

Director's notes



Michael Baker —
Director

Life After George has been an opportunity to develop not only Hannie Rayson's characters for you, the audience, but also a chance for the Torquay Theatre Troupe actors and crew to extend and develop their acting styles and performance management skills.

The complexity of the staging is not immediately evident.

The author's wordsmithing brings to life many of the challenging and conflicting educational ideologies of the human political animal over the last thirty years, at the same time putting the "it girl" of each generation on show as Professor Peter George marries each one in turn. The History of Revolutions becomes a real-life history of passion, moral courage, activism, idealism and intellectual controversy.

The contemporary messages about the corporatisation of education are as relevant today as they were when Professor George expressed them, as are the universal themes of love, relationships, moral stances, determination and folly.

The play demonstrates, once again, Torquay Theatre Troupe's enthusiasm to bring interesting, intellectually challenging, provocative and entertaining theatre to its local audience.

Michael Baker

LINDSAY



Carleen Thoernberg, tireless Torquay Theatre Troupe member, takes the role of Lindsay. Married to

George, Lindsay's innocence is hardened as she moves through the years and the lives of George's family members, controlling, manipulating and not recognising their needs. She is, however, complex and vulnerable herself and fails to see how self-destructive her own choices are. The play – and Carleen's representation – is a study of a woman of intelligence, sparkle and passion who loses her way with every step she takes.

Poppy – played by **Lisa Berry** – is confident, feisty, smart, headstrong and sexy. Poppy's journey is

characterised by battles. She battles for respect and recognition, she battles to protect George's ideals, she battles with doubt and insecurity and she battles to justify herself. Poppy is driven by her love for George and his ideals, and her need to be acknowledged as his wife. Lisa says: "*Poppy is the woman I never was!*" – I don't think so!



POPPY

Maryanne Doolan is Beatrix – George's first love from school and Oxford University. After a turbulent married life, Beatrix still cares for George because of (and despite) his exploits. Beatrix is the voice of reason throughout the play. She is practical, apolitical, and while she speaks her mind she is also a peacemaker. "*I was a natural choice for the role.*"



BEATRIX

The cast

DUFFY



Bevan Uren plays Duffy – George's best mate – with ease and confidence. George and Duffy fish, fly planes, and talk

frankly together and know each other's strengths and weaknesses. Bevan's laconic style gives Duffy an enduring personality and gives George a sounding board and foil for George's personal growth and development.

& crew



Gay Bell
Stage Manager



Michael Lambkin
Assistant Director



Jenny Stewart
Lighting

Peter George is an enigma. Charming, witty, argumentative and stubborn, 'George' charges headlong through life with passion and idealism, marries the 'it' girl of each generation and dies in a light plane crash having 'touched the face of God'. **Fred Preston**, in his first major role with the Troupe, crashes and bashes George through this life and into the next, showing George "warts and all" for the human he is: full of folly, failings and hope.



'GEORGE'

ANA



Kate Hunter is a new recruit to the Torquay Theatre Troupe and has discovered the essence of Ana,

George's daughter. Ana is struggling to accept that her father has died without establishing a meaningful relationship with him. Beatrix (her mother), Lindsay and Poppy are oblivious to her pain. Through self-analysis, defining her rights within the family sphere and emotional upheaval, Ana journeys towards recognition of her future. Kate's portrayal of Ana is full of colour.

The Troupe would sincerely like to acknowledge the financial assistance of the following sponsors for their contributions:



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Sincere thanks and kudos go to the crew who made the shows possible despite the many challenges:

- Michael Lambkin—Assistant Director
- Gay Bell—Stage Manager (Props and wardrobe, effects, set-up, prompt and gofer)
- Jenny Stewart—Lighting technician
- Marie Darby—Front-of-house manager, prompt, props, wardrobe
- Dot Sims—prompt
- Steven Georgiadis—Videography, technical advice
- All the front-of-house staff

Many thanks to Anglesea Performing Arts for access to lighting equipment.

Thanks also to the Senior Citizens for their support and the use of their hall.



Life After George

written by

Hannie Rayson

10-12 & 17-19 May 8pm
Senior Citizens' Hall
Price Street Torquay



Directed By

Michael Baker