

malverntheatre
company

is proud to present its 375th major production



**TRUE
MINDS**

by Joanna Murray-Smith

25 October – 9 November 2024

Directed by Dexter Bourke

By arrangement with **Joanna Murray-Smith**

The Cast

Tracey.....	Angela Gillett
Daisy.....	Sophie Stewart
Mitch.....	Matt Phillips
Grayson.....	Frank Schrever
Vivienne.....	Marianne Collopy
Benedict.....	Matt Young

Synopsis

Daisy Grayson is the author of a very successful book, which claims that, despite being an old-fashioned notion, 'no man will marry a woman that his mother doesn't approve of'. Tonight, Daisy is set to meet her fiancé's mother, a frightening, fierce, arch-conservative and hopes to win her approval. But a sudden storm brings unwelcome visitors: her alternative-thinking mother, her Marxist father, and, even worse, her ex-boyfriend, just out of rehab.

True Minds is a fast-talking, frenetically-paced romantic comedy about love and relationships, that explores the area between following the heart and listening to the head, from one of Australia's most popular and successful playwrights.

Setting

The present day, Daisy's inner-city apartment in Melbourne.
Late afternoon / evening.
The performance runs for approximately two hours, with a 20 minute interval.



About the Playwright

Joanna Murray-Smith

Joanna Murray-Smith is a playwright, novelist, librettist, screen-writer and columnist. Her plays have been produced throughout Australia and all over the world. They include *True Minds*, *Switzerland*, *Fury*, *The Female of the Species* and *Julia* in addition to adaptations of Ingmar Bergman's *Scenes From A Marriage* and more recently of Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya*. Murray-Smith is universally recognised as a prolific writer who is not averse to confronting contemporary social issues in addition to the dynamics of human relationships.

Next at Malvern Theatre Company



NEXT GEN at Chapel Off Chapel

writing coordinated by and produced by Danny Gibbins

Friday 17 – Sunday 19 January

Malvern Theatre Company's up-and-coming young team will showcase their talents in this, their self-devised, inaugural production at Chapel Off Chapel. Creatives, crew members and cast are drawn from the alumni of our highly successful 2024 **Emerging Leaders** program, which provided them with training and mentoring to develop their particular talents and interests in live theatre.



Dexter Bourke – Director

Dexter has worked in community theatre with numerous groups since the mid 60's. Having spent around 50 years enjoying acting and then realising he's not that good at it, decided he'd try his hand at directing. He won Best Production with his first attempt and has since won numerous Best Director and Best Production awards. Whilst enjoying watching many Malvern Theatre Company productions over the years, this is his first opportunity to direct for this highly regarded Community Theatre group. Dexter hopes you enjoy watching *True Minds* and he would love to direct here again in coming years.



Angela Gillett – Tracey

After taking a break the last few years, Angela is excited to be treading the boards in her first appearance with Malvern Theatre Company. She received a Victorian Drama League award for Best Actress in a Minor Role for 'Ethel Chauvenet' in *Harvey* with Eltham Little Theatre. She also won an award for her portrayal of 'Lacey' in *The Tree Man* for Ark Theatre's One Act Play Festival. Other notable roles include as 'M'Lynn' in *Steel Magnolias* and 'Mrs Irving' in *Summer of the Aliens*. Rehearsing and performing alongside her *True Minds* cast and crew has been a privilege for Angela.



Sophie Stewart – Daisy

This is Sophie's first performance with Malvern Theatre Company and she is so excited to be portraying the feisty but somewhat highly-strung Daisy. Recently she has portrayed 'Mrs White' in Eltham Little Theatre's production of *Clue*, for which she received a Best Supporting Actress nomination, 'Olli' in Essendon Theatre Company's *The Worst Thing Is* which won Best Drama at the 2023 Gemco One Act Play Festival, and 'The Narrator' / 'Myrtle' in Essendon Theatre Company's production of *Puffs*. She has also loved volunteering as Malvern Theatre Company's Front-Of-House staff for previous productions and hopes you will love *True Minds* as much as she does.



Matt Phillips – Mitch

This will be Matt's second production with Malvern Theatre Company, his first being as 'Terry' in *Loyal Women*, many years ago. Since then, Matt has performed in countless productions with highlights including *Heroes*, *Wait Until Dark*, *Cosi* and *Bouncers and Shakers*. Matt has also had the absolute pleasure of working under Dexter's direction previously, in *Heroes* and *Patient 12*. Matt has always loved being on stage, entertaining audiences and meeting new people which he has done since he was 17. He is looking forward to creating many more unforgettable theatre memories.



Frank Schrever – Grayson

Frank has performed in plays since Secondary school where he got the bug, then continued performing at University of Melbourne and in a Midlands (UK) group during the mid 70's. He has acted with a number of theatre groups around Melbourne. Frank has performed in several productions at Malvern Theatre Company including *The Coward Double*, *Strangers on a Train*, the award winning *The Witness for the Prosecution*, and last year in *Whales of August*. Frank is married, with two children and five grandchildren.



Marianne Collopy – Vivienne

Marianne first appeared here in 2011 in *Six Degrees of Separation*. Other favourite productions include *The Glass Menagerie* and *Steel Magnolias*, both with Heidelberg Theatre Company; *Bette and Joan* at Brighton Theatre Company; Mordialloc Theatre Company's *84 Charing Cross Road* and, with Williamstown Little Theatre, *Doubt: A Parable* and *A Bed Among the Lentils*. She is delighted to again work with Dexter, following successful seasons of *Ghosts* and *The History Boys* with The 1812 Theatre. Marianne has received both a Lyrebird and a Victorian Drama League Award.



Matt Young – Benedict

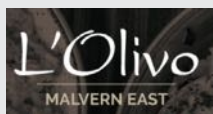
Matt is a Tasmanian actor and comedian who is an award-winning teacher, producer and ensemble member at The Improv Conspiracy Theatre. He has appeared on ABC's *Gruen* and Amazon Prime's *Deadloch*. Matt has participated in the Melbourne International Comedy Festival for the past 10 years, where he has written, performed, directed and produced stand-up, sketch, and improv shows. This includes 2024's *Cool & Smart & Friend*, where he improvised alongside guests including Guy Montgomery, Virginia Gay and Glenn Robbins. He is very excited and somewhat daunted to be learning lines from a script, in his first production with Malvern Theatre Company.

Thanks to our Sponsors



Community Bank Malvern East is a local bank with 23 years history dedicated to servicing the community with personalised service and great banking products.

They are committed to remaining in the area with them recently purchasing their premises at 268 Waverley Rd, Malvern East. With more than \$5m given back to community groups, they have demonstrated they feed into the prosperity of their community, not off their community. Further details at www.bendigobank.com.au/branch/vic/community-bank-malvern-east.



L'Olivo is a small, family-owned restaurant located at 171 Waverley Rd in Malvern East. In a warm, friendly atmosphere, L'Olivo serves up an array of tasty Mediterranean delicacies including tapas, pastas, pizza and much more. Recommended for a pre or post-show meal, coffee or drink! Visit lolivo.com.au for further details or to book.



AUV Real Estate specialises in private sales and property management. They have achieved consistently strong results in the Malvern East area in 2022 and 2023. With both leasing and sales services being offered, they can meet all your needs, no matter the enquiry. Further details at auvreal estate.com.au.

Menzies Malvern

For over 20 years Menzies Malvern, a contemporary retirement village, has provided an exceptional lifestyle in the heart of cosmopolitan Melbourne. Live a short stroll from the delights of Malvern's cafes and boutiques while enjoying the peaceful retreat of your beautiful home. Menzies Malvern will enrich your wellbeing with a warm community of like-minded neighbours, resort-style luxuries and thoughtfully designed surrounds. It's your place to live well. Further details menziesmalvern.com.au.

Director's Notes

Since first enjoying watching a Malvern Theatre Company production many years ago, I have very much looked forward to either acting or directing with this highly regarded group. Being given the opportunity to direct *True Minds*, written by Joanna Murray-Smith, is proving to be a highly satisfying experience. *True Minds* is jam-packed with beautifully crafted lines and sharp humour delivered by a highly talented cast within situations we can all relate to. I am particularly indebted to the creative talent within the Malvern Theatre Company involved in putting together this wonderfully entertaining example of human dynamics and relationships.

Production Team

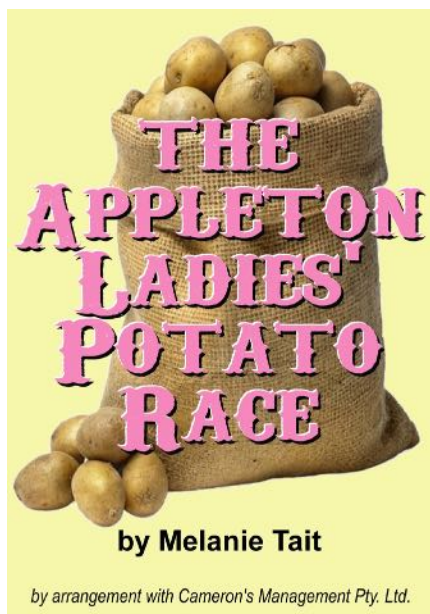
Director	Dexter Bourke
Director's Assistant	Nicole Comber
Stage Manager	Barry James
Set Designer	Neil Barnett
Lighting Designer.....	Nick Cauchi
Sound Designer.....	Pam Ford
Costume Designer	Dina Mac Namara
Props Designer	Margaret Baxter
Lighting and Sound Operator	Kate Deavin
Prompt.....	Barbara Talbot
Technical Director	Michael Birkett
Set Construction	David Allen, Noel Ellis, Peter Erlanger, ... John James, Graeme Munro, Max Murray
Production Coordinator	Simon Cooper
Program Designer	Janine Evans
Program Coordinator.....	Monica Greenwood
Photography	Lorraine Bell
Publicity.....	Blake Stringer, Rory McGrath
FOH Manager.....	Judy Clues
Ticketbox Manager.....	David Gordon
Ticket Secretary.....	Kerry Carr

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 Appleton Ladies' Potato Race

by Melanie Tait

When Penny returns to her hometown of Appleton in NSW to set up as the local GP, she is excited to embrace the town and all its quirky pastimes, including the biggest event of the year, the famous Potato Sack Race. However, when she learns the prize money for the women is 5 times lower than that for the men, well, she just can't stay silent. But she isn't prepared for the battles she is about to face.

Inspired by Melanie Tait's own experiences, Appleton tackles gender politics and the fight for equality in an exuberant, warm-hearted comedy. This sparkling play has enjoyed return, sell-out seasons across the country and has been adapted into a movie. Malvern Theatre Company is delighted to present its first Victorian production.

Directed by Helen Ellis

14 February – 1 March 2025

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
- Caritas East Malvern
- 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.