

**REP
ERT
ORY**
INVERCARGILL

Repertory Invercargill proudly presents

BOOK AND LYRICS BY ROGER GIMBLETT
MUSIC BY SALLY BODKIN-ALLEN



WORLD PREMIERE

18
EDEN
AVENUE

A MUSICAL

31ST AUG - 3RD SEPT 2022
REPERTORY HOUSE
7.30PM

DIRECTED BY JASON FRASER
MUSICAL DIRECTION BY SALLY BODKIN-ALLEN
CHOREOGRAPHY BY HANA SKEGGS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the world premiere of the musical 18 Eden Avenue. Thank you to Sally and Roger for their wonderful creative talents and for giving us this chance to showcase our theatre and the local talent here tonight.

Congratulations to Malcolm McDonald, whose genius was able to bring Jason's design concept to fruition. Who would have thought that our little stage could encompass 3 revolving set pieces of such magnificence?

Thank you Jason, for bringing this show to life in such an amazing way. This is a great avenue (pardon the pun!) for you to share your musical and directorial prowess.

We invite you to sit back and enjoy the beautiful music and clever performers onstage.

NIGEL EDWARDS

President

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to 18 Eden Avenue, Repertory's third show of the year and our second world premier. The performance you will see tonight equates to over 25 years of development, workshopping, and volunteer hours both on and offstage. I can't underestimate what an achievement this is and the treat you have in store tonight.

Firstly, I would like to thank Roger Gimblett and Sally Bodkin-Allen for trusting me with their passion project and bringing their vision to the stage. My association with the show began two years ago and their trust and support in me has been an amazing and most memorable experience. To the production team of Sally, Hana, and Neil, it has been a pleasure to work with you.

Entertaining you tonight are the cream of the crop of Southland talent. Their professionalism and belief in the show made my job a lot easier. Most of the cast have been invested in the show longer than I have and the result of the positive collaboration between us all is what you will see tonight.

Without Repertory Invercargill's backing and support, there is absolutely no way this show would have been staged. From the Executive, to our amazing set designer and artist Malcolm McDonald, Kevin Marshall and his team, as well as every volunteer who lent us their precious time, thank you. Invercargill is indeed lucky to have so many people passionate about the performing arts and an organisation like Repertory to promote it.

Finally, thank you to our sponsors, without whose support we could not provide this kind of entertainment for the Southland public. I acknowledge the support of families and friends of everyone involved in the production, for letting us pursue our passions and for keeping us sane through this entire process. Lastly to you, the audience, none of this would be possible without you. We hope you enjoy the show.



JASON FRASER
Director

CREATIVES MESSAGE

Sally and Roger started working on 18 Eden Avenue about 28 years ago. The storyline was built around three generations of women living at 18 Eden Avenue. Most of the original material has been considerably reworked in the version that is onstage now, thanks to the changes in technology that have occurred since the process began. Back in the 90s, Roger (who is based in Sydney) sent faxes with song lyrics to Sally, and Sally posted cassette tapes to Roger of recordings. When they picked up the show again in 2020 the instant communication online made collaborating a lot easier! They are thrilled to see the show coming to life on stage in Invercargill and would like to acknowledge and thank Repertory Invercargill and especially Jason Fraser for their support for this project.

PROFILES

ROGER GIMBLETT BOOK AND LYRICS

Roger is an actor/writer/director based in Sydney. Originally from Invercargill, Roger studied playwriting with Roger Hall. Roger has written and/or directed numerous performances in New Zealand, Australia, the United Kingdom, India, and South Africa. These include in collaboration with Sally Bodkin-Allen, *Flowers at Breakfast*, *What Santa Does Other Days of the Year*, and of course, *18 Eden Avenue*.

Roger has worked for Stoll Moss Theatres in London's West End, written for ABC television, and is twice the winner of the National One-Act Playwriting competition. He has directed the Sydney premieres of Andrew Lloyd Webber's *By Jeeves* and the musical *Our House*.



SALLY BODKIN-ALLEN COMPOSER AND MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Sally is a born and bred Southlander who teaches music at the Southern Institute of Technology and Invercargill's Out of School Music Classes. Sally's choral compositions have been performed by *Femme*, the Southland Girls' High School choir, and she has also composed and arranged music for local brass band performers. Roger and Sally have written a number of musicals together, and these have been performed throughout New Zealand and Australia. Sally's passion is musical theatre, and she is absolutely thrilled to see *18 Eden Avenue* come to life on the stage at Rep House.



JASON FRASER DIRECTOR

Jason has been involved in theatre for 30 odd years, originally as a lighting assistant, he then got his first role in Invercargill Operatic Society's production of Evita in 1992. Since then Jason has been a regular performer in the Southland community. Most notably as Skimbleshanks, The Railway Cat in Cats, Sir Andrew Aguecheek in the Shakespeare in the Park production of Twelfth Night, and most recently, as the hilarious Mr. Mickleby in Repertory's production of Wanted - One Body! earlier this year. Jason made his directorial debut for Repertory in the 2018 production of Blackadder goes Forth, The Play. In 2021 he once again adapted Blackadder, The Golden Age for the stage, which went on to win 5 OSTA awards.

HANA SKEGGS CHOREOGRAPHER

Hana is delighted to be involved as choreographer in the world premiere of 18 Eden Avenue. She enjoys all aspects of theatre productions whether she is performing, choreographing, directing or appreciating the talents of others from the auditorium. Hana began performing with Invercargill Musical Theatre at age 16 in shows such as Copacabana and Chicago and works annually in the production team of the ILT Christmas Variety Show where she thrives creating magic for the community. By day you will find Hana teaching at La Muse. Hana would like to thank her daughter Ava, for her love and support and the stellar team who bring you this wonderful evening of creative gloriousness.



NEIL MCDONALD ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Neil McDonald is a seasoned Southland performer who has recently made the move to working backstage and directing. He played Dr. Dillamond in Wicked in 2019, Baldrick in Blackadder The Golden Age, and Legles in Les Misérables in 2021. In 2019 he also played Tupolski in Pillowman for which he was nominated for an OSTA for Best Lead Male. This year he worked backstage for Wanted-One Body! Neil has studied theatre at Waikato University and Victoria University and this year joined the Repertory Committee.



SYNOPSIS

At the end of an avenue, behind an overgrown garden, stands a run-down historic house, home to three generations of women, Honoria, Sophie, and Poppy.

ACT I

A crisp winter's day and we are introduced to the personalities who live at 18 Eden Avenue.

Gilford, an up-and-coming actor, is the latest boarder to arrive and meets another long-term boarder Arthur.

Poppy, the youngest of the family, immediately takes a shine to Gil and declares that she will write a classical Greek tragedy for him.

Honoria the matriarch, is struggling with her own mortality and failing health. She explains the reason why she recites plays, novels and when she dreams at night.

Simon is the next-door neighbour and school friend of Poppy but he wants to be more than just friends.

Sophie, Poppy's Mother is concerned about the state of the house as she has been told that the dance school she teaches at is closing down.

Sophie and Arthur meet in secret as Arthur explains that he wants to tell the family the truth about the anonymous Frenchman. This does not go down well with Sophie.

She pleads with him to wait until summer, to which he agrees.

Interval of 15 minutes

ACT II

It's now summer and Poppy's play is being workshopped. As Poppy directs the scene, she gets increasingly frustrated with Simon's immaturity and Simon quits. Gil asks Sophie to step in to finish the big romantic scene, and sparks fly!

Sophie receives a call from the bank about overdue mortgage repayments and realises that Honoria has been dabbling in the trust account. She becomes inconsolable.

It's the night of Poppy's 16th birthday party. During the party, Simon makes a fool of himself and leaves, Poppy comes to check on him and Simon tells Poppy how he really feels. Arthur interrupts and decides now is the time to talk to Poppy about the family secret.

Having resolved the family issue, Arthur gets an invitation to leave 18 Eden Avenue and join Mrs. Hodgkins' Old Time Song and Dance Troupe, which he decides to do. With Arthur leaving and Poppy off to the School Ball with Simon, Sophie is distraught and overwhelmed by all the changes.

Gill arrives home after his latest gig depressed and decides to quit acting and get a real job.

Sophie declares that she wants to set up a performing arts school for kids in the house and offers Gill a job.

He agrees, and together they toast a great new adventure.

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

18 Eden Avenue
What's My Motivation?
What's My Motivation reprise
When I Dream
Someone in the Greenhouse
Her Father
When Winter Turns to Summer

ACT II

Entr'acte
Three Strong Woman
At Least You Tried
★ Singing Down the Rain
Someone in the Greenhouse reprise
The Other Side of Me
Somewhere in my Life
When I Dream reprise

CAST

Company
Gil
Gil
Honoriam
Poppy, Simon
Sophie
Company

Poppy, Sophie, Honoriam
Gil, Arthur
Simon, Poppy
Arthur
Arthur
Sophie, Arthur
Honoriam and Company



ALL SONGS AND MUSIC © Roger Gimblett and Sally Bodkin-Allen

CAST (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

JULIE SMITH HONORIA

Julie has a long history of musical theatre behind her, on and off stage, the pinnacle being Rosie in Mamma Mia, and has enjoyed the gentler transition to straight drama. Julie was very lucky to play Chris in Rep's Calendar Girls, followed by two fun whodunits. So 18 Eden Avenue ticks all the boxes for her, with a wonderful acting role, as well as some beautiful songs that she is looking forward to performing to you all.



LIV COCHRANE SOPHIE

Liv is an award-winning singer/writer/producer and public speaker. As half of Into The East, Liv has shared stages with the Topp Twins, Tami Nielson and Neil Finn, and is currently in the studio working on her debut solo album. In 2021 Liv played the ill-fated Fantine in IMT's Les Miserables.



MEADOW BODKIN-ALLEN POPPY

Meadow's passion for Musical Theatre began when she was 6, playing Gretl in The Sound Of Music. In October this year, she's representing NZ in the Australian Junior Theatre Festival. Meadow's thankful for her family's ongoing support to pursue her passion and is sure audiences will enjoy this wholesome show.



CRAIG WADDELL

ARTHUR

Craig has been involved on stage or behind the scenes on Southland stages for the past 30 years with Invercargill Repertory, Invercargill Musical Theatre, Shakespeare In the Park, and others. He has had the pleasure of playing some wonderful roles over the years including an OSTA-nominated role as the Wizard in *Wicked* and most recently as Buddy in the smash hit *We Will Rock You*.

He is also a previous winner of the Southland Entertainer of the Year Award and is delighted to be involved in this world premiere of *18 Eden Avenue*.



GEORGE O'CONNELL

SIMON

This is George's first Repertory Show and he is very excited to be learning from a great cast and production crew. Previously George has had lead roles in SBHS/SGHS productions and is a member of both SBHS Choirs, Momentum, and Dimensions. George has achieved Grade 8 in Trinity Speech and Drama and would like to thank Sally Bodkin-Allen for giving him this opportunity.



TRAVIS LUKE

GIL

Travis is an award-winning actor who gravitates to playing outcast characters. He most recently appeared as Khashoggi in *We Will Rock You (IMT)* and has also played numerous other amateur and professional roles. Travis has thoroughly enjoyed bringing Gilford Sterling to life, - despite the character's various similarities to his own identity.



PRODUCTION PERSONNEL

Director	Jason Fraser
Musical Director	Sally Bodkin-Allen
Choreographer	Hana Skeggs
Assistant Director/Stage Manager	Neil McDonald
Production Assistant	Ilana Edlin
Stage Crew	Brenley Marshall, Aimee Marshall, Parag Tambe, John Perry, Riley Ford, and Nikita Wilson
Set Design	Malcolm McDonald and Jason Fraser
Set painting, and artwork	Malcolm McDonald
Set Construction	Kevin Marshall, Roy Barlow, Grant Milne, Malcolm McDonald, Barry MacKenzie
Wardrobe	Melissa James, Margaret Tait and Shenleigh van't Wout
Properties	Julia Adams, Philip Fraser, David Cocker and Rebecca Adams
Lighting	Peter Thwaites and John Perry
Sound	Tom Moana and Sono Sound
Still Photography	Monica Toretto
Graphic design and Programme	Conrad Broad - The Custom Bubble, Ilana Edlin
Social Media and IT	Jason Fraser
Printing	McDowall Print
Videographer	David Beck - Beck Industries
Bar	Stéphane Fabre and friends of Repertory
Front of House	Repertory Invercargill Committee and Volunteers
Proof Reader	Nola Calvert
Cast Suppers	Liz Fraser

RECORDING CREDITS

Book and lyrics	Roger Gimblett
Music	Sally Bodkin-Allen
Musical arrangements	Joseph O'Donnell and Sally Bodkin-Allen
Guitars, Ukulele, Bass guitar	Dhanesh Parmar
Cello	Wayne Perniskie
Tenor saxophone	Emma Jarman
Mix engineer	Tom Tutahione

REPERTORY INVERCARGILL COMMITTEE

Jonathan Tucker (Patron)

Nigel Edwards (President)

Anya Bowman (Vice President)

Michelle Sievwright (Secretary)

Jo Winters (Treasurer)

Julia Adams, Jo Bremer, Nola Calvert, Ilana Edlin, Stéphane Fabre, Jason Fraser, Kevin Marshall, Neil McDonald, Maggie Pirie

REPERTORY INVERCARGILL LIFE MEMBERS

Julia Adams, Anya Bowman, Nola Calvert, Winston Forrest, Dorothy Hart-Brown, Mark Holmes, Gussie Johnson, Barbara Jones, Kevin Marshall, Lindsey Rodmell, Jonathan Tucker, Relda Watson, John Watson, Angus Welsh

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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COSTUME HIRE

This is to acknowledge the wonderful ladies at the Costume Hire shop. Without this resource many plays would not be possible. For individual hires or group productions, the knowledgeable staff can handle it all. So when you want to look like someone you're not, check out the Costume Hire Shop and let the mirror give you a pleasant surprise.

OUR SPONSORS



Repertory Invercargill is an OSTAS participating society.

WHAT'S ON NEXT AT REP?

A Christmas Pantomime



25, 26 & 27 Nov 2022

PETE & HOOK
MUSICAL THEATRE WORKSHOP
registration now open!
OCTOBER 3 - 8 2022
KENNEDY SCHOOL OF MUSIC - 25 DON STREET

DIRECTOR: TRAVIS LUKE MUSIC DIRECTOR: BETH WAITE CHOREOGRAPHER: JORDAN SKELT

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THOSE AGED 9 - 16 WHO LOVE TO SING, DANCE AND ACT, TO TAKE PART IN A WEEK LONG MUSICAL THEATRE PROGRAMME, CONCLUDING WITH A PERFORMANCE OF THE NEW ZEALAND MUSICAL PETE & HOOK, FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

EMAIL [INFO@KSOM.NZ](mailto:info@ksom.nz) TO REGISTER

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The use of mobile phones and other recording devices in the auditorium during the performance is strictly prohibited without proper authorization. Please mute or turn off your mobile device as a courtesy to the performers and those around you.

In the unlikely event of an emergency, please leave calmly through the nearest fire exit and follow the instructions of the ushers and/or safety wardens.

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