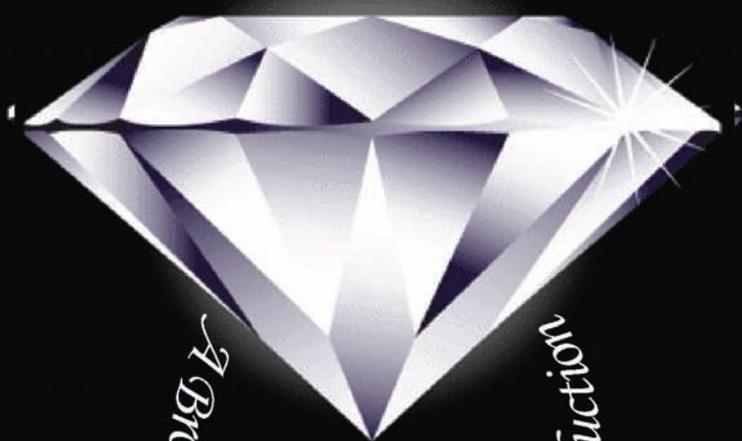


# PLAY ON!

A comedy by Rick Abbot

*by special arrangement with Dominic P/L*



*A Brooklyn Community Theatre Production*



*1999 to 2009*



# Play On!

*Directed by Peter Hughes*

*Produced by Ray Bontoft*

Ever wonder how a community theatre puts on a show? Brooklyn Community Theatre is celebrating its 10th year by staging a hilarious farce that gives you a backstage look at amateur theatre, with no holds barred. A theatre group is trying desperately to put on a play amid all kinds of maddening interference from a haughty authoress who keeps revising the script until almost opening night. This is their chance to put their theatre back into the black for the first time in years. But, in true theatrical tradition, what can go wrong, does go wrong...

# PROGRAM

Curtains up 8.30pm

Act I. Rehearsals  
Act II. Dress Rehearsals  
Act III. Performance

Refreshments served  
from 6.30pm

catering by...

**MONKS**  
at  
**MONKS**  
BROOKLYN

*Close / last bus 11pm*

# ABOUT THEATRE IN THE PARK

Theatre in the Park came into being during 1999 in the unique Hawkesbury River community, home to many talented and colourful personalities living among a scenic backdrop.

The concept of a theatre group emerged from discussions between Ray Bontoft and Peter Hughes after the community lost its live entertainment options when the area's only hall closed. From these talks a theatrical opportunity has evolved, giving the chance for all community members to take part at any level in creating a local event. Even in the simplest form, being involved in a play has given people a sense of personal achievement, pride and equity in the final result.

Theatre in the Park was conceived with an outdoor stage and a vision for a family picnic-style atmosphere where everyone can enjoy quality live theatre. This vision of a community-driven theatre came to fruition with the enormous success of the first production in 1999, when some 480 people joined the festivities.

Brooklyn Community Theatre is a volunteer non-profit group. Ticket pricing ensures the event remains accessible to all. With donations, both in kind and financial, and ticket sales we are able to meet our production costs. The charter of the Brooklyn Community Theatre is administered by Producer, Ray Bontoft and Director, Peter Hughes.

If you are interested in assisting with next year's production or would like to provide sponsorship please contact:

**[theatreinthepark@bigpond.com](mailto:theatreinthepark@bigpond.com)**

**[www.theatreinthepark.com.au](http://www.theatreinthepark.com.au)**

# 10 YEARS OF BROOKLYN COMMUNITY THEATRE

PETER. I toured with Encore Theatre Company in the 90s, bringing the shows to the old Brooklyn Hall. After the hall was closed I was cajoled by Ray Bontoft to continue this Brooklyn event and finally agreed to an outdoor performance.

RAY. 'Finally' is correct as Peter had concerns regarding a change of tradition from indoors to outdoors. As the word got out about our intentions and the community responded so strongly toward involvement, the decision on structure was made – the event was to be community driven.

PETER. I chose a classic 'Who done it' play and then headed to the pub to find people silly enough to agree to learning 80 pages of dialogue and stepping onto a stage for the first time. My only experienced actor, Gary Robertson, spent half of the rehearsal period in hospital with meningitis!

RAY. While Peter was slaving away at the Anglers Rest I set about things like how will we build a stage in the park and provide the audio and lighting etc. Who do I need? The community came forward with all the support we needed and we were on our way.

PETER. The 'journey' from there to performance was incredible and life-changing for many of the cast and crew. It was a triumphant night in so many ways.

RAY. Peter's cast were brilliant and the 400+ audience let them know that. We started with high hopes and its fair to say our expectations were far, far exceeded.

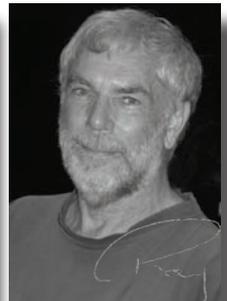
PETER. Since then almost 40 people have stepped onto that hallowed stage and every one of them has done me very proud.

RAY. Every year these brave performers are supported by a 'behind the scenes' crew of around 45 people who ensure that the show's every need is in place. Peter and I are indeed very fortunate to work with these great people, performers and crew alike.

PETER. This year's play, on our tenth anniversary, gives some comical insights into the reality of this 'journey'.

RAY. Just how much this play reflects on Theatre in the Park... well!

PETER. Simply said... **Play On!**





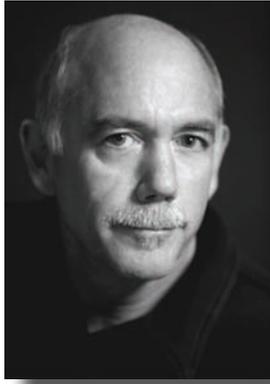
Steve Pearson  
as  
**Algie**

*Who would have thought that when we first started to stumble through the pages of our very first script, most of us never having acted on stage before, that we would be here tonight 10 years down the track. Along the way we have laughed, laughed, laughed and really laughed both at the on and offstage antics and performances, and believe me, there have been some unforgettable performances.*

*Thank you to all the people in the audience who have tuned up in all sorts of weather, the people behind the scenes, other cast members and of course Barmy and Pedro who came up with this ridiculous idea in the first place.*

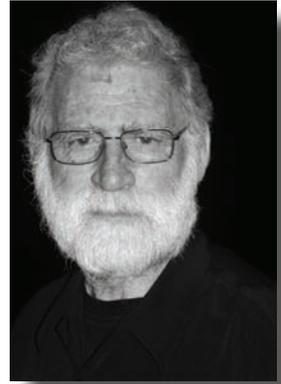
*Long live 'Theatre in the Dark'  
(Louie, turn the bloody lights on!)  
With love, Steve Pearson.*

*Aka Trotter the Murderer, Murray the Cop, Ted the Undertaker, Stanley the Lodger and last but not least Algie, the Stage Manager.*



Gary Robertson  
as  
**Gerald**

*Once more unto the breach, dear friends,  
once more;  
In peace there's nothing so becomes  
a man as modest stillness and humility:  
but when theatre in the park calls...  
Then imitate the action of the tiger;  
Stiffen the sinews,  
summon up the blood...  
...now set the teeth  
and stretch the nostril wide,  
hold hard the breath and bend up  
every spirit.  
To his full height.  
What? Five foot seven  
and a half!! Good Grief!!*



Noel Castley  
as  
**Henry  
Lord Dudley**

*We asked Noel what it's like being involved with Brooklyn Community Theatre for the past decade: "On this 10th anniversary, what a spooky situation to be in. A play about a play played by an amateur theatre group depicting an amateur theatre group playing a play! Mind you .. it does seem familiar", he replied with left eye twitching and nervous sweat dripping from his forehead. "And how do you feel after all these years?"; we asked ever so tentatively and tenderly. "About tw-tw-twenty years older". As an original cast member in 1999, Noel brings to this year's Theatre in the Park a wealth of ..... (please fill in your own personal comment here).*



Helen Goodrich  
as  
Polly  
as  
Lady Margaret

*This will be Helen's second production with the Brooklyn Community Theatre following her role as Ruby the maid last year (yes, she survived the after show party..). Helen has appeared in previous productions in the UK such as Fiddler on the Roof and Godspell, however, this will be her first time as a Lady (albeit a fat old one, but hey, you gotta start somewhere!). Helen is slowly working her way up the Brooklyn ladder and looks forward to playing a stunning young beauty next year....one can dream.....!!*



Michelle Raison  
as  
Marla  
as  
Doris, the Maid

*As a new(ish) resident of Brooklyn, I decided it was time to get involved in some local community projects. [note to self: be careful what you sign up for – you could end up Secretary of a Soccer Club and on Stage performing as an English Maid!] Oh well, in for a penny – in for a pound!*



Jim Gosden  
as  
Saul  
as  
Dr Rex Forbes

*Gave acting away years ago and now work as a queue mover at Centrelink.com. Very picky about where I perform but when Pete Hughes wants an illiterate fop... I'm his man...*

# THE CAST

in order of appearance



*Drew Bontoft  
as*

**Billy**

*as*

**Stephen Sellers**

*In the 10 years of Theatre in the Park Drew has always gotten involved. From polishing props to playing a part he has loved it from the start and will continue to do so. This year he plays a young man who has eyes for a young girl. This young man in turn also plays 'the famous millionaire, Stephen Sellers' a rich American with a desire for justice.*

*Rachael Steele  
as*

**Violet**

*as*

**Diana Lassiter**

*This is Rachael's debut performance with Brooklyn Community Theatre. Before her acting talent was discovered she was considered for the role of Violet due to her 'connections' within last year's cast. Rachael began her acting career playing a homosexual drug addict in "Cosi" and is hoping to inspire her acting to new highs through her portrayal of "thick and pretty much useless" Violet.*

*Joshua Smith  
as*

**Louie**

*Proud father of Hugo Joseph, 16 months old King Midas would be proud Gordon Ramsay would be jealous Eat oysters, love longer Gene Simmons is less experienced Single handedly raising the economy...*

*Keili Shillington  
as*

**Phyllis**

*Bursting onto the Brooklyn acting scene from the grim depths of Hornsby suburbia, Keili approaches her new stage role with grit and nervous determination. With a solid background in arts administration, editing and writing, acting clearly has little to do with anything she has ever done before. She believes that acting classes and minor roles in outer regional drama groups, just aren't going cut it. She wants the Brooklyn experience. And it looks like she's got it - in spades.*

# THE CREW

Assistant Director ~ Gary Robertson

Assistant Producer Without Portfolio ~ Phil Butterworth

Stage Manager ~ Dave Mitchell

Assistant Stage Manager ~ Lara Tattersall

Sound and Lighting ~ Peter and Ross Mudie, and Nick Brown

Back Stage Managers ~ Phil Butterworth and Peter Davis

Set, Costumes and Sponsorship ~ Catherine Pigneguy

Styling ~ Sonya Gieseckam

Stage Construction Manager ~ Brett Hughes

Stage Construction ~ Simon Bontoft, Adam Crome, Tracy

Forster, Neil Hassett, Wayne Latham, Dave Mitchell and Dane

Morrow

Electrical Engineer and Stage Construction ~ Dean Nesbitt

Public Relations ~ Beverly and Bob Davis, Ozzie and Ruby

Hughes, Jacqui Karu, Sue Lockyear, Fiona Mullen, Lauren

Raison, Mel and Robyn Steiner, and Shona Watt

Photographer ~ Wes Matthews

Transport Manager ~ Paul Mares

Courtesy Bus Service ~ Paul Surrest and Robert Williams

Promotions, Media, Program and Website ~ Ruth Steel

# WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO...

Allan Pratt and Berowra Hardware for stage materials

Bodine Amerikah for the theatre's logo

Brett Steele (The P.A. People) for power cabling

Dave Broome for promotions

Hawkesbury River Real Estate and Brooklyn Public School

for advance ticket sales and promotions

Hornsby Hospital Community Buses

Hornsby Shire Council for the use of this beautiful park

and promotion of Theatre in the Park as part

of Hornsby Shire's Festival of the Arts

Let's Get Fresh for promotions

Monks Restaurant for catering

Mooney Mooney Workers Club for their rehearsal facility

Noel Castley for his superb announcements

our supporters... Don's Boats General Store,

Ian's Hawkesbury Secrets (Fishing and Boating Supplies)

and Speers Craft Marine

*An extra special thank you to Chris Venn and Toby Sewell  
from Sydney Opera House's Lighting Department.*



**[www.beaujardine.com](http://www.beaujardine.com)**

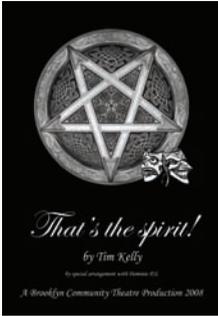
Our local artist Beau created our fabulous  
logo and is looking for any honest work...

**[www.letsgetfresh.com.au](http://www.letsgetfresh.com.au)**

Let's Get Fresh buy fresh, first grade, Australian grown,  
seasonal produce, direct from Flemington Markets  
and deliver it the same day.

# PAST PLAYS AND PLAYERS

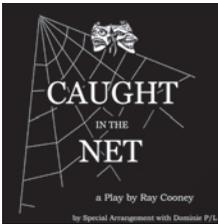
from 10 years of Brooklyn Community Theatre



**2008** Helen Goodrich, Karen Hughes, Jim Gosden, Venette Lowe, Gary Robertson, Drew Bontoft, Greg Upfold, Emma Jones, Sonya Giesekam, Paul Watt, Noel Castley, and Kate Duncan



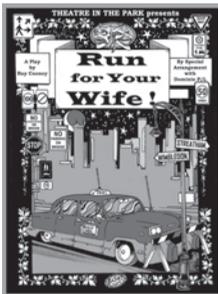
**2001** Gary Robertson, Robin Weston, Jim Gosden, Catherine Pigneguy, Kelly Moxham, and Steve Pearson



**2007** Drew Bontoft, Emma Jones, Venette Lowe, Melisah Caines, Gary Robertson, Steve Pearson, and Ross Martin



**2000** Gary Robertson, Tony Davis, Jim Gosden, Noel Castley, Steve Pearson, Paul Burcher, Leanne Kuulkers, and Catherine Pigneguy



**2004** Catherine Pigneguy, Ailie McMurdo, Gary Robertson, Greg Upfold, Steve Pearson, Al Shoesmith, Greg Wilson, and Bernie Leo



**1999** Debbie Botting, Andrew Brown, Helen Brewer, Noel Castley, Linda Gibbons, Steve Pearson, Gary Robertson, and Dave Thomas



**2002** Venette Lowe, Steve Hayes, Kelly Moxham, Jim Gosden, Juliette Dudley, and Ray James

# SPONSORS

Theatre in the Park would not be possible without the generosity of our sponsors...

**fenwicksmarina**.com.au

Congratulations Fenwicks, 2009 Australian Marina  
of the Year (under 85 berths)



*Anglers Rest Hotel*

*Brooklyn*

*(02) 9985 7257*

*Hawkesbury River*

**DON THOMPSON BUILDERS**

**LUXURY** **AFLOAT**  
HAWKESBURY RIVER  
BROOKLYN N.S.W  
[WWW.LUXURYAFLOAT.ORG](http://WWW.LUXURYAFLOAT.ORG)

  
SANDBROOK INLET  
MARINA  
[WWW.SANDBROOKINLETMARINA.COM.AU](http://WWW.SANDBROOKINLETMARINA.COM.AU)

  
BROOKLYN MARINA  
on the majestic Hawkesbury River  
[www.brooklynmarina.com.au](http://www.brooklynmarina.com.au)

HORNSBYSHIRE  
festival  
OF THE arts  
**09**

  
HORNSBY  
SHIRE COUNCIL