

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

PROGRAM

PG

Coarse Language
and
Mature Themes

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Thank you for coming to experience our last play for 2025, *It's My Party (and I'll die if I want to)*. This is an Australian comedy written by Elizabeth Coleman, which is a refreshing contrast to some other plays we have presented this year at Maitland Repertory Theatre.

I would like to thank my support team – my Assistant Director, Melinda; my cast who have worked so hard and have given me their full support at rehearsals; the Saturday morning crew who were able to create such an amazing set; our technical team; and all who turned up regularly to give me a hand with this wonderful creative effort. You have all taught me so much. I would especially like to thank my Production Manager, Ian Robinson, who gave me both his support and good advice, day and night.

This play shows a family's reaction to the old-fashioned decisions and ideas held by Ron Patterson, a father who appears to have been trapped in time.

Ron has always tried hard to provide for his family, and after setting up his successful stationery business, had to spend long hours at work. He now finds he is too quickly approaching the end of his life, and is disappointed that he was not able to really get to know his children. He realises that his two eldest children, Michael and Debbie, have already drifted away from him, and now his youngest and favourite child, Karen, is on the verge of getting married and starting her own "grown-up" life.

Ron has recently been told that he only has a short time to live. The Patterson kids, now grown children in their 20s and 30s, have some surprises for him tonight. Their secrets were meant to stay hidden a little longer, but the true facts of their situations are about to come out.

The children really do want their father's approval but it is only going to happen if all the modern values they embrace can be brought up and discussed - now, before Ron dies.

Although the play was written and first premiered in 1993, it doesn't have a recommended time setting. So, we have merely set this play sometime "in the past". This story is still relevant, although it carries some old-fashioned concepts. You may find this play confronting, but I hope you also find it amusing in a very Australian way.

We hope you enjoy it.

Anne Robinson

SETTING

The action of the play takes place over 111 minutes in the living room of the Patterson's home in suburban Australia.

ACT I One evening in summer

ACT II Half an hour later that same evening



CAST

**ANTHONY ROBERTS
AS
RON PATTERSON**



**JANE JOHNS
AS
DAWN PATTERSON**

**LIAM WATERMAN
AS
MICHAEL PATTERSON**



**LAUREN IRWIN
AS
DEBBIE PATTERSON**



**GABRIELLE JOHNS
AS
KAREN PATTERSON**

**TYLER DEAN-BRINKLEY
AS
TED WILKINS**



THE PLAYWRIGHT

Elizabeth Coleman grew up in Newcastle, New South Wales and at eighteen, started working as a copywriter for a local advertising agency, writing TV, radio and newspaper advertisements.

After moving to Sydney when she was twenty-two, she started writing plays and sample TV scripts and discovered her love for performance writing.

She began working as a trainee script assistant on *Home and Away* and at the same time was accepted into the NIDA Playwrights Studio and ever since then she has worked between theatre and television.



PRODUCTION CREDITS

Director	Anne Robinson
Assistant Director	Melinda Francis
Production Manager	Ian Robinson
Stage Manager	Alexandra Comber
Set Designer	Anne Robinson
Set Construction /Realisation	Richard Rae, Richard Boulton, Alexandra Comber, Dimity Eveleens, Melinda Francis, Robert Comber, Michael Smythe, Jane Johns, Terry Allen, Ian Robinson, Anne Robinson, the Saturday crew
Costumes	Anne Robinson and cast
Properties	Dimity Eveleens
Lighting Technician	Colin Campbell
Lighting Operator	Richard Boulton
Sound Design	Tyler Dean-Brinkley
Sound Operator	Melinda Francis
Poster	Anne Robinson
Photography	Anne and Ian Robinson
Program	Anne and Ian Robinson
Publicity	Alexandra Comber, Ian Robinson

THANK YOU

To our volunteer members who make this show possible.

To The CONDA Judges

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

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

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

An Inspector Calls

by J. B. Priestley



Directed by
Richard Murray

Bookings:
www.mrt.org.au
4933 2766
Tickets \$27 / \$32

February 25 to March 15 2026