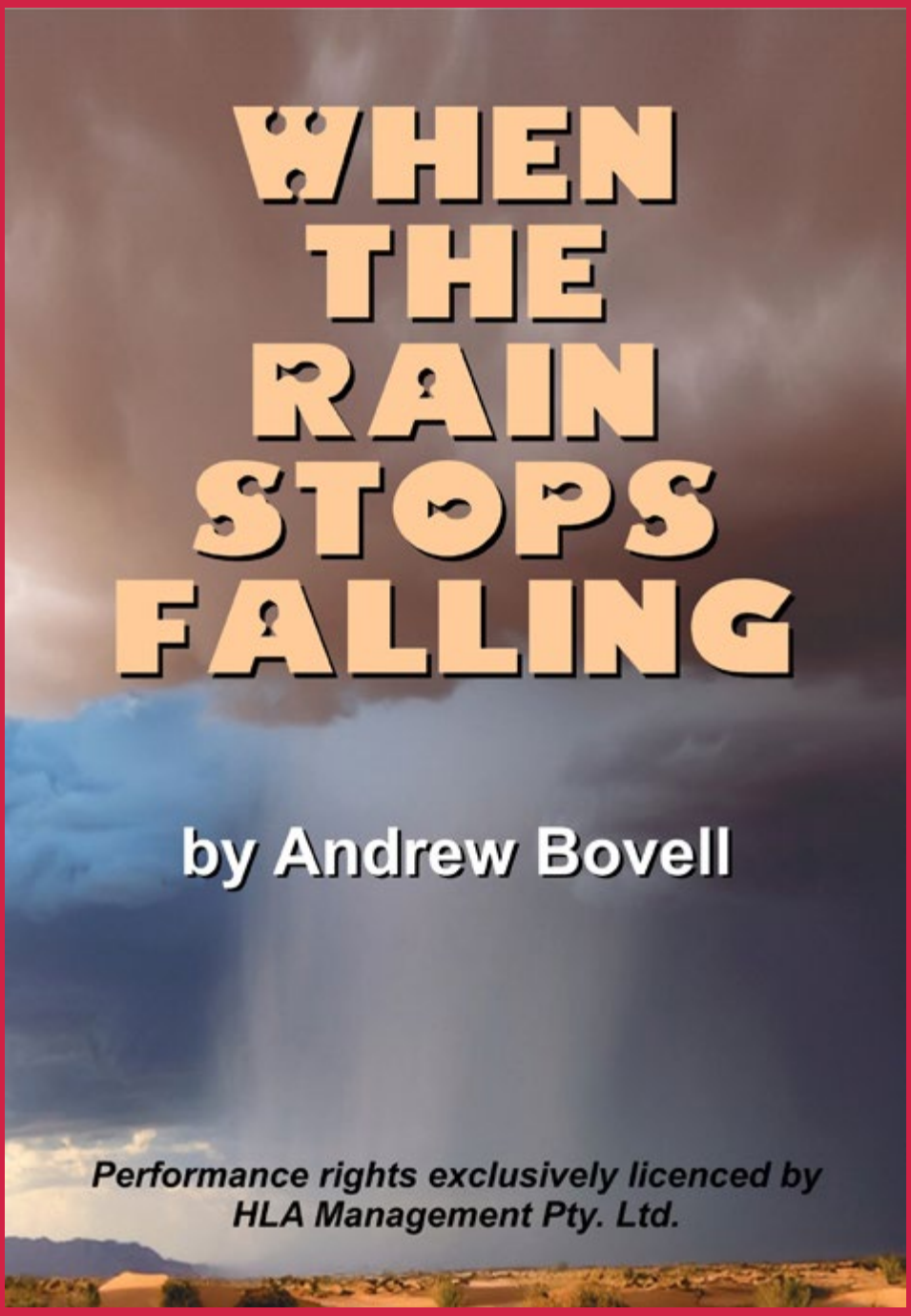
malvern theatre company

is proud to present its 385th major production



21 August – 5 September 2026

Directed by Peter Newling

About the Play

Alice Springs in the year 2039. A fish falls from the sky and lands at the feet of Gabriel York. It's been raining for days, and Gabriel knows that something is wrong. Eighty years earlier, his grandfather had predicted that fish would fall from the sky, heralding calamity.

Written by award-winning Andrew Bovell (*Lantana*), the action takes place between the worlds of these two men, spanning continents and generations. Interweaving human stories and environmental concerns, the play asks how can we face the future, without understanding the past? This epic play, of family legacies, betrayals and forgiveness, will be a production not to be missed.

About the Playwright, Andrew Bovell

Andrew Bovell is an award winning writer for stage and screen. He is probably best known for his plays *Things I Know to Be True* (2016); an adaptation of Kate Grenville's novel *The Secret River* (2013) and *When the Rain Stops Falling* (2008). The play was produced in both London and New York where it won five Lucille Lortell Awards and was named best new play of the year by Time Magazine.

Other plays include *El Jardin* (2019), *Song of First Desire* (2023), *Anthem* (2019), *Holy Day* (2001), *Who's Afraid of the Working Class*? (1998), *Speaking in Tongues* (1996), *Scenes from a Separation* with Hannie Rayson (1995), *Ship of Fools* (1999) and *After Dinner* (1988). Andrew is currently writing a new play for Melbourne Theatre Company.

Andrew's film credits include *Strictly Ballroom* (1992), *Edge of Darkness* (2010) starring Mel Gibson, *Lantana* (2001), based on his stage play *Speaking in Tongues*, and *Head On* (1998).

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Director's Notes

How do we explain the current fascination with researching family trees? We seem to be inundated with companies willing to help us in this quest – from research database websites, to DNA testing, to TV shows such as 'Who Do You Think You Are?'. People seem to be increasingly looking to the past to explain how we got to where we are, and maybe to fulfil a growing need for a sense of place and belonging. Tonight's play is all about that need.

This is, without doubt, my favourite Australian play, and I'm hugely grateful to Malvern for allowing me to stage it. My heartfelt thanks go to everyone involved in making it all come together.

It was described by one international critic as 'a pretzel of a play', with its arms constantly looping around and folding in on themselves. It's confusing at first – but hang in there – it'll all make sense. Eventually.

Setting

The play moves across several times and places, including a London flat in 1959 and 1988, a roadhouse in the Coorong in 1988, an Adelaide flat in 2013, a beach, a graveyard, the top of Uluru, and an Alice Springs apartment in 2035.



Director – *Peter Newling*

This is the 41st full-length play Peter has directed, and his fourth with Malvern. Those with a good memory may remember his production of *The Anniversary* back in 2003. More recently he directed productions of *Our Town* in 2018, and *Witness for the Prosecution* in 2021 (VDL Awards for Best Director and Best Production). Peter has also directed for many of Melbourne's leading community theatre companies – most recently *The Hollow Crown* (Williamstown Little Theatre), *The Children* (Mordialloc Theatre Company), *Looped* (The Mount Players Theatre Company), *Arsenic and Old Lace* (Beaumaris Theatre Inc.) and *Chancers* (Brighton Theatre Company). Peter is the current President and a Life Member of Williamstown Little Theatre.



Assistant Director – *Lucy Norton*

After graduating from the National Theatre Drama School in 2008, Lucy has worked in independent theatre, voice-over and film. In 2025 she was lured into community theatre, including Brighton Theatre Company's *Fallen Angels*, earning a VDL Best Comedy Actress nomination, and Malvern Theatre Company as 'Joy' in *The Tin Woman* earlier this year. Lucy has directed monologues and short plays and was keen to learn how to bring a full-length play to life. Peter generously agreed for her to join his team, through which she has worked on broadening and refining her skills.

The performance runs for approximately 1 hour and 50 minutes. There will be no interval. After the show, we are pleased to offer our usual complimentary coffee/tea and biscuits.

TRIGGER WARNING: The play explores the intergenerational trauma of childhood sexual abuse – not just on the victim, but on whole families and communities.

The Cast

(in order of appearance)

Gabriel York.....Marc Jongebloed

Elizabeth Law (Older).....Katherine Hubbard

Gabrielle York (Younger).....Abbie Craik

Joe Ryan.....Ed Kennett

Gabrielle York (Older).....Janine Evans

Elizabeth Law (Younger).....Grace Denney

Gabriel Law.....Benjamin Mason

Henry Law.....Zoran Babic

Andrew Price.....Broderick McDonald

The Cast



Marc Jongebloed
Gabriel York

Marc is excited to be back with Malvern Theatre Company. He previously appeared for the company in *Dead Man's Cell Phone* (2018), *In the Garden* (2016), *Trap for a Lonely Man* (2014), *Man Alive* (2012) and *Relative Values* (2008).

Other recent productions of note that featured Marc include *Knife Edge* (Beaumaris Theatre Company), *Dinner with Friends* (Brighton Theatre Company) and *The Effect* (Mordialloc Theatre Company). In 2024, Marc received a VDL Award for his portrayal of 'Bill Mason' in Brighton Theatre Company's production of *Admissions*.



Katherine Hubbard
Elizabeth Law (Older)

Katherine was last seen on stage at Williamstown Little Theatre in *Citysong* (2023). Her previous roles include 'Lurene' in *Last Gas* (Malvern Theatre Company), 'Bette Davis et al' in *Me and Jezebel* (Peridot Theatre Inc.), a one-woman show, and 'Maggie' in *Dancing at Lughnasa*. Katherine previously worked with director Peter Newling on *Come Back to the Five and Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean* (Mona).

She has received several awards recognising her acting and continues to enjoy exploring diverse and challenging roles in theatre.



Abbie Craik
Gabrielle York (Younger)

Abbie is delighted to join us for her first season with Malvern Theatre Company. She started performing in musicals as a child and has trained with the Australian Youth Theatre, most recently performing the roles of 'Titania' in Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, 'Juliet' from *Romeo and Juliet* and 'Shere Khan' in *The Jungle Book*.



Ed Kennett
Joe Ryan

Ed's acting journey began in the late 70's, watching his aunt and uncle performing one-off musicals with friends during holidays. Since then, school plays, a theatre company (Leo9 Productions), staged conflicts with M*A*S*H, and *Breaker Morant* at Lilydale Athenaeum Theatre, renditions of classic TV shows *Steptoe and Son* (x2) and *'Till Death Do Us Part* at The 1812 Theatre and many others. More recently he has performed at Mordialloc Theatre Company in *Birthday Candles* and at The Basin Theatre in *Heatstroke*. This is Ed's first role with Malvern Theatre Company, but hopefully not the last.



Janine Evans
Gabrielle York (Older)

Janine's most recent appearances at Malvern Theatre Company were as 'Gywn' in *Morning Sacrifice*, and 'Mrs Soames' in *Our Town*, both in 2018. Other recent roles include 'Mrs Gottleib' in *Dead Man's Cell Phone* (The Basin Theatre), 'Daisy' in *Daisy Pulls it Off* (Mordialloc Theatre Company), 'Juror #11' in *Twelve Angry Men* (Windmill Theatre Company), 'The Queen' in *Handbagged* (Williamstown Little Theatre) and 'Hester' in *Wicked Sisters* (Brighton Theatre Company). Janine's favourite soup is leek and potato.



Grace Denney
Elizabeth Law (Younger)

Grace studied classical ballet and singing in her hometown of Launceston, treading the boards in various plays, concerts and musicals. While studying in Adelaide, she performed at Broadway Sessions and the University of Adelaide's (infamous) Law Revue. Grace has designed costumes for *Consent* (Bottled Snail) and *The Humans* (Malvern Theatre Company), but returned to the stage as 'Julie' in *Perfect Wedding* at Malvern Theatre Company last year. Younger Elizabeth is a bucket list role for Grace, and not just because she gets to wear a novelty vintage rain bonnet…



Benjamin Mason
Gabriel Law

Having moved to London when he was 18, Benjamin started his career appearing in a selection of commercials as well as music videos for British artists. In 2019, he made his feature film debut in Paramount's *Rocketman*, and has since featured in ITV's *Autopsy: The Last Hours of Dennis Wilson* and a medieval short film *The Daisy Crown*. Benjamin moved to Melbourne a year ago, and is currently training at Brave Studios. In February, he appeared as 'Frank Hunter' in Williamstown Little Theatre's *The Browning Version* and in May he played 'Romeo' at the Old Bendigo Law Courts in a rehearsed reading of *Romeo and Juliet*. This is Ben's first play with Malvern Theatre Company.



Zoran Babic
Henry Law

This production marks Zoran's debut with Malvern Theatre Company, and he is delighted to be joining the ensemble. A familiar face in Melbourne's community theatre scene for three decades, he has performed with companies including Mordialloc Theatre Company, Brighton Theatre Company, Beaumaris Theatre Company, Lilydale Athenaeum Theatre, Williamstown Little Theatre and Essendon Theatre Company.

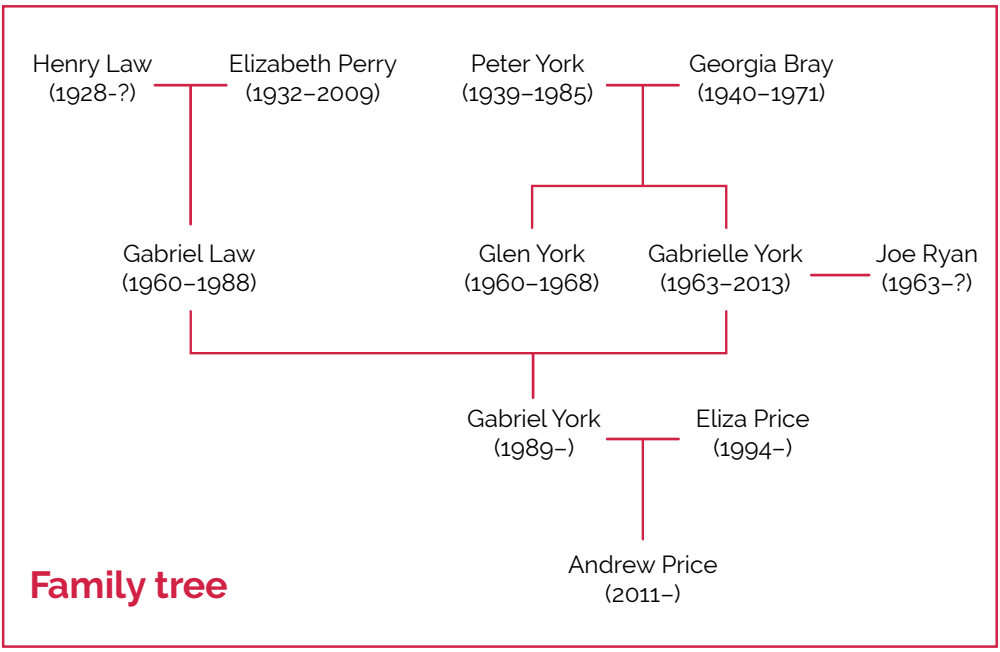
Recent roles include 'Bob Price' in Andrew Bovell's *Things I Know to Be True* at Williamstown Little Theatre (2025), 'Jeremy' in *The Architec*t with Peridot Theatre Inc. (2025), 'Pierre' in *The Father* at Williamstown Little Theatre, earning a Best Supporting Actor nomination (2024), 'Mike' in *The Memory of Water* also at Williamstown Little Theatre (2024), and as 'Jake' in *Consent* with Mordialloc Theatre Company (2023).

Zoran is thrilled to return to Bovell's work in the role of 'Henry' and hopes you enjoy the production.



Broderick McDonald
Andrew Price

When The Rain Stops Falling marks Broderick's return to Malvern Theatre Company since last appearing in *The Lifespan of a Fact* (2024). He has featured in a variety of shows including *Never the Sinner* and *Clue: On Stage* (The 1812 Theatre), *Psycho Beach Party* and *Love, Love, Love* (Essendon Theatre Company), *Just the Ticket* (Mooroolbark Theatre Group), *Tartuffe* and most recently *Birdsong* (Heidelberg Theatre Company). When not performing onstage, Broderick writes short plays and short stories, plays Dungeons and Dragons, and expands his knowledge and taste in music.



Family tree

Production Team

Director ..... Peter Newling

Assistant Director ..... Lucy Norton

Stage Manager ..... Barry James

Set Designer ..... Neil Barnett

Lighting Designer ..... Robin Le Blond

Sound Designer ..... Vicki Smith

Projections Designer ..... Lucy Norton

Costume Designer ..... Barbara Murray

Props Designers ..... Neil Barnett, Barry James

Lighting and Sound Operator ..... Penelope Peck

Rehearsal Prompt ..... Annie Grant

Technical Director ..... Michael Birkett

Set Construction ..... David Allen, Noel Ellis, Graeme Munrow, Max Murray, Toula Psevdoikonomou

Production Coordinator ..... Annie Grant

Programme Designer ..... Janine Evans

Programme Coordinator ..... Jade Colletti

Photography ..... Lorraine Bell

Publicity ..... Blake Stringer

FOH Manager ..... Judy Clues

Ticketbox Manager ..... David Gordon

Ticket Secretary ..... Kerry Carr



Neil Barnett – *Set Designer*

Neil has probably spent more time in this theatre than you. Possibly more time in theatres than you've lived. He started as an actor and ended up a director, writer and set designer. Before directing he spent lots of time sitting in the dark watching and making teas (one director insisted on exactly seven grains of sugar). Sometimes he had a faint glow from a lighting board or sound desk, sometimes he was told he was going to have to move furniture in 50% less light.

Before set designing he made props and helped put up sets, and watched brilliant designers like Ron Withington create reality. But chiefly he said "Yes" when asked. Often then spending hours trying to work out 'how?'. This led to making knives to stab actors, knives and razors to gush blood, nooses to hang an actress in an Agatha Christie and the gory bits in Malvern's recent *Misery*. The writing came after reading scripts, lots of scripts. And twisting his tongue around lines. And before acting? Well, let's face facts; Nothing. There's always been some acting.

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.

We would like to thank the following people for their additional support of this production, without whom the show would not be what it is: Andrew McAdam for set dressing, Brighton Theatre Company for the loan of props, and Keith Hutton and Stephanie King for their assistance with auditions.

Permission has been granted to use all copyrighted images in the projections.

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
- 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 **malverntheatrecompany@gmail.com**

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.

Proud member of 2026 THE VICTORIAN DRAMA LEAGUE

Thanks to our Sponsors

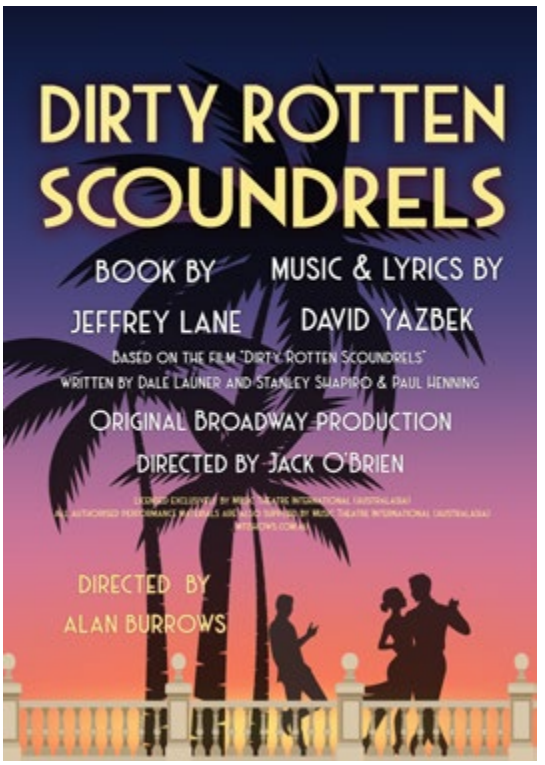
Fletchers is a proud, fourth-generation family-based real estate agency, with a 100+ year history. Visit fletchers.net.au.

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

Via Fratelli is a traditional Italian restaurant located at 151 Waverley Road, 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.

Next at Malvern Theatre Company



Dirty Rotten Scoundrels

staged in cooperation with Lilydale Athanæum Theatre

Directed by Alan Burrows

23 October – 7 November 2026

This modern musical is based on the 1988 MGM film of the same name. In the exotic French Riviera, Lawrence makes his living by smooth-talking rich women out of their money. He is an old hand and has got his technique down to a tee. But then he bumps into Freddy who takes a humbler, more laid-back approach, with emotional lies.

The men decide to form a double act, but their egos soon clash, and the French coast isn't big enough for both. To settle their rivalry, they agree on a bet: the first to swindle the town's latest young heiress can stay, and the other must leave. Hilarity and confusion ensue as they pull out all stops to prove who is the better conman. Don't miss this laugh-a-minute musical gem!

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