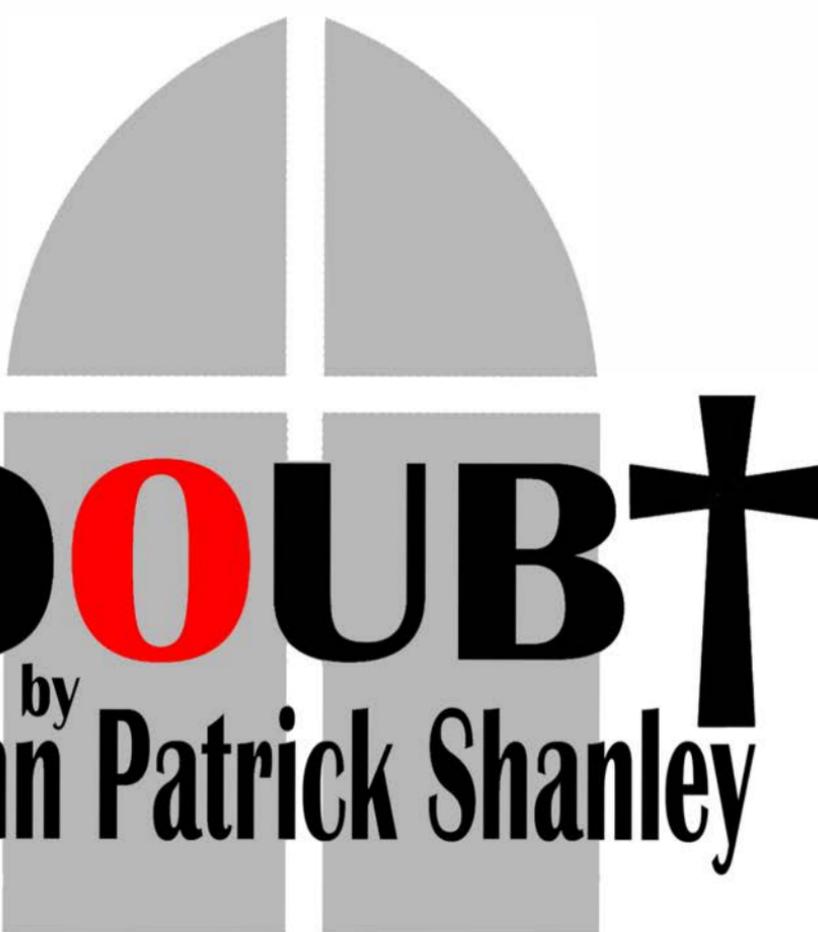


 **Warrandyte Theatre Company**
presents

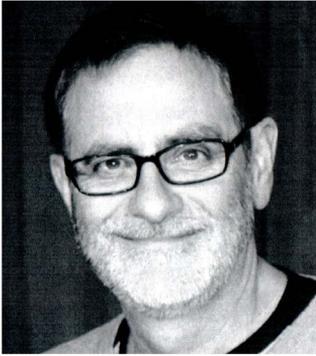
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DOUBT 
by
John Patrick Shanley

Directed by Susan Rundle

PROGRAM



Presidents bit

Welcome to another quality show at Warrandyte Theatre. I'm biased of course and believe that our "suite" of recent productions contains/will contain something for everyone, whatever your tastes.

We hope and imagine that in our choices you will all be able to find something to enjoy, something to make you think and maybe something to challenge you – as well as provide entertainment.

I had my doubts about "Doubt" of course. Would the topic be too challenging or does it help to throw a light and make us think about an increasingly important subject?

After we read the play and realised that it is indeed an excellent play, wonderfully written with subtle and precise dialogue, those doubts of mine vanished. I hope you enjoy our production. **

Thankyou to all involved. As always bringing a show to the stage requires a great deal of backroom work, so a particular thanks to those unsung soldiers in blacks.

Welcome to our stage to Chris O'Neil and Gloria Rono and welcome back to Reschelle O'Connor who joins Lisa Upson.

** And if you did, tell everyone about us
and like us on facebook ...





From the Director:

Doubt is the highly acclaimed and masterfully written drama by American Author John Patrick Shanley.

Shanley, born in the Bronx, New York in 1950 is a prolific author having written over 25 plays and 9 screenplays including Moonstruck, which won the Academy Award for Best Screen Play in 1988.

Doubt opened in 2004 Off Broadway, moving to Broadway less than 4 months later, closing in 2006 after 525 performances. Doubt won the 2005 Pulitzer Prize for Drama and cleaned up the 2005 Tony's, winning 8 awards including Best Play. Shanley then transferred the script into a screenplay, directing it himself to an Academy nominated movie, starring Meryl Streep, Philip Seymour Hoffman and Amy Adams.

During an interview, Shanley provided some insight into his past and reasons for writing this powerful script. Shanley himself attended a Catholic school as a child and says he knew the priests didn't abide by the rules. He based the character of Sister James on a favourite teacher. The crux of the story was centered on the changes the Catholic Church was going through in the 1960s in its attempts to be more accessible to its congregation.

Shanley said that "What led to the church scandals was the blindness that people had about who was good and who was bad, and what was right and what was wrong."

Although not an easy topic for any theatre to present, Shanley's script and the way he delivers four very distinct characters and four very different perspectives, for me made it an easy decision to want to direct this piece.

As we are all very aware, this is still a very current topic in our Courts as is the growing "Me Too" movement, but we still need to be careful.

We cannot just form instant opinions based on a person's role in society because of the increased awareness or current social climate. Even in 2018, we need to ask ourselves what is the truth? Do I have proof beyond doubt? We can't just sweep all priests (or all movie heavyweights) into the one basket because of the obnoxious behaviour of a few, any more than we can say they are all innocent because of their role? I'm not sure who is right, but I am without a doubt in love with this script and loved directing this play and working with this dedicated group of actors. Thank you to the people who supported me through this journey, particularly my darling husband Peter and WTC president and friend Adrian Rice. Thanks also to Lisa MacGibbon and to the crew for their support and hard work throughout this production. Without doubt,

Susan Rundle

Susan began her theatrical career in New Zealand as a dancer, before moving into the theatre, studying drama performance at Canterbury University and under renowned NZ Actor and Director, Elizabeth Moody. Susan has performed in over 25 productions, some of her favourites have included Coral in *Away*, Vera Claythorne in *Ten Little Indians*, Mavis in *Stepping Out*, Ava in *Absurd Person Singular*, Lady Bracknell in *The Importance of Being Ernest* and Winsome in *Bombshells*. As a Director Susan has worked in NZ and Australia directing dramas, comedies and the occasional musical. Her favourites include *Steaming* (Essendon), *Away* (Essendon), *Private Lives* (Eltham), *The Wisdom of Eve* (Eltham), *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll* (Playhouse Players), *Nonsense* (Eltham), *Speaking in Tongues* (Warrandyte)

Cast

Sister Aloysius

Lisa Upson

Father Flynn

Chris O'Neill

Sister James

Reschelle O'Connor

Mrs Muller

Gloria Rono

**The action takes place in 1964, at
St Nicholas Church School, Bronx NY.
Sister Aloysius' Office, Church Chapel
and School Garden and Grounds.**

**There will be a 20 minute interval
between Act I and Act II**

Synopsis:

“What do you do when you're not sure?” So asks Father Flynn, the progressive and beloved priest at the St. Nicholas Church School in the Bronx, in his sermon. It's 1964, and things are changing, to the chagrin of rigid principal Sister Aloysius. However, when an unconscionable accusation is leveled against the Father, Sister Aloysius realizes that the only way to get justice is to create it herself. What is the truth of the matter? And at what price?

Crew

Director	Susan Rundle
Producer	Lisa MacGibbon
Stage Manager	Hayley Lawson-Rowell
Lighting Design & Operation	Adam Gouge
Sound & Music Design	Susan Rundle & Drew Edwards
Sound Operation	Drew Edwards
Tech Coordinator	Callum Robertson
Set & Poster Design	Jock Macneish
Set Builders	Karl Heine, Adrian Rice, Peter Rundle, Tony Clayton, Susan Rundle, David Tynan, Darryl Mitchell
Props	Lisa MacGibbon, Lisa Upson, Peter Rundle, Hayley Lawson-Rowell
Costumes	Lisa MacGibbon with thanks to Lilydale Athenaeum Theatre
Photography	Susan Rundle & Abigail Rundle
FOH Manager	Hazel Rice
FOH	Committee & members of WTC

Special thanks to Lilydale Athenaeum Theatre, Denise Farran,
Simone Keifer, David Tynan, Peter Rundle, Tony Clayton



Lisa Upson

Lisa is thrilled to be a part of this beautifully written play, to work with Susan Rundle and to share the stage with Chris, Reschelle and Gloria. Her Theatre highlights include Sister Robert Ann, in Nunsense with ELT, Lurlene Turnover, in Daddy's Dyin' at Lilydale Athenaeum, Myrtle in Brief Encounter at WTC and the lead role of Becky, in Becky's New Car at Peridot Theatre, a role which won her a Best Actress Lyrebird Award in 2017. Her challenge in this production has been to 'hide nice Lisa'. She hopes you enjoy this play as much as she has enjoyed learning the lines.



Reschelle O'Connor

Reschelle is excited to be returning to the Warrandyte stage following her role as Catherine in Proof. She has also performed in two Peridot productions as Kenni Flood in Becky's New Car and Molly Rivers in The Female of the Species, and recently as Lisa in The Return at Brighton Theatre and Joyce & Shona in Top Girls. Reschelle hopes you sit back, relax and keep the faith during Doubt!



Chris O'Neill

Doubt is Chris' first production with Warrandyte, and he thanks Susan for her confidence! Chris is a writer, actor and director and is currently Vice President at Hartwell Players. He has performed most recently in Oliver! with Gemco Theatre as Mr. Bumble, King Duncan in Macbeth (where he met the love of his life, Tam Tahmen), Nicholas/Merchant in Canterbury Tales and his first role back in Theatre in *While Their Names are Still Spoken*. Over the last couple of years he has begun writing and won Gemco's Take Ten Short Play Festival in 2016 & 2017



Gloria Rono

Gloria refers herself as the chocolate of the group. She is excited about performing for the first time in Warrandyte Theatre and thanks Susan for the opportunity. She has previously acted in her home country Kenya but this is her first production to be part of in Australia. She is excited about this production as she ventures into the new acting world in Australia.