



Ring Round the Moon

By Jean Anouilh

Adapted by Christopher Fry

Directed by Joyce Birch

Genesian Theatre

7th March - 25th April 2009



Welcome to the Genesian Theatre's production of Christopher Fry's most recent adaptation of Jean Anouilh's play *L'Invitation au Chateau* entitled *Ring Round the Moon*.

The first English production was presented at the Globe Theatre, London, in 1950 and featured several luminaries of the English stage of that time including Paul Scofield, Claire Bloom and Margaret Rutherford. The play was directed by Peter Brook and designed by Oliver Messel.

The play has been critiqued as a "soufflé with razor blades" and this is certainly an apt description- on the surface, it is a fast moving witty fairy story, but beneath there are deeper undertones of the social issues and conflicts.

We have set the play in Edwardian time, just prior to World War I. It is interesting that the scene I have chosen to end Act I was not in the original adaptation, but has been reinstated in this version of the script. I feel it adds to the complexity of the story.

With a beautiful set and costumes by Peter Henson, an enthusiastic production team and a great cast, we hope you'll enjoy a fine evening of entertainment with something to think about as well.

Joyce Birch



TIM HANNA Tim Hanna has spent a long time going to or writing essays about plays, and finally, he was in one for the first time last year. He performed in *The Real Inspector Hound* for the Genesian Theatre. He is currently in his third year of a Ph.D. in English, which involves writing his first novel.

GORDON SMITH Gordon has been in several Genesian productions over the years. His debut with the company was in 2002 playing Sir Hugh Evans in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. Most recently he played the eunuch Mardian in last year's production of *Antony and Cleopatra*.



ROBERT DREW Although he has been acting for many years, Robert's first production with Genesian's was *Valentines Day* in 2005 when he played the comic role Lewis Paine, an eccentric British author. He has played a wide range of roles, and although he loves comedy, Robert finds he is more often called on to play the dramatic role. Currently he is rehearsing the Genesian's next play *Hamlet* in the role of Polonius.

KEITH MCILROY Keith followed in his daughter's footsteps onto the boards. She was having so much fun that he followed suit - proving that life really does begin again at 40! A few years performing Theatresports in Christchurch and Sydney has led him to regular roles on the Sydney theatre circuit including Glagolyev in Michael Frayn's Chekhov adaptation, *Wild Honey* at NIDA Studio, Jack Barker in Dennis Potter's *Sufficient Carbohydrate* at Strathfield Theatre, Sherlock Holmes in Sir Arthur Conan-Dolye's *Hound of the Baskervilles* at Genesian Theatre.



JEREMY JUST Jeremy has pursued his passion for acting from a young age. He found his love of the stage in Canberra treading the boards in numerous productions including *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *The Miser*, *Boom Bang A Bang* and *Telling Moments*. He moved to Sydney in 2005 and found a new home at the Genesian Theatre, appearing in many productions including *Cards on the Table*, *The Tempest* and *Antony and Cleopatra*. Recently Jeremy starred in the premiere of *Twist of Faith* at NIDA as part of World Youth Day. Jeremy continues to participate in short films and television including ABC's *Review with Myles Barlow*.

SUSAN CARVETH Susan Carveth plays the elegant guest at the Ball who is eager to find romance. She is also the assistant choreographer and dance teacher of this production.





RACHEL COLEMAN Rachel Coleman is a new member to the Genesian Theatre. She is a trained actor and full time drama teacher. Last year she performed in Stoppard's *The Real Inspector Hound* at the Genesian Theatre.

JANE THORPE Jane studied drama at Queensland University and has acted in a number of amateur theatre groups in Brisbane including The Theatre Club, Front Row, the Princess Players and the Samford Players. She has also enjoyed competing in the Norfolk Island Drama Festival, playing a lusty hen in *Chook Chook* and a bag lady in *Donuts*. Jane joined the Genesians 18 months ago and eased herself in by "having a go" at lighting for Hedda Gabler. She then played the elegant man-eater Lady Cynthia in *The Real Inspector Hound*.



SANDRA BASS This year marks Sandra's 25th anniversary on the Genesian Theatre stage. Audiences may remember her performances as Miss Jean Brodie, Nurse Carey in *Mad About Men*, Bridie in *Shoehorn Sonata* and most recently as the all-knowing Soothsayer in *Antony and Cleopatra*.

DEBBIE SMITH Debbie has been involved in theatre for over twenty years and has worked at the Genesian Theatre in a range of capacities, usually behind the scenes. For this company, she has directed *Cards on the Table*, *Shadowlands* and *Enchanted April*. Her last production stepping the boards was *Sense and Sensibility* where she played the role of Mrs. Dashwood.



CARISSA TEELING Carissa trained at the Australian Academy of Dramatic Arts and ATYP. Her theatre credits include *Beautiful Bodies*, *Don Juan*, *The Jungle* (Pilgrim Theatre), *Love's Labour's Lost* (Darlinghurst Theatre), and *Love and Light* (Short & Sweet Festival Seymour Centre). This is Carissa's debut with the Genesian Theatre Company.

VANESSA COFFEY Vanessa has appeared previously in *Antony & Cleopatra* and *Enchanted April* for the Genesian Theatre. In the last 12 months she has also appeared in *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* (for NIDA's "The Actor" program), *A Day in December* (a NIDA 50th anniversary production) and *Proof* (Phoenix Theatre) while completing part-time studies at NIDA.



PRODUCTION

Director

Assistant Director

Set & Costume Design

Lighting Design

Sound Design

Set Construction

Construction Consultant

Set Detailing

Wardrobe Assistants

Choreography & Dance Instructor

Dance Teacher

Photography

Graphic Design

Rehearsal Prompt

Transportation

Joyce Birch

Timothy Bennett

Peter Henson

Timothy M. Carter

Michael J. Schell

Eric Bicknell, Tom Massey, Debbie Smith,

Michael Sterbal, Roger Gimblett, and

Members of the Company

Owen Gimblett

Meg Mooney

Susan Carveth, Jehanne Lambourne,

Nicola Griggs, Jacqui Dielwart

Peter Campbell

Susan Carveth

Craig O'Regan

Tom Massey, Kit Messham Muir

Michael Sterbal

Grant Fraser

CAST

Hugo & Frederic

Romainville

Messerschmann

Joshua

Patrice

Isabelle

Diana Messerschmann

Lady Dorothy India

Mother

Madame Desmortes

Capulet

Guest

General

Tim Hanna

Gordon Smith

Robert Drew

Keith McIlroy

Jeremy Just

Vanessa Coffey

Carissa Teeling

Rachel Coleman

Jane Thorpe

Sandra Bass

Debbie Smith

Susan Carveth

Michael Sterbal

CREW

Stage Manager

Lx Operation

Ax Operation

Michael Sterbal

Meg Mooney

Belinda Stafford, Mitchell Johns,

Amy Roberts

Genesian Theatre
65th Season 2009 - 2010

HAMLET
by William Shakespeare

HAY FEVER
by Noel Coward

Intent to Murder
by Leslie Sands

The house of Bernarda Alba
by Federico Garcia Lorca

Dickens Down Under
by Melvyn Morrow

Lord Arthur Savile's Crime
by Constance Cox
From the story by Oscar Wilde

JOURNEY'S END
by R.C. Sherriff

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