

WYONG DRAMA GROUP PRESENTS

COMMUNICATING DOORS



by ALAN AYCKBOURN
directed by CHRISTINE VALE

AUGUST 2007 • WYONG MEMORIAL HALL

BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH DOMINIE PTY LTD FOR SAMUEL FRENCH



About *Communicating Doors*

About the Playwright - Alan Ayckbourn

Alan Ayckbourn is one of the most prolific and widely performed of English language playwrights and a highly regarded theatre director. He has written 70 full length plays, more than half of which have gone on to London's West End. He is an Olivier and Moliere Award winning playwright whose plays have achieved success throughout the world.

About *Communicating Doors* from the Playwright

"When we first produced this play we played a game called 'spot the film reference'. There are the obvious ones, of course: a passing reference to the famous shower scene in *Psycho*, a touch of *Vertigo* and even a small tribute to *Back to the Future*... (Can you identify these moments?)

As *Communicating Doors* puts it, it is quite possible to alter our future, any time we want, if not in the way Poupee achieves it, at least through the actions we choose to take here and now. The future, as the old cliché has it, is in our own hands. Which just goes to prove, really, that there's nothing new. Not even in science fiction."
Source: www.alanayckbourn.net/





From the Director

As my directorial debut, I am delighted to bring you this production of *Communicating Doors* on behalf of Wyong Drama Group. Since reading the play a couple of years ago, I was intrigued by it. I found it chilling in parts, but with some great comic and tender moments. It also poses some interesting questions about whether we can change the past and what if we did.

The cast is a wonderful combination of proven experience and exciting new talent at Wyong Drama Group. The accomplished Pam Campbell and Laci Weidlich will be well known to WDG audiences. The other cast members are new to WDG. They are the talented Mike Jeffries and Rosemary Parsons who have recently performed with Woy Woy Little Theatre, the experienced Andrew Thomson who is new to the Coast, and the exciting new actress, Leanna McNeil.

The production team bring the performances to life under the State Management of Darlene Cole who has recently proven herself to be a visionary director. Paul Karton has been able to educate and illuminate me (dare I say) with his vision for lighting and sound. Kahli Meredith and Paul Ractliffe are the technical wizards during the show. Barry Sampson, Ros Ellis and helpers have built a wonderful set and Wendy Potter's costumes and Helen Schuman's make-up make everyone look great on stage.

Many more WDG members help behind the scenes, like Robyn Weidlich who takes your bookings, Ros Ellis and friends who help you front of house and Millie Sampson and helpers who serve you tea and coffee and more.

So – I hope you enjoy the thrills, chills and laughs of this production of *Communication Doors* by Wyong Drama Group. It really is a 'group' effort.

About the Director

Christine Vale has performed in many plays and musicals and was most recently seen as Heather in WDG's production of *Soulmates*. This is her directorial debut (with adults). She has directed over 20 productions with children in the past.



Setting

The Regal Hotel, London

The action takes place in the same hotel room, Room 647 (most of the time), in three different time periods: 2024, 2004 and 1984.

The Cast in Order of Appearance

Julian Goodman
Poopay/Phoebe
Reece Welles
Ruella Welles
Harold Palmer
Jessica Welles

Andrew Thomson
Leanna McNeil
Laszlo Weidlich
Pam Campbell
Mike Jeffries
Rosemary Parsons

Behind the Scenes

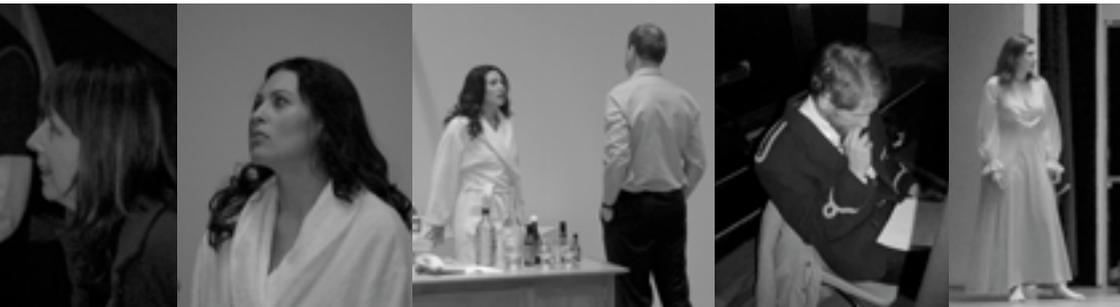
Director
Stage Manager
Asst. Stage Manager
Stage Crew
Sound and Lighting Design
Prompt
Sound
Lighting
Set Construction

Christine Vale
Darlene Cole
Cheryl Wells
Ros Ellis, Julie Young
Paul Karton
June Footner
Kahli Meredith
Paul Ractliffe
Barry Sampson, Laszlo Weidlich,
Marc Calwell, Robert Donahue,
Graham Vale, Ron Baker, Ros Ellis
& WDG members
Wendy Potter
Helen Schuman
Peter Santangelo
Graham Vale
Rose Cooper
Ros Ellis and WDG members
Robyn Weidlich
Millie and Barry Sampson
Members of WDG



Darlene Cole

Costumes
Makeup
Photographs
Program/Production Manager
Publicity Officer
Front of House
Bookings
Refreshments
Everything else





The Cast in Order of Appearance

Julian Goodman – Andrew Thomson

Andrew Thomson recently directed and performed at the Central Coast's Short and Sweet Festival. Prior to that he performed in *Shakespeare's Last Supper* at La Mama Theatre and the self-devised *Heaven* at Melbourne's Fringe Festival. Other theatre credits include: *The Glasses of Hector Margolez*, *Baby with the Bathwater*, *The Opposite Sex* and *The Importance of Being Earnest*. He enjoys writing, has made two short films and really is, by all accounts, a lot nicer than Julian.



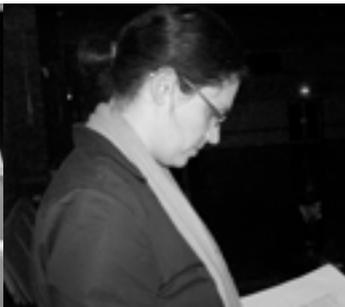
Poopay/Phoebe – Leanna McNeil

Leanna McNeil made her stage debut in the recent *Vagina Monologues*. She enjoyed that so much she decided to become part of local community theatre and is very excited to be part of *Communicating Doors*. She says, 'I've enjoyed the rehearsal process, as I've learned an awful lot from my director and other cast members. I'm excited to be part of such an introspective play and am looking forward to being on stage again.'



Reece Welles – Laszlo Weidlich

Laszlo Weidlich last appeared in *Soulmates* as the token American and will next be seen, Insha'Allah, in *The Dumb Waiter*. You, Dear Reader, will no doubt already have detected the subtle reference to time shift as it unfolds in the current production. Laszlo has enjoyed the exploration of the character of Reece over time, revelling in the Augustinian undertones of the born-again penitent.





Ruella Welles – Pam Campbell

Pam has been a member of Wyong Drama Group since 1991. Some of her favourite roles have been Hilary in *Hotel Sorrento*, Mrs Clackett in *Noises Off*, and Olive in *The Odd Couple* (female version). She's also played Bridie in *The Shoehorn Sonata*, and Monica in *Caravan* for Central Coast Theatre Company, and Ouiser in *Steel Magnolias* at Laycock St Theatre. She directed the popular *Fawlty Towers* in 2006 and is relishing the role of Ruella in *Communicating Doors*.



Harold Palmer – Mike Jeffries

A newcomer to WDG, Mike has been a regular performer with Woy Woy Little Theatre since moving to the Coast five years ago. Although he has performed in many comedies, this is Mike's first role in an Ayckbourn play, and he's delighted that it should be this one. "Ever since I saw the original West End performance of *Communicating Doors* in 1995, I have wanted to act in it. It deals with such an interesting theatrical concept – the 'what ifs' of time travel," said Mike. "And Ayckbourn manages to combine his trademark black comedy with some genuinely scary moments."



Jessica Welles - Rosemary Parsons

Rosemary recently graduated from Macquarie University with a Master of Philosophy in Performance Studies, and is currently completing her PhD on devising autobiographical performance. For WWLT, Rosemary has performed in *Habeas Corpus* (2004), *Blood Brothers* (2005) and *Second Childhood* (2007). In 2006 she wrote, directed and performed *Dust* for the April Cultural Laboratory, and co-devised and performed in *This Is Not An Exit*. She recently appeared in *The Vagina Monologues*. Rosemary is co-founder of new theatre company DevisingTheatre. *Communicating Doors* is Rosemary's first production with Wyong Drama Group and she has enjoyed working with such a talented cast and crew.







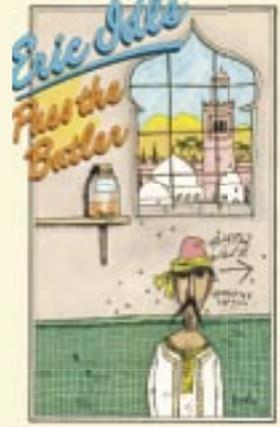
Coming soon...

Coming in November



A festival of one - act plays by various groups
Hosted by Wyong Drama Group Inc
8 September 2007

Wyong Memorial Hall, Anzac Ave Wyong
For more information phone 4353 4353
Session Tickets \$10 / Full Weekend \$25



Eric Idle's first stage play, *Pass the Butler*, is a triumph of outrageous logic and death-defying ingenuity. *Pass the Butler* is a very funny, savagely elegant play, which opened in London in January 1982.

1,2,3 & 8,9,10 NOVEMBER 2007

WYONG MEMORIAL HALL



Come and join in the fun

As well as acting and directing, there are many other roles to fill. You are always welcome to join our group. Please call 4353 4353.

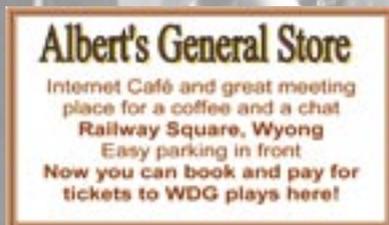
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