

THE GARRICK GAZETTE

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Garrick Theatre presents

THE LISBON TRAVIATA

Terrence McNally

Directed by Barry Park

An operatically obsessive comedy
with a melodramatic meltdown!

11–27 April 2024

Garrick Theatre, 16 Meadow St, Guildford

TAZtix.com.au 9255 3336

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello Everyone,

Welcome to 2024 and the beginning of our regular season of plays. I start this message on a sad note with the news that Les Layton, one of our oldest members, sadly passed away peacefully last week. I know you will all join me in offering our sincerest condolences to the Layton family. Our thoughts are with them all at this sad time.

Early in February we held our annual Awards Night. We all enjoyed a special night of celebrations for the 2023 seasons. Congratulations to all our winners.

We started 2024 strongly with a successful One Act season. The three shows played to full houses almost every night. It was wonderful to see people turning out to support our new directors.

Our first full season is currently in rehearsals. 2023's Best Director, Barry Park, is once again weaving theatrical magic to bring *The Lisbon Traviata* to Garrick. Written by Terrance McNally, *The Lisbon Traviata* is witty and catty with a twist at the end you won't be expecting. Tickets are on sale now – our opening night ticket price has been reduced. These tickets will be snapped up so hurry and book through the usual channels.

As always, planning for Season Two is well underway. Director Fred Petersen has assembled a fine cast for his show. George Bernard Shaw's *Pygmalion* is a theatre classic and is sure to please.

We have a fantastic line up of shows this year. I look forward to seeing you at the theatre!

Cheers,

Roxi

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THE LISBON TRAVIATA

Please note that due to circumstances beyond our control, this production has been delayed by one week, with Opening Night now Thursday 11th April and Final Night Saturday 27th April.

Thursday 11, Friday 12, Saturday 13, Sunday 13* Matinee,
Thursday 18, Friday 19, Saturday 20 * Matinee & Evening, Sunday 21*
Matinee,
Thursday 25, Friday 26, Saturday 27.

Evening performances 7:30 pm

Matinees 2:00 pm

Patrons who have booked for the original first week dates should have been contacted by Taztix to rearrange seating.

~~~~~

Director Barry Park is once again bringing his plethora of experience to Garrick Theatre from 4 to 20 April.

Following a highly successful run of *The York Realist* at the Garrick Theatre last year, Barry is returning to stage the witty, dramatic comedy *The Lisbon Traviata* by master playwright Terrence McNally.

The play depicts long-time friends Mendy and Stephen, who are ferociously dedicated and competitive opera buffs. Stephen is trying to distract Mendy from his crumbling relationship with his partner Mike, eventually leading to a confrontation where the characters' larger-than-life passions explode on the scale of grand opera.

The very successful off-Broadway production is initially reminiscent of an Oscar Wilde drawing room comedy with witty dialogue crackling crisply, but it veers suddenly from high comedy to stark tragedy, using an obsession with grand opera as a metaphor to bring the play to an explosive conclusion.

*The Lisbon Traviata* is the latest of several significant plays by renowned playwrights that Barry has directed, such as *The Normal Heart*, *The York Realist*, *The Boys in the Band*, *M. Butterfly*, *Beautiful Thing* and *Design for Living*.

“I know audiences are going to love this very funny, dramatic and, at times, risqué production,” Barry says. “There are snatches of mock-operatic operas and superbly dramatic re-enactments of death scenes from famous operas. But there are also deep emotional truths, jealous outbreaks, and moments of real longing and despair that crescendo into a devastating dramatic finale”

Playing the larger-than-life gay characters are four seasoned and passionate actors who are bringing this show to life: Adam Poole as the jealous Steven, Martin Churcher as the obsessive Mendy, Patrick Downes as Mendy’s wandering lover Mike, and Alex Comstock as the guileless Paul.

“It’s a fascinating play with a curious mixture of comedy and tragedy, and many interesting operatic allusions. I am delighted to bring a play of this calibre, by the master playwright Terrence McNally, to the Garrick Theatre’s stage.

This amusing, extremely dramatic play will particularly appeal to lovers of good theatre, opera buffs and also to the LGBTQI+ community.”

**Warning: This show contains adult themes, coarse language, violence and brief nudity.**

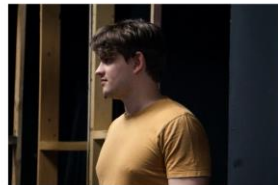
**Book your tickets now at [www.taztix.com.au/garricktheatre](http://www.taztix.com.au/garricktheatre) or call 9255 3336**



Apologies for much belated congratulations to Jen McGrath and Jon Skipworth on the birth of their beautiful son, Sonny. They are currently visiting friends and relatives in Ireland.

Whilst funerals are always sad times, it also brings together people with common interests, and some that we might not have seen for many years. Recently gathered at Les Layton’s funeral were myself, Terry & Barbara Brown, Fred and Jean Petersen, Kerry and Tom Goode, Colleen Hopkins, Barbara Reynolds, Andrew Govey, Karen Tropiano, and a blast from the past Fran and Damien Bourke.





SOME EARLY IMAGES FROM REHEARSALS OF THE LISBON  
TRAVIATA.

Featuring Adam Poole, Martin Churcher, Patrick Downes and Alex  
Comstock.

## PYGMALION

Congratulations to the following actors who have been cast in Season 2, *Pygmalion*, to be directed by Fred Petersen.

Eliza Doolittle....Catherine Leeson

Professor Higgins....Peter Clark

Colonel Pickering....Stuart Ridgeway

Mrs. Eynsford Hill....Janice Phillips

Clara Eynsford Hill....Sorcha Leary

Mrs. Pearce....Allyson Corti

Mrs. Higgins....Marsha Holt

Alfred Doolittle....Adam Skellham

Parlour Maid....Juliet Hyland

Freddie Eynsford Hill....James Skellham

Bystanders...Tina Pascoe & Steve Moloney

**Fred is still in need of 2 able-bodied people to do Set Changing throughout the show, but to also act as Bystanders in Act 1, and will have a couple of lines. Ideal for those wanting to gain experience.**

**Please contact Fred on 0438 927 393**

### *SOME PAST PRODUCTIONS THAT YOU MAY HAVE SEEN AND ENJOYED*

*One-Acts - Overtones, The Worker & The Mysterious Amateur Tramp ~ The Boyfriend ~ MLM is for Murder (or Your Side Hustle is Killing Us) ~ The York Realist ~ My Brilliant Career ~ The Golden Pathway Annual ~ Bette & Joan ~ Bernie's Olde Tyme Music Hall ~ Puss n Boots ~ Agatha Rex ~ Popcorn ~ Star Quality ~ Salonika ~ Managing Carmen ~ Life After George ~ Touch & Go ~ Prepare to Meet Thy Tomb ~ See How They Run ~ And Then There Were None.*

## VALE LES LAYTON

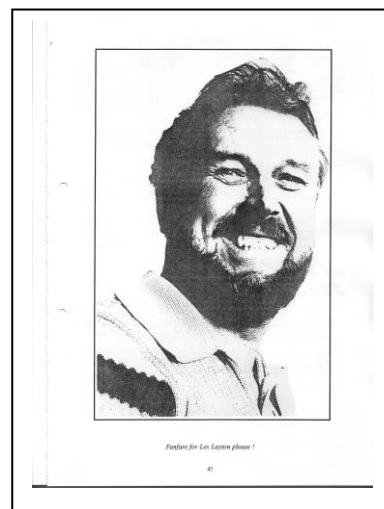
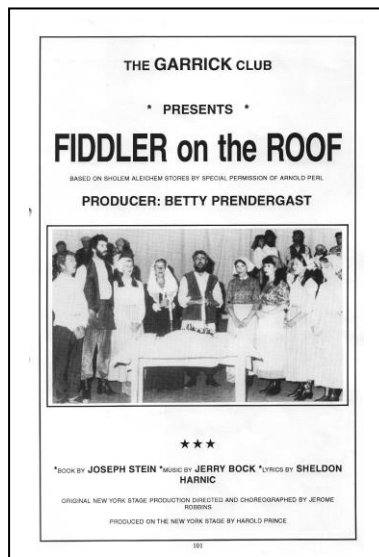
Sadly, we received news recently that legendary Life Member LES LAYTON passed away on 21<sup>st</sup> February at the age of 95. Les, along with his beloved wife Kath, joined Garrick in 1961 and immediately started creating an indelible body of work. Some of the productions he was in from the early 60's onwards was *Enclosed Premises*, *Will Any Gentleman? The Barley Mow* – a 6 part ABC TV series, *See How They Run*, *Hobson's Choice* etc.

He became a valued Committee Member and then President in '66, followed by many years serving the club.

Moving on there was *Rockabye Sailor*, *Sailor Beware*, *Pool's Paradise*, *Blythe Spirit*, *Arsenic & Old Lace*, *The Tender Trap*, *The Hostage*, *Who Goes Bare*, to mention a few.

Then there were the Musicals. Being larger than life, with a marvelous stage presence, a wonderful singing voice and the ability to play musical instruments Les was always in demand to participate in musicals. *The Boy Friend*, *Lock up Your Daughters*, *Show Boat*, and if you saw *Fiddler on the Roof* who can forget his consummate portrayal of Tevye.

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHIES TO KATH AND FAMILY ON THE PASSING OF LES.





# AUDITION NOTICE

**STEEL MAGNOLIAS by Robert Harling.**

SEASON 3 - To be directed by Lynne Devenish.

Performances AUGUST 1,2,3,4\*,8,9,10\*,10,11\*,15,16,17. \*denotes matinee.

## CHARACTERS

|         |                                                         |
|---------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| TRUVY   | Owner of the beauty parlour. Well groomed, 40 - 50      |
| ANNELLE | New beauty parlour assistant. Under 25                  |
| CLAIREE | Wife of former mayor, grande dame. Mid 60's             |
| SHELBY  | Prettiest girl in town. Mid 20's                        |
| M'LYNN  | Shelby's Mother, socially prominent career woman. 50ish |
| OUISER  | Wealth curmudgeon, acerbic but lovable. Mid 60's        |

AGES ARE FLEXIBLE however SOUTHERN ACCENTS ARE A MUST.

SYNOPSIS:- This sparkling and yet sombre play, set in Truvy's beauty parlour in Chinquapin, Louisiana, spans nearly three years in the lives of six women. Truvy and her assistant Annelle, chat and gossip with their friends and regular customers, M'Lynn, Shelby, Clairee, and Ouiser. They share and discuss everything, including marriage, children, health and deaths, with advice being given freely. When one of them passes away suddenly it is the strong bond that they share that gives them deep strength and the purpose in life to help them through their darkest hours.

Lynne is holding 2 pre-audition readings to allow auditionees to familiarise themselves with the play. Please let Lynne know which one you would like to attend.

**1st READING Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March @ 7:30 pm \*FULL\***

**2<sup>nd</sup> READING Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April @ 7:30 pm**

**Auditions will be held on SATURDAY 4<sup>th</sup> & SUNDAY 5<sup>th</sup> May**

**10 am to 12 noon. (or later if required) Please register with Lynne.**

**LYNNE DEVENISH 0488 906 076**

**[winchesterphp@hotmail.com](mailto:winchesterphp@hotmail.com) (Steel Mags in subject line)**

## **SUBMISSIONS FOR 2025 ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED**

**ONE-ACT PLAYS:-** Garrick has once again set aside a season purely for One-Acts in order to give aspiring directors an opportunity to gain experience at the rock face. You are welcome to submit more than one script, and also plays of different genre. The successful plays will also be entered and adjudicated in Dramafest.

**FULL LENGTH PLAYS:-** Garrick likes to present a well-balanced variety of shows for our patrons, so we welcome submissions of all genres from experienced directors.

**Please email Ali McNamara with your submission/s and acting/directing CV to**

**[alithegarrick@gmail.com](mailto:alithegarrick@gmail.com)**



### **THINGS ONLY COMMUNITY THEATRE PEOPLE UNDERSTAND**

“When you go out in public looking like a hooker because you’re still wearing your stage makeup”

“Being cast as the romantic lead opposite someone half or twice your age”

“Your dressing room is a broom cupboard or a church basement”

“There’s only one mirror and twenty girls are trying to use it at the same time”

There’s always one girl who gets the best role in every show and whilst she’s undeniably talented she is an insufferable diva”

“There’s never enough men to fill the required male roles”

“Being in community theatre is that second job that you love, that takes up all your time, but pays nothing”

**We wouldn’t give it up for quids**

## HANDY CONTACT LIST OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND PORTFOLIO HOLDERS.

|                                           |                           |              |                                                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
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| SECRETARY                                 | RODNEY STICKELLS-PALMER   | 0482 171 981 | <a href="mailto:rodpickels@gmail.com">rodpickels@gmail.com</a>                       |
| MINUTE SECRETARY                          | BARBARA BROWN             | 0423 868 988 | <a href="mailto:barb.brown@optusnet.com.au">barb.brown@optusnet.com.au</a>           |
| BAR MANAGER                               | RODNEY STICKELLS-PALMER   |              |                                                                                      |
| WARDROBE SUPERVISOR                       | CARLY RANGER              | 0431 971 631 | <a href="mailto:carlyranger@hotmail.com">carlyranger@hotmail.com</a>                 |
| FRONT OF HOUSE, BAR ROSTERS & SOCIAL      | YVONNE STARR              | 0409 112 695 | <a href="mailto:yvones.45@bigpond.com">yvones.45@bigpond.com</a>                     |
| PROPS, SET BUILDING SUPERVISOR            | ALI MCNAMARA              | 0449 952 132 | <a href="mailto:ali.mcnamara1994@gmail.com">ali.mcnamara1994@gmail.com</a>           |
| MAINTENANCE & PROJECTS                    | ROB MCCONNELL             | 0438 014 482 | <a href="mailto:robbiemac@gmail.com">robbiemac@gmail.com</a>                         |
| STAGE CREW SUPERVISOR                     | ROXI MOORE                |              |                                                                                      |
| TECH. BIOBOX.SHED SUPERVISOR, TAG LIAISON | REBEKAH O'BRIEN           | 0415 560654  | <a href="mailto:rebekahannabob@gmail.com">rebekahannabob@gmail.com</a>               |
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| PUBLICITY TEAM                            | ROXI, JEREMY, ERIN, LYNNE |              |                                                                                      |
| TICKETING                                 | MELANIE DeCULL            | 9255 3336    | <a href="mailto:taz@taxtix.com.au">taz@taxtix.com.au</a>                             |
| WEBSITE                                   | ERIN SHAY HARRIGAN        | 0468 613 131 | <a href="mailto:erinshay3@gmail.com">erinshay3@gmail.com</a>                         |
|                                           |                           |              |                                                                                      |
|                                           |                           |              |                                                                                      |

Please be aware that due to ongoing outbreaks of Covid the management Committee has a duty of care to members and patrons, and at any given time may have to cancel and or delay performances. It is unfortunately a fact of life in today's social climate. We apologise sincerely for any inconvenience this may cause. Our volunteers and ticketing outlet will deal with any issues as expediently as possible.

# The Garrick Gazette

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## **SEASON 1**

### **THE LISBON TRAVIATA**

#### **APRIL**

**11,12,13,14\*,18,19,20\*20,21\*,25,26,27.**

**Bookings: TAZtix.com.au – Ph: 9255 3336**

#### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

|              |                                                                                               |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>MARCH</b> | Wed 27 <sup>th</sup> . 7:30 pm. Reading of Steel Magnolias for prospective auditionees. FULL. |
| <b>APRIL</b> | Tues 9 <sup>th</sup> . 7:30 pm. Reading of Steel Magnolias for prospective auditionees        |
| <b>APRIL</b> | <b>THE LISBON TRAVIATA</b>                                                                    |
| <b>MAY</b>   | Sat 4 <sup>th</sup> Sun 5 <sup>th</sup> AUDITIONS STEEL MAGNOLIAS                             |
| <b>JUNE</b>  | PYGMALION                                                                                     |