

2003



51st
SEASON

The Newsletter of
the
Heidelberg
Theatre
Company Inc.
Inc. No. A0008432X



No. 5.
November, 2003

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THE RISE AND FALL OF LITTLE VOICE

by Jim Cartwright
directed by Chris Baldock

19th Nov – 6th Dec, 2003

Wednesday to Saturday at 8.15pm

Matinee Sunday November 30th at 3pm

BOOKINGS 9457 4117

Subscribers requiring to alter their chosen night or reserve their booking are asked to call BEFORE Monday, 10th November, 2003 (10 DAYS BEFORE THE START OF THE SEASON)

The Company is delighted to present *Little Voice* and is certain that you and your friends will enjoy this modern showbiz fairytale, winner of the Evening Standard Best Comedy Award and the Oliver Award for Best Comedy.

Chris Baldock is back to direct *Little Voice*. Subscribers and Friends will recall with pleasure the Company's production of *Shirley Valentine* that Chris directed at HTC last year.

The great cast comprises Rhiannon Leach (**Grace** and **This Old Man Comes Rolling Home**) as *Little Voice*, Sean Hanson (**Grace**) as *Billy* and Alastair Rice (**The Patrick Pearce Motel** and **The Ham Funeral**) as *Mr Boo*. New faces at HTC are Donna Cohen, winner of two VDL best actress awards, as *Mari Hoff*, Helen Ellis, well known around the traps, Helen played *Sadie* to great acclaim at Waverley earlier this year and Steve Cummins who directed **Breaker Morant** at HTC last year as *Ray Say*

Helen Jacobs is Chris' illustrious Stage Manager. The fabulous set design is by Andrew Bellchambers who won the VDL Best Set award last year for **The Crucible** at The Mount Players. Set construction is by the usual gang lead by Dennis Pain. Props by the ever-wonderful Rose Capuano and Costumes by Lois Connor and Wendy Drowley with Production Co-ordination by Wendy. Lighting Design is by the clever Stelios Karagiannis. Sound Design by George Bissett who is already working extremely hard to incorporate the many songs required for the play.

Our Director together with everyone associated with the production is very excited by this play. Chris wants you to now that he has a brilliantly talented cast who are working extremely hard to make this something special. It also seems that the interest in the production is extremely high with a definite buzz in the air so it's gonna be a fantastic way to end the year at HTC. Don't miss it!

ALL MEMBERS, SUBSCRIBERS & FRIENDS of the HEIDELBERG THEATRE COMPANY

are cordially invited to the
**Annual General Meeting, In House Awards
& Christmas Party** on
Sunday 14th December commencing at 3pm.

The champagne corks start popping around 4.30, so come and enjoy the good company, laughter, food, drink and keep in touch with Heidelberg - YOUR Theatre Company.

IN-HOUSE AWARDS

Adjudicating the five productions this year: **Bermuda Avenue Triangle, I'm Not Rappaport, This Old Man Came Rolling Home, The Imaginary Invalid** and **The Rise and Fall of Little Voice**, are Joan Chapman, Bruce Akers and Wayne Pearn. The Awards follow the AGM which begins at 3pm.

HTC's FAMOUS CHRISTMAS HAMPER

Tickets for the renowned HTC Christmas Hamper will be on sale at Front of House during the season of **LITTLE VOICE** and at the AGM.

The winner will be drawn at the **Christmas Party** on Sunday 14th December.

So buy a ticket to support the Company and Good Luck to all!

HTC YOUTH presents a light hearted play to celebrate the festive season:

Christmas Confessions

by Luke Dixon & Valdy T

Season: 18th – 20th December at 8.15pm

Actors ages range from 15 – 25 years

Bookings - 9457 4117 - Tickets: \$10
(Box Office opens Monday 8th Dec.)

Like to be involved with the production?

It's not too late!

Call Luke on 0417 996 108 for details.

AUDITION NOTICE

Sunday 23rd November, 2003 - 2.30 - 5pm and
Monday 24th November, 2003 - 7.30 - 9pm
at the Theatre

Dinner with Friends

by Donald Margulies.
Pulitzer Prize Winner
directed by Brian Moroney

Season: 18th February – 6th March, 2004 Matinee Sunday 29th February

Winner of the 2000 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, this wonderfully wise comedy/drama focuses on two married couples who are best friends but whose lives are changed forever by a stunning revelation. Food and eating form the background against which the themes of trust, friendship, fidelity and the nature of modern relationships are played out. Strong characterisation, witty dialogue and a demanding range of settings enliven this piece further. Margulies writes with great wit and compassion.

"Destined to become a classic" - *The Guardian*.

CAST

The four characters share stage time equally.
2 women, 2 men, aged 30-49.
American accents

- KAREN** Passionate gourmet cook. Determined "Miss Perfect" yet vulnerable.
GABE Food writer. Desperate peacekeeper, clutzy, defensive, but very witty.
BETH Artist. A free spirit - in more ways than the usual. Feisty, challenging.
TOM Lawyer. Passionate, tough, adventurous. Instigator of the play's crisis.

All four characters are wonderfully flawed and so reveal their humanity at the deepest levels.

Character change and changing relationships drive the action of the play and present wonderful opportunities and challenges to all four actors.

A chance to revel, explore, discover...and to expand your repertoire.

Please ring the Director, **Brian Moroney - 9387 6992** - for script availability and more details

WHAT'S THE GOSS??

WHO WHAT WHERE

Simon Dixon, HTC Committee Member, Youth Theatre Leader, Actor, Lighting Wizard and generally great guy, has, like young men in times gone by, 'gone West' to Perth to seek his fortune. His friends at HTC wish him well and many great adventures.

Jim Thompson and David Macrae are in Essendon's production of **Pass The Butler** a fun show, in cabaret atmosphere, don't miss it! Dates 27th Nov – 6th Dec. Bookings – **9330 4808**

Congratulations to Paula McDonald and George Tranter, wedding bells will peel in March!

More Congratulations! Chris and Margreta Boek have a new baby girl

who featured on the front page of *The Age*.

The big secret during **Invalid** was that Wendy and Lois designed Tasman Tunny's beautiful costume (as *Toinette* the cheeky maid) to grow, along with her expanding middle, as she and husband Trevor, await the arrival of their firstborn. Very clever stuff ladies!

THE FOH PHONE CALL

Bouquets and thanks to the lovely Rhonda who has called 'Time' so notice is hereby given that the 'Call' to FOH for **LITTLE VOICE** will be made by the persuasive Maureen. She gives fair warning that, "She will be ringing you soon, and the safest thing to do is

to give in and pick a night *straight away* otherwise you run the risk of being talked to by Maureen until you give in." So have your diaries at the ready and give HTC just one night.

VICTORIAN DRAMA LEAGUE AWARDS PRESENTATION DINNER

When: 6.30pm Sunday 30th November.

Venue: Hawthorn Receptions.

Dress: Black Tie. **Tickets:** \$53 a head.

Again this year participating theatre companies nominated one production from their 2003 seasons.

HTC's entry is **The Imaginary Invalid** directed by Joan Moriarty.

We've booked a large table so if you would like to join the party or get more details, give Maureen a call at the Theatre on **9455 3039**.



The Imaginary Invalid

by Moliere

Directed by Joan Moriarty

Reviewed by Nicky McFarlane for 3CR's

Curtain Up – Sundays at 1pm – on 855 AM.

Congratulations to Heidelberg for giving us a classic from the 17th century. Was this the Miles Malleeson translation? No credit was given in the program. Moliere's plays were of course part of the foundations of Comedie Francais, and it is no wonder that this one is still in the repertoire. It is witty and warm-hearted and pokes so much fun at pretensions.

The story concerns *M. Argan* who imagines himself the victim of every illness known to man, a hypochondriac in fact. Three doctors and an apothecary attend him constantly and make their fortunes out of him – or try to – he does not like paying his bills. *Argan* wishes to marry his daughter *Angelica* to *Thomas*, a young doctor, so as to have one in the family who won't be able to charge him: actually, two doctors as *Thomas'* Dad is one also. *Angelica* however has fallen in love with *Cleante*, and with the help of the maid, *Toinette*, things are happily arranged. This theme features in many 18th and 19th century operas.

Chris McLean as *Argan* is on stage almost all the time, ensconced in a huge armchair downstage. He has a most expressive face and revels in the goings on. A most engaging and thoroughly entertaining portrayal. He runs the gamut of emotions, from getting his own way, or getting the better of someone, to shock and horror at the thought of his latest illness or the failings of his daughter, maid or wife.

Tamasin Tully's *Toinette* is delightful, definitely the boss of the household and up to every trick including dressing up as a man. Sarah Jones looks demure and pretty as *Angelica*, the strong-minded daughter determined to have her own way. They bounced off each other well. One point – in the long opening scene I would have liked some more variation in their vocal tones. The constant high pitch from both became a little monotonous.

Maureen McInerney as *Mme Beline*, *Argan's* second wife, carried herself well in her elaborate gold-lace-bedecked gown, but did not have a great deal in the script to build up her character. Her outspoken speech of relief over the supposed death of her trying husband went over well.

Ian Grealy as *M. Beralde*, *Argan's* brother, is excellent, down-to-earth, sensible and practical, big, bluff, hale and hearty, a complete contrast to his brother.

Ed Hassall as *Angelica's* beloved makes his mark in a small part. Elliot Cyngler as the young doctor *Argan* favours for his daughter is the silliest twit you ever saw, tippy-toeing at a run and simpering in embarrassment at having to propose to an unresponsive *Angelica*. A genuine weirdo!

Barry James, John Keogh, Kara Lane and Jim Thomson share the remaining roles. Everyone gave polished and stylised performances without going too far over the top.

The set designed by Marie Mackrell is splendid: chandeliers, beautifully panelled walls and doors, a frieze of lacy fret-work above the doors and on top of walls. The upstage window didn't look quite the thing though. Wendy Drowley and Lois Connor have excelled themselves with the costumes, and the harpsichord is splendid. Which brings me to a point. Since set and costumes are set so firmly in Moliere's period, 1674, it surprised me that the incidental music was not also all of the period and in sympathy. I happen to believe that music should play a big part in setting the mood of any play and its choice is an important part of the director's work. The final scene of *Argan's* mock graduation is done in Monty Python style with the whole cast in long cloaks, gesticulating wildly with long batons to a rousing rendition of Offenbach's Can-Can! Definitely amusing, but the scene is so well written, mostly in pig-Latin, that it really doesn't need this overkill. This question of suitable music is something that is quite often overlooked or perhaps becomes a last minute rushed job in many productions.

Congratulations to Heidelberg, director, cast and crew for a most entertaining production of one of the great classics.

EMAIL PROMPTS CAMPAIGN

It's not too late to join HTC's email list and receive *PROMPTS* electronically! Here are just some of the responses to our **Email PROMPTS Campaign**.

Thanks to all for your encouraging words about, everything! Like to join the email list, drop a line to -

htcprompts@hotmail.com

(Please note **ONLY** use the above email address)

"Happy to help save the postage costs and time. Email's fine for "Prompts". I suppose you know that Moliere was playing Argan when he collapsed on stage and died at home shortly after. The chair in which he collapsed is still in a glass case in the foyer of the Comedie Francaise in Paris. The Comedie Francaise website is worth a visit. Brian C. APS ...and... "Good afternoon, we are happy to receive all future copies of "Prompts" by email. As long term subscribers, we really appreciate all the effort that goes into organising all of the productions etc and are happy to do something that makes somebody's work easier. Regards Alan & Maggy M.and... Please send me an electronic version of your newsletter. First visit to HTC was to watch **This Old Man** - had a wonderful evening watching a very well executed story. Many thanks. Dawn McD.and... Dear Friends, Please use the e-mail to send us Prompts. We do enjoy your productions, particularly the last one, **'This Old Man Comes Rolling Home'**, a professional production in every way. Thanks to all. Hope to hear from you in the future Deirdre R.and... CONGRATULATIONS to HTC for continuing to give theatregoers such great shows. I'm so pleased to be a regular "first nighter" I'm happy to receive Prompts by Email Looking forward to receiving the next issue - best wishes Jean B.and... Could I please receive my prompts by email. Much enjoyed the current play, a real pleasure and lift to the spirits. My guest is now going to subscribe...so that is good feedback. Elizabeth S." (It certainly is!! - Ed.)



PROMPTS

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P.O. Box 141 ROSANNA 3084

SURFACE
MAIL

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PAID
AUSTRALIA

2003



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Don't miss it!
Season:
19th Nov – 6th Dec.
9457 4117
BOOKINGS

COMING EVENTS AT HTC

NOVEMBER

Saturday 8th 10.30am
Saturday 15th 10.30am
Wednesday 19th 8.15pm
Sunday 23rd 2.30pm
Monday 24th 7.30pm
Tuesday 25th 7.30pm

Working Bee with Lunch
Working Bee with Lunch
First Night – **The Rise & Fall of Little Voice**
AUDITION: Dinner With Friends
AUDITION: Dinner With Friends
Heidelberg Film Society – Some Like It Hot
(1959 US)

DECEMBER

Wednesday 3rd 7.30pm
Saturday 6th 8.15pm
Sunday 14th 3.00pm

Heidelberg Film Society – Annual Dinner
Final Night – **The Rise & Fall of Little Voice**
Annual General Meeting, In-House Awards & Christmas Party
HTC YOUTH production:-
Christmas Confessions

Thursday 18th, Friday 19th, Saturday 20th
8.15pm

HELP!!!

WORKING BEES

for
THE RISE AND FALL OF
LITTLE VOICE

Saturdays
8th & 15th Nov.
from 10.30am

Lunch is provided.

*A great chance to begin,
resume or continue YOUR
involvement with HTC and
have lots of enjoyment into
the bargain!*

or

Working Bees not your style?
How about **Backstage** on
LITTLE VOICE

Like to know more – call
Maureen at the Theatre on

9455 3039