The PLAYERS THEATRE Inc.

www.playerstheatre.org.au

Your Community Theatre





Players Ponderings

September 2026

The PLAYERS THEATRE Inc

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Presents

COME FROM AWAY

Book, music & lyrics by Irene Sankoff & David Hein

Based on the remarkable true story

Directed By
Lance Thompson

Musical Director
Peter Dick

Assistant Director
Maddy Beukers

Vocal Coach
Phoebe Thompson-Star

9th October -1st Nov 2026

CAST ANNOUNCEMENT

Claude Elliott ... Jim Mitchell

Oz Fudge ... Jack Kirk

Kevin Tuerff ... Jay Haggett

Kevin Jung ... Michael Walsh

Bob ... Reuben Reed

Nick Marson ... Chris Francis

Captain Beverley Bass ... Sim Berry

Beulah Davis ... Cate Storen

Hannah O'Rourke ... Colleen Harradine

Janice Mosher ... Shontelle Roberts

Bonnie Harris ... Cherie Hurley

Diane Gray ... Amanda Gordon

Annette ... Jess Davidson

Crystal ... Evangeline Clough Good

Swinger ... Renata Hornshaw

Synopsis

Come From Away is a musical tale based on events that took place in Gander, Newfoundland during the week that followed the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Centre. The week that 38 planes landed unexpectedly at Gander "International" Airport.

The musical tells the story of some of the seven thousand passengers stranded that week and of the resilience, generosity and ingenuity of the locals in caring for them.

Purchase Tickets Here

Stay connected via our website and social media for ticket releases and event details.

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Lisa Harris, Lance Thompson, Stuart Symons, Greg Frank, Steve Harris, Kylie van-der-Ley, Peter Dick
Kirsten Keddie, Guenter Bieniasch, Jamie Brennan, Jenny Gould

From the President's Desk

Dear Members,

It has been another busy few months at The Players Theatre, both on stage and behind the scenes, and there is certainly plenty to reflect on since our last newsletter in May.

We finished the first half of the year on an extraordinary high with *Georgy Girl – The Seekers Musical*. The production was a standout success, with six full houses and more than 2,600 tickets sold. Perhaps even more memorable was having original Seeker Keith Potger join us for the final performance. His attendance was a wonderful way to finish what had already been a very special production and an experience I know many involved will remember for a long time.

That momentum continued with Steve Harris' production of *Don't Dress for Dinner*. It was great to see audiences responding so enthusiastically to a straight comedy and, judging by the feedback received throughout the season, there was certainly plenty of laughter. Patron surveys averaged 4.74 out of 5 overall. My congratulations again to Steve, Summer Tilston, Tyler Blake, the cast, production team and everyone who helped bring the show to the stage.

Of course, neither of these productions happens simply because the curtain goes up. The Players Theatre remains a completely volunteer-run organisation, and behind every production is an enormous amount of work by our directors, performers, technical crews, set and costume teams, Front of House and Bar volunteers, Box Office, Marketing and the many other people who contribute their time. It is something I remain extremely proud of.

June also saw our Annual General Meeting and the commencement of a new theatre year. I am very grateful to have again been entrusted with the role of President and look forward to working with our 2026/27 Management Committee. Kirsten Keddie and Jamie Brennan continue as our Vice Presidents, Kylie van-der-Ley as Secretary, while Steve Harris has taken over as Treasurer. Guenter Bieniasch, Jenny Gould, Lance Thompson, Lisa Harris, Peter Dick and Stuart Symons complete the committee. I would particularly like to acknowledge Stuart for his contribution during his five years as Treasurer.

The AGM also marked an important step in the continued development of the organisation. Following our successful registration with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission, members unanimously approved the necessary amendments to our Constitution to formalise our not-for-profit status and ensure that the Theatre's assets remain dedicated to community benefit.

Members also supported the proposal to move evening performances from 8:00pm to 7:30pm. The new start time will apply from the 2027 season and has now been incorporated into next year's production schedules.

Our financial position remains sound, with the annual audit completed without issue. This gives us a strong foundation to continue investing in our productions, equipment and facilities while maintaining appropriate financial security.

A significant improvement has been the completion of our new solar system, which is now fully operational and already showing encouraging results in reducing the Theatre's electricity costs. I would particularly like to acknowledge Stuart Symons for the considerable work he put into progressing the project, dealing with the delays along the way, and seeing it through to completion. We are now looking at grant opportunities that may assist us in adding a compatible battery storage system in the future, allowing us to make even greater use of the energy generated by the system.

An exciting development continues to be the work of our Strategic Planning Team. Planning for the proposed new Costume and Set Creation facility at the rear of the Theatre has moved beyond the conceptual stage. Following preliminary discussions and a pre-lodgment process with Port Macquarie-Hastings Council, our architect is now able to progress work towards preparation and submission of a Development Application. There is still a considerable amount of work ahead and no guarantees at this stage, but it is encouraging to see a project that began as an idea gradually moving through the proper planning process. The Strategic Planning Team is also continuing to look beyond our immediate needs, helping guide the Theatre's longer-term development across operations, infrastructure, community and performance.

Looking ahead, rehearsals are well underway for *Come From Away*, directed by Lance Thompson, which opens on 9th October. This is a remarkable musical based on the true story of the thousands of airline passengers stranded in Gander, Newfoundland, following the September 11 attacks, and I am very much looking forward to seeing the production come together.

The cast of *Aussie Icons* has also been announced, and rehearsals have commenced ahead of its opening on 27th November. Directed by Cindy Brennan, the production will bring our 2026 season to a close, with our end-of-year festive celebrations to follow the final performance on 6th December.

Planning is also well advanced for our 2027 season, with productions and directors selected and rehearsal schedules now being coordinated. It is encouraging to see this work taking place so far in advance, giving our production teams, volunteers and committee a much clearer picture of the year ahead.

There will always be challenges in an organisation such as ours. Volunteer recruitment remains one of the biggest. Some operational areas still depend on a relatively small group of people, particularly Front of House and Bar. If you have ever considered becoming more involved with the Theatre, there are opportunities both on stage and well away from it, and you certainly do not need previous theatre experience. Building larger teams and passing knowledge to new volunteers will be critical to the long-term sustainability of Players.

There is a great deal happening, and much of it never appears under the stage lights. That is probably one of the things I have come to appreciate most about The Players Theatre. The productions are what our audiences see, but they are supported by an enormous network of people working quietly behind the scenes.

Thank you to everyone who continues to give their time, energy and support to The Players Theatre. There is plenty still to come before we close the curtain on 2026, and I look forward to seeing many of you at Come From Away, Aussie Icons and around the Theatre over the coming months.

Yours sincerely,

Greg Frank

President

The Players Theatre Inc.







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PRESENTS

COME FROM AWAY

Book, Music & Lyrics by

Irene Sankoff & David Hein

9th Oct - 1st Nov 2026

Based on the remarkable true story

Directed by **Lance Thompson** Musical Director **Peter Dick**

Assistant Director **Maddi Beukers** Vocal Director **Phoebe Thompson-Star**

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TICKETS & INFORMATION (Scan QR Code)

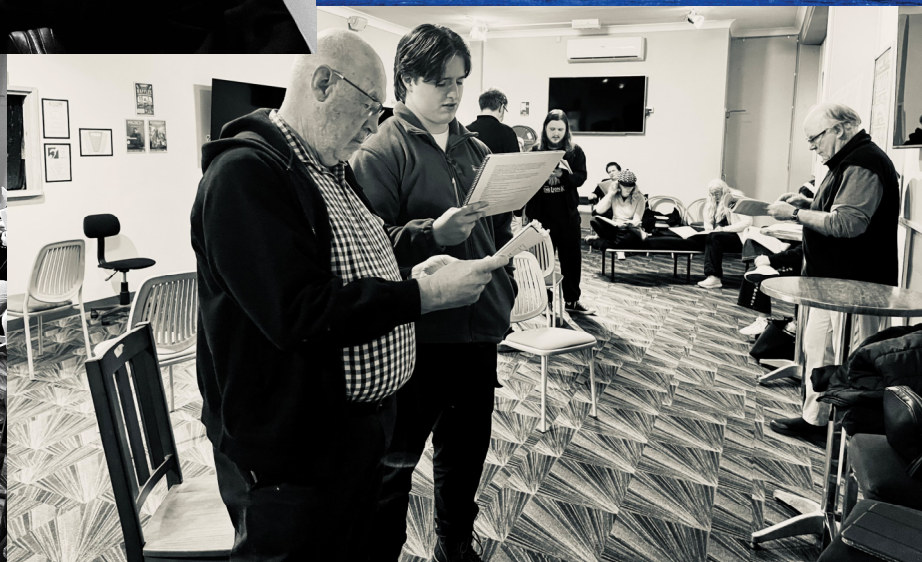
WEB: PLAYERSTHEATRE.ORG.AU

BOX OFFICE: 33A LORD ST (One hour prior to each performance)

GLASSHOUSE: PH 65818888, CLARENCE & HAY ST, PORT MACQUARIE

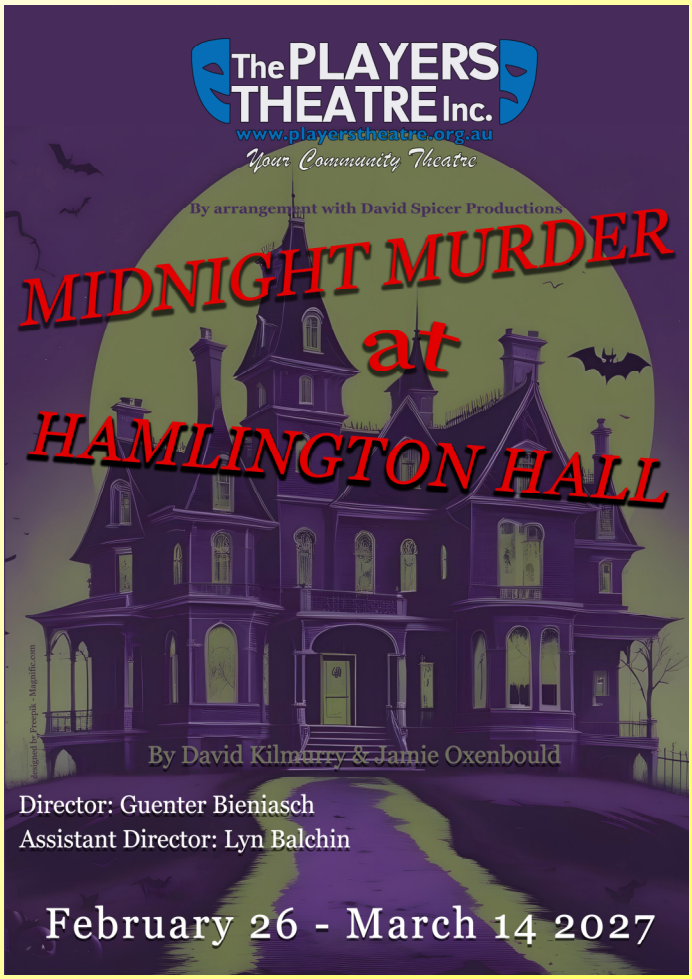






Coming Up:

INFORMATION SESSION



SYNOPSIS

The Middling Cove Players, a small amateur theatre company on the North Shore. On opening night when seven cast members fall ill with the "dreaded lurgy." With only the director and two actors remaining, they must improvise to keep the show going, leading to comedic chaos. The story is set in the drawing room of a grand country mansion in Norwich during the 1950s . A group of characters are invited to the mansion, and murders begin to occur, creating a classic whodunnit scenario. The remaining actors, along with a stage manager, her niece, and an unwilling audience member, juggle props, costumes, and multiple roles while trying to solve the mystery. In a final twist, the audience member turns out to be a local councilor assessing the theatre company's future, and the troupe's efforts save the company.

Directed by Guenter Bieniasch

INFO SESSION: 10am Saturday 24th October

AUDITIONS: 10am Saturday 7th November

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AUSSIE ICONS

IN CONCERT

ICONIC AUSTRALIAN MUSIC
THROUGHOUT THE DECADES



FEATURING
LOCAL BAND
FARRAWELLS DROP

CAST ANNOUNCEMENT

Amie Frank, Audrey Collins, Benjamin Wehlow, Bianca Churcher,
Caitlin Trenaman, Carolyn Blackhadder, Finn Russell-Cargill, George Patullo,
Isaac Long, Jessica Thomas, Joshua Suidgeest, Kylie Van der ley,
Lexie Fowler, Liam Toomey, Lily Oehlman, Lisa Harris, Malachi Munday,
Mia Beattie, Millie Penny, Natalie McDonald, Nellina Mann,
Nigel Russell-Cargill, Padmini Sinha-Groger, Rocky Croot, Ruby Burton,
Ryan Adamopoulos, Samantha Brennan, Summer Tilston,
Susan Fowler, Tyler Blake, Wendy Beck

FRONT OF HOUSE VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Bar staff, ushers, assistants needed for “Come From Away” 09/10/2026 to 01/11/2026. Click on the following link to register to volunteer.

https://form.jotform.com/91844204528862



PLAYERS THEATRE MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

CLICK HERE TO PURCHASE



NEXT OPEN MIC NIGHT - FRIDAY 13th November 2026

Players Improvements

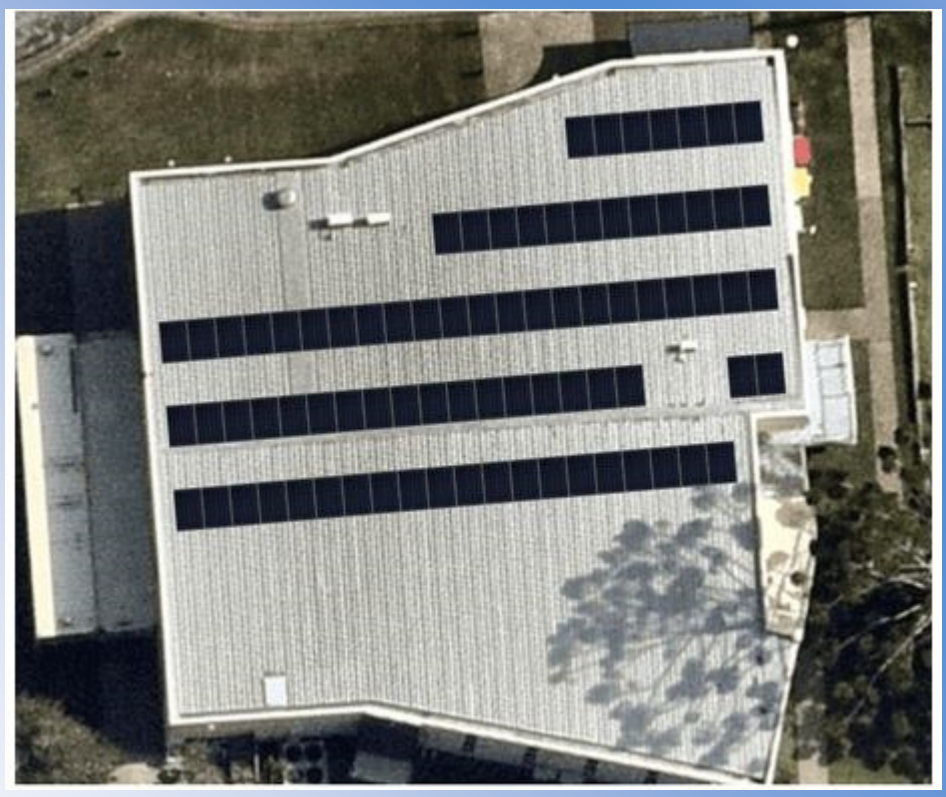
Earlier this year the Management committee undertook to install a 30KW Solar System, comprising 80 solar panels.

At the beginning of July the system was installed and after some delay due to a security cage for the protection of the equipment, the system is now up and running.

The prediction is for the system to reduce our power consumption by 66 to 75 percent.

Preliminary results are indicating that this is on track.

The purpose of such an installation was to reduce our footprint on the environment , secure our financial position and enable further improvements to the theatre



WANTED: SET CREATION TEAM MEMBERS

We are currently seeking skilled and keen members to be a part of our Set Creation Team. Please contact setcreation@playerstheatre.org.au if you wish to be a part of our amazing team of set creators constructing the sets for our productions.





You don't have to be skilled with power tools! There are lots of talents needed to build a set



VOLUNTEER TODAY!

2027 SEASON

Murder at Hamlington Hall (Play)

Director: Guenter Bieniasch

26 February – 14 March 2027

Evita (Musical)

Director: Gillian Mason

7 May – 30 May 2027

One Act Play Festival

11 – 13 June 2027 (June Long Weekend)

The Illiterate Book Club (Play)

Director: Tracey Stedman

6 August – 22 August 2027

Dracula: The Musical (Musical)

Director: Kate Simpson

22 October – 14 November 2027

FINAL SHOW OF 2026



Aussie Icons is a high-energy musical revue celebrating the artists and songs that have shaped Australia's soundtrack from the 1950s to today. Blending the feel of a live rock concert with the structure and storytelling of music theatre, the production will feature around 30 iconic songs, backed by a live band. With light choreography, and recognisable hits spanning generations, this two-act showcase promises a vibrant tribute to Australia's musical heritage.



Box Office Open

The Box Office is open Monday and Wednesday morning from 9am till 11am for two weeks leading up to the show opening.

Come From Away will be open the 1st, 6th and 8th October and for Aussie Icons it will be open 16th, 18th, 23rd and 25th November



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Costume Hire

By appointment only

For costume hire enquiries please contact:

costumes@playerstheatre.org.au

Mondays or Saturdays

9:30 - 12:30

Your go-to for all costume hires!

For more information, please check our website:

www.playerstheatre.org.au

Upcoming Theatre Hire Events



Simone Waddell is one of Australia's most respected and sought after vocalists, recognised for her exceptional tone, musical sophistication, and deeply expressive performances.

Inspired from Simone's acclaimed 2026 album, Unforgettable presents timeless songs from legendary writers Michel Legrand, Billy Joel, Paul Simon, Burt Bacharach, Marvin Hamlisch, Alan and Marilyn Bergman and more. Songs such as The production combines elegant arrangements, emotional storytelling and world-class musicianship.

Whether performing in an intimate club, major theatre, concert hall or festival, Simone Waddell delivers performances of exceptional musicality, warmth and emotional connection. Her work combines vocal mastery, artistic integrity, sophisticated musicianship and a genuine ability to reach audiences through the power of song. Simone does not simply present concerts. She creates memorable musical experiences that remain with audiences long after the final note.

Reviews

"In this crowded, noisy world of allegedly 'unique' singers, Simone distinguishes herself as an extraordinarily pure singer-songwriter and performer."
- George Massenburg, Grammy Award-winning engineer and producer

"This amazing album, Simone Waddell's fifth, has so much going for it it's difficult to know where to start… Australian music has rarely seen such a prodigious assembly of talent on one superb album." - Eric Myers, The Australian

"Simone brings a modern approach… while remaining true to the art form."

- Erik Zobler, Grammy Award-winning producer and engineer

"I have worked with many awe-inspiring vocalists, and Simone Waddell is amongst the very best."

- Martha Baartz, Australian saxophonist

Check out our website for more information on upcoming theatre hires


Come from Away Rehearsal photos

What's On:

9th Oct to 1st Nov: Come From Away - Season

13th Nov: 7pm - Open Mic Night - Event

24th Oct: 10am - Murder At Hamlington Hall - Information Sesson

7th Nov: 10am - Murder At Hamlington Hall - Auditions

8th Nov: 8pm - Simone Waddell : Unforgettable - Theatre Hire

27th Nov to 6th Dec : Aussie Icons- Season

6th Dec: Christmas Party (following final show of Aussie Icons)

7th Nov: 10am - Murder At Hamlington Hall - Auditions

26th Feb-14th March: Murder At Hamlington Hall - Season

7th-30th May: Evita - Season

11th-13th June: One Act Play Festival - Season

6th - 22nd August: The Illiterate Book Club - Season

22nd Oct– 14th Nov: Dracula: The Musical - Season



VOLUNTEERS WANTED:

Please contact us if you are interested in assisting with volunteering in any areas of our theatre.

Email

secretary@playerstheatre.org.au

If your family or friends did not receive this newsletter,

tell them to renew their memberships

CLICK HERE TO RENEW MEMBERSHIP