



# Spectrum Theatre

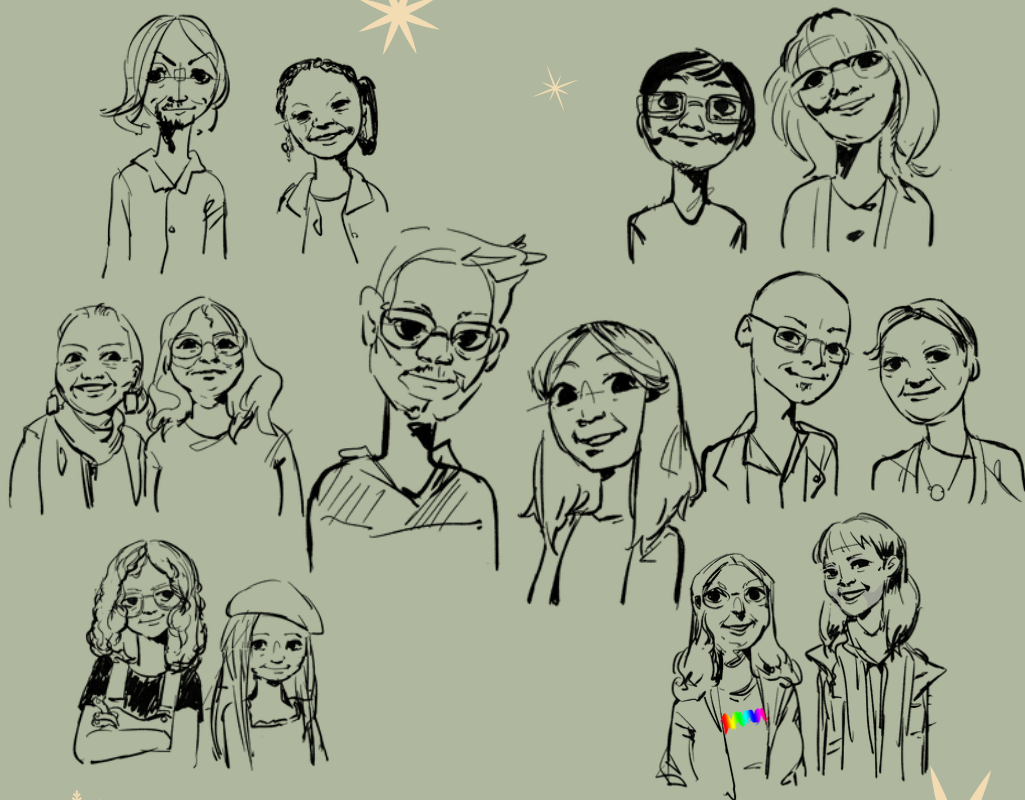
PRESENTS...

AN AMATEUR PRODUCTION BY ARRANGEMENT WITH ORIGIN TM THEATRICAL ON BEHALF OF DRAMATIC PUBLISHING

## 'A GOOD OLD FASHIONED BIG FAMILY CHRISTMAS'

A COMEDY BY PAT COOK

DIRECTED BY MADDI SHARPE/ASSISTANT DIRECTOR JEN CROSTON



featuring music by local duo  
'RnB Soul Train'

2023

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## About the Playwright – Pat Cook

Pat Cook is an American Playwright who has published over 150 plays, many of them Christmas plays. Cook was a columnist for a local newspaper before being inspired to write plays after watching a film adaption of Neil Simon's *The Odd Couple*. His first play *The Boys in the Halls* opened in 1968 and several plays followed over the years as a hobby. It wasn't until he decided to invest in a computer that Cook decided to put all his eggs in the writing basket and focus full time as a playwright. Cook is still writing and publishing, and his works have been adapted into several different languages to be performed throughout the world.

### Synopsis

Hayden Stewart's wife, Judith, and her sisters, Carla and Beth, are worried about their parents. When she mentions this to Hayden, he casually suggests maybe the sisters could spend some time with Jack and Arlene, their parents, and squelch any arguments. The next thing Hayden knows, Judith is planning a huge Christmas party with the whole family. This doesn't sit well with his brothers-in-law. However, as time gets short and the party draws near, suddenly everyone is on their best behaviour. The husbands, the wives, even the kids. Everybody is being good... too good. Is it possible to be TOO good?

That's what Jack and Arlene suspect when they arrive. Tom and Marjorie, Hayden's parents eventually join the party. Only Marjorie can see what's really going on as the family tries to throw

A Good Old-Fashioned Big Family Christmas.

#### Act One

Scene 1 ~ Hayden's garage / The Stewart's living room

Scene 2 ~ Later that afternoon

Scene 3 ~ Two days later

Scene 4 ~ Later that day

Scene 5 ~ Two days later

Scene 6 - Later that night

Scene 7 ~ A couple of days later

~ Intermission ~

#### Act Two

Scene 1 ~ The day of the party, early morning

Scene 2 ~ Three hours later

Scene 3 ~ The party

*There will be a twenty-minute intermission between Acts One & Two. During this time, our kiosk will be open, selling cold drinks, snacks and ice-creams.*

*Both cash and card are accepted.*



**Scan the QR code to follow us on  
Facebook to keep up with what's  
happening at Spectrum Theatre**



## THE CAST - In order of appearance

### Darian Mercuri as *Hayden*



Darian has been involved with Spectrum Theatre since 2014. During this time, he has been involved in countless plays as a Director, Mentor, Actor & Lighting/Sound Tech. Last year, Darian wrote, published and presented his first play *Custard!* Darian has been a long serving member on Spectrum's committee and is currently club President. Darian enthusiastically welcomes new members to Spectrum Theatre and enjoys fostering and developing arts of all kinds and welcomes new projects and participants to Spectrum with open arms. To Darian, Christmas means Rumballs. We have let him know he can make them year-round, but he insists these are a festive treat!

### Nadia Prater as *Judith*

Nadia had a ball performing at Spectrum Theatre playing Laura, a jealous villainess, in *I'll Be Back Before Midnight*. A life-time ago she had roles in musical theatre productions at ALOTCo. During the day, Nadia juggles life with two young girls & working as an Interior Designer.



For Nadia, Christmas is a stressful build up. However, her favourite part happens after the washing up is done from Christmas lunch and the family are heading to the beach for some surf and sun.

### Juie Carson as *Carla*



Juie has been involved in theatre for about 3 years. Beginning as a stage manager on Spectrum's 2021 production of *Closer*, Juie then decided to audition for the following production *I'll Be Back Before Midnight* and secured a role. Juie decided to do the same again in 2023, doing back-to-back productions, gracing our stage in *Picnic at Hanging Rock*. Juie is enjoying the light heartedness of this production.

To Juie, Christmas means having a relax and a sleep in before spending the day with family, friends - and of course spoiling her fur babies!





### **Danni Frost as Beth**

Danni got into theatre at a young age when her primary school did shows at the end of the year. When she went to high school, she became involved with the drama program. Last year she was involved in Albany Children's Theatre's debut production of *Moana Jnr*. She first appeared on Spectrum's stage as *Cunningham* in the collaboration between Great Southern Grammar and Spectrum Theatre in the production of *The Real Inspector Hound*. Danni couldn't pass up the opportunity to audition for *A Good Old-Fashioned Big Family Christmas*.

To Danni, Christmas means spending time with family, cooking Christmas lunch and eating together - as well as dying from heat at the beach

### **Luka Fumagalli as Max**

Luka has been acting since he was 8 years old and has averaged probably one show a year in that time.

This will be Luka's first appearance in a Spectrum Theatre play. He has performed previously with ALOTCo, singing a duet in the 2018 production of *'It's Been a Long, Long Time'*, and two solos in 2019's *Albany's Got Talent*. His most recent production was ALOTCo's *Let's Shine Brightly* back in 2019, when he decided he would learn the piano in just 6 weeks to accompany his performance of Judy Garland's live version of *Over the Rainbow!* Luka is active online as a member of multiple creative fields, the most prominent being musical performance and visual arts.

Christmas to Luka is just a good excuse to replay the Bayonetta 2 video game



### **Jim Duncan as Cliff**



Jim has been involved with Spectrum since 2019. His most recent play with Spectrum was in our second season this year *Up and Running!* Jim was also stage manager for Spectrum's production of *Picnic at Hanging Rock*, making *A Good-Old Fashioned Big Family Christmas* his third with Spectrum in 2023 - we really can't keep him away!

To Jim, Christmas is an opportunity for family and friends to get together and have fun and love each other.

## Ruby Mitchell as *Phoebe*



Ruby is looking forward to her first role in a Christmas show. Ruby is grateful to be a Spectrum member and was very honoured to be a part of Spectrum's first season this year *Minefields and Miniskirts*. She is enjoying finding the comedy in her role as a secretive and moody teen! Ruby looks forward to being a part of Spectrum, whether onstage or in the audience!

Christmas is just that extra bit special for Ruby as it means a few extra gifts – her birthday is on Christmas Eve!

## Melenna Cooper as *Mildred*

Melenna's origins are with Plantagenet Players where she became a member in 1999. Over the 14 years she has been in countless productions with them. Melenna has been a member of Spectrum for the last 2 years and has been involved back-stage in both *Up and Running!* and *Picnic at Hanging Rock*. This will be the first time Melenna has tread the boards as an actor.

When it comes to Christmas, Melenna is all about time with family and friends



## Iyla Warr as *Blair*



Iyla is new to Spectrum Theatre but is a natural performer. Recently, Iyla performed with Albany Children's Theatre in their production of *Moana Jnr*, and has been involved with theatre through school projects. Iyla is regularly involved with the acting club at PCYC and is in the school band as a flute player. Iyla enjoys crafts, arts and anything to do with mushrooms! Iyla was very happy to have been cast in her first production with Spectrum Theatre as she is enjoying acting and performing and having the space to do so.

To Iyla, Christmas means spending time with her family especially her cousins.

## **Saffy Waters as *Lanie***



Saffy's stage experience is combination of school assembly performances and school choir concerts at the Albany Entertainment Centre. She is far from shy and takes great pleasure in making anyone around her break into a smile, or better, a belly laugh. Christmas, in Saffy's eyes is Santa's visit, presents, candy-canes and sitting under the shade of the big old liquid amber with her extended family.

Welcome to the Spectrum Theatre family Saffy!

## **Michelle Harris as *Jac***

Michelle has always loved the theatre, especially musical theatre. Michelle has been involved with many groups over the last 30 years including Janus, Roleystone Theatre & Plantagenet Players. Michelle joined Spectrum in 2020, cast in *Secret Bridesmaid's Business* which unfortunately was not shown to the public due to COVID restrictions being in place. Her first debut was playing *Doreen* in *Custard!* Michelle then went on to direct *Minefields* and *Miniskirts* earlier this year. To Michelle Christmas is just another day, but family is her everything!



## **Jo Brown as *Arlene***

Jo's theatre journey began in the audience at Spectrum Theatre's amateur Stand-Up Comedy show in 2022. Since then, she has been to every show at Spectrum, as well as being involved with our improv and creative writing groups. Jo was a radio presenter in Toowoomba, meeting a variety of local and international acts. Jo is an avid volunteer in our community with her main focus being mental health and well-being. While Jo is no stranger to the public eye, this is her first experience of performing in a play and she is very excited to be joining us.

To Jo, Christmas is about connecting with family at a time where you can press the reset button and remember to take time for yourselves and your loved ones.



## Serge Maujean as Tom



Serge has been an active part of the Spectrum line-up over 2023. In February he played guitar behind the scenes to compliment the performers as part of *Minefields and Miniskirts*. In May he swooped in last minute to play the lead role in our production of *Up and Running!* Once again, Serge returns to the stage this time playing health-conscious troublemaker Tom, injecting chaos into the family Christmas mix.

To Serge, Christmas is usually a time where all the immediate family gets together. And they all share a big meal together. They all live between Perth and Albany, and it's not often they're all in the same place. But it's a time they all make an effort to be together.

## Laura Leach as Marjorie

This is Laura's first production with Spectrum. She has always enjoyed attending previous shows, her favourite being *The House of Frank*. Watching from the audience sparked an interest in joining, and when it was announced we would be finishing 2023 with a Christmas play, she couldn't wait any longer. We are so grateful to have Laura as an active member of Spectrum!

Christmas to Laura means family and togetherness. Waking up, unwrapping gifts and preparing food to share with her immediate & extended family!



## Jen Croston - Assistant Director

Jen has been a part of Spectrum Theatre for more years than can be counted on her fingers and toes!

Recently, she was awarded Life Membership to Spectrum Theatre to honour the years she has dedicated to the club. She fell in love with all facets of performing immediately. This year has been a particularly busy one for Jen with her varied roles in *Minefields and Miniskirts*, *Up and Running* and *Picnic at Hanging Rock*. Christmas for Jen means her family gathered around a table chokka's with everyone's favourites, loads of laughter and 'the Christmas lasagna' that is still always requested by her 'adult' children as it was a favourite from when they were kids. It makes the kitchen hot as hell when it's cooking, she says but it's become our own unique Christmas tradition so we all just wipe the sweat off our brows and dig in!





## **Maddi Sharpe - Director**



Maddi has only acted on Spectrum's stage twice since 2019, before her daughter was born... but has served on the committee continuously for the last 3 years, actively supporting the theatre from behind the scenes. Being a first time director has been a whirlwind Maddi says. With a cast of 14 and the busy end of year season in the mix, the show has had her fully immersed! Maddi is overjoyed to present to our community this wonderful and comedic Christmas production. A labour of love that has been more than worth it. Christmas to Maddi means a few days off work and quality time with her family.

### **CREATIVE TEAM**

Maddi Sharpe - Director  
Jen Croston - Assistant Director  
Lighting & Sound - Flynn Huntley  
Stage Manager - Georgia Gribble  
Prompt - Diana Caley

### **SET CONSTRUCTION**

Scott Richards, Maddi Sharpe, Tony Sharpe, Jack Harris-Richards, Andy Huntley, Andrew Leach, Flynn Huntley, Nelson Blake, Diana Caley, Laura Leach, Darian Mercuri and Danni Frost

### **SPECIAL MENTIONS**

Scott Richards - Set Co-Ordinator  
Darian Mercuri - Publicity & Programme  
Darian Mercuri & Maddi Sharpe - Poster design  
Luka Fumagalli - Original Artwork  
RnB Soul Train - Music  
Depression Support Network Op Shop - Props and costume  
Rebecca Stephens MP Office

## **Membership with Spectrum Theatre**

Did you know it's easy to get involved with Spectrum Theatre? Our club has many roles, both onstage and off stage - and we encourage anyone of any experience level to join! Mentoring and support is available for everyone who requires, with a large team of dedicated members passionate about creating a safe place to create art, laughter and friendships.

Outside of productions, Spectrum Theatre hosts an array of social events throughout the year exclusively for members, and they are a great way to get to know everyone & get involved.

If you're interested, get in touch with us at [spectrumtheatrewa@outlook.com](mailto:spectrumtheatrewa@outlook.com) or speak to one of our friendly Front of House Representatives for more information!

## **Spectrum Theatre's Next Show**

### ***Class of 77* an Australian Musical by David Hines**

Directed by Jen Croston & Michelle Harris

Auditions in January 2024

Showing Dates April 2024

Tickets on sale at [Paperbarks.com.au](https://paperbarks.com.au) or instore at Paperbark Merchants in February 2024

### **Synopsis *Class of 77***

Class of 77 tells the story of a group of high school kids in 1977, about to leave school and face the world. As each of them prepares to take the next tentative steps on their journey old friendships are tested and new horizons are sought. Fifteen years later they meet again at a School Reunion.

Expression of Interest - Auditions -  
Class of 77 - Spectrum Theatre



**To express interest in auditions  
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# **Spectrum Theatre Inc.**

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Email: [Spectrumtheatrewa@outlook.com](mailto:Spectrumtheatrewa@outlook.com)

## **COMMITTEE**

**President: Darian Mercuri (0434 587 332)**

**Vice President: Maddison Sharpe**

**Secretary: Diana Caley**

**Treasurer: Jane Looker**

**Jen Croston**

**Nelson Gilmour**

**Melenna Cooper**

**Billie Whitbread**

**Tigre Bird**

## **LIFE MEMBERS:**

**Frank Astle   Wendy Faville   Bronwyn France   Kevin Kanzler   Shirley Pannell  
Oonagh Randall   Michael Rich   Marianne Winsor   Sandra Wilson   Joan Anderson  
Martin Hveissel   Charles Danger   June Hveissel   Eve Wilkinson   Karen Freeman  
Darian Mercuri   Jen Croston**

**Spectrum Theatre was formed in 1980 in the Vancouver Arts Centre, moving to its present location in 1981. If you have ever felt like 'giving it a go' on-stage or back-stage, please feel free to have a chat with any of the cast or crew after the show, or contact the committee. You will always be most welcome in any capacity, at whatever level of experience or inexperience!**

## **MEMBERSHIP**

**Membership is open to all. Applications/Expression of interest should be sent via email to [Spectrumtheatrewa@outlook.com](mailto:Spectrumtheatrewa@outlook.com)**

**Annual fees are: \$20 Single, \$30 Family and \$10 for Juniors. Members are entitled to reduced ticket prices, invites to our regular ongoing social events and club groups as well as being covered under the theatre's insurances with the ability to participate in productions, either onstage or behind the scenes.**

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