

SUNNYBANK THEATRE GROUP PRESENTS  
in association with ORiGiN Theatrical

ALFRED HITCHCOCK'S  
THE

39

STEPS

Adapted by Patrick Barlow  
From the novel by John Buchan  
From the movie of Alfred Hitchcock  
and an original concept by Nobby Dimon and Simon Corble



Directed by **Chris O'Leary**  
Sept 8 - 23, 2017

## About the Play

The 39 Steps, considered by many to be the first of the modern spy adventures, was written by Scotsman John Buchan in 1915. The novel is set during May and June of 1914 with war evident in Europe. The hero, Hannay, is an everyman unwittingly caught up in international intrigue.

Alfred Hitchcock adapted Buchan's story for his 1935 feature film starring Robert Donat and Madeleine Carol. The plot departed substantially from the book to develop it into a spy thriller. The British Film Institute has ranked it the 4th best British film of the 20th Century. There have been several remakes of the story, but none have matched Hitchcock for thrills and excitement or been as successful.

In 1995 Nobby Dimon and Simon Corble had the idea of staging Hitchcock's film using only 4 actors to play all of the roles. The play infused Hitchcock's script with comedy and it enjoyed a successful run in North Yorkshire before touring across England. Patrick Barlow rewrote the script in 2005, bringing more comedy to the plot, where it premiered at the West Yorkshire Playhouse.

Since then the play has had both West End and Broadway runs, garnered many awards and been enjoyed by thousands of people. Today you join that number.

## Director's Note

I have long been an admirer of Alfred Hitchcock. *Vertigo*, *Rear Window* and *North by Northwest* being my top three favourite films. His genius is something I can only aspire to. I first saw *The 39 Steps* in London in 2006 and enjoyed its humour and its heart. It was a production I felt sure Hitchcock would be proud of.

I have been blessed with a wonderful cast and crew of very dedicated and talented people, eager to give their very best. The last 5 weeks of rehearsing have been a great joy, bringing lots of laughs, and the highlight of my days. I'd like to thank each of them for joining our team and bringing you our very best. I'd also like to thank my partner, Mark, for suffering through the last few weeks with smiles and support.

So join us now in Hannay's adventure, but bring your imagination and your funny bone with you - you're going to need both.



## Chris O'Leary - Director

This is Chris' second time directing at STG, having previously co-directed *Guys and Dolls* with John Mordacz in 2014. He has also assisted in almost every other role in the theatre across many shows over the last seven years.

First seen as Mr Mushnik in *Little Shop of Horrors* (2010), Chris has gone on to appear in thrillers *Trap for a Lonely Man*, *Sleuth*, *Suddenly at Home* and *Deathtrap*, comedies *Relatively Speaking* and *Barefoot in the Park*, musicals *The Sound of Music*, *Dusty*, *Breaking Up is Hard to Do*, *Nonsense Jamboree* and *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* and dramas *A Few Good Men* and *Murder on the Nile*.

## The Crew

Laura Parkinson

Andrew Cosier

John Mordacz

Andrew Roberts

Joanne Sephton

Chris O'Leary

Paige Williams

Lauren Oliver

The Cast

Shirley O'Leary

Chris O'Leary

Laura Parkinson

Claire Gregory

The Cast

Kayleen Zoethout

Chris O'Leary

Stage Manager

Stage Crew

Lighting

Lighting and Sound Design

Assistant

Hair and Makeup Design

Costumes

Seamstress

Set Design/Construction

Props

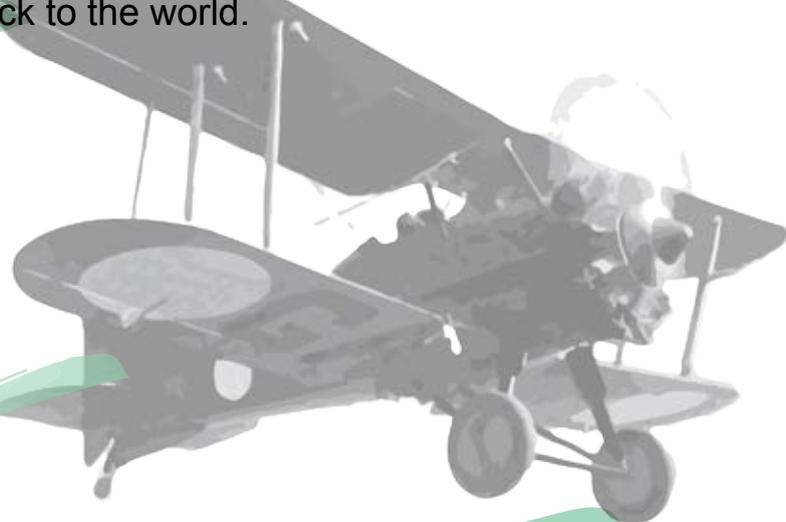
Photography/Advertising

Poster/Program



## Brad Kalms - Hannay

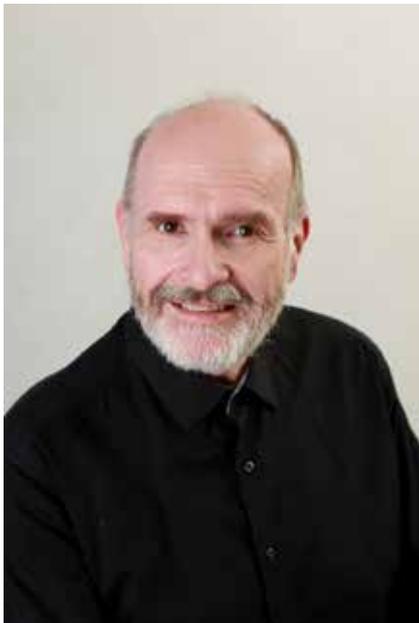
Brad has been trading the boards since he was a teenager. He went to Kelvin Grove college in the late 1980's to study Acting and became a professional performer by the age of 20. His comedic talents have entertained audiences across Australia and overseas and he has performed at The Comedy Store in Sydney and The Sit Down Comedy Club here in Brisbane. As a big fish in the little pond of Australia's Theatre Restaurant Scene he wrote, directed and performed comedy shows to over 100,000 people over 12 years. A self imposed hiatus from the stage ended this year when he joined STG to bring his special brand of silliness back to the world.



## Melanie Pennisi - Annabella / Margaret / Pamela

Mel first stepped on the community theatre stage this time last year performing in STG's *Beyond Reasonable Doubt* (Ms. Pierson). Since then, she's also enjoyed roles in Centenary Theatre Group's 2016 production of *A Little Murder Never Hurt Anybody* (Bunny Perry) and, earlier in STG's 2017 season, *Third Week in August* (Jenny).

Mel is absolutely delighted to have had the opportunity to take on the challenge that is *The 39 Steps* and is supremely grateful to Chris, her fellow cast mates, and the whole fabulous team for their support, help, guidance and overwhelming encouragement. She's often lamented just how much more she could achieve if she were able to split herself in three – and it's likely this will be as close as she ever comes to knowing. But at least she'll be able to answer the age-old question: do blondes really have more fun?!



## Richard Williams - Clown 1

“Act your age”, “behave yourself”, “get a grip” and “be serious” are four excellent pieces of advice that Richard has never taken. A lifelong mimic and one who regularly uses humorous quotations in serious and in some cases totally inappropriate situations, Richard loves creating voice characters and bringing dull and boring situations to life. As a father of four (grandpa of one) and having worked extensively in sales and management, verbal and physical communication skills have always been of paramount importance.

Although Richard could not be described as a seasoned theatrical performer (an extensive list of theatrical credits is not stapled to this program) he has a passion for making music and making people laugh. His unique skill set ensures that frequently he is able to do both at the same time, even if this was not the original intention. His hobbies include cooking; playing guitar; avoiding exercise; complaining about aches and pains and increasingly extensive periods of catatonia. Richard and his wife Wendy have brought up their musical family in Eight Mile Plains for the past 14 years. Having completed a number of vocal projects, Richard has his own voiceover business and hopes to retire on the proceeds by 2067.



## Nathaniel Young - Clown 2

Nathaniel is so ecstatic to be featured in this show that he’s referring to himself in third person! During his tenure with Sunnybank Theatre Group, he’s appeared in *Holmes & The Ripper*, *Key for Two* and *Twelve Angry Men* (and maybe one or two other shows in between) and directed both *Beyond Reasonable Doubt* and more recently *Keeping Up Appearances*.

Outside of STG Nathaniel has written, produced and performed in shows as part of the Brisbane Anywhere Festival, including *Arrivederci* and *Adamo Mortem*, and written for the Short+Sweet festival. He’s also worked with Centenary Theatre Group in *Dad’s Army*, *Dangerous Corner*, and *A Little Murder Never Hurt*

*Anyone*. Earlier this year, he debuted with Nash Theatre in a radio play adaptation of *The Philadelphia Story*.

He may or may not have been looking forward to this production since 2015 (not that it will show) and hope you too enjoy the show!

**The**  
**ENEMY**  
**is listening**

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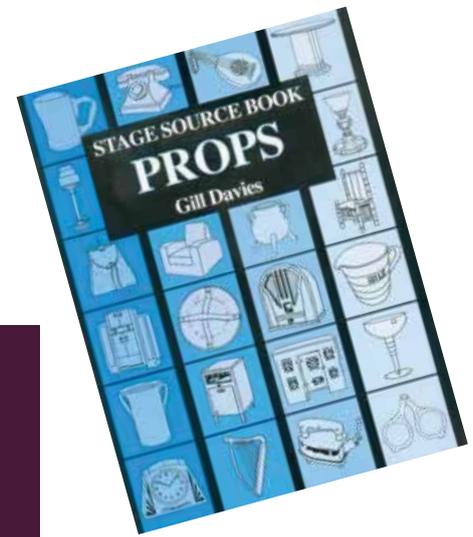
**He wants to know  
what you know**

**KEEP IT TO YOURSELF**

*Military Intelligence Division, War Department*

*Office of Naval Intelligence, Navy Department*

*Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice*



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 greenroom 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.



*Coming in November*

it ain't Sesame Street

**Avenue**

ROBERT LOPEZ  
& JEFF MARX

Nov 10 - Nov 26

**Don't forget our launch of the  
2018 season.  
This year's launch will be held on  
November 3rd at 7pm.**