

The Diary of Anne Frank

Dramatised by Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett,
from the book
Anne Frank: Diary of a Young Girl.



Theatre Royal,
Mackay
November 7, 8, 9, 10, 1984

KUCOM THEATRE

The Diary of Anne Frank is the third major production by Kucom this year and goes on stage only two weeks after the completion of the long running Oh What a Lovely War.

This is the first Theatre Royal production by the Society this year, with most activity having taken place in 1984 at the Kucom Clubhouse Theatre, in Shakespeare Street. Kucom's next major production, the musical vaudeville **Chicago**, has been cast and director Jan Smith has been working with choreographer Carol Adair and vocal coach Lorraine Smith on pre-production classes.

Kucom welcomes the selection of a plan for a new performing arts theatre in Mackay to be built by 1988 and congratulates local architects Sanders and Ellick on their winning design.



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DIRECTOR'S NOTE

What Anne Frank wrote between 1942 and 1944 was unspoilt by subsequent film and stage adaptations. The play itself has been a successful adaptation of Anne Frank's writings. It won an American Pulitzer Prize in 1956/57, but the acid test is that the play continues to succeed as drama nearly 30 years after it was written.

I have not included some of the prologue and epilogue scenes in this production, mainly because I wish to present the drama of Anne Frank's unique situation without underlining sentimental aspects.

HISTORICAL

1929: Anne Frank born, June 12 in Frankfurt am Main, Germany.

1933: Otto Frank flees to Holland with his family.

1940: Frank family, Van Daan family and Mr Dussel move into hiding in two upper floors of an attic in Mr Frank's warehouse. The annex is concealed by a hinged bookcase.

August, 1944: Last entry in Anne's diary.

August 2, 1944: Police break into annex and capture hideaways.

The End: Mrs Frank dies of starvation in Auschwitz. Mr Van Daan sent to gas chamber. Peter Van Daan carried off by SS and disappears after Auschwitz excavated by Russians. Mr Dussel dies in Neuengamme. Mrs Van Daan, Margot and Anne Frank die in Bergen-Belsen. Mr Frank liberated from Auschwitz by Russian troops.

1947: Anne Frank's diary published under the name **The Annex**, a title Anne herself had chosen.

ATHENA DRAMA COMPANY



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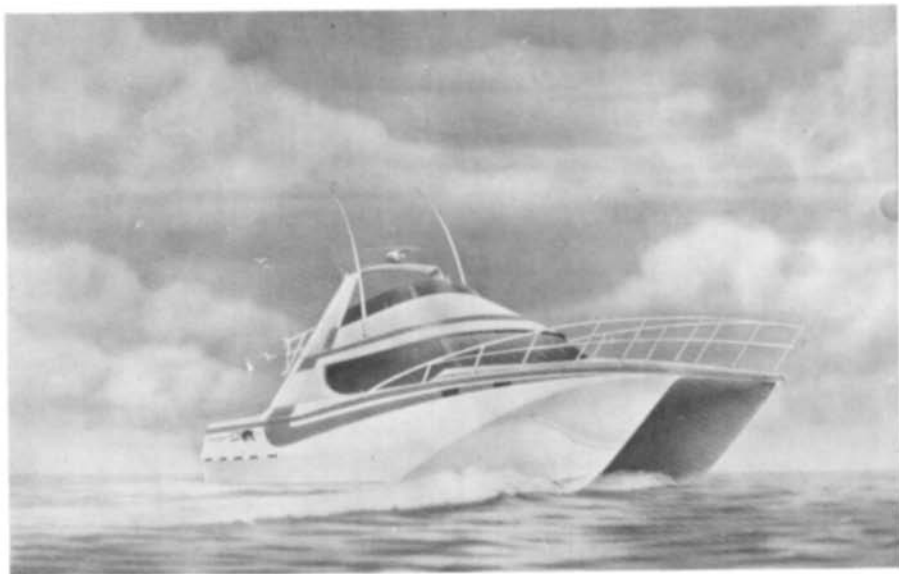
"Peter Pan"

Theatre Royal
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THE LEGEND OF ANNE FRANK

The legend of Anne Frank started when her diaries were emptied onto the floor from her father's briefcase by a Nazi sergeant who wanted the case to carry some small valuables and money he was confiscating.

On the floor of the Amsterdam attic annex they lay until Miep Gies, the Dutch girl who had helped the Franks, went back some days later and found them.

They may never have been published, because Otto Frank, receiving them from Miep after the war, thought them too personal for anyone but his closest friends. But one of Otto Frank's friends showed the diaries to Jan Romain, a professor of modern history at Amsterdam University. Professor Romain wrote about them in an article in a Dutch newspaper.

In the article he said, "For me, this apparently insignificant diary, this deprofundis in the stammering voice of a child, embodies the real hideousness of fascism, more than all the trials of Nuremberg."

But Jan Romain did not share the faith of Anne Frank when he wrote: "That it was possible for this child to have been taken away and killed is proof for me that we have lost the battle against the beast in man."

Anne Frank, if she had lived, would have been 55 years old today.

Is there any doubt that she would have become a literary figure, or was she destined to die after this one work in order to achieve immortality?

One biographer, Henry F. Pomer, said that the quality of both death and life has given Anne Frank an extraordinary place in our culture.

"She is not a fictional character like Juliet or Tolstoy's Natasha, nor is she a girl with widespread or immediate influence like St. Joan or the young Cleopatra," he says.

"And over all these girls - from Antigone to Saint Theresa, Anne has the great advantage that she left a diary. So we need not know her through the documents of her contemporaries or the professional imaginations of middle aged authors. The legend she founded is the kind that her destroyers had tried to wipe out. She was an object of hatred and has become a vehicle of love."

Among the memorials to Anne Frank throughout the world today there are nearly 40 schools bearing her name plus many homes for children and young people. There is a forest of some 10 000 trees as part of the Forest of Martyrs in Israel's Hills of Judea and even a rose and a tulip bear her name. There is a portrait in oils and a lithograph by the Russian artist Marc Chagall. And of course, there is the Anne Frank Foundation and the International Youth Centre in Amsterdam.

All these things and many, many more, commemorate this girl who died at 16. But there are two memorials which to me, are more moving in their simplicity. One is a plaque at her birthplace. It reads "In this house lived Anne Frank, who was born June 12, 1929, in Frankfurt. She died as a victim of the National Socialistic persecutions in 1945 in the concentration camp at Bergen Belsen. Her life and death, our responsibility." It is signed, simply, "The Youth of Frankfurt".

The other memorial is a statue of Anne in a square in the Dutch city of Utrecht. It stands alone, with dignity, looking across the square, looking at the world, as though with hope - in spite of everything.

JAN SMITH

The Diary of Anne Frank

Dramatised by Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett, from the Book
Anne Frank, Diary of a Young Girl

Director – JAN SMITH

*This production has no interval.
Patrons are requested to be seated by 8 p.m.*

The action of the play passes in the top floors of a warehouse in
Amsterdam, Holland, between 1942 and 1944.

Scene 1	August 1942	A few minutes after 6 p.m.
Scene 2	September 1942	Midnight
Scene 3	December 1942	Night
Scene 4	January 1944	Late afternoon
Scene 5	March 1944	Evening
Scene 6	April 1944	Night
Scene 7	July 1944	Afternoon

CAST

Mr Frank	John Scope
Mrs Frank	Lynne Condry
Anne Frank	Samantha Haase
Margot Frank	Melissa Nichols
Mr Van Daan	Jim Kelly
Mrs Van Daan	Annamaria McGregor
Peter Van Daan	David Feeney
Mr Dussel	Tom Baldwin
Miep Giest	Rowena Marshall

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director	Jan Smith
Stage Manager	Sue Moore
Set Designer	Lyn Cockburn
Sound	Ruth Hodgman and Bill Hendry
Lighting	John Newport
Costumes	Di Cooper
Props	Kate Johnson
Publicity	Jill Nixon
Program	Jim Kelly and Jan Smith
Photography	Daryl Wright
Poster	John Scope
Front of House	Helen Hendry

Kucom wish to thank Astral Advertising, Michael Moohin and the McGregor Speech and Drama Centre.



SAMANTHA HAASE at 14, playing her first major role as Anne Frank. A student at the McGregor Speech and Drama Centre. Recent success as singer at North Queensland Juvenile Eisteddfod in Townsville.



JOHN SCOPE appeared with the Ensemble Theatre youth group in Sydney. Later he worked in film and theatre as both actor and artist/designer. Last movie was *Silent Reach* and was a member of the cast of Kucom's *Oh What a Lovely War*.



ANNAMARIA MCGREGOR established the McGregor Speech and Drama Centre in Mackay in 1978 and founded the Athena Drama Company. Last appearance with Kucom in *The Seagull*. Recently directed *On Broadway* for Mackay Choral Society and at present preparing an International Youth Year production of *Peter Pan* for Athena.



LYNNE CONDRY first worked in theatre in Melbourne with Eltham Little Theatre. Played TV parts in *Matlock Police* and *Homicide*. Was a member of Nambour and Caloundra Little Theatre groups. Theatre restaurant experience in Mackay with Victoria's Varieties and Barbary Coast and has worked with Musical Comedy Players. Last seen with Kucom in *Habeas Corpus* some eight years ago.



JIM KELLY has wide experience as director and performer in Mackay Musical Comedy Players productions, last appearing as Caleb in *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*. Appeared in *A Day in the Death of Joe Egg* and *A Toast to Melba* with Kucom.



MELISSA NICHOLS has gained her experience in high school productions, including the lead in *King MacBee* and *the Walking Trees* this year. A member of Athena Drama Group and has worked with New Moon Theatre Company.



DAVID FEENEY Studying at the McGregor Speech and Drama Centre, has performed at the Mirani Drama Festival and took a major part in recent Easter pageant, *The Vigil*. Played King Rat in recent production of *The Pied Piper of Hamlyn* and has extended his acting experience with attendance at several drama workshops.



TOM BALDWIN The recently completed season of *Oh What a Lovely War* saw Tom Baldwin in his true theatrical milieu and *The Diary of Anne Frank* is his second "war" with Kucom. Apart from being a Royal Military College instructor and later seeing active service with the British Army in several theatres of war, Tom found time to serve with concert parties in India, England and later with the British Base Reinforcement Camp Road Show in Burma. (*It Aint Half Hot Mum* was nothing like the truth, he says). After the war Tom Baldwin had a 20 minute one-man spot with the Gordon Ryder Band at the Eastbourne Wintergarden, performing his entire repertoire of drama. Theatre was forced to the background after Tom came to Australia in 1957, where he worked in social welfare with the Victorian Government.



ROWENA MARSHALL Last seen in Kucom production of *Suddenly Last Summer* and *The Seagull*. Resumed theatrical activity in Mackay after eight years in the 70s with Twelfth Night Theatre working in both classical drama and touring with children's theatre.

JAN SMITH directing this production and also currently President of Kucom Theatre. He directed *A Streetcar Named Desire* for Kucom in 1981 and *Stop the World, I Want to Get Off* last year. He is better known as an actor, although in recent years his acting has been with Canberra Repertory rather than in Mackay. Recently played Krapp in Beckett's *Krapp's Last Tape* and will direct the musical *Chicago* early next year.

THE ANNE FRANK FOUNDATION

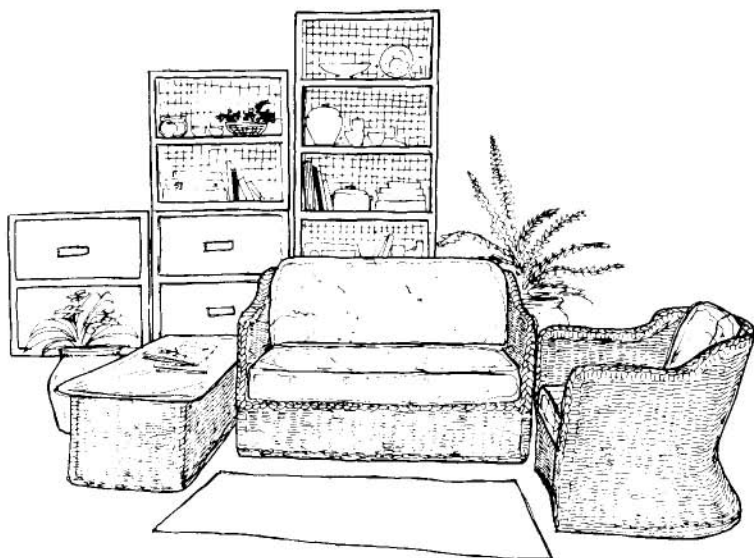
The house in Amsterdam where Anne and the others lived in hiding is now a museum. It is run by the Anne Frank Foundation, which was set up in 1957, shortly after the first production of the play which is being performed tonight.

The primary goal of the Foundation is the preservation of the Annex, which has become world-renowned through the Diary. The Foundation wants to continue Anne's struggle for a better world. Discrimination towards people with a different color skin still exists. Large groups of people are still regarded as inferior on the basis of their 'race.' Anti-Semitism continues to turn up everywhere. Fascist ideas are still far from dead. The so-called democratic countries also violate human rights. Neo-Nazi movements are still trying to make a grab for power.

If you would like to know more about the Foundation, write to The Anne Frank Foundation, Prinsengracht 263, 1016 GV Amsterdam, Holland.



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