

DIRECTOR/WRITER'S NOTES

Two definitions of PURGATORY:

1. According to Roman Catholic doctrine the souls of those who die in God's grace may make satisfaction for past sins and so become fit for heaven.
2. a place or state of temporary suffering or misery.

While both definitions intrinsically play a part in this play, the latter reflects upon a decade endured working in aged care as an untrained nursing assistant and activities officer. Many of us unfortunately experience an earthly purgatory, dreading the day ahead, wishing to be somewhere else and trapped in a cycle that seems impossible to escape.

If that period was about atonement for past sins, then **PURGATORY** (the play) is about sitting in the confessional box, pouring out a fictional account of factual events to a priest who doesn't know whether to burst out laughing or to sit silently, frozen in horror.

20+ years later I find myself with the Maleny Players and finally being given the opportunity to tell a tale as close to a writer's intent as any writer could only ever dream of.

Have I ascended from Purgatory?

Finding the right people to work with is what makes a show. This cast has embraced each role as if specifically written and rewritten for each one of these actors.

PURGATORY pays homage to Richard Wagner, Stephen Sondheim, Bob Fosse, Peter Shaffer & Ricky Jervais, all of whom have influenced my own writing, at least in this particular play.

I would like to thank: Maleny Players and committee for the opportunity to stage **PURGATORY**, and all those behind the scenes & their countless hours spent creating sets/props/publicity/lighting etc

This show is dedicated to: The talented cast and crew who have gone above and beyond and brought this creature to life.

Barbara Thomas, Grace Heskes for your insight and advice, 11th hour Agatha
AND

The staff and residents of one particular nursing home in Sydney whom I loved and loathed.

I'd also like to acknowledge the many talented and overlooked people out there who have never been given the opportunity and Colin - the frustrated, talented artist and nursing assistant who, just like me, dreamed he was somewhere else... anywhere else.

I hope you enjoy **PURGATORY**

Darren HesKes

Cast

Staff

Matron Lina Heydrich

Doctor Jeremy Mowbray

Angela

Amanda

Jeff

Zolton

Judith

Danica

Kathryn Barnes

Richard Jansson

Claire Watkins

Kim Zwalf

Simon Jeffcoat

Stewart Luke

Ann Donoghoe

Andrea Hosier

Residents

Elizabeth Durham

Young Elizabeth Durham

Roger

Hilda

Ivy/Not Ivy

Lily/Not Lily

Bert

Brian

Mrs Crow

Freya

Barbara Thomas

Catriona McKechnie

Rob Hobson

Marianne Osborne

Denise Hauville

Monica Rogers

Phil Hunt

Phil Hunt

Kerry Milner

Isabel Bruderlin

Outsiders

Father Patrick

June Farrow

Ambulance Officer

Grim Reaper

Darren Heskes

Marianne Osborne

Darren Heskes

Rob Hobson

The Crew

Stage Manager	Stewart Luke
Lighting and Sound	Mark Brookes
Costumes	Barbara Thomas Krystl Nawaczyk Agatha Heskes
Publicity/Facebook	Diane Hobson
Photography	Grace Heskes
Props	Christine Andrade Stewart Luke
Back Stage	Diane Hobson
Makeup	Aliesha Dowdle
Front of House	Shelley Love's Team

Pianist - Darren Heskes

Cellist - Nathan Debbins

*A special Thankyou to Local businesses
for generously donating to our raffle prizes*

Maleny Additions

Rosetta Books

David Linton

JLO

*We would like to thank you for coming along to support the Maleny
Players. All revenue raised from our raffles is for our building fund.*



July 25th to August 3rd 2025