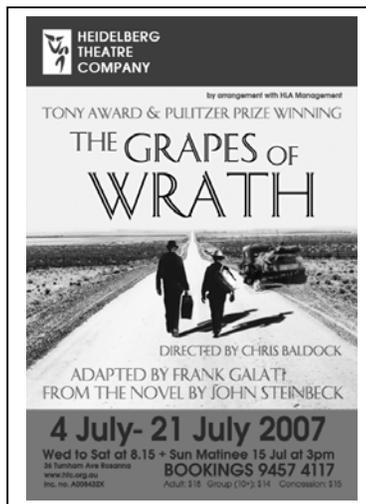


PROMPTS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE HEIDELBERG THEATRE COMPANY



With a fantastic, talented cast comprising a mixture old and new faces at HTC, a stunning set design from David Dare and every department working hard with loads of passion and commitment, **The Grapes of Wrath** is shaping up to be a stunner!

Renowned first as a much-loved Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, and then as an award-winning motion picture, John Steinbeck's classic story of the Joad family - and their flight from the dust bowl of Oklahoma to California in search of a better life - comes brilliantly to life in this Tony Award-winning adaptation.

With a cast of twenty-two playing in excess of thirty roles, and with stunning spectacle, this deeply moving affirmation of the strength of the human spirit is a dramatic epic not to be missed.

"This is a thrilling theatrical achievement that gets its power from the still sharp relevance of its human message" NY Post

The Company is delighted to have Chris Baldock back at HTC directing the show. Previously Chris directed **Shirley Valentine** and **The Rise and Fall of Little Voice** for HTC his recent onstage roles with the Company were in **Side Man** and **The Knackers ABC**.

The Grapes of Wrath's large cast includes Bob Crawford, Barry Lockett, Bruce Akers, Vlady T, Fred Barker, Sandy Green and Ben Starick all actors well known to HTC audiences. The Company is

THE GRAPES OF WRATH

adapted by Frank Galati
from the novel by John Steinbeck
directed by Chris Baldock

4th – 21st July, 2007

Wednesday to Saturday at 8.15pm,
Matinee Sunday 15th July at 3pm

Subscribers requiring to alter their chosen night or reserve their booking are asked to call BEFORE Monday, 18th June, 2007.

pleased to welcome newcomers Nigel Leslie, Juliet Hayday, David Orlando, Elle Wilson, Sebastian Bertoli, Paul Karafillis, Oliver Danek, Eleanor Danek, Judite Smits, Kate Ballard, Tony Costa, Steve Kennedy, Luke Lennox, Peter Tedford and Dario Dalla Costa to the Heidelberg stage.

And supporting the production in off stage roles are Marueen McInerney as Production Coordinator, David Dare has designed the set, Ted Drowley is leading the Set Building team and Wendy Drowley and Lois Connor are in charge of Wardrobe. The Stage Manager s Itze Garcia and Taryn Gatton, Aaron Ware is Assistant to the Director, Jason Bovaird is designing the Lighting and Chris Baldock the Sound with Technical Assistants Jessica Cole and Sally Quin.

The cast have bonded quickly and are throwing themselves into what will be a unique theatrical experience for the audience and all involved. a show not to be missed.

Banyule Winter Festival attraction –
HEIDELBERG THEATRE COMPANY

PLAY READING

followed by a discussion & light supper

Saturday 11th August

at 8pm

Directed by Joan Moriarty

at the Theatre

Admission \$5.

P.O Box 141, Rosanna VIC 3084

Enquiries 9455 3039

Fax 9457 2078

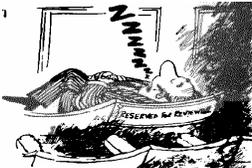
Web www.htc.org.au

Email htc@htc.org.au

Inc. No. A008432X

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BOOKINGS & SUBSCRIPTIONS 9457 4117



Review

DINNER

by Moira Buffini

Directed by Joan Moriarty.

Reviewed by John Gunn for 3 CR's **Curtain Up**
Sundays at One 855AM.

Let's set the scene for **Dinner**, a rather quirky, absurd and slightly macabre chiller by Welsh playwright Moira Buffini.

So what do we have here – yep, the usual group of English suspects, a foggy night and an isolated house, the middle-classes coming to a dinner party given by their friends *Paige* (definitely NOT the hostess with the most-est) and her husband *Lars* - their poisonous married life is akin to Virginia Woolf. The dinner is supposed to celebrate the success of *Lars*' latest book, the bestseller - 'New Age Greed is Good' but *Paige* suspects that *Lars* is about to end their marriage.

The guests include an incessantly bickering and odd couple in scientist *Hal* and his second wife, young TV journo *Sian*, artist and earth mother *Wynne* whose politician husband won't be attending as the two have now parted which leaves the social dilemma of an unequal number for dinner. *Paige* has hired, via the internet, a waiter to serve for the evening, needless to say they all arrogantly treat him as a not-worth-noticing servant. Later that night there is a knock at the door, revealing an unexpected visitor with car trouble, a working-class van driver.

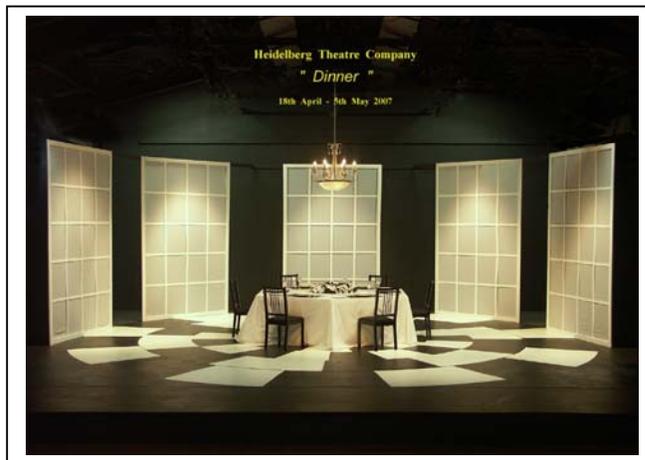
To say we have a collision of egos is an understatement! The play tells us a lot about the games people play, their insecurity, their social snobbery and (to them) the all important class structure.

Paige is a rather vile person who takes great delight in insulting her guests and playing with their emotions, but what motivates her and why is she treating these people, supposedly friends, in this manner? Why has she served up such a crazy dinner – such as Primordial Soup, Screaming Apocalypse of Lobsters and Frozen Waste? What transpires is a bleak and black comedy depicting spouse disposal in a very cynical and (to my mind) amoral society.

The laughs come thick and fast and we catch our breath so often, gasping at these outrageous people, the twists in the action and the personal outbursts of these petulant and ill-behaved individuals.

Now to the production as directed by Joan Moriarty, it is tight, bitchy and well acted – pace never flags, the frightfulness of the evening flows naturally, the characters are so well developed and (dare I say it) throughout the evening no one's turn is left un-stoned with both the comedy and drama of the situation coming across well and we are taken aback at the ending.

Leanne Cole's black and white set design is clever and looks great on the Heidelberg stage and the use of the very slowly-turning revolve to focus on each



character is excellent – the backstage area of the stage is blacked out with very large white panels, suggesting windows, being placed in a semi-circular position with a large round-ish hexagonal table set with white linen etc set stage centre with chandelier above. An excellent and sophisticated approach.

Now to the cast, they were all uniformly at ease with their characters in other words, so well cast. Genevieve Ryan as the manipulative and haranguing *Paige* (resplendent in a red evening gown against the black and white), Barry Lockett as the smooth and pompously new-age husband *Lars*, Anne Smith as the naïve artist and vegetarian *Wynne*, John Cheshire as the tiresome and guilt laden scientist husband *Hal* partnered by the very cool Rhiannon Leach as the second wife journo *Sian*, and the breath of fresh air introduced by the working-class van driver, the energetic *Mike* played by Justin Stephens; also a special plaudit for Sean Hanson as the Waiter, he has very little to say but his is a dignified presence that hovers curiously over the evening; body language, interaction, English accents, diction and strong projection in the well placed and orchestrated dialogue were excellent.

Lighting, sound, costumes and the fabulous props for the dinner were of a very high standard and so very well detailed.

To sum up, prepare yourself for a rocky and hilarious night that will keep you entertained and guessing until the final curtain. Great show, great play, highly recommended for sophisticated theatre-goers – notwithstanding the contemporary language.



Winter in Banyule
attraction:

Costume Sale
at **HTC**

Saturday 18 August
10am – 3pm

drop by, browse and **BUY**
the many

Vintage & Old Costumes
that following an essential cull
due to a lack of storage space,
we are forced to offer up
for sale.

AUDITION NOTICE

Sunday 8th July from 11am – 3pm

Monday 9th July from 7pm

at Heidelberg Theatre Company, 36 Turnham Avenue, Rosanna. (Melway 32 A1)

THE MEMORY OF WATER

By Shelagh Stephenson

Directed by Chris McLean

Season dates: Wednesday 12 September 2007 – Saturday 29 September 2007
(Preview night Tuesday 11 September and Matinee Sunday 23rd September.)

Synopsis: *The Memory of Water* (2000 Laurence Olivier Award winner for Best Comedy) is a touching and telling study of the reality of what is remembered and the pervasive influence of family ties.

Three sisters with disparate lifestyles reunite at the old family home on the eve of their mother's funeral. As each reminisces on childhood events, arguments soon arise about what actually happened and what didn't. The sisters laugh and bicker over the funeral arrangements, their well-worn family roles, their unsatisfactory men and their mixed memories of a working-class mother.

Shelagh Stephenson charts the joyful and painful territory of family relationships with insight and compassion.

Cast Required:

4 Females - (Mid 20s to mid 40s). **2 Males** - (mid 30s to late 40s).

Teresa - The eldest sister and born organiser who stayed home to care for mum

Frank - Teresa's husband and partner in their health food business

Mary - The middle sister who's got the good professional life and is still trying to get a decent personal one.

Mike - Mary's attractive love interest who's presently married to someone else.

Catherine - The youngest sister, the wanderer, still looking for true love and acceptance.

Vi - the dear departed mother, who reappears to us in her 40s

Auditions by appointment.

For further information and to book an audition

contact the director on **9435 6715** or cfmclean@hotmail.com

Away by Michael Gow

directed by
Vlady T for
HTC Youth

Reviewed by -
Suzannah Rowley



Vlady T, Luke Dixon and Tim McLaughlan led a dynamic and talented HTC Youth team in a stirring performance of Michael Gow's **Away**.

Away recounts the story of three families embracing loss and trauma filling their lives as Australia stumbles through the Vietnam War. Tom (Sean Moran), a young English boy, is terminally ill and his family is trying to protect him from the reality of his imminent death – but he already knows. He befriends Meg (Jessica Cole) whose family is embittered by past tragedies and a couple – Roy (Tony Cocking) and Coral (Luci Mahar) – battle to accept losing a son in the Vietnam War. Their lives are connected by a single holiday, which becomes an uplifting journey through grief, healing and happiness.

Gow weaves Shakespearean fantasy and heart warming comedy through a compelling exploration of war, pain, loss, and alienation in Australia during the sixties. It is an emotionally charged play and the HTC Youth actors were articulate and expressive with good body language conveying the inner turmoil and joy experienced by all the families.

Swirls of green and blue dancing fairies of Shakespeare's **A Midsummer Night's Dream** greeted the audience in the opening scene. The colourful costumes against a sombre backdrop was an effective way to lead us into an enthralling play steeped in tragedy, fantasy and comedy.

The mothers were fantastic – Izzi Mason (playing Meg's frantic mother Gwen) and Mina Mokhtarani (playing Tom's English mother Vic) both expressed the anguish of two women coming to terms with death and troubled pasts. And the stirring solos of Luci Mahar (playing Coral) drew the audience right into the anguish of a grief stricken mother battling to accept the loss of a son in the Vietnam War.

The boys were brilliant in capturing the emotional turmoil of sons, husbands and fathers struggling with the loss and alienation of loved ones. **Away** is a heavy tragedy spliced with relieving bits of comedy and the men really lifted the audience with hilarious comedy scenes involving Aussie campers and a crazy entertainer (Scott Li) dressed in Hawaiian shorts and a hula skirt laughing at his own jokes whilst belting out hideous songs.

There were many twists and turns to spice things up as actors sat amongst the audience and waltzed through the isles as part of the show. The set was minimal but concentrated our attention on the actors who swept us through the play's emotional journey. The music between scenes drew us further into the play especially the bright opening to the second half with salsa dancing as the families embark on their holidays.

Lighting was sombre to convey the heavy, emotional atmosphere and focused intimately on the characters effectively drawing our attention to their personal battles. This became a little oppressive at times but was frequently broken by splashes of colourful costumes – pyjamas, Hawaiian shorts, 60s dresses- adding a dash of colour and zazz to the play's emotional pull.

Overall, the HTC Youth team are applauded for such a compelling, funny and uplifting performance. Bravo!

JUNE

Tuesday 19 th	7.30pm	Heidelberg Film Society – Mr Hulot's Holiday
Saturday 23 rd	10.30am	Working Bee with Lunch
Saturday 30 th	10.30am	Working Bee with Lunch

JULY

Wednesday 4 th	8.15pm	FIRST NIGHT – The Grapes of Wrath
Sunday 8 th	11.00am	AUDITION: The Memory of Water
Monday 9 th	7.00pm	AUDITION: The Memory of Water
Tuesday 17 th	7.30pm	Heidelberg Film Society – Bona Vista Social Club
Saturday 21 st	8.15pm	FINAL NIGHT – The Memory of Water

AUGUST

Saturday 11 th	8.00pm	Banyule Winter Festival – Play Reading at HTC
Saturday 18 th	11am – 3pm	Banyule Winter Festival – Costume Sale at HTC
Tuesday 21 st	7.30pm	Heidelberg Film Society – Twelve Angry Men

What's the Goss?

WHO, WHAT, WHERE....?

No need to ask where Julie Hall was in the lead up and during **Dinner**, she was at the Theatre doing a sterling job as Ticket Secretary, with assistance at the Ticket Box from Tonya and Company members, while June sat at home with her feet up – under strict doctor's orders of course. So a big thank you to Julie from June and the Company for all her good work for the run of the show.

It seems like a good time to invite any readers who would like to assist at the Ticket Box to give the Theatre call on the Ticket Booking number – **9457 4117**.

And delighted to report that June is out there kicking goals once more!

A big sigh of relief went up when Patricia Tyler our FOH Roster Organiser and the Company Photographer returned from a wonderful three week break with her family in the USA in time to prepare for the season of **The Grapes of Wrath**. Great timing Patricia and welcome back!

Familiar faces from HTC are busy this winter treading the boards around town. Jim Thomson, Josh Parnell, Ian Frost, Peter Maver, and Tom Travers feature in Malvern's **Don't Drink the Water** by Woody Allen, directed by another well known face at HTC, John Keogh. Season 29th June – 14th July, Bookings 9569 3283.

Chris McLean, Director of our September show, **The Memory of Water**, is in Williamstown's **Honour** by Joanna Murray-Smith from 5 – 21 July. Bookings on 9885 9678.

And Wayne Pearn will direct a piece for Dante's Mini-Festa in June/July and Hoy Polloy's next show, **Boston Marriage** by David Mamet in the Spring.

HELP!!! needed at the
WORKING BEES
for
THE GRAPES OF WRATH

Saturdays
23rd & 30th June

from 10.30am
lunch is provided

So do come along, it's a great experience and a fun time too!
Working Bees not your style?

How about assisting
backstage or foh
Like to know more – call the Theatre
on 9455 3039