



Official newsletter of St Jude's Players Inc  
June 2005 - Issue No. 126  
Print Post Publication

Hall: 444 Brighton Road  
Brighton SA  
Mail: PO Box 52  
Brighton 5048 SA  
Telephone:  
(08) 8296 2628

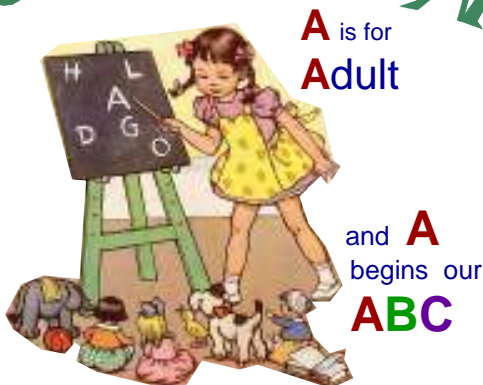
Website: [www.stjudesplayers.asn.au](http://www.stjudesplayers.asn.au)  
Email: [info@stjudesplayers.asn.au](mailto:info@stjudesplayers.asn.au)

# Spotlight Spotlight

## NEXT PRODUCTION

July 20 - 23 and 27 - 30, 2005

# Groping For Words



Written by Sue Townsend  
Directed by Linda Davey



*Groping for Words*, from the pen of Sue Townsend, the extraordinary British writer of the *Adrian Mole* books and the West End smash hit *The Queen and I*, is set in an adult literacy class where the students' fear of looking ignorant is as much a handicap as their inability to read.

Here we find a rich mix of characters—the young and blasé caretaker Kevin; Joyce, a newly qualified mature-age teacher; and her pupils, the derelict George, and Thelma who is a nanny. These four bring to life the daily struggles of people who find themselves on the outside of society. Through Sue Townsend's perceptive, comic writing we are shown the human cost of the class divide in Thatcher's Britain.

As relevant today as in the '80s, *Groping for Words* deals with the ever-present problem of people who fall through the gaps in our education system, and reminds us of the true value of being able to read and write.

A comically touching play, it is as charming and entertaining as it is meaningful. It will make you laugh, it will make you cry and remain with you long after the final curtain.

Director **Linda Davey**, last seen at St Jude's in Neil Simon's *Rumors*, is an experienced director who has worked both here in Adelaide and in Sydney.

The cast comprises **Julie Quick, John Leigh-Gray, George Banders** and **Amy Hutchinson**.



Linda Davey

### Season:

Wednesday 20th to Saturday 23rd July &  
Wednesday 27th to Saturday 30th July @ 8pm  
Saturday Matinéés @ 2 pm  
Please Note: there will be **NO** performance on Tues 26th.

### Tickets Prices:

Adults \$12 Concession \$9 Children \$7  
For **Group Bookings ONLY** please telephone Tarlie on  
8294 1306 by no later than Monday 4th July  
**15 people or more \$9 per person**

### Meal Voucher for Fasta Pasta and Show \$19

**Ordinary Bookings:** Open Wednesday 6th July at  
Brighton Stationers and  
Newsagency  
Shop 8  
Brighton Shopping Centre  
525 Brighton Road  
Brighton  
**Telephone 8296 8902**



At rehearsals the cast grope for words ..... those of the script!



November 9 - 12  
and 16 - 19, 2005

# An "Oscar" for ★ Bludgers Creek



**Written by Harold Minear**  
**Directed by Rosie Aust**

After having written our last two musical revues *Fair Crack Of The Whip* and *A Load Of Bullamanka*, playwright Harold Minear decided to finally turn off the word processor. We all knew that decision would not last long. Harold has now written a new Australian musical play (not a revue) called *An "Oscar" For Bludgers Creek*.



Writer Harold Minear

It is set in a typical outback Aussie town called Bludgers Creek, and all the action centres around the Bludgers Creek pub and its "regulars".

Harold says, "It's a light-hearted comedy peopled with real characters, whose ordinary daily lives are linked with the pub and its flamboyant owner, Maggie MacLeod. Their peaceful existence is disrupted by the arrival of Dreamtime Productions—a movie company complete with 'stars' which arrives from Sydney to shoot a movie about an old murder supposed to have taken place in... Bludgers Creek! Most of the locals are agog over both the movie and the murder, although one or two don't seem too pleased about the past being 'dug up'..."

Harold has written the lyrics for the twelve songs in the play, and he is overjoyed that David D'Angelo (musical director for *A Load of Bullamakanka*) is writing the music. Both director Rosie Aust and Harold are most excited about David's creative, toe-tapping tunes, which are guaranteed to have you smiling throughout the entire evening!



Musical Director  
David D'Angelo



Director  
Rosie Aust

## OUR PREVIOUS PRODUCTION

*Birds On The Wing* was a wonderful success right from the opening night celebrations, at which we were pleased to welcome most of the cast from the original 1984 production.



Kay Saunders, Andrew Horwood and Bernadette Bycroft preparing to "go through the balance sheet"

Adelaide Theatre Guide reviewer Nikki Gaertner wrote:

"*St Jude's* have once again hit the nail on the head with their latest entertaining and humorous offering, '*Birds on the Wing*'. Featuring a small, talented and dynamic cast. .... both Bycroft and Saunders are superb in their roles, and complement each other nicely as their characters move through their many alter egos throughout the show.

Horwood too, excels and has plenty of fun with his mischievous character and has the audience eating out of his palm within moments.

Every one of the supporting cast also deserves a mention, from Rachel Brunsten as the cheeky maid, Barry Hill as a variety of waiter personalities, Dave Simms as the swindled Sir George Smith, Greg Janzow in dual roles of both a Frenchman and a Japanese detective, and Ken McGill as Mr Chotomate.

Director Jude Menz should be commended for her efforts with this show (her second time directing it for *St Jude's*).

*'Birds on the Wing'* is comic theatre at its best."

Nick Carroll from Messenger Press wrote:

"Saunders, Bycroft and Horwood are an adaptable and talented trio, switching accents and class effortlessly in a quest for the filthy lucre.

But even the support players have an important part to play in this game of charades, and the procession of victims is highly entertaining. Particularly a pompous British politician played for laughs by Dave Simms. He is so good he should be on television. Greg Janzow and Ken McGill do well in other roles. And Rachel Brunsten and Barry Hill are an absolute hoot as the maid and waiter in each hotel room, having a tête-à-tête as each scene gets underway.

This play was originally such a success in Britain and Europe the BBC had Yeldham re-write it as a six part TV series in 1972 starring Richard Briers as Charlie. *St Jude's* may not have Briers but Horwood and company could be the next best thing."



## MEMORIES ARE MADE OF THESE

- from our album



Opening night supper for *Birds On The Wing* had a truly international atmosphere with sumptuous foods from Japan, America, England, Turkey and France!

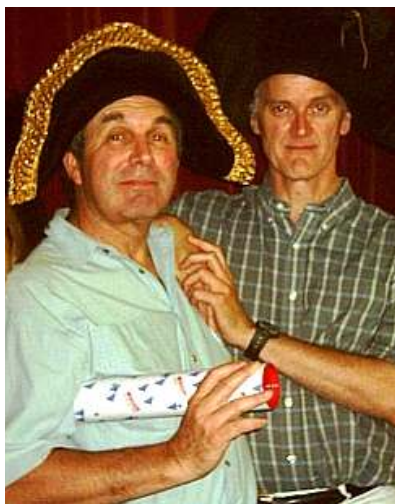
Our thanks to all the helpers, especially organiser Teresa Zetlein (shown here with Rachel Burfield on left).



Last night of *Birds On The Wing*—at the after-show supper director Judy Menz was presented with a Bird of Paradise plant by the cast.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The year is now well under way and our new committee hard at work. At this year's AGM we said thank you to Les Zetlein (Chairman), Judy Nimmo (committee) and Robert Aust (Treasurer) for their contributions during their term in office. In their stead we welcome Rosie Aust (Chairman), Bob McCarthy (Treasurer) and Mark McIntosh (committee). Continuing are Isabella Norton (Secretary), Andrew Horwood, David Evans, Vicky Wray, Rosemary Taylor (Membership) and Sandra Preston (Publicity). Roland Partis has been co-opted to represent the younger point of view.



After the AGM we were entertained by Les and Andrew, who gave a rendition of "The planning of the Battle of Trafalgar"—but with the political correctness of the 21st century!

## DEVELOPMENT AT ST JUDE'S CHURCH

Due to the development of a child day care centre on the old tennis courts alongside Grundy Hall, patrons may experience some inconvenience during our next production *Groping For Words*.

There will be no parking in the southern car park during construction, although ultimately a new parking area will be developed. In the meantime, we suggest patrons park in the Bi-Lo car park on the opposite side of Brighton Rd, north of Jetty Road.

**\*\*Please do not park in the small parking area directly opposite the Hall, as this is required at night by patrons of the dance class centre.\*\***

If you require car parking for the disabled, please let us know at the time of booking so that we can coordinate arrangements.

There have been numerous meetings between the Players' committee and the Parish Council regarding storage requirements, and a new shed (for joint use) is to be built on the site of the existing northern shed. One special get-together was held in April at the Woollard/Norton residence, where a bbq was provided for the Parish Council and The Players.



In attendance was the Reverend Chris McLeod and family.



Above: Charles Norton cooking the bbq



Right: Max Taylor enjoying the spoils!

**NEW**

**Charminar Indian Restaurant** - When ordering your meal, if it is the same night you are seeing *Groping For Words*, show your ticket and receive 20% discount off your meal!



## **BILL LONG — FROM RADIO MICROPHONE TO FRONT OF STAGE**

St Jude's Players were saddened to hear of the recent death of Bill Long who, in the early days of our group, was an active and popular member.

Many will remember Bill as one of the most successful radio announcers and presenters for radio station 5KA. It was his rich voice and great sense of comedy that endeared him to the listeners of that era.

On stage he played many roles for the Theatres Associated and the Repertory Theatre. However, it was St Jude's Players that kept him really busy - having acted in eight productions between 1954 and 1956.

In 1958 he directed a most successful production of the ever-green farce *See How They Run* which was in aid of the Church Organ Fund. One critic wrote, "it was a delight to hear the audience laugh non-stop. This production is a great credit to Mr Long and his cast".

Bill was a long-time resident of Brighton and was a welcome and popular friend of the burgeoning Jetty Road precinct.

We extend our sincere sympathy to his wife Rae and family.

*Harold Minear*

---

## **OLDE TIME MUSIC HALL**

Stuart Partis would like to thank those who came along to the sell-out performance at Grundy Hall. Stuart is looking forward to another *Olde Time* in the future.

---

## **DID YOU KNOW**

There was a lot of public attention when St Jude's Players staged *The Comedian* in St Peter's Cathedral. It was March 1978, and it was the first presentation of a full-length play ever staged there.

The Players were asked to do a Festival of Arts production. Director Harold Minear chose this difficult play (written by Henri Gheon with a cast of 45!) and was fortunate to obtain players such as Rob Croser, David Roach and Gabrielle Quist for the roles of Genesius, Felix and Albina.

In a letter of thanks Canon W.R. Ray wrote, "you established an ambition I have had for five years— to use the Cathedral for drama of quality and depth. You did this triumphantly."

---

## **RAFFLE WINNER**

The winner of the magnificent raffle, conducted during the production of *Birds On The Wing* and drawn on the final night of the show, was Mrs M Marin.

Congratulations, and we hope that you enjoyed the wonderful prize.

---

## **SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2005**

A reminder to get your Subscriber Book and save money! Our book of four discount vouchers is available now. The cost is \$36, or \$27 with a concession card. Telephone 8296 2628 or print a form from our website.

---

## **FINANCIAL MEMBERSHIP**

Due to insurance requirements it is necessary for all cast and crew, including front of house workers, to be paid-up financial members.

\$5 is a small price to pay once a year, and we ask those of you who so willingly come along and help with our productions if you could kindly consider this as soon as possible. There are other benefits, such as saving more than \$5 off the cost of the Annual Dinner!

---

## **2005 CALENDAR**

		Set construction currently in progress, come along and lend a hand
July	20	Opening Night <i>Groping With Words</i>
	30	Final Night <i>Groping With Words</i>
October	8	Quiz Night - tentative date
November	9	Opening Night <i>An Oscar for Bludger's Creek</i>
	19	Final Night of <i>An Oscar for Bludger's Creek</i>
December	10	Christmas Party

---

## **Auditions and Volunteers for Set Construction**

Ring 8296 2628 with enquiries regarding **auditions** for *An "Oscar" for Bludgers Creek*. Set construction will commence approximately 10 weeks prior to opening night.

---

## **OUR NEW STYLE NEWSLETTER**

Thank you for your thoughts on our newsletter—we had a wonderful response from patrons during our last show. Also, the customer survey results have certainly been a focal point with many people, who now have a better understanding of the difficulties in trying to please all the people all the time!

We always like to hear from you regarding any comments or questions you may have about the Players and our productions.

---

## **REMEMBER ..... WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR HELPERS**

**If you have a spare hour on a Saturday morning, it all helps to bring together a truly wonderful night of theatre.**