



Camperdown Theatre Company presents

AWAY

by Michael Gow



November 2022

Theatre Royal, Camperdown

From the PRESIDENT



**Toby
McKenzie**

Welcome to the Theatre Royal, as CTC presents a second production for 2022. Following on from the success of *The Panto Puzzle* earlier this year we are continuing on the path less taken in recent times by presenting a drama.

I would like to thank Graeme for his enthusiastic commitment and dedication to the project, I hope the nostalgic experience has been a good one!

Well done to Jenny who has gone above and beyond in her first time being producer. It is great to see people taking on new roles to bring shows to the stage.

I would also like to thank our past president, Sue Place, who is now our newest life member – a fitting acknowledgement of her contribution over many years.

To the cast, production team, crew and committee who have worked tirelessly, I appreciate your efforts and talent.

Thank you to our sponsors that have supported us during the year, particularly Laffs, Camperdown Newsagency, Camperdown College and Corangamite Shire.

I look forward to our next offerings, the next being Camperdown Carols by Candlelight, and in May 2023 a celebration of the Company's 75th Anniversary.

Thank you for coming along and supporting CTC. Enjoy the show. – **Toby.**

From the PRODUCER



**Jenny
O'Neil**

Thank you and welcome to *Away*, another Camperdown Theatre Company production for 2022. It has been a while since we presented a drama, in fact, it has been 30 years since Graeme Bennett directed this sensitive, Australian based drama and we are pleased to have him back in the director's seat.

We join three families as they find their way to healing and reconnection.

Our accomplished group of performers consisting of new, familiar and those returning to the stage, have been tirelessly rehearsing to bring you this delicate show.

Without the wonderful support of the cast and crew helping me along the way, it would not have been as enjoyable an experience, in this, my first time as Producer.

I would personally like to express my gratitude to you, our fabulous audience for coming along and supporting our ever-talented and dedicated group. I hope you enjoy the performance and thank you, for your continued support of our marvellous company. – **Jenny.**

Camperdown Theatre Company respectfully acknowledges the traditional owners of the land on which we perform, the Djargurd Wurrung people, past, present and future.

From the DIRECTOR



**Graeme
Bennett**

Since being involved in *The Accidental Death of an Anarchist* (1991), Graeme has taken on various roles in numerous productions with the Company, as well as many years serving on the Committee, including as President. Other shows include *Spamalot* (2019), *Seussical* (2017), *The Addams Family* (2015), *Joseph* (2014), *Hairspray* (2013), *Dimboola* (2012), *Opportunity Knocks* (2006), *Bomb shells* (2004), *Barney's Fair* (2003), *White Lies* (2000), *Peter Pan* (1997), *Medea* (1993), *Away* (1992), *The Wizard of Oz* (1992), *School Daze* (1991), and more. Graeme works as a teacher at Camperdown College.

Notes

In 1991 I wandered into a bookstore one day. By chance I found a book that had a story that I fell in love with. That book was the script for Michael Gow's play *Away*. I think what appealed to me the most were the characters – all of them so recognisable and like people in my own life. And the issues they were dealing with were issues that many of us have had to deal with at some time or other. *Away* is now 36 years old, and yet the story is as fresh and relevant today as it ever was. *Away* is an Australian classic.

In 1992, as a relative newcomer to the Camperdown Theatre Company, I took on the role of director for the first time, and *Away* hit the stage in November of that year. As the thirtieth anniversary of that production approached, I thought that maybe this year was time to share this play with Camperdown audiences once again.

I am incredibly excited for *Away* to hit the stage once again, and the 2022 cast is second to none. To see each of the characters brought to life once again has been an emotional experience, and many times during rehearsals I have been moved by individual and collective performances. My sincere thanks to every member of the cast for the talent and passion that you have brought to the stage. For a theatre company in a little country town, I think the depth of talent in our community is incredible.

My thanks also to the committee members of the Camperdown Theatre Company who have supported me in so many ways to bring this production to life, especially our Producer Jenny O'Neil who has done so much to make this production a success.

Finally, my sincere thanks to you, the members of our audience. Without you our Theatre Company would not exist, and it is my sincere hope that you will be moved by *Away* as much as I have been over the years. – Graeme.



**Camperdown College,
proudly providing Performing Arts
opportunities to our students**

Congratulations to the Camperdown Theatre Company and our teacher and director Mr Graeme Bennett on the production "Away".



CAST



Charlie Tickner as Tom

It has been an enjoyable experience for Charlie returning to the CTC stage, and it follows on from his involvement in *Spamalot* (2019) and *South Pacific* (2018). He has also been involved in Camperdown College musicals *Grease* (2019) and *The Wizard of Oz* (2018), as well as performances with Deakin University where he is currently in his second year of studying drama. For Charlie, *Away* has emphasised the importance of being grateful and to keep pushing forward through adversity. He would like to thank Graeme for the awesome opportunity.



Jo Van Leerdam as Vic

Following her performances in *Spamalot* (2019), *Café Murder* (2018) and *Shaz and Nick's* (2016), Jo is enjoying being back with CTC developing a serious role in a thought-provoking play. As a teacher, she has directed many school musicals and taught drama, public speaking and performance since 2005. The point Jo takes away from the plot is that life is short, so make the most of every moment. She would like to thank Graeme for directing and for including her, and Mart for being a marvellous on-stage husband.



Mart Donlan as Harry

Mart returns to Camperdown Theatre Company stage, following his involvement in *Café Murder* (2018) and *South Pacific* (2018). He has also been behind the scenes for *Spamalot* (2019) and *The Panto Puzzle* (2020) and has acted in other forms, including in patient simulation with Deakin Uni and the film *Oddball* (2015). His favourite part of being in *Away* has been sharing his passion with new people. Mart would like to thank Graeme and CTC for the opportunity, the cast and crew for their commitment and the patrons for coming along.



Louise Rothman as Meg

It has certainly been a unique experience for Louise, playing the on-stage daughter of her off-stage husband! She is thrilled to be acting in a drama, this time with her local theatre company, having relished dramas such as *Dancing at Lughnasa* with Williamstown Little Theatre (2008) and *Blood of the Lamb* with Geelong Rep. (2009). CTC credits include *Mystery at Shady Acres* (2021), *South Pacific* (2018) and more. Louise thanks her children, Ishmael, Mercy, Amethyst and Brahmty, for all the times they played Gwen in home rehearsals.



Robyn Vale as Gwen

Robyn returns to Camperdown Theatre Company for the seventh time, after her performances in *The Panto Puzzle* (2022), *Mystery at Shady Acres* (2021), *Café Murder* (2018), *Shaz & Nick's* (2016), *The Addams Family* (2015) and *Joseph* (2014). Robyn has enjoyed the power of the writing in *Away* and the extraordinary thing her fellow cast members are doing with it. The point she takes away from the plot is to be kind and you're more likely to be happy. Robyn would like to thank Graeme, Jenny and the production team for their hard work.



Joel Rothman as Jim

Joel first took to the stage in 1996 for the CTC production of *Peter Pan*. His last performance was in 2000 in the role of *Jesus Christ Superstar*. After twenty two years he is pleased to return to the stage to help bring to life this Australian play. He loves the snapshot of Australia captured in *Away* – camping simply at the beach, the daggy humour, good-natured but sometimes narrow-minded, and starting to change. After completing his PhD in 2021 and recently submitting his book manuscript, he has enjoyed having the time to reconnect with thespians.



Pauline Van Dijk as Coral

Pauline returns to the Camperdown stage once again following many productions with CTC, having first performed with us in *Medea* (1993). Most recently she has performed as Evilena in *The Panto Puzzle* (2022) and Nigella in *Mystery at Shady Acres* (2021). She has also performed with other groups including the Colac Players in *Sylvia* (2022) and many more. Pauline has enjoyed sinking her teeth into a dramatic role and it is always a pleasure to acknowledge the support given by her husband to follow her passion.



Jamie Rothman as Roy

After last appearing with CTC in *Godspell* (2011), we welcome Jamie back to the stage. Jamie has also been involved in *Barney's Fart* (2003), *Down Came A Jumbuck!* (2001) and *Annie* (1999). He particularly enjoys the campers grievances scene in Act Three. *Away* has prompted Jamie to think about just how far we have come in the understanding and treatment of mental illness as well as memories of camping at the beach in the sixties. He would like to thank Graeme Bennett for taking on this great play.



Kat Bryan as Leone/Camper/Fairy/Miss Latrobe

Camperdown Theatre Company welcomes Kat to the stage for the first time with us, following her involvement in many productions with Colac Players including *Nunsense* (2014), *Tartuffe* (2012), *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (2010) and *Enchanted April* (2008). When considering the important points in the plot of *Away*, she reflects that families are complex, and loss is never easy. When not performing, Kat works as a Knowledge and Records Services Co-ordinator.



Lachie Bennett as Rick/Fairy/Student

Following his recent performance in *The Panto Puzzle* (2022), Lachie returns to the stage for the second time this year. Lachie has also been involved in *Spamalot* (2019), *South Pacific* (2018) and *Seussical* (2017), and several Camperdown College musicals including *Grease* (2019). He would like to thank his dad, Graeme, for giving him another opportunity on-stage and Pauline for the enjoyable experience of helping him learn all his lines. Lachie works locally as an Early Childhood Educator.

CAST



Stacey James as Camper/Student

It is for the seventh time that Stacey returns to the stage with CTC, following her performances in *The Panto Puzzle* (2022), *Mystery at Shady Acres* (2021), *Spamalot* (2019), *South Pacific* (2018), *Seussical* (2017) and *Jack and His Amazing Multi-Coloured Beanstalk* (2013). She has also been involved in several Camperdown College musicals. Stacey has enjoyed being involved in *Away*, particularly the horrible elephant jokes! She would like to thank Graeme for allowing her to be involved between studying Nursing at Federation University.



Anna Whiting as Camper

Anna returns to the stage following her performances in *Mystery at Shady Acres* (2021) and *Spamalot* (2019). She has enjoyed that *Away* is different from anything CTC has done in a long time and has a more serious side. She has taken the point that you never know everything that is happening to someone else. Anna would like to thank her family for their support. Anna works locally as an Accountant and is also the CTC treasurer.



Amelia Kempton as Fairy/Student

We welcome Amelia to her first on-stage role with CTC, after helping us previously behind the scenes. She has been involved in Camperdown College musicals including *Grease* (2019) and *The Wizard of Oz* (2018), as well as dance concerts and the *Victorian State School Spectacular* between 2012 and 2016. Millie has enjoyed watching the show come together and the plot has reminded her to never take anything for granted, as life can be turned upside down at any moment.



**Jenny O'Neil
as Fairy**



**Sue Place
as Fairy**



EST. 1984

*Clothing,
manchester
and yarn for
the whole
family!!!*

**Chookas to the cast
and crew of Away**

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SYNOPSIS *and* SCENES

Commencing with a school performance of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, the Shakespearean themes of suffering and reconciliation persist as three families on separate holidays are united during a fierce storm.

Immigrants Harry and Vic love their adopted country but are faced with their son Tom's illness.

Jim and Gwen fret over their daughter Meg's blossoming independence and her friendship with the socially unsuitable Tom. Roy is unable to console a grief-stricken Coral over the death of their only son in Vietnam.

But with the help of some Shakespearean fairies and a spectacular storm, these families are reconciled and face the future anew. *Away* is set in the Summer of 1967/68.

SCENES

A school performance of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Backstage after the performance

Outside

The Kitchen at Vic, Harry and Tom's house

The Lounge at Gwen, Jim and Meg's house

The Bedroom at Roy and Coral's house

The Kitchen at Vic, Harry and Tom's house

INTERMISSION

The Ballroom at a Gold Coast Hotel

A Camping Ground

The Rooftop of the Gold Coast Hotel

A Camping Ground

A Beach

Camper's amateur night

Home again

A Schoolyard

LIGHT SUPPER AFTER SHOW

If you have become distressed by any of the themes in *Away*, please reach out for support.

Services include Lifeline 13 11 14 and South Western CASA 5564 4144.

CREW

Director: Graeme Bennett

Producer: Jenny O'Neil

Technical Director: Tony Duplex

Stage Managers: Sue Place, Jenny O'Neil

Backstage Crew: Sue Place, Jenny O'Neil,

Amelia Kempton, Cast Members

Set Design: Graeme Bennett, Tony Duplex

Set Construction: Tony Duplex

Lighting Design: Graeme Bennett, Tony Duplex

Lighting Technicians: Harrison Smith,

Tony Duplex

Sound: Alex Baker, Peter Baker

Sound Effects: Graeme Bennett

Costume Manager: Briony Howells

Costume Assistants: Pauline Van Dijk,

Jenny O'Neil, Kat Bryan

Set Painting/Art: Jenny O'Neil, Graeme Bennett

Properties: Irish, Phil, Henry, Cast and Crew

Hair/Makeup: Cast Members

Front of House: Anna Whitting, Briony Howells,

Mercy Rothman, Sue Place, Lots Duplex,

Toby McKenzie

Publicity: Toby McKenzie

Program Design/Layout: Toby McKenzie

Box Office: Kim McKenzie (Laffs)

Artwork/Design: Toby McKenzie

Photography: Jenny O'Neil, Toby McKenzie

Committee: Toby McKenzie (Pres.), Sue Place

(Sec.), Anna Whitting (Treas.), Tony Duplex,

Briony Howells, Lyn McLean, Louise Rothman,

Jenny O'Neil.



The Committee, Cast and Crew of this Camperdown Theatre Company production would like to extend our warmest thanks to you for your attendance.

Your ongoing support is what allows us to continue sharing the talents of this Company with our community.

We trust you enjoyed our production and we hope to see you again.



Camperdown
CAROLS
BY CANDLELIGHT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

7.30PM Theatre Royal

FREE COMMUNITY EVENT

75th
Anniversary
SPECTACULAR

CTC IS CELEBRATING 75 YEARS IN 2023!

May 12 – 20, 2023

THEATRE ROYAL

*Tickets available in
early 2023*

A gala concert season featuring the best of CTC in the most recent 25 years!

Singing and dancing ensemble auditions will be open to all new and existing performers in early 2023