



CROWN MATRIMONIAL

by Royce Ryton

Genesian Theatre

14th April - 12th May 2012

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

Act One

Scene One: September 1936, late morning.

Scene Two: November, early evening.

Scene Three: Later, the same evening.

Interval: 15 minutes

Act Two

Scene One: Early December 1936, late morning.

Scene Two: A few days later, late evening.

Scene Three: Later, the same week, early evening.

Scene Four: Autumn, 1945, afternoon.

The action takes place in the late summer, autumn and winter of 1936, except for the last scene which takes place in the autumn of 1945. The setting is Queen Mary's private sitting-room on the first floor of Marlborough House, London.

By special arrangement with Hal Leonard Pty Ltd

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

“Crown Matrimonial” is the story of an impossible choice between love and duty. The decision rocked the British monarchy, the British Government and the world.

The death in January 1936 of King George V caused not only national sorrow but much consternation when his eldest son David assumed the throne as Edward VIII. The reason was the desire of David to marry the woman he had paraded around Europe for sometime as his adored partner, a divorced American Mrs. Wallis Simpson. A blind eye was turned to these activities as long as he was only Prince of Wales.

David's fight over the coming year with his Government and his family is the subject of this play.

The Government was vehemently opposed to a Morgantic marriage which David proposed. He was warned that no member of the British Empire would accept Mrs. Simpson.

His mother Queen Mary and the rest of his family begged David to “do his duty” and give up Mrs. Simpson. His heart rending pleas to his mother and sister to understand how much he loved and relied on Wallis fell on stony ground.

His decision caused his brother Bertie who was ill prepared for the role, to be thrust into his place as King George VI.

Did David make the right choice? Would he have been a remarkable, visionary king who would bring the Crown up to date?

We will never know.

Nanette Frew

Cast

SANDRA BASS - Queen Mary

Sandra Bass is a long-standing member of our theatre with such memorable performances as Miss Jean Brodie and Bridie in *Shoehorn Sonata*. Recently she has presented comedic ladies in plays by Jean Anouilh and Oscar Wilde as well as the capable Mrs Bird who ensured a good supply of marmalade for Paddington Bear. As Queen Mary she returns to a straight dramatic role, presenting a key figure in *Crown Matrimonial*.



ELIZABETH BLACKETT - The Hon. Margaret Wyndham

This is Elizabeth's first production with the Genesians. She has appeared in over 25 productions in Wellington and Christchurch NZ, finalist several times in the NZ Theatre Federation, One Act Festival. Favourite roles include; Elvira, *Blithe Spirit*, M'Lynne, *Steel Magnolias*, Muriel, *Habeas Corpus*, Lady Kitty, *The Circle*.



ANNE EVERS - Mabell, Countess of Airlie

A change of pace for Anne from housekeeper roles in *The Hound of the Baskervilles* and *Pygmalion* to Countess of Airlie, wife of David Ogilvy, 11th Earl of Airlie, lady in waiting to the Princess of Wales and then, on the accession of George V in 1910, Lady of the Bedchamber to the-now Queen Mary.



DEARBHLA HANNIGAN- The Duchess of York (Elizabeth)

Originally from Ireland Dearbhla spent several years as a professional actress appearing in a ridiculous number of Brian Friel plays. Eventually the rain got the better of her and now she lives and works in Sydney at a boring but better paid profession. This is her first show with the Genesians.



MEHRAN MORTEZAEI – Page

Mehran Mortezaei has a B.A. (Hon) and M.A. in Drama from the University of Tehran. He wrote and directed many stage and radio plays in his native Iran and, after moving to Australia in 2007, founded the Ayla Persian Drama Group, who have produced 3 plays to date.



ANDREW O'CONNELL - King Edward VIII (David)

Andrew first appeared at the Genesians in 2009 as Horatio in *Hamlet* and was most recently seen as the embattled Sir Robert Chiltern in Oscar Wilde's *An Ideal Husband*. In between Andrew has performed in a number of other Genesian productions, as well as other plays around Sydney. Andrew is looking forward to the challenge of playing his first non-fictional character.



SYMEON THOMPSON - Walter Monckton, K.C.

Following his appearance in the workshop of Polly Teale's *Mine*, Symeon is looking forward to his first major production at the Genesian Theatre. He has always been interested in theatre and has some experience with amateur theatre a while ago in country Queensland.



JANE THORPE -The Princess Royal (Mary)

Jane has been playing quirky characters on various stages since the age of 9. She was last seen on the Genesian stage as the ghostly Gothic maid Annette in *Northanger Abbey*. However, *Crown Matrimonial* is her first attempt at playing a princess!



ATLANTA WEBSTER - The Duchess of Gloucester (Alice)

This is Atlanta's first production with the Genesians. Atlanta has appeared in a number of plays around Sydney. Her most recent performances have both been at Darlinghurst Theatre where she appeared as Julie in David Williamson's *Face to Face*; Angela in David Williamson's *Dead White Males*, and Dawn in Hannie Rayson's *Competitive Tenderness*.



JOHN WILLIS-RICHARDS - The Duke of York (Bertie)

John is delighted to be playing the future King George VI. In the past, John has played the playwright Shakespeare, and a Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill on stage, but it is always an honour to play royalty. This is John's third role at the Genesians. He played Lord Goring in *An Ideal Husband* and Elyot Chase in *Private Lives*.



Production

Director	Nanette Frew
Assistant Director	Timothy Bennett
Set Design	Debbie Smith
Costume Design	Susan Carveth
Lighting Design	Mark Banks
Sound Design	Michael Schell
Dialogue Coach	Del Dines
Rehearsal Prompt	Melanie Robinson
Set Construction	Debbie Smith, Paul Gilbert, Members of the Cast and Company
Photography	Mark Banks
Program	Ross Oblea
Special thanks	Paul Gilbert, Fiona Barry, Wendy Gimblett, Mark Langham, Renata Lincoln, Lois Marsh, Tom Massey, Meg Mooney, Darran Moran, Jason Thorne, James Thorne, Pymble Players, Ron Ringer, John Knott

Crew

Stage Manager	Mehran Mortezaei
Lighting & Sound Operation	Susan Lafford- Jacob, Samantha Eccleston

Cast

Mabell, Countess of Airlie	Anne Evers
Queen Mary	Sandra Bass
The Hon. Margaret Wyndham	Elizabeth Blackett
Queen's Page	Mehran Mortezaei
King Edward VIII (David)	Andrew O'Connell
The Princess Royal (Mary)	Jane Thorpe
The Duchess of Gloucester (Alice)	Atlanta Webster
Walter Monckton, K C.	Symeon Thompson
The Duchess of York (Elizabeth)	Dearbhla Hannigan
The Duke of York (Bertie)	John Willis-Richards

About the Genesian Theatre

The Genesian Theatre Company is a non-professional group operating from an historic church in Kent Street in the heart of the Sydney CBD. We boast among our alumni numerous household names in Australian theatre and film such as Bryan Brown, Baz Luhrmann, Judi Farr, and John Bell. We are, however, just as proud of the hundreds of talented amateur actors, directors, designers, lighting and sound specialists who have contributed to Sydney's unique little theatre over the years.

Over the years the company has developed into a 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 or seven main stage productions each year we run classes, workshops and many other activities.

Membership of the company is open to all people over the age of eighteen.

The building that houses The Genesian Theatre Company was originally St John the Evangelist Church and dates from 1868. It has served as both a church and a poor school until 1932 when it became the Kursaal Theatre, housing the Sydney Repertory Company. In 1938 it became the first Matthew Talbot Hostel. Since 1954 it has been the home of The Genesian Theatre Company, which was formed in 1944.

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 Genesian Theatre...

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

by Charles Dickens

Directed by Roger Gimblett

26th May - 30th June 2012

Subscriptions are available
www.genesiantheatre.com.au