

# AN UNSEASONABLE FALL OF SNOW

by Gary Henderson  
directed by Melinda Francis



**5-14 JUNE, 2026**

# Director's Notes

Firstly, I would like to thank Director, John Gilberthorpe (from Greytown Little Theatre NZ) for placing this script in my hands and quietly saying...."I think you might like this one . . ."

And secondly, my thanks to Maitland Repertory Theatre for trusting and supporting me so that I could bring it to fruition.

An Unseasonable Fall of Snow by NZ playwright Gary Henderson (set in Wellington in the 1990s) is an intriguing psychological study of the innermost private depths of the human condition, and ultimately the sheer fragility of life.

Often snow is used to symbolise cleansing. It is a blanket and obscures all; which can either be a new, clean beginning, or a blanket obscuring the truth.

After an unprecedented fall of snow in Wellington in July 1995, this thought-provoking play, 'An Unseasonable Fall of Snow', was born.

I would like to thank the members of my Production Team for their trust, support and humour.

My thanks also to my dedicated and skilled cast, Derek, Jack and Gary, for embracing these complex characters with such courage and self-discipline.

What a 'Magic Carpet Ride' this has been!

It has been an absolute pleasure putting the pieces of this puzzle together.

**Melinda Francis,**  
**Director**

***Please don't give the mystery away to others  
who are coming to see this play.***

**Content Warning:** *An Unseasonable Fall of Snow* contains strong language, adult themes, assault and references to mental health.

**Running time:** Approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes with no interval.

# Playwright

Gary Henderson was born in Geraldine in South Canterbury, and gradually spiralled his way to Auckland where he has lived since.

Gary's plays have been professionally produced around New Zealand, South Africa, Australia, Great Britain, Canada and the United States. His most well-travelled play 'Skin Tight' won a coveted Fringe First Award at the Edinburgh Fringe in 1998.

He has directed the works of other NZ playwrights; and has served as a mentor in the development of scripts by new writers.

From 2006 - 2012 Gary taught playwrighting at Unitec's School of Performing and Screen Arts in Auckland. He was the 2013 recipient of the Playmarket Award; which recognises a playwright who has made a significant artistic contribution to theatre in New Zealand.



# Director and Cast



## **Melinda Francis, *Director***

Melinda graduated from the Ensemble Drama School North Sydney in 1984. Her experience as an Actor, Director, and Drama Tutor has intermittently spanned many decades, both in Australia and in New Zealand.

*Credits include:*

Sons & Daughters (Grundy TV), The Marching Girls (TVNZ), Bookworms (TVNZ), Waiting for the Parade (Carterton Theatre), One Flew over the Cuckoos Nest (Carterton Theatre, recipient at the Wellington Regional Theatre Awards), Echoes (Carterton Theatre), 12 Angry Men (Greytown Little Theatre), Grand Horizons (Greytown Little Theatre), The Hanging (Maitland Repertory Theatre), It's My Party (Maitland Repertory Theatre).



## **Gary O'Toole: *Tony***

Gary was born in Manchester, and at the age of 13 won the International Year of the Child's "New Faces" held in the U.K.

He emigrated to Australia in 2004 with his family.

Gary is a prolific writer and author of 29 books, including the novel 'Frakers Way'. He is the writer of feature film 'The Lucifer Killings' and

is presently working on a follow-up novel to 'Frakers Way'; and a musical for stage, yet to be titled. A passionate lover of live Theatre, Gary hopes to continue his relationship with MRT for many years to come. Credits from regional U.K. Theatres include: Oliver, Grease, Macbeth, Love on the Dole, Brimstone and Treacle, The Sea.



**Derek Fisher: *Arthur***

Derek is a high school English Teacher who loves to talk music, books, films and theatre. He has had the pleasure of being involved in shows in Newcastle since 2001; receiving 7 CONDA nominations, one nomination becoming a win as Best Actor in 2008 for 'Tom Jones' (NTC). Derek has appreciated this opportunity to dig deep into 'Snow' under Melinda's expert direction, and alongside Jack

and Gary's high-bar performances. *Credits include:* Spider's Web (Maitland Repertory Theatre), The Ides of March (Brunker Community Theatre), August Osage County (Brunker Community Theatre), The 39 Steps (Brunker Community Theatre), The Foreigner (Brunker Community Theatre), Barefoot in the Park (Newcastle Theatre Company), Loves Labour Lost (Newcastle Theatre Company), Dangerous Liaisons (Newcastle Theatre Company), Much Ado About Nothing (Shakespeare's Women).



**Jack Andrew: *Liam***

Jack is a graduate from Newcastle Cathedral College of Music, and is formally trained in various disciplines. His versatility has spanned both stage and screen. Jack has performed at the Sydney Opera House, Her Majesty's Theatre Adelaide and Opera Australia.

He has received 2 CONDA nominations for roles in 'The Addams

Family' and 'Don't Mention Casablanca'. Jack is thrilled to be part of the vibrant Newcastle Theatre scene and to be working in this production of 'An Unseasonable Fall of Snow'. *Credits include:* Underbelly, The Unlisted, #This Is Not Journalism (Australian Writers Theatre), 12 Angry Men (Metropolitan Players), The Shawshank Redemption (Hunter Drama), The Big Dry (The Ensemble Theatre), The Laramie Project (Lindsay Players).



# Production Team

Director	Melinda Francis
Production/Stage Manager	Robert Comber
Set Design	Melinda Francis
Set Construction/Realisation	Danny Shaunessy, Ian Robinson, Dimity Eveleens, Robert Comber, Richard Boulton, Colin Campbell, Terry Allen, Michael Smythe and the Saturday Morning Crew.
Wardrobe	Cast
Properties	Melinda Francis
Lighting Design	Colin Campbell and Melinda Francis
Lighting Technician	Richard Boulton
Sound Design	Melinda Francis
Sound Operator	Ian Robinson
Poster Concept	Melinda Francis
Graphic Design/Photography	Anne Robinson BFA
Program	Melinda Francis and Anne Robinson
Publicity	Ian Robinson, Alexandra Comber, Tyler Dean-Brinkley

## 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, James and Katrina at Lorn IGA Supermarket  
Scott Deamer (Jim's Test and Tag)

and to our audiences for their continued patronage.

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DIRECTED BY TYLER DEAN-BRINKLEY

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