

MEDIA RELEASE  
FRIDAY 1 NOVEMBER 2024

## Canberra REP launches 2025 Season

One month after its 92th birthday, Canberra Repertory Society (REP) launched its 2025 Season this evening (1 November 2024) in an event for subscribers, members, and friends at the Canberra REP Theatre.

Introducing **extraordinary stories**, and sometimes-outrageous characters, that will entertain, amuse, intrigue and thrill our beautiful Canberra community.

“In our 93rd year, we present plays by playwrights from Australia, the UK, the USA, Canada and Italy, and continue to offer opportunities for both experienced and emerging directors. We hope we have found something for you”, says REP President Antonia Kitzel.

In 2025, the six plays produced and presented by REP explore truly extraordinary stories. Some have become Classics, some by classic writers. Others will take you on journeys you did not know were possible, and finally we are proud to be able to present as the first production for 2025 the World Premiere of *Baby Jane*. Adapted for the stage, by Canberra’s own Ed Wightman, from the original Henry Farrell novel *What Ever Happened to Baby Jane?*, bringing this gothic thriller vividly to life. These productions explore the sadness, wit, new futures, folly, fun, and laugh-out-loud humour that combine to reflect much in our modern world.

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### PLAY ONE

#### **Baby Jane** Adapted by Ed Wightman

Director Ed Wightman

From the novel *Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?* By Henry Farrell

20 February – 8 March 2025

*Reflected memories are not always real.*

From one of Canberra’s-own we present the **World Premiere** of *Baby Jane*. This is an amazing work, with no holds barred. The classic Gothic thriller, about two reclusive sisters living together in a decaying Hollywood mansion –one a former child star of early vaudeville desperate to reclaim her early fame, and the other, a successful Hollywood actress whose career tragically ended after a terrible car accident.

*Baby Jane* opens wide the complexities of family, sibling rivalry, talent and fame and how they can go terribly wrong.

### PLAY TWO

#### **Blithe Spirit** by Noël Coward

**Director Lachlan Houen**

**1-17 May 2025**

*An improbable farce.*

Psychics, séances and dabbling in the unknown all in the name of research... well something is bound to go awry. Seeing ghosts is just the beginning of chaos unwittingly unleashed - with results far removed from the expected.

### **PLAY THREE**

## **A Doll's House, Part 2** by Lucas Hnath

**Director Joel Horwood**

**12 – 28 June 2025**

*Who is at the door?*

*A Doll's House, Part 2* is a smart, funny and thought provoking contemporary sequel to *A Doll's House*, written by Lucas Hnath and first performed on Broadway in 2017. The story picks up 15 years after Nora famously slams the door on her oppressive life. Ideas of independence, expectation and the possible life that exist in resistance.

### **PLAY FOUR**

## **Spider's Web** by Agatha Christie

**Director Ylaria Rogers**

**24 July – 9 August 2025**

*Classic Christie.*

Secrets and lies abound in an English country manor house. No one believes Clarissa's truth but everyone believes her lies. What could possibly go wrong?

*Spider's Web* reveals what can go wrong in a day without really trying.

### **PLAY FIVE**

## **Lizzy, Darcy & Jane** by Joanna Norland

**Director Alexander Pelvin**

**4 - 20 September 2025**

*A tale where reality and fiction collide.*

Exploring Jane Austen's inspirations. Follow Jane as she pits her wit and will against her greatest adversary and ally – Elizabeth Bennet the intrepid character of *Pride and Prejudice*. The fates of the author, the novel and its heroine are at stake. Elizabeth Bennet must take action.

*Lizzy, Darcy & Jane* explores the lives of familiar characters, and a favourite author—but who is in control? Come with us through the twists and turns as life imitates art, imitating life.

### **PLAY SIX**

# **Low Pay? Don't Pay!** by Dario Fo, Joseph Farrell translation

**Director Cate Clelland**

**20 November – 6 December 2023**

*'Farce at its finest...simply glorious.'* The Stage.

Desperate times call for desperate measures...and with problems so desperately familiar, join with Antonia and Margherita as they navigate their own cost of living crisis!

*'The problems are desperately familiar...Fo-faced farce wears a broad smile and proceeds at breathtaking speed.'* Financial Times



## **AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW**

Antonia Kitzel	President, Canberra Repertory Society
Ed Wightman	Director of Play One: <i>Baby Jane</i>
Lachlan Houen	Director of Play Two: <i>Blithe Spirit</i>
Joel Horwood	Director of Play Three: <i>A Doll's House, Part 2</i>
Ylaria Rogers	Director of Play Four: <i>Spider's Web</i>
Alexandra Pelvin	Director of Play Five: <i>Lizzy, Darcy &amp; Jane</i>
Cate Clelland	Director of Play Six: <i>Low Pay? Don't Pay!</i>

## **MEDIA CONTACT**

For photos and interview requests, please contact:

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