

WHAT'S THE GOSS

WHO, WHAT WHERE.....?

I think Jim Thompson keeps on taking roles everywhere BUT at Heidelberg just to see how many times he can get a mention in the *Goss* column. Well the man has done it again folks! Jim is appearing in Essendon's next production, **London Suite**, 2 – 11 Sept. Bookings – **9330 4808**.

Cheryl Ballantine is directing Eltham LT's next show, a comedy, **This Way Up**. For bookings call **9437 1574**.

And EVERYONE was at the **HTC Open Day** as part of the Banyule Winter Festival and it wasn't just to keep out of the cold! Wendy, Lois and helpers were kept busy selling lots of costumes, hats and gloves, but rest assured there are still plenty left, and there was great interest in taking a peak at the backstage areas.

By the time the day ended, after the successful reading of **The Castle**, everyone involved was exhausted but elated with a very big day at HTC. So a thankyou to those that came and participated and those that came and helped!

Where were all those Subscribers during **Iceman**? June, our Ticket Secretary, reports that on one night during the season, ten seats in prime spots near the stage were left vacant because Subscribers didn't let June know they could not attend. June and her helpers do lots of juggling with the seating to best to accommodate all, including the actors, who like to see seats near the front filled.

So please subscribers if you can't attend on a particular night, give the Theatre a call and June can 'juggle' and also will do her best to accommodate you on another night of the run.

LOOKING GORGEOUS!

That's what you are going to say when you come to **Uncle Vanya** and step into the foyer.

Mr Drurey eat your heart out, the HTC foyer has had a makeover, wow! Numbers of our friends noted the flash looking new microwave and fridge that turned up in the kitchen for **The Iceman Cometh**, but it doesn't stop there! The foyer and toilets have been re-painted, new carpet laid, and the tiles replaced!

So let's hope there will be queues of people wanting the chance to do FOH in such gorgeous surroundings! If you can help, please give Maureen a call on **9455 3039**, she will be delighted to hear from you.

A LETTER TO THE COMPANY

"Thought it might be of some interest to you to learn that I have been recently cast in a CLOC Music Theatre Company production of **Mack & Mabel** which makes the 150th production in which I have performed since making my stage debut with your Company (then the City of Heidelberg Repertory Company) in 1952 in a production of **The Ringer**.

I became Vice-President of the Company, Set Designer and FOH Manager in the days of the Soldiers Hall (Eisteddfod Hall) and Methodist Church Hall venues before the Company moved on to the Rechabite Hall.

In 1986 I founded the Music Theatre Guild of Victoria which has now named its prestigious award, **The Bruce Awards**, and in 2000 was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for contribution to non-professional theatre - and it all began with the Heidelberg Rep.

This appears to be self glorification but considered it could be

worth knowing.

With kind regards,
Bruce McBrien OAM."

(Thanks to Bruce for bringing back all those great memories and thanks too for his great contribution to non-professional theatre. Ed.)

HELP!!! needed at the WORKING BEES

for
UNCLE VANYA
Saturdays
28th Aug & 4th Sept
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 for
UNCLE VANYA

Like to know more – call Maureen at
the Theatre on
9455 3039

HTC YOUTH

are gearing up for their Christmas production. Luke Dixon has been busy writing the play, 'in the can' as they say in the movies, all but the title, ideas for which include, **Take a Bow** or **TABA**. Whatever it ends up being called, it is going to be a beauty, lots of fun and emotions running high.

Luke has headed north for a well-deserved break, leaving Genevieve, Megan and Simon planning for the production which will be directed by Luke.

If you are interested in being a part of HTC Youth then in Luke's absence give Genevieve on 0419 541 954 or Megan on 0413 463 974 a call and they will be happy to fill you in on the Group's activities. HTC Youth is looking to attract members in the 17 to 24 age group.

EMAIL PROMPTS CAMPAIGN

Like to join HTC's email list and receive **Prompts** in soft copy? Just send an email to htcprompts@hotmail.com and include your name, address and phone number in the email.

2004



52nd Season
The Newsletter of the
Heidelberg Theatre
Company Inc.
Inc. No. A0008432X



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9457 4117

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htcprompts@hotmail.com

UNCLE VANYA

by Anton Chekov
directed by Joan Moriarity

8th – 25th September, 2004
Wednesday to Saturday at 8.15pm
Matinee Sunday Sept. 19th at 3pm

BOOKINGS – 9457 4117

Subscribers requiring to alter their chosen night or reserve their booking are asked to call BEFORE Monday, 30th August, 2004.



As Anton Chekhov died in 1904 HTC has decided to celebrate the centenary of his death with perhaps his most poignant play, **Uncle Vanya**.

Set on a Russian country estate that has seen better days the routine of the household is upset by the arrival of the ageing Professor and his beautiful young wife. The lives of the family are changed forever.

Uncle Vanya is directed by Joan Moriarity whose most recent offerings have been **Molly Sweeney**, **Kindertransport**, **Arcadia** and **Imaginary Invalid**. Chris McLean starred in all of these plays and was the *Imaginary Invalid*, so of course he is in **Uncle Vanya**, but as well Chris has decided to join Joan on the other side and is her assistant director for this production.

The cast of eight includes some newcomers and some old timers. Welcome back to Norah Toohey, Lois Connor, George Bissett, Barry James and Elena Ladd. The newcomers are Michael McCarthy and Sophie Angelle.

Shelley McKemish is Stage Manager and Tamasin Tunny will assist backstage. Brian Marriner and Kirsten Mander are designing the lights and Tim McLaughlan the

sound as well as being Production Co-ordinator for the show.

The set has been designed by our star, Marie Mackrell, and the set building team led by Paddy Moriarity are all hard at work as are our trusty costume ladies, Wendy Drowley and Lois Connor.

Uncle Vanya is a beautifully constructed play that draws in the audience from the first line and involves them in the lives and emotions of the characters and most of all in their thwarted dreams.

Don't miss this one.

HTC NOW HAS A SECRETARY!

A big welcome and a 'thankyou' to Brett Hunt who has joined the Committee as Secretary.

but.....

HTC STILL DOESN'T HAVE A REPLACEMENT FOR OUR SUBSCRIPTION SECRETARY!

So come on, all of you members and friends who thought, "No, someone else will want to do that job", pick up the phone and call our wonderful President, John Gilbert, on **9521 5877** (b.h.) or **9457 5634** (a.h.) for more information or to offer your services.

Please Note:

The role is not gender specific!

COMING EVENTS AT HTC

AUGUST

Saturday 28th 10.30am **Working Bee with Lunch**

SEPTEMBER

Saturday 4th 10.30am **Working Bee with Lunch**

Wednesday 8th 8.15pm **FIRST NIGHT – UNCLE VANYA.**

Sunday 12th 2.00pm **AUDITION: The Castle**

Monday 13th 7.00pm **AUDITION: The Castle**

Sunday 19th 3.00pm **MATINEE – UNCLE VANYA.**

Tuesday 21st 7.30pm Heidelberg Film Society – The Family Game (Japan 1983)

Saturday 25th 8.15pm **FINAL NIGHT – UNCLE VANYA.**

OCTOBER

Tuesday 19th 7.30pm Heidelberg Film Society – Caravan (UK 1946)



THE ICEMAN COMETH

by Eugene O'Neill

Direct by WAYNE PEARN

Reviewed on Thursday 15th July, 2004 by Carolyn Gunn for 3CR's CURTAIN UP – Sundays At One (855AM)

The Iceman Cometh by Pulitzer prize-winner Eugene O'Neill is said to be one of the American Theatre classics and as such presents major challenges to any company prepared to stage it; these are finding a director with the depth of understanding of this very complex play and an experienced and dedicated cast comprising three women and fifteen men, also a company prepared to take a risk at the box office with this lengthy American tragedy which in a word is about 'pipe-dreams'.

Heidelberg Theatre Company, in the main, has met these requirements with a quality, ensemble cast of eighteen actors and an experienced and probing director in Wayne Pearn; technically the saloon setting (with the sawdust), lighting and effects, music and costumes are impressive and of a standard to match the production.

The play, written in 1939 was originally set in 1912 – Heidelberg's program notes suggest 'some time, some place' but given the recurring themes of this play this is a very fair point of view and Director Wayne Pearn has worked on the text to contain it to just over 2 1/2 hours running time.

Now to the play - slumped over the tables in the crowded back room of Harry Hope's saloon are the resident bums and failures - ... drifters, pimps, police informers, former anarchists, failed con-artists, ex-soldiers, and prostitutes – in play construction, the words 'Greek chorus' came to mind.

The patrons, in various stages of inebriation, await the annual arrival of Hickey, the big-spending, happy-go-lucky salesman binge drinker whom the pipe-dreaming losers anticipate will treat them to hours of merriment and free-flowing liquor on the occasion of Harry's birthday.

Hickey does, in fact, arrive, a bit late and very sober. He claims to have seen the light and wants to help his old drinking buddies to dump their pipe-dreams and return to productive lives.

The play is character driven with their reactions, the results of their attempts to buy into Hickey's sales-pitch, plotting tightens up later in the play with an unanticipated homicide and surprise suicide – this is the basis of the drama with the keyword being 'tomorrow'.

Key protagonists in this tragedy are:

Hickey - Ian Grealy - a likeable salesman, glib, persuasive.
Irishman Larry - Geoff Hickey - the play's philosopher - once an anarchist, he has bitterly retired from the world and presents himself as a detached observer.

Don Parritt - Ashley Oliver - an awkward eighteen-year-old who has come to Larry after a crackdown on the Anarchist movement made possible by his treason – he is now wracked with guilt by his betrayal of his anarchist mother - There are parallels between Hickey and this young man.

The other characters contributing to this story are -:

Harry Hope, the owner of the saloon - John Keogh - he has not ventured outside the bar in twenty years and his pipe dream is that he has remained inside, out of respect for his dead wife Bess.



Ed Mosher - Paul Behan - a born grafter and con man - His pipe dream consists of his return to the circus.

Pat McGloin - Bruce Akers – Mosher's drinking partner and former policeman. He dreams of disproving his conviction for graft and returning to the police force.

Willie Oban - Glenn Mackie - left Harvard Law School when his prominent industrialist father was ruined. Willie dreams of starting his legal career.

Joe Mott - Andrew Down - dreams of re-opening his gambling house.

Piet Wetjoen - Ron Chapman - a Dutchman and Lewis's drinking partner - dreams of returning to South Africa, having left in disgrace for his cowardice during the Boer War.

Cecil Lewis - Trevor Paparella - an English veteran from the Boer War who dreams of returning to England, having been driven out upon losing his regiment's money in a drunken night of gambling.

James Cameron - Evin Bryant - dreams of returning to his newspaper career but endlessly defers the realisation of the pipe dream till tomorrow.

Hugo Kalmar - David Macrae – a former Anarchist editor who served ten years in prison for his activities, he dreams of political liberation - He is drunk for the entire play.

Rocky Pioggi - Simon Fenn - the night bartender. His pipe dream involves his refusal to admit to himself that he is a pimp.

Pearl and Margie – Libby Gott and Monica Bruce – Rocky's two featherbrained "tarts" – their pipe dream involves the denial of their status as whores.

Cora - Nerida Lydiard – her doll-like prettiness has begun to decline.

Chuck Morello - Christian Gabriel - the day bartender. He shares a pipe dream with his lover and whore Cora about getting married and buying a farm in Jersey.

Moran - John Gilbert the policeman who arrests Hickey.

So here we have a group of losers, failures – and despite the remoteness (to me) of the social conditions prevailing in the early part of the 20th century, the play still draws you in and you become absorbed in their wretchedness and isolation, which surely means that the quality of O'Neill's writing and subject matter still holds firm and that the company has made a pretty good fist of interpreting this difficult work.

There were instances where I felt that several performances could have opened out just that little bit more, particularly that of the key role of Don Parritt, but whilst this is certainly a hard call for a beginning young actor, the performance did show promise – also the girls didn't quite ring true to me – a little too colourful and not hard enough.

Performances of the ensemble were strong and believable, excellent body language.. never caricaturing just as old drunks and I liked the intermittent stillness; the highlights were Ian Grealy's strong, pathetic, roller coasting interpretation of Hickey and his excellent and revealing soliloquy towards the end of the play – powerful stuff.....also Geoff Hickey's performance and characterisation of Larry was outstanding .

Those familiar with the text may find flaws in the production but for me, having never read it or seen it before **The Iceman Cometh** was most impressive and congratulations to all at Heidelberg Theatre Company.

AUDITION NOTICE

Sunday 12th September at 2pm and

Monday 13th September at 7pm

at Heidelberg Theatre Company, 36 Turnham Avenue, Rosanna

THE CASTLE

Adapted from the screenplay with kind permission from Working Dog Productions.

Directed by: Maureen McInerney

Season: Wednesday 17th November – Saturday 4th December, 2004,

Matinee - Sunday 28th November.

Everyone has seen the movie, and the interest in this production from our audience has been huge already. So much so that it could be the only way you will get to see it, is by being in it!

CHARACTERS

DALE KERRIGAN

Darryl's son and the Narrator. Early to mid 20s.

DARRYL KERRIGAN

Father, homeowner who takes on all comers to save his home. Mid to late 40s.

SAL KERRIGAN

Darryl's wife and helpmate. Mid to late 40s.

STEVE KERRIGAN

Darryl's youngest son. Late teens.

WAYNE KERRIGAN

Darryl's eldest son, Late 20s early 30s.

TRACY KERRIGAN

Darryl's daughter. Early to mid 20s.

CON TETROPOULOS

Tracy's husband. Mid to late 20's

DENNIS DENUTO

Small-time suburban lawyer. Mid to late 40's

LAWRENCE HAMMILL Q.C.

Mid to late 60's

And that's not all, there are:

THE NEIGHBOURS

Farouk, Jack and Evonne.

THE HEAVIES

Standover Men and Thugs.

THE COURT OFFICIALS

Chairman of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal, Judges of the High Court, Judges of the Federal Court, Lawyers, Law Clerks, Stenographers and Cops.

THE COUNCIL OFFICER

Male or Female.

THE OTHERS

John Clifton and Ian Ross, the Newsreader

So there is a role in there somewhere for you! Come along, it's going to be the best time yet at HTC.

Auditions by appointment,
please call Maureen on
9458 3358