

***Calamity Jane*: What to Expect**

- *Calamity Jane* is a stage musical adapted by Ronald Hanmer and Phil Park from the stage play by Charles K. Freeman after the Warner Bros. film written by James O'Hanlon. The lyrics are by Paul Francis Webster and the music by Sammy Fain.
- This production of *Calamity Jane* is presented in association with One Eyed Man Productions and opened at Belvoir on Saturday 25 August, 2018. The production is directed by Richard Carroll with musical direction by Nigel Ubrihien.
- The production runs for approximately 2 hours and 30 minutes including a 20 minute interval.
- The musical tells the story of Calamity Jane, a sharp shooter from the American Midwest. The character is based on the real life figure Martha Jane Canary who lived in the second half of the 19th century.
- The action of the musical takes place in the Golden Garter Saloon in Deadwood, South Dakota; Chicago and Calamity Jane's log cabin in the woods outside Deadwood. Calamity Jane, along with Wild Bill Hickock, comes to the rescue of the proprietor of the local saloon, Henry Miller, when the actress Frances Fryer (who Miller has been promoting as a headline act at the saloon) turns out to be *Francis* Fryer. To quell the patrons' anger, Calamity Jane undertakes to travel to Chicago and bring back the actress Adelaide Adams to perform at the saloon.
- There are seven actors in *Calamity Jane* who play numerous characters. Some of the actors play multiple roles. Virginia Gay plays the role of Calamity Jane throughout the production.
- The production is designed by Lauren Peters and represents the Golden Garter Saloon, with a bar and a piano, as well as tables and chairs on the stage. All scenes take place on this set, including those that take place in other locations.
- During the production the audience are enrolled as patrons at the Golden Garter Saloon. Twenty six audience members are seated at the tables on stage and are part of action during the show.
- *Calamity Jane* contains metatheatrical references throughout the production which Drama students will enjoy.
- At times, the actors ad-lib lines, often when speaking to audience members. The effect of this is humorous, as well as adding to the metatheatrical world of the production.
- The production contains occasional coarse language and sexual innuendo, including references to prostitution.
- The production contains language and references which reflect the language and attitudes of mid to late 19th century America. These references may be confronting to students.
- There is no nudity in this production however the character Katie is seen in her modest underwear as she changes her dress. At another moment in the production, the character Danny has his shirt opened and liquid poured on his bare chest.
- During the production characters drink and serve alcohol. On one occasion a character is seen taking drugs.
- *Calamity Jane* contains the smoking of herbal cigarettes.
- Schools performance tickets are not sent out beforehand, we call schools into the theatre one by one for the daytime school performances – phone our box office on 9699 3444 if you need to check your booking.
- Students need to be briefed about theatre etiquette. Please turn mobile phones off completely and refrain from eating in the theatre. Students need to know that the performance is live and that the actors see and hear them in the audience. We encourage laughter and natural reactions. Taking notes shouldn't happen during performances.