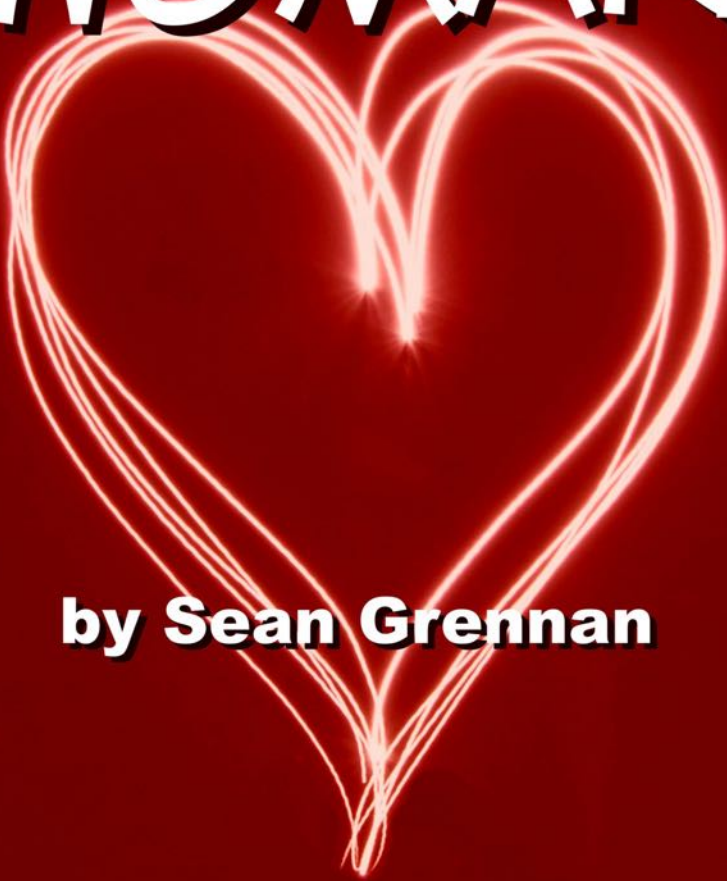


malverntheatre
company

is proud to present its 381st major production



THE TIN WOMAN



by Sean Grennan

by arrangement with ORiGiN™ Theatrical

13 – 28 February 2026

Directed by Brett Turner-Valenta

Cast

| | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Joy | Lucy Norton |
| Jack | John Murphy |
| Alice | Julie Arnold |
| Hank | Rob Coulson |
| Sammy | Ajsha Trebilco |
| Nurse/ Darla | Katie Macfie |

About the Play

Joy has Jack's heart – literally. She received it as a transplant. But rather than finding peace in the new opportunity she has been given, Joy spirals into despair. Why has she been given more life? Whose heart now beats in her body? Meanwhile, Jack's parents and sister grapple with the sudden loss of a deeply loved young man. Can a meeting between Joy and Jack's family bring the possibility of acceptance and peace to them all?

Based on a true story, Sean Grennan's humourous, heart-warming play explores the challenges of moving on, and the joy of a second chance. Malvern Theatre Company is delighted to present this poignant, life-affirming story about the threads that bind us together.

About the Playwright



Sean Grennan

Sean Grennan is a playwright, lyricist, librettist and actor who began writing for the stage as co-librettist for *Phantom of the Country Palace*. His first non-musical, the comedy *Luck!*, was produced in New York City. His musicals, with composer Leah Okimoto, include *Married Alive!*, *A Dog's Life* and *Another Night Before Christmas*. Other comedies he has written include *Beer for Breakfast*, *As Long as We Both Shall Live* and *Making God Laugh*. This play – *The Tin Woman* – premiered in 2014 and is currently being adapted as a musical.

Following a career in his hometown of Chicago, Sean now lives in New York City, sharing a home with his actress-muse-wife, Kathy Santen (who appeared in Broadway's *Wicked*), and his dog, Hank.

Setting

Joy's apartment, a hospital and the donor family's home, somewhere in the USA. It is modern day.

The performance runs for approximately 2 hours, including a 20 minute interval.

Complimentary tea, coffee and biscuits will be available during the interval. Wine will also be available for purchase.

TRIGGER WARNING

This performance shows depictions of death, dying, trauma and grief.



Lucy Norton – Joy

Lucy is thrilled to return to Malvern Theatre Company after last performing here as 'Lucy' in *Cosi* in 2005. She has since attended the National Theatre Drama School and has been involved in a multitude of independent theatre productions (both acting and directing), corporate voice overs, short films, web series and advertisements. 2025 saw Lucy venture back into community theatre, performing in Williamstown Little Theatre's *Things I Know To Be True* as 'Pip' and as 'Julie' in Brighton Theatre Company's *Fallen Angels*, a role for which she picked up a Victorian Drama League nomination for Best Actress Lead Role – Comedy.



John Murphy – Jack

John is delighted to return to Malvern Theatre's stage, where he was most recently seen as 'Tom' in *The Glass Menagerie*. John has also appeared previously on Malvern Theatre's stage in *Our Town* and *The Man Who Came to Dinner*. Elsewhere, recent and favourite onstage appearances have been in *Significant Other* (with Essendon Theatre Company), *Jumpers for Goalposts* (with Williamstown Little Theatre), *Flipside* (with Brighton Theatre Company) and *Visiting Mr Green* (with Mordialloc Theatre Company). John is delighted to bring this heartfelt, funny, and poignant play to Malvern Theatre Company audiences.



Julie Arnold – Alice

Julie's last couple of roles at Malvern Theatre Company were as 'Aunt March' in the musical version of *Little Women* and as the no nonsense editor, 'Emily Penrose' in *Lifespan of a Fact*. For the last couple of months, Julie has been having fun playing a small support role in a new action blockbuster, hostage thriller film called *Empire City* starring Gerard Butler, currently filming here in Melbourne and due for release in 2027. She also recently played a small support role in a new John Safran satirical documentary set to screen on SBS this year.



Rob Coulson – Hank

This is Rob's debut with Malvern Theatre Company. He was most recently seen as 'Sir Henry Dithering' in Encore Theatre Company's production of *Agatha Crispie*, for which he has been nominated for a Lyrebird Award. In 2024, he received a Victorian Drama League Best Actor in a Comedy nomination for his role as 'Morris' in *Minnie and Liraz*. Other favourite roles include 'Doctor Armstrong' in *And Then There Were None*, 'Derek' in *Role Play* and 'Piper' in *One for the Pot*. When Rob is not on stage, he can be found at his local bowling green.



Ajsha Trebilco – Sammy

The Tin Woman is Ajsha's first production at Malvern Theatre Company, and in Australia, since moving to Melbourne at the end of 2023. Originally from New Zealand, Ajsha has performed in many productions in the Waikato starting with Riverlea Theatre's *West Side Story* back in 2010, where she played a 'Jet girl'. Other notable performances include 'Heloise' in *In Extremis*, directed by Louise Blackstock and performed at the Hamilton Gardens Festival in 2014; 'Julie' in *Cosi* with Hamilton Playbox Theatre Company in 2017; and 'Anna' in *Closer* with One Question Theatre Company in 2023.



Katie Macfie – Nurse/ Darla

Originally from Perth, Katie's love for the theatre has seen her perform regularly. She is delighted to return to the Malvern Theatre Company stage, having previously appeared in 2017 in the Noël Coward double *Brief Encounter* and *We Were Dancing*. More recently, she has performed with Heidelberg Theatre Company in *Rumors* as 'Cookie' and *An Ideal Husband* as 'Lady Markby'. Other role highlights include 'Mrs Lyons' in *Blood Brothers*, 'Charlotte' in *Beyond Therapy* and 'Clown 1' in *The 39 Steps*, for which she received a Victorian Drama League nomination. Katie has relished playing the dual roles in this touching and heartfelt play.



Director

Brett Turner-Valenta

Brett has been involved in theatre for the last 44 years working with many Melbourne-based companies. His directing credits include *Educating Rita* and *My Son the Lawyer is Drowning*, both with Strathmore Theatrical Arts Group (STAG); *Steel Magnolias* and *Quartet* for Heidelberg Theatre Company; and *Shirley Valentine* for Williamstown Little Theatre. He was awarded the Victorian Drama League Best Director – Comedy Award and Best Production – Comedy Award, for the Essendon Theatre Company's production of *Enchanted April*. Brett was also a tied Victorian Drama League Best Production – Drama Award recipient for the highly acclaimed production of *Visiting Mr Green*, which he staged with Williamstown Little Theatre.

Director's Notes

When I first read *The Tin Woman*, I was struck by how beautifully it was written. A woman that is given a second chance. Does she see things differently after coming to terms with her own mortality? A family trying to cope, each in their own way, with a tragedy and how they deal, not only with the loss, but also with each other. Loss is a universal experience we all will share at some stage. How you deal with it and the impact your actions have on others will always leave a mark, either good or bad. I hope you enjoy this production of *The Tin Woman*.

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L'Olivo is a small, family-owned restaurant located at 171 Waverley Rd in Malvern East. Show your ticket for a 10% discount off your total bill. Visit lolivo.com.au.



Fletchers is a proud, fourth-generation family-based real estate agency, with a 100+ year history. Visit fletchers.net.au.

Menzies Malvern

Menzies Malvern is a contemporary retirement village, providing an exceptional lifestyle in the heart of cosmopolitan Melbourne. Further details at menziesmalvern.com.au.



Via Fratelli is a traditional Italian restaurant located at 151 Waverley Rd, Malvern East. Mention the show at the time of booking for a 10% discount off your total bill. Visit viafratelli.com.au.



Community Bank Malvern East is a local bank with 23 years history dedicated to servicing the community. Further details at bendigobank.com.au/branch/vic/community-bank-malvern-east.

Production Team

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Director | Brett Turner-Valenta |
| Assistant Director | Adrian Valenta |
| Stage Manager | Barry James |
| Assistant Stage Manager | Jessica Evans |
| Set Designer | Janine Evans |
| Lighting Designer..... | Linda Corrin |
| Sound Designer..... | Brett Turner-Valenta |
| Costume Designer | Harry Bell |
| Props Designer | Barry James |
| Lighting and Sound Operator..... | Linda Corrin, Nicholas Opolski |
| Rehearsal Prompt..... | Jessica Evans |
| Technical Director | Michael Birkett |
| Set Construction..... | David Allen, Noel Ellis, Max Murray |
| Production Coordinator..... | Nicholas Opolski |
| Programme Designer | Janine Evans |
| Programme Coordinator..... | Monica Greenwood |
| Photography | Lorraine Bell |
| Publicity..... | Blake Stringer |
| FOH Manager..... | Judy Clues |
| Ticketbox Manager..... | David Gordon |
| Ticket Secretary..... | Kerry Carr |

Featured Crew Team Member



Linda Corrin

Lighting Designer, Sound & Lighting Operator

Born into a community theatre family, Linda began performing at the age of five and has been involved in one way or another in over 80 productions. Some of her favourite roles on stage include 'Gwendolen' in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, 'Mrs Dashwood' in *Sense and Sensibility*, and 'Milky White' (the cow) in *Into the Woods*.

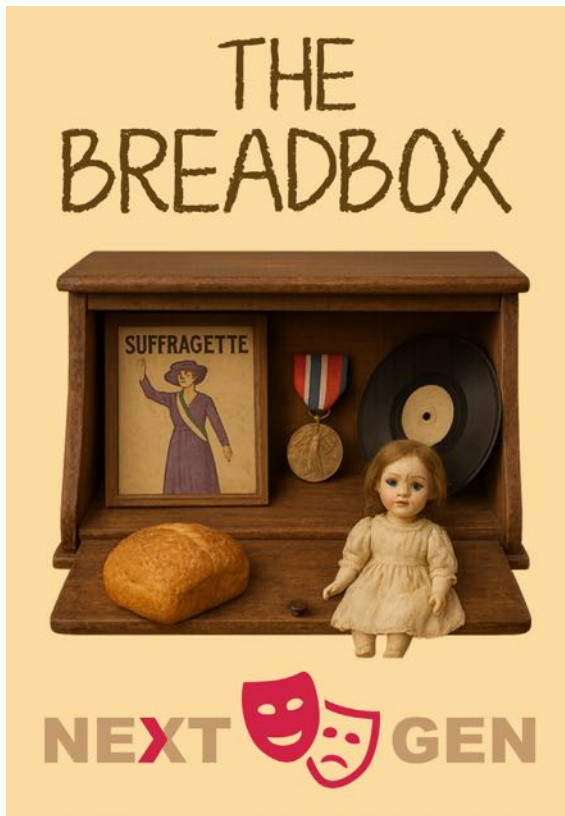
Feeling her talents may be of more use behind the scenes, she moved into musical direction, stage managing and lighting/sound design. In 2000, she directed her first musical and has subsequently directed six productions including *Blood Brothers*, *Merrily We Roll Along*, *Arcadia*, and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. After a break of 10 years and a move to Melbourne, she has reignited her passion for theatre by getting involved in lighting operation/design and stage management for various groups including Mordialloc Theatre Company, Peridot Theatre Company and Brighton Theatre Company. *The Tin Woman* marks Linda's 11th production with Malvern Theatre Company.

Calling All Volunteers

Would you like to volunteer at Malvern Theatre? There are many opportunities to be involved. Please visit our website and click on the 'Volunteer' tab to express your interest.



Next at Malvern Theatre Company



The Breadbox

A young couple is drawn into the past through exploring the wares at an elderly widow's garage sale. Unbeknown to them, each seemingly unassuming item holds echoes of the intergenerational struggles of women throughout pivotal historical periods. The well-loved, handmade breadbox has witnessed love, tragedy, courage, humour and change, and just like the loaves it once contained, each story has been kneaded and baked to perfection.

Directed by Rory McGrath

13 – 15 March 2026

To book tickets, visit our website at malvernthatre.com.au/book-tickets or phone 1300 131 552.

Acknowledgements

Malvern Theatre Company acknowledges that we are performing on the traditional land of the Boon Wurrung and Wurundjeri People and offer our respects to their elders past, present and emerging.

Malvern Theatre Company is very grateful for the support provided by the City of Stonnington.

As an organisation, we take pride in supporting the local volunteer network in the community and the charitable organisations that underpin this important work. As such, we have donated all benefits of the Charity Night performance to the following organisations:

- Ashburton Baptist Church
- RSPCA
- The Compassionate Friends Victoria

If you are a member of a volunteer group or a charitable organisation and would like to raise funds by arranging a group to attend our Charity Night Preview Performance, please contact us at malvernthatrecompany@gmail.com.