

Cavenagh Theatre presents — *Witness for the Prosecution* —

a rare opportunity to enjoy a court room drama
in an authentic environment

Cavenagh Theatre has been allowed the rare privilege of presenting Agatha Christie's *Witness for the Prosecution* in Court 3 at the Darwin Supreme Court.

Justice Angel has graciously permitted access to the Court for the staging of Agatha Christie's suspenseful play about a London murder trial. Access has been facilitated by Courts Property Manager Kevin McShanag.

An immediate success from its first staging in London on October 28 1953, *Witness* moved to Broadway to win the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award as Best Foreign Play of 1954.

In 1957, Charles Laughton, Marlene Dietrich and Tyrone Power played the defence barrister, the 'witness' and the defendant in Billy Wilder's powerful film adaptation of the play, and in 1982 the film was remade with an all star cast including Ralph Richardson, Deborah Kerr, Beau Bridges as the (defendant), Donald Pleasance and Diana Rigg.

To be directed by Lois McDonald, the Cavenagh Theatre production of *Witness for the Prosecution* will feature Malcolm Moore as the defence counsel, Phil McKeiver as the defendant, Amelia Jane Hunter as the Crown Prosecutor and Karen White as the key witness. The large cast is drawn from a variety of backgrounds and includes two solicitors and a former police officer.

Community assistance towards staging this large cast production has included the loan of wigs, legal robes and regalia by members of the legal fraternity and financial assistance by way of sponsorship from the NT Government through the Office of the Arts and Cultural Affairs.

On presenting *Witness for the Prosecution* in the Supreme Court, director Lois Macdonald says "it is a great experience for the actors and crew to use this unique venue which lends authenticity and veracity to the stage production."

Performances will be staged on Friday and Saturday nights of June 14, 15, 21, 22, 28 and 29 and July 5 and 6.

The season is strictly limited to these 8 performances and early bookings are recommended to ensure a seat. Ticket prices are \$15 full price and \$12 student and pensioner concession for gallery seats.

Premium seats in the jury box are available for group bookings at \$250 for 10 seats. Special school group bookings are also available.

Jury box bookings must be made directly with Cavenagh Theatre on 8927 1668 or 8948 0049 while other bookings may be made through Cavenagh or Tivoli in the city and through Angus and Robertson at Casuarina.

National Inquiry into Children and the Legal Process

Views of legal practitioners and other experts are sought by the Australian Law Reform Commission and the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission as they continue their inquiry into children and the legal process.

The commissions have organised a number of public hearings in major centres throughout the country with the intent of gathering information on legal processes where the law has a direct impact on children.

In addition, an issues paper entitled *Speaking for Ourselves* has been published.

This and any further information on the inquiry is available from Michael Easton, Public Affairs Officer tel: 02 284 6332

The dates for the public hearings in the NT are as follows:

DARWIN
Wednesday 17 July

ALICE SPRINGS
Thursday 17 July

Australian-German Lawyers Association

An increase of interest from German lawyers, law students and businesses in the Australian profession has led to the formation of an Australian-German Lawyers' Association. The association seeks to provide a forum for the contact between German and Australian lawyers and to encourage and promote understanding and collegiality among the legal professions in both countries.

Its services are offered throughout all states and territories and in order to facilitate this it is intended to nominate a contact person in each area, through whom lawyers can obtain information about AGLA's activities and services.

The AGLA is looking for a practitioner in the Northern Territory who would be prepared to fill this role.

Anyone interested in knowing more about the organisation or volunteering to act as the contact person in the NT should contact Professor K A Ziegert at the following address:

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John Koowarta Trust Fund

The Law Council urges lawyers to donate to the John Koowarta Reconciliation Law Scholarship Trust Fund which provides scholarships to indigenous Australians who are studying or intending to study law.

Donations may be sent to Law Council of Australia Holdings Ltd, PO Box 1989, Canberra ACT 2601, indicating that the payment is a donation to the Fund.

Donations are not tax deductible. For further information contact Barrie Virtue at the Law Council on telephone 06 247 3788.