

# PLAYBILL

# The Elanora Players Newsletter



## November 2010 edition

Editor: Chris Richardson / [rich0903@tpg.com.au](mailto:rich0903@tpg.com.au) / 9982 6640 Web-site: [www.elanoraplayers.com.au](http://www.elanoraplayers.com.au)

Bookings: [elanora.bookings@bigpond.com](mailto:elanora.bookings@bigpond.com)

What's on in Community Theatre? Go to [www.showline.com.au](http://www.showline.com.au)

### DIARY DATES

#### *Play Workshop*

23<sup>rd</sup> November, and possibly Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> November, 7.30pm, Elanora Heights Community Centre (**full details below**).

#### **EP's Christmas Dinner**

**Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> December from 7.00pm –**  
at Tracey Keene's place (thanks Tracey!).  
More details below. Write it in your diary now!

#### **April 2011 Production –** *The Glass Menagerie*

**Play Reading:** Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> December, 7.30pm  
**Auditions:** Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> December, 7.30pm at  
Elanora Heights Community Centre  
**Rehearsals** to commence first week of February  
(Just a note that the setup days will be a little  
unusual because of the school holidays in April,  
but we'll let everyone know about that a bit  
closer to the time.

#### **July 2011 Production –**

At this stage we are looking at a possible  
**Agatha Christie Evening** combining Sheila's  
piece with a short Agatha Christie play. More  
details as this 'unfolds'.

## MURDERED TO DEATH



### *Director's Report*

I knew this show was going to be special when 25 people turned up to both the reading and the audition. We even got men auditioning – a rare treat for EP! Because of the high quality of the auditioners, casting was quite a challenge, but I eventually settled on the following cast:

Mildred Bagshot	Vanessa MacArthur
Dorothy Foxtan	Chris Richardson
Bunting	Desmond Smith
Colonel Craddock	Ken Reed
Marjorie Craddock	Wendy Knight
Pierre Marceau	Wade Orth
Elizabeth Hartley-Trumpington	Sarah Johnston
Miss Maple	Jeannie Sarrington
Inspector Pratt	Matt Burke
Constable Thomkins	Craig Purdon

We got off to a flying start with the first read-through. All the cast immediately got into their characters, with some fantastic interpretations and performances which got bigger and funnier as we went along, with the big challenge being trying to get everyone to stay on the right side of the 'ham line'!

The show sold out about a week before we opened. Only the long weekend prevented us from adding another show. It was wonderful for the cast to play to a packed house that seemed to love every minute of the show. One of the highlights for the audience was a 'whodunnit' guessing competition which was hotly contested. Each night one lucky winner walked away with a small prize such as wine, chocolates or a free ticket to another show. Marjorie Craddock turned out to be the hot favourite (correctly so) but we are still wondering at the couple of people who guessed Mildred Bagshot as the murderer, when she was actually the murderee! (Is that a real word?) We thought you might like to see the overall voting results:

Marjorie	123	Elizabeth	55
Bunting	48	Dorothy	40
Pierre	61	Colonel	56
Miss Maple	1		

The cast were absolutely superb and exceeded my expectations as to how this show would play out. They all worked so hard at their lines and in rehearsals and brought something new and unexpected to their characters. A special mention should go to Des Smith who turned in a stellar performance as Bunting for his swansong performance after many years in the theatre.

I would also like to acknowledge the wonderful crew who helped out and in particular, John Shearer who was the original champion of this play. Thanks John – it wouldn't have happened without you.

Tracey Keene