

**Sunnybank Theatre Group presents**

**in association with ORiGiN Theatrical**



**directed by Gary Suthers**

**Sept 18 to Oct 3, 2015**

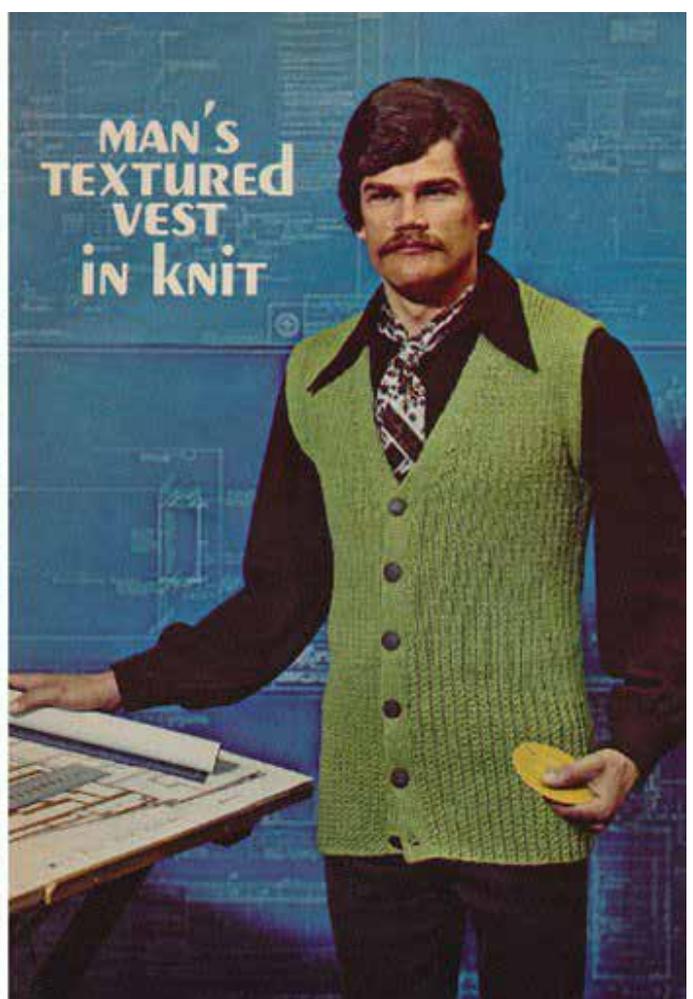
**Ground Floor** perfumery, stationery and leather goods, wigs and haberdashery, kitchenware and food, going up.

**First Floor** telephones, gents ready-made suits, shirts, socks, ties, hats, underwear and shoes going up.

**Second Floor** carpets, travel goods and bedding, material, soft furnishings, restaurant and teas, going down.

**ACT 1:** Grace Brothers Department Store

**ACT 2:** The Costa Plonka, Spain



## **From The Boardroom**

Growing up in the 1970's, family time for me was laughing along with British comedies on television. Dad's Army, George & Mildred, The Good Life, Some Mother's Do Have Em', and It Aint Half Hot Mum all brought the sound of fun and laughter to the lounge room.

Are You Being Served? was one of the best, created and written by Jeremy Lloyd and David Croft for the BBC. The show follows the misadventures and mishaps of the staff, as well as various interludes with customers of the retail ladies' and gentlemen's clothing floor departments of a fictional London department store called Grace Brothers. This television show loved by all has been rated 20th in The Top 50 Best Ever British Sitcoms.

To capitalise on the success of the show a stage version of the show was written and played at the Winter Gardens Theatre, Blackpool for a very successful season over the summer of 1976. When deciding on a play to bring to the STG stage as my directorial debut, it was always Are You Being Served?

A fantastic ensemble cast has brought Are You Being Served? to our stage, adding their own twist to the characters you know and love whilst paying homage to the originals actors.

Thank you to my crew, Assistant Director and Stage Manager, Ronalda Cook who has supported and encouraged me to always "get it right" throughout this production. Ronalda is also taking on the new challenge as Stage Manager and Property Master for Are You Being Served? .Robert Piccini who has to be in many places at once as stage crew and Special Effects.

Many thanks to Chris O'Leary who has designed the lighting and sound and has produced all our marvelous media, the posters, flyers and program and Mark Westby who has assisted me in designing and building the set and practical effects.

A special mention goes to David Gemmell, in organizing the installation and operation of our new LCD screen Cyclorama. This screen brings a new dimension to the productions we stage here at STG and Are You Being Served? will be the first of many to benefit from this wonderful addition.

In a recent documentary on Australian Comedy, Barry Humphries calls comedy "the cheering up business". I am very happy to be in "the cheering up business" and I hope you laugh, giggle and guffaw and as you enjoy STG'S production of Are You Being Served?

Gary Suthers

## **Gary Suthers - Director**

As a member of the Rockhampton Junior Little Theatre, Gary's love of performing was encouraged with many workshops in street theatre, circus skills and improvisation. After "graduating" from Junior Theatre, many and varied performances for Rockhampton Little Theatre followed, including in *Dimboola*, *The Les Darcy Show* and *The Real Inspector Hound*.



Since joining STG in 2011, Gary has been involved onstage in *Arsenic and Old Lace* and *The Sound of Music* and backstage for *The Mousetrap* and *No Sex Please We're British*, Stage Manager for 'Allo, 'Allo and Assistant Director for *Wait Until Dark*. As manager and sometimes tutor for STG's Youth Theatre program, Gary sees that the love of live theatre is passed on to the next generation.

Gary has also worked as camera operator, Floor Manager and Director for Briz 31 digital, and is currently a secondary school teacher, teaching Film and Television, Drama and English.

## **Ronalda Cook - Asst Director/Stage Mgr**

I'm free!!! Who would have thought a simple email to the Sunnybank Theatre Group expressing her interest in helping out would have led Ronalda to becoming Stage Manager and Assistant Director for *Are You Being Served*. Having spent many years on stage, she thought it was time to learn something new and so *Pack of Lies* was her introduction to the magic that is backstage. She enjoyed it so much she thought she would help with the next show – huge job!! But with an amazing cast who make her laugh and a little help from the crew, she has been so blessed to be given the opportunity to be able to hopefully put on an awesome show. So sit back, relax and enjoy *Are You Being Served*.



## **You Will Be Watching**

### **Joanne Oliver** as Mrs Slocombe

Joanne is very excited to be returning again to Sunnybank Theatre after a wonderful experience with *'Allo 'Allo* last year.

She has many years of experience behind her – performing in a variety of different genres, comedy drama, thrillers and musicals – *Noises Off*, *When the Cats Away*, *Creche and Burn*, *The Odd Couple*, *Music Man*, *Dinkum Assorted* and *The Importance of Being Earnest*, to name a few.

Joanne has also been able to gain experience in film work, appearing in *The Ghosts* and *Don't Show Mother*. Sunnybank Theatre holds fond memories as it was the first stage work that she did after moving from Sydney in 1994.

This show has proven to be just as enjoyable with its wonderful director, cast and crew. It is also the first time that she has had the opportunity to tread the boards with her husband, Brad.



### **Samantha Townsend** as Miss Brahms

Samantha first tread the boards as a teenager in many Junior Theatre productions and after a long absence, 2015 marks the year of her return to the stage. Samantha has appeared in St Lukes Theatre Society's production of *Murder on the Nile* and now Samantha is welcomed to the Sunnybank Theatre stage in *Are You Being Served?*



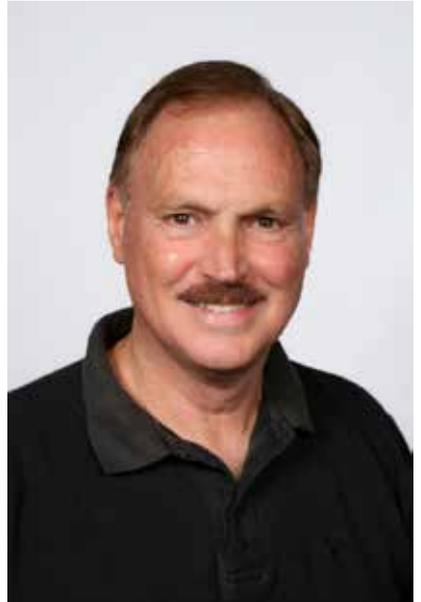
## **Chris Chambers** as Captain Peacock

Chris Chambers enjoys working with the Sunnybank Theatre Group, some of his recent roles her have included; Porter Milgrim in *Deathtrap*, Colonel Jessep in *A Few Good Men*, Tom Finn in *Daylight Saving* and Richard Wiley in *Out of Order*.

He has also appeared; at The Javeenbah Theatre, Brisbane Arts Theatre, Stage Door Dinner Theatre, Gold Coast Little Theatre and Play With Your Food Theatre Ensemble.

Chris has also appeared in Television and Feature Film produced in Queensland, N.S.W. and has extensive background in Theatre from his native New Zealand. Yes, another Kiwi.

Chris brings his urbane charm, his commanding manner and his moustache to the role of Captain Peacock in this production of *Are You Being Served?*



## **Troy Granzien** as Mr. Lucas

Troy made his debut with Sunnybank Theatre Group in the 2009 production of *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* playing the role of Melvin P. Thorpe. Last year Troy performed in three Sunnybank Theatre Group productions, as Dr John H. Watson in *Holmes and the Ripper*, Roger Leclerc in 'Allo 'Allo, and as Sky Masterson in *Guys and Dolls*. 2015 has seen Troy perform at Sunnybank Theatre in *You Must Remember This*, Nash Theatre in *Never the Sinner* as State Attorney Robert Crowe and St Luke's Theatre in *The Murder Room* as Police Inspector James Crandall.



## **Mark Scott** as Mr.Humphries

Since graduating in drama at UQ, Mark has had a blast doing Shakespeare, Woody Allen, Noel Coward and Agatha Christie.

STG appearances include *A Man For All Seasons*, *Silhouette*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *Catch 22*, *The 7 Year Itch*, *Funny Money*, *Arsenic & Old Lace*, *The Mousetrap*, *A Few Good Men*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* and *No Sex, Please, We're British*.

Other triumphs include *Spring Awakening*, *Bell, Book & Candle*, *The Boys Next Door*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Suddenly Last Summer*, *Beyond Therapy*, *Our Town* and *Vampire Lesbians of Sodom*.

Having played Gruber in 'Allo, 'Allo and the Verger in the Australian and NZ tours of *Dad's Army*. Now appearing as Mr Humphries, marks a Perry & Croft trifecta.



## **Stan Wisniowiecki** as Mr Grainger

The famed Woody Allen said, "My one regret in life is that I am not someone else." Stan has enjoyed playing character roles such as the Waiter in *Rough Crossing*, Thwackum in *Tom Jones*, the Waiter in *Out of Order*, Davenport in *Funny Money*, Dr. Hasselbacher in *Our Man In Havana*...However, his greatest success was playing Lomov over a period of 20 years in the award winning *The Proposal* by Anton Chekhov with Questcot Players...In 1977, Stan played Mike in *Wait Until Dark* (fyi, directed by Chris Guyler in Melbourne) but it was another 22 years before he stepped onto the stage again...He regrets not getting involved in theatre when he was young - whether that would have made him a better actor is debatable, but at the very least he would have stood a better chance of playing the juvenile lead than he does today!



## **Gary Kliger** as Mr. Rumbold

Gary Kliger was last seen on our stage as Senex in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, a personal favourite production. Gary has quite a history on the stages of Brisbane after arriving here in 1999. He appeared in many plays and musicals in Melbourne and Sydney before moving to Brisbane to live.



He has been seen in musicals and 'straight' plays and amongst his favourite other roles are: Thenardier in *Les Miserables* for Savoyards, the tramp in *Trap for a Lonely Man* (also here at STG), and Captain Mainwaring in *Dad's Army* at Centenary Theatre Group which was performed in theatre restaurant style. He also appeared in two separate productions of *Run for your Money*, at Stagedoor Dinner Theatre and here at STG.

Gary brings that experience to bear in his role as Rumbold and hopes that our audiences will have a great deal to enjoy when the characters at Grace Brothers come to vibrant life in this production.

## **Brad Oliver** as Gentleman Customer and Cesar

Brad's first foray into the theatre was in Sydney, way back in the early 1980's.

Appearing for the first time on the STG stage has an added bonus, he gets to tread the boards with his wife Joanne in this production of *Are You Being Served?*. This is the first time the couple have appeared together in the same play. Joanne has been encouraging him for years to get back on stage but he was always too busy. He decided to find the time and he is thoroughly enjoying all the rehearsals and can't wait for opening night.

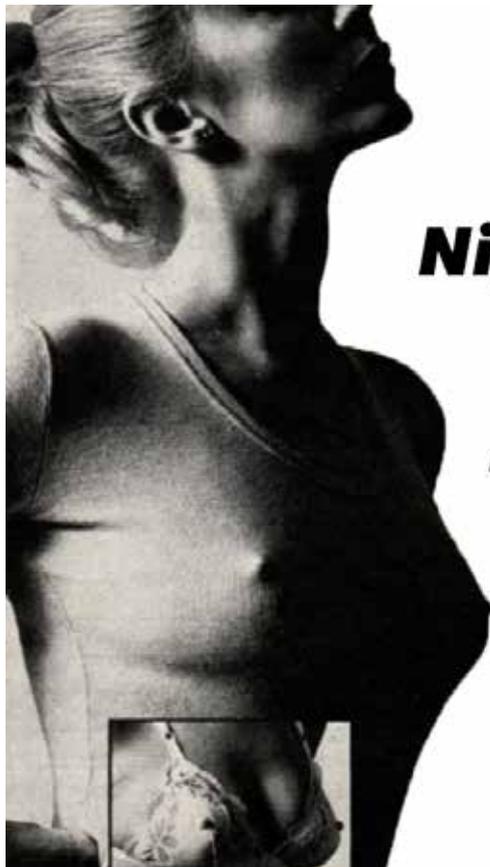


## **Lisa Wheildon** as Lady Customer and Taeresa

Lisa is no stranger to the STG stage, having previously performed as the naughty-but-nice Susan in *No Sex Please, We're British* and more recently as Helga Geerhart in 'Allo 'Allo. Lisa also recently performed in *Dad's Army* as Miss Ironside (Centenary Theatre Group) and as Sarah in the Mike Bartlett play, *13* (QUT). *Are You Being Served?* is the third play written by David Croft that Lisa has performed in.



A strong believer in lifelong learning, Lisa has studied with NIDA Open, Andrea Moor, Film & Television Studio International, Peter Rasmussen, Impro Mafia, The Warehouse Workshop and Zen Zen Zo. Lisa is currently in her second year of study towards a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Drama), with a minor in Entertainment Industries at QUT. Lisa is also currently making her directorial debut, assistant directing a group of first year QUT Drama



### **The Nipple Bra**

*Now you can have that sensual no-bra look while wearing a bra*

students in their end-of-year production of *A Hard Act* - exploring the work of some of Australia's most challenging and defiant playwrights.

Grateful for being able to work with such a great cast and crew, Lisa hopes you will enjoy the performance and wishes to thank her family and friends for all their love and support.



**Alizah Pomery** as Nurse Jeffries and Conchita

This will be Alizah's first time returning to the stage as an adult performer and her first performance with Sunnybank Theatre Group.

Alizah has previously performed as a child performer in community theatre in Western Australia in the late 80's & 90's, in various productions including *Oliver* and *Cinderella*. She is very excited to be given the opportunity to get back on the stage and have some fun with the fabulous cast and crew in *Are You Being Served?*



**Nathaniel Young** as Mr Mash and Don Bernardo

Having studied Theatre at USQ, where he performed in shows such as *Captain Pathos & His Army of Imaginary Friends*, Nathaniel returned to Brisbane, where he joined Sunnybank Theatre Group in 2014. You may have seen him in *Guys & Dolls*, *Relatively Speaking*, *You Must Remember This* and *Barefoot in the Park*. 2015 Also saw his debut play *Arrivederci* produced as part of this year's Brisbane Anywhere Festival.

Nathaniel is particularly excited to have reached what he refers to as "The David Croft Trifecta", having performed in 'Allo, 'Allo (2014- STG), *Dad's Army* (2015-Centenary Theatre Group) and now *Are You Being Served?* He hopes you all enjoy the show!



**Young Mr Grace** as Himself



# **Grace Brothers Mainenance Department**

**Stage Manager  
Crew**

**Ronalda Cook  
Robert Piccini  
Anshu Podar  
Gary McEwan**

**Set Design/Construction**

**Bob Clayton  
Mark Westby  
Ronalda Cook  
Gary Suthers  
Robert Piccini**

**Set Decoration**

**Ronalda Cook  
Gary Suthers  
Robert Piccini**

**Costumes/Props**

**Cast & Crew**

**Lighting/Sound Design**

**Chris O'Leary**

**Lighting / Sound**

**Alan Hare  
Mia Wetton  
Georgia Fox**

**Photography**

**Kayleen Gibson  
Alison Young**

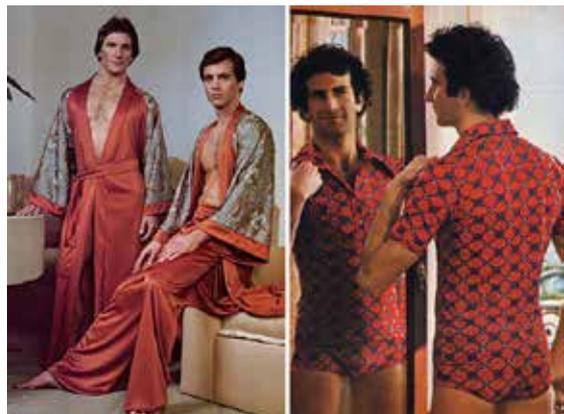
**Publicity**

**Stan Wisniowiecki**

**Program/Digital Media**

**Chris O'Leary**

**Special thanks to  
our wonderful  
Front of House  
volunteers.**



Please join us for our future productions

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[BBC Arts Review]

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MUSICAL DIRECTOR JUNE GEMMELL

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