

sunnybank theater group presents

SAME TIME NEXT YEAR

by Bernard Slade

by special arrangement with Dominic Pty Ltd



Bernadette Alizart

Bernadette's most recent credits include the world premiere season of *Pyjamas in Paradise* for the Gold Coast Arts Centre. Directed by acclaimed Australian choreographer Tony Bartuccio, Bernadette originated the iconic Bea Large – the brassy and overbearing socialite and matriarch of the heady 1960s Gold Coast pyjama parties.

Bernadette is a regular musical theatre performer, having performed a featured soloist in Oscar Theatre Company's 2010 & 2011 Cabarets, songs from *Next to Normal*, *Legally Blonde* and *We will Rock You*, as well as a soloist at Drift and Blackbear Lodge.

As the Broadway songstress Heidi Blickenstaff, Bernadette enjoyed two seasons of the Matilda award nominated *[title of show]* for Oscar at the Powerhouse (2010 & 2011) as well as a touring production which took in the Noosa Long Weekend Festival (2011).

In the critically acclaimed 2009 production of *Boy from Oz*, Bernadette played the role of Judy Garland for Savoyards Musical Theatre Society. She has also played Mother Abbess in their production of *The Sound of Music* (2008) and performed as a featured soloist in the Heart n Music Broadway concert performing songs from *All Shook Up*, *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* and *Sideshow*.

Among other credits are *Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*, *Come Blow Your Horn* and *The New Quixote* all for STG, and *The Captains and the Kings*. Bernadette is also a Brisbane voice over artist and former newsreader for several Brisbane radio stations and has done commercial work. She performs regularly in Brisbane and on the Gold Coast as part of the singing duo Serenade. Bernadette is delighted to return to STG to portray the naive yet loveable Doris in *Same Time Next Year*.

"This show is the most exquisite and heart rending of stories. George and Doris are perfectly flawed.

They endear and repel you over 24 years of growing and loving each other through the best and worst times in their lives. It's almost too impossible to imagine a union like theirs could ever exist let alone survive almost three decades - and making that 'real' is a challenge and a joy."

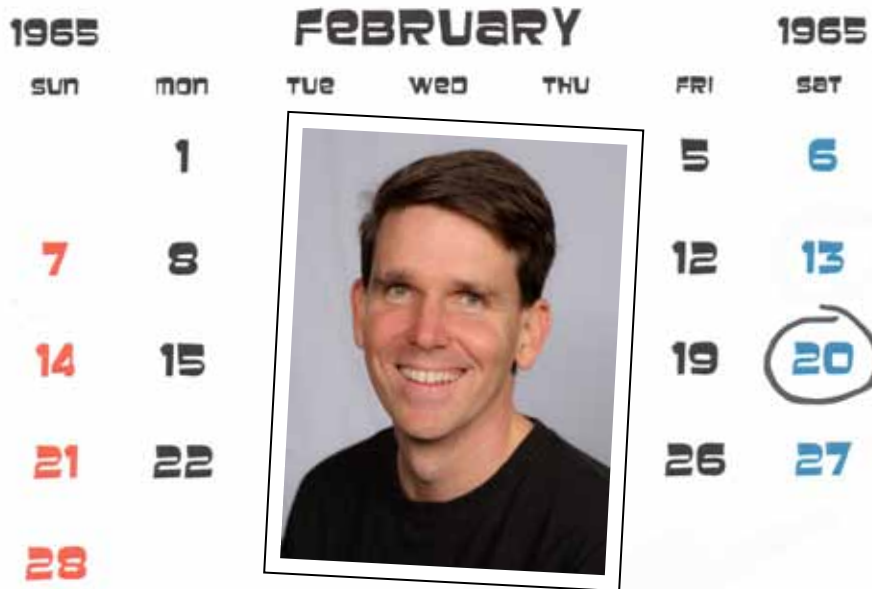
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It is quite daunting to direct a show that so many people remember in its movie version. So successful was the movie *Same Time Next Year* that the challenge lies in trying not to imitate or draw inspiration from the movie, but rather to present a unique, honest, personal interpretation of this very witty script, and to showcase the talents of our actors. I am in awe of the commitment, intuition, emotions and amazing talent displayed by our actors. Working with Bernadette and Paul has been an inspiration – my sincere thanks to them both. I am grateful for the support of many people in bringing *Same Time Next Year* to the Sunnybank stage and I applaud their talents and commitment.

This play will probably resonate with many people in so many ways, whether from personal experience of the events or merely living through some of the most tumultuous times in the second half of the twentieth century. I hope you will find that we have succeeded in bringing to life in a real way, the story of George and Doris, and giving an insight into an era and the events surrounding their love story. I think we have.



Dierdre Robinson



Paul Marshall

Paul cannot remember when he first appeared on the Sunnybank stage. If pushed he will mumble something about it being "sometime late last century". Over the years Paul has played many roles - as an actor, in the lighting box, stage crew, stage manager and a past Secretary of STG. In 2008 Paul made his directorial debut with the one act play *The New Quixote* in which he cast a relative newcomer to STG by the name of Bernadette Alizart! Continuing the trend of two handers, he directed *Post-its*, *Notes on a Marriage* in 2009 before stretching his legs in 2010 with *Hat Tricks* - Paul's first full length production as a director. Patrons who saw that production will remember that one of the wonderful actresses in that show was Dierdre Robinson.

When the opportunity arose to work together with Dierdre and Bernadette in bringing Bernard Slade's amazing script to life, saying "no" was simply not an option. As an actor two-handers are a rarity. They create amazing opportunities but they also leave you nowhere to hide. To be able to be in that space requires an extraordinary level of trust in the person opposite you and the person whose creative vision you are helping to bring to life. Paul is grateful beyond words that in Bernadette and Dierdre he found that trust.

Paul also would like to thank Laura and Brad for their efforts in keeping things running smoothly behind the scenes - without you two there is no show; Linda for her wonderful work with George's costuming; Jocelyn for helping me to grow old each night. Finally, Paul would like to thank his family - Jenny, Gabi and Grace - for their constant support, patience and understanding during the rehearsal process that has taken him away from them - without it none of this would have been possible.

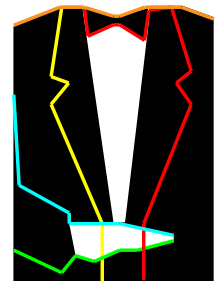


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