



Christ Church Grammar School

PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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MEDIA STATEMENT: Midnite to bring on world premiere musical

The Midnite Youth Theatre Company's talented performers will come together next month to perform a world premiere, *Silas Marner*. This charming musical composed by John Taylor is based on the best-selling, George Eliot classic novel.

Composer and lyricist John Taylor first wrote the musical adaptation in 1993, and two decades later approached The Midnite Youth Theatre Company with this unique opportunity.

"We are excited to be working with John in bringing to life this extraordinary musical fable filled with great characters and humility," says Midnite's Artistic Director, Gregory Jones.

"Following a lifelong career in musical theatre, John's expertise has been a welcome contribution as rehearsals get underway. His impressive repertoire includes *The Water Babies*, *Mr and Mrs*, and *Charlie Girl*, for which he received the Ivor Novello Award for most outstanding score of a musical."

"Combining humour, rich symbolism and pointed social criticism, *Silas Marner* unravels the tale of a man's spiritual death and rebirth through rearing a foundling with the help of the village community."

"It's a story of the old Victorian era, a melodrama mixed with something very, very human at the end. The author herself called it merely 'a story of old-fashioned village life' one which she knew, even in her own time, was passing away under the effects of the industrial revolution."

"A lot of writers develop scripts that never see the light of day, and that was certainly the case with John's adaption to *Silas Marner* over the past two decades."

"The Midnite Youth Theatre Company looks forward to mesmerizing audiences as it adds a touch of magic to this world premiere."

The production brings together a talented ensemble of emerging young performers aged 18 to 25 years selected from throughout Western Australia.

The season runs from 13 to 16 March 2019 at Christ Church Grammar School's Drama Centre. Tickets can be purchased online at midnite.ccgswa.edu.au.

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