



WICKED SISTERS

by Alma De Groen



Directed by Ellis Ebell

12 February – 1 March 2025

Williamstown Little Theatre, 2 Albert Street Williamstown

Bookings: 0447 340 665 or www.wlt.org.au



Williamstown Little Theatre
proudly presents

WICKED SISTERS

By Alma De Groen

By arrangement with RGM Artists Pty Ltd

Directed by Ellis Ebell

12 February – 1 March 2025

Cast

Meridee	Jennifer Gilchrist
Hester	Regina Miller
Lydia	Kate Harvey
Judith	Lisa Upson

Setting

The play takes place in Alec's study in a cottage in the Blue Mountains.

Act 1: An evening during a summer storm in 1999.

Act 2: A short time later

There will be a 20 minute interval between acts 1 and 2.

Acknowledgement of Country

Williamstown Little Theatre acknowledges the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation, and their unceded lands on which we perform. We pay respect to their Elders past and present.

We acknowledge that this play is set in the Blue Mountains, the unceded lands upon of the Darkinjung, Dharawal, Dharug, Gundungurra, Wonnarua and Wiradjuri. peoples. We pay respect to their Elders past and present.

Synopsis

When Alec Hobbes, a world-renowned scientist, dies his widow Meridee holds a reunion with three of her best friends from university days.

The four have not been together for over 25 years and during the evening, the alcohol kicks in and the gossip, joviality and wit lead to the unravelling of secrets through their reminiscences.

The gathering takes place in Alec's study which is in the process of being packed up by the university, and his research papers and files are being transferred to the science department.

The computer is maintained by the university and is never turned off and collects data 24 hours a day.



ALMA DE GROEN

Playwright

Alma De Groen was born in New Zealand and moved to Australia in 1968.

She has distinguished herself as a feminist playwright. She has written for theatre, film, radio and television in Canada and Australia and in 1998 was the first playwright to win the Patrick White Award for her contribution to Australian theatre. In 2003 she returned to live and work in New Zealand.

Alma De Groen's plays include *The Sweatproof Boy*, *The Joss Adams Show*, *The After-life of Arthur Cravan*, *Going Home*, *Chidley*, *Vocations*, *The Rivers of China*, *The Girl Who Saw Everything*, *The Woman in the Window* and *Wicked Sisters*.

She has received numerous awards including the Victorian and New South Wales Premier's Literary Awards and the Stage AWGIE Award.



ELLIS EBELL

Director

Ellis has been involved with WLT for over 60 years as an actor, committee member and director. Apart from WLT, as an actor he has worked with Pumpkin Players, Regent Dramatic Society, Festival Theatre Company, STAG, Powderkeg Players and CLOC Musical Theatre. He was an adjudicator for the Victorian Music Theatre Guild Awards for seven years. He admits to being a bit of a music theatre tragic!!!

His previous productions as director with WLT have been *The Glass Menagerie*, *Honour*, *Hotel Sorento*, *Doubt*, *Dancing at Lughnasa*, *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, *Time Stands Still*, *If I Should Die Before I Wake*, *Silent Sky* and *The Importance of Being Earnest*. *Wicked Sisters* is Ellis' fourth play by an Australian playwright.

Ellis would like to thank the entire creative team, set builders, prop gatherers, costume designers, lighting and sound designers, production coordinator and stage management.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

I read so many scripts before submitting *Wicked Sisters* to the Play Selection Committee. In fact, it was one of the plays that the PSC suggested I read. I'm glad they did.

On reading the script, I was surprised to learn that AI (Artificial Intelligence) was around in the 1990s, at the time our play is set.

In learning more about AI, I listened to a lecture from an Indian university professor and discovered that Alan Turing was one of the first people to use AI when cracking the secrets of the Enigma Code in the 1930s and 40s. Also mentioned during that lecture was the film *Hidden Figures* about the African American women who worked for NASA in the 1960s' space program.

You may ask 'why is this interesting'. Well, in 1996 Laurie Gellon directed *Breaking the Code* for WLT which was about Alan Turing - and in 2018 I directed *Silent Sky* based on the life of Henrietta Swan Leavitt and her female colleagues at Harvard Observatory in the early 1900s who acted as 'human computers' using maths to chart the skies. A forerunner to *Hidden Figures*.

Apparently, AI is in regular use in 2025!





JENNIFER GILCHRIST

Meridee

Jennifer's first appearance on the WLT stage marks her return to community theatre after a break of several years. She has previously played Anna in *Boston Marriage* (Malvern); Lady Bracknell in *The Importance of Being Earnest*; Sybil Fawcety in *Fawlty Towers* and Coral Browne in *An Englishman Aboard* (all at Beaumaris) and Mary Ann Sailors/Myfanwy Price in *Under Milk Wood* (Whistling Vicar). Some of the highlights of last century (yes, really!) are Pauline Mole in *The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole* (BTC); Carla/Alaura in *City of Angels* (CLOC); Anna in *The King and I* (BLOC); Amy in *Company* (BLC) and Florence Unger in *The Odd Couple* (BNT).

Jennifer is delighted to be back on the boards as a member of WLT.



REGINA MILLER

Hester

Regina has been involved in theatre for many years. She began performing around the same time protesters were saving the Franklin River. She has been involved in several productions at WLT, most recently in *The Memory Of Water* last year. Other favourite productions at WLT include *Steel Magnolias*, *Cosi* and *Serious Money*. She has worked with several other theatre companies around Melbourne including Wyndham Theatre, Essendon Theatre and Hoy Polloy. In the past year she has appeared in *Admissions* for Brighton Theatre Company and *The Cripple of Inishmaan* for STAG.

Regina was attracted to the role of Hester as she has a Biology background herself and is very much enjoying working with such a talented cast and crew.



KATE HARVEY

Lydia

This will be Kate's first time on the WLT stage, though she does get around the traps (in a good way). Some of her recent roles include Clairee in *Steel Magnolias* (Beaumaris); Helen, a Russian spy in *Pack of Lies* (Frankston) and Judy in *Four Flat Whites in Italy* (Mordialloc).

When she's not doing her day job, you can also see (and hear) Kate in TV commercials, podcasts and instructional videos.

Playing the fiery, outspoken Lydia who struggles with her own demons has been a wonderful character for Kate to explore, particularly alongside the very talented cast and crew at WLT.



LISA UPSON

Judith

This is Lisa's first production with Williamstown Little Theatre and she is excited to be working with Ellis and the whole cast and crew on this fabulous play. A big fan of black comedies, Lisa is loving playing the deeply flawed character of Judith.

Some of Lisa's favourite past roles include; Sister Aloysius in *Doubt* (Warrandyte Theatre); Irene Ruddock in *A Lady of Letters* (Lilydale Athenaeum); Sylvia in *Home I'm Darling* (Mordialloc Theatre); Sue in *Family Values* (Lilydale Athenaeum) and Fran in *Things I Know To Be True* (Warrandyte Theatre and Peridot).

A singer first and foremost, when not on stage in a play, Lisa loves performing with her a cappella group *Vocal Agents*.

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director	Ellis Ebell
Production Coordinator	Peter Newling
Stage Manager	Andrew Wild
Set Design	Ellis Ebell and Alex Begg
Set Realisation	Alex Begg, John Arnold, Brian Christopher, Ian Miller, Peter Burns, Bob Mitchell, Tristan Hortle, Jeff Martin, Mairead Phillips, Bob Green and Andrew Roberts.
Scenic Painting	Genevieve Murray and Janine Evans
Set Dressings and Furnishings	Peter Newling and Barbara Hughes
Costume Design	Gabrielle Lyons
Props	Andrew Wild
Lighting Design	Yaz Sesta
Sound Design	Patrick Slee
Lighting and Sound Operation	Andrew Wild
Technical Assistance	Patrick Slee and Roger Forsey
Rehearsal Prompt	Steven Ritchie
Poster Design	Janine Evans
Program Design	Shauna Stanley
Photography	Caroline Oxley
Publicity	Shauna Stanley
Ticketing Manager	Andrew Wild
Front of House	Bernadette Wheatley, Barbara Hughes & the WLT FOH Volunteers

Acknowledgements:

Bernadette Wheatley & Stephanie King

2025 COMMITTEE

Peter Newling, President
Tony Tartaro, Vice President
Brian Christopher, Treasurer
Barbara Hughes, Company Secretary
Alex Begg
Roger Forsey
Les Hart
Bernadette Wheatley
Shauna Stanley

LIFE MEMBERS

Alex Begg
Brian Christopher
Judi Clark
Graeme Cope
Kerry Cordell
David Dare
Ellis Ebell
Roger Forsey
Laurie Gellon
Robert Harsley
Barbara Hughes
Robyn Legge
Joan Lindsay
Mary Little
Peter Newling
Frank Page
Gaetano Santo
Shirley Sydenham
Tony Tartaro
Bryan Thomas
Bevan Uren
Gillian Wadds
Bernadette Wheatley
Neil Williamson
Mark Young

MEMBERSHIP

WLT is entirely run by volunteers. There is always plenty to do whether it's on stage, backstage or front-of-house. Just look at the Production Team list in this program!

The opportunities to participate include designing sets, lighting, sound, costumes – and making those designs a reality. Props and set dressing are a rewarding, and sometimes big job. When costume construction is required we call on our sewing team. Stage management and lighting/sound operators work backstage.

No experience? We'll train and mentor you! Check out [our website](#) for more information.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Are you a subscriber?

Subscribing to see three, four or five shows a year gives you access to fantastic subscriber discounts.

The Subscription Brochure is now available. It can be downloaded [here](#).

COMING SOON



Things I Know to be True

by Andrew Bovell



Directed by Shirley Sydenham

23 April – 10 May 2025

Williamstown Little Theatre, 2 Albert Street Williamstown

Performance rights for THINGS I KNOW TO BE TRUE exclusively licenced by HLA Management Pty Ltd,
PO.Box 1536, Strawberry Hills NSW 2012 (hla@hlaamt.com.au)

Is unconditional love absolute?
Or is there a step too far?

This touching, humorous and
brave play is centred around
that dichotomy.

The play takes place over a year, during
which time each member of an Adelaide
family faces secrets and deals with
truths that impact their life.

Andrew Bovell's beautifully written play
weaves many threads that may make us
consider our own attitudes and biases.

BOOKINGS: wlt.org.au/book_tickets

or contact Ticketing Manager Andrew Wild
on 0447 340 665 / tickets@wlt.org.au

