

2005



53rd Season
The Newsletter of the
Heidelberg Theatre
Company Inc.
Inc. No. A0008432X

PROMPTS

No.4.
August, 2005

36 Turnham Ave
Rosanna, 3084

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EMAIL PROMPTS CAMPAIGN

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Dear Subscribers

Due to circumstances beyond our control The Heidelberg Theatre Company apologises that we are unable to stage *Oedipus Rex* as originally advertised in the 2005 Playbill.

If you are a subscriber who chose this play as part of your season ticket and if you are looking forward to attending the alternative production *Wicked Sisters*, you do not need to make any alternative arrangements as the season dates will remain unchanged. We are confident that most of our subscribers will be pleased with the playbill change, however should you not wish to attend *Wicked Sisters*, please contact the theatre box office for a ticket refund.

John Gilbert, President, HTC.

WICKED SISTERS

by **Alma De Groen**

directed by **Joan Moriarty**

by arrangement with RGM Associates Pty. Ltd.

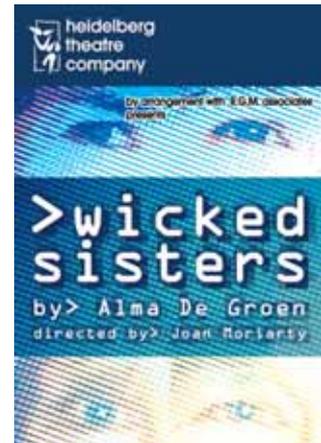
7th – 24th September, 2005

Wednesday to Saturday at 8.15pm

Matinee Sunday 18th Sept. at 3pm

BOOKINGS – 9457 4117

Subscribers requiring to alter their chosen night or reserve their booking are asked to call BEFORE Monday, 29th August, 2005.



Wicked Sisters is set in the present, in the Blue Mountains in N.S.W. This Australian play by Alma De Groen was shortlisted for the 2003 NSW Premier's Literary Award and takes place over one evening. The three 'friends' have arrived to see the 'grieving' widow of a brilliant scientist and as the evening unfolds with many glasses of wine having been consumed, new truths emerge.

De Groen posits an ethically complicated model of loving compassion even if it is achieved through criminal means such as murder, blackmail and theft. It is quite literally wickedly funny, but also intellectually challenging.

As the accusations and counter accusations fly, the issues of morality and values are debated. This is a clever, witty morality tale.

Laughs come from wry acknowledgements of the downside of life for middle-aged women, but their contemporary dilemmas of economic, let alone emotional, survival in a world at best indifferent and at worst hostile to them, matches the computer-generated struggle of Alec's "critters" on his still-operating computer.

The ensemble cast includes Maureen McInerney, Anne Smith, Margaret Maloney and Lois Fleming; all well known to HTC audiences.

Ms. Joan Moriarty will direct with Ms. Di Mileo as assistant director, Julie Hall is the production co ordinator and Paddy Moriarty will head the set building crew. Marie Mackrell is the set designer, Simon Dixon will design the lighting and Tim McLaughlan will be in charge of the sound.

Book early for a hugely entertaining evening.

Looking for ways to raise money for your favourite Charity or Group?

Why not organise a

GROUP BOOKING

to **Wicked Sisters**

Generous concessions apply for groups of 10 or more.

If you would like more details, please call June at the Theatre on

9457 4117.



Review

Heidelberg Theatre Company Special Events for the Banyule Winter Festival

Side Man

by Warren Leight

Directed by Bruce Akers.

Reviewed by **John Gunn**, Saturday 9th July, 2005 for

3CR's CURTAIN UP – Sundays at One (855 AM)

For those who may not know who or what a 'sideman' was, well it's a musician who played back up to a 'star' bandleader.

This 1999 Tony award winning play is a homage to these men and the big band era of the 40's and 50's, the story centres around trumpeter *Gene* during the last years of this era, his wife *Terry* who as the years move on has become a frustrated and disillusioned alcoholic - the story is narrated by their son *Clifford*. Other characters are *Gene's* buddies, *Jonesy*, *Ziggy*, *Al* and *Patsy*, a waitress with a heart of gold and a strong libido.

What binds these men together is their passion for their music. It is in some ways a sad and haunting story of men not really equipped for anything other than making music.

Well how did Heidelberg under the direction of Bruce Akers fare with this strong piece; direction was sound and the pace and mood did in most respects capture the atmosphere of this bygone era but I did feel that it lacked a little passion and that some performances were just a little too laid back. This was for me most noticeable when the boys are listing with rapt expression to a tape of one of their musical heroes, with the exception of Chris Baldock as *Gene*, I didn't feel the sense of excitement that this scene should provoke in me.

Looking at the performance overall Ben Starick as the son *Clifford* brought humour, affection and great warmth to this difficult role, Kate Bowers as *Terry* gave a performance to be admired as she took us on her journey from a naïve young girl to neurotic alcoholic. Likewise Carolyn Cusack gave the character of *Patsy* oomph and a sassy endearing quality.

Chris Baldock as *Gene* acted with assurance but did not have a lot of passion and at times you did have to strain to hear all his dialogue; granted the muso *Gene* was seemingly detached from anything away from the band scene but the quietness and reticence of his character still needed more energy for his 'distancing' to come across to us.

Of the three buddies Peter Prenga as *Jonesy* came the nearest to capturing his character and was of these three the most believable; also the group of 4 muso's needed a little more comedy and a sense of togetherness in the placement of these characters – it was hard to imagine them 'jamming' in the wee small hours.

Bruce Ackers' set design was well thought out and had a nice feel about it and the lighting and musical soundtrack excellent.

To some up, an interesting but slightly flawed production of a very engrossing play, shaded by many moods that nicely allow us an intimate look at the life of these Sidemen.

It continues at Heidelberg until 23/7 and is definitely worth a visit.

Heidelberg Theatre Company
as part of
The Banyule Winter Festival

Present

The Real Sherlock Holmes
By Cenarth Fox

Directed by Kevin Trask

With

David Small as Arthur Conan Doyle
Louise Whiteman as Mary 'The Ma'am' Doyle
Kirk Alexander as Sherlock Holmes

Friday 12th of August and Saturday 13th of
August at 8.15pm
Tickets \$10.00
Bookings 9457 4117
Heidelberg Theatre Company
37 Turnham Avenue
Rosanna

Lighting Workshops

Be part of the transformation of NETS Stadium into an atmospheric theatrical event site for the Winter in Banyule Finale

3 FREE Stage Lighting Workshops!

If you are interested in stage lighting and would like to develop your skills
Or
You have never really had the opportunity and would like to have a go, this is for you!

Work with professional lighting designer Alycia Hevey on the lighting design for the finale at NETS. On the way workshop different techniques and ideas in lighting design, and find ways of how to achieve the best effects in the most practical ways.

**Numbers are limited
Bookings Essential!
Phone Tony on 9457 9931**

Where
Workshops at Heidelberg Theatre Company, Turnham Av Rosanna, and Banyule Nets Stadium Macleod.

When
Workshops – 6pm to 8pm on Tuesday 2nd, 9th and 16th August
Performance - 5pm to 6.30pm Sunday 21st August, at the Winter in Banyule Finale!

Community Power
WINTER IN BANYULE
Banyule
LIFE PARTNER

AUDITION NOTICE

**Sunday 21st August from 11am &
Monday 22nd August from 7.30pm**
at Heidelberg Theatre Company, 36 Turnham Avenue, Rosanna

Noises Off

by **Michael Frayn**
Directed by **Chris McLean**

Season: Wednesday 16th November – Saturday 3rd December, 2005
Matinee - Sunday 27th November.

Synopsis: The traditional sex farce 'Nothing On' is being performed by a B-grade touring company. A real life farce unfolds backstage during the show's final rehearsal and the ensuing disastrous tour. Actors make their exits from one play only to find themselves caught up in the other. Mistaken identities, slamming doors, scintillating timing and Michael Frayn's brilliant wordplay make for a hilarious night of theatre.

CHARACTERS

All cast use English accents.

- LLOYD:** Director of 'Nothing On'. Late 30s to 50s.
- DOTTY:** Ex TV soap star, aged around 50. Billed as star of 'Nothing On'. Has put up money to tour play in hope of making a retirement nest egg.
- GARRY:** The handsome 30ish male co-star of 'Nothing On'. Role involves a little stunt work.
- BROOKE:** Plays *Vicki* "desirable, in her early 20s, well built and beautifully maintained"; spends a good deal of 'Nothing On' in her underwear.
- FREDDY:** Plays Philip, a successful but accident-prone 40ish playwright who owns the abode where 'Nothing On' is set.
- BELINDA:** Plays *Flavia* in her 30s, "the perfect companion piece (i.e. wife) to *Philip*".
- SELSDON:** An actor who has seen better days playing a burglar who has done the same. Aged about 70.
- TIM:** The Stage Manager and general dogsbody for 'Nothing On'. Aged in his 20s.
- POPPY:** The Assistant Stage Manager and gofer for 'Nothing On'. Aged in her 20s.

Audition by appointment only

For further information or to make an appointment,
please ring the Director,

Chris McLean

on **94356715** or email cfmclean@hotmail.com

WHAT'S THE GOSS?

WHO, WHAT, WHERE...?

Hope you caught up with John Keogh's production of **The Price** at Malvern, that featured Chris McLean, who will be back at HTC for our final production this year, as director of **Noises Off**. And speaking of Malvern, Geoff Hickey is directing their next production, **Cosi** in September. The play is currently having a resurgence around the non professional traps, caught up with a spirited production at Beaumaris T.C. last month starring our own David McCrae, well done David.

And Chris Baldock, who played *Gene Glimmer* in **Side Man** has moved on to Williamstown where he is directing **Dealer's Choice** with Peter Prenga who played Jonesy in **Side Man** in the cast.

News from friends of the Company who have recently moved interstate; Stephen Hall now living in Sydney will be a contestant on *Temptation* on August 16th and Luke Dixon has arrived in Perth and is settling in well; soaking up the sun and the surf are high priorities!

LIKE TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THEATRE AROUND MELBOURNE?

Tune into your radio for

News, Reviews & Interviews

Sundays at 1pm on **3CR 855 AM** Community Radio with **CURTAIN UP**, brought to you by John & Carolyn Gunn and their team.

And then at 4pm turn your dial to **96.5 Inner FM Radio** for the **LOCAL THEATRE SHOW** for news of Theatre in the Valley featuring presenters Margaret Hassall and Tim McLaughlan from HTC.

SIDE MAN AND ALL THAT JAZZ!!!

Hold on while I get out my bag of superlatives to describe the fabulous jazz concert that followed hot on the heels of our **Side Man** production. Those of you who love jazz and were lucky enough to be there can testify to the fabulous sounds and complex rhythms that filled the space of the theatre... acoustically marvellous!

It is difficult to create time and space with our hectic production schedule but the stars were in alignment and boy oh boy the stars were aligned on stage too. Anyone who's been around the Melbourne jazz traps knows that Ted Vining (drums), Bob Sedergreen (keyboard) and Barry Buckley (bass) are national living treasures of the medium and they were matched by the exciting relatively young talents of Ian Chaplin on saxophone and Paul Williamson on trumpet.

The musicians were delighted to be performing without mikes to an attentive listening audience. They performed their own special blend of numbers such as 'Night and Day', 'Tenderly', 'Autumn Leaves', 'I Remember Clifford', and wound up with a hair-raising spine-tingling 'Night in Tunisia'. The verdict from all was "Wow! Let's do it again!"

Such nights provide another great way to enjoy and celebrate local talent in the fabulous facility that is Heidelberg Theatre.... never to be taken for granted and worthy of many grants!!! Thanks to those who helped out before and on the night. What a buzz! (Anne Smith)

WICKEDLY FUNNY

Dame Edith Evans was told that Nancy Mitford had been lent a villa so that she could finish a book: "Oh really, what exactly is she reading?"



"Hang on Rexy, you can take it easy Mate, me and me Wicked Sisters have taken over the gig at HTC."

BANYULE WINTER FESTIVAL

Don't miss **The Real Sherlock Holmes** at HTC, presented as part of the Winter Festival. Sherlock seems currently to be enjoying a revival, with the new series on the ABC and now this dramatic, comic and truthful tale about a fascinating and neglectful man. The play explores who and what lies behind Sherlock Holmes, the man who never was. So come along on Friday 12th or Saturday 13th August at 8:15 and find out about him amidst the wailing, operetta, war, fairies, romance, murder and cricket! It will be a hoot!

And a bonus; the Director is Kevin Trask and the play features David Small and Louise Whiteman, great to have them back at HTC.

HELP!!! needed at the

WORKING BEES

WICKED SISTERS

Saturdays

27th August &
3rd September

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 assisting

backstage or *foh*

Like to know more - call Julie on

9455 3039

August

Friday 12 th	8.15pm
Saturday 12 th	8.15pm
Tuesday 16 th	7.30am
Sunday 21 st	11.00am
Monday 22 nd	7.30pm
Saturday 27 th	10.30pm

Banyule Winter Festival - Sherlock Holmes
Banyule Winter Festival - Sherlock Holmes
Heidelberg Film Society - House of Sand & Fog
AUDITION:- Noises Off
AUDITION:- Noises Off
Working Bee with Lunch

September

Saturday 3 rd	10.30am
Saturday 7 th	8.15pm
Tuesday 20 th	8.15pm
Saturday 24 th	8.15pm

Working Bee with Lunch
FIRST NIGHT - Wicked Sisters
Heidelberg Film Society - The Odd Angry Shot
FINAL NIGHT - Wicked Sisters

October

Tuesday 18 th	7.30pm
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Heidelberg Film Society - The Pink Panther
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