



DANGEROUS OBSESSION

Written by N.J. Crisp
Directed by Kaysia Dowie

PROGRAM



MAITLAND
REPERTORY
THEATRE

Director's Note

I've been a part of MRT on and off since doing Junior Repertory classes in the early 2000s, and I'm so excited that my first opportunity at directing is here too. My favourite genre of media is thrillers and I'm plant obsessed, so when the call out for 2024 directors opened, *Dangerous Obsession* with its setting in a conservatory seemed like a great fit. As it is a wordy play with a singular setting, I wanted to create an environment that is visually rich, bursting with life and colour, while the characters within it slowly unravel.

Although the situation within the play isn't something most people can relate to, the themes around grief and betrayal are universal. Everyone has experienced a type of loss, whether of a person, object, or a future you imagined for yourself.

I hope the audience comes away questioning; is grief a justifiable reason to take extreme action? Is revenge ever satisfactory? Is there a right way to feel/behave or are there just human ways?

Thank you to everyone in the production team for magnificently bringing my vision to life and taking the time to teaching me how to translate things to stage.

Thank you to my mentor director Issy for being a constant support hyping me up through my insecurities. Always the fun energy to balance my seriousness!

And to my talented cast Denni, Thomas and Will, I'm so proud of what we've created together! It's not easy to be on stage for an entire play, especially while maintaining such intense characters. I appreciate the hard work you've put in and the patience you've had with me while I've found my feet.

Thanks

Kaysia Dowie

Run Time

About 1 hour and 45 minutes including an interval of 20 minutes.

Setting

The conservatory of the Driscoll's upmarket house in rural England.

About Dangerous Obsession

How much of a thrill can you get with only a cast of three? And how many twists and turns can a plot take to confuse us? Suffice it to say that this play contains intrigue, mystery, tension, suspense and a few shocks.

John Barrett, a strange, well-spoken gentleman takes Sally Driscoll by surprise as she relaxes in her luxurious home. He is unexpected and uninvited.

Who is he? Why is he here?

N J Crisp

N J Crisp was a prolific British television writer, dramatist and novelist. In the 1960s, after writing some single dramas, Crisp moved to writing for serials and turned out scripts for many BBC series including *Compact*, *R3*, *Dixon of Dock Green*, *Dr Finlay's Casebook*, *Colditz* and *Secret Army*.

Crisp wasn't happy with the 1999 film adaptation of his thriller *Dangerous Obsession* because his intricate plot had been turned on its head.

We hope that you'll enjoy our interpretation.



Cast

Denni Mannile



Denni has been acting since her late teens after discovering drama in high school.

She has performed for many companies including Maitland Repertory, Newcastle Theatre Co, Pencil Case productions, Insomniac Theatre, Lane Cove Theatre and Hunters Hill.

She has training in screen acting but her real love is the stage. She has enjoyed working on this show with a small intimate cast.

Thomas Henry



Thomas first took to the stage in 2017 as a part of Tantrum Youth Arts' original *Home*. Since then, he has appeared in many plays all over the region, such as Stray Dogs' comedy *Lysistrata*, at Brunner Community Theatre for the-parody, *Friday the 14th*, at Maitland Repertory Theatre for the award-nominated productions of *Waiting For Lefty*, *Veronica's Room* and *Lord of the Flies* and even as far as Tuggerah to take on Green Day's *American Idiot: The Musical*.

William Cesista



Will Cesista is a Newcastle based writer, performer and producer. He has previously appeared as Skinlad in Insight's sold-out production of *Road* and took on the challenge of six roles in Caryl Churchill's *Love and Information*. When he's not acting or writing, Will enjoys working on other creative projects, and recently served as Assistant Director on the short film *Otto*. This is Will's first performance at Maitland Repertory Theatre.



Production Credits

Director	Kaysia Dowie
Mentor Director	Isabelle Moy
Stage Manager	Tegan Linguini
Set and Props Design	Brett Harston and Kaysia Dowie
Set Construction /Realisation	Daniel Shaunessy, Kaysia Dowie, Isabelle Moy, Aimee Cavanagh, Brett Harston, Dimity Eveleens, Ian Robinson, Anne Robinson and the Saturday morning crew
Costumes	Kaysia Dowie
Makeup	Cast
Properties	Dimity Eveleens
Lighting/Projection Design	Brett Harston
Lighting Operator	Isabelle Moy
Sound Design	Ian Robinson
Sound Operator	Robert Comber
Poster Realisation	Kaysia Dowie
Photography	Anne Robinson
Program	Ian Robinson
Publicity	Alexandra Comber and Ian Robinson
Catering Officer	Terry Allen
Special Thanks to	Karin Dowie for upholstering our lounge cushions.

Thank You

To our volunteer members who make this show possible.

To The CONDA Judges

Vanessa Bates, Karen Birrell, Larni Christie, Christine Fletcher,
Wendy Leis, Sascha Okenhall and Dan Stranger.

To Our Patrons

Meryl Swanson MP, Mayor Philip Penfold, Councillor Loretta Baker, Keith Cockburn.

To:

Snowy Hydro Hunter Power Project (Community Grants Program) for our new LED stage lights, Maitland City Council, 2NUR-FM, ABC Radio 1233, The Sign Shop, Scott Deamer (Jim's Test and Tag) and to our audiences for their continued patronage.

Program proudly sponsored by

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We acknowledge the Wonnarua People as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land upon which Maitland Repertory Theatre stands.

Dangerous
Obsession

Feb 14 - Mar 3

Grand
Horizons

Apr 24 - May 12

A Streetcar
Named
Desire

Jul 3 - 21

Romanoff
and Juliet

August

2024 Season



MAITLAND
REPERTORY
THEATRE



Saucy Jack
and the
Space Vixens
September

Game
of Tiaras

Oct 9 - 27

First Things
First

Nov 20 - Dec 8



MAITLAND
REPERTORY
THEATRE



GRAND HORIZONS

By Bess Wohl

Directed by Brett Harston and Anne Robinson

24 April - 12 May, 2024

Tickets \$27/\$32

Bookings: mrt.org.au or 4933 2766

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