



PRESENTS:

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

by Lally Katz

### INFORMATION

**SEASON** 27th February – 15th March 2026

**DATES** Nine performances over three weekends:-

- Fri 27<sup>th</sup> Feb 8pm, Sat 28<sup>th</sup> Feb 2pm, Sun 1<sup>st</sup> March 2pm
- Fri 7<sup>th</sup> March 8pm, Sat 8<sup>th</sup> March 8pm, Sun 9<sup>th</sup> March 2pm
- Fri 13<sup>th</sup> March 8pm, Sat 14<sup>th</sup> March 2pm, Sun 15<sup>th</sup> March 2pm

**NOTE:** Audiences on the Saturday performances will have the opportunity for a Question and Answer Session (Q & A) after those performances.

**REHEARSALS** Each Monday & Wednesday Night 6.30pm - 8.30pm,  
Starting from Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November.  
Then each Sunday morning, starting from 18th January.

**AUDITIONS** **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2026,**  
Starting at 9.30am (book online)

**LOCATION** Auditions will be held at The Players Theatre,  
33a Lord St, Port Macquarie

**COST** Free to audition  
But if cast you must be financial members of The Players Theatre Inc.  
Memberships: Adult \$25 | Concession \$20 | School student \$15  
(2026 Memberships available to purchase after 1<sup>st</sup> December 2025)

## **ABOUT THE PLAY**

It's 2007, Kevin Rudd has just been elected Prime Minister, and the world feels ripe for change. On a leafy suburban street two unlikely neighbours meet. When God said: '*Thou shalt love thy neighbour*', he obviously hadn't reckoned on Ana, a battle hardened, Hungarian World War 2 survivor whose bark is as ferocious as her German shepherd's.

Catherine is Ana's neighbour: twenty-something, struggling actor, nervous, and curious yet distantly hopeful that a better world is on its way ... but in the meantime watching episodes of *The West Wing* with her housemate Ken.

When these two lost souls find each other in Mary Street, they spark up a friendship that transcends generations and cultures as both try to navigate the struggles of finding your way in contemporary Australia, and from each other Ana and Catherine forge an alliance that carries them to war-torn Hungary and back again, as they help one another to reconcile the past, find ways to move forward.

Can their unlikely friendship outlive the colossal forces of history, the inevitability of death, and a trip to the mall to see *Mamma Mia*?

A staple on the NSW HSC Drama play list, (Australian Contemporary Theatre Practice) *Neighbourhood Watch* is a humorous, heart-warming and at times devastating Australian story of hope, grief, survival and friendship that will appeal to adult audiences of all ages. High School Teacher Hamish Keddie, directs this epic play which questions whether we really know what story is out there in the 'burbs'.

- Duration: 120 mins
- Warning: Adult themes, coarse language, violence  
References to sexual abuse, abortion, suicide and eating disorders.  
Recommended for ages 15+

## **THE SETTING**

*Neighbourhood Watch* is a contemporary play set on a street in suburban Australia. In the published script it is set in Sydney, and where it was first performed. The play has multiple locations, including the outside street, Ana's house, Catherine and Ken's house, the doctor's surgery, the chemist, the cinema and Hungary during/after World War Two.

## **DIRECTORIAL VISION:**

*Neighbourhood Watch* takes place just after Kevin Rudd was put into the role of PM in 2007. The play takes place over a year. It is set in suburban inner-city Melbourne. But our production will be Sydney. There are 5 key main characters. Then there is 22 extra characters. I will be using a great deal of lighting, key props and tight transitions. The play has many locations – outside on the street, Ana's House, Catherine and Ken's house, the doctor's surgery, the chemist, the cinema, and back to the past in post War Hungary. This is the challenge. The play will be giving the actors and production team an opportunity on all the Saturday Matinee's to have a Q & A session after the performance with the audience.

## **CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS**

### **What our Production Team is Looking for in Auditions?**

**PRINCIPAL ROLES:**           **ANA**  
                                     **CATHERINE**  
                                     **KEN**  
                                     **MARTIN / ARTUR – THE SERIAL KILLER**

### **In Australia:**

Ana – an 80 year old Hungarian woman

Catherine – a woman in her late 20s

Ken – a man in his early 30s

Martin – a man in his late 20s

Katrina – a woman in her early to mid-50s

Jovanka – a Serbian woman in her late 70s

Nancy – Neighbourhood Watch, from 45 to 65 years old

Doctor White – a woman in her mid to late 40s

Chemist – a man in his late 20s, early 30s

Postman – any age

Neighbourhood Watch Policeman – a man

Woman with small dog – any age

Coles delivery boy – a teenage boy

Woman working at cinema – any age

Ambulance Officer – any age

### **In Hungary:**

Ana's Father, Ana's Mother, Ana's sister, Gypsy, Soldier, Artur, Soldier in infirmary/hospital, Nurse in infirmary, Russian soldier, Soldier's Mother, Soldier's Father, Mean girls at Ana's work and Policeman in Hungary.

### **ANA**

An eighty-year-old Hungarian woman and Catherine's neighbour. We first meet her when she complains that Christina's tree drops its leaves into her yard. Ana is a strong, determined, courageous and hardworking woman. She has had a hard life, losing her father, losing a husband and a baby and being imprisoned in Yugoslavia, Italy, France and then coming to Australia as a refugee. Ana is still caught up in the war believing people are wasps and spies trying to attack her. Traumatized by her experiences in prisoner of war camps, Ana is desperate to remain fiercely independent, as illustrated when Dr Williams suggests she move into a hospice. Ana responds that she will never be a prisoner again. Catherine says to her, *"You're still at war. In your mind, you're still at war"*.

(ANA – Continued)

She is a nosy neighbour, very cranky and doesn't have any family or friends. She was married twice, but her first husband cheated on her and her second husband died of cancer. She is curious about her neighbour Catherine and through her storytelling she manages to coax Catherine out of her shell. She pushes people away, especially Jovanka who is desperate to be her friend, thinking she is better alone "*Solo Una Ana*". In the end she learns to let people in and we see this in the final few scenes when she willingly goes to the cinema with Jovanka and Catherine.

## **CATHERINE**

A woman in her late twenties. Catherine is very fragile, as she is still grieving her ex-boyfriend Martin. She is very disconnected with the world, which may explain her unemployed status, her lack of auditioning or going to the job interview. It's like she's in a 'holding pattern' in her life, perhaps fearful of failure. She also has obsessive compulsive issues around ironing and controlling her eating.

Catherine finds Ana an unlikely companion, but she finds herself engrossed by Ana's stories of Hungary and ends up helping Ana with her chores. It is obvious that Ken longs for Catherine though she is caught up on Martin. This is resolved at the end when Catherine finally agrees to watch the West Wing with him and the audience feels hopeful for each character and their blossoming relationship.

## **KEN**

Catherine's housemate. He is in his early thirties. He is a writer, supposedly working on a film, but he spends the majority of his time playing computer games, becoming addicted to *World of Warcraft*. He is a diabetic who ends up quite sick and goes home to his parents to help sort his life out. Ken is attracted to Catherine and truly cares for her wellbeing trying to help her find a job and observing her eat habits.

Whilst this starts out fairly casual in the beginning he becomes more concerned throughout the play and is alarmed to find that she's been staying at Ana's place. He almost gives up on Catherine but returns later in the play and we feel hope that their relationship blooms.

## **KRISTINA**

Catherine and Ana's neighbour. She is in her 40s – 50s, very attractive and well groomed, always keeping up appearances. Living by herself, she is paranoid about security and has cameras set up around her house to keep her safe. She makes knitted dolls for charity, but tells Ana and Catherine that she is tired now that she's having chemotherapy. She has a brain tumour and has it cut out. She turns up at Ana's house dazed and confused one night, relying on a neighbour she'd never had much time for.

## **JOVANKA**

An elderly Serbian woman who comes to visit Ana. She lived on Creswick St with Ana before Ana moved. She is a very insistent, determined woman, continually trying to be friends with Ana, even though she is always turned away. Perhaps she's had a difficult life too, or was once friends with Ana, it is never made clear. Jovanka. Day after day she takes the bus across town to visit Ana, here in Mary Street. Jovanka always tries to ring first but Ana steadfastly refuses to answer her phone. This is a running gag. Jovanka shows up six times in Act One with her tenacious invitations to Ana, 'You want to have one coffee?' She is rebuffed with equivalent tenacity by Ana, who is 'all the time busy'. Jovanka shuffles on, then shuffles off. And we know that she will return. Nothing Ana says can persuade Jovanka that her visits are unwelcome. In the first half of Act One this makes for delicious comic business.

## **MARTIN**

Is Catherine's ex-boyfriend. We discover that two years earlier he committed suicide, leaving Catherine devastated and disconnected with the world. Catherine is still grieving over his passing and does not truly know the extent of why he kills himself. He appears in scenes without it being revealed that he's a ghost, but the memory of him is haunting Catherine as she is expecting him to call her or text her anytime soon.

## **OTHER ROLES:**

We are also looking for Actors that are willing to play several roles some significant like Doctor White, the Russian Soldier, and Young Ana for example.

### **Also required for Multiple Roles:**

**A Man 35 + Multiple Roles** - The Chemist, An Australian Policeman, A Hungarian Policeman, Ana's Father, the Russian Soldier's Father and an Ambulance Officer.

**A Woman 35+ Multiple Roles** – Jovanka, Nancy, Katrina, Russian Soldier's Mother, Ana's Mother, and Doctor White

**A Teenage Boy** to play

An Employee, A Soldier Dying, A Delivery Boy, A Postman and a Russian Soldier  
15 years plus ...

### **Young Ana**

**A Teenage Girl** to play Young Ana (Big Role), and the Gypsy –  
15 years plus, (Challenging role)

**A Teenager Girl** to play a Girl,

A Young woman with a Dog, A Receptionist and A Woman in a Cinema.  
15 years plus ... 15 lines. But opportunity to be other characters.

## AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

### **DATE/TIME** Saturday October 25<sup>th</sup> 2025

From 9:30am to 1:00pm

- Early or video auditions are available by arrangement with the Director
- Call-back auditions may be required by arrangement with the Director

Audition information is available on our website, and will be comprised of:

- One memorized audition passage of your choice
- Cold reading of other audition passages (*if requested*)
- Accent: Hungarian for Ana, Serbian accent for Jovanka,
- Costumes or props may be used if desired but are NOT necessary

### **BOOKINGS** Audition bookings are essential and can be made via the Players Theatre website: [www.playerstheatre.org.au/auditions](http://www.playerstheatre.org.au/auditions).

- Select your 10-minute audition time slot
- Indicate your preferred roles
- You only need a single booking and audition once for any parts

### **REQUIRED**

- A **valid** Working With Children Check (WWCC) at time of audition (You must also provide your details for verification – name, WWC number, DOB)
- A commitment to attend **all** performances
- A commitment to attend as many rehearsals as possible.
- Provision of contact details
- Provision of a theatre biography for the programmes
- Participation in publicity photo shoots and promotional videos
- Advise of any planned or unplanned absences as soon as practical

### **CASTING**

- All auditionees should expect notification of the result within 72 hours.
- *Successful* auditionees will be contacted and offered a role.
- If your audition is *unsuccessful*, you will be notified in writing.
- If not cast, there may be other positions in which you can be involved.
- Roles may later be changed at the discretion of the Director.

Thank you for your interest. We hope to see you at the auditions on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2026.

### **ENQUIRIES**

Director

Hamish Keddie  
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Assistant Director

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