

SUNNYBANK THEATRE GROUP PRESENTS  
IN ASSOCIATION WITH ORIGIN THEATRICAL

**PACK  
OF  
LIES**



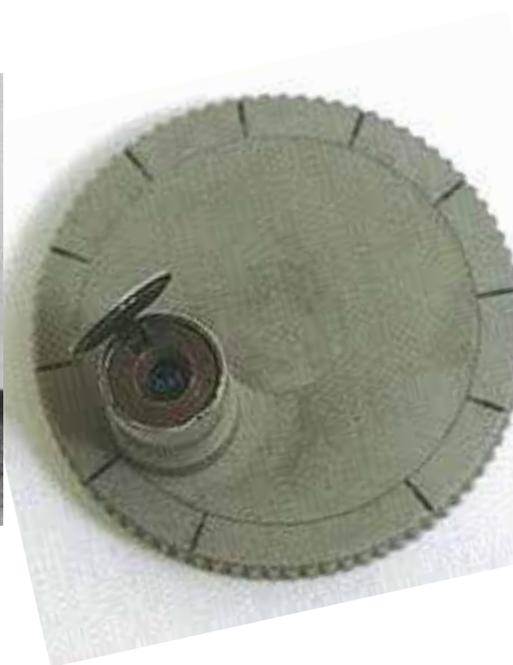
BY HUGH WHITEMORE

DIRECTED BY CHRIS GUYLER

JULY 24 - AUG 8, 2015

*Pack of Lies* came to my attention a couple of years ago and immediately I felt that sometime in the future I'd love to have the opportunity to direct this play. I was delighted when the opportunity became a reality with Sunnybank Theatre and have found it an interesting and challenging task when confronted with the reality of the true story behind the plot. There seem to be many people with a fascination of what might drive someone into a secret life of underground conflict and what is the human toll on these secret 'warriors' and the people around them. *Pack of Lies* touches on the uncomfortable human emotions and cost of covert warfare in this or any age. Whilst Britain and America were gripped by communist paranoia, the play is set during the Cold War in 1961 when the people of the London suburb of Ruislip found themselves in the centre of an International incident – the Portland Spy Ring – leading them to the discovery that neighbours were not who they thought they were, but in fact spies for the KGB. The author, Hugh Whitmore, was originally commissioned to write a one hour television play in the 70's but in 1983 he remounted it into a full length play, concentrating on the personal angle of neighbours pain and secrecy on both sides, with a happy family life torn apart as the truth is revealed.

It has been a joy working with such a talented and dedicated cast and I take this opportunity of thanking them for working so diligently at bringing the 'true' characters to life. I also want to thank all the production staff, and especially my Production Assistant and Stage Manager, Hanette Van der Berg, who has been such a great support. I couldn't have done it without her in order to achieve the end result. We all hope you enjoy the production as much as we have putting it together.



## CHRIS GUYLER

## DIRECTOR



Chris has had a passion for live theatre since he was a young boy which is hardly surprising as he hails from a family of entertainers, born in the UK to parents who were both in the entertainment industry! Before retiring, his career took him all over the world and with his love of theatre he's been involved in over 70 productions both acting and directing wherever he was based! Since Australia became home in '74, Melbourne then Brisbane, he's played many leading roles, at Sunnybank in comedy and drama, including *Beyond Reasonable Doubt*, *The Mousetrap*, *Witness for the Prosecution*, *No Sex Please We're British* and just last year as Rene in *Allo Allo*. His long list of Directorial credits include *Desperate Hours*, *Out of Order*, *Trap for a Lonely Man* and

*Wait Until Dark* here at STG. Chris enjoys passing on years of experience as a director and when he first saw *Pack of Lies*, he immediately recognised the potential to bring you a fascinating drama with plenty of emotional drama, he hopes you find it equally fascinating.

## HANETTE VAN DER BERG

## ASST. DIRECTOR



Once again, it has been delightful to work as part of the stage crew on a STG production. *Pack of Lies* is my second production with STG, after I joined as stage manager for the first time during the 2014 season, working on *Deathtrap*.

Although this play is very different from what I would usually turn my hand to, I have had the opportunity to learn and immerse myself in the more serious aspects of a stage drama. My 15 years' experience in theatre has thus far mainly been in the stage musicals arena, with performances is numerous Gilbert and Sullivan productions like *Pirates of Penzance* and *Trial by Jury*, some comedy work, as well as numerous pantomimes in a semi-professional milieu. The

stage decorating aspect of this play, has been one of the highlights for me and I am looking forward to a stage-managing a successful season for *Pack of Lies*. Although I hail from Victoria, I have made Brisbane my home for the last three years and have come to adore the city and its surroundings. I also recently married my partner of five years who has had to put up with being a "theatre widower" over the last few months.

Barbara Jackson

Lesley Davis

Bob Jackson

Daniel Sheehy

Julie Jackson

Olivia Bird

Helen Kroger

Louanne Gard

Peter Kroger

Andrew Herrmann

Stewart

Jason Lawson

Thelma

Sara Forgione

Sally

Jane Rapley

The action takes place in the London suburban home of the Jackson family in the months of October 1960 to early January 1961.



# CAST

## LESLEY DAVIS



Lesley has spent close to 35 years fulfilling her passion, bringing a wide range of characters to life in various dramas, thrillers, comedies and musicals.

She has had a very diverse theatrical career with amateur theatre, both on and off the stage. A director in her own right, Lesley has taken the reigns for many productions, including STG's award winning and very memorable 2013 presentation of Aaron Sorkin's *A Few Good Men*. She now looks forward to bringing the 'real life' character of Barbara Jackson to life in STG's latest spy thriller, *Pack of Lies*.

## BARBARA JACKSON



## DANIEL SHEEHY



As a fan of theatre with political and current lifestyle relevance, this relative newcomer, is very much enjoying the opportunity to play Bob, in this taught political thriller.

Daniel debuted in the STG production of *A Few Good Men* as Judge Julius Randolph.

His love of music and comedy, has seen him perform in several musical's, including recently STG's own production of *Guys and Dolls*, in which he had the honour of performing alongside his son, in his own theatrical debut.

## BOB JACKSON

It is only with the wonderful love and support of family and loved ones that it is possible to pursue such theatrics - thank you all.

## OLIVIA BIRD



Olivia is 17 years old and this will be her fourth performance and first play with STG. She is currently a student with the Queensland Dance School of Excellence at Kelvin Grove and has also been a student with the Queensland Theatre Company for 3 years performing in various showcases, the latest being a play by Edgar Allan Poe.

Olivia loves performing especially for the joy it brings the audience. She has been in many musicals, the latest playing 'Meg Giry' in *Phantom of the Opera* with the Ipswich Musical Theatre Company.

She has really enjoyed bringing the character of Julie to life and working with all the cast. She especially thanks Chris for giving her this wonderful opportunity.

## JULIE JACKSON

## LOUANNE GARD



This will be Louanne's third stage performance with Sunnybank Theatre Group. She graced the stage in *Suddenly at Home* and *Band Wagon* a few years ago. Since then she has concentrated on studying for her Bachelor in Social Science and working with children and young people. Her love for the theatre has included all elements as she studied writing and acting under playwright Norman Price. She has performed, directed and written as well as worked behind the stage for years. She enjoys diverse and interesting roles and is thrilled to be working with such a wonderful cast as those in *Pack Of Lies*.

## HELEN KROGER

## ANDREW HERRMANN



Andrew is back at Sunnybank Theatre after a long absence starting, his large family with Kathleen Molloy. Andrew's first performance at Sunnybank was in *The Pajama Game*, directed by Anne Ross and Pam Cooper with music performed by June Gemmell. The following year Andrew played the part of Frank Butler in *Annie Get Your Gun*, Leonard Vole in *Witness for the Prosecution* and as Saul Watson in the hilarious comedy, *Play On!* More recently Andrew created the sound design for *Rebecca* and *Little Shop of Horrors* but is glad to be back on the famous Sunnybank stage.

## PETER KROGER

## JASON LAWSON



Originally from Melbourne, Jason has been treading the boards now for just over 25 years. Since moving to Queensland in 2001, Jason has appeared in a multitude of shows and concerts from Brisbane to Beenleigh. While mostly known for musical theatre, Jason has always felt that acting was his first calling and is enjoying the opportunity to perform in non-musical shows. His previous play credits include Freddie in *Noises Off* (MATES Theatre), Herb Shuttle in *Happy Birthday Wanda June* (Stagewise Productions), Juror #5 in *12 Angry Men* (Phoenix Ensemble) and most recently as Herr Otto Flick in STG's production of *Allo Allo*. Long time STG patrons may also remember Jason as Charlie

Davenport in *Annie Get Your Gun* and Tommy Albright in *Brigadoon*. When not on stage, Jason works as a payroll officer in Brisbane and has a keen interest in horse racing, soccer and video games. Jason is relishing the opportunity to sink his teeth into a more dramatic role, and sincerely hopes you enjoy the show.

## STEWART

## SARA FORGIONE

## THELMA



Sara first stepped on to the S.T.G. stage in the 2007 productions of *House Guest*, and *Joseph & the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. In 2013, she was delighted to return as Frances in the comedy/farce *No Sex Please We're British*, followed by the French waitress Yvette in 'Allo 'Allo in 2014. Sara wishes to thank the S.T.G 'family' for the opportunities afforded her over the years in learning the craft. It has been a privilege to work with the *Pack of Lies* cast & crew.

## JANE RAPLEY

## SALLY



Jane returns to the Sunnybank Theatre stage after an absence of approximately 43 years. During this time she selflessly devoted herself to helping mountain climbers in Nepal to find where they lost their backpacks, keys and mobile phones as well as valuable community services such as running around local shopping centre carparks loudly announcing when parking spaces become available. Also during this time she got married, had children, and formed a family acrobatic troupe. The theatrical side of her never truly went away though. In 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2014 she regularly toured Rochedale with her self-penned one woman show *Me Jane, You Audience* where she received a rave review

on her personal blog.

Aching to feel the grease of the lights and see the glare of the makeup once again she answered the call to appear in Sunnybank Theatre Groups production of *Pack Of Lies*. It's a great experience appearing onstage with other people again and having a cast and crew that she can bake cakes for.



<b>Director</b>	Chris Guyler
<b>Stage Manager</b>	Hanette Van der Berg
<b>Assistant Stage Manager</b>	Ronalda Cook
<b>Lighting/Sound Design</b>	David Gemmell Gabi Marshall
<b>Lighting/Sound Operator</b>	Joanne Sephton Alan Hare
<b>Set Design and Decor</b>	Francois Van der Berg Hanette Van der Berg
<b>Set Construction</b>	Bob Clayton Francois Van der Berg Chris Guyler
<b>Costumes</b>	Amelia Fuller Cast
<b>Backdrop</b>	Chris O'Leary
<b>Photography</b>	Kayleen Gibson
<b>Program</b>	Chris O'Leary
<b>Greenroom &amp; Bar</b>	Our wonderful volunteers

Thanks also to Clark Rubber Stafford and Gem Guyler



Spies and spying became part of the Cold War game with both sides in the Cold War using spies as a way of acquiring knowledge of what the other was doing. Spying has developed a rather romantic image as a result of Western film portrayals of spies. However, for all of them, spying was far from romantic – it was a highly dangerous job and many worked knowing that there was barely any chance of being rescued if caught. A few were exchanged for other spies – but prison or execution were the more usual punishments for being caught – either by betrayal or making errors.

Both sides involved in the Cold War used spies from all types of backgrounds. The ability to seamlessly blend into the background was vital. The Soviet Union also employed men from Britain to spy on Britain – men who had become disaffected by the British way of life and looked to the east. The most famous were the 'Cambridge Five' – graduates who as a result of their background had got into high positions in the British Establishment. Throughout the era of the Cold War information covertly acquired in Britain ended up with the KGB. British agents in the Soviet Union paid a high price for their betrayal.

The extent to which the 'Establishment' had been infiltrated first became publicly apparent in 1951 when Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean fled Britain for the Soviet Union. They had been tipped off that they were about to be arrested by Kim Philby who from 1944 to 1946 had been head of counter-intelligence activities at British Intelligence. All three men were part of the 'Cambridge Five'. Burgess and Maclean had passed over to the Soviet Union thousands of confidential documents.

In 1955, John Vassal, who was the naval attaché at the British Embassy in Moscow was jailed for eighteen years after spying for the Soviet Union. One year later in 1956, Burgess and Maclean surfaced in Moscow after seemingly disappearing in 1951. Here they were reasonably safe as the Cold War moved to new heights with the Suez Crisis and the Hungarian Uprising. Both sides in the Cold War became more entrenched in their views on the other and to the Soviet authorities Burgess and Maclean were excellent trophies – and also 'proof' that the British way of life could not be good. After all, why would two very well educated men leave if their lifestyle was so good there? In 1956, Anthony Blunt received a knighthood and was put in charge of the Queen's art collection. Years later, it was announced that he was the fourth member of the 'Cambridge Five'. However, in 1956, his appointment was an indication of just how far into the Establishment some spies had managed to inveigle themselves.

Nuclear technology was vital for both sides if they were not seen by the other as falling behind. The launch of Sputnik was a huge blow to American pride and its implication for rocket-delivered nuclear bombs was huge. However, nuclear submarine technology was also vital for submarine-launched nuclear missiles. Both sides wanted to know what the other was doing in this area. In 1961, George Blake was given a 42-year prison sentence for spying for the Soviet Union. Blake had worked for British Intelligence but was, in fact, a double agent and had been for a total of nine years. In 1966, Blake escaped from prison.

In 1963, the man who led the 'Cambridge Five' fled to the Soviet Union. Kim Philby believed that it was only a matter of time before he was arrested – hence his defection. In 1963, Philby admitted that he was the so-called 'Third Man'. Also in 1963, Grenville Wynne was sentenced to eight years in a Soviet prison having been found guilty of spying for the West. In 1964, Blunt announced that he was a member of the 'Cambridge Five' as did John Cairncross. However, neither was prosecuted despite their admissions.

In 1971, British Intelligence announced that 120 Soviet intelligence officers were operating in Britain – the bulk with some form of diplomatic status. Consequently the British government expelled 105 Soviet officials. In the past, British Intelligence had been dealing with small groups. However, they received an intelligence goldmine when a KGB officer – Oleg Lyalin – defected to Britain. He exposed those agents he knew of. This was an extraordinary piece of good luck for British Intelligence. However, this did not stop the KGB from attempting to infiltrate British Intelligence. Those agents known by Lyalin were expelled but they could be replaced with agents he did not know.

The KGB also put more effort into turning British agents working for MI5. Their success in doing this, however, was blighted when in 1984 Michael Bettany, an officer in MI5, was jailed for 23 years for passing secrets over to the Soviet Union. Russian intelligence had suffered another blow when another KGB agent, Oleg Gordievsky, became a MI6 agent and had exposed Bettany. Gordievsky also exposed other Russian agents operating in the UK and in 1985, 25 of these agents were expelled from Britain.

The end of the Cold War and internal issues within Russia, including the break-up of the Soviet Union, led to a reduction in espionage – but it did not end it. In 1996, Russia expelled nine British diplomats for running a spy ring. In 1997, a former MI6 agent, Richard Norwood, was jailed for a year for passing secrets over to Russia. In 2002, Raphael Bravo was jailed for 11 years for trying to sell secrets to the Russians and in 2003 Ian Parr received a ten-year sentence for trying to sell to Russia Cruise missile secrets.



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Directed by Gary Suthers

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DIRECTED BY LEONIE WALSH MUSICAL DIRECTION BY JUNE GEMMELL