

## Director's Message

I have always regarded Alan Seymour's play as scintillating. I can remember reading it for the first time in Year 9 English and actually enjoying it (English has never been my favourite subject). But the story he painted of a small family, and the struggle of a son to grow up and go his own way independently of his parents, but still respecting and accepting them for what they are, seemed to really hit home for me. Perhaps it's because I was in the same boat.

When I started directing plays, *The One Day of the Year* was the second play I did. It was an easy choice to make. And despite my inexperience it worked. Really well. Probably the main reason it worked was the talent of the cast – they had loads more experience than I did, and were really able to use the play as a vehicle to show off their skills.

I had been thinking about reprising the play for about four or five years, but always intended to get the same two lead actors. They did it so well back then: one expects even more now. And they've given it to me. Thanks guys! I couldn't have asked for more from the other cast members either – it's been an absolute joy to work with them. It has made it so much easier for me as a director to have actors who can act so well.

While on the subject of thanks, the show would not have been possible without the highly appreciated help of a few people. They are my parents, Frank and Joy Deane, Ron Baker and Bonnie Bryant. To them I wish I could do more than give them my heartfelt thanks. To my wife Sharon, the main person pushing me along and organising things, and just being there, I can but say "I love you" and really mean it.

As we open a new century at Wyong Drama Group it's fitting to start with a play looking back at the last century – the best of it and the worst of it. But due to the playwright's talent, it will be a play that endures. That's because it's about us Australians, and what we hold dear. And that's not likely to change in the short-term.

Enjoy!

## Behind the Scenes

Peter Deane	Director, Programme, Poster, Set Design & Construction
Sharon Deane	Stage Manager, Set Construction, Production Manager
Frank Deane	Set Construction
Ron Baker	Lighting, Sound, Set Construction
Bonnie Bryant	Prompt
Jenny Newman	Front of House Co-Ordinator
Julie Snowdon	Caterer
Helen Schumann	Makeup
Nan Hawtin	Wardrobe
Howard Oxley	Photography, Bookings
Jenny Sharrock	Publicity
Shaun Martin	Set Construction
Special Thanks To:	David McPhee (Wyong Disposals, Alison Rd, 4352-1726), Joy Deane, Terry Collins (Express/Advocate), Helen, Nan & Julie (Foyer Display), All Kitchen Helpers, Ushers, Ticket Sellers and Assistants.