



Heidelberg Theatre Company

**JEEVES & WOOSTER**  
*in Perfect Nonsense*



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.



**HEIDELBERG  
THEATRE  
COMPANY**

presents

an amateur production by arrangement with Nick Hern Books

# JEEVES & WOOSTER

in

## Perfect Nonsense



by The  
Goodale Brothers  
original author  
P.G. Wodehouse

directed by  
Morgan Thomas-Connor

**Feb 14 - Mar 1, 2025**

## P.G. Wodehouse



*JEEVES & WOOSTER IN PERFECT NONSENSE*, was inspired by the works of P.G. Wodehouse. "Pelham" ('Plum') Grenville Wodehouse was born in Guildford in 1881. After leaving school he spent two years as a banker before switching careers to sports reporter and columnist at the *Globe* newspaper. Around this time he started writing short stories, mainly for boys' magazine *The Captain*, before discovering his talent for comic dialogue. By 1910 he was reaching millions of readers all over the world and dividing his time between his homes in the U.S., France and Britain.

### About the Authors and the Play

Like many siblings growing up together, writers Robert and David Goodale enjoyed their own, very particular brand of humour. As children they created a range of ridiculous characters that seamlessly evolved into members of their extended family. It was only later that they discovered that P.G. Wodehouse had beaten them to it, in creating an entirely credible world full of even more deliciously bonkers characters.

### The Evolution of PERFECT NONSENSE by Robert Goodale

My first taste of P.G. Wodehouse came in my early twenties when my twin brother and a mutual friend of ours used to quote PGW phrases, sentences and extracts back and forth at each other during late-night drinking sessions.

Only later, when looking for material for a one-man show, did I realise what a comic genius Wodehouse really was, and that some of his best material was filtered through the mouthpiece of Bertie Wooster. Here was a storyteller, raconteur and vaudevillian performer who was capable of charming any group of people. Not only was he a perfect frontman, but the characters who peopled his world were gloriously eccentric, mad and passionate, all with their bizarre and peculiar obsessions.

I went ahead and performed a couple of one-man shows based on this material at the Edinburgh Festival and roped in my brother David to direct *The Code of the Woosters*.

Twenty years later, the two of us were approached by Mark Goucher to create another Wodehouse show, but on a larger scale. It dawned on us that if we wanted to keep Bertie as the raconteur, we should write a play in which, encouraged by his drinking pals, he would take over a West End theatre and attempt to tell one of his stories in the form of a one-man show. As his loyal valet, Jeeves would naturally accompany Bertie to the theatre and, in the certain knowledge that the show was destined to go horribly wrong, he would have made certain contingency plans. The script almost wrote itself.

After passing *Perfect Nonsense* on to Mark Goucher, the wonderfully inventive comedy director Sean Foley was then brought on board and his inspired suggestions combined with Alice Power's brilliant ideas for the set design, helped raise the script to another level.

What was most gratifying about the whole process was that all members of the cast were completely in tune with the conceit of the show and a lot of what was discovered in the rehearsal room found its way into the script. A true process of evolution, we like to think.

## Director Notes

We all know Jeeves the butler. He's been the epitome of proud intelligence and impeccable service that has inspired other characters in literature since he was first introduced. Bertie is the other side of the coin, as the well-meaning and often clueless bachelor employer.

The Goodale Brothers have expertly adapted the adventures—and misadventures—of Bertie Wooster and his “gentleman’s personal gentleman”, Jeeves, as a passion project and love letter to P.G. Wodehouse's amusing novels. As an audience member you are welcomed to the theatre by Bertie Wooster himself, who is eager to recount recent events at Totleigh Towers in his play *Perfect Nonsense*. Realising that a one-man show is entirely too much work, Bertie calls upon Jeeves and Seppings (his Aunt Dahlia’s Butler) to assist, asking them to play every other character. How hard can that be...?

This is a very witty “play within a play” that has been hilarious fun to rehearse. Not only is the narrative light-hearted “nonsense”, while being hyperbolically disastrous to Bertie, but it also showcases the technical skill of the stagecraft and allows you to appreciate set, costume, lighting and sound design as characters in their own right.

Thank you to everyone who has been involved behind the scenes to help bring this play to life, I'm very proud of what we've created.

## MORGAN THOMAS-CONNOR - Director



This is Morgan's fifth HTC production in a directorial capacity. She has previously directed HTC Youth's *The Wizard of Oz* (2016), *A Christmas Carol* (2019) and *The Legendary Robin Hood* (2022). More recently, Morgan was Assistant Director for *Wait Until Dark* (2024) in HTC's main season of shows.

Morgan is an active member of HTC Youth; producing and designing for previous productions such as *Grimmish* (2023), *The Legendary Robin Hood* (2022), *A Christmas Carol* (2019), *Alice in Wonderland* (2018), *The Adventures of King Arthur* (2017) and *The Wizard of Oz* (2016).

Morgan is very excited for you to see the show and wishes to thank all the volunteers who help behind the scenes, including the Box Office and front of house staff, and those catering lunches for Saturday working bees; none of this would be possible without their efforts.

## CAST

BERTIE WOOSTER .....Daniel Trenkovski

JEEVES .....Sam Howard

SEPPINGS .....Gavin Baker

## CHARACTERS

JEEVES, played by himself

BERTIE WOOSTER, played by himself

SEPPINGS, played by himself

SIR WATKYN BASSETT, to be played by Jeeves

GUSSIE FINK-NOTTLE, to be played by Jeeves

STIFFY BYNG, to be played by Jeeves

AUNT DAHLIA, to be played by Seppings

ANTIQUÉ-SHOP PROPRIETOR, to be played by Seppings

RODERICK SPODE, to be played by Seppings

BUTTERFIELD, to be played by Seppings

MADLINE BASSETT, to be played by Seppings

CONSTABLE OATES, to be played by Seppings

### Time

1930s

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The play has an interval, during which refreshments are available in the foyer.

## PRODUCTION TEAM

DIRECTOR	Morgan Thomas-Connor
PRODUCTION COORDINATOR	Joan Moriarty & Tim Scott
STAGE MANAGER	Melanie Belcher
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER	Bobbie Parish
SET DESIGN	Morgan Thomas-Connor
LIGHTING DESIGN	Tamsin Mackie
SOUND DESIGN	Tamsin Mackie & Jerome Pollard
COSTUMES	Cathy Christensen & Wendy Drowley
PROPERTIES	Melanie Belcher, Morgan Thomas-Connor, Louise Millar-Hoffmann
PROP MAKER	Warren Lane
LIGHTING/SOUND OPERATORS	Jerome Pollard, Sabrina Hutchison, Casey Brown, Tamsin Mackie, John Rowe
SET CONSTRUCTION	Doug McNaughton, Owen Evans, Norm Munks, Phil Holmes, Dave Belton, Brett Hunt, Blake Egan, Tim Scott, Ron Thomas, Phil Jones, John Carroll, Noel Purdey & HTC members
SCENIC ART	Mal Cother, Anne Woodward, Pam Neivandt Morgan Thomas-Connor
REHEARSAL PROMPT	Bobbie Parish
PHOTOGRAPHY	David Belton
PROGRAMME & POSTER	Chris McLean
PUBLICITY	Toni Tyers, Jim Thomson, Morgan Thomas-Connor
BOX OFFICE	Sally Scott, Carol Farr, Margaret Hassall, Brett Hunt, Fiona Campbell, Jenni Purdey, Jenny Gilbert
FRONT OF HOUSE	Jenny Gilbert and HTC members



**DANIEL TRENKOVSKI (Bertie Wooster).** Daniel is thrilled to return to HTC, as Bertie Wooster in HTC's first production for 2025! Daniel is active in theatre across Melbourne, appearing in productions such as *Peter Pan*, *Hydra*, *Grimmish*, *Cosi*, and *The Legendary Robin Hood*. He also works in film acting, appearing in a number of short and independent films in a variety of leading and supporting roles. Acting is one of Daniel's main passions, that also include music, writing and playing at gigs. Aside from performing, Daniel is currently studying his master's degree in Secondary Teaching at the University of Melbourne. He is extremely excited to work with this amazing cast and can't wait for a terrific show season!



**SAM HOWARD (Jeeves).** Sam is a Melbourne-based actor who has performed in a variety of film, TV and theatre. He loves Saganaki and his beautiful Heidelberg Theatre Company community. Sam's previous appearances here include *Three Sisters* (2015), *The Cripple of Inishmaan* (2015), *A Streetcar Named Desire* (2016), *One Man, Two Guv'nors* (2016), *Blue Stockings* (2018), *Tartuffe* (2019), *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* (2022), *The Ladykillers* (2023), and *A Nightingale Sang* (2024). Sam wants to express his gratitude to you for taking the time to come see the show. Without you we would not be able to do what we love.



**GAVIN BAKER (Seppings).** Gavin enjoys playing diverse characters and has performed in numerous dramas, comedies, musicals and short films. Last year he played the Auctioneer in *The Phantom of the Opera* (MDMS), and in previous years appeared as Mr Miles, the grumpy father in *Ladies in Black* (HTC), the punch-drunk cellist One-Round in *The Ladykillers* (HTC), the cross-dressing Leonard in *Nobody's Perfect* (Malvern), cheating cad Beau in *Love is a Dish* (Peridot), evil nazi Max in *Anna by Lamplight*, the midget jester Jeppe in *Stella Nova*, the noble Harrison in *Stage Kiss* (all Peridot), and many more. In his spare time, Gavin dabbles in music and photography.

## HTC Artspace presents Betty Nicholson

Betty is a local Banyule artist who has participated in many solo and group exhibitions. Her interests are what makes us human and what drives us to behave the way we do. It is an ongoing search to understand her own perspective. Betty's images arise from the subconscious, uncovering the joys, sorrows, and anxieties that shape our waking lives. Dreams, in their surreal beauty and unsettling darkness, offer a window into the burdens we carry and the curiosities that drive us.

If you are interested in purchasing Betty's paintings or visiting her studio in Viewbank, you can email her at [nbetty48@gmail.com](mailto:nbetty48@gmail.com) or on 0425 809 551. Betty warmly invites you to her upcoming solo exhibition of new paintings at SOL Gallery Fitzroy opening 4th March until 16th March.

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### Mezzanine Display

Please visit the upstairs mezzanine to experience our recently refreshed display of HTC set panoramas by our fabulous in-house photographer David Belton.

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HTC Art Space Coordinator  
Louise Millar-Hoffmann

*To assist those with hearing difficulties, a hearing loop  
is installed in the theatre.*

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



HEIDELBERG  
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2025

APR 25 TO MAY 10

The **Curious Incident of  
the Dog in the Night-Time**

by Simon Stephens

from the novel by MARK HADDON

JUL 4 TO JUL 19

**Love, Love, Love**

by Mike Bartlett

SEP 5 TO SEP 20

**Other Desert Cities**

by Jon Robin Baitz

NOV 14 TO NOV 29

**The 25th Annual  
Putnam County Spelling Bee**  
- a musical -

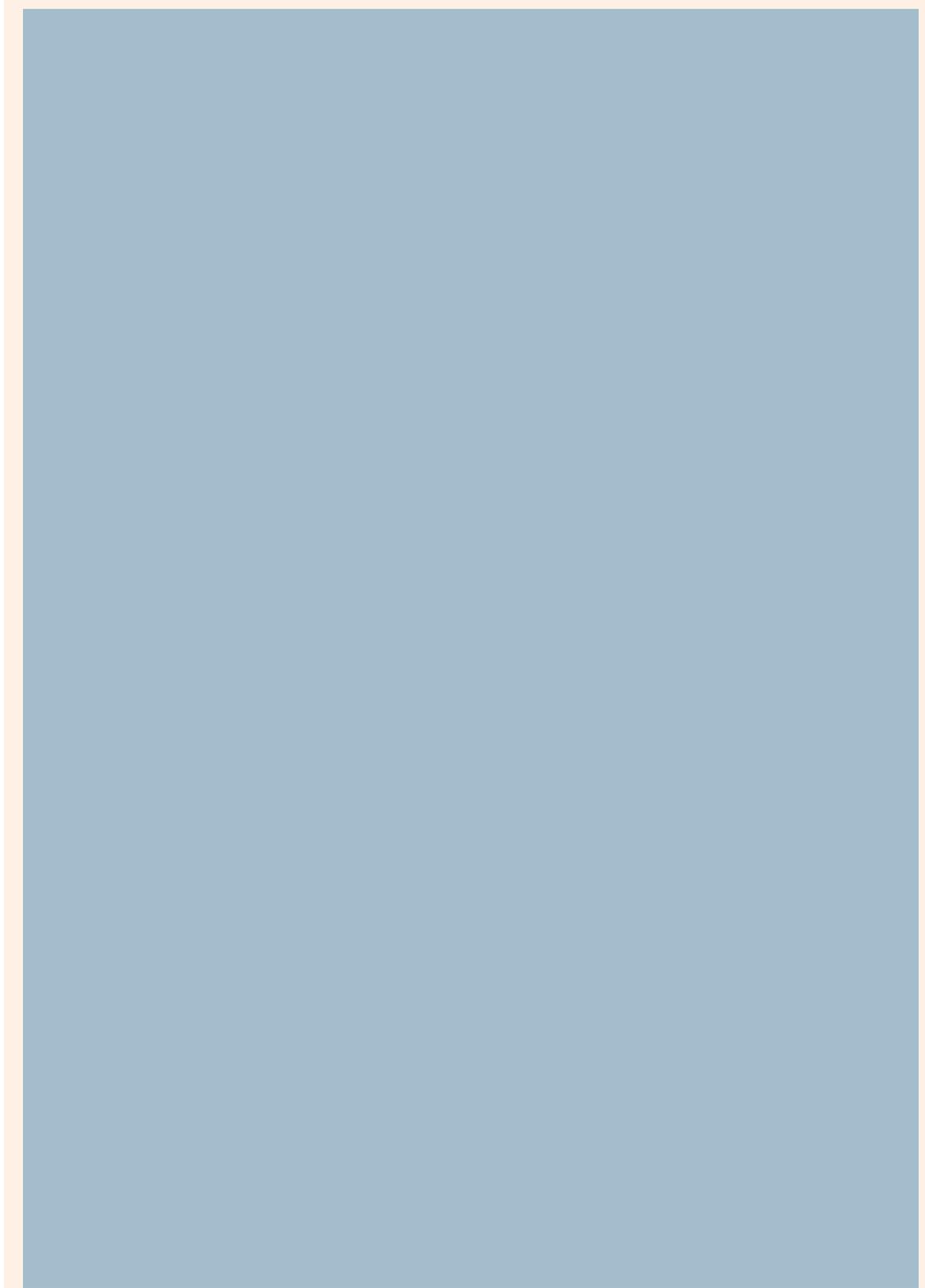
music/lyrics by William Finn

book by Rachel Sheinkin

conceived by Rebecca Feldman

• Buy tickets at [htc.org.au](http://htc.org.au) or call 94574117

Single Show tickets for the remainder of 2025 are now on sale



**JEEVES & WOOSTER in *Perfect Nonsense***

Heidelberg Theatre Company ♦ Season 2025 ♦ Play 1