

STAGES

NEWSLETTER ISSUE #6—October/November 2015

Playlovers Inc, in association with The Irish Theatre Players present

A MAN OF NO IMPORTANCE

A Heartwarming Irish Musical

Directed by Andrew Baker
Musical Direction by Tim How
Choreography by Claire Nichols
Designed by Rhiannon Walker

Book by Terrence McNally
Music by Stephen Flaherty
Lyrics by Lynn Ahrens

Based on the movie "A Man of No Importance"
First produced by Lincoln Center Theater

This amateur production is presented by
arrangement with HAL LEONARD AUSTRALIA
PTY LTD on behalf of MUSIC THEATRE
INTERNATIONAL of NEW YORK



Playlovers



IRISH
THEATRE
PLAYERS

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- ◆ A Man of No Importance
- ◆ From the President
- ◆ Meet the Committee
- ◆ Vale Rose Martin
- ◆ Dramafest
- ◆ Youthfest
- ◆ 2016 Submissions
- ◆ What's on where
- ◆ Committee Contacts

A Man of No Importance



Music by **Stephen Flaherty**
Lyrics by **Lynn Ahrens**
Book by **Terrence McNally**
Based on the film
"A Man of No Importance"

By arrangement with Hal Leonard Australia Pty Ltd
Exclusive agent for Music Theatre International (NY)

Directed by **Andrew Baker**
Musical Direction by **Tim How**
Choreography by **Claire Nicholls**
Designer **Rhiannon Walker**

A TENDER and beautifully woven tale of love, friendship and coming to terms with who we are is the basis of a musical being brought to life in November and December.

Playlovers and the Irish Theatre Players have joined forces to stage the WA premiere of *A Man of No Importance* by Terrence McNally, Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty – the same team behind *Seussical* and the Tony Award-winning *Ragtime*.

Based on the 1994 film starring Albert Finney, the musical is set in 1964 Dublin and follows bus driver Alfie Byrne, whose heart holds secrets he can't share with anyone but his imagined confidante Oscar Wilde.

When he attempts to put on an amateur production of Wilde's *Salome* in the local church hall, Alfie confronts the forces of bigotry and shame over a love "that dare not speak its name".

Infused with Irish charm, soaring ballads and toe-tapping ensemble numbers, *A Man of No Importance* won the 2003 Outer Critics Circle Award for best off-Broadway musical.

Director Andrew Baker said the musical was quintessentially Irish and it seemed like a

natural fit to ask the Irish Theatre Players to get on board.

"It's a great opportunity for Playlovers to forge a stronger relationship with a company that's just down the road from us," he said.

"Of course, with a musical set in Dublin, we'd be crazy not to try to attract some genuine Irish talent to our show as well.

"*A Man of No Importance* is not the most famous musical in the world so it was a challenge to spread the word and get people interested in auditioning, especially given the characters' ages range from 18 to 70.

"But our collaboration with the Irish Theatre Players paid off with some excellent local Irish talent coming out of the woodwork."

The musical's structure also presented interesting challenges, according to Baker.

"Alfie's story is told by his own friends, the loveable band of amateur actors he directs at St Imelda's Players," he said. "It's intensely theatrical, playful and not at all conventional.

"Getting the audience to take this imaginative leap with us will be a challenge – but a fun one!"



The cast of *A Man of No Importance*

First performing in musical theatre at school, Baker appeared in numerous shows at Playlovers before training at the WA Academy of Performing Arts for three years and moving to Melbourne to work professionally. He returned to Perth last year and was named best actor at the annual Finley Awards for his role in *Sordid Lives*.

Baker said one simple reason made *A Man of No Importance* appealing to him: the music.

"Ahrens and Flaherty have a way of creating work that hits deep," he said. "The music and the emotional arc of the play are intensely moving for me."

"When I was at drama school, training as a musical theatre performer, the show had just premiered in New York and was a popular source of material for me and my fellow students."

"It's also the kind of show that community theatre can do better than the professionals, in a way."

"It could never be produced commercially in Australia and, at its heart, it's all about the eccentricity and charm of community theatre."

CAST

<i>Alfie Byrne</i>	David Gardette
<i>Robbie Fay</i>	Joshua Firman
<i>Adele Rice</i>	Daisy Valerio
<i>Lily Byrne</i>	Trudy Dunn
<i>Mr Carney/</i>	
<i>Oscar Wilde</i>	Chris Gerrish
<i>Baldy</i>	Stan O'Neill
<i>Mrs Grace</i>	Alida Chaney
<i>Miss Crowe</i>	Lindsay McNab
<i>Mrs Curtin</i>	Casey Edwards
<i>Father Kenny</i>	Alan O'Neil
<i>Ernie Lally</i>	Bobby Greaney
<i>Rasher Flynn</i>	Gerry Grogan
<i>Sully O'Hara</i>	Joe Grace
<i>Mrs Patrick</i>	Dee Houlihan
<i>Breton Beret</i>	Stefan Brand
<i>Kitty Farrelly</i>	Andrea Von Bertouch
<i>Ensemble</i>	
<i>and other roles</i>	Erin Craddock, Brian Donohoe, Andrew Hobbs



Foreground, left to right: Alida Chaney, Dee Houlihan, Lindsay McNab, Stan O'Neill, Daisy Valerio and David Gardette



David Gardette and Daisy Valerio as Alfie and Adele

PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

A Man of No Importance

Dates and Times:

Nov 20, 21, 26, 27, 28, Dec 3, 4, 5 at 8pm;
Nov 22, 29 matinee at 2pm

Performance Venue:

Playlovers Theatre (Hackett Hall), Draper St, Floreat,
Doors open half an hour prior to curtain.

Ticket Prices:

\$25 Adult **\$20** Concession

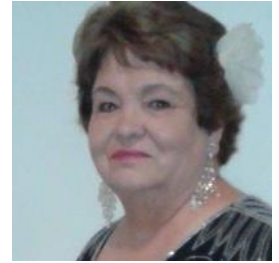
\$20 group bookings (group =10 or more)

There is an additional **\$5** charge for the Matinee performance on **Sunday 29** as this includes a post-show high tea

Bookings:

Book online: <http://playlovers.org.au/online-bookings/>
or email bookings@playlovers.org.au
or phone 0415 777 173

From our President



Hi Everyone,

Not long before we will be able to watch *A Man of No Importance*. I haven't seen the show but I have heard the singing and it sounded wonderful. I have it on very good authority that the show is "fabulous".

Please get in early and book your tickets and tell all your family and friends either the old fashioned way of speaking directly to, or the present way with email, facebook, twitter, etc. and let them know how they will have a really good night by coming along to Playlovers.

The last weekend in October a small group of people were at Hackett Hall to have a clean up and what a good job they did. Lyn, David Young and I were down there last week and went through the remaining clothes and got rid of a terrific amount of "unnecessary stuff".

Pleeeeeease, if you are down under the stage looking for costumes, put everything back in its place and most importantly tell Lyn or David that you have taken something. Many costumes have "gone missing" (most annoying). Enough of my ranting.

Cheers for now, and see you at AMONI.

Bronwyn

Meet the Committee - Sean Bullock



Name	Sean Bullock
Committee Portfolio/s	Committee member & member of reading committee
Place of Birth	Johannesburg, South Africa
Occupation	Office Manager
Favourite Musical	Phantom of the Opera
Favourite Film	Way to many to choose from. Although anything with Helen Mirren or Judi Dench
Favourite Music	Almost all types of music, especially classical and musical soundtracks
Favourite Book	The political thriller series by Vince Flynn
Favourite Food	Traditional roast beef and veg, and spaghetti bolognaise
Favourite Country	England
Bucket List Item	Learn to sing

How I came to be involved with Playlovers... I first became aware of Playlovers when a group of my friends brought me to see *Boeing Boeing* and I was incredibly impressed by the quality of the production. I then came to a number of productions before being asked to perform in the one act production of *The Broken Slipper*. Following that I became a member of the committee.

How I came to be involved in theatre... Growing up, I was introduced to the theatre by my parents, who took my sister and me to shows in South Africa from the age of 4. I fell in love with everything about it and haven't looked back. I performed in plays at school, but didn't start performing in community theatre until 2013, when I was cast in a one act play that my sister put on at another theatre, and I was hooked.

What my role is on the committee... I am currently a general member on the committee and am also on the reading committee, selecting scripts to suggest to committee for possible inclusion in the seasons.

What would I like to achieve for/contribute to Playlovers... I would like to help Playlovers continue to produce award winning productions and to help bring new ideas to the theatre. I look forward to what the following year has to offer.

VALE ROSE MARTIN

It is with sadness I report the death of Rose Martin, who passed away peacefully in early October 2015.

Rose joined Playlovers in late 1957 just one year after Playlovers started. She had been “hooked” after seeing Playlovers first full-length play – at that time performing in Jolimont Hall.

Her debut, fittingly enough, was in the 1957 Christmas Show, in a play called *The Crimson Coconut*. In the following 2 years, she performed in 6 plays.

In 1960, the year that Playlovers moved into Hackett Hall, she tried her hand as a director, directing 2 one-act plays, as well as acting in another 2 plays, and prompting in a 5th.

Enthusied, and obviously un-exhausted, during the rest of the 60s decade she was involved, either as actor, director, stage-manager or other back-stage activities in a total of 23 plays!

She continued at this breakneck pace over the following 3 decades, for a few years in the early 70s, taking a small diversion with a newly-formed but short-lived club called Phoenix - which sadly did not rise again!

Her 3 children – Leigh, Philip and Stephanie – also performed with Playlovers, both on-stage and off-stage. I suppose it was one way for them to get to see their mother! And I believe Ron, at one point, was considering becoming a professional chauffeur.

In all, over the years, Rose has been involved in over 60 productions for Playlovers, as well as almost a dozen for other clubs. She has directed or acted in some classic productions that Playlovers is proud to have presented:

Gigi

Pygmalion

The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie

Diary of Anne Frank

Inherit the Wind

to name just a few.

She won Plover awards for directing the last 3 of these. She also won a Plover for her performance in *A Tomb With a View*.

Rose has been on various Playlovers’ committees, was club secretary for several years and has, I believe, been in the audience of nearly every production where she herself was not actually involved.

The last play that Rose directed, *House of Bernada Alba* in 1993, was the first full-length play that I was in. I am proud to say that I have worked with such a wonderful woman. I admire her enthusiasm, her energy, her loyalty and her ever-cheerful spirit!

As Rose had a big impact in developing the Playlovers’ philosophy of presenting sometimes challenging works, the Committee has decided to honour her contribution with a new award, the Rose Martin Innovation Award.

Marie Corrigan

Playlovers at Dramafest 2015

The WA One Act Drama Festival known as Dramafest was held this year on 23-28 September, and hosted by Melville Theatre Company. Playlovers entered *Following the Black Sheep*.

Campbell Greenock received The Mike Binns Award for Best Director. This play was written by Yvette Wall, who also penned two of the other entries, and was subsequently awarded an Adjudicators Certificate for “Diverse Range of Writing”.

Congratulations!

For information about the other results see the ITA website
<http://www.ita.org.au/2015/09/dramafest-2015-results/>



Playlovers Successful at Youthfest 2015

On the weekend of 19-20 September, the Independent Theatre Association (ITA) ran Youthfest, the One Act Drama Festival for young people.

Playlovers was host again this year, and also had an entry, which collected the following awards.

Our congratulations to all involved.

2015 Awards

Best Actress (Senior)

Roisin Nash playing Elizabeth (Playlovers — *The Wardrobe*)

Best Director

Beth Shaw and **Kimberly Shaw** (Playlovers — *The Wardrobe*)

The Ann Hill Award for Best Senior Production

Playlovers — *The Wardrobe*

Adjudicator Certificates

For Emotional Connection and Stakes

Seamus Harrison (Playlovers — *The Wardrobe*)

For Lighting Operation

Catherine O'Donaghue (Playlovers — *The Wardrobe*)

Full results can be seen at

<http://www.ita.org.au/2015/09/youthfest-2015-official-results/>



Kimberley Shaw, right, with daughters Elisabeth, centre, and Stephanie, left

ATTENTION, DIRECTORS!

2016 Season

We still have one vacancy for 2016.

If you are a director and have been considering making a submission, it is not too late.

Please send your proposal as soon as possible to

submissions@playlovers.org.au

JOONDALUP 2016

BOOK SALE

for Save the Children

Saturday
9th April
9am - 4pm

Sunday
10th April
9am - 1pm

A huge number of quality donated books in popular and specialist categories; also CDs, DVDs, LPs and sheet music will be on sale at bargain prices!

HBF ARENA, KENNEDYA DRIVE, JOONDALUP

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

For more information please
contact Sonia on 08 9267 3925 or email
sonia.holmes@savethechildren.org.au



Playlovers' Playbill 2015

13: THE MUSICAL	FRINGE ONE-ACT SEASON	BENGAL TIGER AT THE BAGHDAD ZOO	GRUESOME PLAYGROUND INJURIES	ONE-ACT SEASON	A MAN OF NO IMPORTANCE
Directed by Kimberley Shaw 4-14 Feb	A Piece of Cake/ The Broken Slipper Directed by Alida Chaney 19-22 Feb	Directed by Andre Victor 8-23 May	Directed by Kristen Twynam-Perkins 10-25 Jul	11-13 Sep	Directed by Andrew Baker 20 Nov-5 Dec
COMPLETED	COMPLETED	COMPLETED	COMPLETED	COMPLETED	BOOKINGS OPEN

What's on Where

What's on	Where	When	Bookings
According to Rumour	Endeavour Theatre Co. at Hamersley Community Recreation Centre, Belvedere Rd, Hamersley	13-21 Nov 2015	9401 6427
Bonnie and Clyde	Murray Music & Drama Club Murray Shire Council 1915 Pinjarra Rd	13-28 Nov 2015	0458 046 414
The Musical of Musicals	Koorliny Arts Centre Kwinana Town Centre	13-28 Nov 2015	www.koorliny.com.au/Book-Tickets.html
Quartet	KADS Theatre Town Square, Barber St Kalamunda	13 Nov–5 Dec 2015	9257 2668
Silhouette	Garrick Theatre 16 Meadow St, Guildford	17 Nov-5 Dec 2015	9378 1990
Saucy Jack and the Space Vixens	Blak Yak Theatre in collabora- tion with Phoenix Theatre Memorial Hall, 435 Carrington St, Hamilton Hill	19 Nov-5 Dec 2015	trybooking.com
Dick Whittington	Darlington Theatre Players Marloo Theatre, Marloo Road, Greenmount	20 Nov-12 Dec 2015	9255 1783
A Nice Family Gathering	Rockingham Theatre 8 Attwood Way Rockingham	26 Nov-5 Dec 2015	www.rockinghamtheatre.com
Sweet Charity	Limelight Theatre Civic Drive, Wanneroo	26 Nov-12 Dec 2015	0499 954 016
Looking Back: A Melville Musical Retrospective	Melville Theatre Stock Rd and Canning Hwy Palmyra	27 Nov–5 Dec 2015	www.meltheco.org.au/bookings/booking-form/
Calendar Girls	Stirling Theatre Morris Place, Innaloo	27 Nov-12 Dec 2015	9440 1040
Anyone for Breakfast?	Harbour Theatre at Camelot Theatre, 16 Lochee St Mosman Park	3-13 Dec 2015	www.TAZTix.com.au
Babes in the Wood	Roleystone Theatre Brookton Hwy, Roleystone	4-19 Dec 2015	www.roleystonetheatre.com.au
No Names, No Pack Drill	Old Mill Theatre Cnr Mends St & Mill Point Rd, South Perth	4-19 Dec 2015	9367 8719 oldmilltheatre.com.au

If undelivered, please return to -
PLAYLOVERS INC
PO BOX 164
WEMBLEY 6913

**SURFACE
MAIL**

**POSTAGE
PAID**

PP602669-00364



Bookings Open

A Man of No Importance

20 November to 5 December 2015
Bookings: www.playlovers.org.au/online-bookings
bookings@playlovers.org.au or
0415 777 173



PLAYLOVERS WEBSITE: www.playlovers.org.au



PLAYLOVERS INFORMATION EMAIL: info@playlovers.org.au



www.facebook.com/PlayloversWA

COMMITTEE 2015

President
Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer
Committee Members:

Bronwyn Hammond	9447 0945
Lyn Hutcheon	6293 1138
Alida Chaney	0403 367 047
Marie Corrigan	0414 529 736
Andrew Baker	0401 443 231
Jackie Brown	0402 962 856
Sean Bullock	0401 635 434
Gaye Harvey	9446 9834
Ewen Malcolm	9284 9785
David Young	9444 2395