



Heidelberg Theatre Company

# LITTLE MURDERS



HEIDELBERG THEATRE COMPANY (HTC)

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HTC is a member of the Victorian Drama League.

HTC acknowledges financial assistance from the City of Banyule.

## HTC Artspace

### Anna Russ

The featured artist, Anna Russ, works within the Studio Art Program at Araluen - one of the area's biggest day service providers for adults with intellectual disabilities. Araluen strives to nurture the creative abilities and promote the talent of ninety artists. She is in her mid thirties and has limited movement due to cerebral palsy.

Anna's creative process begins with painting on paper, applying each stroke slowly and deliberately. Every movement requires effort and strength as she applies brush to paper using a bright colour palette. The painting is then scanned and uploaded to an iPad where she adds digital colour using the touch screen. Anna's choice of colour and line produces bright, sensitive, abstract artworks.

Her work is available for purchase, reproduced on metal or framed. For purchases and enquires contact Araluen on 9435 2805 or [artconnects@araluen.org](mailto:artconnects@araluen.org).  
[www.araluen.org](http://www.araluen.org).

- Teresa Schipano, HTC Artspace Curator



HEIDELBERG  
THEATRE  
COMPANY

presents

by arrangement with Origin Theatrical, on behalf of Samuel French Ltd



# Little Murders

by

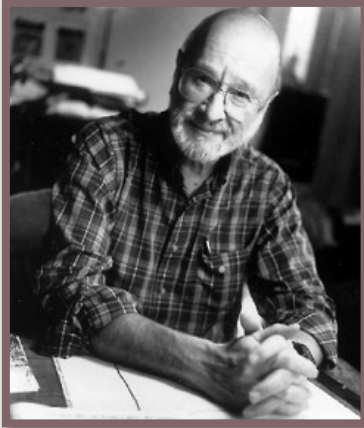
**Jules Feiffer**

directed by Paul King



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## About the Playwright



Jules Feiffer, one of America's most influential editorial cartoonists, is also an internationally acclaimed playwright, novelist, author of children's books and screenwriter (Mike Nichols' 1971 film *Carnal Knowledge* and Robert Altman's *Popeye*, among others). His cartoon strip *Feiffer* appeared in *The Village Voice* from 1956 to 1997 and in 1996 a retrospective exhibition of his work appeared at the Library of Congress.

His works have frequently appeared in *The New York Times*, *New York Magazine*, *The New Yorker*, *Playboy*, *Esquire*, *The Nation* and *Fortune*. Since 1991 Feiffer has written and illustrated ten books

for children and young adults, including *The Man in the Ceiling*, *A Room with a Zoo* and *Bark, George!*.

His work has won numerous awards, including the Pulitzer Prize for his editorial cartooning in *The Village Voice*, an Obie for two of his plays (*Little Murders* and *The White House Murder Case*), the 1961 George Polk Award for his cartoons, an Academy Award for his animated short, *Munro* and Lifetime Achievement Awards from the Writers' Guild of America and the National Cartoonist Society.

Feiffer's trademark style, widely imitated by younger generations of political cartoonists, typically featured sparsely drawn, neurotic characters against blank backgrounds, emoting or agonizing over news events and personal problems.

Now in his eighties, Feiffer has had a remarkable creative career turning contemporary urban anxiety into witty social satire and revealing commentary for over fifty years, and made an important and varied contribution to America's cultural life. From his *Village Voice* editorial cartoons to his more than thirty-five books, plays and film scripts his satirical outlook and probing wit have influenced several generations of Americans politically, sexually and socially.

## About the Play

Written in 1967, *Little Murders* is an unforgettable and provocative satire set within the violent confines of New York City, a grim world of neurosis and paranoia, one in which "all forms of authority which had been previously honoured and respected on every level of society, were slowly losing their validity."

When Feiffer wrote *Little Murders* he described it as a "post-assassination play" and prefaced it with a 1960s New York children's street chant: "2, 4, 6, 8 – who do we assassinate?"

And the next year, with the shootings of Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King by political assassins, he might well have been regarded as the prophet of an era of unprecedented violence.

At the time of the original production the play was considered to be savagely cynical; but today it is a painfully accurate look at American life. Chillingly prophetic, it speculates on the nature of meaningless violence—and the targets Feiffer satirises are as potent today as they were in 1967.

The Newquists, the play's dysfunctional sitcom family gone absurdist, live in a New York whose daily plagues range from noise and air pollution, power failures, nuisance phone calls to random muggings and sniper fire. Yet it's their behaviour in a world of increasing violence, alienation and the tearing down of the great middle-class verities (Family, God, Law and Order) which provides the play's black, nervous-breakdown comedy.

*Little Murders* signalled a change in the portrayal of the contemporary American family. Television had given the world the Cleavers and the Bradys, but Feiffer introduced America to the dysfunctional comedic family. *All in the Family* and *Good Times* soon followed on its heels and set the stage for modern comedies like *Curb Your Enthusiasm* and even *Arrested Development*.

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## About the Director - Paul King



*Little Murders* is Paul's tenth production for HTC. His previous work with the company includes Peter Nichols' *Passion Play*, David Rabe's *Hurlyburly*, Patrick White's *The Ham Funeral*, Doug Lucie's *Grace*, David Mamet's *Glengarry Glen Ross* and, in 2012, Ray Lawler's *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll*.

Paul has also directed at Pumpkin Theatre (Peter Shaffer's *Murderer*, Lanford Wilson's *Burn This* and Harold Pinter's *The Homecoming*, among others), Malvern Theatre Company (including Michael Frayn's *Benefactors*, J.B. Priestley's *Dangerous Corner* and Tom

Stoppard's *Arcadia*) and Williamstown Little Theatre, where his most recent production was Michael Frayn's *Copenhagen*.

For Hoy Polloy Theatre he was Set Designer for Caryl Churchill's *Fen* and David Mamet's *Boston Marriage* and directed Briony Lavery's *Frozen* and the 2008 Australian première of Fin Kennedy's *How To Disappear Completely And Never be Found*, recipient of the prestigious 2005 John Whiting Award for New Writing.

## CAST

CAROL NEWQUIST, *a salesman* ..... Bruce Carboon  
MARJORIE NEWQUIST, *his wife* ..... Julie Arnold  
KENNY NEWQUIST, *their son*..... Casey Filips  
PATSY NEWQUIST, *their daughter* ..... Stephanie Gonelli  
ALFRED CHAMBERLAIN, *her fiancé*..... Gavin Williams  
JUDGE JEROME M. STERN ..... Oleh Kowalyk  
WEDDING GUESTS ..... Ella Di Marco, Sheelagh Belton,  
Tracey Sutton, Dave Belton,  
David Tickner, Christian Dell'Olio,  
Jess Cook  
REVEREND HENRY DUPAS ..... John Cheshire  
LIEUTENANT MILES PRACTICE ..... Tony Costa

## Setting

*An Upper West Side apartment in Manhattan, New York City*

## Synopsis of Scenes

### Act 1

*Scene 1: An evening in February, 1967*

*Scene 2: One month later. Early afternoon.*

*Scene 3: Two months later. Late afternoon.*

– Interval –

### Act 2

*Scene 1: Four hours later. Early evening.*

– Short intermission, please remain seated –

*Scene 2: Six months later. Late afternoon.*

At interval, refreshments are available in the foyer.

## PRODUCTION TEAM

DIRECTOR	Paul King
STAGE MANAGER	Bruce Moorhouse
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER	Melanie Belcher
PRODUCTION COORDINATOR	Jim Thomson
STAGE ASSISTANTS	Christian Dell'Olio, Bobbie Parish
REHEARSAL PROMPT	Bobbie Parish
SET DESIGN	Paul King
SET ARTIST & DÉCOR	Marie Mackrell
SET CONSTRUCTION	Owen Evans, Mal Cother, Paddy Moriarty, Neville Wilkie, Ian McCabe, Des Harris, Doug McNaughton, Norm Munks and HTC members
COSTUMES	Diane Brennan
PROPERTIES	Rhonda Huckle, Theresa Schipano
AUDIO DESIGN	Bruce Moorhouse
MUSIC DESIGN	Paul King
SOUND OPERATION	Stephanie Cross
LIGHTING DESIGN	Deryk Hartwick
LIGHTING OPERATION	Kareena Dhaliwal, Michael Rowe, John Rowe
PHOTOGRAPHY	Dave Belton
PROGRAMME & POSTER	Chris McLean
PUBLICITY	Bruce Akers, Chris McLean, Toni Tyers
BOX OFFICE	Toni Tyers, June Cherrey, Linda Coutts, Jenni Purdey
FRONT OF HOUSE	Jenny Gilbert and HTC members

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To assist those with hearing difficulties, a hearing loop is installed in the theatre – seats 1 to 10 in rows A to F.

HTC gratefully acknowledges a City of Banyule grant for this service.



BRUCE CARBOON (*Carol Newquist*). Bruce has played numerous roles in theatre, television and film. He has also directed both musicals and plays for companies including Brighton Theatre Company and the Fabulous Nobodies. He's previously acted at HTC in *Breaker Morant*, *The Philadelphia Story* and *The Pain Killer* and has won HTC acting awards for the latter two. *Little Murders* provides him with the opportunity to explore a challenging father role. Bruce is excited to be involved in presenting such an excellent piece of drama whose themes are no less relevant now, than in the 60s. He hopes you enjoy tonight's performance as we place the American family and society under the microscope.



JULIE ARNOLD (*Marjorie Newquist*). Julie first performed at Heidelberg in 2013 playing 'Her Ladyship' in *The Dresser*. She was all set to play the quintessential role of Amanda in this year's production of *The Glass Menagerie* when she had to very reluctantly withdraw from the role due to a now resolved medical issue. She was however able to perform recently at Malvern in their production of *Wicked Sisters*. Continuing a pattern of doing back-to-back plays, Julie is now very happy to at last tread the boards at Heidelberg for a second time.



STEPHANIE GONELLI (*Patsy Newquist*). Stephanie has been involved in theatre since high school and has enjoyed every moment of it. *Little Murders* is Stephanie's third production at Heidelberg Theatre Company (hoping third time's a charm), having also played Jean Fordham in *August: Osage County* and Shelby Eatenton in *Steel Magnolias* in 2013. Earlier this year Stephanie had the opportunity to play Laura in *The Glass Menagerie* at Essendon Theatre Company which was a fantastic experience. Stephanie's development of Patsy has been a memorable experience and she feels she could not have asked for a better cast.





CASEY FILIPS (*Kenny Newquist*). This is Casey's first local theatre appearance. Previously a heavily involved leader of the drama program at Marcellin College, Bulleen, Casey has come to this production hungry for experience on the community theatre stage. He has thoroughly appreciated the many performance aspects making up his role, especially meeting new people in theatre, learning from those around him and constantly being challenged from week to week. Casey has enjoyed working with each cast member throughout the creative process and is extremely excited to perform in this dark and funny comedy.



GAVIN WILLIAMS (*Alfred Chamberlain*). Gavin is a Melbourne born Sydney trained actor. This is his second production with HTC after doing *Summer Of The Seventeenth Doll* in 2012, also directed by Paul King. Gavin has performed at the Malthouse Theatre and La Mama, and played a man with an acquired brain injury to rave reviews in Candlelight Productions' *Voices: The Carrical Project*. In 2010 Gavin co-founded Steam Productions [[www.steamproductions.com.au](http://www.steamproductions.com.au)] which will stage the award-winning play *Orphans* at the Brunswick Mechanics Institute this August. Gavin is also preparing to begin shooting a leading role in a new TV series *Sonnigsberg* by Wrongtown Films.



JOHN CHESHIRE (*Rev. Henry Dupas*). After graduating in Performing Arts, John worked professionally at Arena Theatre for three years, touring 12 plays to schools and festivals in Australia and Canada. Leaving a career in the arts for social work, John took to community theatre to keep sane (well, it was worth a try). John has worked with Malvern, Williamstown and Strathmore theatre companies, but is particularly fond of HTC (*Noises Off*, *Dinner*, *The Philadelphia Story*, *Dinner Game*, *The Pain Killer*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *The Dresser*, *The Glass Menagerie*). John is also a registered marriage celebrant, so if after watching Rev Dupas in action you'd like him to legally bind you, please make contact.



TONY COSTA (Lt. Miles Practice). Tony joined theatre in 1993; his first show was *West Side Story* with Altona Theatre. Since then he has done shows in the Melbourne Fringe Festival, and was in a cover band in the mid 90s doing gigs around Melbourne. Tony is glad to be back working with Heidelberg Theatre Company and the cast of *Little Murders*. Previous shows include *August: Osage County* and *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* with HTC last year, *The Tree Man* with Eltham Little Theatre, *Glengarry Glen Ross* and *The Grapes of Wrath* with HTC, and *Laughter on the 23rd Floor* with Leo 9.



OLEH KOWALYK (Judge Jerome M. Sterne). Oleh previously appeared at HTC in 2003 in *I'm Not Rappaport*. In the meantime Oleh has been much involved with set design and construction at Williamstown Little Theatre, his Visual Communication students having designed posters for several plays performed there, placing them in good stead for their professional endeavours. Plays that Oleh has performed in included *Biloxi Blues*, *'Allo 'Allo!*, *Macbeth*, *Born Yesterday* and *Chilling & Killing My Annabel Lee*. Oleh finds himself very fortunate to be again rubbing shoulders with talented artists and to be working under the directorial vision of Paul King.

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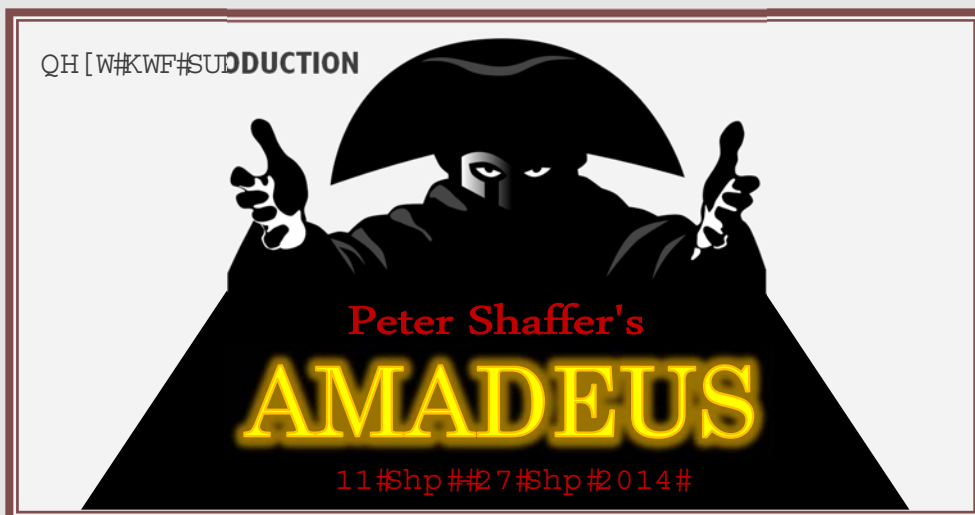
During this play the popular display of costumes on the Mezzanine features the theme 'Murder and Mayhem through the Ages' - a display of mainly men's costumes worn during the more dramatic and confronting plays HTC has produced.





*Little Murders Wedding Guests*

Top row: Ella DiMarco, Sheelagh Belton, Tracey Sutton,  
Front row: Dave Belton, David Tickner, Christian Dell'Olio



**LITTLE MURDERS**

Heidelberg Theatre Company ♦ Season 2014 ♦ Play 3