

LILYDALE ATHENAEUM THEATRE
COMPANY INC

BACKSTAGE NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2026

SPOTLIGHT ON... ANGELA GLENNIE



A familiar face to many who have attended shows here at the Lilydale Athenaeum Theatre, in our "SPOTLIGHT" this edition is Angela Glennie.

Let's learn a little more about how she came to acting and how she has become part of the Lilydale Athenaeum Family.

Angela, welcome to a Q&A session with us in our BACKSTAGE Newsletter. The first question we would like to ask is ***what piqued your interest in acting in non-professional theatre? How did you get involved in the LATC?***

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SEASON 2 - 2026: THE FEMALE OF THE SPECIES

Coming up is our second production of the 2026 Season is **THE FEMALE OF THE SPECIES**, written by Joanna Murray-Smith and directed by Fiona Carter.

If the name of Joanna Murray-Smith is familiar to you, you may recall it from her thriller *SWITZERLAND* which the Lilydale Athenaeum staged in our 2023 Season. Joanna is an international, multi award winning Australian playwright, screenwriter, novelist, librettist, and newspaper columnist; with an accolade of thirty plays under her belt.

In her satirically funny comedy, *THE FEMALE OF THE SPECIES*, we meet best-selling feminist author Margot Mason, in her Daylesford home in 2006. A pioneer of the 1970s Women's Liberation movement, now experiencing writer's block and unable to meet deadlines for her next book.

Suddenly, we are introduced to Molly Rivers, an unannounced visitor and deranged former student of Margot's, who produces a gun and calmly informs Margot that she intends to kill her because she blames her for warping her mother's mind and ruining her life.

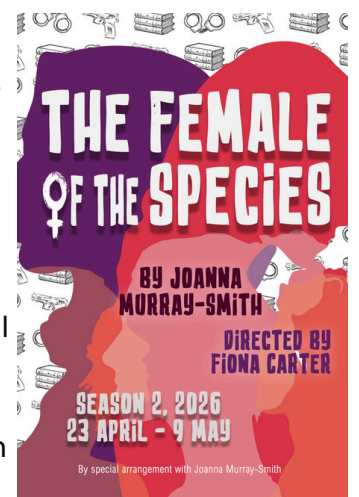
This deliciously wicked comedy deftly walks the tightrope between satire and farce, proving the female of the species is not only deadlier, but funnier than the male.

Don't miss your chance to see this gem from the pen of one of Australia's most outstanding playwrights.

Visit our website to book online: lilydaleatc.com

or phone our very helpful and friendly Box Office staff on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays on

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2026 - SEASON 1

THE GAME'S AFOOT OR HOLMES FOR THE HOLIDAYS

BY KEN LUDWIG, DIRECTED BY LUCIA MORRIS

REVIEWS

FROM OUR AUDIENCE

A fantastic show! With a cast of wonderful actors and a scintillating script, packed with sneaky details and the occasional red herring. The audience was drawn in from the very first thunderclap all the way to the twisty, clever conclusion. Highly recommended! - Ben

The set was amazing, especially the revolving secret room! All the actors were phenomenal and really brought the characters to life. It was a great laugh. - Anon

Fresh and inventive, a hilarious version of the GAME'S AFOOT, complete with amazing technical effects and a skilled cast - Jennifer

Terrific. Well acted, funny & very entertaining. Love the drinks & biscuits too. Thank you. - Geraldine

Best show I've seen here at Lilydale. Great acting and sound lighting. Laugh out loud funny! Great! - Jasmine

Great fun!!! Actors were easy to hear and understand. Comedy at its best. The set was great (as usual) - Helen

Was very excellent and most enjoyable this play. Beautifully acted as well. Top stars I enjoyed immensely. - Bonita

What fun! Everyone was so engaging and energised in what was a surprisingly athletic performance! Daria had queenly energy & William hugely comedic delivery. Loved it! - Emily

Sorry about the expletive - but - B#\$%dy good show. - Jennie

Our first show here and what a fabulous night. Big laughs and a really fun romp. So well performed and staged ♡ Well done - we can't wait for the next one - Philippa

Great set, great acting, lovely costumes. Congratulations Lucy - great directing. - Glenda




HEARING LOOP

The Lilydale Athenæum Theatre is proud to introduce the 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. By providing clear, high-quality sound tailored to individual needs, the Listen Auri system ensures every audience member can fully enjoy the theatre experience.

The AURI Hearing Assistance Receivers headsets will be available to collect from the Box Office, where you will be asked to deposit your driver's licence as security.



 **The Lilydale Athenæum Theatre Company Inc.**
1 Mar · 🌐
Congratulations to the cast, crew, creatives, and everyone involved in 'The Game's Afoot'!
What a wonderful way to start 2026! Did you solve the mystery?



LET'S GET SOCIAL!

Are you following the Lilydale Athenæum 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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SPOTLIGHT ON... ANGELA GLENNIE

(CONTINUED)



Mum and Dad took us to community theatre productions right throughout our childhood. Dad was a musician and so theatre and stage performance seemed the most natural field to become involved in. I saw Russell and Geoff written up in the local paper. At that stage I'd only ever performed in music theatre, and they were producing *Nunsense*.

I was a young mum and the theatre was literally around the corner and so I auditioned and the rest is history! That's when I met Fiona Carter. It was her first show with LATC too. We'd get together and practise our tap numbers whilst our kids played in the backyard!

What was your most satisfying/interesting role? There are many as I've been so fortunate to have played some wonderful women; but two roles hold special places in my heart... *Moving On* (which was art imitating life, just after my mother passed) and Alice in *Still Alice*, which was a cathartic experience as I'd not long lost dad to Alzheimer's and shared the stage with my son, Lachlan.

When did you join the Board of Management? What role do you have on the Board? I joined the Board... many years ago (you'd have to check the archives!). I've been both general member and secretary and now I lead the Production Committee.

In what other ways have you been involved in making shows? What has this entailed? For a while there I collaborated with other theatre creatives and wrote the music for and co-produced pantomimes. I also started a production company with long-time theatre member Catherine Garside and together we brought professional artists to the Lilydale stage in between shows; this was a way of promoting the theatre. Highlights of these days were bringing Denise Drysdale and Toni Lamond to the stage. These were productions where Catherine and I did everything from promotion to selling tickets, front of house and we even operated lighting and sound! They were frantic but exciting times that welcomed full houses. I've also painted sets, worked in the box office and front of house and still production manage shows when time allows.

How many productions have you acted in at Lilydale? You also have been in shows at other companies, can you name a couple? I know I've been here for 30 years; I don't have enough fingers and toes to give you an exact number but I'm guessing around 30. I've loved working with Malvern Theatre in *Nunsense 1 & 2* as well as *Ladies in Black* which we also performed at Lilydale. I've worked with Encore Theatre in *Day Light Saving* (also performed at Lilydale) & recently a quirky comedy called *A Couple of White Chicks Sitting Around Talking*. That was a hoot as I got to share the stage with my good friend Helen Ellis who has directed me a few times. I've also performed at 1812 Theatre in *Talking Heads*, *God of Carnage* and last year in *The House Keeper*.

I'm very fortunate to have worked with people I respect and admire in all of these theatres.

You have received many awards, which one were you most proud of or touched you? That's a really tough question as in every role I find that I place a piece of myself in there somewhere and the characters become like old friends, some quirky, others adorable, some desperate and others downright nasty! If I had to choose one I guess it would be Hester in *The Deep Blue Sea*, as we had to battle dreaded Covid through the season and the award from the VDL (and the VDL award my son also won) was a testament to the dedication and true grit of the entire team as we were so committed to bringing the story to the stage.



Angela in *Nunsense* (1996), *Baby* (1997), *Educating Rita* (2007), *Same Time Next Year* (2010), *Steel Magnolias* (2013), *The Deep Blue Sea* (2022), *Switzerland* (2023), and *Still Alice* (2024).



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A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM KEN LUDWIG, PLAYWRIGHT

Ken Ludwig

January 20, 2026

Dear Rosemary, Lindsay, Mark, Kim, Alexander, Francesa, Audrey-Maeve, Genevieve, and everyone else taking part in *The Game's Afoot* at Lilydale Athenaeum Theatre Company,

I want to wish each of you the very best of luck as you head into opening night and thank you for all the hard work that you have already put into your production. I am so incredibly grateful for all the dedication, passion, and joy each of you puts into your performance and I wish you all the best as you prepare for opening night. Go out there and knock 'em dead.

Thank you to the box office, design shop, wardrobe department, your director Lucia Morris, and everyone else at Lilydale Athenaeum Theatre Company for your tireless work behind the scenes. None of this would be possible without you.

Good luck w/ the show. The Game's Afoot is one of my faves. Thank you for doing it. Ken Ludwig. 1/20/26

What a huge surprise the cast and crew received when a letter arrived from Maryland, USA from the playwright, Ken Ludwig on the Opening Night of **THE GAME'S AFOOT**. His kind and generous letter addressed the entire cast, crew and creatives involved in **THE GAME'S AFOOT**, thanking each one for their hard work and dedication.

Director Lucia Morris replied to Mr. Ludwig with a letter, a photo of the cast and crew (duly signed by each one) and a copy of the 'reviews' written by our audience. We hope that he gets a kick out of these!

As can be read at the bottom of his letter, **THE GAME'S AFOOT** is one of his favourites and he thanks for doing it.

A VISIT FROM THE MELBA OPERA TRUST

In early April the Lilydale Athenaeum will have its annual "pilgrimage" from artists studying at the Melba Opera Trust.

The Program supports Melba Artist development with three essential pillars – **Artistic Development, Mentoring and Performance** – to encourage rounded training with a focus on excellence and a view to developing polished young professionals who will stand out in a competitive industry.

Dame Nellie once said, "in order to succeed in opera, you have to engage in the business of singing. A beautiful voice is not enough." This is at the heart of their philosophy: the artists are trained to be more than a voice, to be equipped with the skills they need to build sustainable careers.

During their visit to the Lilydale Athenaeum Theatre the Opera Trust artists will stand and perform upon the same stage that Dame Nellie Melba herself once stood, performing to fundraise during the First World War.

We will bring you photos of the artists onstage in the June edition of BACKSTAGE Newsletter.

THE WINNER OF THE BOTTLE OF SPARKLING WINE FOR WRITING A 'REVIEW' OF 'THE GAME'S AFOOT' IS...

Ann S - Congratulations!!

"My son and I loved the show, humour, a plot with twists and turns. Thoroughly enjoyed."

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!

You never know you unless you give it a go!

UNDER 30S SUPER DISCOUNT PRICES

Under 30? Love theatre?

This special ticket price is just for you!

The Under 30's special ticket prices on the final Wednesday's performance of every show.

At \$22 you can't go wrong!

**The offer for THE FEMALE OF THE SPECIES is for
Wednesday 6th May - \$22!**



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"ON THIS DAY" 20 YEARS AGO

2006 - SEASON 1

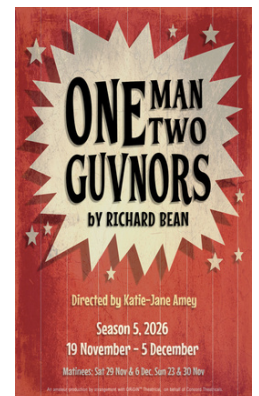
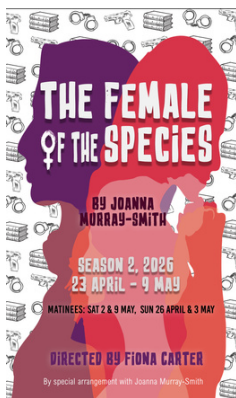
THE PHILADELPHIA STORY

BY PHILLIP BARRY, DIRECTED BY DOUG BENNETT

This time twenty years ago saw our Season 1 production of 2006 - *The Philadelphia Story*. The play follows an eventful wedding weekend at the estate of a wealthy American family. A young heiress, who discards one husband and chooses another who she believes is more suitable, only to discover that her first husband is in fact the right man for her. This play inspired an Oscar-winning film of the same name, starring Cary Grant, Katharine Hepburn and James Stewart; and also inspired the hit musical *High Society*, which was also staged by the Lilydale Athenaeum in 2017. Do you remember this production? You may see some familiar faces in the action shots below.



THE CAST OF THE PHILADELPHIA STORY - Venetia Macken as Tracy Lord, Llaaneath Poor as Dinah Lord, Jackie Hutchinson as Margaret Lord, Chris Handley as Alexander (Sandy) Lord, Daniel Freeman as Thomas The Butler, Fred Barker as William (Uncle Willie) Tracy, Katie-Jane Amey as Elizabeth (Liz) Imbrie, Fernando Testa as Macaulay (Mike) Connor, Cameron South as George Kittredge, Justin Lucas as C. K. Dexter Haven, Alastair Rice as Seth Lord, Becky Lee as Elsie, Nicholas Ryan as Mac the Security Guard, Karen Bannon as May, and Steve Seremetis as Edward the Butler's Assistant



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



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