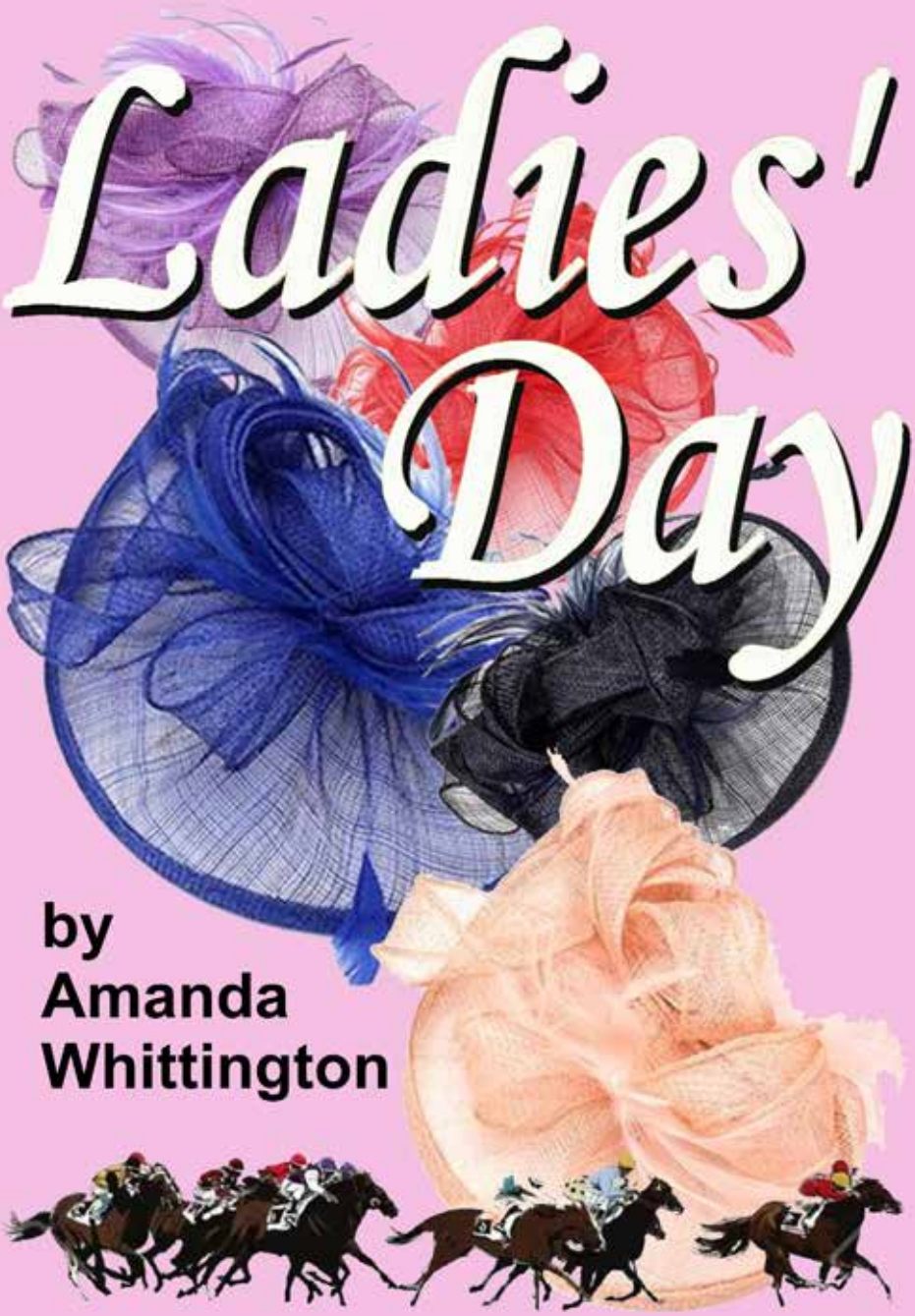
malverntheatre

is proud to present our 366th major production

Ladies' Day



by
Amanda
Whittington

17th February – 4th March 2023

Directed by Pip Le Blond

By arrangement with **Origin Theatrical P/L**

The Cast

Jan ..... Louise Gracey

Linda ..... Naomi Crossley

Shelley ..... Marie Kelly

Pearl ..... Jill Gilligan

Joe ..... Andrew Coyne

Fred/ Patrick ..... Elliot Shute

Jim ..... Gilbert Gauci

Barry ..... Bruce Hardie

Synopsis

Life is one long, hard slog for the fish-filleting foursome Pearl, Jan, Shelley and Linda. But their fortunes are set to change when they head to Ladies' Day at the races. Factory hair nets make way for fascinators as the four friends hit the races for an unforgettable day out. Secrets are spilled with the champagne and friendships are tested to the limit. Personal lives and relationships are unveiled in both humorous and somewhat more serious interactions. Yet as the day unfolds and tempers fray, their accumulator bet keeps quietly winning. If their luck and their nerves hold, the ladies could hit the jackpot – and more besides.

Setting

The action takes place at a fish factory in Hull and at the Royal Ascot Races in York, in the UK. The year is 2005.



About the Playwright

Amanda Whittington

Credit: Elizabeth Baker Photography

Amanda Whittington is an English dramatist who has written over 30 plays for theatre and radio. Original stage plays include *The Thrill of Love*, *Ladies' Day*, *Ladies Down Under*, *Mighty Atoms*, *Kiss Me Quickstep*, *Amateur Girl*, *Bollywood Jane*, *Satin n Steel*, *The Dug Out*, *Player's Angels* and *Be My Baby* which is a popular choice for English Literature and Theatre Studies. Recent work includes the book for *Fisherman's Friends: The Musical*, which tours the UK in 2022 – 2023.

Whittington published *Ladies' Day* in 2005 which embarked on a 12-week UK tour with subsequent productions across the UK and the world, both professional and amateur. Her inspiration came from a day at the York races. "The Hull Truck (Theatre) wanted to commission me and I was having a conversation with Gareth about what we might do and he said 'I remember being at York when it was ladies' day at the races and seeing them going in all dolled up and coming out blind drunk - I think there's a play in it', and so he inspired me really. I thought, 'there's something in this gang of women going into ladies' day at the races', so I ran with it and expanded on the idea."

In 2007, Whittington wrote a sequel to *Ladies' Day* called *Ladies Down Under* which sees our fish-filleting foursome celebrate with the trip of a lifetime to Australia.



Pip Le Blond – *Director*

Until recently, Pip's reputation in film, TV and community theatre stemmed mainly from her exemplary acting ability. Over the past 30 years, she has performed at numerous theatre companies including The Basin, Sherbrooke Theatre Company, Knox Theatre Company, Peridot Theatre Company and The 1812 Theatre. Some of her favourite productions as a performer included *The Herbal Bed*, *The Day After The Fair*, *Faulty Towers*, *Key For Two*, *It's Never Too Late* and in particular *Sylvia* where she played the role of the title character (the dog) and for which she won a Lyrebird award for Best Actress.

A few years ago, Pip turned her hand to directing and has had the pleasure of directing many high quality productions including *The Last Of The Summer Wine*, *Boeing Boeing*, *Dad's Army*, *Leading Ladies*, *Outside Edge*, *Till Death Do Us Part* and *Hypnosis*. Most recently Pip and husband Robin formed their own theatre company which toured a production of *War Of The Worlds* and which received a Best Sound Award from the Victorian Drama League in 2021.

Pip is thrilled to be directing for the Malvern Theatre Company, working with an amazing cast in this delightful feel good comedy.

Production Team

Director	Pip Le Blond
Assistant Director	Jan Langford
Stage Manager	Kate Deavin
Assistant Stage Manager	Margaret Baxter
Set Designer	Neil Barnett
Lighting Designer	Robin Le Blond
Sound Designer	Pip Le Blond
Lighting & Sound Operator	Linda Corrin
Costume Designer	Barbara Murray
Props Designer	Neil Barnett, Pip Le Blond
Technical Director	Michael Birkett
Rehearsal Prompt	Jan Langford
Set Construction	David Allen, Noel Ellis, John James, Max Murray
Production Coordinator	Annie Grant
Program Designer	Janine Evans
Program Coordinator	Monica Greenwood
Photography	Lorraine Bell
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.



Louise Gracey – *Jan*

Louise is very happy to be performing in the role of Jan and working with such a talented cast, director and crew! Louise last performed at Malvern Theatre in *Memory of Water*. However, other notable recent productions include *Curtain Up* with Peridot Theatre, *The Kitchen Sink* and *Out of Order* both with Mordialloc Theatre Company and *Outside Edge* at The Basin Theatre. She has also shared the stage in four of Encore Theatre's family productions with her two incredibly talented daughters. Louise really hopes you enjoy this production of *Ladies' Day!*



Naomi Crossley – *Linda*

After a decade out of the theatre game, Naomi finally found her way back to the stage in early 2022. Playing the role of Cassie Cooper in Essendon Theatre Company's production of *Rumors* reignited her love for performing. So she was thrilled to land the role of doe-eyed Linda in *Ladies' Day*, although Tony Christie is now her most played artist on Spotify (which will make sense when you see the play). Naomi has loved working with the fantastic cast and crew at Malvern Theatre Company and hopes you enjoy the show.



Marie Kelly – *Shelley*

Marie has been performing since she could walk and talk at the same time. Her passion for comedy has been lifelong, having performed in improv shows and with sketch comedy group Dr Duck. More recently, Marie has appeared as the television host for youth program *The Leak* and as Elizabeth Proctor in *The Crucible*. This is Marie's debut with Malvern Theatre Company and she is thrilled to be working with the wonderful cast and crew of *Ladies' Day* living vicariously through Shelley and starting 2023 off with a bang.



Jill Gilligan – *Pearl*

Jill is delighted to be performing in her first role for Malvern Theatre Company. She has previously appeared as the Narrator in *Blood Brothers* for Brighton Theatre Company and as a wayward widow in Encore Theatre's production of *The Merry Widows*. She has a background in musical theatre and appeared in *Oklahoma* and *Carousel* for Chatswood Musical Society in Sydney. She is very excited to be back on stage again and really hopes you enjoy the show.



Andrew Coyne – *Joe*

Andrew moved to Australia in late 2011 from the UK where he had an extensive run across amateur theatres. He immediately dived into the world of Victoria's acting scene, making an on stage Australian debut for the 1812 Theatre as Private Pike in *Dad's Army* ahead of continuing to perform in a small number of productions.

Andrew then took a temporary break from theatre, focussing his attention on his sport announcing work. He is now making a welcome stage return as part of *Ladies' Day*.



Elliot Shute – *Fred/ Patrick*

Elliot is delighted to be making his first appearance with Malvern Theatre Company. Hailing from a musical theatre background, he has previously performed in *Mary Poppins*, *The Sound of Music* and *Mamma Mia!* all with Babirra Music Theatre. He recently made his play debut with The 1812 Theatre as Posner in their production of *The History Boys*. Elliot's other notable experience includes working with the Bell Shakespeare Theatre Company and performing his VCE Drama Solo in Melbourne's Arts Centre precinct as a part of VCAA Top Acts 2022.



Gilbert Gauci – *Jim*

This is Gilbert's second play at Malvern Theatre Company, having first performed here as Antonio in *Twelfth Night* (2019). Gilbert has performed in over 40 plays, most recently as the iconic Maxwell Smart in *Get Smart* with Eltham Little Theatre and the Scarecrow in *The Wicked Witches of Oz* with Encore Theatre. He is currently nominated in the Lyrebird Awards for his roles in the Peridot One Act Plays - *Catfish Jumping* and *Line-Up*. Gilbert has enjoyed working with the talented people in this show and looks forward to presenting the snobbish scum wrapped in a prestigious celebrity shell that is Jim McCormack.



Bruce Hardie – *Barry*

Bruce is pleased to be back at Malvern Theatre Company. Regular Malvern theatre-goers may remember Bruce from recent shows such as *Any Given Monday*, *Memory of Water* and *Pygmalion*. Bruce is also happy to be back working under Pip's direction, having previously appeared in Pip's production of *Boeing Boeing*. Bruce's other notable performing highlights include appearing in productions of *God of Carnage*, *Jake's Women*, *Caught in the Net*, *Leading Ladies*, *Sylvia*, *Seminar*, *12 Angry Men* and most recently *Blackbird* and *A Flea in Her Ear*.

Thanks to our Sponsors

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!

L'Olivo MALVERN EAST

Visit lolivo.com.au for further details and to make a booking.

AUV Real Estate achieves strong results in the Malvern East area, specialising in private sales and auctioneering, with consistent results being achieved in 2021 and 2022. With both leasing and sales services being offered, they can meet all your needs, no matter the enquiry.

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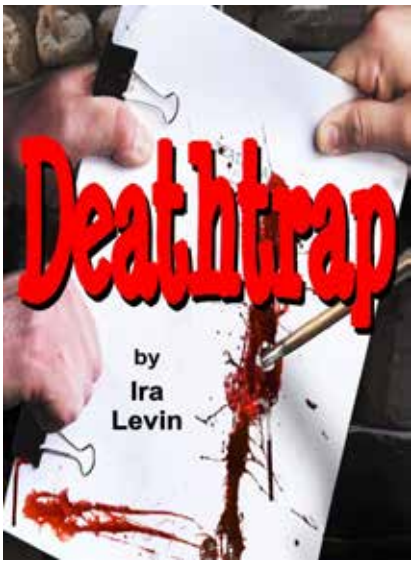
Next at Malvern Theatre



Deathtrap

Comfortably ensconced in his charming Connecticut home, Sidney Bruhl, a successful writer of Broadway thrillers, is struggling to overcome a dry spell which has resulted in a string of failures and a shortage of funds. A possible break in his fortunes occurs when he receives a script from a student in the seminar he has been conducting at a nearby college; a thriller that Sidney recognises immediately as a potential Broadway smash. Sidney's plan, devised with his wife's help, is to offer collaboration to the student for co-credit. Or is it? *Deathtrap* provides twists and turns of devilish cleverness and offers hilariously sudden shocks in such abundance that audiences will be spellbound until the very last moment.

Directed by Keith Hutton
21st April – 6th May 2023
Tickets on sale now
Phone 1300 131 552, or online via our website:
www.malverntheatre.com.au/book-tickets

Acknowledgments

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 both past, present and emerging.

Special thanks to Tracey Gaspari for the loan of the riding hat and to Jane Bourke for her comprehensive advice about all things racing as well as for the loan of silks, hats, and lab coats which made costuming the play much easier.

Malvern is very grateful to our many donors, in particular our SILVER DONOR ($100), **Kevin Hooper**.

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
- Country Women's Association of NSW, Umina Beach Branch
- RSPCA
- St Joseph's Catholic Parish, Malvern
- The Compassionate Friends Victoria

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