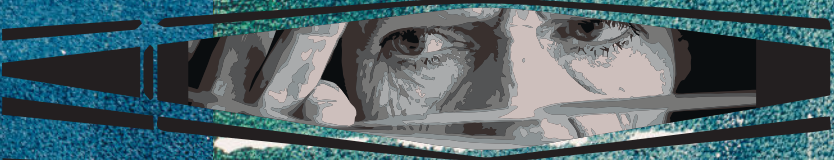


WAGGA WAGGA SCHOOL OF ARTS PRESENTS



# NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

WRITTEN BY LALLY KATZ

DIRECTED BY MICHAEL MITCHELL

13th, 14th, 20th, 21st October at 7:30pm

15th, 22nd October at 3pm



The Daily Advertiser



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## DIRECTORS NOTES - Michael Mitchell

I love community theatre!

Where else can people from such vast and varying walks of life gather and work together to have fun, make art and most importantly, learn from each other? This play truly celebrates the notion of community and it's been such a privilege to work with the talented and creative people who have brought aspects of their lives to the rehearsal room and worked together to bring this unique production to you.

Whenever I've been asked what *Neighbourhood Watch* is about, I've struggled to find a succinct way of describing it- solely because of its beautiful complexity. It's about different things to different people because everyone experiences it through the prism of their own experience. At the end of the day the play about being 'in the life'... whatever that means to you. For me, it's about stepping out of your comfort zone and being open to new experiences, and how the smallest interaction with another human being can change your life in profound ways.

The simple act of seeing plays is what made me want to be a theatre maker and teacher, and it's led to most of the dearest friendships in my life. If this play has sparked that desire in you, then I'd encourage you to pick up a membership form and become a part of the fun. The Wagga Wagga School of Arts is always open to new members.

Whether you want to tread the boards as an actor or work behind the scenes get the productions up and running as a backstage assistant, or working with sound and lights, there's a place for everyone here. That's the beauty of Community Theatre and that's why I love it. Enjoy the show!

**SPEACIAL THANKS: GREG PRITCHARD, JHI RAYNOR, CONNOR CRAWFORD, MITCH BAUMGARTEN, CARLEY LOVE, LUKE PEACOCK, JOHN LUCAS, GAVIN SHEN, ASHLEIGH ADAMS, LEE AND KEN KENNEDY, TUMUT HIGH SCHOOL AND STAFF AT WAGGA WAGGA CIVIC THEATRE.**



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## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

"I would like to thank Michael for bringing to our audiences this Australian Play by Lally Katz. We always look to present variety in our yearly programme of theatre, and *Neighbourhood Watch* offers our patrons, a beautiful play that most people will relate to. I wish Michael and his cast every success with this, our final theatre production for 2023."

**Bob Hitchens - President.**

PRODUCTION PERSONNEL

PRODUCTION MANAGER	Tony Trench
MARKETING DIRECTOR/ PRINT AND RADIO	Fay Walters
WARDROBE TEAM	Michele Hemmings, Lynden Clark, Pam Buchanan
DIGITAL MARKETING	Michael Mitchell
FRONT OF HOUSE MANAGER	Donna O'Grady
TICKETING COORDINATOR	Fiona Ziff
MUSIC COORDINATOR	Marg Davies



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## CREATIVE TEAM



**MICHAEL MITCHELL** - Director

A passionate educator, theatre maker and advocate for the arts, Michael first joined Wagga School of Arts SoACT in 2006. For SoACT he had directed *Love Song and Proof*. He directed *Boom*, *Fat Men in Skirts*, *Plays for Gearstick Theatre* and *Oliver!* for the Wagga Wagga Civic Theatre, in addition to many school plays and musicals.

As a performer he has appeared in productions of *Guys and Dolls* (Holroyd Musical and Dramatic Society), *My Fair Lady and Away* (Wagga Wagga Civic Theatre), *Hairspray* (Bidgee Theatre Productions) *Death of a Salesman and Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (SoACT); and was assistant director for *Australia Day* (New Theatre), *The Boy From Oz*, and *The 25th Annual Putnam Spelling Bee* (Wagga Wagga Civic Theatre).



**SALLY JACKSON** - Associate Director /Intimacy Coordinator

Sally is a graduate of the Stage and Screen Acting course at Charles Sturt University Wagga. Her career began in Port Macquarie with the community theatre ensemble *Night4Murder*, acting in multiple original productions. Since arriving in Wagga, Sally has performed in various productions through UTE and Persona Collective including *'Rozencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead'*, *'Hamlet'*, *'This Territory'*, *'Killing Game'*, *'Lines and Boxes'* and *'Rabbits'*. Sally is also a director and producer for *Freeroam*, making her directorial debut with the 2022 production of *'Picnic at Hanging Rock'* and is a proud ensemble member in the improvised production *'TOME'*. This is Sally's first Wagga School of Arts production.



**JO COCKS** - Stage Manager

Jo's professional background is the world of television where they never say "we'll fix it in post", then do just that anyway.

Joining Wagga School of Arts...So Act is a return to the theatre for Jo, and she couldn't be more pleased to have found such a wonderful vibrant community to help bring her love of the stage back to life. Jo is excited to bring her technical know-how to the team and learn some new skills along the way.

Having recently returned home to Wagga Wagga from Sydney, Jo is keen to jump in and get involved wherever there's new people to meet and amazing creative happenings.



**ROBYN HORWELL** - Costume Design

Robyn is a poet and playwright, presenting short plays for performance in the *Ten x 10 Playfest*, and *Short & Sweet*, Sydney. An active supporter of Community Theatre, she has filled the roles of Actor, Front of House Manager, and Costume Department Manager. Having worked on set construction for Lally Katz, in the early days of the writer's career, she feels it's only fitting, to assist in celebrating this wonderful Aussie play.



**JO STRADER** - Properties manager

Jo-Anne began her theatrical experience about 9 years ago as part of the ensemble in *Away* at the Civic Theatre. From there she has continued on stage in *Wild Goose Chase* and four *Ten X 10* Wagga School of Arts productions. Jo-Anne has assisted backstage in several other SoAct productions and is honoured to be given the responsibility of managing props for this wonderful production.



## CAST



**MARG DAVIES** - Jovanka and others

Recently retired from 45 years of teaching in school (Music) from K to Yr 12, Marg has elected to put in more time in theatre productions. This year she has performed in 'Pirates of Penzance', Ten X 10 Play Fest 'Intrigue and Inspiration', and 'And Then There Were None'. Marg is delighted to be in *Neighbourhood Watch* as her next stage appearance.



**DIANA LOVETT** - Ana

Diana has been an active member of Wagga School of Arts..SoACT since 1968. During that time she has performed, directed and written numerous plays. While studying Master theatre Arts/Directing she received four Newcastle CONDA nominations for *Red Devils*. Memorable moments include: *Two and Footrot Flats* (The 'flashing- lights' of Dolores costume was well sort-after in costume hire.) Highlights from other companies include *Basin* (writing), *Fame*, *Boy from Oz*, *The Laramie Project*, *The Freedom of the City*. (performance), *The Merger* (film), *Little Red Stack Hat* (artwork/set) and travelling with the *European Rocky Horror Show*. What an honour!

In recent years she has turned her hand to playwriting.

Ana has been a demanding challenge... but what a role! A huge thanks to cast and crew... What a team!



**AARON MCDONNELL** - The Chemist and others

Aaron McDonnell is new to community theatre (in Wagga Wagga at least), after having had a couple of small roles in amateur theatre productions while living in Dubbo. Now, after an eight year hiatus, he has dipped his toe in the water again, taking on a number of small roles in *Neighbourhood Watch*. Aaron is an enthusiastic and energetic individual who's excited to be a new member of the Wagga School of Arts So Act family and hopes you enjoy watching the play as much as he has enjoyed acting in it!



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**ANTONELLA SALVESTRO** - Katrina and others

Antonella is a visual artist with a love for drama. Playing Coral in 'Away' lead to a CAT award nomination and she has since performed in numerous Wagga School of Arts..SoACT productions and been involved behind the scenes on many others. Relishing these latest roles in *Neighbourhood Watch*, she is enjoying coming to terms with all her multiple personalities and would like to thank the amazing director, cast and crew for this cherished opportunity.



**CHARLES SYKES** - Ken and others

Charles has been in and out of the performance arts scene since the early ages of primary school. Having completed his Bachelors Degree in stage and screen acting at CSU, Charles has performed and directed a variety of contemporary and classical plays. Charles has worked alongside international stars such as Jake Spear, Brandon McClelland and Christian Hull. Charles is particularly interested in the traditional Italian theatre form, Commedia dell'arte and hopes to teach his skills of voice and movement to up and coming actors around the Riverina.



**IAIN WRIGHT** - Martin and others

Iain has been teaching *Neighbourhood Watch* for five years, and performing for almost twenty, so when Michael told him about this project he thought it was the perfect time to combine these passions. He has performed the gamut over his years, from a bookseller, to a party boy; a detective to a murderer; a dancer, singer, cabaret performer, and host. This show is particularly special as it caps off another hat trick year of shows for him, only the third time in his life he has achieved this, and the first with a single company. He wants to thank his amazing staff and students for dealing with his craziness and inspiring him; his friends and family for their passion and compassion; and his better half, Jono, for the eternal love, support, and patience, Iain would be nothing without him.



**ELLENA ZACHARIA** - Catherine

This is Ellena's first lead role in a feature length play. She has been involved in many Wagga School of Arts productions on and off stage since 2021, including *A Midnight Dream* and the *Ten X Ten Play Festival*. She enjoys the sense of community within Wagga School of Arts SoAct and hopes it is reflected in this play.

harry mangelsdorf & amanda tilyard

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