

Jane Austen's
EMMA

adapted by Pamela Whalan



Director's Note

Jane Austen wrote, "I am going to take a heroine whom no one but myself will much like." Emma is spoiled, headstrong, and self-satisfied, she greatly overestimates her own matchmaking abilities, she is blind to the dangers of meddling in other people's lives, and her imagination and perceptions often lead her astray.

In this adaptation, former Genesian Director Pamela Whalan distills down the essential details of Austen's great novel into an engaging and delightful story of manners, with terrific comic touches and tremendous affection for the characters.

As always for a woman of this era, the business of marriage was the main event, and how everyone finds love and happiness drives the story, and the combination of seriousness and fun is the key to this novel's enduring success.

The Genesian Theatre is excited to bring this event to you in the bicentenary year of Austen's death and hope that like millions before you, you too will delight in the magic of her storytelling.

Barry Nielsen
Director

Synopsis of Scenes

Act One

Scene One: Sitting room of Hartfield, November 1813

Scene Two: Same, December 1813

Scene Three: Same January 1814

Act Two

Scene One: The same, April 1814

Scene Two: The same, May 1814

Scene Three: The ballroom of the Crown Inn, one week later

Scene Four: Sitting room of Hartfield. Several days later

Scene Five: The same, several weeks later

BARRY NIELSEN - Director Barry Nielsen has translated and directed Lorca's tragedies *Blood Wedding* and *The House of Bernarda Alba* at the Genesian and also directed the smash hit of *Mousetrap*. He has appeared in the usual commercials and short films and has appeared in numerous plays, the most recent being *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare* on this stage.

TRUDY RITCHIE - Assistant Director Trudy found her love for the theatre at a very early age, appearing as Alice in *Alice in Wonderland* (New Zealand Drama School). Moving on from musicals some of her roles include *Bittersweet* (SPAT), *Polar Bears*, *Mountain Language*, *Blue Window*, *Baby with the Bathwater*, and *The Cripple of Inishmaan* all for Darlo Drama, and *Pride and Prejudice* (Genesian Theatre). She has recently turned her focus towards directing and hopes to be involved with more projects at the Genesian.

OWEN GIMBLETT - Set Design Owen has over 25 mainstage Set Design credits to his name at the Genesian alone and countless more in his native New Zealand. Over a 50 year career he has worked on plays, ballet, and major musicals, and enjoys the challenges of Genesian's intimate stage with *The Tempest* and *Great Expectations* being particularly memorable designs. In a change of hat, Owen directed *Pygmalion* and *Pride and Prejudice* for the company.

PETER HENSON - Costume Design Peter is a freelance set and costume designer and maker whose training includes an M.A. in Theatre Studies, and a B.A Honours in Fine Arts with an emphasis on historical costume on stage and in film. He has worked extensively with the New Theatre, the Zenith Theatre, and the Guild Theatre, as well as with the Genesians. Recent productions include *Amadeus*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *The Winslow Boy*, and *Three Sisters*.

TIMOTHY M CARTER - Lighting Design An accomplished Lighting Designer, Musical Director and Composer, Tim's formal studies include a Bachelor of Creative Arts (Music Composition), Master of Creative Arts (Theatre Production) and Master of Creative Arts - Research (Theatre Production). Recent Genesian lighting credits include *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Hotel Sorrento*, *Murder on the Nile*, *Richard III*, *The Mousetrap*, and *Northanger Abbey*. Musical Director credits include *Spamalot*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, the Sydney premiere of Andrew Lloyd Webber's *By Jeeves*, and the world premiere of *The Star-Child*. Composition credits include *The Glass Menagerie*, *Saint Joan*, *Charley's Aunt*, *The Living*, *A Chaste Maid in Cheapside*, and a devised production based on his suite *Fragments*.

MICHAEL SCHELL - Sound Design Michael has been a member of the Genesian Theatre for over 35 years. A professional Sound and Lighting Designer, his Genesian credits include *Great Expectations*, *St Joan*, *The 39 Steps*, *Terra Nova*, *Frankenstein*, and *Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure*. Other recent Genesian sound design credits include *Pride and Prejudice*, *The Mousetrap*, *Crown Matrimonial*, *Spider's Web*, and *Three Sisters*.



NATHAN BENNETT - Mr Knightley Nathan started acting in 2015 when he joined a commercial talent agency to try something new and challenging. Since then he has appeared in a number of small television spots, a variety of short films and in numerous television and online commercials. He played King Oedipus at Short & Sweet and made his full-length theatre debut as Dr Seward in the Genesian's *Dracula* (2016). He

has studied acting at Sydney Drama School and is represented by Gina Stoj Management.

TIMOTHY BENNETT - Mr Woodhouse This is Timothy's third appearance in a Jane Austen. The others were *Pride and Prejudice* and *Mansfield Park*. He has directed major productions for the Company including *Three Sisters*, *An Ideal Husband*, and *Lord Arthur Savile's Crime*. Previous roles include *Shadowlands* (C.S.Lewis), *Pygmalion* (Pickering), *Wind in the Willows* (Badger), *Twelfth Night* (Aguecheek), *The Imaginary Invalid* (Argan), *Something's Afoot* (Colonel), *The Tempest* (Trinculo), *The Fantasticks* (Henry) and the Inspectors in *Spider's Web* and *Dial M for Murder*.



ROWENA MCNICOL - Mrs Weston Rowena's recent credits include *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Ou Ta Town Productions), *Away* (LCTC), and *The Diary of Anne Frank* (New Theatre). She has previously performed at the Genesian Theatre in *The Adventures of a Bear called Paddington* (2011). Rowena trained at the Academy Drama School in London and has toured professionally throughout the UK.

DAVID STEWART-HUNTER - Mr Weston In Emma, David is adding a Georgian gentleman to his repertoire of upmarket Poms previously seen in *Appointment With Death*, *The Winslow Boy*, *Spider's Web*, and *Charley's Aunt*, all for the Genesians. Most recently, he played a crooked cop in *Loot* at Cronulla Arts Centre. In a previous life, David spent 30 years in advertising and marketing before atoning for his sins as a high school English teacher.



EMMA WRIGHT - Emma A Bond University graduate, Emma played Hannah in *Mako Mermaids*. Her directing debut *Anchor* recently launched on ABC having screened at 14 film festivals internationally. Theatre credits: *Fiona Eyes to the Floor*, *Emma Orbit* (QTC/Grin and Tonic), *Tegwyn That Eye The Sky* (New Theatre), *Beatrice Much Ado* (Genesian), *Amanda Consensual* (New Theatre), *Phillipa A Murder is Announced* (Genesian), and now Emma in *Emma*. Training: Warehouse Workshop, ACA, The Hub, ATYP, and 16th Street. Rep: Natalie Hall.

KATHRYN HUTCHINS - Harriet Kathryn is based in Sydney, currently studying stage and screen at Sydney Theatre School. Her love of acting extends from a passion for literature, and with Jane Austen being amongst her favourite writers she is especially pleased to bring Harriet Smith to life. This is her third production with the Genesian Theatre, where she last took to the stage as Liddy Smallbury in *Far From the Madding Crowd* (2016).





TUREA BLYTH - Miss Bates Turea started acting from a young age in the UK, putting on a variety of voices and accents to delight friends and family. While living in London she performed in several shows including *Teechers* by John Godber, *Family Circles* by Alan Ayckbourn, and the *Odd Couple* female version which she also co-directed! This is Turea's second play at the Genesian Theatre after being lucky enough to be cast in *Under Milk Wood*.

DIMITRI ARMATAS - Mr Elton Dimitri studied at The Actors College of Theatre and Television (ACTT). In 2012, he produced and starred in a self devised play *Errors* which was well received by audiences and critics. In the same year, he performed in *The Merchant of Venice* (The Duke) at the Genesian Theatre. Other roles include John Proctor (*The Crucible*), Victor Frankenstein (*Frankenstein*), Jim (*Away*), and Jonathan Harker (*Dracula*). Dimitri has written three works: a novel, *In This Life*, and two plays, *Errors* (2012), and *Haus* (2013-2014).



CHARLOTTE ROBERTSON - Jane At St Vincent's College, Charlotte appeared in major roles in *Grease*, and *Venetian Twins*, and graduated first in Drama and Music. Other major roles include *Smash Hits and Stereotypes*, *Simpson, J. 202*, *Hairspray*, *The Little Mermaid - Not Suitable for Children*, and *Shout*. Her development credits include *The Little Mermaid* (Sydney Chamber Opera) and *The Trouble with Dancing* (ATYP).

Charlotte is delighted to be a part of her first production with the Genesian Theatre Company.

JOSHUA ADAMS - Frank Churchill Josh is an incredibly passionate performer who has adored acting and music since an early age. While performing in *The Who's Tommy - The Musical* (2015) Josh fell in love with theatre. Since then he has performed in *Annie - The Musical* (2016), *Meet The Hockers* (TV Show, 2016), and *Karmafield* (Film, 2017.) His passion for performance drives him to always improve himself.



GRACE SWADLING - Mrs Elton Grace is a newcomer to the Genesian. Grace was an avid member of The Bay Theatre Players in shows such as *Aladdin*, *South Pacific*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Seussical the Musical*, and *The Women* before moving to study theatre at Newtown Performing Arts High School. From there she went on to recently complete a BA with a major in Theatre and Performance Studies from UNSW. There she performed with (NUTS) in *The Memorandum*, *Measure for Measure*, *The Pillowman*, and *The Tempest*, as well as stepping into the roles of producer and publicity officer for various shows.

Production

Director

Barry Nielsen

Assistant Director

Trudy Ritchie

Set Design

Owen Gimblett

Costume Design

Peter Henson

Lighting Design

Timothy M Carter

Sound Design

Michael Schell

Milliner and Costume Assistant

Helen Kolhagen

Set Construction

Tom Fahy, Keeva Ashmore,

Garry Bates, Debbie Smith,

Roger Gimblett, Members of the Company

Audition Assistants

Daniel Hitchings, Diane Henderson

Photography

Grant Fraser, Craig O'Regan

Graphic Design

Patrick Magee, Tom Massey

Ticketing

Shane Bates

Transport

Debbie Smith

Crew

Stage Manager

Diane Henderson, Theo Papas

Lighting & Sound Operation

Leilani Loau, Ian Whalan

Cast

Mr Knightley

Nathan Bennett

Mr Woodhouse

Timothy Bennett

Mrs Weston

Rowena McNicol

Mr Weston

David Stewart-Hunter

Emma

Emma Wright

Harriet

Kathryn Hutchins

Miss Bates

Turea Blyth

Mr Elton

Dimitri Armatas

Jane

Charlotte Robertson

Frank Churchill

Joshua Adams

Mrs Elton

Grace Swadling

About the Genesian Theatre

The Genesian Theatre Company celebrated our 70th year as a company in 2014. For over 60 years we have been operating from our home at 420 Kent St in 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 also just as proud of the hundreds of other talented actors, directors, stage managers, set and costume designers, lighting and sound specialists, stage and production staff who have contributed to Sydney's unique little theatre. We are particularly proud of all our members who volunteer their time to work Front of House to help you enjoy your visit to the Genesian Theatre.

Over the years the company has developed into a theatre providing a training ground for young theatre professionals and a place where those who love the theatre can meet, share, and extend their knowledge of the performing arts. The Genesian Theatre Company 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.

The building which houses the Genesian Theatre Company was originally St John's Church, and dates from 1868. It 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.

The Genesian Theatre Company acknowledges the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation as the traditional custodians of the land our theatre stands on.

Membership

If you're interested 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...

FIGARO

by Charles Morey

based on the play
by Beaumarchais

