

# PROMPTS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE HEIDELBERG THEATRE COMPANY

## HTC's DIRECTORS

### IN 2008

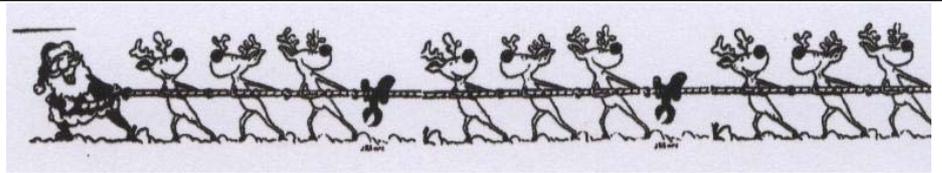
Five great plays in 2008 and here we introduce the Directors.

Kris Weber has been actively involved in theatre for 28 years. Her most recent directorial credits include: **Allo,'Allo**; **The Castle** and **Jake's Women** for Essendon Theatre Company; **The Laramie Project** for STAG and **Present Laughter** for Eltham Little Theatre. Kris' most recent acting credits include: **Hotel Sorrento**; **Scenes from a Separation** and **Secret Bridesmaids' Business**. This is her first directorial role at HTC.

Amongst Melbourne's most experienced actor/directors, Geoff Hickey returns to HTC after directing **Cat on a Hot Tin Roof** in 2006. This year he directed **Doubt** at Malvern Theatre Company. Other productions directed at HTC include **M Butterfly**; **Summer of the 17<sup>th</sup> Doll** and **I Ought to be in Pictures**. Acting roles at HTC include his award winning performance in **The Iceman Cometh** and **Equus**.

Bruce Akers has appeared primarily with HTC both as actor and director since 1983. He last directed at HTC in 2005, **Side Man**, and has also directed **Translations**; **The Accrington Pals**; **A Streetcar Named Desire**; **A Perfect Ganesh** and **Sylvia**. He was in **The Grapes of Wrath** earlier this year and was also featured in the VDL Award winning **Art** in 2006 plus others too numerous to mention.

Peter Newling has directed at numerous Melbourne companies including Malvern, Brighton, Peridot, Eltham, Waverley and recently at Williamstown Little Theatre with **Gross Indecency** where he also found himself on stage as Oscar Wilde filling in for the ailing lead actor. Some of his favourite productions include **One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest**; **The Anniversary**; **The**



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Commencing at 3pm

includes the presentation of the Bill Cherrey Award for Service to the Company and Presentations by the Directors of the 2008 Season.

*followed by the*

## IN-HOUSE AWARDS

at 4.30pm

Adjudicators:

Judi Clark, Helen Robinson, Tim Williamson & Ian Robertson

*and then*

## THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

on Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> December

*Thankyou for your patronage in 2007*

*HTC looks forward to your continued support in 2008*

**Cemetery Club**; **Steel Magnolias** and **Great Expectations**. This is Peter's first time directing at HTC.

Shane Ryan has recently caught the directing bug and directed his first full length play, **Closer** earlier this year for Beaumaris Theatre Company. He has acted with a number of companies in Melbourne in such productions as **Blackadder**, **A Skull in Connemara**; **Great Expectations** and **Amadeus** and is currently in **Laughter on the 23<sup>rd</sup> Floor** with the Mordialloc Theatre Company. He was seen on the HTC stage playing Hildy Johnson in **The Front Page** last year. This is Shane's directorial debut with HTC.

*What a line up!!*

Do come and support HTC, your neighbourhood Theatre, in 2008. The enclosed Playbill includes details of the plays for the **2008 Season** and Subscription options; including generous discounts to Subscribers and Members as well as concessions for Group Bookings along with details of Gift Subscriptions and Gift Vouchers.

The Playbill also includes a list of roles that you can play at HTC in 2008. So why not try your hand at something different next year, and become involved with the Company; at working bees, backstage or front of house. New faces are always welcome.

P.O Box 141, Rosanna VIC 3084  
Enquiries 9455 3039  
Fax 9457 2078  
Web [www.htc.org.au](http://www.htc.org.au)  
Email [htc@htc.org.au](mailto:htc@htc.org.au)  
Inc. No. A008432X

EMAIL PROMPTS CAMPAIGN: Like to join HTC's email list and receive *Prompts* in digital format? It also saves us money on printing and postage. If so please send an email to [prompts@htc.org.au](mailto:prompts@htc.org.au) and include your name, address & phone number

# BOOKINGS & SUBSCRIPTIONS 9457 4117

## The Story of the Van

### or ... how *did* they get it on stage?

A (nightmare) tale, with pictures, told by Denis Pain, Set Building Team Leader, photographs by Patricia Tyler.

David Dare visited a number of car wrecking yards before he found a suitable van. It had to be of '70s vintage and as small as possible, so that it would fit through the theatre doors. The aim was to have it on stage ready for rehearsals. It was delivered five weeks before the show opened, so all seemed to be working to schedule.....

It came minus the engine, gearbox and tail shaft. The first job was to accurately measure the van to confirm it would fit through the door. It wouldn't. It was too wide by 40cm. After much checking and double checking I decided the easiest way was to remove all the works from the underside of the van and slide it on its side through the door. For the rest of the week Des Harris and I worked on removing the doors, seats, radiator and tyres and then attached two wooden skid rails to one side.



**What now!!!**

2. On Saturday we had a team of 8 strong men on hand. We put continuous flooring on the ground then tipped the van on its side onto the flooring.



3. This allowed us to remove all the necessary bits from the underside.

4. The van was then pushed on the flooring through the door, with 5cm to spare, and lifted onto the front of the stage.



5. Previously we'd prepared a platform fitted with castors. The van was tipped over onto this and lifted into position.

6. All that remained was to rehang the doors, fit the seats and attach 4 wheels to the platform.

Thankyou strong men, you did a great job!



## HTC Youth presents

### A "NEW WORKS PRODUCTION"

coming this December 6<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> at 8.15pm at the Theatre -

admission: gold coin donation.

Towards the end of 2006, the HTC Youth committee developed the concept of a 'New Work Amadeus s' project, which has involved reading and selecting four one-act plays from young playwrights aged between 15 and 25 years old. Aimed at giving young playwrights a chance to have their work read, workshopped and performed, this project is ultimately about gaining an understanding the full process of theatre. With young people involved in the creative process, and a dedicated youth committee overseeing every aspect of the production, HTC Youth have followed all aspects of this production.

HTC Youth will perform four one-act plays in a **New Works Production** on Thursday 6th, Friday 7th and Saturday 8th of December at Heidelberg Theatre Company. The performances will begin at 8:15pm and gold coin donations would be greatly appreciated. Bookings are not necessary.

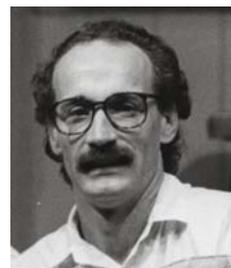
#### The Plays:

**To Heat You Up Cool You Down** is a fragmented and stimulating piece that brings physicality to the different states and thought processes of our minds. Focusing on the relationship between two young women, this piece is masterfully crafted by author David Finnigan. Talented director Caesar Cordovana, has used movement and rhythm to create an intertwining and contrasting world of thought in performance.

**The Dead Room** is a lovable and moving piece, narrating the monotonous lives of two forgotten old teddy bears. Enduring each lonesome day in a metaphorically 'dead' attic, an unexpected and conniving visitor will change the bears' lives forever. A beautifully written piece by HTC Youth's Frederick Leonard, and with thoughtful direction by T. King, **The Dead Room** will appeal to those of all ages.

**A Death in the Family** is a short piece that explores the mechanics of a large family dealing with the death of a loved one. Written and directed by HTC's Izzi Mason, this emotional piece is based on true events relating to the death of her grandmother, to whom she would like to dedicate the play. Delving into the repercussions and stress of family tragedy, those who have ever lost or loved their family will relate to this piece.

**Pitching Alaska** is a succinct, amusing and well written one-act play by young American playwright Ian Grody. Following a dialogue between an insecure woman, Alaska, and an alluring and timeless salesman known only as Mann, this witty and clever comedy will seduce any audience. Directed by HTC Youth's J.R. Cole, this film noir styled piece will be sure to titillate your senses.



#### BRIAN COONEY

It is with great sadness that we report, after a long illness, the death of a friend to many members of HTC and to the Company, Brian Cooney. Our sympathy goes out to his family.

Brian was a keen supporter of HTC, acting in a number of productions; **Arsenic and Old Lace** in 1989, followed by **Chorus of Disapproval** 1990, **Outside Edge** 1991

and **Arcadia** in 1999. As well he enthusiastically took part in play readings at HTC. When not on stage Brian was always ready to 'play his part' FOH as well he organised many theatre parties as fundraisers for his local Amnesty International group. Fond memories, thankyou Brian.

# HEIDELBERG THEATRE COMPANY

## NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Heidelberg Theatre Company Inc. will be held  
at the Theatre, 36 Turnham Avenue, Rosanna,  
on **SUNDAY 16<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2007 at 3:00pm**

### BUSINESS

1. Opening of the meeting by the President
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, 2006.
4. Business arising from the Minutes.
5. President's Report
6. Treasurer's Report
7. 2007 Play Season Report
8. Election of Six Committee Members
9. General Business

### ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Nominations are invited for six positions on the Committee of the HEIDELBERG THEATRE COMPANY INC.

The nomination form below must be signed by the Proposer, Secunder and Nominee and returned to the Secretary by **THURSDAY 13<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2007.**

The retiring committee members, who are eligible for re-election, are:-

Anne Smith   Denis Pain   Wayne Pearn  
Plus 3 Vacant Positions

Please complete and **return by THURSDAY 13<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2007.**

### NOMINATION FORM

The Secretary  
HEIDELBERG THEATRE COMPANY INC.,  
36 Turnham Avenue  
(P.O. BOX 141),  
ROSANNA, 3084

(Fax: 9457 2078)

(BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE)

I wish to nominate.....for the HEIDELBERG THEATRE COMPANY Committee.

Signed.....**PROPOSER**

Signed.....**NOMINEE**

Signed.....**SECONDER** .....

Date.....

### Price Rise in 2008

The Committee has undertaken a review of the HTC ticket prices and the increases are set out in the 2008 Playbill, which accompanies your copy of Prompts. This is the first price increase in three years and the Committee is conscious of the need to balance value of money against the pressures of rising running expense.

Heidelberg Theatre Company continues to invest each year into the Theatre's equipment and facilities, ensuring that we can continue to deliver great productions in a modern venue. Replacing the seating in the auditorium is still the priority and the main focus for expenditure, a very expensive, but necessary upgrade to our wonderful Theatre.

Regards, John.

(John Gilbert, President, Heidelberg Theatre Company Inc.)

### COMING EVENTS AT HTC

#### December

##### Saturday 1<sup>st</sup>

8.15pm      **Final Night – The Lady In The Van**

##### Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> - Saturday 8<sup>th</sup>      **HTC Youth:**

(see page 2 for details)      **A New Works Production**  
8.15pm

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup>** Heidelberg Film Society –  
Christmas Party at the RSL Heidelberg  
Contact Gwen for details **9497 3265**

##### Sunday 16<sup>th</sup>

3.00pm      **Annual General Meeting,**  
4.30pm      **In House Awards &**  
                 **Christmas Party**

# What's the Goss?

## HELP TO SPREAD THE WORD....

HTC would like more people to know about its forthcoming productions and it is you, our loyal audience, who can help spread the word.

If you have already picked up a Playbill at the Theatre then please pass the enclosed Playbill to a friend or neighbour and introduce them to the delights of community live theatre at HTC.

And if you would like more copies to pass on to friends, or if you know of a prominent place to display our classy Playbills, contact our Ticket Secretary, or call the Theatre on **9457 4117**.

## WHO, WHAT, WHERE.....?

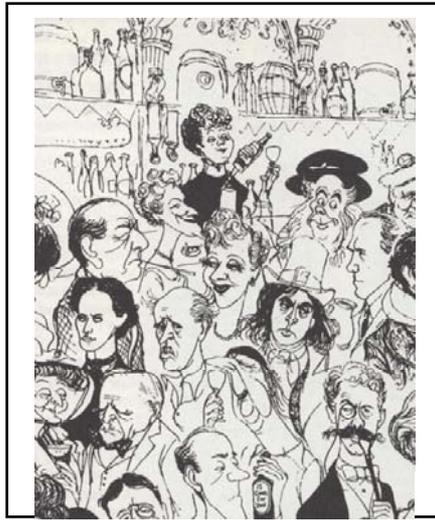
Great to see Chris Baldock in the audience at the opening Gala Night for **The Lady In The Van**. He has obviously made a quick recovery, here's wishing Chris a happy and healthy 2008.

As you will have seen on page 2, **The Lady In the Van** presented many challenges to our members. Ted Drowley, a stalwart of the Set Building Team, when not at the Theatre moving the van was very happy to put on his 'Grandpa' hat when the latest Drowley grandchild, Georgia Moodie, made her entrance right in the middle of it all. Added to which, Wendy had to keep her mind on hunting out costumes for the show when all she really wanted to be doing was play 'Grandma'.

And congratulations from the Company go to June Cherrey, our wonderful ticket secretary, who has just become a first time Grandmother to Felix. Delighted to report that baby and Grandmother are doing just fine.

I think everyone has a 'possum' story and the Company could 'write a book'. It seems the local possum population will go to any lengths – even committing suicide – to sabotage our shows. The Preview night of **The Van** came to an abrupt halt in Act I, when the possum met the electricity pole across the road and the lights went out in Rosanna. So the rest of the Act was reminiscent of a radio play, with the actors sharing a small lit area power was restored and Act II went ahead as planned. Well done to the cast, crew and all those who rushed to assist.

Playing the 'John Clease' roles in **Spamalot** is none other than Stephen Hall, whose love of theatre was fostered at the HTC Children's Theatre, run by the late Alice Bugge. His other claim to fame is being the son of Julie Hall, Julie assists June with Tickets and does many other jobs at the Theatre. Stephen caused John Clease to laugh when he said he had the lines down 20 years before the audition.



**"THANK YOU!"** to all subscribers and members who helped run Front-of-House this year.

If you are toying with becoming more involved with the Company, then Front-of-House is an excellent way to start! We would welcome you with open arms!

Patricia, our FOH Co-ordinator would love to hear from you - phone her on **9459 2235** - help to keep FOH going, call Patricia now!

Season's greetings to all and a prosperous and drama filled 2008.

See you next season and at the A.G.M. and Christmas Party!

## LOOKING FOR WAYS TO RAISE MONEY FOR YOUR FAVOURITE GROUP OR CHARITY IN 2008?

**GROUP BOOKINGS to HTC's 2008 Season is a great idea.**

Generous concessions apply for groups of 10 or more.

Like more details? Please call June at the Theatre on **9457 4117**.

## HTC's CHRISTMAS HAMPER

Tickets for the renowned HTC Christmas Hamper are currently on sale at Front of House during the season of **The Lady In The Van, New Works Project** and at the AGM.

The winner will be drawn at the **Christmas Party on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December**. So buy a ticket to support the Company and Good Luck.

Hoy Polloy will feature in the Short & Sweet Festival in December. **Gravity** directed by Wayne Pearn and featuring Ben Starick is on at the evening session on the 15<sup>th</sup>, whilst David Macrae is acting in two plays in the Wildcard series that afternoon.

## SUBSCRIBERS PLEASE NOTE

To reserve the same seats in 2008 as you had for the 2007 Season please return your Subscription Form as soon as possible.

**SEATS WILL BE ALLOCATED IN ORDER OF RECEIPT**  
*we would appreciate the return of your subscription form*

*before Friday,*  
**18<sup>th</sup> JANUARY, 2008**

**CHRISTMAS IS COMING**  
presents a problem?  
not if you give



## Gift Vouchers

for the **HTC 2008 Season**  
Details in the Playbill or call  
**9457 4117**



Delight your friends and loved ones with a  
**Gift Subscription to HTC's 2008 SEASON**

complete the Gift Subscription details in the Playbill and post it together with your payment to our Subscription Secretary.

*There is nothing more for you to do, it is so simple, we take care of the rest.*

**All of your Christmas Gift giving worries are over!**  
**Gift Subscriptions are available for 3, 4 or 5 plays in the Season.**

If you would like more information call the Theatre on  
**9457 4117.**

## HTC YOUTH

If you are in the 15 to 25 age group and would like to be a part of HTC Youth in 2008, in any capacity; actor, technician or behind the scenes, give the Theatre a call – **9455 3039**.