

# The house of Bernarda Alba

By Federico Garcia Lorca



**Genesian Theatre**  
**17th Oct - 14th Nov 2009**

The play takes place in the sitting room of the house of Bernarda Alba. It is in a village in Andalucia, in the south of Spain. It is the height of summer, and oppressively hot. It is in the early part of last century.

## Act I

Scene I - The morning of the funeral

Scene II - Later that day

Scene III - Some weeks later

*There will be an interval of 15 mins*

## Act II

Scene I - Later the same day

Scene II - Some weeks later

## About the Production

In August 2009, the Spanish authorities announced that the exhumation of a mass grave will begin in the hope of identifying the remains of one of the greatest European writers of the 20th century.

Federico Garcia Lorca was a victim of the madness that swept Spain after the civil war. Murdered by one of Franco's death squads, his death at just 38 years of age is one of the great tragedies of that terrible war. The Genesian Theatre is excited to present his famous tragedy, *The House of Bernarda Alba*.

During a hot, Spanish summer a house is in mourning. Totally dominated by their mother, five lonely sisters waste their lives away in games of petty jealousies and bitterness. For Lorca, the mother represents the rise of fascism and repression in Spain in the period leading up to the war. It is easy to imagine the daughters as symbols of those in society fighting against this repression, only in some cases to end up as its tragic victims.

With original flamenco music, this fresh, new translation will update this classic tale. And, by another coincidence, the film, *Little Ashes*, about the complex relationship between Lorca and Salvador Dali is also due for release.



**LIBBY DANIEWSKA - Maid** Libby studied at the Young Actors Studios at NIDA and appeared in several productions for Powerhouse Youth theatre and ATYP including a drama workshop in Alice Springs with Benedict Andrews and Lucy Bell. This is her first production for the Genesian Theatre.

**ROS RICHARDS - La Poncia the Housekeeper** Originally a professional dancer with a background in musical theatre, Ros has been involved in community theatre for over 25 years and was last seen at the Genesian Theatre in *Enchanted April*. Other theatre highlights include *Bombshells*, *Nuts*, *Kindertransport*, *The Cemetery Club*, *The Importance of Being Earnest* and *A Kind of Alaska* for which she won Best Actress at Sydney Theatrefest.



**JENNY JACOBS - Bernarda Alba** Jenny trained at the Ensemble Theatre under Hayes Gordon and with Brian Syron at the New Theatre. She worked in children's theatre and educational television and later with the Lugar Brae Players. For the Genesian Theatre, Jenny played the wonderful Constanza in *Enchanted April* and in workshop productions of *Bus Stop* and a new play, *Dimensions*. She sees the role of Bernarda as a great way of releasing pent-up aggression!

**KATE HALL - Angustias** Kate trained at the Actors Centre in Surry Hills and under Hayes Gordon at the Ensemble Theatre. Kate has appeared in a number of stage and film productions; her stage appearances include *A Handful of Friends*, *A Pint of Pinter* at the Stables Theatre, *The Lady Aoi* and *The Night of the Party* at the Sidetrack Theatre. This is Kate's first performance for the Genesian theatre and the role of Angustias provides a welcome return to the stage after a long break from theatre.



**NATALIE LUND - Amelia** Natalie studied performing arts at the Hamburg Stage School. She is very international (both a Brazilian and German national) and this is her first English language production. She shocked the jury by performing naked for her final year performance exam!



**MARISA-CLARE BERZINS - Adela** Marisa-Clare Berzins decided at age two that her home was the stage and has been residing on one ever since. Mostly performing in musicals she has played roles including Maria in *West Side Story*, Belle in *Beauty and the Beast* and Josephine in *HMS Pinafore*. She recently appeared in *Hayfever*, her first production with The Genesisians.

**KAZIAH KASPAR - Martirio** Kaziah majored in Theatre at the University of Queensland. She has performed with Out of the Box Children's Festival and Shock of the New at La Boite in Queensland. More recently, she has performed in two seasons of Short and Sweet. In 2007, she performed at Sydney Theatre in *The Vagina Monologues*. Other highlights include performing with STC in *Far Away*, directed by Benedict Andrews; and ATYP in *Light Years*, directed by Lucy Bell. Kaziah received the best actress of the year nomination for her performance at ATYP.



**KIM WELLARD - Magdalena** After wandering onto the stage at the age of 3 in a family production and singing *Eidelweiss*, the hills have been alive ever since. Kim studied under Hayes Gordon at the Ensemble Theatre and at the Actors Centre in Soho, London with Nina Finburn and Andrew Pratt. She has performed in both Australia and the U.K. and highlights have been *Queen Christina* at Battersea Art's Centre and *Translations*.

**GOLDA BAKER - Grandmother/Prudencia** Golda performed for Balmain Theatre in *Little Murders* and *Slaughter on St. Theresa's Day* by Peter Kenna and *Bonaventura*. For Chester Street she performed in *A Hard God*, also by Kenna. For the Genesisian Theatre she was last seen in *Lady Windermere's Fan*. She is excited at the opportunity of playing two such different characters in *The House of Bernarda Alba*.



## **PRODUCTION**

Director & Translator

**Barry Nielsen**

Assistant Director

**Michelle Hickson**

Set Design

**Grant Fraser, Barry Nielsen**

Costume Design

**Susan Carveth**

Lighting & Sound Design

**Michael Schell**

Set Construction

**Grant Fraser, Paul Gilbert, Tom Massey,**

**Barry Nielsen, Members of the Company**

Set Detailing

**Geoff Kiely**

Text Control

**Frances Milat**

Photography

**Chris Smith 8th&Goes Fotografia**

Graphic Design

**Tom Massey, Michelle Hickson**

Acknowledgements

**Certain original guitar pieces kindly  
supplied by Angel Garcia**

## **CREW**

Stage Manager

**Di Henderson, Janina Olmos-New**

Lighting & Sound Operation

**Mitchell Johns**

## **CAST**

Maid

**Libby Daniewska**

La Poncia

**Ros Richards**

Bernarda Alba

**Jenny Jacobs**

Angustias

**Kate Hall**

Amelia

**Natalie Lund**

Adela

**Marisa-Clare Berzins**

Martirio

**Kaziah Kaspar**

Magdalena

**Kim Wellard**

Grandmother / Prudencia

**Golda Baker**

# About the Genesian Theatre

Born in 1944 and named for St Genesius, Patron Saint of Actors, The Genesian Theatre Company has developed into a strong community-based organisation that boasts among its alumni numerous household names in Australian theatre.

The Company is a non-professional group operating from an historic church in Kent Street. While still retaining links with our origins, the Catholic Church, we do not shy away from meeting the challenges of plays that comment on the human condition.

The building which houses the Company was originally St John's Church, and dates from 1868. It has served as a church, a poor school, and was the first Matthew Talbot Hostel. Since 1954 it has been the home of The Genesian Theatre Company.

Over the years The Genesian Theatre Company has become a community theatre group providing a training ground for young actors and a place where those who love the theatre can meet, share, and extend their knowledge of the performing arts. The Genesian Theatre is one of Sydney's most active theatre companies. In addition to six main stage productions each year we run classes, workshops and many other activities.

## Membership

If your interest is in acting, directing, stage management, sound, lights, publicity, admin, etc, or if you just want to experience being a member of the group, we would welcome you as a member. You don't need to be experienced, we can provide training and can cater to different levels of involvement. Please see our web site for further information.

Coming next to the Genesis Theatre...

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**By Melvyn Morrow**



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