

2004



52nd
SEASON

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

PROMPTS

No. 1.
February, 2004

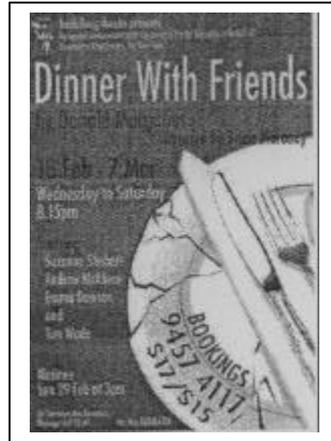
36 Turnham Ave
Rosanna 3084

General Enquiries
Phone 9455 3039
Fax 9457 2078

Bookings and
Subscriptions
9457 4117

Online: -
[http://home.vicnet.net.a
u/~htc/](http://home.vicnet.net.au/~htc/)

Email:-
htcprompts@hotmail.com



*Friends' marriage in trouble?
By the way, how will you deal with
the break up?
Whose side will you take? His? Hers?
No. None of that.
Impartial and non judgemental
that's the ticket.
But is that really possible?
The soup we are in is in our bones.*

Where will you stand after seeing this play? It challenges you to interpret its meanings and predict its outcomes...if you dare!

Dinner With Friends won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 2000. It is a wonderful journey through the break up of a marriage and its impact on all four finely drawn characters. Margulies is a consummate playwright. His play provides great opportunities for actors to explore character development and changing relationships in detail. He has written about his own experience of watching marriages and friendships disintegrate and reform. The play has been described as a masterpiece.

The Company is delighted to welcome Brian Moroney in his directorial debut for Heidelberg. Brian has acted and directed at Michigan Theatre Company, Box Hill Repertory Company and Erasmus Players amongst others.

His most recent acting credits have been **Halifax f.p.** and **The Doctors**. He has written award winning scripts for ABC children's television and has been involved in Television Studio Production at RMIT. Brian has studied theatre direction at the VCA and taught courses in acting at Victoria University. He is delighted to be working with the family that is sometimes called HTC.

The cast of **Dinner With Friends** forms an ideal quartet. All four are tour de force roles and all four actors are new to Heidelberg and are warmly welcomed to our stage. Suzanne Shubart, hies from New York

Dinner With Friends

by Donald Margulies
directed by Brian Moroney

18th Feb. – 7th March, 2004

Wednesday to Saturday at 8.15pm

Matinee Sunday February 29th at 3pm

BOOKINGS 9457 4117

Subscribers requiring to alter their chosen night or reserve their booking are asked to call BEFORE Monday, 9th February, 2004 (10 DAYS BEFORE THE START OF THE SEASON)

Dawson, who has just completed a three year stint at SBS TV features as *Beth*. Andrew McAlicee who is studying Creative Writing at RMIT is delighted to be back on stage playing *Gabe* and Tim Wade, who has recently been nominated for a Lyrebird Award for Acting, performs the role of *Tom*.

Brian warmly welcomes this most talented cast and eagerly anticipates the challenges and joys that lie ahead. His Assistant, Helen Jacob, ably supports him with her commitment and insight.

An enthusiastic and talented back stage crew is assembling. Joan Moriarty and Maureen McInerney - Production Coordination, Dennis Pain - Set Design, Paddy Moriarity, Ted Drowley, Dennis Pain and Jim Thomson – make up the Set Building Crew. Dennis Pain - Photography, Julie Hall and June Cherry – Ticket Secretaries, Kim Wattie - Stage Manager, George Bisset - Audio Design, Brian Marriner and Kirsten Manders - Lighting Design, Lorraine Gierck - Set Décor, James Huxton - Poster Design, Lois Connor - Costumes, Toni Tyers - Program Design, Rose Capuano – Properties, Maureen McInerney and Members of the Company - Front of House, Audio and Lighting Operation are still to be decided.

In the words of The Guardian, "*Destined to become a classic*". So now that your appetite has been whetted, come along to HTC for **Dinner With Friends**, the opening production of HTC's 2004 Season.

A NOTE TO SUBSCRIBERS

Again this year there has been a great response for our Subscription series with lots and lots of requests for seating in Rows A & B.

The Company's policy is to handle requests in order of receipt, so, as A & B rows were filling fast by mid January, so June, our Ticket Secretary, asks that our patrons understand that the seats they request may have already been allocated

As always June is making every effort to meet requests, and she asks for your understanding if you are not allocated your preferred seats.



THE RISE AND FALL OF LITTLE VOICE

by Jim Cartwright

Directed by Chris Baldock.

Reviewed by John Gunn 20th Nov 2003 for
3CR's Curtain Up – Sundays at One (855AM).

Mari Hoff is a slatternly middle aged widow, whose main aim appears to be booze, getting herself another man and occasionally looking after her daughter *Little Voice* who locks herself away in her room – *Little Voice* plays records that her late father had collected of such performers as Garland, Bassey, Marilyn Monroe etc. and over the years she has learned to mimic these singers with great success. Enter Mum's latest, *Ray Say*, a rather sleazy second-rate talent scout who works for *Mr Boo*, owner of a rather questionable nightclub.

Ray Say hears *Little Voice* singing and immediately spots a pot of gold. Other characters are *Mari's* friend the slovenly *Sadie*, kind hearted but no brain and a young telephone technician *Bill*. *Ray*, *Mari* and *Mr Boo* plan to put *Little Voice* on stage at the club and hopefully make their fortunes.

Not a nice story, but what it does do is make for raw, in your face theatre, that demands a lot from both cast and director.

This production as directed by Chris Baldock was well cast, the brutality of the piece was evident and not too over the top and roles were never caricatured. When I first saw this play earlier in the year I felt that the rhythms in the first act were a little blurred and that it was a bit episodic - second time around I am still of the same opinion and consequently feel that the writing and construction of the first act of the play is a little flawed.

The play puts great demands on the set designer: an alley way, night club, the squalid house comprising kitchen, living room and *Little Voice's* bedroom and it was the bedroom that I felt missed the mark this is the private and special place of an emotionally frail girl who lives her pathetic young life through the music and recordings she had enjoyed with her father... so I felt that this place of solace (away from her drunken, neglectful slut of a mother) could have been seen to be prettier, feminine with some record covers on the wall thereby reflecting her personality and contrasting with the seediness of her mother's life and the rest of the house, but I guess this is personal interpretation.

A follow spot would have given the night club scenes far more impact when both *Mr. Boo* and *Ray Say* were working in front of the stage curtain and in the audience, also more light was needed on *Billy's* face when atop the 'cherry picker' and talking to *Little Voice* through her bedroom window and music to cover all scene changes would have assisted the flow of the play. Despite these comments, the difficult setting by Andrew Bellchambers, using the stage revolve, served the production well both physically and atmospherically.

Now to the cast, Donna Cohen was a wonderfully vulgar and energetic *Mari Hoff*, blousey, common as muck and past her prime, a very demanding role that must put a great strain on an actor. Repeating her role as *Sadie*, Helen Ellis was appropriately slovenly and dysfunctional and once again showed her versatility as an actress. As *Ray Say* (a gem of a role for an actor), Steve Cummins came into his own in the second act but I felt this character's presence should have hit you right from the start and despite all the thrashing about on the sofa with *Mari* appeared to be a little restrained or inhibited in the early unfolding of the story – perhaps a little more male macho or cockiness – after all *Ray Say* is a survivor. Alistair Rice was well cast as *Mr. Boo* but could have

been much sleazier; I think in both cases the guys should let it rip a bit more. Sean Hannon in the rather underwritten role of *Billy*, the only one who really understands *Little Voice* had warmth and charm.

Now to *Little Voice* herself - this in some ways is a small but difficult role - she must sing and act and I felt Rhiannon Leach met the demands with relative ease being a strong singer with the right quality and touch in the dramatic moments and her night club scene with five numbers ranging from Billie Holliday, Marilyn Monroe, Judy Garland, Marlene Dietrich and Edith Piaf displayed her vocal versatility.

Stelios Karagiannis lighting design worked well, and George Bissett's sound design was well thought out. Costumes by Lois Connor and Kirsten Mander were deliciously loud, common and in the best of bad taste.

To sum up a good but slightly flawed production of a rather difficult play, it continues at Heidelberg until 6th December and is well worth a visit, the play will not disappoint even if you have seen the movie.

Letter to the Editor in the Heidelberg Leader 6.1.2004.

Printed with kind permission of Kay Arthur.

'Impressive Theatre

On Saturday evening, December 7th I attended a Heidelberg Theatre Company production of **Little Voice**.

I feel compelled to write this letter because I was so impressed and moved by this theatrical event. The whole production was powerful and highly professional.

The roles were strenuous and heart-wrenching with pathos, poignancy and some disturbing black humour in the mix. These elements were balanced by the cast with style and sensitivity.

The big surprise for me however was the musical component of this play.

Having seen the film of **Little Voice** I hardly expected that a cast member could be expected to sing to the style of Edith Piaf, Marilyn Monroe, Marlene Deitrich, Judy Garland, etc.

I was ready to accept mime, and I was hoping it would be carried off as well as could be expected.

When Rhiannon Leach stood up there and transformed herself from the cowering and dysfunctional *Alvie* into each of these amazing women, I was just knocked over. Here I was, sitting in Turnham Avenue Rosanna watching a girl in her twenties do what I watched Robyn Archer do years ago in **A Star is Born**.

Rhiannon inspired the same goose pimples, moist eyes and the desire to applaud until my hands hurt.

When I was driving away I kept wishing my friends, my family and especially my students had been with me to share the experience.

It was the last night of the **Little Voice** season, but I expect this local company has some more ambitious plans for the future. I wish them well and I urge local people to go and enjoy what is being offered.

Kay Arthur, Diamond Creek.

SET BUILDERS

SET BUILDERS

Audiences love the sets at HTC and HTC loves to provide great sets. To do so we need **more Set Builders** to build new sets, and also to 'de-construct' the set from the previous show. Set building takes place at the Theatre in the weeks leading up to the Working Bees. The team is there on Saturdays and depending on the availability of the Crew, weekdays as well.

So if you have thought of coming along to be part of the Team but not quite got around to it, this is the time to get in touch.

For more details give Dennis a call on **9455 3039**.

AUDITION NOTICE

**Sunday 1st February at 7pm and
Thursday 5th February at 7pm**

**at Heidelberg Theatre Company
36 Turnham Avenue, Rosanna**

ROUGH CROSSING

by Tom Stoppard

directed by Wendy Drowley

Season: Wed. 28th April – Sat. 15th May, 2004, Matinee Sun. 9th May.

CAST

- TURAI** Playwright – middle aged. A slight European accent or English.
- GAI** Playwright and collaborator with Turai, middle aged.
A slight European accent or English.
- ADAM** A young Composer, in love with Natasha, aged 25.
A French accent. Singing required.
- NATASHA** An Actress, aged 35 to 40, a slight European accent. Singing required.
- IVOR** An Actor, aged 45 to 50. English accent.
- DVORNICHEK** A Cabin Steward. A wonderful comedy role, excellent timing
and movement required. Young to middle aged. English accent.

Set in 1930's on the SS "Italian Castle" crossing the Atlantic.
All are 'theatrical' characters, in the mood of the 30's musicals
and all able to sing a little.

Excellent movement and timing is required to denote the rolling of the ship
and the comedy action.

Enquires

Wendy Drowley, Director, 9459 0847.

PLEASE PHONE TO INDICATE YOU ARE ATTENDING.

WHAT'S THE GOSS?

2003 VDL JUBILEE AWARDS

The Imaginary Invalid directed by Joan Moriarty was HTC's entry for the VDL Awards.

Best Supporting Actor – Gold – Barry James – *Monsieur Bonnefoy*.

Best Costumes – Gold - Lois Connor and Wendy Drowley

Best Set – Silver – Marie Mackrell.

The Production received nine nominations, so it's congratulations to the team who worked on **The Imaginary Invalid**, well done all!

WHO, WHAT WHERE?

Kicking off the new year, HTC faces can be seen, at Brighton T.C. **Little**

Voice's director Chris Baldock directing **The Laramie Project**, bookings **9589 0005** and at Eltham L.T., Jim Thompson and David Macrae are in **Sing On**, bookings **9437 1574**.

FOH volunteers, if you aren't one already and would like to join the team, just give **Maureen** a call on **9455 3039**.

50 YEARS AT HTC FOR WENDY

40 of those as a Committee Member, and that same year at the 2003 AGM, her lucky ticket is drawn and Wendy wins the **Xmas Hamper!** Very fitting, meant to be, well done Wendy!

CAN WE BORROW FROM YOU?

- a bar table approx. 1.1 metre high x 60cm diameter.
 - a patio table 80cm diameter and two patio chairs.
 - kitchen cupboards and benches.
 - a double bed with detachable bedhead and no footboard.
- for the set of **Dinner With Friends**.
If you can help call Brian **9387 6992**.

Like to **renew** your
Subscription or **Membership** with
HTC in **2004?**

Call the Theatre on **9457 4117**
and June or Julie will arrange it all.

2003 AGM – Highlights from the President's Report

John Gilbert, HTC's President, welcomed members subscribers and friends to the meeting. John thanked members for their work for the Company and gave particular thanks to Aileen Weinberg for her artistic contribution over the past 20 years in coordinating the artist displays in the foyer of the Theatre for each production. This is Aileen's final year coordinating these displays which have included such artists as Alan Summer, Weg, Alan Maritn, Murry Griffin, Neil Douglas, Leslie Sinclair and Aileen herself as an accomplished portrait artist.

The Banyule City Council confirmed in writing that HTC will be offered a new lease for a 10 year term with a 10 year option. In addition the Council has confirmed that terms will not be commercial and will recognise the contribution that HTC has made to the facility over the years to allow us to operate in our current mode. This is good news for our long term occupation of the Theatre and confirms the Council's understanding of the importance of this community asset.

The facility of paying by credit card, now that we have EFTPOS, has been well received by Subscribers, of 623 plus subscribers nearly half paid by credit card in 2003. Our grateful thanks to James Hutson for the outstanding job he has done this year to update the HTC web site.

Prior to the appointment of our new Treasurer, Jan Hodge, and the end of the 2002, when our past Treasure Laurie Jezard resigned, we should thank and acknowledge Laurie's commitment to act as interim treasurer and then to provide his services to ensure a smooth transition to Jan.

John Germaine OA died during the year. John was a friend of HTC, organising four musical concerts with singers from the Australian Opera, which raised several hundred dollars for the Theatre. We also record the passing this year of Life Member, Estelle Crooks. Estelle was responsible for a regular block group booking back to the 1960's until as recently as few years ago.

Simon Dixon received the **Bill Cherrey Award** for significant contribution to the Company during the year for his work on the committee and for his involvement with HTC Youth and the many technical and back stage areas he worked in.

2003 IN HOUSE AWARDS

The adjudicators for the 2003 Awards were Joan Chapman Bruce Akers and Wayne Pearn. The Awards were in three categories: Technical, Acting and Directing. And the winners:-

TECHNICAL – Awards:-

Consistency with Properties - Rose Capuano.

Set Design & Construction - **I'm Not Rappaport** - Wendy Drowley and Ted Drowley.

Costumes- **The Imaginary Invalid** - Wendy Drowley and Lois Connor.

Nominations: *Sound* - **The Bermuda Avenue Triangle** - George Bissett.

Costumes - **The Bermuda Avenue Triangle** - Maureen McInerney.

Set Design - **The Rise and Fall of Little Voice** - Andrew Bellchambers.

Costumes - **The Rise and Fall of Little Voice** - Lois Connor/ Kirsten Manders.

Sound - **The Rise and Fall of Little Voice** - George Bissett.

ACTING – Awards:-

Paul O'Connor – *Johnny*- **The Bermuda Avenue Triangle**.

Cheryl Ballantine - *Laurie Dockerty* - **This Old Man Comes Rolling Home**.

Simon Fenn - *George Dockerty & Policeman* - **This Old Man Comes Rolling Home**.

Chris McLean – *Argan* - **The Imaginary Invalid**.

Rhiannon Leach – *LV* - **The Rise and Fall of Little Voice**.

Sean Hanson – *Billy* - **The Rise and Fall of Little Voice**

Nominations: Oleh Kowalyk – *Midge* - **I'm Not Rappaport**.

Venetia Macken - *Julie Dockerty*- **This Old Man Comes Rolling Home**.

Andrea Bernard - *Edie Dockerty* - **This Old Man Comes Rolling Home**.

Carmel Behan - *Mrs. Keeler* - **This Old Man Comes Rolling Home**.

Alexandra Griffin - *Joycee Dockerty*- **This Old Man Comes Rolling Home**.

Barry James - *Bonnefoy* - **The Imaginary Invalid**.

Elliot Cyngler- *Diaforus, the younger* - **The Imaginary Invalid**.

Ed Hassall - *Cleante* - **The Imaginary Invalid**.

Ian Grealy – *Bernalde* - **The Imaginary Invalid**.

John Keogh - *Diaforus, senior* - **The Imaginary Invalid**.

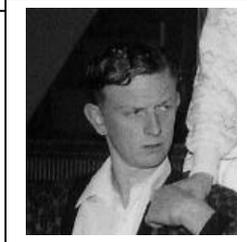
DIRECTING – Award - **JOINT WINNERS** Gayle Poor **This Old Man Comes Rolling Home**
and Chris Baldock **The Rise and Fall of Little Voice**

Thanks to the Adjudicators for the enthusiasm they brought to the Awards and well done all. Following the Awards, much needed drinks and supper were enjoyed in the foyer, as members, subscribers and friends of the Heidelberg Theatre Company celebrated a successful year at HTC.

Picture Gallery

2003 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Aileen Weinberg, HTC Life Member, has organised the Art displays in the foyer for 20 years, received grateful thanks from the Company on her stepping down from this role.



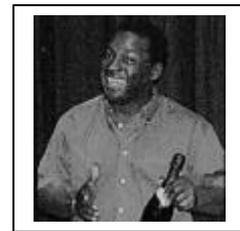
The Bill Cherrey Award for significant contribution to the Company during the year was awarded to Simon Dixon. The Award is presented by June Cherrey (right) to Dianne Dixon in Simon's absence. Simon (pictured left) as *Lan Dockerty* in **This Old Man**.



and IN HOUSE AWARDS



Gayle Poor (left) took the goodies while Chris Baldock takes the box.
Best Director – Joint Winners,
 Gayle for **This Old Man** and Chris for **Little Voice**.



(from left): **Technical Award** to Rose Capuana – Consistency with Props. Ian Grealy and Joan Moriarty carry off what's left of the champers for **Imaginary Invalid** Acting Awards and Acting Awards too for *Little Voice* - Rhiannon Leach and Sean Hanson - *Billy*.



(left): Wendy and Lois Connor, Costume Award – **The Imaginary Invalid**. (right): Wendy and Ted Drowley –Set Design & Construction - **I'm Not Rappaport**.

(centre): 2003 a landmark year for Wendy– 50 years a HTC member, 40 years on the Committee and winner of the Xmas Hamper.

(in the background Bruce Akers, Adjudicator, wears his, "I don't believe this can be happening" expression.)

AUDITION NOTICE

**Sunday 22nd February at 1pm and
Monday 23rd February at 7.30pm**

**at the Heidelberg Theatre Company
36 Turnham Avenue, Rosanna**

The Iceman Cometh

by Eugene O'Neill

directed by Wayne Pearne

Season: Wed. 7th – Sat. 24th July, 2004, Matinee Sun. 18th July

I require sixteen males and three females for this epic. Please note the play has been edited to a manageable and comfortable (for the punters) length.

Due to the nature of the production some actors will be required to film some segments.

CAST

A brief rundown of characters are as follows :

Harry Hope*	Proprietor of a saloon and rooming house, 60s.
Ed Mosher*	Hope's brother-in-law, one-time circus man, 60.
Pat McGloin*	One-time police lieutenant, 50s.
Willie Oban*	A Harvard Law School alumnus, 30s.
Joe Mott	One-time proprietor of a negro gambling house, face only mildly negroid in type, 50s.
Piet Wetjoen*	one-time leader of a Boer commando, 50s.
Cecil Lewis*	one-time captain of British infantry, 60s.
James Cameron*	one-time Boer War correspondent, 50s.
Hugo Kalmar	one-time editor of Anarchist periodicals, 50s.
Larry Slade*	one-time Syndicalist-Anarchist, 60s.
Rocky Pioggi*	night bartender, late 20s.
	Don Parritt* 18 years.
Pearl*	streetwalker, 20s.
Margie*	streetwalker, 20s.
Cora	streetwalker, 20s.
Chuck Morello*	day bartender, 20s.
Theodore Hickman	(Hickey) a hardware salesman, about 50.
Moran	detective, 30s-40s.
Lieb	detective, mid-20s.

***Roomers at Harry Hope's**

If you are interested in auditioning please contact Wayne on

9387 – 3597

to discuss or book an audition timeslot.

No auditions will be accepted without a prior booking.



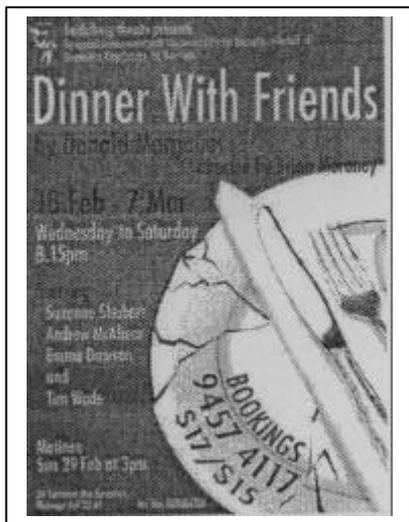
PROMPTS

Heidelberg Theatre Company
Newsletter
Print Post Publication
No. 342975/0008
If undelivered return to:
P.O. Box 141 ROSANNA 3084

SURFACE
MAIL

POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA

2004



Don't miss it!
Season:
18th Feb. – 7th March
9457 4117
BOOKINGS

presents

COMING EVENTS AT HTC

Sunday 1st 7.00pm
Thursday 5th 7.00pm
Saturday 7th 10.30am
Saturday 14th 10.30am
Wednesday 18th 8.15pm
Sunday 22nd 1.00pm
Monday 23rd 7.30pm
Tuesday 24th 7.30pm

FEBRUARY

AUDITION: Rough Crossing
AUDITION: Rough Crossing
Working Bee with Lunch
Working Bee with Lunch
FIRST NIGHT – Dinner with Friends.
AUDITION: The Iceman Cometh
AUDITION: The Iceman Cometh
Heidelberg Film Society – *The Man Who Saved God*

MARCH

Saturday 7th 8.15pm
Tuesday 16th 7.30pm

FINAL NIGHT – Dinner with Friends.
Heidelberg Film Society – *Lantana*

HELP!!!

WORKING BEES
for
Dinner with Friends
Saturdays

7th & 14th February
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 or **FOH** on
Dinner with Friends

Like to know more – call
Maureen at the Theatre on

9455 3039