

Celebrating 50 Years



LILYDALE ATHENAEUM THEATRE
COMPANY INC

BACKSTAGE NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2026

SEASON 4 - 2026: DIRTY ROTTEN SCOUNDRELS

You've heard of the 1988 hit movie starring Steve Martin and Michael Caine, but have you heard of the musical?

Based on the film, **DIRTY ROTTEN SCOUNDRELS** is a musical comedy written by Jeffrey Lane, with music and lyrics by David Yazbek.

Directed by Alan Burrows, the show follows two con men competing to swindle a wealthy heiress, leading to hilarious situations and unexpected twists.

In the show we meet our two leading men - Lawrence Jameson, who earns his extravagant living by swindling rich ladies out of their money, and Freddy Benson, who more humbly deceives them by pulling at their heartstrings with false tales of his grandmother's failing health. After meeting on a train, they attempt to work together. They make a deal: the first one to extract \$50,000 from a young female target, heiress Christine Colgate, wins. The other must leave town.

The original Broadway run of the production opened in March of 2005 and was nominated for a staggering 10 Tony awards. It was Norbert Leo Butz's performance as Freddy Benson which took home the award for Best Performance by a Leading Actor in a Musical.



Sound fun? Don't miss your chance to see this this wonderful musical comedy and book your tickets now.

Matinees selling out fast - don't wait!

Visit our website to book online: **lilydaleatc.com** or phone our very helpful and friendly Box Office staff on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays on **03 9735 1777**



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2026 - SEASON 3

SLEUTH

BY ANTHONY SCHAFFER, DIRECTED BY IAN FROST

REVIEWS FROM OUR AUDIENCE

I'm extremely impressed! Both by the acting and professionalism of the two main performers. I loved the show! Very entertaining, intense and captivating.

– Nicholas

What a fabulous performance. The cast had such a presence and kept us captivated until the end. Bravo LTC – another stand out performance!! – Jo

Great production! First class set design! Actors were excellent and compelling! – Anon

What a wonderful game – full of trickery and fun. Such deception fooled the audience thoroughly. Thank you! – Anon

An excellent show. Superb plot. Great acting. Thoroughly enjoyable. – Pam

Great show! Intrigue, shock dusted with a few laughs. Well done to the actors and director. – Anon

Brilliant. I first thought a bit far fetched at the beginning but it developed with surprise after surprise. Great fun and very well acted. Will tell everyone to come. Thanks for a great performance. – Steve

Brilliantly acted. The secret at the end fooled us. – Alison

Amazing use of language, wonderful memories of the actors! Well done! Great set work also – a credit to your volunteers. – Rose

A wonderful night out for fans of murder mysteries. Five Stars!!! – Greg



Photography by Alexandra Carter – Wanderling Photography



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MORE 50TH CELEBRATIONS

On July 25th, our valued volunteers and past/present theatricals came together to celebrate the Lilydale Athenaeum's Golden Jubilee.

More than 100 people gathered in our foyer to reminisce and bond over past productions, sharing memories and stories of their involvement in the theatre.

It was a bustling afternoon filled with lots of laughter.

The birthday cake was cut by two of the Athenaeum's original members, Catherine Garside and Bob Bramble, both of whom were in one of our first productions - *Lady Audley's Secret* - and have thoroughly accomplished histories at the theatre over our 50 years.



Photos by Alexandra Carter

TRIVIA TIME

How well do you know the LATC? Test your knowledge with these quiz questions!

Question 1: How many productions has the Lilydale Athenaeum staged?

A) Over 100 **B)** Over 150 **C)** Over 200 **D)** Over 250

Question 2: Which of the following has NOT been performed at the Lilydale Athenaeum Theatre?

A) *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* **B)** *Much Ado About Nothing*
C) *The Odd Couple* **D)** *Death of a Salesman*

Question 3: The Lilydale Athenaeum was founded in 1976 by which two gentlemen?

Question 4: How many times did Dame Nellie Melba grace the stage at our theatre?

Question 5: Which musical concluded our 2025 Season last year?

Answers on page 5.



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THEATRE THROWBACK - TEN YEARS AGO

SEASON 1, 2016

THE VICAR OF DIBLEY (LOTS MORE FUN IN DIBLEY) ADAPTED BY LORETTA BISHOP FROM THE ORIGINAL SERIES BY RICHARD CURTIS AND PAUL MAYHEW-CARTER

After the whirlwind success of ***The Vicar of Dibley*** in Season 1 of 2015, Geraldine Granger (played by Louise Steele) returned to the Lilydale Athenaeum for another season in 2016 for ***The Vicar of Dibley (Lots More Fun In Dibley)***.

Based on the original TV series, the first play followed life in the sleepy Oxfordshire village of Dibley, turned upside-down by the death of the ancient former reverend. The diocese send a new female vicar as his replacement. Her arrival is met with a mixture of wonder and horror from the assorted collection of rural yokels who call Dibley home.

Director Loretta Bishop took home the award for Best Director of a Comedy at the 2015 Lyrebird Awards.

In its 2016 return, the doyen of the church came back for three more episodes of the wonderful series – *The Engagement*, *Dibley Live*, and *Love and Marriage*. Which followed Geraldine as she continued to navigate her way around the citizens of Dibley.

Lots More Fun in Dibley garnered 9 Lyrebird Award nominations; including Best Set, Best Production and Best Director.



The Cast of THE VICAR OF DIBLEY – Louise Steele as Rev Geraldine Granger, Claire Hanley as Alice Tinker, Chris Hodson as David Horton, Andrew McIver as Hugo Horton, James McRae as Jim Trott, Andy Fry as Owen Newitt, Phillip Stephenson as Frank Pickle, and Andy Rhodes as Simon Horton.

Photography by Alexandra Carter – Wanderling Photography



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AND THE WINNER IS...

For writing a review of **SLEUTH** the winner of the bottle of sparkling wine is:

Denise & Garry - Congratulations!

"Surprise, duped, funny – can't believe you got me! (...) We recently discovered this theatre and can't wait to come back for the next show as we thoroughly enjoyed this show; was it really 'amateur' theatre? Seems as good as Hollywood with the quality of the performance."

Write a review when you next attend one of our shows and you'll be in with a chance to win a bottle of sparkling wine!

HEARING LOOP

A reminder about our new Listen Auri system, enhancing accessibility and inclusivity for all patrons. This state-of-the-art assistive listening technology offers greater flexibility, allowing guests to either collect a headset from reception or stream audio directly to compatible Auracast-enabled hearing aids.

The AURI Hearing Assistance Receiver headsets will be available to collect from the Box Office, where you will be asked to deposit your car keys as security.

*If AURI Hearing Assistance sounds like the right fit for you, we kindly ask you to be proactive and **check with your audiologist for what steps are necessary before arriving at the theatre.***



DID YOU KNOW?

Are you familiar with the many "hats" in which our building has worn over time?

Built in 1888, our Athenaeum building is 138 years old this year! Though originally built as a Mechanic's Institute and Free Library, the building served as a multi-purpose hall for concerts, bazaars, public meetings, roller skating, badminton, volleyball, dances, church services, wrestling, baby shows, and chest X-rays.

Throughout its concert venue days, the building saw the likes of Diana Trask, Ernie Sigley, and The Masters Apprentices with Jim Keays and Glenn Wheatley. The Athenaeum also saw shows from performers before their skyrocket to fame, including Little River Band's Glen Shorrock and AC/DC's Bon Scott, who were then performing with bands The Twilights and The Valentines, respectively.

Most notably, the hall was home to Lilydale's local picture theatre, from 1922 to 1974.

Operating under several names over the decades, our hall hosted the Progress Pictures, the Lilydale Talkies, the Civic Pictures, the Civic Theatre, and the Athenaeum Cinema.

Do you remember any of these events or establishments?

UNDER 30S SUPER DISCOUNT PRICES

Under 30? Love theatre?

This special ticket price is just for you!

The Under 30's special ticket price is exclusive to the final Wednesday's performance of every production.

At \$22 you can't go wrong!

*The offer for **DIRTY ROTTEN SCOUNDRELS** is for Wednesday 23rd September - **\$22!***

TRIVIA ANSWERS

Q1: C - Over 200 productions **Q2:** B - *Much Ado About Nothing* **Q3:** Russell Johnson and Geoff Page **Q4:** Four times **Q5:** *Sister Amnesia's Country Western Nonsense Jamboree*



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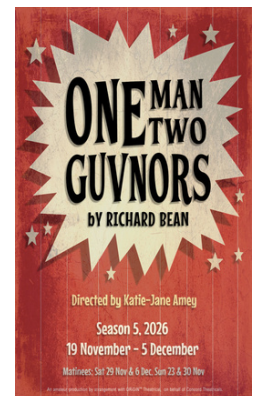
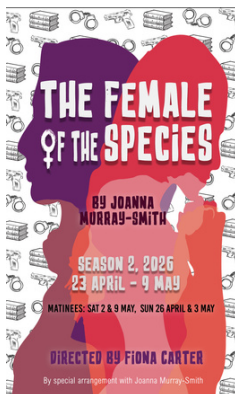


Find us on
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Are you following the Lilydale Athenaeum Theatre on social media?

Make sure to follow us on Facebook and Instagram so you don't miss out on audition notices, radio interviews, exclusive sneak peeks and teasers for our upcoming productions, and a chance to connect with other like-minded people who love our theatre!



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Office Hours: MON, TUE, FRI 10am - 2pm



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