

Lord Arthur Savile's Crime

By Constance Cox

From the Story by Oscar Wilde



Genesian Theatre

16th Jan - 27th Feb 2010

*The action of the play passes in the drawing-room of
Lord Arthur's house in Grosvenor Square, London in the 1890's*

Act I

Evening

An interval of 15 minutes

Act II

Scene 1: The following morning

Scene 2: Morning, three days later

An interval of 15 minutes

Act III

Scene 1: Early evening, several days later

Scene 2: The following morning

About the Production

Winston Churchill was once asked whom he would like to meet and talk with in the after life and he replied without hesitation: "Oscar Wilde".

Today Wilde still has enduring and well deserved appeal with theatre audiences. He remains one of the best-known British writers and his polished wit is beyond parallel. George Bernard Shaw once remarked: "He plays with everything; with wit, with philosophy, with drama, with actors and audience, with the whole theatre".

As with all his writing the lightness of style often masks the seriousness of content.

In the past the Genesian Theatre has presented at least 2 productions of the plays *A Woman of No Importance*, *An Ideal Husband*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and a recent production of *Lady Windermere's Fan*. So it is with great pleasure that the Company now brings to you this clever stage version of his short story, *Lord Arthur Savile's Crime*.

The short story was first published in 1891 although written some time previously. This was also the year he wrote his first play *Lady Windermere's Fan* and when his only novel *The Picture of Dorian Gray* appeared in book form.

In this stage version Constance Cox has added extra buoyancy to Wilde's story by developing the plot line further, adding new major characters and giving more comic substance to the characters in the original story. She aptly calls it an improbable comedy and with great originality has masterfully saluted Wilde's style for theatrical flair, comedy, elegance, observation and wit.

Constance Cox had a very prolific career in theatre and television. She adapted many of Dickens' novels for television and many classics to the stage including *Jane Eyre*, *The Woman in White*, *Wuthering Heights*, *Northanger Abbey*, *Vanity Fair*, *Madame Bovary* and *The Picture of Dorian Gray* as well as writing her own original plays *The Murder Game*, *A Time for Loving* and *Vampire, or the Bride of Death*.

My grateful thanks to the many people who have given their time and energy to this production.

Timothy Bennett



ROBERT DREW - Baines Robert is pleased to be playing yet another butler at Genesian, this time the long-suffering Baines, a rewarding role. His theatre credits include *Hamlet* and *Shadowlands* for Genesian Theatre, *The Imaginary Invalid* and *Amadeus* for Cronulla Arts Theatre and *The Taming of the Shrew* for Cauldron Theatre.

DANIEL FELKAI - Lord Arthur Savile Daniel Felkai trained as an actor at the University of Wollongong. His theatre credits include *Russian Egg Flip*, *The Underpants*, *True Times Three*, *By Jeeves*, and *Bondi Legal*. He has also featured in the feature film *Footy Legends*. Daniel will next appear in *Undercover Lawyer*, by Tony Laumberg, in May.



KRISTIE JANE HOGAN - Sybil Merton Kristie fell in love with Oscar Wilde's work when she auditioned for *The Importance of Being Earnest* in her first year of studying acting. She is honoured to be making her debut at The Genesian Theatre representing his work. Kristie has brought many characters to life over the past nine years in such plays as *Fields of Heaven*, *Cosi*, and *Wind in the Willows*.

RODNEY STEWART - Dean of Paddington Rod has been passionate about theatre since a teenager. During the last four years he has appeared in five plays with the Lane Cove Theatre Company. This is his second role at the Genesians, his first in *By Jeeves* last year. Rod had his fifth musical play, *Rikky* workshopped by the Genesians in August 2009.



ROBYN WILLIAMS - Lady Margaret Windermere Robyn Williams is a very experienced actor/director with roles ranging from Shakespearian heroines to English farce. For the Genesian Theatre she has performed a variety of parts, among them the malicious Mrs Norris in *Mansfield Park*, the elegant Mrs Erlyne in *Lady Windermere's Fan*, and the concerned Aunt Julia in *Hedda Gabler*.



NANETTE FREW - Lady Clementina Beauchamp An active member of the Genesian Theatre for over 30 years Nanette is best known as a Director of such successes as *Hay Fever*, *Dial M For Murder*, *Stepping Out*, *Dinkum Assorted*, *Bus Stop*, *Death Trap* and countless others. We welcome her back to the stage tonight as naughty Lady Clem.

SANDRA BASS - Lady Julia Merton Sandra Bass is a familiar face to Genesian audiences. Her past roles include Miss Marple, Jean Brodie, and *Bridie in Shoehorn Sonata*. Tonight you will meet her as Lady Julia Merton, a mother who wants only the best for her daughter. Unfortunately she is doubtful that Lord Arthur can come up to her standards.



BENDEGUZ DANIEL DEVNYI-BOTOS - Mr Podgers A graduate of ACTT's 'The Core', Bendeguz has a firm theatrical background having performed with FWTC in *Joan of Arc*, with the ATYP in *Bookends*, *Battlegrounds*, *Words Are Weapons: R&J*, *The Hot & The Bold*, *Chatroom*, *Craving*, and *In-Exile*, with the ACA's POP in *Forging Ahead*, and with the New Theatre in their Kids Clubs.

TOM MASSEY - Herr Winkelkopf Tom has been involved in over 40 theatrical productions, both on stage and off. In 2006 Tom appeared as Bridey in the Australian premiere of Parsley's adaptation of Waugh's *Brideshead Revisted* for RGP. Other notable roles include Caliban in Shakespeare's *Tempest* and Mole in *Wind in the Willows*. He will appear in *Journey's End* in March 2010.



DANIELLE DORMER - Nellie Danielle has a higher diploma in Theatre & Performance. Since graduating she has acted in a number of professional productions, playing such roles as Helena in Shakespeare's *Midsummer's*, directed by Chapman. Recently she had a run with Five Lamps Theatre company in *The Marietta's*. She is delighted to make her debut on the Australian stage.

PRODUCTION

Director

Timothy Bennett

Set & Costume Design

Peter Henson

Lighting & Sound Design

Michael Schell

Rehearsal Assistants

Joyce Birch

Lisa Harrison

Set Construction

Debbie Smith, Paul Barbary, Robert Smith,

Timothy M Carter, Russell Tainton, Lloyd

Williams, and Members of the Company

Craig O'Regan

Photography

Tom Massey

Graphic Design

Bomb Device

Michael Sterbal, Roaring Fish Productions

Acknowledgements

Anne Evers, Nanette Frew, Paul Gilbert,

Nicola Griggs, Tim Hanna, Susan Carveth

CREW

Stage Manager

Marissa Carey-Brenton

Lighting & Sound Operation

Michael Sterbal

CAST

Baines

Robert Drew

Lord Arthur Savile

Daniel Felkai

Sybil Merton

Kristie Jane Hogan

Dean of Paddington

Rodney Stewart

Lady Margaret Windermere

Robyn Williams

Lady Clementina Beauchamp

Nanette Frew

Lady Julia Merton

Sandra Bass

Mr Podgers

Bendeguz Daniel Devenyi-Botos

Herr Winkelkopf

Tom Massey

Nellie

Danielle Dormer

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 Genesisian Theatre...

JOURNEY'S END

By R.C. Sherriff



13th Mar - 24th Apr 2010

Subscriptions are available
www.genesiantheatre.com.au