheatre.com.au for details.

Youthfest

YOUTHFEST 2017 is being held at St Norbert College, located on Treasure Road, Queens Park, from September 16 to 17.

The Youthfest competition (the youth arm of Dramafest) has two divisions - one for primary school-aged participants and the other for young people of secondary school age.

All the details - as they come to hand - will be available at www.ita.org.au.



Dramafest

COMEDY, drama, satire and social commentary come together in a celebration of theatre this September as the Independent Theatre Association presents Dramafest.

Held from September 20 to 24 at St Norbert College, Dramafest is an opportunity to see a plethora of theatre in a short amount of time.

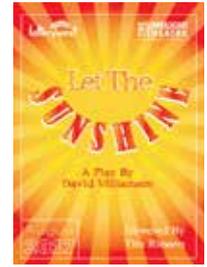
Each night three one-act plays from metropolitan and country theatres go head-to-head in competition to show off their skills, both on stage and behind the scenes.

Dramafest has been held annually for more than 25 years, a result of the Independent Theatre Association wanting to bring theatres together in a fun celebration of stage performance.

A full schedule of what's on when will be available at www.ita.org.au.

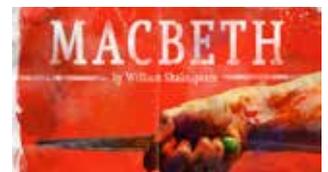
WHAT'S ON ELSEWHERE?

LET THE SUNSHINE
Limelight Theatre, Wanneroo



David Williamson satire about 60-something sea-changers. 8pm August 17, 18, 19, 23, 24, 25 & 26; 2pm August 20 www.limelighttheatre.com.au

MACBETH
Roleystone Theatre



A brave Scottish general receives a prophecy he will become King of Scotland. 8pm September 1, 2, 6, 8 & 9 Book on 9397 5730 or at www.roleystonetheatre.com.au

MEL KAY & LIBERTÉ
Ellington Jazz Club



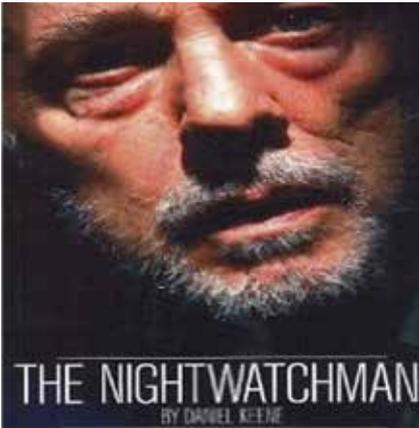
Former Old Mill performer Mel Kay grooves up the stage! 7pm September 5 www.ellingtonjazz.com.au

STOP KISS
Melville Theatre



Poignant, funny exploration of the ways lives can irrevocably change. 8pm Sep 8, 9, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22 & 23; 2pm Sep 17 www.meltheco.org.au

COMING SOON



COMING to the Old Mill Theatre this October is *The Nightwatchman*, written by Daniel Keene and directed by Siobhán O'Gara.

Bill has lived a life among the rambling beauty of the old family home.

Now he's gone blind and his children Helen and Michael have returned for a few days to move him away.

On the outside, Bill is stoic, resigned to his fate, but inside he silently rages against the darkness.

Drawn together in a garden full of echoes, the three discover tender memories of a shared past unwilling to release them.

The Nightwatchman is a moving, poetic ode to the human spirit and the memories that define us.

PLAYWRIGHT'S AWARDS

Australian playwright Daniel Keene has won the Victorian Premier's Literary Award for Drama twice, NSW Premier's Literary Award for Drama three times, Adelaide Festival Award for Literature, Wal Cherry Play of the Year Award, Summer Locke Elliot Prize (New York) and Sidney Myer Performing Arts Award.

The Nightwatchman will play from October 6 to 21.

For updates, go to www.oldmilltheatre.com.au.

The Old Mill Times
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