

2005

NOISES OFF



53rd Season

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

PROMPTS

No.5.
October, 2005

36 Turnham Ave
Rosanna, 3084

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by **Michael Frayn**

directed by **Chris McLean**

by arrangement with Dominie Pty Ltd.

16th Nov – 3rd Dec., 2005

Wednesday to Saturday at 8.15pm

Matinee Sunday 27th Nov. at 3pm

EXTRA MATINEE Sat. 3rd Dec.

BOOKINGS – 9457 4117

Subscribers requiring to alter their chosen night or reserve their booking are asked to call BEFORE Monday, 7th November, 2005.

A PLEA TO SUBSCRIBERS. Bookings are very heavy for *Noises Off* and so that we can accommodate Subscribers who need to change their nights, if you are unable to use your seats, **PLEASE** let our Ticket Secretary know.

A call to the Theatre on **9457 4117** even up to curtain time would be much appreciated.

Noises Off – Yes, HTC is doing it! And from the strong bookings to date our audience is as keen as we are to see our presentation of the author's revised version of this marvellous farce – even more hilarious and hectic than the original. What a great way to wind up our 2005 Season!

Noises Off by Michael Frayn was first performed in 1982, and has played around the world ever since, including an extremely successful 2000 revival of Frayn's 'refurbished' version in the UK and on Broadway. It's about a group of actors playing a sex-comedy, 'Nothing On', where personal relationships interfere with onstage performances and ridiculous chaos ensues. So there are heaps of laughs in store.

Noises Off is directed by **Chris McLean**, making his directorial debut at HTC. Chris is well known to HTC audiences as an actor, his most recent appearance here was in our 2004 production of *Uncle Vanya*, and when not in productions Chris can be found doing his turn on FOH.

The *Noises Off* cast includes actors well known to Heidelberg patrons; **Rhiannon Leach, Kate Bowers, Paul Farrell, John Keogh**

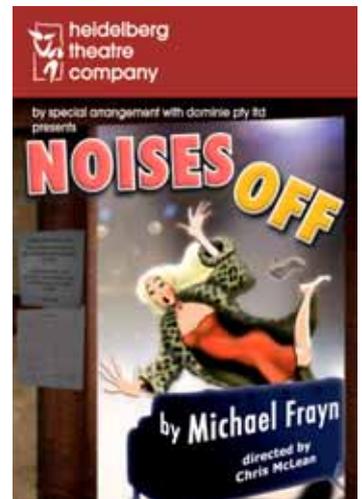
and **Joshua Parnell**.

The Company is delighted to welcome newcomers, **Barbara Hughes, Nicola Wright, John Cheshire** and **Justin Stevens** to HTC.

The staging needed for *Noises Off* is a huge undertaking and once again the Company's set building crew, with core members **Dennis Pain, Paddy Moriarty** and **Ted Drowley**, have taken to the challenge with their remarkable ingenuity and enthusiasm. They commenced construction of the set components in August to enable speedier erection of the detailed "16th Century posset mill" so important to the action of the play.

As well as a terrific cast and set building crew, Chris has assembled a great production team that includes **Bruce Akers, Shelley McKemish, Brett Hunt, Marie Mackrell, Leanne Cole, Wendy Drowley, Lois Connor, Stelios Karagiannis, Danii Edwards, George Bissett, Struan McGregor, Rose Capuano** and **Julie Hall**.

So get in early with your bookings; you won't want to miss *Noises Off!*



ALL MEMBERS, SUBSCRIBERS
& FRIENDS
of the
HEIDELBERG THEATRE COMPANY
are cordially invited to the

**Annual General Meeting,
In House Awards & Christmas Party**
On **Sunday 18th December**

commencing at **3pm.**

The champagne corks start popping around 4.30pm, so come and catch up with fellow Thespians and celebrate another great year at HTC, *YOUR* Theatre Company.

IN-HOUSE AWARDS

Adjudicating the five productions this year:

**Born Yesterday, The One Day of the Year,
Side Man, Wicked Sisters and Noises Off**

are Ron Chapman, David Dare and Helen Robinson.

The Awards follow the AGM which commences at 3pm.

Don't Miss Out!

Wicked Sisters

by **Alma De Groen**

Directed by Joan Moriarty.

Reviewed by **John Gunn**, Wednesday 14th Sept., 2005
for **3CR's CURTAIN UP** – Sundays at One (855 AM)

This is the second of Alma De Groen's plays that I have seen this year, the other being the much heavier **Rivers of China** (focusing on Katherine Mansfield) which was performed by the students of the National Theatre Drama School..

This play **Wicked Sisters** was short listed for the 2003 NSW Premier's Literary Award and whilst I don't think it would win any Drama Critic's Award for the Year, it is a darn good yarn, a little black but very funny and boasts good and substantial roles for four women.

Recently widowed *Meridee* (Maureen McInerney) whose husband was a very respected academic, is entertaining three old friends in her home in the Blue Mountains and the action takes place over the course of one evening – the time is the present.

The two 'achieving' female friends are *Lydia* (Lois Fleming) recently divorced and now enjoying life with a 25year old toyboy and *Judith* (Anne Smith) single and working in public relations - there are the outward trappings of success and sophistication but underneath is rather a different story.....**then** there's *Hester* (Margaret Maloney) who has not done so well... despite her brains, she cleans toilets in a motel.

I guess you could call this a play about deceit and betrayal, all four have something to hide but as the evening progresses and the wine flows, their stories are unravelled. It also puts female friendships under the microscope and tests the principles and moral codes of the supposedly modern woman. The sisterhood, spawned from university days, does not appear to have lasted the test of time – when things start to fall apart, have the feminists fallen back on some of the approaches to life that they so despised in their own mothers? We see greed, manipulation and the use of under-handed dealings. All of which they engage in simply to cope with life.

Roll up, roll up and prepare yourselves for
HTC Youth's

Peter Pan

 by J.M. Barrie

This piece of theatre is a dramatic spectacular, turning away from a traditional interpretation. Incorporating stylistic movements of comedia del'arte and absurdism whilst adopting a clowning theme, this production will dazzle audiences as they watch dancing, singing, acting, tricks and even rap.

Using the traditional 1904 J.M. Barrie script, *Peter Pan* will be a **Heidelberg Theatre Company Youth** production like no other.

Directors, **Izzi Mason** and **Rose Connors Dance** have joined forces once more to bring this fantastic narrative to life on the stage in our community. Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, you are cordially invited to join the circus this December.

Season:

**Thurs 8th - Sat 10th &
Thurs 15th - Sat 17th December at 7pm**
Matinees: Sat. 10th & 17th at 2pm

Tickets: \$10

Bookings: 9459 4117

Heidelberg Theatre Company 36 Turnham Avenue, Rosanna



Review

In a nutshell these four broads can betray, lie and cheat just as badly as the blokes do.

I found this a very entertaining piece, with plenty of very funny lines, quite bitchy in some aspects and pointing up what can happen when we feel betrayed...then there's the heartbreak of it all. It is difficult to say a great deal without giving too much away and really quite a lot transpires in this story. I am surprised we have not seen this play performed by other companies as it has four very good female roles and the women in the audience (on the night I viewed it) did relate to this piece and I do think there's something there for the guys as well, even if it is like a peep into Pandora's box..

Director Joan Moriarty has moved the play at a good steady pace, highlighting the vulnerable aspects of the womens' characters and when you consider that this was a substitute production which probably had a much shorter rehearsal period, you can appreciate what has been achieved.

Setting with computers installed for the collating of the work by *Meridee's* deceased academic husband, bookcases, boxes for packing and general living room fixtures and fittings worked well as did lighting and sound, costumes were appropriate to the four individual characters.

The four women – Lois Fleming, Anne Smith, Margaret Maloney and Maureen McInerney obviously enjoyed performing in this play, they met the challenges in their varying characters and left us almost gasping when, *in vino veritas*, they dropped a very revealing clanger.

I enjoyed **Wicked Sisters** very much, the play not world shattering but the production most enjoyable, another bonus is I had not seen it before. It continues at Heidelberg for another week and you can book on 9457 4117 – good stuff.

AUDITION NOTICE

Sunday 20th November 2:00pm

Monday 21st November 7:30pm

at Heidelberg Theatre Company, 36 Turnham Avenue, Rosanna

The Knackers ABC

by **Boris Vian**

Directed by **Morgan Dowsett**

Season: Wednesday 15th February – Saturday 4th March, 2006

Matinee - Sunday 26th February.

CHARACTERS

Looking for a cast of 15 to play multiple roles.

This is an absurdist vaudeville comedy; think *Delicatessen* meets the Marx Brothers with TV's *Allo Allo*.

2 males 45+ (The Knacker, The Neighbour)

8 males 18-35 (Andre, Heinz, Jacques, Captain Kunsterlich, French Army Captain, American Army Chaplain, French Army Lieutenant, Vincent, Colonel Lariot, Boy Scout, American Soldiers, German Soldiers, French Army Sappers, etc ...)

1 female 45+ (The Mother)

1 female 30-40 (Postmistress, Sister of Mercy)

3 females 18-30 (Marie, Marie-Cyprienne, Catherine)

The audition process is in group dynamics.

You will be put into a group and read a scene together, if time permits you may then be re-grouped with others.

I will mostly be concentrating on objectives/actions, so there may be some improvisation.

French, German and American accents are going to be asked for but they can be awful or stereotypical.

For further information please ring the Director,

Morgan Dowsett

on **(0422) 648-843** or email morgandowsett@yahoo.com

WHAT'S THE GOSS?

WHO, WHAT, WHERE...?

Lena Minto well known at HTC as actor and much cherished Publicity Person, and last seen on stage in *Born Yesterday*, will be appearing in Malvern Theatre Company's next show, a comedic take on the Italian-American family, *Over The River and Through The Woods* by Joe Di Pietro. Bookings **9530 8586**.

Your will recall that this time last year we were gearing up to present *The Castle*. The show has been seen round town all year but with Essendon's production, due to kick off in November, there is a feeling of deja vu as **Jim Thomsson** will again play *Darryl Kerrigan* and **Peter Prenga** will reprise the role of *Denis Denuto!* Also appearing are **Carolyn Cusack** and **Ben Starick** from HTC'S production of *Side Man*. And Rod Chappell, who also appeared at HTC in *The Castle*, is directing *Dead White Males*, at Hartwell in November.

Marie Mackrell, set designer/painter, artist, program compiler, and wonderful person to have around, is heading off to new adventures in 2006. For starters an overseas trip and then, whatever else life may bring. Have a great time Marie, you will be missed by us all and thankyou for your great contribution to the Company.

2005 VDL AWARDS

They are on again this year, Sunday 27th November, and HTC's entry is *Side Man* directed by Bruce Akers.

HTC has used its allocated ten tickets for the Awards night, any members wanting to attend should contact the VDL directly.

Heidelberg Theatre Company is delighted to announce the

2006 Season of Plays

Play 1: *The Knackers ABC*

by Boris Vian

directed by Morgan Dowsett

Season: 15th February – 4th March
(Matinee Sun 26th Feb)

Play 2: *Emma Celebrazione*

by Graham Pitts

directed by Gayle Poor

Season: 19th April – 6th May
(Matinee Sun 30th April)

Play 3: *Art*

by Yasmina Reza

directed by Wayne Pearn

Season: 5th – 22nd July
(Matinee Sun 16th July)

Play 4: *Cat On A Hot Tin Roof*

by Tennessee Williams

directed by Geoff Hickey

Season: 13th – 30th September
(Matinee Sun 24th Sept)

Play 5: *The Front Page*

by Ben Hecht & Charles MacArthur

directed by Maureen Mc Inerney

Season: 15th November – 2nd Dec
(Matinee Sun 26th Nov)

Your copy of the **2006 Playbill** will be included with the final issue of *Prompts*, coming to you in a couple of weeks from now. Details of subscription renewal, new subscriptions, Gift Subscriptions and Gift Vouchers will be found in the **Playbill**.

HTC YOUTH

Studies finished for the year and looking for a stimulating and engrossing pastime? If you are in the 15 to 25 age group and would like to work on the HTC Youth production, *Peter Pan*, in any capacity; actor, technician, behind the scenes or on set realisation give Izzi a call on **0400 041 989**.

JEAN BAKER OAM

It is with great sadness that we report on the sudden death of a great supporter and friend of the Company, Jean Baker. Our sympathy goes out to Jean's husband Eric and their family.

Jean had a great sense of community and was a member of the Heidelberg Council from 1968. She served two terms as Mayor, in 1973-74 and from 1982-84. During her time on the Council Jean actively supported the Company in all its endeavours and her backing and enthusiasm for the renovations undertaken at the Theatre during her time on the Council is greatly appreciated by the Company.

Opening night was Jean's night at HTC she came with her friends and always found much to enjoy from the performances. She was a loyal member and will be sadly missed by us all.

CHRISTMAS HAMPER

Remember to buy your tickets during the seasons of *Noises Off* and *Peter Pan*. The winner will be drawn at the Christmas Party on Sunday, 18th December.

HELP!!! needed at the

WORKING BEES

Noises Off

Saturdays

5th & 12th November
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 Bruce on

9455 3039

November

Wednesday 16th 8.15pm
Sunday 20th 2.00pm

Monday 21st 7.30pm

Tuesday 22nd 7.30am
Saturday 5th 10.30pm
Saturday 12th 10.30am

December

Saturday 3rd 3.00pm
8.15pm

Tuesday 6th

Thursday 8th to 2.00pm &
Saturday 17th 7.00pm
Sunday 18th 3.00pm

FIRST NIGHT – Noises Off

AUDITION:- The Knackers ABC by Boris Vian
directed by Morgan Dowsett

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directed by Morgan Dowsett

Heidelberg Film Society – Breakfast at Tiffany's
Working Bee with Lunch
Working Bee with Lunch

EXTRA MATINEE & FINAL NIGHT

Noises Off

Heidelberg Film Society – Xmas Party.

Contact Gwen 9435 6927 for details.

HTC Youth Production – (see p.2 for details)

PETER PAN

Annual General Meeting, In House Awards & Christmas Party