



# **BEYOND** **REASONABLE** **DOUBT**

A Courtroom Drama  
by Jeffrey Archer

# CELEBRATING 70 YEARS OF



**BENDIGO THEATRE COMPANY**

**SEASON 2022**

**BEYOND  
REASONABLE  
DOUBT**

**3-13 MARCH 2022**

**OUR 200TH PRODUCTION  
IN OUR 70TH YEAR**



# **BEYOND** \_\_\_\_\_ **REASONABLE DOUBT**

An amateur production by arrangement with  
ORIGIN™ Theatrical on behalf of Samuel French.

Jeffrey Archer wrote this play (his first) in 1987, following the General Election. It went on to play at the Queen's Theatre in London's West End for over 600 performances.

## **SYNOPSIS**

In the Central Criminal Court, the Old Bailey Sir David Metcalfe, distinguished QC and Chairman of the Bar Council, is conducting the most important defense of his career - his own.

Accused of the wilful murder of his terminally ill wife, Sir David finds himself locked in legal combat with his old rival, Sir Anthony Blair-Booth QC, prosecuting counsel.

After a tense and gripping courtroom scene, Act I ends just as we are about to hear the jury's verdict. Act II takes us back in time to the fateful night of Lady Metcalfe's death and before, and the play ends with a surprising twist.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Well, what a journey it has been.

We've seen numerous changes to the date, cast members unable to continue, new cast members joining us, the set being started, then sitting idle for a while, then we started all over again. But finally, we are able to bring you this wonderful drama written by Jeffrey Archer.

I thank Bendigo Theatre Company for the chance to direct this courtroom drama for Bendigo audiences and to celebrate this event as our 200th production since the company was founded is an added bonus.

My congratulations to all the cast and crew for their amazing resilience, hard work and sheer talent to create this wonderful piece of theatre in our unique and special place – the Bendigo Arts shed.

I would like to thank those cast members who were given roles but, due to circumstances created by this pandemic have not been able to continue with us on this journey. I hope you have the opportunity to see this production.

Finally, to you the audience, thank you for your continued support of the arts and Bendigo Theatre Company. Now more than ever we need to assist the arts community, which has suffered greatly in the last two years and needs our continued support. If you have enjoyed tonight's performance please spread the word – our wonderful cast should have full houses for each performance.

## **DIRECTOR**

VERN WALL

Vern has directed numerous shows for Bendigo Theatre Company since arriving in Bendigo in the early 1990's.

His more recent musical directions have included **Annie** (2010), **Legally Blonde** (2017) and co-directed **The Addams Family** (2016). Vern

is a life member of Bendigo Theatre Company and is a regular member of the 'Wednesday Boys', a group of retirees who complete numerous maintenance and set building tasks each Wednesday morning.

Vern has been nominated by the Musical Theatre Guild of Victoria for set design on several occasions. He has co-designed the set for tonight's show with Keva Lloyd.



# CAST

**COURT USHER/CLERK OF THE COURT**

Stania Tresize

**MR JUSTICE TREDWELL**

John Moore

**ANTHONY BLAIR-BOOTH QC**

Thomas Symondson

**DET. CHIEF INSPECTOR TRAVERS**

Shane Cook

**SIR DAVID METCALFE QC**

Conor Cunningham

**PRISON OFFICER**

Michael Cadzow

**MRS ROGERS**

Carolyn Staszkiwicz

**DR WEEDEN**

Jacob Baird

**LIONEL HAMILTON**

Grant Finlay

**MR COLE**

Jeremiah Steen

**ROBERT PIERSON**

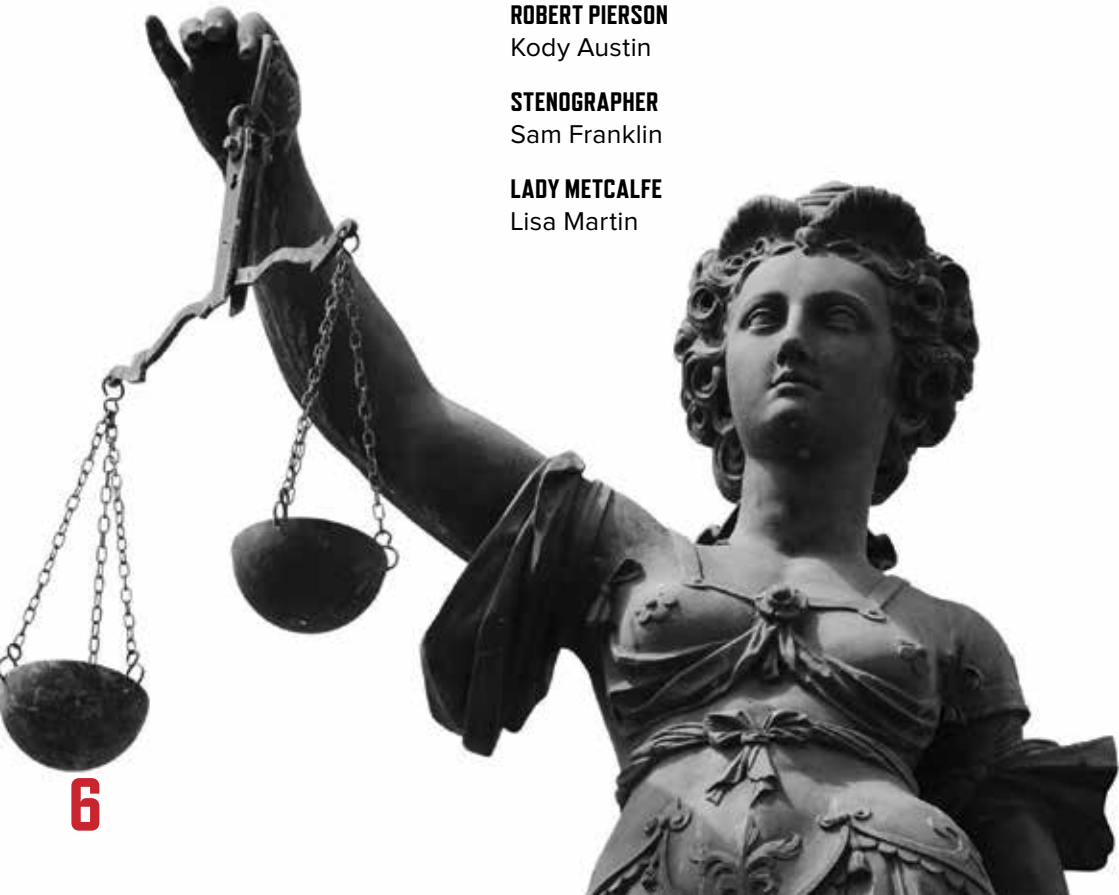
Kody Austin

**STENOGRAPHER**

Sam Franklin

**LADY METCALFE**

Lisa Martin





## **STANIA TRESIZE**

Stania is passionate about her volunteer work at BTC. If you went looking for her, you would find her trying costumes on cast, locating props, working front of house or backstage, on stage, or in the kitchen. You name it, she has done it all. But her favourite role is meeting and greeting all her theatre family both young and old, calling them by name when they walk through the doors of “The Shed “ - encouraging them to follow their dreams, and knowing that if they need any help that they feel comfortable to ask.

Stania believes we must continue to work together as a united group, nurture and support each other and help grow the unique image of BTC as a dynamic, creative place.

She believes in the united spirit in all of us: I achieve because we achieve and we achieve because we meet the challenges together.



## **JOHN MOORE**

John has been involved in nearly 50 shows spanning 50 years, covering a variety of styles: melodrama, comedy, drama, Shakespeare, Australian classic, musicals, religious etc. However, he regards his greatest role to have been with wife Cathy, raising four children to love theatre and performing.



## THOMAS SYMONDSON

Tom began performing on stage after leaving Melbourne for the Macedon Ranges in 2016, joining a number of choirs and music groups. Most recently he played a lead role in Kyneton Theatre Company's 2019 production of **Wintersong**, an original musical.

Tom is excited to be appearing in his first Bendigo Theatre Company production following his relocation to Bendigo in early 2021.



## SHANE COOK

“Detective Chief Inspector, Richard William Travis - Serious Crime Squad.”

Shane has just recently returned to Bendigo after 4 years living in Melbourne. Shane's previous foray with Bendigo Theatre Company was the 2017 TENX10 play **Goodnight** – alongside the amazing Katie McMillan, directed by the wonderful Alise Amarant.

Shane is thrilled to be part of the phenomenal cast and crew to present, **Beyond Reasonable Doubt**.







## CONOR CUNNINGHAM

Conor is a big fan of courtroom dramas and was delighted at the opportunity of playing the principal role in this brilliant play by Jeffrey Archer. This will be Conor's 12th production since joining Bendigo Theatre Company in 2013, having been involved in a variety of productions including **We Will Rock You** (Buddy Holly & The Crickets), **Wicked** (The Wonderful Wizard of Oz) and **One Man, Two Guvnors**, (Charlie 'The Duck' Clench).

Conor's love of performing arts spans over 25 years in Ireland, the UK and Australia, both on and off the stage. He has thoroughly enjoyed the challenge of playing the part of Sir David Metcalfe QC in this fun show, since being cast in 2020, and feels humbled to be surrounded by such a talented cast and production team, who have pulled this show together through the global challenges that have occurred in this time.



## MICHAEL CADZOW

Michael would like to say he is just starting out and he looks forward to be able to entertain more in the future and to build up his confidence.



## CAROLYN STASZKIEWICZ

Carolyn has been involved with BTC since 1997 both on stage, and behind the scenes. She has formed lifelong friendships and learned a great range of new skills.

**Beyond Reasonable Doubt** is her first major role. 'I usually prefer to be at the back of the stage with only a couple of lines, so this has been a steep learning curve. This "comfortable risk" has paid off.

Thanks to the rest of the team for making this experience so enjoyable.



## JACOB BAIRD

Jacob has performed in just about every season of BTC's TENX10 plays. He thoroughly enjoys the challenge.

Also Jacob has enjoyed working with Synchronicity Performing Arts in **Pride and Prejudice** and **Go Back for Murder**.

He enjoys performing very much,



## GRANT FINLAY

Grant has a keen interest in the performing arts and creative arts, having taught theatre and literature for a number of years. He has had the opportunity to direct a number of productions in the UK, including **We Will Rock You**, **The Little Shop of Horrors**, **Grease** and **Hamlet**. He has also spent time performing as part of choral groups. Grant believes there is nothing like watching a live production.

Grant has only recently relocated to Bendigo and joined BTC shortly after. He has the pleasure of helping backstage during BTC's production of **We Will Rock You**. He is enjoying being a part of the company and has loved working on its production of **Beyond Reasonable Doubt**.

He is looking forward to what the future brings with BTC.



## JEREMIAH STEEN

Jeremiah has recently graduated from Bendigo TAFE specialising in graphic design and is taking a gap year before further pursuing his studies.

Jeremiah has had a liking for acting ever since he started performing in **Les Misérables** (2019, Nexus BYT) and since then has continually worked to improve his skills.

Jeremiah is thrilled to be a part of this amazing production and can't wait to see the audience's reaction as the story unfolds.



## KODY AUSTIN

Kody managed to squeeze quite a lot into 2019. In just that year his theatre credits included directing **A Nice Gentle Invasion** by Christopher Milne (TENX10, BTC), playing lead roles in **Blood Brothers** (Mickey, Tribe Youth Theatre), **Matilda** (Miss Trunchbull, Girton Grammar School), **Les Miserables** (Jean Valjean, Nexus) and **Wicked** (Fiyero, BTC).

For **Wicked**, Kody was the recipient of two Musical Theatre Guild of Victoria awards for First Time in an Open Production, and Junior Performer of the Year.

In 2020 Kody was one of four students (nationally) awarded the John Bell Scholarship, by the Bell Shakespeare Company.



## SAMANTHA LEMPIO-FRANKLIN

This is Samantha's first time on stage in a non-speaking role, and has enjoyed being a different part of a theatre production. Samantha is usually the one behind the scenes, as scenic artist, painting for BTC and school productions since 2013.

Sam studied Fine Art painting at Monash University, and has been creating artwork ever since. It has only been in the last 10 years, where she has returned to her passion and fascination with painting. Every new production or mural she is asked to paint, is taken on with enthusiasm and a chance to learn and develop her talent further.

Samantha painted for this production, and hopes you enjoy our drama brought to you by some brilliant cast and crew.



## LISA MARTIN

Lisa is passionate about all aspects of theatre and performance. Inspired by larger-than-life characters in Christmas pantomimes, she took every opportunity through her schooling to perform, and soon felt more at home on the stage than off.

Many years later after studying acting at The National Theatre, Lisa worked in fringe, amateur, 'improv' and children's theatre, and in television and film. She also played key roles in, and toured with, a number of Theatre in Education companies.

Now living in regional Victoria, Lisa returned to theatre in Bendigo Theatre Company's TENX10 2018 season, playing Myra in the play of the same name by Bryan Harnetiaux.

Falling back in love with the craft she has continued her practice exploring a wide range of older character parts with a number of local companies.

Lisa often finds herself playing women who die or kill, including a favourite called 'Death' in **Blood Wedding**, she denies being type cast and hopes that life won't reflect her art.

Coming back to live theatre after the lockdowns, Lisa is enjoying exploring the character of Lady Millicent and working with all involved in **Beyond Reasonable Doubt**.



**TEN  
X10**

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**10 MINUTES EACH**

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**30 ACTORS**

**5 PERFORMANCES**

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# PRODUCTION TEAM



## **PRODUCTION MANAGER**

Maureen Fleiner

## **DIRECTOR**

Vern Wall

## **ASSISTANT DIRECTOR**

Grant Finlay



## **STAGE MANAGER**

Barb Billings

## **PROPS**

Stania Tresize

## **SET DESIGN**

Keva Lloyd & Vern Wall



## **LIGHTING DESIGNER**

Ian Scott

## **COSTUME DESIGN**

Kylie Howe

## **AUDIO OPERATOR**

Oliver Sexton



## JOIN US ON A WEDNESDAY

Are you looking for a creative outlet? Do you have some spare time? Do you have any building or maintenance skills? Or do you just enjoy company and coffee? If you answered 'yes' to any of these questions, perhaps you would enjoy joining our "Wednesday crew".

"The Wednesday crew" is a group of volunteers who pitch up each week here at the BTC Arts Shed, to take care of minor maintenance tasks, and to build and paint set pieces for our numerous productions each year.

You don't need to be a master builder - but even if you are - if you have an interest in making, fixing or cleaning things and you gain a sense of achievement in seeing a project through, this could be the community group for you.

If you're interested, come along any Wednesday at 9:30am. We are always looking for volunteers to join us.

Bendigo Theatre Company could not do without this talented group of people. The cast and production team of Beyond Reasonable Doubt extends their thanks to the Wednesday crew for creating the beautiful set.



THANK YOU



[bendigolighthouse.com.au](http://bendigolighthouse.com.au)

THANK YOU



**VALENTINES**  
furniture

[valentinesfurniture.com.au](http://valentinesfurniture.com.au)

# SEASON 2022

## UPCOMING PRODUCTIONS

The best way to be informed about audition dates, crew vacancies, opportunities to perform, and new shows on sale is to join the BTC mailing list.

We won't send you endless spam emails, but you will be the first to find out about the productions that we are putting on.

To join the Bendigo Theatre Company mailing list go to our website: [www.bendigotheatrecompany.org.au](http://www.bendigotheatrecompany.org.au) and scroll to the bottom of any webpage.



Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.  
Musical directed by Emily Calder.  
Production Manager Vern Wall.

### PERFORMANCES:

7-10 July  
Ulumbarra Theatre



Puffs, or Seven Increasingly Eventful  
Years at a Certain School of Magic  
and Magic.

Play directed by Kerry Turpie.

Production Manager Kristen Beever.

### PERFORMANCES:

September School holidays  
Capital Theatre



# BENDIGO THEATRE COMPANY

Bendigo Theatre Company is located on Dja Dja Warrung Country. We acknowledge and pay our respects to the elders of the Kulin Nations.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President	Bevan Madden
Vice President	Vern Wall
Secretary	Jenni Clohesy
Treasurer	Maureen Fleiner

## LIFE MEMBERS

Anne Ball  
Mrs Ball (dec.)  
Colin Brown  
Grace Cox  
Gael Emond  
Maureen Fleiner  
Greg Harris  
Patricia Lyon (dec.)  
Jack Paynting (dec.)  
Annie Smith  
Ray Smith  
Stania Tresize  
Vern Wall  
Abe Watson  
Ken Wells  
Madge Welsh (dec.)

## GENERAL COMMITTEE

Barbara Billings  
Colin Brown  
Conor Cunningham  
Sian Fowler  
Keva Lloyd  
Kelsey Oberin  
Stania Tresize

## PATRON

Cr. Rod Fyffe



**BENDIGO  
THEATRE  
COMPANY**