

Sunnybank Theatre Group presents  
in association with ORiGiN Theatrical

# Kindly Leave the Stage

by John Chapman

directed by *Chris Guyler*

Sept 14 - 29, 2018

The action takes place in England, sometime during the late 70s  
in the lounge and dining area of the suburban home of  
Sarah and Rupert.

Act 1 - Evening soon after dinner

Act 2 - Later same evening

As the play opens onstage we see the classic British comedy is in full swing, the marriage of Rupert and Sarah is on the rocks and their lawyer friends, Charles and Madge agree to handle the divorce. However, after the play has been running a few minutes, cues are missed, lines are forgotten and Rupert has a brainstorm and threatens to kill Charles in full view of the audience!

Enjoy this lighthearted tilt at the complete theatricality of a cast of thespians.



## *Director's Note*

As the program for 2018 was being finalised and the Artistic Committee asked me to direct this John Chapman farce I was delighted as I've worked on a fair number of John Chapman plays in the past. John was a very talented writer of farce and many TV scripts as well including episodes of *Are You Being Served* and *Allo Allo*. This is one of John Chapman's double deals as it is a play-within-a-play with some very funny insights as to what might happen behind the scenes in a touring company of thespians, especially when they totally lose the plot!

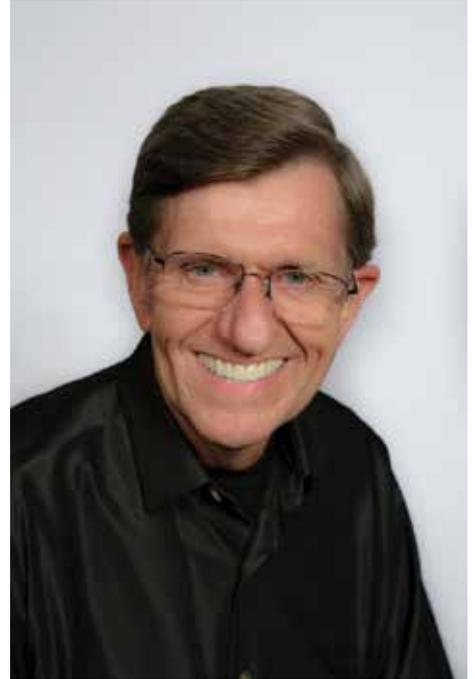
When we had our auditions back in mid July I was astounded at the wonderful turnout of talented actors and actresses who made it difficult for me to choose a cast and also naturally be aware that I was bound to disappoint some talented people, but then they understand that's what auditions are all about. Some difficult roles ensued with my concept to have many of them playing the roles with two different accents, depending on whether they were in "the play" or just fellow actors arguing between themselves on stage in front of the audience and it's not easy to be switching between accents. Well done to my talented cast.

It has been a joy working with such a talented and dedicated cast and I take this opportunity of thanking them for working so diligently at bringing the 'believable' characters to life in an unbelievable and farcical situation. I also want to thank all the production staff, and especially my Production Assistant and Stage Manager, Barb Granato, who has been such a great support and a delight to be working with. I couldn't have done it without her in order to achieve the end result. We all hope you enjoy the production as much as we have enjoyed putting it together.

Special thanks to Barb Granato and Footprints Thrift Shop at Bracken Ridge for loaning and donating props for the production.

## *Director* Chris Guyler

Chris may well have gone into a career in acting/directing had it not been for his parents, both entertainers in their own right discouraging him and saying “get a real job first”! They both were well aware of the risky business it is in the entertainment world trying to get a name and keep getting roles in theatre, TV or films. Chris satisfied his passion for theatre whilst working in a career in aviation in several airlines around the world after leaving his birthplace in the UK in 1971. In all those years his love of theatre has seen him involved in well over 75 productions both acting and directing wherever he was based.



Since Australia became home in '74, in Melbourne and Brisbane, he's played many leading roles. At Sunnybank you may well remember him in comedy and drama, including *Beyond Reasonable Doubt*, *The Mousetrap*, *No Sex Please We're British* and as Rene in *Allo Allo*. As a director his credits include *Trap for a Lonely Man*, *Wait Until Dark* and *Key for Two* with STG and at other Brisbane theatres. Chris enjoys passing on his years of experience as a Director and comedy is always a great challenge. He hopes you'll all enjoy this fabulous farce as much as he has.



## *Charles* Jason Lawson

Originally from Melbourne, Jason has become a familiar face on stages in and around Brisbane in a theatre career spanning 30 years. Whilst mostly known for musical theatre, with appearances in such shows as *Les Miserables*, *Oklahoma* and *Avenue Q*, Jason's first love has always been acting and he relishes any opportunity to perform in plays and other non-musical shows. Whilst Jason enjoys a broad spectrum of genres he has always had a special affinity for comedy, in particular British comedy, having been influenced by the likes of Monty Python, *The Two Ronnies* and Benny Hill. Jason gets a real sense of satisfaction out of making people laugh, and he hopes that you laugh long and heartily during this show. Regular STG patrons will recognize Jason from such plays as *'Allo 'Allo* (Herr Flick), *Key For Two* (Alec) and *Pack Of Lies* (Mr Stewart). When not gracing the stage, Jason works as a Senior Payroll Officer and has a keen interest in horse racing, gridiron and video games. Jason is thrilled to be a part of another Sunnybank show (which has become his second home) and sincerely hopes you enjoy the performance.



## *Mrs Cullen* Dierdre Robinson

It is not often that Dierdre appears on the STG stage, usually preferring either to direct or crew our shows, or show you to your seats. However, like all 'mature' actors, every now and then the bug bites and so she has taken on the role of Mrs C, a 'mature' English comedy actor. The cast and crew of this crazy mad farce have had a ball bringing these characters to life, so much so, that perhaps Dierdre may be tempted to attempt another role in the future. When not involved in a production, Dierdre is active in both the Management and Artistic Committees of STG and our subscribers will know her as the organiser of their yearly bookings.



## *Madge*     **Lesley Davis**

Kindly leave the stage is a fabulous comedy created by the very talented British playwright John Chapman, who started as a stage manager before teaming up with Ray Cooney to create such genius as *Not now Darling* and *Move over Mrs Markham* (both of which Lesley has appeared in at STG), that Lesley says is bound to leave audiences with a quite a few sore stomachs and laughter pains.

Lesley is no stranger to the theatre, having appeared on stage for the first time at the ripe old age of 6. She is undoubtedly a familiar face around STG, having been an active member for many years now, both on the stage and behind the scenes, including involvement on committees where she contributes to the future direction of this delightful theatre company. It is certainly a far cry from her 'day job', for which she rocks up every day to help keep the cogs of government in motion.

She now looks forward to bringing the character of Madge to life for you, in this classic comedy. So, hold on to your hats folks, sit back, relax and enjoy what is guaranteed to be a laugh a minute comedy.



## *Nurse*     **Joanne Oliver**

Joanne is very happy to be a part of this wonderful show. Her last treading of the boards was for *God of Carnage* at the beginning of the year. This play is a definite change of pace with its fabulous characters and witty repartee. She is very happy to be working together with great people and enjoying her character. As Joanne was a nurse herself for many years, she has a lot of groundwork already done for this show. She is sure that you will have a thoroughly wonderful night being entertained.



## *Sarah*     **Melanie Pennisi**

Mel joined the STG 'family' two years ago, making her stage debut in *Beyond Reasonable Doubt* in 2016. She then had the pleasure of being involved in a number of other productions — a favourite being *The 39 Steps* last year. She's also our Volunteer Coordinator for STG, so if you're interested in getting involved in a show or with the front of house team, make sure you catch her in the Greenroom after the show!

Mel has been absolutely delighted to work with Chris and the cast and crew to bring *Kindly Leave the Stage* together, and is thankful for the fun and the opportunity to learn and develop her theatrical skills. She's had a ball bringing her character to life, but unlike 'Sarah', she doubts she'd ever have the courage (is that the right word for it?!) to explore a romantic pursuit live on stage. Although, if in some alternate universe she had the chance to perform alongside Michiel Huisman (and he was unmarried...this is getting more unlikely, isn't it), well, he'd better watch out!



## *Angela*     **Belinda McCulloch**

Belinda was one of those kids who wrote plays for her primary school mates and made them audition at lunch time, then talked the teachers into letting them perform during class time. She has essentially been coming up with ideas and finding ways to make them happen ever since then.

Belinda studied theatre at QUT but was lured into the world of film, completing a Masters at Griffith Film School in 2012. After spending several years working as a producer and director in Singapore, Belinda returned to her home town of Brisbane and resolved to find herself back on stage once again. She is thoroughly enjoying getting to know the STG community in this, her first performance with them.



## *Rupert* Nathaniel Young

Back for yet another performance with Sunnybank Theatre Group, Nathaniel is having a ball doing his first play within a play, and switching between the two. You might have seen him in, *Key for Two*, *Twelve Angry Men*, *39 Steps*, and most recently, *The Wedding Singer*. In addition to acting, he has dabbled in directing with *Beyond Reasonable Doubt*, the highly successful *Keeping Up Appearances*, and most recently *Stage Managed God of Carnage*.

Outside of STG, Nathaniel has written, produced and performed in shows as part of Brisbane Anywhere Festival, including *Arrivederci* and *Adamo Mortem*, and has written for the Short+Sweet Festival.

He's also worked with Centenary Theatre Group and in 2017, made his debut with Nash Theatre in a radio play adaptation of *The Philadelphia Story*.

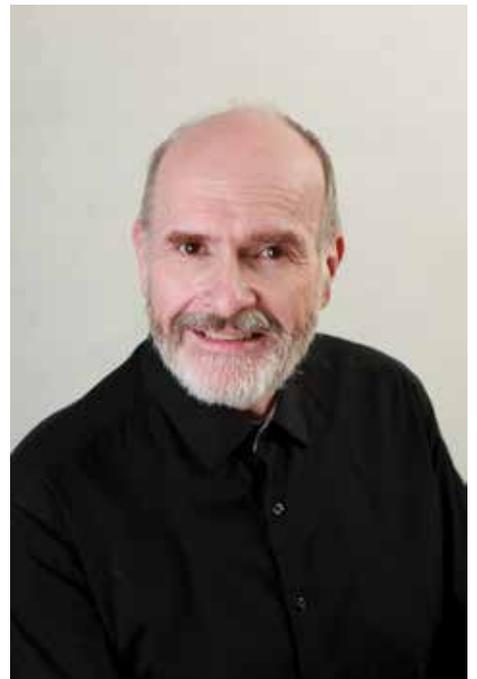
When not at his home-away-from-home, or working with Backbone Youth Ensemble, Nate is busy procrastinating on his debut novel, *Analog Cop*. He hopes you enjoy *Kindly Leave the Stage!*



## *Edward* Richard Williams

Richard has been acting all his life - at work and at play. He is drawn to comedy and has appeared in such farces as *Charley's Aunt*, *When We Are Married* and *The 39 Steps*, all of which has helped counteract his serious and slightly more boring side as he runs a professional services (yawn) company in Brisbane city. A lifelong mimic and impressionist with a fascination for accents, he is also a mildly talented musician and family man with 4 children and 1.5 grandchildren. His interest in acting was reawakened in the last 12 months after a "rest" of... um, shall we just say a few years.

This role was of particular interest as Richard feels he has trained hard for many years to be suitable for the role of a slightly long in the tooth, Shakespearean actor who is rather fond of the grain and grape!



# *The Crew*

Production Assistant/Stage Manager

Assistant Stage Manager

Stage Crew

Lighting Design

Lighting Operator

Accent Coach

Set Design

Set Construction

Set Decor

Photography

Media/LED Screen

Greenroom/FOH

Barb Granato

Andrew Cosier

Belinda McCulloch

Joanne Sephton

Paul Marshall

Richard Williams

Joanne Sephton

Allan Hare

John Mordacz

Chris O'Leary

Richard Williams

Chris Guyler

Bob Clayton

Francois Van der Berg

Hanette Van der Berg

Chris Guyler

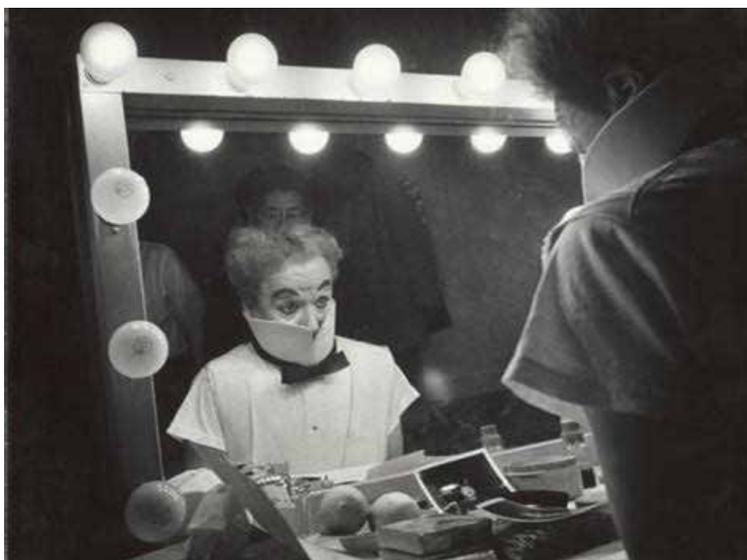
Barb Granato

Kayleen Zoethout

Chris O'Leary

Pam Cooper and our

wonderful volunteers



Thank you to all our contractors for their quality work on our recent kitchen and green room renovation. The renovations were made possible by a generous grant from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund



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# 2019 SEASON



FRIDAY 2ND NOVEMBER 7PM  
here at the theatre

you'll be the first to see our 2019 season, meet the directors  
and book you subscriber season tickets



If you love theatre like we do, come and join us.  
You'd be very welcome.

We're a great bunch of people who share a passion for the stage.

If acting isn't your thing, there are lots of other ways to be involved.

You could work back stage, or with sound and lighting.

You could help build sets, or make costumes.

Perhaps you could give a hand in the box office,  
or the bar, or show people to their seats.

You can be involved as much or as little as you want,  
but we would love you to be involved.

Talk to one of our volunteers, call us on 3345 3964,  
email us at [info@stg.org.au](mailto:info@stg.org.au),  
or chat to us on Facebook (search for @sunnybanktheatre).

in association with Dominie Pty Ltd

# Ladies Day

a comedy  
by Amanda Whittington

director **Debe Dewey**  
**November 9 - 24**

