

Fallen Angels

DIRECTOR'S NOTES



RUSSELL LOWRY

Noel Coward has held a fascination for me since reading *Private Lives* in high school drama class many moons ago. I have been a latecomer back to theatre, not having been involved since acting in *Cabaret* and *Bye Bye Birdie* in high school. I joined Yeppoon Choral Society in about 2002/03 and assisted with *Brigadoon* as stage hand, and inevitably caught the bug again. Having exclusively worked with musical comedy I took on my first directing role in 2006 with *Fiddler on the Roof*, followed in 2007 by

My Fair Lady. I moved to Mackay in 2008 and immediately searched for a theatre troupe to join. Kucom were happy to invite me along to their production at the time, and as I enjoyed the company I decided to stay on.

Please enjoy Noël Coward's passing shot at the vagaries of the 1920s high society matron with maybe a little too much time on her hands (and maybe a bottle of champagne or two as well).

THE PLAYWRIGHT



NOËL COWARD (Sir Noël Peirce Coward, 1899 - 1973) was an English playwright, composer, director, actor and singer, known for his wit, flamboyance and what *Time* magazine called 'a sense of personal style, a combination of cheek and chic, pose and poise'. He made his professional stage début at the age of eleven, and as a teenager he was introduced into the high society in which most of his plays would be set. By early adulthood he was recognised on both sides of the Atlantic as the personification of wit and sophistication. Successful as a composer, lyricist, actor, singer, director,

novelist, painter ... small wonder friends and colleagues called him 'The Master'. Coward's stage and film acting and directing career spanned six decades, during which he starred in many of his own works. He achieved enduring success as a playwright, and many of his plays, such as *Hay Fever*, *Private Lives*, *Design for Living*, *Present Laughter* and *Blithe Spirit*, have remained in the regular theatre repertoire. When *Fallen Angels* premiered in London in 1925, it was attacked by outraged theatre critics as 'disgusting and obscene'. Coward's depiction of his female characters as 'soused sluts' was branded 'an insult to British womanhood'. Nevertheless, in the 80-odd years since it was written, it has become one of Coward's more popular comedies.

What's Next at Kucom?

November - the Farndale Ladies are back!

THE FARNDALE AVENUE HOUSING ESTATE
TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD DRAMATIC SOCIETY
PRODUCTION OF

DIRECTED BY
HEATHER MACTAVISH



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Fallen Angels

THE CAST

In order of appearance:

**Julia Sterroll
Fred Sterroll
Saunders
Willy Banbury
Jane Banbury
Maurice Duclos**

Bronwyn Grannall
Stan Hillard
Kath Ward
John Atkinson
Tessa King
Simon Jeffcoat

The time: 1925

The place: Julia and Fred's Mayfair apartment, London

*There will be two 15-minute intervals.
The bar will be open and drinks are permitted into the theatre.*

*We respectfully request that patrons observe our
Liquor Licensing requirements as displayed in the foyer.*

THE PRODUCTION CREW

**Director
Stage Manager
Sound and Lighting
Costumes
Props
Set Construction and Painting**

Russell Lowry
Carolyn Thompson
Lucy Dobson
Zac Rithwik
Tessa King
Lucy Dobson
Laurie King
Russell Lowry
Tessa King
Bronwyn Grannall
Stan Hillard
John Atkinson
Graham Taylor
Sue Stock
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Bronwyn Grannall

**Front of House Coordinator
Program
Media Liaison**

Fallen Angels

Julia



BRONWYN GRANNALL

Bronwyn has appeared in numerous productions, both amateur and professional, in Australia and overseas. Recent appearances for Kucom include *Shirley Valentine* (2005), *Beautiful Thing* and *Rumours* (2006), *The Exorcism* (2007), *Bazaar and Rummage* (2008) and *The Fat Lady Sings in Little Grimley* (*Triple Treat*, 2009). In July 2007, with *Secret Bridesmaid's Business*, she finally gave in to a long-held ambition to explore the dark uncharted realms of directing. Bronwyn and Tessa became best friends in real life when they shared the role of *Shirley Valentine* in 2005, and have been waiting for an opportunity like this ever since

Fred



STAN HILLARD

Stan Hillard has been involved with Kucom Theatre since appearing in *The Dock Brief* back in 1995. His stage roles have ranged from comedy (*What's For Pudding?*) to drama (*Fatal Attraction*). In recent years work commitments curtailed his stage appearances and he turned his hand to writing scripts for Kucom's Film Unit, which he helped establish (the Unit's films can be found on the Internet by going to YouTube and searching for *kucom-theatre*). Now he's turned his pen to radio, and in March 2009 adapted local writer Paul Vander Loos' one-act play *In Good Spirits* for radio.

Saunders



KATH WARD

Kath was bitten by the 'bug' at the age of five, and began speech and drama lessons at six. After studying theatre at school and at Brisbane Arts Theatre Youth classes, she had a housewife hiatus. Kath joined Ipswich Little Theatre in 1990, wrote and directed two pantos, and appeared in the annual Theatre Restaurant. Moving to Mackay in '97, Kath began her Kucom career as Stage Manager for *Busybody*. In 2005 Kath directed Bronwyn and Tessa in their shared role of *Shirley Valentine*. She has appeared in *Fred*, *Stage Directions*, *One for the Road*, *Skate* (for which she was also Director's Assistant) and in 2008 as Mother Miriam Ruth in Jim Kelly's production of *Agnes of God*.

THE CAST

Fallen Angels

Willy



JOHN ATKINSON

During his 19 years with Kucom Theatre, John has performed in over 30 full-length and short plays, playing every character imaginable - from a young medical student (*Doctor in the House*), to an extremely elderly Russian servant (one of the *Great Coarse Acting* plays); from a cross-dressing drama adjudicator (in the first *Farndale* comedy) to an Australian ocker (*The Shifting Heart*). Recent plays have included the *Farndale Mikado* (2005), *Rumours* (2006), *The Exorcism* (2007) and *The Fat Lady Sings in Little Grimley* (2009). When not on stage, John can be found painting sets, tending bar, or trying to organise other actors as a stage manager.

Jane



TESSA KING

Tessa has spent many years performing both professionally and in Community Theatre mostly in South Australia and has worn many hats, both on stage and backstage. She became involved with Kucom a year after arriving in Mackay, having vowed to give it away after leaving Adelaide. Following a chorus role in the *Farndale Mikado* in 2005, she appeared in *Shirley Valentine* (2005), *The Memory of Water* (2006) and *The Fat Lady Sings in Little Grimley* (2009). She co-directed *Rumours* (2006), and in 2007 directed *The Exorcism* followed by *Bazaar and Rummage* (2008). After all this she admits that the 'theatre bug' is still in her blood and she will probably never be cured.

Maurice



SIMON JEFFCOAT

Simon started doing performances at about the age of 7 (usually dressed as a girl, due to having 3 older sisters). He had a role in a primary school musical (singing, not as a tree). The next step was *Out of the Frying Pan* in Brisbane in 1998. He moved to Mackay last year, auditioned for *Fallen Angels* several months ago and ended up being cast in *The Full Monty* at the Mackay Entertainment Centre before returning to his present role at Kucom. With a deep-seated passion for music and acting, he will definitely end up somewhere else after this!

THE CAST