

Nomination for Life Membership of Canberra Repertory Society

Jenny Ongley-Houston

In November 1959, a 17 year old bright eyed ball of enthusiasm arrived in Canberra, and within a week had joined REP and was running Sound for their current production *Susan and God*, at the Riverside Huts. When one of the cast of the next production *The Adding Machine* suddenly had to pull out, Jenny Leng found herself taking over the role of Mrs Four. Her next role, incidentally, was in *Rope*, directed by John Wells. She quickly became one of the acting 'regulars' and REP soon became an integral part of her life. Her favourite role was Judith Bliss in *Hay Fever* at Theatre 3.


Through church, she met Warwick Ongley and introduced him to REP. They married in 1967 and both remained very active in REP. After Warwick's death in 1990, she met Mal Houston and told him that he needed to become part of REP if he was going to be part of her life. He joined, and they married in 1992.

Over the last 60+ years, as well as appearing in well over 100 REP productions, at Riverside, the new Playhouse, and then at Theatre 3 (so named because it was the third theatre used by REP), Jenny has continued to support REP in many ways. She worked in the REP office for 10 years, job-sharing that job and the job of Council Minutes Secretary with Aukje Robertson. She worked backstage on many productions, including ASM (but never SM), Box Office, ASM, sound (but never lighting – that scared her) and almost every Front of House job. Over the years, she has contributed to a number of REP's Committees, including the Play Selection Committee and one of the Awards Selection committees.

Recently, Jenny's health has prevented her from physical attendance, but that has not stopped her from contributing to REP – she remains an active member of the Awards Committee and get to see every production. She is hoping that she will soon be able to return to the theatre in person, to maintain her contact with the many friends made here.

Jen's lifelong commitment to REP would be well rewarded by Life Membership of REP, for which I hereby nominate her.

Nominated by



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Liz de Totth

8 March 2021

Seconded by



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Antonia Kitzel