

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

February FunDays started back in 2011, as a way of starting the year with some exciting bursts of light-hearted theatre. Being early in the year and with the Christmas break, the rehearsal time is shorter than with the rest of the years programme. It doesn't mean that a lot of rehearsals and learning of words is any easier, actually harder as the rehearsal time is shorter. The cast of both performances put in the hard yards, along with their directors.

This year we have Dennis Blackett out of directing retirement !! Dennis did sing in a band around Elvis's heyday and found this play and had to share it with you. He has the very talented Ash R Viegel and Fi Ziff playing the roles of husband and wife.

Three Chairs is a comedy/farce. Craig Dixon has been acting with the School of Arts for many years, and is now dipping his toe in the directing field. He has been directed by many talented people, so has learnt a lot over the years. His cast of Tracey-Leann Lonergan, Jenny Ellis and Adrian Hallam have also had lots of experience in acting and along with the Balin Willis and J Parsell make up a formidable team.

Hope you enjoy the shows!

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FEBRUARY
FUN DAYS
A DOUBLE BILL OF ONE-ACT PLAYS





DIRECTOR'S NOTES

After the untimely death of Elvis Presley on the 16th August 1977 at the young age of 42, the President of the USA, Jimmy Carter, released an official statement:

“Elvis Presley’s death deprives our country of a part of itself. He was unique and irreplaceable. More than 20 years ago he burst upon the scene with an impact that was unprecedented and will never be equalled. His music and his personality, fusing the styles of the white country and the black rhythm and blues permanently changed the face of American popular culture. His following was immense and he was a symbol to people the world over of the vitality, rebelliousness and good humour of the country.”

When I found and read this play, I thought what a great challenge it would be to bring this play to the stage and highlight the fanaticism and devotion of his fan base and reveal the tragedy of his loss at the time.

The story of the play is fictional but has many charming, witty and compelling moments. The two actors I have chosen to tell our story, I believe, will deliver the story and the inner material issues of their marriage in a very professional and fascinating way.

Finally can I say that during my teenage years I was a devout fan of Elvis and I do believe that in 100 years his music will still be heard.

Thank you to SoACT and all who have assisted me in presenting this play. It has been a rewarding experience. I can’t wait for the opening performance.



Dennis Blackett - Director

Dennis has been involved in the world of theatre for over 60 years and has been a director, actor, and singer in both amateur and professional productions over the years.

He most recently directed for the Wagga Wagga School of Arts, the successful Noel Coward play, *Easy Virtue*.

His first appearance onstage was playing Chris Kellar in the 1961 SoACT production of Arthur Miller’s *All My Sons*. He says he got the bug and has loved theatre ever since.

Dennis has also over many years been responsible for the presentation of all the productions of the Children’s Theatre Workshop in the field of Sound and Lighting.



Ash R Veigel - Dwight Carter

Retired Investigative detective, former King of the Faries, and long time Ten x 10 enthusiasts, returns to the stage for a role that no man is ever prepared for, caring-husband. Come along on a journey of unmet expectations, shattered dreams and miles of highway.



Fi Ziff - Leanne Carter

Fi Ziff has been acting, singing and dancing for 50 years, in her head. She recently decided it was time to do it for real and has enjoyed playing a burlesque fairy in *A Midnight Dream*, Kitty Warren in *Mrs Warren’s Profession*, Isobel in *Pirates of Penzance*. Fi has watched every Elvis movie ever made and has even visited Gracelands. Fi believes Elvis was an amazing musician and is honoured to be involved in *Are you Lonesome Tonight?* with such a passionate and professional Director.



DIRECTOR'S NOTES

For young people moving into their first home together, the feeling of excitement upon acquiring that initial piece of furniture can be palpable. Suddenly the open space starts to look like place of your own, even if to most visitors it still looks like an awkward combination of mismatched swift shop finds, family hand-me-downs, and dollar store buys.

It is a feeling I remember quite clearly when my wife and I first moved in together, as is the sometimes unexpected encounters with eccentric neighbours, and of course the constant involvement of beloved if larger-than-life family members. It is perhaps for this reason the comedic premise of *Three Chairs* first jumped out to me.

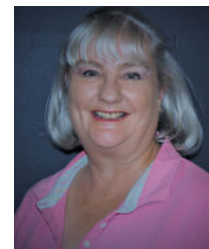
Three Chairs is a farce involving some big characters, and for this production I have been highly fortunate to enjoy the talents of Balin, Jasmine, Adrian, Tracey, and Jenny, who have each brought their characters distinct personality to life. I am also indebted to Pam and Eddie, who have also been a constant source of support behind the scenes.

Three Chairs is a fun show, and we have had a lot of fun putting it together. It is our hope that the audience has as much fun watching as we have had putting it on stage!



Craig Dixon - Director

Loving a good laugh, Craig is delighted to direct *Three Chairs*. Coming from a family full of strong personalities he finds the homegrown farce strangely relatable. He has enjoyed working with such a fun cast and is looking forward to seeing how they bring out the larger-than-life characters onstage!



Jenny Ellis -

Jenny has been a member of SoACT since 2017, and is passionate about music and comedy, preferably both together. She is thrilled to be part of this production.



Adrian Hallam

Adrian has been performing since 2 yrs old in his family’s clown troupe.

He has always loved comedy as can be seen in his performances in *Allo Allo*, *Are you being served*, and *Riverina Water Ten x 10 Playfest* over the last few years.

He has recently been spending time in *Agatha Christie Mysteries*, but is glad to be back out in a comedy again.

He is currently also preparing for *Short And Sweet Sydney* where his own written work, *Under Eureka* has been selected to premiere over the Easter Weekend.



Tracey-Leann Lonergan

A graduate of Ensemble Studios in Sydney, Tracey previously worked both onstage and in the-atre management. Since moving to regional Australia, she been involved in over twenty plays and musicals over as many years. Tracey has also directed and appeared in a few short plays for the *Riverina Water Ten x10 Playfest*, and has been a member of several choirs and a band.

Tracey is enjoying working on this short, sharp comedy and hopes that you enjoy it too!



Jasmine Parsell -

I have enjoyed getting to be apart of this fun performance and getting back into acting. I hope you enjoy the show as much as we have enjoyed rehearsals.



Balin Willis -

Balin Willis is a triple-threat performer who has been performing with SoACT since 2022, after graduating from high school.

After a backstage role in his first show, *A Midnight Dream*, Balin has made his mark in many productions, such as *Anchors Away*, *Pirates of Penzance*, and two *Riverina Water Ten X 10 Playfests*.

Whilst he started acting at seven years old, he claims he would never have imagined going on such a powerful journey as a SoACT performer.

Balin is excited to work with Craig Dixon again and calls the play both an absolute laugh and a commanding statement to his life as a young adult. He can’t wait to bring *Three Chairs* to life on the SoACT basement stage.

PRODUCTION TEAM



Pam Buchanan - Stage Manager

Pam has enjoyed working back stage, front of house and costumes for the past 12 years. Behind the scenes is a great place to participate in the theatre, she loves it.



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Assistant Stage Manager - Eddie Pratt

Sound Design - David Font & Dennis Blackett

Lighting Design - Michael Mitchell

Ticketing Coordinator - Fi Ziff

Set Design - Dennis Blackett & Craig Dixon

Front of House Coordinator - Donna O’Grady

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