



MAITLAND
REPERTORY
THEATRE

THE GREAT DIVIDE

by David Williamson

Directed by Ian Robinson

PROGRAM

February 26 to March 16, 2025

Director's Note

Over the years I've had the opportunity to act in two modern Australian plays by David Williamson at Maitland Repertory Theatre. It's now been an absolute pleasure to direct *The Great Divide*, one of the playwright's most recent plays.

The subject is topical and the text is a biting commentary on events impacting many coastal communities in Australia. As usual for David Williamson, the characters are very real, and sadly for many Australians the 'great divide' is also very real.

It's a challenging play and our cast are doing it justice. From audition time I could see each cast member fit into their roles extremely well. Thank you to all the cast and crew.

I hope this fast-moving play will have audiences enthralled.

Ian Robinson



Setting

The idyllic, sleepy, coastal Australian town of Wallis Heads in the present day.

The Playwright

Playwright David Williamson has spent more than 50 years satirising the lives of the white middle-class. The 82-year-old has written more than 50 plays, including the much-loved *Don's Party* and *The Club*.

David Williamson's first full-length play, *The Coming of Stork*, premiered at the La Mama Theatre, Carlton, in 1970 and later became the film *Stork*, directed by Tim Burstall.

His play *Travelling North* had a successful production in Vietnam and *The Club* ran for a year in Beijing, where its depiction of back room committee politicking obviously struck a chord with the locals.

A number of his stage works have been adapted for the screen, including *The Removalists*, *Don's Party*, *The Club*, *Travelling North*, *Emerald City*, *Sanctuary* and *Brilliant Lies*, and six of them have been made into quality telemovies in Poland.

At Maitland Repertory Theatre we have performed *Travelling North*, *After the Ball*, *Money and Friends* and *Amigos*. We're very pleased that David Williamson came out of retirement to write *The Great Divide*.



Cast

Amanda Hiles
as
Alex Whittle



Drew Pittman
as
Alan Bridger

Kristin Ison
as
Penny Poulter



Jane Johns
as
Grace Delahunty

Anthony Roberts
as
Brian



Lily Maqueda
as
Rachel Poulter

Danny Shaunessy
as
Joel



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REPERTORY THEATRE

Production Credits

Director	Ian Robinson
Stage Manager	Alexandra Comber
Set Designer	Ian Robinson
Set Construction /Realisation	Danny Shaunessy, Ian Robinson, Alexandra Comber, Dimity Eveleens, Robert Comber, the Saturday crew
Costumes	Cast
Makeup/Hair	Cast
Properties	Dimity Eveleens
Lighting Design	Colin Campbell
Lighting Operators	Colin Campbell and Robert Comber
Videographer	Mark Webster
Sound Design, Composer/Operator	Scott Merewether Rankin
Poster	Anne Robinson
Photography/Scrim images	Anne Robinson
Program	Ian Robinson
Publicity	Ian Robinson and Alexandra Comber
Catering Officer	Terry Allen

Thank You

To Brett Kipa for providing our surfboards – thank you!

To our volunteer members who make this show possible.

To The CONDA Judges

Sascha Okenhall, Larni Christie, Dan Stranger, Christine Fletcher,
Wendy Ratcliffe, Jackie King and Joanna Andrew.

To Our Patrons - Meryl Swanson MP,
Mayor Philip Penfold, Keith Cockburn.

And to: Maitland City Council, 2NUR-FM, ABC Radio 1233, The Sign Shop,
Scott Deamer (Jim's Test and Tag)

and to our audiences for their continued patronage.

Program proudly sponsored by

A V Chartered Accountants

Maitland 4933 6100 Waratah 4929 5533

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We acknowledge the Wonnarua People as the Traditional Owners and Custodians
of the land upon which Maitland Repertory Theatre stands.



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New Members Welcome

Whether you're a first timer, or have been involved in theatre for years, we always welcome new people to Maitland Repertory Theatre. There are many ways to get involved - it's not all about acting.

On the stage

We stage five productions a year and hold regular auditions throughout the year.

Behind the scenes

We are always on the hunt for talented directors, sound and lighting operators and anyone handy with a paint brush, a drill or costuming.

Front of house

As a volunteer member of the Front of House team you will play a key role in ensuring that all audience members have a wonderful time at the theatre. No experience is required, just a smile!

Why Not Join?

Joining is inexpensive (\$5 or \$10 a year) and is a great way to meet people and be involved with your community.

Interested?

Email: info@mrt.org.au or call 0427 933 280
Maitland Repertory Theatre 244 High Street MAITLAND NSW 2320
www.mrt.org.au ABN 21 328 198 522



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MAITLAND
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The Hanging

by Angela Betzien

Directed by Aimee Cavanagh

7 - 25 May 2025

Tickets: \$27/\$32 | Bookings: mrt.org.au or 02 4933 2766