

Agatha Christie's

SPIDER'S WEB

Directed by Jessica Gray

September 17th - October 5th, 2025



PROGRAM



MAITLAND
REPERTORY
THEATRE

By arrangement with ORiGiN™ Theatrical on behalf of Samuel French, a Concord Theatricals Company

Director's Notes

Since premiering in London's West End in 1954, Agatha Christie's comedy-thriller 'Spider's Web' has been capturing audiences around the world. Considered one of Christie's most successful plays, second only to 'The Mousetrap,' it has now made its way to Maitland Repertory Theatre stage!

This is my directorial debut at Maitland Repertory Theatre and I am so thankful for the opportunity. When I put my hand up to direct I thought that this classic, with a cast of 11, might fall to someone more experienced than myself, so I was truly honoured when the committee offered me the chance to work on this fun and 'fantastic' play.

As with all things worth doing, there have been challenges along the way, but I hope that for all blood, sweat, tears and illness that has been endured, you will experience the wonder, intrigue and joy that Christie initially intended for her audiences.

I must take a moment to thank our wonderful construction team, for whom no job is too challenging. When I first brought them my designs, I was aware that they would require a lot of work, and was already preparing myself to be told 'no!' But instead of nay saying, I was met with an attitude of 'nothing is too hard for us' and told that what I wanted could be done. The team set to work constructing our wonderful set and I couldn't be happier with the end result. They were dedicated to meeting my vision and adjusting if I wasn't happy every step of the way and I am so thankful for their unending flexibility and ingenuity. Their hard work has resulted in the cosy drawing room at Copplestone Court that sits before you.

Our wonderful backstage and technical crew must also be thanked for their efforts. They are integral to the success of any production and we would be lost without them.

Next, I must thank the incredibly talented and dynamic cast for their patience and dedication throughout the whole process. Each of these actors has poured so much of their time and energy into this production and you are about to witness the delightful result of their hard work. With our youngest actor only 11 years old and

our eldest 85 years young, there has been such a range of life experience being shared and expressed during rehearsals. While some have been treading the boards for many years, others are taking their first steps into the spotlight with this production and it has been a delight to witness them exploring, creating, growing, challenging and supporting each other in their time together. Just as the web needs many strands to come together for it to serve its purpose, this cast have banded together to create something beautiful to behold. My hope is that as you are lured into Christie's world of excitement and mayhem, you will get to witness the utterly beautiful and completely unique web that these talented actors have worked tirelessly to create, just for you.

And finally, thank you to you, our wonderful audience, for coming out to support community theatre and celebrate the hard work that has been poured into all areas of what you are about to see. May you be thrilled by every twist and turn, find joy in every reveal, and perhaps ponder, just as some of our characters do, that truth is the ultimate detangler, unravelling us from the webs we weave, if to it, instead of lies, we cleave.

Jessica Gray

Setting

The action of the play takes place in the drawing-room of Copplestone Court, the Hailsham-Browns' home in Kent.

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| <i>ACT I</i> | An evening in March. |
| <i>ACT II</i> | <i>Scene One:</i> A quarter of an hour later.
<i>Scene Two:</i> Ten minutes later. |
| <i>ACT III</i> | A few minutes later. |

The Playwright

Born in Torquay on 15 September 1890, Agatha Christie became, and remains, the best-selling novelist of all time.

She is best known for her 66 detective novels and 14 short story collections, as well as the world's longest-running play – *The Mousetrap*. Her books have sold over a billion copies in the English language and a billion in translation.

Cast



Madeline Valentinis as Clarissa



Derek Fisher as Sir Rowland



Richard Rae as Jeremy



Drew Pittman as Inspector



Michael Smythe as Hugo



Aimee Cavanagh as Miss Peake



Dimity Eveleens as Elgin



Alexander Murray as Oliver



Molly South as Pippa



Patrick O'Brien as Henry



Lauren Irwin as Constable

Production Credits

Director	Jessica Gray
Production Manager	Dimity Eveleens
Stage Manager	Alexandra Comber
Set Designer	Jessica Gray
Set Construction /Realisation	Danny Shaunessy, Jane Johns, Matt Robinson, Richard Rae, Jessica Gray, Richard Boulton, Alexandra Comber, Dimity Eveleens, Aimee Cavanagh, Keith McDonald, Melinda Francis, Robert Comber, Michael Smythe, Ian Robinson, the Saturday crew
Costumes	Kaysia Dowie
Properties	Dimity Eveleens
Lighting Technician	Nyssa Arnold
Lighting Operator	Meg Wallace
Sound Design	Jessica Gray
Sound Operator	Richard Boulton
Poster	Jessica Gray
Photography	Anne Robinson
Program	Ian Robinson
Publicity	Alexandra Comber, Ian Robinson

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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.

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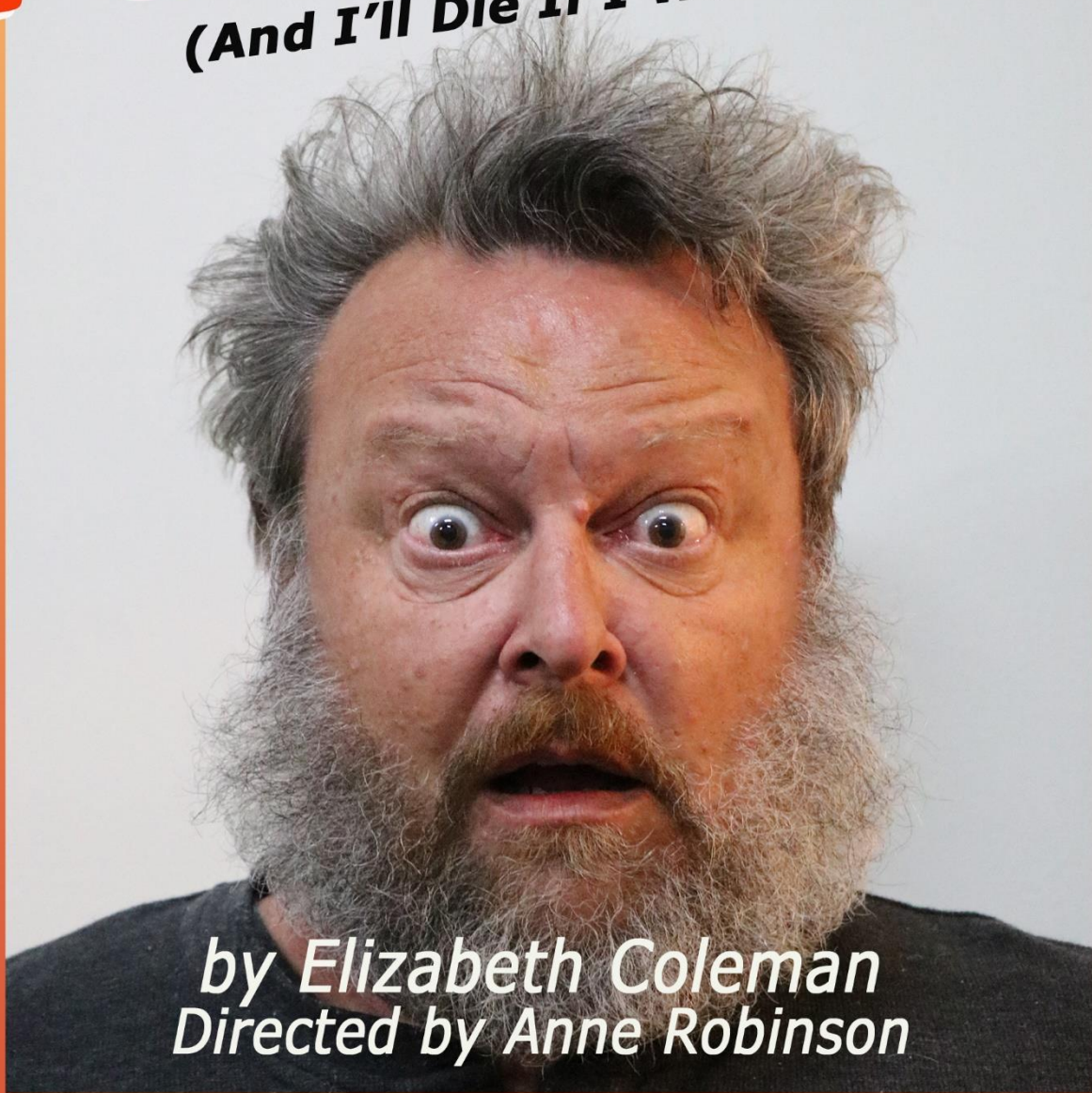


MAITLAND
REPERTORY
THEATRE

"A deliciously funny and sweetly dark play"

IT'S MY PARTY

(And I'll Die If I Want To)



*by Elizabeth Coleman
Directed by Anne Robinson*

19 Nov to 7 Dec, 2025

Bookings - mrt.org.au or 49332766

Tickets \$27/\$32



By arrangement with Cameron's Management Pty Ltd, on behalf of the playwright