

SUNNYBANK THEATRE GROUP PRESENTS

# BEYOND REASONABLE DOUBT

by Jeffrey Archer

directed by **Nathaniel Young**

Sept 9 - 24, 2016

## **ACT 1**

The Old Bailey

## **ACT 2**

The home of Sir David and Lady Metcalfe

### **DIRECTOR'S NOTE**

When I initially read *Beyond Reasonable Doubt*, the first thing I noticed was the drastic shift in tone between the first and second act. My immediate idea was to present both as visually contrasting worlds: The Professional and The Personal. Over the course of our rehearsal period, this evolved, until Sir David as the bridge between, became our focal point. You aren't seeing the Old Bailey, or a home in Wimbledon, rather, witnessing events as perceived by a haunted man, whose world is torn in two. True, in a proper English court, proceedings are regimented and neither defence nor prosecution move from behind their respective benches. But here, the phantasms of memory can and do.

Though challenging, this production has been a fantastic learning experience for me. None of this would be possible without the tremendous efforts of my cast and crew, in particular, my fabulous stage and production manager Ronnii, who's backed my vision from day one. A big thanks also to Pam and STG for this opportunity, as well as my father, Phil, for taxiing me to and from rehearsals and stepping in to help as needed. Finally, a big thanks to you: the audience. Your continued support keeps this wonderful theatre going!

There is a beautiful ambiguity in Jeffery Archer's play, that lets the audience draw their own conclusions: Is Sir David guilty? Is Anthony Blair-Booth right about him? I cannot say, one way or the other. As Justice Treadwell says, "It is you and you alone who will decide if Sir David is guilty or not guilty of murder".

## **Nathaniel Young** - Director

A graduate of USQ's Bachelor of Creative Arts degree, Nathaniel wrote and performed in shows as part of the Brisbane Anywhere Festival including *Arrivederci* and *Adamo Mortem*. Recently his short play *Good Soldier* was performed in the Brisbane Short + Sweet Festival.

Chances are you've seen Nathaniel on stage in a number of our productions since 2014: *Relatively Speaking*, *Are You Being Served?* and *Key for Two* to name a few, as well as appearing in *Dad's Army* and *Dangerous Corner* with Centenary Theatre Group. His tenth production *Beyond Reasonable Doubt*, marks his directorial debut with STG. Nathaniel has relished this opportunity to stretch himself, artistically and hopes you enjoy the show!



## **Bec Pennisi** - Assistant Director

Growing up in an "artsy" household, Bec's parents instilled in her a passion for live performance by taking her to see a wide variety of shows, encouraging her to join choirs and drama clubs, and taking her through years of dance classes. While at school, Bec grew her love for theatre through performing as part of four school musicals and has since been back as a choreographer for the school's past three highly successful productions, with another currently in progress.

After completing her dual Bachelor of Business (Advertising) and Creative Industries (Entertainment Industries), Bec now works in Community Relations and, when not at work or in a theatre, volunteers her time leading a youth group of fantastic high schoolers. She hopes to go on to combine her passions, sharing the joy and magic of theatre through working with enthusiastic young people.



## **Ben Robertson** - Sir David Metcalfe

Born and raised in the military, Ben has been a soldier, poet, social warrior and a general rogue and vagabond for over thirty years. With many appearances in stage, film and television, from tiny fringe shows to an appearance in a Bond film, he still lives in hope that one day he'll get it right. He also wrote, directed and starred in the highly acclaimed production of *Black Spaniard* at the Edinburgh Festival. He is one of the few actors in the world, if not the only one, to have played Malcom Turnbull. Having reached the status of grumpy old man recently, he has chosen to spend his twilight years in Brisbane with his wife, Deborah – a woman of infinite patience- and his remarkably stupid dog. He fully expects *Beyond Reasonable Doubt* to be his last hurrah before senility sets in, and thanks you in anticipation.



## **Robert Morgan** - Anthony Blair Booth

Robert came relatively late to theatre (in 2005) and has acted for theatre companies in Port Douglas, Brisbane and Ipswich. His roles have hitherto been primarily comedic, having appeared in such productions as *Silly Cow* (as Sidney Skinner), *Jemmy Green in Australia* (as Samson Smash), *Dad's Army* (as Sergeant Wilson) and *The Vicar of Dibley* (as David Horton). Robert has also performed in two 2015 productions for the Ipswich Musical Theatre Company: *Mary Poppins* (as the German conman Von Hussler) and a new Great War musical, *The Legend Was Created*, in which he played an army captain and English Poet Laureate John Masefield.

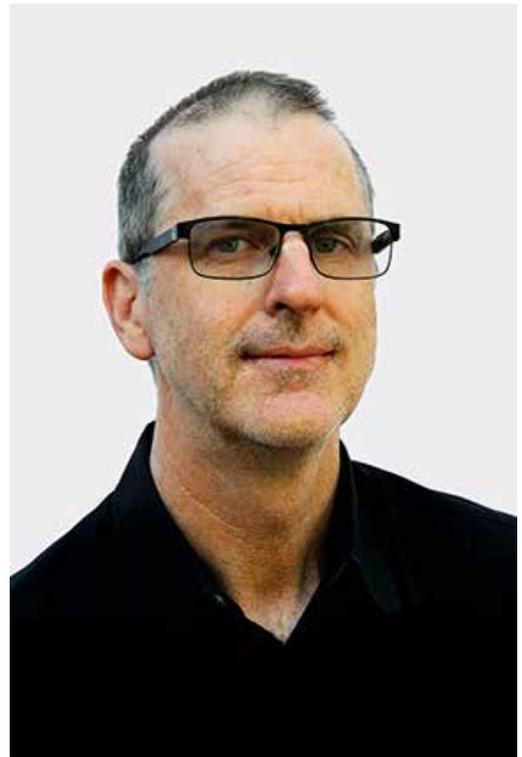


*Beyond Reasonable Doubt* is Robert's first (and largest) foray into serious drama. A barrister in real life, he looks forward to acting the part as well!

## John Quirk - Lionel Hamilton

John is new to the acting game though some would say he's been acting the fool since he could talk. He came to STG via St Lukes where he performed in a number of productions including *The Philadelphia Story*. He played the jilted all-American boy George Kitteridge, affecting an authentic mid-Atlantic accent. He also played a none-too-smart cockney detective in the murder-mystery-farce, *Maid to Murder*, affecting an interesting variation of an authentic mid-Atlantic accent.

John is also a musician having played in a number of bands in and around Brisbane in the 1990s. Due to popular demand his musical career is now in hiatus, making room for his theatrical leanings. *Beyond Reasonable Doubt* is John's acting debut for STG.



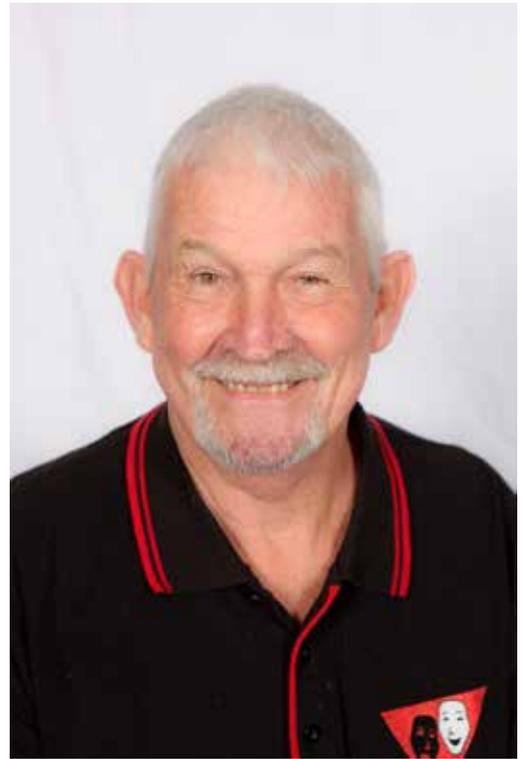
## Jane Hamer - Mrs Rogers

This is Jane's first play with STG, having done most of her acting over the past couple of decades with Villanova Players (VPs), which Jane is still a part of. Highlight roles include Meg (the bride) in *Secret Bridesmaids Business*, Constance in *Goodnight Desdemona Goodmorning Juliet*, and Catherine in *The Memory of Water* (all with VPs) as well as Cecily in *The Importance of Being Earnest*. After five years away from the stage because life just got too busy, Jane's thrilled to tread the boards again while 'him indoors' looks after the little ones!



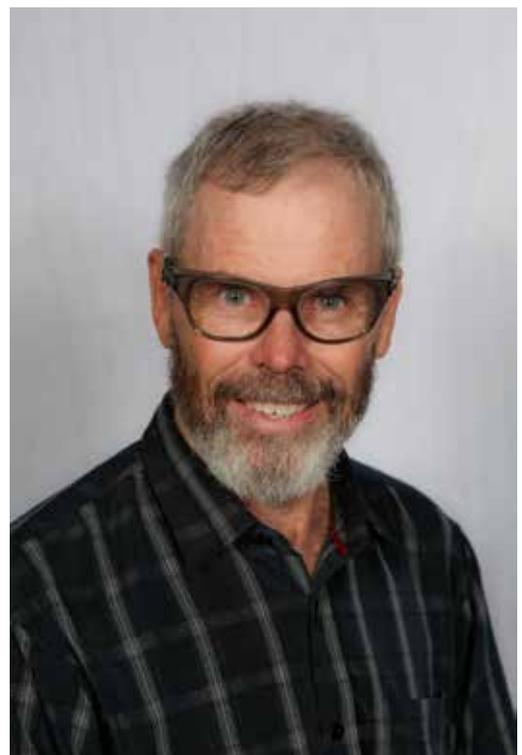
## **Baz de Sylva** - Justice Treadwell

Barrymore (Baz) de Sylva has spent around forty years in a variety of entertainment roles both professional and amateur. In the U.K. he has appeared for the Gloucestershire Arcadians (Shakespeare) and the Lechlade Players also playing clarinet with the Lechlade Town band and singing with the H'apenny Bridge Singers. In Australia Baz ran his own Cabaret band, made training films for Qld Government and currently plays Baritone Saxophone for the K.G.W. Orchestra. He has enjoyed a small amount of T.V and also appeared in commercials. He has performed with Toowoomba Rep, Villanova Players, Crete Street Theatre and others. Baz was introduced to STG in the eighties by Pam Cooper in *There goes the Bride* and has since played in dozens of STG productions in addition to writing and directing. He eventually became President of the group and later took on Technical Services Manager. Acting is in his blood and he is compelled to keep popping up on stage as well as in tech roles. Baz is pleased to be working under the imaginative directorship of Nate Young and is confident *Beyond Reasonable Doubt* will receive the intended Verdict.



## **Allan Hare** - Mr Cole

Allan is usually found behind the scenes, having been lighting and sound operator for many productions with STG, including, *Pack of Lies*, *Key for Two* and *Anyone for Breakfast?* As such, Allan has never attempted acting aside from, he claims, the occasional fib, not even way back at school. But one likes a fresh challenge, and he will be making his on-stage debut as Mr Cole in *Beyond Reasonable Doubt*.



## **Lesley Davis** - Lady Metcalfe

Lesley has spent close to 40 years fulfilling her passion, bringing a wide range of characters to life in various dramas, thrillers, comedies and musicals.

She has had a very diverse theatrical career with amateur theatre, both on and off the stage. Some of her dramatic stage highlights include Laura Warwick, the wife accused of murder in Front Row Theatre's production of Agatha Christie's *The Unexpected Guest* (2010); Romaine Vole, the German wife of Leonard Vole on trial for murder, in STG's production of *Witness for the Prosecution* (2005); Suzy Henderson the blind wife in STG's production of *Wait Until Dark* (2013); and the real life Barbara Jackson, in STG's 2015 spy thriller, *Pack of Lies*.

A director in her own right, Lesley has assisted with many productions over the past 27 years with STG, including co-directing STG's production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* in 2007; directing STG's award winning and very memorable 2013 presentation of Aaron Sorkin's *A Few Good Men*, and STG's most recent production, *Anyone for Breakfast*. In the fifth show of our 50th anniversary year, Lesley plays the role of Lady Metcalfe in STG's latest production, Jeffrey Archer's *Beyond Reasonable Doubt* – a play she previously assisted in directing 13 years ago.



## **Jo Robinson** - Court Usher

Jo loves long walks on the beach, romantic weekends away and candle lit dinners. She is looking for that special person to make her life complete. Jo is DTE, has a GSOH and is looking for BHM and not into LDR. Oh! and she loves theatre and acting. She has been in a variety of plays with a number of theatre groups, playing parts ranging from a Russian nymphomaniac to a male badger to a pick-pocket. She looks forward to sharing these times with that special person....



## **Melanie Pennisi** - Mrs Pierson

Having enjoyed theatre, dance and music with her family from a young age, Melanie made a hobby of the arts during her schooling years, performing in choirs and musical groups. She has appeared in *Once Upon a Mattress*, *Oliver*, *Annie* and *The Wizard of Oz* whilst a student at Redeemer Lutheran College.

As a newcomer to the community theatre stage, Melanie is delighted to be dipping her toe back in the water with Sunnybank Theatre Group. She is looking forward to the feeling of exhilaration that comes with performing, as well as the sense of comradery, achievement and joy that is felt from being part of the team behind a successful production.



## **Meg Hinselwood** - Dr Weeden

It may be Meg Hinselwood's first performance for Sunnybank Theatre, but she is no newcomer to the stage, having appeared in many productions over the past 40 years, both in Queensland and in New South Wales. Meg appeared most recently as the maid, Pimms, in Centenary Theatre Group's production of *Agatha Crispie* earlier this year, and last year, also with CTG in the role of Freda Caplan in JB Priestley's *Dangerous Corner* with our director, Nate. When not acting Meg enjoys singing with her choir, entertaining, and teaching her students at the University of Queensland.



## Doon-Louise Loosemore - Court Clerk

Doon-Louise joins the Sunnybank Theatre Group for the first time in her debut role as the Court Clerk in *Beyond Reasonable Doubt*. As a teenager, Doon-Louise performed in various high school plays and musicals including *South Pacific*, *Oliver*, and *Oklahoma*. Growing up on the North Coast of NSW in a large musical family, Doon-Louise was classically trained on both piano and clarinet and is delighted to be able to continue her love of music and creative expression joining the cast and crew at STG.



## Howard Jones - Inspector Travers

Since moving his family to Australia in 2009 Howard has worked in student, short and feature films as well as television series, including *Evidence*, *The Urban Spaceman* and *Phonophilia*. He has also appeared in music videos for TyDi and Tim Freedman. Howard has also worked on the stage including STG's 2014 production *Holmes and the Ripper* as Sir William Gull and played Coach Dunbar in *Footloose*.



## CREW

Stage Manger **Ronalda Cook**

Set Design **Nathaniel Young**

Set Construction **Brian Hamer**  
**Phil Young**  
**Ronalda Cook**  
**Melanie Pennisi**  
**Bec Pennisi**  
**Doon-Louise Loosemore**  
**Ben Robinson**

Lighting Design **David Gemmell**  
**John Mordacz**

Lighting Operators **Allan Hare**  
**John Mordacz**

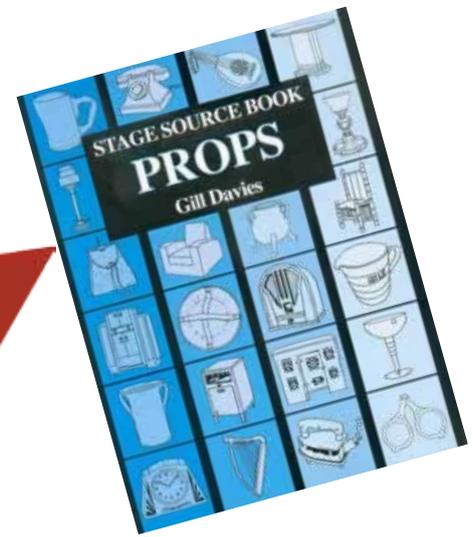
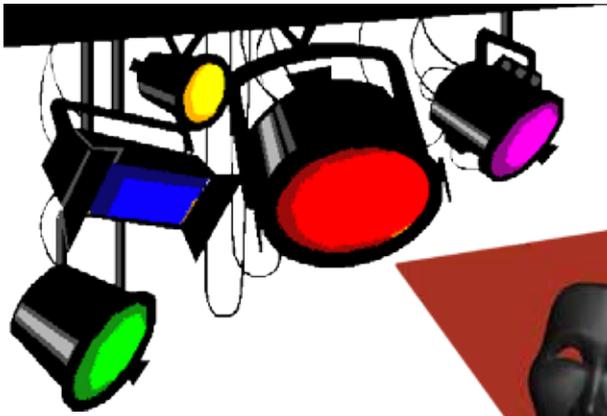
Photography **Kayleen Nunn**  
**Alison Young**

Program / Media **Chris O'Leary**

**Special thanks also to our wonderful box office & greenroom  
volunteers for their tireless work.**

Don't forget our launch night for the 2017 season

**2017**  
**SEASON**  
**FRIDAY 4 NOVEMBER 7PM**



**S.T.G.**  
**Sunnybank Theatre**  
**Group Inc.**

Would you like to know more about Sunnybank Theatre Group?

Perhaps you're interested in performing, or helping with our supporting teams of set builders, stage crew, lighting and sound technicians, costumes and props or helping in the Green Room and Box Office?

We are always happy to welcome new members to our group.

If you'd like to learn more, please speak to one of our volunteers today or call the theatre on 3345 3964. Or contact us on facebook... just search for the Sunnybank Theatre Group page.



SUNNYBANK THEATRE GROUP PRESENTS

SISTER AMNESIA'S  
COUNTRY WESTERN  
NUNSENSE

JAMBORREE

BOOK, MUSIC AND LYRICS  
DAN GOGGIN

DIRECTED BY  
PAM COOPER

FRIDAY-SATURDAY-WEDNESDAY 8PM  
SATURDAY 2PM  
NOV 11 - 26

BOX OFFICE OPENS OCT 15

