

WARRANDYTE THEATRE COMPANY

presents

A life-long love story set in rural England


Visitors

Barney Norris

Directed by Grant Purdy

By arrangement with ORIGIN™ Theatrical on behalf of Samuel French
A Concord Theatricals Company





chair's thoughts

Well, here we are again for our third season of 2021 and it's only August – something of a record for Warrandyte Theatre Company. Wait a minute, that's what I wrote 3 months ago, before lockdowns 5, 6a and 6b. It's almost Christmas now and it seems remarkable indeed that we are back performing live as well as being able to stream the show to audiences at home – wherever that may be.

So far this year, we have already seen two plays about love and, although very different to "Love/Sick," "Visitors" bears comparison with season one's "Love Letters" in that both are about enduring love. The big difference being this time the protagonists are married and have been for many years. The play will resonate with many, old and young; the topic close to home for many of us and our families. Welcome to the company to Meg, welcome back to Carol and of course to Reg and Don.

My thanks as always to everyone involved in the production of this play. Your work is much appreciated. I commend Grant, our director for his initiative in getting this play staged and to him and the cast for maintaining their enthusiasm and readiness to perform during the very trying period – July to November.

We are now looking forward to a very busy 2022 and have 5 seasons planned, including one of original one-act plays submitted as part of our playwriting competition. And a note, the deadline for submitting a short play is 17th December so if you are a writer, there's still time. Contact me for information.

The Theatre company and Arts Association will commence a full-scale fund-raising campaign during 2022. We seek to raise circa \$80,000 which, together with grants from the Bendigo Bank and Rotary will be used to: build new roof braces, a new lighting rig and an expanded bio-box (the control room.). We hope to be especially appealing in the new year therefore.

Adrian – Chair Warrandyte Arts and Theatre Company

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director's musings

Last year, during one of our many 'lockdowns', I was looking through a list of plays from a publisher and 'Visitors' caught my eye. Not only was it set in the country where I was born, but it dealt with difficult issues that, like most of us, I faced as my parents and relatives got older.

Reading the script, I was blown away by the clarity and honesty of the writing. And what surprised me even more, is that Barney Norris was only in his early 20's when he wrote this insightful play. No wonder it was received with so many ecstatic reviews and Barney Norris gained so many awards as playwright.

This is a beautiful and sharply funny story based on a life-long love affair. The cast and crew have all laughed and at times, also shed a tear as we have immersed ourselves in Arthur, Edie and their son Stephen's lives.

One of the secrets of successful directing is to choose a wonderful script and then recruit a talented cast and crew. In both respects I have been very lucky here – which has not only made my job easy, but which has also given me so much pleasure. I am sure you will enjoy this emotional yet simple and eloquent play – as much as we have.

Thank goodness, at long last and after three delayed openings, we can present it to you!



visitors by barney norris

characters

edie , a farmer's wifecarol keating
arthur, a farmerreg ellery
stephen, their son don nicholson
kate, their helper meg davies

The play takes place in the main room of a farmhouse in North Wiltshire in the UK.

There are 2 scenes in Act 1 and 4 in Act 2.

There will be a 15 minute interval between Act 1 and 2.

Audience members are asked to remain in their seats between scenes.





cast

carol keating



Carol first appeared on the Warrandyte stage in 1979 with what was then known as The Warrandyte Drama Group. Carol performed in many plays with the group, including *The Merchant of Venice* in the role of Nerissa.

After performing in at least ten plays with the group over ten years or more, Carol ran off to join the circus. During her many years with the Women's Circus and POW, the Performing Older Women's Circus, Carol performed in many shows doing physical theatre, text based theatre and group devised theatre.

Earlier this year Carol was part of the ButohOUT! 2021 ensemble, performing in *Odd Hours* at the Abbotsford Convent.

reg ellery



Reg has appeared in plays at WTC twice before, earlier this year in *Love Letters* and in 2019 Reg appeared in the role of Dr. Wangel in Henrik Ibsen's play *The Lady from the Sea*.

In 80s and early 90s Reg was bass singer and musical director of the a cappella group The Phones and in 1991 Reg sang the title role in Catchment Players' production of *Sweeney Todd*.

Returning to performance around 10 years ago Reg has been involved in a range projects including choirs, musicals, opera and plays, as well as singing in a local band.

In recent years Reg has appeared in 2 plays at the Malvern Theatre Company, playing Richard D'Orley Carte in *Tarantara tarantara* and Mr. Gardiner in *Mr. Bennett's Bride*, which is a play written by local playwright Emma Wood.



don nicholson



Don is becoming somewhat of a regular at Warrandyte after recent appearances in *Vere*, *All My Sons*, and *Elegy for a Lady*. He most recently played Bill in *Songs of a Sentimental Bloke* at ELT.

The ravages of age and dementia are touching so many of our families. *Visitors* is a wonderful story of the loss of family memories, how we live with our decisions and what might have been. Thanks to fellow cast, director and crew for their skilful sensitivity in bringing together this poignant drama.

meg davies



Meg has previously performed in *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller and some original pieces written by university peers including *The Seagulls* and *Fake Examination*.

This is her first time performing with the Warrandyte Theatre Company, and she is very grateful for the people she has met and experiences she's had including learning the words to 'Its all coming back to me now' by Celine Dion.

She has a bachelors degree in anthropology and is currently doing a masters in landscape architecture. She loves stories and story telling and hopes to do justice to this wonderfully poignant and intimate play.

the director, grant purdy

This is the third play Grant has directed for WTC. The first, Ibsen's *The Lady From the Sea* gained many nominations at the 2019/2020 VDL and Lyrebird awards. Last year, he also directed the *Providence of Neighboring Bodies* by Jean Ann Douglass - a play on Zoom.



His acting credits for WTC include Peter in *Smitten*, Agnes in *Festivillain* and "Older Man" in *A 2020 Vision*.

For WTC he has also produced *Proof*, *Festivillain* and *Calendar Girls*.

Since being bitten by the bug while 'starring' as Third Guard in *Antigone* at the tender age of 11, Grant has been involved in most aspects of theatre for much of his life. In the UK he played many roles and directed and lit many shows with a number of companies.

His directing credits include Arthur Miller's *A View From the Bridge* and *Two Way Mirror*, Tennessee Williams' *Glass Menagerie*, Goldsmith's *She Stoops to Conquer*, and Edmund Bond's *The Sea*.

Grant's acting credits include Truscott in *Loot*, Jack Barker in *Sufficient Carbohydrate*, Dennis in *Outside Edge* and Wilfred Owen in *Different Drummer* along with many embarrassing stints in panto (which normally involved wearing female clothing!).

the crew

director	grant purdy
producer	adrian rice
stage manager	jenny ford
set design	grant purdy
costume design	denise farran
lighting design	callum robertson
lighting operation	adam goudge alastair rice
sound design	pam ford
sound operation	drew edwards
prompt	denise farran
props.....	the cast and crew
poster and program design	grant purdy
publicity	adrian rice
front of house.....	lisa macgibbon

our thanks

We would like to thank our wonderful sponsors who help with all our productions

Bendigo Bank,
Manningham City Council
Ruby Tuesday
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Warrandyte Diary

Our special thanks to Nic Hanos for the tractor part and Mike Marsland in the UK for the UK bags and newspapers



next year

Season 1 - March

Follies Goes Off the Rails

- Matt Wallace and Lawrence Phelan
(see next page)

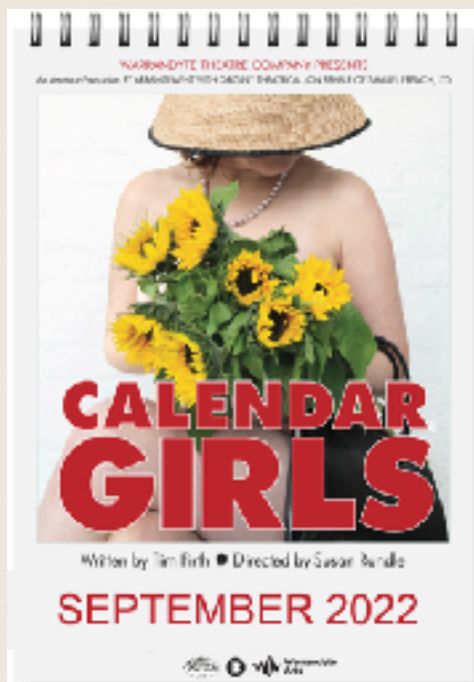
Season 2 - May

One Act Plays
- local authors

Season 3 - July

Blackbird

- David Harrower



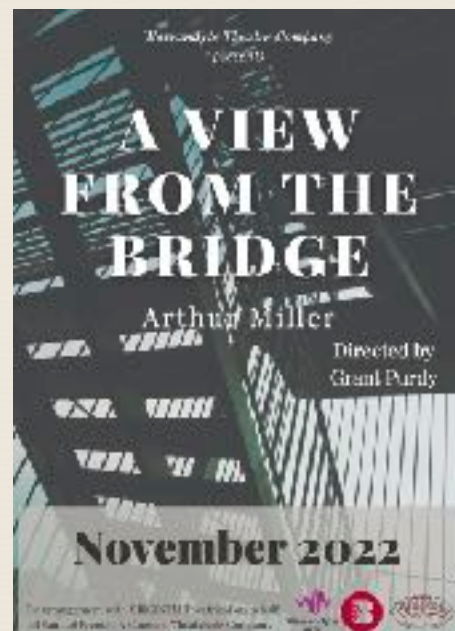
Season 4 - September

Calendar Girls
- Tom Firth

Season 4 - November

A View from the Bridge

- Arthur Miller





Follies Goes Off the Rails

Season 1 2022 – March

The “Warrandyte Follies” used to be known as “The Festival Follies” as it was staged in March to coincide with the local festival. It was first held in 1981 but we still have to wait to properly celebrate our Ruby anniversary show because of breaks in 2019 and 2020.

Originally the Follies was a variety show with an MC introducing individual acts and sketches – often tributes to skits from TV shows. It evolved into a show of mostly original sketches twined with songs and dances; the Tappers’ group usually performed. There were regulars and favourites and expectations of original sing-a-alongs or specific duets. There were some stand out items and occasionally sketches that no-one understood but nonetheless provided a fun visual spectacle. Tributes were varied: overheard once “they all look to be having fun up there, maybe I’ll give it a go” or in a queue at the Bakery – “Aren’t you in the Follies? Me and my husband love the show, we never know what we’re going to see!” We take all compliments. My favourite compliment is simple – “when is the Follies coming back?”

Follies is important to our community. Many of the cast of subsequent plays, started in the Follies. It is a fabulous show to find your feet in theatre – on our stage especially. You can just be in the chorus, get involved back-stage, source or make costumes, build sets or scavenge props or you can be the next rising star.

The Follies has become a joyfully irreverent reflection of what’s happening in Warrandyte, Victoria, Australia and beyond. By joining the cast and crew, you’ll become a part of what’s happening in Warrandyte.

Take this as an invite to come and join in. We will “audition” in January 2022. Our directors – Matt Wallace and Lawrence Phelan will be delighted to see you.

For more information, email Adrian (Producer) on chair@warrandytearts.org.au



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