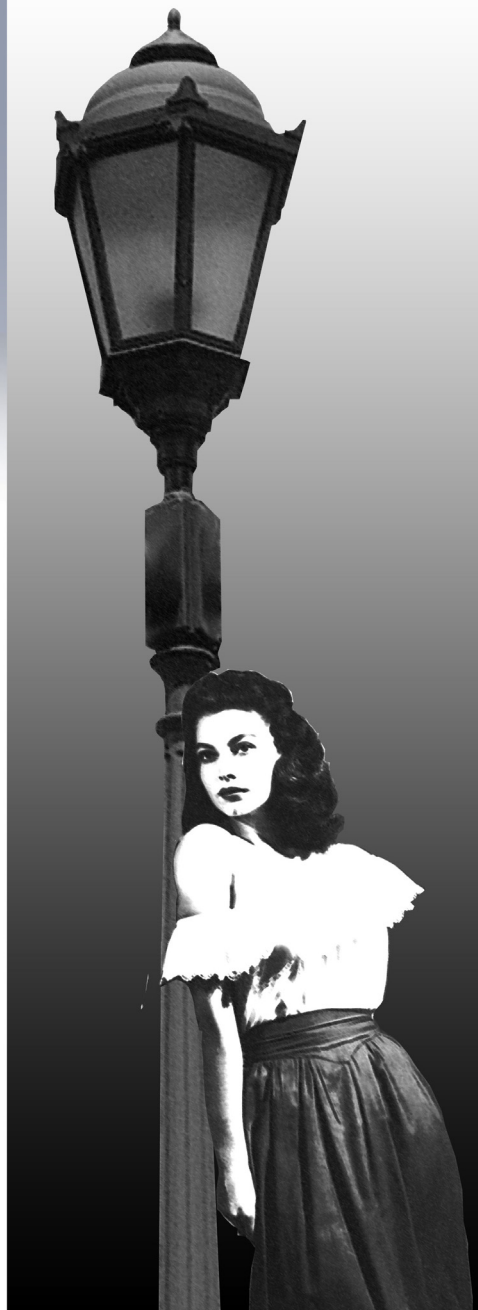


TRAP  
FOR  
A  
LONELY  
MAN

BY ROBERT  
THOMAS



TRANSLATED BY LUCIENNE HILL & JOHN SUTRO

DIRECTED BY CHRIS GUYLER

AN STG PRODUCTION  
BY ARRANGEMENT WITH JOSEF WEINBURGER LTD LONDON.

13 - 28 MAY, 2011

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I was asked by the Artistic Committee to direct the second production of the year which had been earmarked to be a drama, but there had not been a final decision as to which of the plays they had been reviewing would be chosen. I was given a copy of *Trap for a Lonely Man* by one of our very active members who had also submitted to the Artistic Committee as a possibility! When I read it I was very keen to suggest that we use it for the 2011 program. It is a gripping psychological thriller set in a chalet in the French Alps and although never made into a movie it's easy to see why Alfred Hitchcock bought the rights intending to make a film version of it as you see the suspense and intrigue played out to the end.

It has been a delight to work with such a talented and dedicated cast and I take this opportunity of thanking them for working so diligently at bringing these challenging roles to life. I must also thank the fantastic production staff especially my Assistant Director, Veronica Witham, who has been such a great support and inspiration as well as stepping in to take up the role of our Stage Manager! I could not have done without her.

Chris Guyler

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Born in 1927 Robert Thomas was a French writer, actor and film director who died in January 1989 at the age of 62. At the age of fourteen, he discovered a passion for contemporary theatre. Leaving home before taking his secondary school diploma he went to Paris to write and act in comedies there, paying for his theatre course with his salary as a telegrapher and an extra in over fifty films. At the same time, he wrote seven plays all of which were rejected. In 1950 he began a career in theatre as an actor and his first two plays, *Eight Women* and *Mrs Hyphen* were put on in Nice, in 1958/59, not really achieving success.

His determination was rewarded by the triumph of this detective play, *Trap for a Lonely Man* produced at the Bouffes-Parisiens on 28 January 1960. Thomas went on to be a prolific actor, playwright and movie director. He is most famous for *Eight Women* because it was adapted into a movie musical by François Ozon in 2002 with a star-studded cast. Thomas's plays were often dismissed by French critics and intellectuals, but his public loved him and the best of his work is elegant, well-constructed and is also unlike anything else in its peculiar juxtaposition of tension and laughter.

# SYNOPSIS

Daniel Corban has apparently lost his wife and is rapidly losing his mind! After reporting his wife's disappearance to the police, he is visited by a Priest who claims he has found Madam Corban, but when she enters the chalet he is outraged to discover that she is not Madam Corban, though she insists she is!

Is Daniel facing some sort of conspiracy? When the police fail to believe his story he can only conclude that they are trying to drive him mad – or worse still to his death.

The action takes place in the living room of a chalet near Chamonix, French Alps

ACT 1	...	...	...	Late afternoon in Autumn
ACT 2 Scene 1	...	...	...	The next morning
ACT 2 Scene 2	...	...	...	Later that morning
ACT 2 Scene 3	...	...	...	That evening, eight hours later

# CAST LIST

The Man	...	...	...	Greg Potter
The Police Inspector	...	...	...	Chris O'Leary
The Priest	...	...	...	Gary Coveney
The Woman	...	...	...	Lesley Davis
The Tramp	...	...	...	Gary Kliger
The Nurse	...	...	...	Yvonne Mes



### **Greg Potter - The Man**

Greg first appeared in Strathpine with Act 1 Theatre in their production of *The Foreigner* in 2005, which ignited his great interest and love for the stage. He's played major roles in several shows over the last six years, the most recent being *Silhouette* and *Out of Order* in 2009 and *The Nerd* earlier this year, all here at Sunnybank. Although Greg has a passion for theatre, his involvement has been somewhat limited over the past year because of his parental role as 'father' of 3 year old twin daughters, Scarlett and Savannah. Greg was initially cast in *Trap for a Lonely Man* with Act 1 Theatre in 2008 however the production never eventuated due to unforeseen circumstances. Fortunately,

STG included this play in their 2011 performance calendar and Greg is delighted to be playing the challenging role of Daniel in this creatively written play.

### **Lesley Davis - The Woman**

The theatrical 'bug' hit Lesley at a very early age. Since then she has had a very diverse theatrical career in community theatre, both on and off the stage. Sunnybank's 2007 production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* was co-directed by Lesley and she has played a wide range of diverse roles, from the effortless yet strange transition from singing and dancing Nun (Sister Amnesia) in STG's productions of *Nunsense* (2006) and *Nuncrackers* (2010), to the Madam of the famous 'chicken ranch' in STG's production of *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* (2009) – a far cry from her 'Government' day job. Whilst Lesley has played many dramatic roles she's looking forward to getting inside the skin of this latest character, in the juicy dramatic role of the Woman, in this production of *Trap for a Lonely Man*.



### **Chris O'Leary - The Police Inspector**

It was back in the days of doing High School musicals that Chris caught the theatre bug, but he let it get away until he returned to the stage in 1992 to play the lead role of Charles Condomine in Noel Coward's *Blithe Spirit!* After taking an 18 year break from theatre Chris developed his career and now manages a team of software consultants. He returned to the stage last year in *Little Shop of Horrors* playing Mr. Mushnik, and then went on to help behind the scenes operating the sound desk for *Nuncrackers!* Chris feels fortunate and is enjoying working with this talented cast, director and crew and is hoping to continue pursuing his association with STG.



### **Gary Coveney - *The Priest***

Gary is a newcomer to Sunnybank Theatre and he is delighted to be working with the Director Chris Guyler playing the challenging role of Father Maximin. In his relatively short time in community theatre, with his acting debut just last year in 2010, he has been enjoying the journey ever since playing some diverse roles. Much accustomed to controlling an audience in his day job as a barrister, Gary plans to continue his involvement in community theatre and we look forward to seeing a lot more of him on stage in the future.

### **Gary Kliger - *The Tramp***

Gary is yet another transplanted interstate interloper who has called Brisbane home since 1999. He has appeared on the STG stage before, but not for a few years, and he is pleased to make his return to the company playing the tramp Merluche.

Gary has played roles in straight theatre as well as musical theatre and enjoys his time in the theatre world, probably even more than in the real world of work and other trials and tribulations. Gary hopes that the '*Trap*' gives our audiences a great escape from their real lives and that Merluche does not overstay his welcome.



### **Yvonne Mes - *The Nurse***

Originally from Amsterdam, Yvonne Mes arrived in Mt. Isa 15 years ago and found life tough in her new country, but things changed when she was cast in *Amadeus* and she found it great to be a part of a creative group of people. Since then Yvonne has been involved with theatres in Mt. Isa and more recently Ipswich Little Theatre and here at Sunnybank.

Yvonne's diverse talents include acting, playwriting and directing in many different genre. She has directed many different productions including STG's production of *Female of the Species* last year. Yvonne says she's delighted to be a part of such a vibrant and active community theatre and a pleasure to work with Chris and the talented cast.



### **Chris Guylar - Director**

Having taken early retirement from his career in the airline industry Chris now has a little more time to pursue his love of theatre. He has been involved in theatre from a very early age, hardly surprising as both his parents were in the entertainment industry! Chris has been involved in nearly 70 productions over the years both acting and directing in many parts of the world including UK, Bahrain, PNG, Brunei and Australia. You will have seen him in leading roles in various theatres throughout Brisbane and here at Sunnybank we've seen him in comedy and dramatic roles including *Anyone for Breakfast*, *Beyond Reasonable Doubt* and *Witness for the Prosecution*. He has a long list of directors credits to his name including, *Wait Until Dark*, *Blithe Spirit*, *No Sex Please We're British*, *The Odd Couple* and STG's 2009 production of *Out of Order* to name but a few. Chris enjoys directing as he passes on his 'craft' and love of live theatre and has been very blessed with this wonderful cast of *Trap for a Lonely Man*. He hopes you'll be sitting on the edge of your seats until the end!



### **Veronica Witham - Assistant Director/ Stage Manager**

Veronica is relatively new to community theatre as her interest was aroused in 2009 and has been mainly working on the Northside of Brisbane with 'Hills Players Inc' at their theatre in Michelton. Veronica played in *Lady Godiva*, a one act *Dolly Dazzlers* and Directed *Agatha Crispie* and *Sorry* which went on the one-act play Festival Circuit in 2010. No longer content with watching the drama from the sidelines, she has caught the Directing bug and joined STG for the first time as Assistant Director to Chris to help build on her experiences thus far.

# BEHIND THE SCENES

Director	Chris Guyler
Assistant Director	Veronica Witham
Stage Manager	Veronica Witham
Props	Veronica Witham, Courtney Kiernan and cast
Sound and Lighting	David Gemmell, Joanne Sephton
Set Construction	Franck Dance, Maurice Thorn, Ken Stewart, Ray Smith, Cheryl Dangerfield
Backdrop	Yvonne Mes
Fireplace Design & Construction	Yvonne Mes
Photography	Julie Collins
Program	Paul Marshall

A final word...

We would also like to make special mention of those, behind the scenes, who have given their time and lent props and furniture. Our sincere thanks go out to Ian Platell, Gem Guyler, Bernadette Smith, Lesley Davis, Courtney Kiernan and Veronica Witham

*WARNING: Patrons are advised that this production contains loud noises including gunshots simulated through the use of a starters pistol.*

Coming Soon to  
**Sunnybank Theatre Group**



**Season of One Act Plays**

**The Private War of Corporal Cooper**

by John Broughton  
Director - Loretta Donnelly

**The Rats**

by Agatha Christie  
Director - Mandy McGregor

**A Matter of Husbands**

by Ferenc Molnar (Translation - Benjamin Glazer)  
Director - Serena Altea

1 - 9 July, 2011

Tickets on sale from 10 am, Saturday 4 June

*Arsenic and Old Lace*

by Joseph Kesselring  
Director - Anne Ross

26 August - 10 September, 2011

Tickets of sale from 10 am, Saturday 30 July

Book tickets online at [www.stg.org.au](http://www.stg.org.au) or by phone on (07) 3345 3964

**[www.stg.org.au](http://www.stg.org.au)**

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