

Galleon Theatre Group presents by arrangement with Music Theatre International Australasia Pty Ltd, on behalf of Dramatists Play Service, Inc.

# HOPE & GRAVITY

written by **Michael Hollinger**

directed by **Kym Clayton**



**Galleon Theatre Group**

25 May—3 June 2023

Domain Theatre, Marion Cultural Centre

**WARRADALE  
HOTEL**



**MARION**  
CULTURAL CENTRE



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## **Galleon Theatre Group Inc. Committee of Management**

Kym Clayton (President), James Allenby, (Vice-President)  
Andrew Clark (Treasurer), Kenneth Calliss (Secretary)  
Mary Cummins, Trisha Graham, Elaine Latcham,  
Kaitlyn McKenzie, Warren McKenzie, Joy Whellum

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Kris Hanna, Mayor of the City of Marion

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Max Bowden, John Bowey\*, Andrew Clark, Kenneth Calliss  
Kym Clayton, Mary Cummins, Bob Dicker, Erica Dicker  
Margaret Dixon, Betty Fairfield, Stan Fairfield, John Fitzpatrick\*  
Kevin Hodgson\* OAM, Elaine Latcham, Gene Prigent\*  
Sean Smith, Joy Whellum

\*deceased



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Please turn off all mobile phones for the duration of  
the performance. The use of cameras or other  
recording devices is strictly prohibited.



# CAST

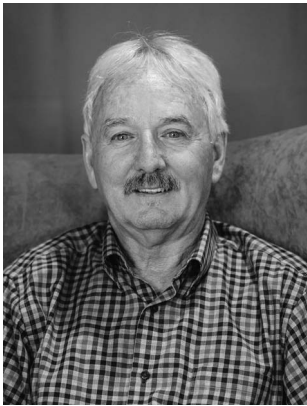
JILL • BARB .....	<i>Dora Stamos</i>
MARTY • DOUGLAS .....	<i>John Koch</i>
PETER • HAL .....	<i>Mark Drury</i>
STEVE .....	<i>Nathan Brown</i>
TANYA • NAN .....	<i>Mari Nield</i>

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*The action takes place in various locations in a large American city (elevator, school offices, apartments, park, hotel room). The time is 'now', but the nine scenes are not in chronological order!*

6. Out of Order • 2. Immaculate Conception • 4. Possibility  
5. Scout's Honor • 8. Spring Remembrance • 7. Self Help  
1. The Big Picture • 9. Small World • 3. Leap of Faith
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## KYM CLAYTON—DIRECTOR



KYM has been involved in theatre for many years. He has directed for the Whyalla Players, Blackwood Players, Noarlunga Theatre Company, Burnside Players, Axis Theatre Group, St Jude's Players and Galleon Theatre Group. He played lead roles in musicals, including "Higgins" in *My Fair Lady*; the "King" in *The King and I*; and "Jesus" in *Godspell*. He appeared in *Table Manners*, *Haywire*, *Night on the Tiles*, and *Let the Sunshine* for Galleon; *The Public Eye* for Blackwood; *Charley's Aunt* for the Adelaide Rep; and *Of Mice and Men* for Therry. For Galleon he directed *Run for Your Wife*, *Biting the Bullet*, *Daylight Saving*, *Natural Causes*, *Party Piece*, *Perfect Wedding*, *Time of My Life*, *Up and Coming*, *Love Forty*, *Bedroom Farce*, *Chapter Two*, *The Weekend*, *One Slight Hitch*, *Rumours*, *Season's Greetings*, and *The Prisoner of Second Avenue*. His production of *Rumours* won Best Comedy in the Adelaide Theatre Guide's Curtain Call Awards, and both *Bedroom Farce* and *Chapter Two* were nominated. Kym is President of Galleon; a Life Member of Galleon, the Whyalla Players and the Theatre Association of SA; a regular reviewer for *The Barefoot Review* and *Encore Magazine*; a member and Secretary of the prestigious Adelaide Critics Circle; and secretary of Recitals Australia.

# PRODUCTION CREDITS

Director .....	Kym Clayton
Assistant to Director .....	Kaitlyn McKenzie
Production Managers .....	James Allenby, Kym Clayton
Stage Manager .....	Joy Whellum
Properties & Backstage Coordinator .....	Elaine Latcham
Set Design .....	Kym Clayton, Trisha Graham
Business Management .....	Andrew Clark
Costumes .....	Trisha Graham, Sam Tutty
Front of House Manager .....	Allan Whellum
Hairdressing & Wigs .....	Kathryn Stevens
Lighting Design & Operation .....	James Allenby
Master of Ceremonies .....	Ken Calliss
Photography .....	James Allenby
Poster Design .....	Kaitlyn McKenzie
Program .....	Jacqueline Jeremy
Properties .....	Mary Cummins, Elaine Latcham
Publicity .....	Andrew Clark, Kaitlyn McKenzie
Scenic Art .....	Sue McKenzie
Sound Design & Operation .....	Tim Hall
Backstage Crew .....	Andrew Clark, Mary Cummins, Elaine Latcham
Set Construction .....	James Allenby, Max Bowden, Ken Calliss Andrew Clark, Kym Clayton, David Cuppleditch
Ticketing Coordinator .....	Joy Whellum
Front of House .....	Members and Friends of Galleon Theatre Group

# DIRECTOR'S NOTE

WELCOME to the Domain Theatre and to Galleon Theatre Group's production of *Hope and Gravity* by Michael Hollinger. (It is a South Australian première, and we believe it might also be the first time it has been produced anywhere in Australia!)

This cleverly structured play, with the action moving along in nine out-of-sequence scenes that begin inside an elevator where we hear the fuzzy details of an elevator accident—an incident that will eventually link the scenes and the lives of the characters forever. There are nine characters but played by only five actors. The action travels backward and forward in time as each character experiences the highs and lows of relationships and chance encounters. Their quest for life, love and happiness results in both comedy and tragedy, as hope raises them up and gravity pulls them down.

Each scene functions as a self-contained vignette, but each is a single piece of a big puzzle with characters interacting on one level, with no idea that their lives intersect and connect on another. As the action unfolds, Hollinger gives us tantalizing bits of information that may not resolve themselves until late in the play. Along the way there is much humour, but there is also melancholy, and the emotional issues are not subordinated in favour of easy laughs.

Our design team has tackled the interconnection theme by using dominant and complimentary colours that saturate every setting, resulting in a rich visual tapestry of colour that suggests immediate as well as implied and random connections. I hope you enjoy the thrill of piecing it together yourself, as you witness the five actors lay out the story that sometimes happens in the past, sometimes in the future, but also in the present.

My sincere thanks go to the outstanding cast who have worked hard to identify and deal with every sly nuance the play reveals to the careful reader. They have made my task much easier, and a joy, as has the entire hard working, talented and devoted team at Galleon.

Thank you for supporting community theatre, and I hope you enjoy *Hope and Gravity* as much as we have had bringing it to you!

~ *Kym Clayton*

# DORA STAMOS

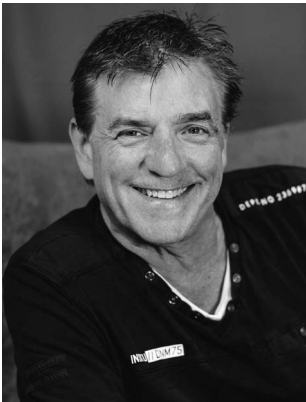
“JILL” • “BARB”



FOLLOWING a 20-year hiatus, Dora's first involvement in acting as an adult was in 2021, playing “Greta” in Blackwood Players' production of *Ain't We Got Fun*. Last year she played “Julie” in Blackwood Players' production of *Curtain Up*, and “Laura” in University of Adelaide Theatre Guild Student Society's production of *Significant Other*. Dora has also featured in TV commercials, short films, and role-playing training sessions for SA Ambulance Service, UniSA and the National Judicial College. In 2021 she completed adult acting classes with Actors Ink and last year began studying at the Flinders University Drama Centre. Dora has thoroughly enjoyed digging her teeth (yes, even the grey one) into the roles of “Barb” and “Jill” in the hilarious *Hope and Gravity*.

# JOHN KOCH

“MARTY” • “DOUGLAS”



THIS is John's third production with Galleon, having played “Harold Schwabb” in *Loves and Hours* and “Glen” in *Rumours*. His love of theatre began in 1992 with Stirling Players. He has performed with Therry Dramatic Society, The Metropolitan Musical Theatre Company, St Jude's Players and Daw Park Players. John is equally at home whether performing in plays or musicals. His favourite performances include “Henry Saunders” in *Lend Me a Tenor* and “George Hay” in *Moon Over Buffalo* (both for Therry); “Trevor Graydon III” in the musical comedy *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (The Met); and “Gaston” in *Gigi* (Therry), in which he sang the well-known and fabulous title song. John loves a good comedy role and is thoroughly enjoying playing both “Douglas” and “Marty” in *Hope and Gravity*.

# MARK DRURY

“PETER” • “HAL”



MARK's first foray into theatre began with the role of “Knuckles” in *Bugsy Malone*, and he decided that if he could be anything he wanted to be he would try his hand at acting. Since then he has appeared in numerous productions around Adelaide with a number of different companies, most notably as “Ray Dooley” in *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, “Macduff” in *Macbeth*, “Benedict” in *Much Ado About Nothing*, “Inspector Goole” in *An Inspector Calls*, and “The Devil” in *The History of the Devil*.

# NATHAN BROWN

“STEVE”



INSPIRED by actors since he was ten years old, Nathan started in youth theatre with the Helen O'Grady Drama Academy in 2006. He continued this until 2012 while studying drama at Aberfoyle Park High School. Since then, he has performed in various theatre and film productions across Adelaide. Notably, he played supporting roles, “Robert Sideway” and “Lieut. William Dawes” in *Our Country's Good* by the Stirling Players, in 2016; “Steve Hubbel” in the 2022 Bakehouse Theatre production of *A Streetcar Named Desire*; and most recently he performed in the 2022 Noarlunga Theatre Company production, *After Dinner*. Nathan continues to challenge and improve his acting abilities for this production and beyond.

# MARI NIELD

“TANYA” • “NAN”



MARI studied drama at high school and Adelaide University. In recent years she combined parenthood with amateur theatre and the jury is still out as to which role is the more dramatic. In the past few years Mari has worked with Noarlunga Theatre Company, Adelaide University Theatre Guild, and Galleon Theatre Company. She played “Belinda” in *Seasons Greetings* (also directed by Kym) and “Maggie” in Galleon’s *Jake’s Women*, which was nominated for an Adelaide Theatre Guide Curtain Call Award. Mari has

loved working with Kym again, and with the wonderfully energetic cast and crew in *Hope and Gravity*.

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## Community theatre needs you!

Galleon Theatre Group is a welcoming and inclusive organisation which is always looking for volunteers who want to be involved in the wonderful business of bringing a play to the stage.

You don’t need to be experienced, just enthusiastic!

For further information please contact us:

**GTG, PO Box 198, PARK HOLME SA 5043**

**[info@galleon.org.au](mailto:info@galleon.org.au)**

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# MICHAEL HOLLINGER

## PLAYWRIGHT



MICHAEL HOLLINGER'S plays include nine works premiered at Philadelphia's Arden Theatre Company, including *An Empty Plate* in the Café Du Grand Boeuf, *Incorruptible*, *Tiny Island*, *Red Herring*, *Tooth and Claw*, *Opus*, *Ghost-Writer*, *Under the Skin*, and the musical *TouchTones* (co-authored with composer Robert Maggio). Plays premiered elsewhere include *Sing the Body Electric* at Philadelphia's Theatre Exile; *Hope and Gravity* at Pittsburgh's City Theatre; *Cyrano* (translated, and co-adapted with Aaron Posner) at Washington's Folger Theatre; and the musical *A Wonderful Noise* (co-authored with Vance Lehmkuhl) at Creede Rep. Together these works have been produced throughout the U.S., off-Broadway, and abroad (London, Paris, Tokyo, Athens, Poland and Slovenia). Awards include an ATCA/Steinberg New Play Citation, an L.A. Drama Critics Circle Award, a Mid-Atlantic Emmy, an Edgerton Foundation New American Plays Award, the Frederick Loewe Award for Musical Theatre, four Barrymore Awards (including the F. Otto Haas Award for an Emerging Theatre Artist), nominations for Lucille Lortel and John Gassner awards, and multiple fellowships from the Independence Foundation and Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. Michael is a Professor of Theatre at Villanova University (where he received his MA in Theatre), Artistic Director of Villanova Theatre, and a proud alumnus of PlayPenn and New Dramatists. He shares a life with actor/teacher/director Megan Bellwoar and their children Benjamin and Willa.

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### Acknowledgement of Country

*Galleon Theatre Group recognises that we perform on the land of the Kaurna people of the Adelaide Plains, and pay our respects to their elders, past and present.*

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## GALLEON'S AWARDS AND NOMINATIONS

### ► Theatre Association of South Australia Awards

2011	<i>Chapter Two</i>	<b>DRAMATI</b> <i>Cal</i> Award nomination
2017	<i>Season's Greetings</i>	<b>COMI</b> <i>Cal</i> Award nomination
2017	<i>Incorruptible</i>	<b>COMI</b> <i>Cal</i> Award nomination
2019	<i>Moving Mountains</i>	<b>COMI</b> <i>Cal</i> Award nomination Best Female Performance in a Non-Musical Nomination, Sharon Pitardi
2021	<i>Escher's Hands</i>	<i>Cal</i> <b>ECTIVE</b> Best Ensemble Winner Best Female Performance in a Non-Musical Nomination, Brittany Daw Best Male Performance in a Non-Musical Nomination, Andrew Clark
2021	<i>Emily</i>	Best Female Performance in a Non-Musical Nomination, Jess Carroll
2022	<i>A Love Affair</i>	<i>Cal</i> <b>ECTIVE</b> Best Ensemble Nomination
2022	<i>A Love Affair</i>	<b>TECHNI</b> <i>Cal</i> Technical Nomination, Lighting

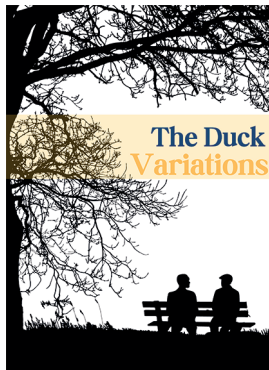
### ► Adelaide Theatre Guide "Curtain Call" Awards

2007–08	<i>Time of My Life</i>	Best Female Performance Nomination, Jo St Clair
2008–09	<i>Roots and Wings</i>	Best Comedy Nomination
2009–10	<i>Bedroom Farce</i>	Best Comedy Nomination
2010–11	<i>Chapter Two</i>	Best Comedy Nomination
2012–13	<i>Don't Dress for Dinner</i>	Best Comedy Nomination
2013–14	<i>Loves and Hours</i>	Best Comedy Nomination
2014–15	<i>Jake's Women</i>	Best Comedy Nomination
2015–16	<i>Sex Cells</i>	Best Ensemble Nomination
2015–16	<i>Rumours</i>	Best Comedy Winner Best Female Performance Nomination, Anita Zamberlan Canala
2016–17	<i>Cheaters</i>	Best Comedy Nomination
2017–18	<i>Incorruptible</i>	Best Comedy Winner

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## Upcoming Galleon Theatre Group Productions

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# The Duck Variations

by David Mamet

directed by Andrew Clark

15 & 16 July 2023, Domain Theatre

as part of the Marion Cultural Centre's One Act Play Festival

THIS charming two-hander one-act comedy dramatizes the old adage that people who talk the most with authority about something are the ones most likely to know the least about it! Two old men discuss the ways of ducks and life, making observations that are profoundly hilarious!

“Mamet’s exchanges show an awesome fidelity to the visceral way a conversation can chase its tail, overlap, fade out, or double back on itself.”—*The Chicago Reader*

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# Grow Up Grandad

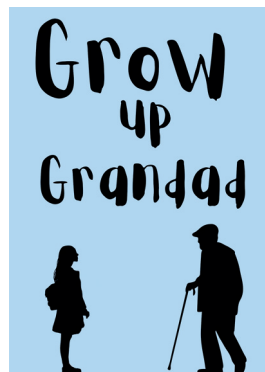
by Gordon Steel

directed by Warren McKenzie

26 October–4 November 2023, Domain Theatre

POPPY is eleven years old and has “attitude”. When she finds herself living with her cantankerous grandfather, a man she neither likes nor loves, all hell breaks loose. *Grow up Grandad* is an inter-generational bitter-sweet comedy that deals with love and loss, hope and sadness as the relationship between Poppy and her Grandad is first thrown together and eventually torn apart.

“The play is dramatic, painful, provocative and often hugely funny. It is also very human which much theatre is not. Steel writes crisp, sharp dialogue, both tickling our funny bone and engaging our mental processes.”—*British Theatre Guide*



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## Galleon Theatre Group