

**KUCOM THEATRE INC**

in association with Dominie Pty Ltd  
proudly presents



# **THE MEMORY OF WATER**

**A Dark Comedy**

**by Shelagh Stephenson**



**Kucom Theatre**

**Playhouse**

**361 Shakespeare Street**

**July 7, 8, 12, 14, 15, 19, 21, 22**

**at 8:00 pm**

**Bookings Mackay Entertainment Centre Ph: 49571777**

**Enquiries Kucom Theatre Ph: 0428 980 030**

## The Memory of Water

### THE DIRECTOR



#### Geoff Stewart-McLean

Welcome – You are about to be entertained by a slice of English family life; suitably black, often funny, and very real. Many of you will probably identify with aspects of the plot as it has happened or will happen to us all at some time or another. Shelagh Stephenson has found the comedy in what is generally thought of to be a tragic situation, and it is handled here tonight with aplomb by a hard working and talented cast to whom I say 'Thank you for your work'. They are just the tip of the theatrical iceberg, though, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Kucom for allowing me to direct this play, and to all the 'unseen' people without whose help and assistance this play would not have got on the boards. Enjoy!



### THE PLAYWRIGHT

**Shelagh Stephenson** was born in Northumberland and read drama at Manchester University. She is the author of several original radio plays written for BBC Radio, including *Darling Peidi*, *The Anatomical Venus* and *Five Kinds of Silence* (1997), which won the Writer's Guild Award (Best

Original Radio Play). Her first stage play, *The Memory of Water*, which opened at the Hampstead Theatre, London in 1996, won the Laurence Olivier Award for Best Comedy. Her second stage play, *An Experiment With An Air Pump* (1998), was joint winner of the 1997 Peggy Ramsay Award, and premiered at the Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester, in 1998.

*Ancient Lights* (2000) was produced at Hampstead Theatre in 2000, and in 2002, *Mappa Mundi* (2002) opened at the Royal National Theatre. Her latest play, *Enlightenment*, opened at Abbey Theatre, Dublin in 2005.

A collection of her plays, *Plays One*, was published in 2002.

## The Memory of Water

### THE CHARACTERS

**Vi** Stephanie Baumgarten

#### Her daughters:

**Mary** Tessa King

**Teresa** Maureen Coleman

**Catherine** Donna Priddle

**Mike, Mary's lover** John Atkinson

**Frank, Teresa's Husband** Joe Clutterbuck

*The place:* Vi's bedroom

*The time:* The mid-1990s

*There will be a 20-minute interval between Act I and Act II  
The bar will be open and drinks are permitted into the theatre*

*Patrons are advised that cigarettes will be smoked on stage during the performance,  
although no illegal substances are involved*

### THE MEMORY OF WATER.....

a suggestion, drawn from homeopathic medicine, that water serves as a kind of 'magnetic tape', retaining the curative properties of anything it has touched.

They say that the waters remember. That in a solution of arsenic, for example – diluted and diluted and diluted again until it might as well be pure distilled water – in the vibration of its molecules some ghost of the original poison lives on.

But they also say the memory of water changes things. The ghost of the poison becomes a remedy. In the memory of water things are changed into their opposites.

## The Memory of Water

### THE CAST

Vi

STEPHANIE BAUMGARTEN



Apart from doing a few comedy stints in a small comedy production, Stephanie has not participated in a production of this standard before. Being part of a mainstage theatre production is something she has always been interested in doing, but has never had the time (or the nerve) to pursue her interest. After much deliberation Stephanie decided to take a step out of her comfort zone and audition for *The Memory of Water*. Kucom

Theatre has been the perfect place to start, as she has found everyone to be very friendly and inspiring.

Mary

TESSA KING



Despite her vows to leave her theatre life behind her and her involvement in two of last year's productions, Tessa returns to the stage yet again. Tessa said 'It's been hectic but I have really enjoyed all the work. Thank goodness I have the incredible support of my husband who allows me to indulge in my passion for theatre'.

Teresa

MAUREEN COLEMAN



Maureen joined Kucom in 1990 after waiting a good many years to be an actor. Came to Mackay in 1989 from Adelaide. Most memorable productions: *Hay Fever*, *The Odd Couple* (female version), *Blithe Spirit*, *Fatal Attraction*, *Veronica's Room* and all the Farndale Avenue productions she has been involved in, to name a few. She could go on but would need the whole program and you would get bored! Loves theatre and wishes

more people felt the same way about it because it is great fun for the players and audiences!

## The Memory of Water

### THE CAST

Catherine

DONNA PRIDDLE



Donna has been an active member of Kucom since her first audition in 1996 where she was cast opposite Peter Rosier in *George's Room*. Subsequent productions include *Doctor in the House*, *The Odd Couple*, *Down Came a Jumbuck*, *The Shifting Heart*, *Educating Rita*, *Stage Directions*, & *The Mikado* (Farndale version). Donna has also produced three *Theatre Sports Mackay* programs and the adventurous youth production *Skate*. Donna says 'Getting

involved with Kucom was the best thing I ever did!'

Mike

JOHN ATKINSON



John has been involved with Kucom Theatre for the past 16 years, and during that time has performed in about 30 full-length and short plays. During that time John has played all types of roles - from a young medical student, to an extremely elderly Russian servant; from a cross-dressing drama adjudicator to an Australian larrikin - and has enjoyed every minute of it (well most minutes anyway). John is also currently the President of Kucom. In

his other life, John has this year started working as a quiet-mannered Librarian and CQU Mackay - but you know what they say about the quiet ones!

Frank

JOE CLUTTERBUCK



Once very active in Mackay theatre as an actor, director, student of drama (ATCL 1984) and teacher of drama, Joe returns to the stage after a long absence. A memorable moment on the stage: dwarfing June Bronhill (a very tiny lady) in the finale of the official opening of the Mackay Entertainment Centre dressed as Charlie's Aunt ('from Brazil where the nuts come from') in a costume that he later used to play the Widow Twanky in a school play.

## The Memory of Water

### PRODUCTION CREW

Director	Geoff Stewart-McLean
Stage Manager	Martin Francis
Sound and Lighting	Anne Clutterbuck
Props	Di Jenkins
Costumes	Kris Townsend
	Tessa King
Set Design	Geoff Stewart-McLean
Set Construction & Painting	Laurie King
	Tessa King
	Stephanie Baumgarten
	Maureen Coleman
Furniture loaned by	Anne & Joe Clutterbuck
	Stephanie Baumgarten
	Tessa King
Front of House Program	Bronwyn Grannall
	Taffy's Typing Service

### KUCOM COMMITTEE

President	John Atkinson
Vice President	Jim Kelly
Secretary	Bronwyn Grannall
Treasurer	Tessa King
Committee	Jill Mayhead
	Maureen Coleman
	Heather MacTavish

Email: [kucomtheatre@hotmail.com](mailto:kucomtheatre@hotmail.com)  
Ph: 0428 980 030  
Website: <http://spaces.msn.com/kucommackay>

## Next production

**KUCOM THEATRE Inc.**  
presents

*Rumours*  
By Neil Simon

Directed by Heather MacTavish

at Kucom Theatre Playhouse  
Shakespeare Street, Mackay

*Audition dates will be advised in the Daily Mercury  
and on the Kucom Theatre website*

November 10th, 11th, 15th, 17th, 18th,  
22nd, 24th and 25th, 2006

**BOOKINGS**  
**MACKAY ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE**  
4957 1777  
FREECALL: 1800 646 574

## Next year

### KUCOM THEATRE TURNS 60 !

We invite you to help us celebrate Kucom's 60th birthday in 2007. We're planning a season of fabulous plays, including the hilarious comedy by Australian playwright Elizabeth Coleman, *Secret Bridesmaids' Business*.

Keep watching the Kucom website for information about auditions and performance dates for Kucom's 60th birthday season:

<http://spaces.msn.com/kucommackay>

or give us a call on the brand new Kucom hotline: 0428 980 030

