



# CLASS ACT

The Stirling Players Inc.

Principal Member of the Stirling Community Theatre

**Summer 2024**

## From the President

2023 was another very successful year with three very different and wonderful productions. We started the year with *Speaking in Tongues* by Andrew Bovell, beautifully directed by Geoff Brittain, and superbly acted by a talented cast.

In July, we presented the Pulitzer Prize winning drama *The Flick*, by Annie Baker. Directed by Riordan Miller-Frost, this play celebrated the talents of our younger arts members, in direction, management, acting and support crew.

Our final production in September was the frenetic, hilarious *Accidental Death of an Anarchist* by Dario Fo. Expertly directed by Lesley Reed and acted by an incredibly energetic and talented cast. What better way to finish the year!

My thanks go to all the directors, cast, crew and other volunteers who have given of their time and shared their many and various talents with us to make 2023 such a success.

Our thanks go to the Stirling Community Theatre Committee for supporting two productions in 2024. This March and April, the Stirling Players will present the Antipodean premiere of *The Explorers Club*! Filled to the brim with late Victorian manners, curious twists and turns and colourful characters, Nell Benjamin's 2013 play crackles with energy and laughter. In September we will present *Sylvia*, a romantic comedy about a dog and her humans set in New York city!

The 2024 Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday 11 February at 4.00pm in the Rehearsal Room at the Stirling Theatre. If you would like to join the The Stirling Players committee, please contact me on 0404 555 808 for further details.

**Annual membership for 2024** is now due. It is free for all members who are actively involved in productions including Committee members, cast and production team. Registration is required. Active members will receive two complimentary tickets for each production they are involved in.

Annual subscription, including membership, is \$35 for full membership and \$30 concession, which provides two discounted tickets for use either together for one production, or seperately for both productions. Refer to The Stirling Players website for further details about registration of annual membership and subscription.

Finally, my thanks go to all members of the Committee for their significant contribution to a very successful 2023.

*John Graham*  
President

## 2023 Committee

- President:** John Graham
- Vice-President:** Vacant
- Secretary:** Gayle Hammond
- Treasurer:** Kristen Graham
- Members:** Roger Chapple  
Jackie Ferdinands  
Imelda Grubel  
George Jankovic  
Leslie Laub  
Tania Thorne

## 2024 Calendar



**AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE**  
22 Mar – 13 April

**Written by Nell Benjamin**  
**Directed by Emily Currie**

London, 1879. The prestigious Explorers Club is in crisis. The acting president wants to admit a woman and their bartender is terrible! See more on Page 2!



13 – 28 September

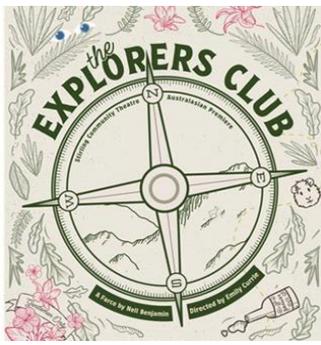
**Written by A R Gurney**  
**Directed by Erik Strauts**

It's middle age! Greg's business career is winding down. His wife, Kate, watches her career take off. Their New York city nest is now empty, but then along comes Sylvia. She's a dog ... and she's no Lassie!

## The Stirling Players Inc

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## AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE "THE EXPLORERS CLUB"

**Written by Nell Benjamin**  
**Directed by Emily Currie**

Fridays, 22 March, & 5, 12 April at 7.30pm  
Saturdays, 23 March, & 6 April at 3.00pm  
Saturday, 13 April at 7.30pm  
Sunday, 24 March & 7 April at 3.00pm

The Explorers Club has invited Miss Phyllida Spotte-Hume to present the findings from her most recent expedition to an undisclosed location in South America. This is notable because the place she has said to have been was considered mythical, and she's a woman. Will the illustrious 1879 world of British Scientific society allow such a scandal? Or could it result in a bigger scandal...say treason?

Nell Benjamin re-writes a farcical history centred around the late Victorian scientific community in a ridiculous, bombastic style reminiscent of 'Blackadder'. In the tradition of farce all the situations are outrageous but the characters play them with sincerity. Using historically held assumptions about women and other cultures Benjamin has intertwined caricatures of 1879 austerity for satirical commentary relevant to a modern audience.

Director Emily Currie, has cast a fantastic group of actors from the Hills, Fleurieu and Adelaide to perform the play, and is looking forward to diving into rehearsals this January. Bob Peet's set design will create an opulent and welcoming Victorian gentleman's club within the Stirling Community Theatre, a homage to the style of the time, with quirky additions thrown in. Perfect conditions for a sherry and a good laugh!

Book early to avoid disappointment. Tickets on sale:  
<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1165660>

**TICKETS \$27, \$22 concession & \$20 group 10+**  
(Includes programme)

### Join our Front of House Team

The Stirling Players Front of House is well known for our welcoming sherry, cosy wood fires, amazing Howards wines and most importantly our welcoming FOH volunteers. If you'd like to join our team, please call Kristen at [kgraham.ct@gmail.com](mailto:kgraham.ct@gmail.com) or 0449 220 604.

## What the reviewers said.....

### Accidental Death of an Anarchist



#### Barry Lenny, Broadway World

Reed has brought together a very experienced group of performers....There is a great deal of energy and enthusiasm

#### Daniel Barnett, Glam Adelaide

The set is brilliant, perfectly encapsulating the Stirling space.

#### Mark Wickett, Stage Whispers

This hilarious absurdist comedy is a well-polished production..... Gilian Cordell's and Louise Lapans' costumes with Kathryn Stevens' hairstyles are stars of the show as much as the performers.....What Director Reed has achieved is to bring a stage overflowing with superb acting talent, thrown in elements of Marx (Groucho more than Karl), a dash of Commedia dell'Arte, and lashings of hot, contemporary satire, to deliver a cracking, comical story with a dark undertone, that excels in all aspects of its production. There are not many plays you can chuckle through from curtain up to house lights, yet still emerge shocked and informed about the ongoing corruption of power.

#### David Smith, TASA

This rendition of "Accidental Death of an Anarchist" provided a thought- provoking take on Dario Fo's work..... It showcased the dedication and hard work of the cast and crew. The world of theatre is diverse, and this production certainly contributes to its rich tapestry.

