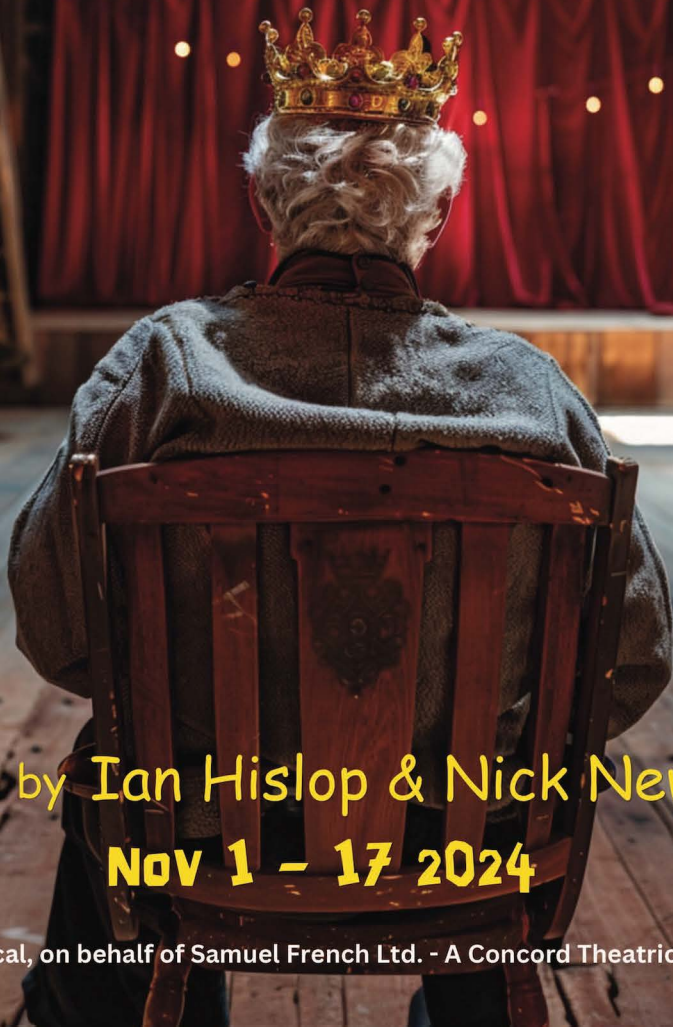




The Mount Players

presents

A BUNCH OF AMATEURS



written by Ian Hislop & Nick Newham

Nov 1 - 17 2024

ORIGiN Theatrical, on behalf of Samuel French Ltd. - A Concord Theatricals Company



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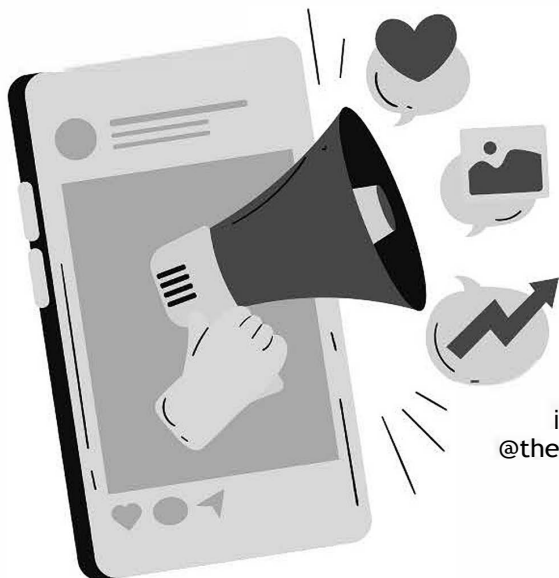
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This is a new concept to us after 50 years of doing things the way we're used to there's sure to be some trial and error!!

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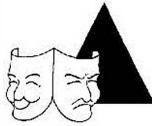
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The Mount Players proudly acknowledge the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung People as the traditional custodians of the land on which the Mountview Theatre is built.

We recognise their rich cultures through our shared language of theatre, and their Dreamtime, the world's oldest form of storytelling.

We pay our respects to their elders past, present, and emerging.



Presidents welcome

Welcome to our beloved Mountview Theatre. Tonight, we gather not just to enjoy a performance, but to celebrate the spirit of community that defines our theatre.

We are thrilled to present the Victorian premiere of *A Bunch of Amateurs*.. a delightful comedy that encapsulates the essence of community theatre.

Behind each performance is a team of dedicated individuals-actors, directors, stagehands, and countless volunteers-each contributing their unique talents and passion.

A Bunch of Amateurs highlights how people from different walks of life can come together for a common goal. In an age where digital connections often overshadow personal interactions, our theatre reminds us of the value of face-to-face collaboration and the joy of shared laughter.

Across the country, hundreds of companies, like "The Stratford Players", stage productions every week. In doing so, they not only bring us together as audiences but also offer friendship and a creative outlet to thousands of amateur actors and those behind the scenes.

Let us celebrate the dedication of our local artists and the importance of community theatre in enriching our lives. Thank you for being here and supporting the arts.

Enjoy the show!

Craig Lenaine-Smith

President



Director's notes

Sonja previously directed *Remembrance*, *Waking Eve*, and *Moonlight and Magnolias*.

After a 12 year hiatus from directing, Sonja is thrilled to get the creative juices flowing again in collaboration with Craig Lenaine-Smith and a very talented cast and crew.

During the last 12 years she has kept busy producing, as well getting on stage in *Steel Magnolias*, *Falling From Grace*, *Little Gem* and *Madagascar*. Most recently, Sonja has enjoyed working behind the scenes on TMP productions *Buried Child* and *Looped*.

It did not take too much convincing by Craig for her to jump on board with *A Bunch of Amateurs*, a play that has a bit of everything; Hollywood megastar, monsters (green eyed), unrequited love, romance, action, comedy, drama, Spanish passion, family feuds, optical illusions, risqué therapy, and Shakespeare like you've never seen before.

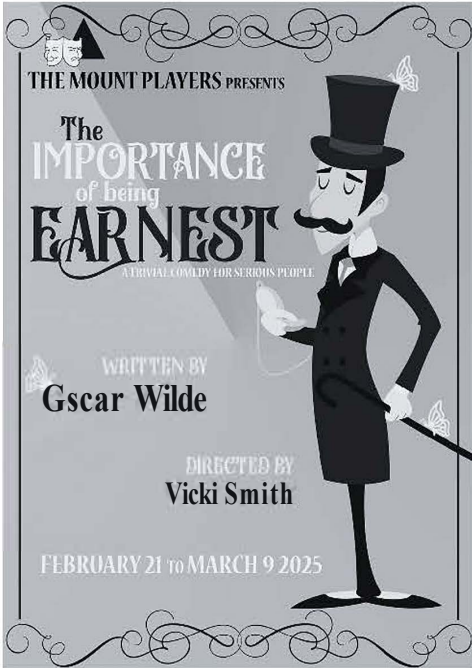
She hopes this production kickstarts your silly season.

Sonja Prater
Co-Director



Season 2025

coming soon to the Mountview Theatre...



THE MOUNT PLAYERS PRESENTS

The IMPORTANCE of being EARNEST

A TRIVIAL COMEDY FOR SERIOUS PEOPLE

WRITTEN BY
Gscar Wilde

DIRECTED BY
Vicki Smith

FEBRUARY 21 to MARCH 9 2025



THE MOUNT PLAYERS PRESENTS

BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH ORIGIN THEATRICAL

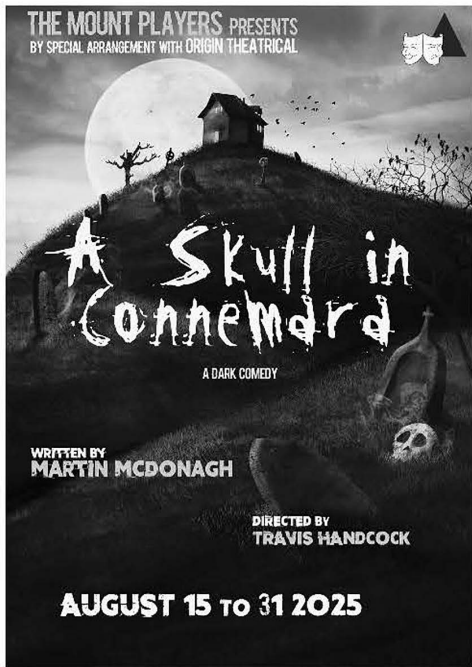
WRITTEN BY
RACHEL WAGSTAFF AND DUNCAN ABEL

DIRECTED BY
FRANK HARVEY

THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN

A DRAMA

MAY 9 to 25 2025



THE MOUNT PLAYERS PRESENTS

BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH ORIGIN THEATRICAL

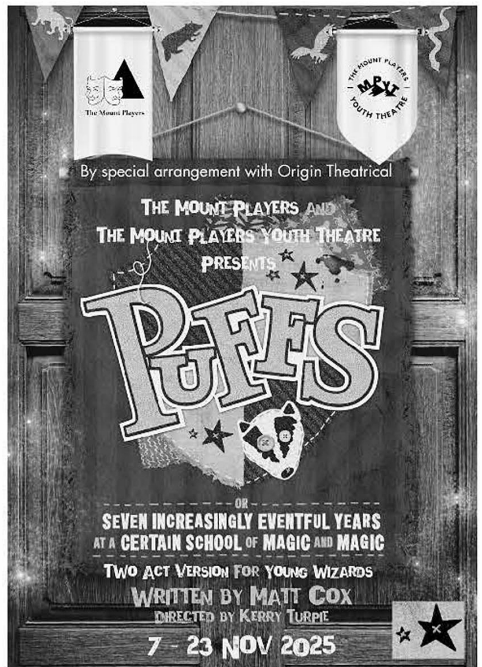
A Skull in Connemara

A DARK COMEDY

WRITTEN BY
MARTIN MCDONAGH

DIRECTED BY
TRAVIS HANDCOCK

AUGUST 15 to 31 2025



By special arrangement with Origin Theatrical

THE MOUNT PLAYERS AND THE MOUNT PLAYERS YOUTH THEATRE PRESENTS

PUFFS

OR SEVEN INCREASINGLY EVENTFUL YEARS AT A CERTAIN SCHOOL OF MAGIC AND MAGIC

TWO ACT VERSION FOR YOUNG WIZARDS

WRITTEN BY **MATT COX**

DIRECTED BY **KERRY TURPIE**

7 - 23 NOV 2025



HEY YOU

y,esyou

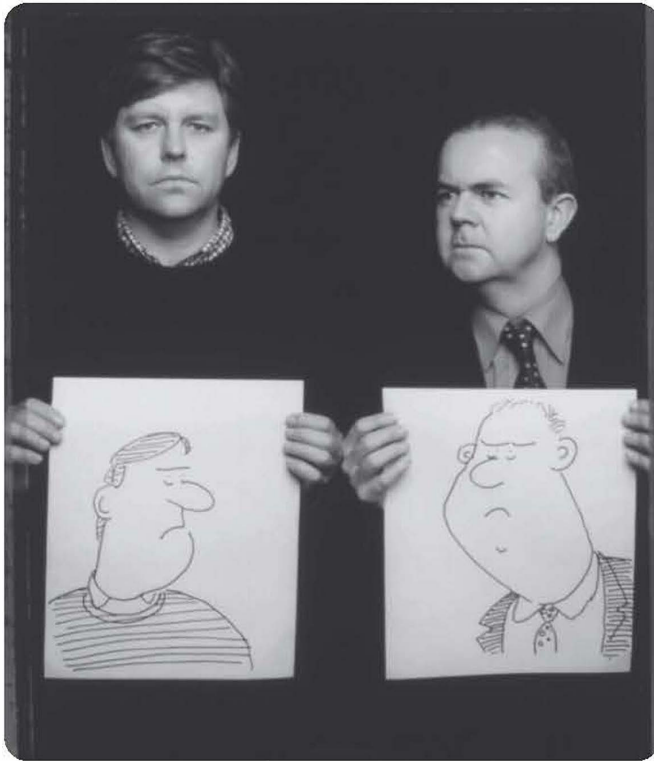
The Mount Players has been looking for you•

Our family has been growing since 1972...and its kudos to the time, effort, and passion put in by our trusty volunteers.

From front of house to backstage, and everything in between, there's a place for you to share your skills and be a part of our thriving theatre community.

No experience needed-learn from fellow members who will be more than happy to show you the ropes. Or maybe you can teach us a thing or two?

Visit www.themountplayers.com to become a member, introduce yourself via email: mountP-@Y.ers12resident@gmail.com or send a dm on instagram @themou ntplayers



About the playwrights | Nick Newman & Ian Hislop

Nick Newman is a satirical British cartoonist and comedy scriptwriter. Ian Hislop is an English journalist, satirist, writer, broadcaster and magazine editor.

Their scriptwriting partnership began with *Spitting Image*, and continued with Dawn French's *Murder Most Horrid* and *The Harry Enfield Show*.

In 2008 they co-wrote *A Bunch of Amateurs*, a film starring Burt Reynolds, Sir Derek Jacobi and Samantha Bond, which was the Royal Film Performance for that year, before being adapted for the stage at the Watermill Theatre.

In 2014 their film *The Wipers Times* won the Broadcast Press Guild Award for best single drama, and was nominated for a BAFTA, before its stage adaptation and sell-out tour.

Setting

A barn theatre in Stratford, UK

Cast

Craig Lenaine-Smith	<i>Jefferson Steele</i>
Tania Knight	<i>Dorothy Nettle</i>
Iris Mentor	<i>Jessica Steele</i>
John Taranto	<i>Nigel Dewbury</i>
Karen Hunt	<i>Mary Plunkett</i>
Chris Sliwczynski	<i>Denis Dobbins</i>
Chenoah Eyan	<i>Lauren Bell</i>

Craig Lenaine-Smith | Jefferson Steele

Craig is a sucker for punishment. After tackling ALL of Shakespeare's works last year he thought he'd come back for a second helping of King Lear. The Bard and he have unfinished business.

Craig joined TMP in 2010 and has been actively involved ever since. His family would argue maybe too much. As his daughter say's "Dad's off to his affair again". Highlights for Craig have been directing *Harold and Maude* and the gender flipped *Reservoir Dog's* with an all-female cast, playing Juror #4 in *12 Angry Men* and Detective Tupolski in the darkest of comedies *The Pillowman* (with Powderkeg Players).

Craig has been President of The Mount Players for the past two years.



Tania Knight | Dorothy Nettle

Tania's stage credits include Maya in *Repentance Creek* and Collette in *Four Dogs and a Bone* for Q44 Theatre, Tess in Joanna Murray-Smith's *Female of the Species*, Anna in Patrick Marber's *Closer*, and Sarah in Nikki Bloom's *Tender*.

She has also appeared in several television commercials and short films. Most recently, *Chance Encounter* which screens at Sydney Webfest this month.

Tania is also a writer, makeup artist and creative producer.

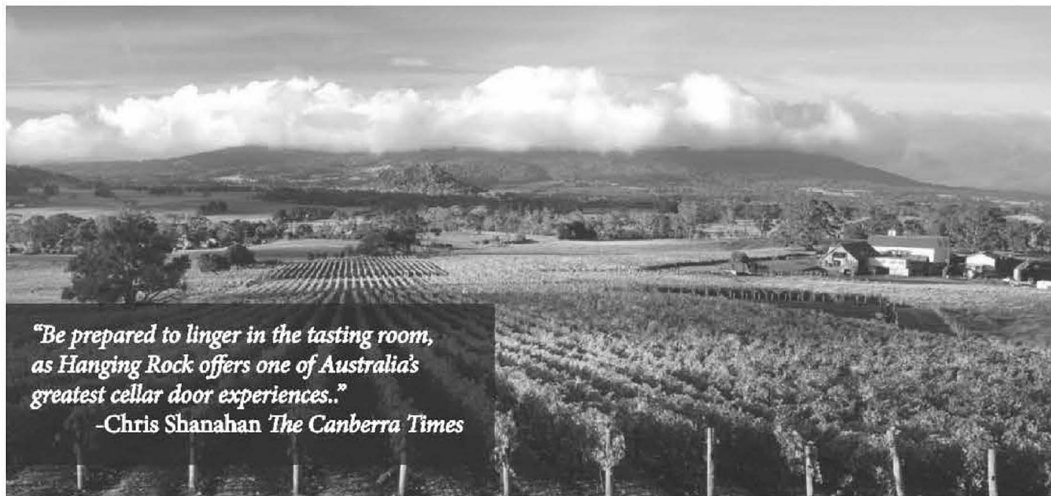




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Production Team

Director	Sonja Prater & Craig Lenaine-Smith
Producer	Melissa Forge
Set Design	Alison Dudon
Set Construction Coordinator	John Taranto
Set Realisation	John Taranto, Alison Dudon, Robert Campana, Chris Sliwczynski, and Craig Lenaine-Smith
Stage Manager	Shelly Andrews
Assistant Stage Managers	Matthew McKay
Stage Assistants	Marg Cameron, Barry Swan, Kate Lawrence, and Destiny Anderson
Lighting and Sound Design	Roger Farley and William Shaddock
Sound Design	Alex Brown
Lighting and Sound Operators	Robyn Millard and Tanya Rich
Costume & Props	Cast and Crew
Music Composition	Oscar Lena in
Fight Choreography	Ryan Stormland
Prompt	David Runnalls
Program	Emily Brennan
Poster design	Karlana Santamaria
Photography	Bruce Hedge and Karlana Santamaria
Marketing	Karen Hunt, Karlana Santamaria, and Melissa Forge
Front of House (FoH) Coordinator	Frank Harvey
Bar Coordinators	Corinne Shaddock and Charlotte Godsmark
FoH and Bar staff	Members of The Mount Players
Voice Performers	Press Conference journalists - Melissa Forge, Robyn Millard, Drew Heriot Paparazzi/Tabloid Journalists - Matthew McKay and Shelly Andrews Voiceover - Andrew Williams and David Runnalls

Iris Mentor | Jessica Steele

Iris Mentor graduated Salesian College Sunbury in 2018.

She has always enjoyed performing and has taken performing arts courses (dance, voice, acting) on and off throughout her schooling, engaging in local theatre (Cubbyhouse theatre, Karlsruhe Improv) and school shows 'Cinderella' (2018), 'Where is the Love' (2018).

In 2023, she completed a stand-up comedy course with Hard Knock Knocks Comedy School, with her debut performance receiving 3.1 thousand impressions on Facebook.

Iris has really enjoyed becoming a part of the Mountview Players. She is starting a Global Studies course at the International People's College in Denmark, in 2025.

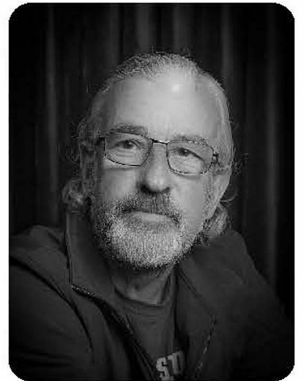


John Taranto | Nigel Dewbury

John has seriously lost count of how many shows he's been involved in with the Mount Players, however most of them have been in set construction.

Occasionally he is allowed out of the workshop to join the cast.

This is John's first experience of playing a pompous wannabe English actor, and must admit to having a lot of fun getting to know his character Nigel. To quote Nigel, and a bit of Shakespeare, if brevity is the soul of wit please don't judge me harshly.



Karen Hunt | Mary Plunkett

Karen has been a part of The Mount Players since the mid 1980's (yep, she's getting old) and enjoyed many wonderful roles in all sorts of plays and farces.

It's been 7 years since last treading the boards as an Irish Grandmother in *Little Gem* however, she has kept busy behind the scenes with marketing, committee work, playing President for a couple of years and producing.

British plays have always been her favorite genre and this one is no exception! So why does she continue to do this? As quoted by Mary Plunkett herself, "*It's a chance to step outside our own ordinary lives, to create something bigger than ourselves..... to share in the power of theatre*". Enjoy!



Chris Sliwczynski | Denis Dobbins

Hi, I'm Chris Sliwczynski! You may remember me from the vibrant stages of the Macedon Ranges, lighting up productions with Kyneton Theatre Company (KTC), Boilerhouse Theatre Company (BTC), and The Mount Players Theatre Company (TMP).

From my unforgettable turn as the Voice of Audrey 2 in *The Little Shop of Horrors* (2004, KTC) to playing the charming Will Parker in *Oklahoma!* (2012, **MPT**), I've had the pleasure of embodying a colourful array of characters.

Highlights include the delightful Morris McAdam in *Dimboola* (2005, KTC), the commanding Lt. Kaffee in *A Few Good Men* (2014, TMP), the charming Michael Spofford in *The Witches of Eastwick* (2009, KTC), and the villainous Captain Hook in *Peter Pan: A Musical Adventure* (2023, BTC & TMP).

With many memorable roles under my belt, I'm thrilled to step into the shoes of Dennis Dobbins in *A Bunch of Amateurs*. Join me for a whimsical journey filled with laughter and unforgettable moments!



Chenoah Eljan | Lauren Bell

Chenoah starred in a nappy commercial when she was eight months old and has had a passion for theatre ever since.

After immigrating to Australia in 2005, Chenoah was a founding member of the Off the Cuff Improv troupe.

Chenoah was nominated in the Victorian Drama League Awards for Best Actress in A Comedy for her role as Joan in The Mount Player's 2022 production of John Kolvenbach's *Love Song*.

This is Chenoah's second production with The Mount Players.



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