



Steel Magnolias

“as delicate as magnolias, and as tough as steel.”

by Robert Harling directed by Brett Turner

21st Nov – 7th Dec, 2013

Evenings at 8.00pm

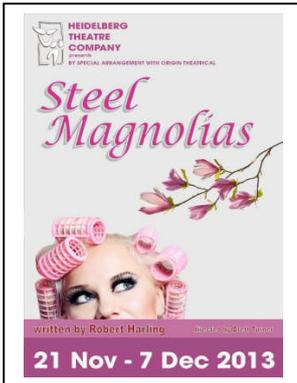
Matinees: Sundays 24th Nov & 1st Dec. at 2pm

Subscribers requiring to alter their chosen night or reserve their booking are asked to call BEFORE Wednesday, 6th November, 2013.

PROMPTS

61st Year

No. 5 October, 2013



Steel Magnolias is the much loved play about the lives of a local hairdresser, her staff and clients in Chinquapin Parish, Louisiana. This comedy-drama has an all-female cast who laugh, cry and compare their menfolk and it is humor and their lighthearted conversations that assist them in coping with the seriousness of the underlying situations.

Steel Magnolias first opened off-Broadway in 1987. It was subsequently made into a very popular film in 1989 featuring Julia Roberts, Shirley MacLaine and Sally Field amongst others. Robert Harding, the author, originally wrote the play as a tribute to his sister. The fictional character Shelby is said to have been based on her.

Director Brett Turner and Assistant Director Adrian Valenta have assembled a fantastic cast with some familiar faces to the Heidelberg audience including Paula McDonald, Catherine Jardine, Jo Warr and Stephanie Gonelli and Genevieve Ryan, with one Heidelberg debutant, Marianne Collopy.

Production Manager Karen Wakeman, ably supported by Melanie Belcher have put together a great crew with Emma Hunt as Stage Manager, Di Brennan and the Wardrobe Team with Costumes, Set Design from George Tranter, Craig Pearcey with the lighting design and introducing a local hairdresser, Lottie Baker who has offered her time to teach Paula and Catherine the do's and don'ts of hairdo styling.

The set building team, capably led by Owen Evans, are well into the construction of the set with all the platforms already in position.

This beautiful play follows the characters on their journey through life, love and ultimately heartache and shows the inner 'Steel' of these Southern Belles.

**REMEMBER TO KEEP
SUNDAY 15th
DECEMBER
FREE**

for the
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
at 2pm

followed by the
**CHRISTMAS
PARTY**

at 3pm



REHEARSAL SHOTS: above left, from left : Paula McDonald – *Truvy*, Genevieve Ryan – *Ouiser*, Stephanie Gonelli – *Shelby*.

above right, from left – : Stephanie Gonelli – *Shelby*, Paula McDonald – *Truvy*, Marianne Collopy – *M'Lynn*, Catherine Jardine – *Annelle*.

BOOKINGS – Online at www.htc.org.au or call 9457 4117

36 Turnham Avenue, Rosanna

Enquiries 9455 3039

Email htc@htc.org.au

P.O Box 141, Rosanna VIC 3084

Inc. No. A008432X



REVIEW

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest

by Dale Wasserman from the novel by Ken Kesey
Directed by Chris Baldock. Reviewed on 15th September,
2013 by Joan McGrory of Theatrecraft published by the
Victorian Drama League.

"Damned if you do and damned if you don't - either conform
and be released or maintain your integrity and be kept in the ward"
— Prof R. Faggen in the forward to the Penguin edition of **One Flew
Over the Cuckoo's Nest**.

The power of the institution against the freedom of the
individual, of being trapped or free, lies at the heart of the play.

I would imagine that most people would be aware of either
the novel or the wonderful film starring Jack Nicholson, but basically
the story is about the arrival of the very free-spirited gambler and
rouse-about Randle P. McMurphy, who thinks that life in a mental
institution is preferable to picking peas at a work farm and manages
to be declared a psychopath by the court to achieve that aim. His
very appearance rejuvenates for a time the current inmates and of
course the drama becomes the conflict between McMurphy and the
controlling psychiatric Nurse Ratched. It is also interesting that the
introduction of a Native American Indian character, Chief Bromden,
who is supposedly catatonic and deaf and dumb, acts as an
observer through the play, by speaking to his dead father, the tribal
Chief who had succumbed to the demands of the government and
lost, for an amount of money, the tribal lands.

This production by Heidelberg was gritty and powerful. As
we are beginning to expect from the very able director, Chris
Baldock, the audience was exposed to some very good theatre.

The set design by George Tranter was excellent and
epitomised beautifully the day room of an institution painted in green
and cream. The set took up the full width of the stage with the
central focus being the nurses' station (JSC, raised by a few steps
and with the observation of the inmates seen through the glass panel
windows. USR were the swinging doors leading to the admin areas
with DR doors leading to the ablution area and the broom cupboard.
USL was a swinging door to the sleeping quarters with a double-
barred window left. Furniture consisted of a card table and chairs
DSR and two armchairs opposite DSL. Lighting design was by
Derek Hartwick with operation by Bruce Moorhouse and nary a
switch was out of place. Sound design was by the director with the
operators Trent Ramsay and Emma Fox. The sound and lighting
were perfectly cued. Particularly effective was the drumming and
moving light during Chief Bromden's commentaries. Costuming by
Maureen McInerney and Dianne Brennan was in keeping for the
characters.

As *Randle P. McMurphy*, Tim Constantine gave an excellent
performance. He portrayed the brash, optimistic gambler to
perfection. Body language was great, diction was excellent, and his
interpretation of this character from the carefree and confident
person secure in the knowledge that he has a limited sentence to the
realisation that he can be "kept" at the discretion of his antagonist
Nurse Ratched was well illustrated. Congratulations Tim on a
wonderful performance.

As *Nurse Ratched*, Paula McDonald gave a consistent
performance as the gentle and smiling and "everything is fine"
character. If anything, I would have liked to have seen a little more
of the underlying menace beneath the sugar coating.

Paul Schmidt as *Chief Bromden* had a difficult role in that
he had to convey the "mysticism" of his Indian heritage and convince
us that in his speeches to his father, he was relating the events, as
he saw them, that were happening. I felt that there was a little
uncertainty earlier but Paul did seem to come into his own after the
"waterfall" speech.

The two other main patients, *Dale Harding* (Adrian Carr)
and *Billy Bibbit* (James Plunkett) gave excellent performances. In
fact, all the patients kept in character



The cast & crew of *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest*

throughout the play. *Dale Harding*, for example, constantly
moved his hands; *Billy Bibbit* stuttered; Scanlon, played by
Rick Barry, had continual tremors. The other patients were
played by Tony Costa, Paul Kennedy, and Rhys Purdey—who
could forget HIM? Well done all!

Also under Nurse Ratched's thumb was *Dr Spivey*,
ably played by Bruce Akers. In a small but telling role, David
Small gave us a lovely cameo as *AideTurkle*. Aides *Warren*
and *Williams* were Christian Dell'Olio and Ben Dowthwaite.
Last but not least were the other ladies of the cast: Clare
Hayes as the prim *Nurse Flynn*; and Catherine Jardine and
Fiona Heart as the hip-swaying good-time girls, *Candy* and
Sandra. All played their roles well. My only concern was that,
with some of the male voices, diction could have been clearer.
I am concerned that in productions I have seen of late, there
seems to be a tendency for the actors to let their voices drop.
This did not happen with all the actors here, but there were just
a few. Please watch projection. I also had a problem with
Nurse Ratched's microphone as the sound seemed rather
distorted. I am "nit-picking" here as this was a very good
production of which all involved can be proud and one that was
well-received by the audience.

Congratulations and thanks to the FOH staff.

Heidelberg Theatre Company performs for the Rosanna Library's 40th Anniversary

HTC Members performed at the Rosanna
Library on Saturday the 17th August as part of their 40th
Anniversary Celebrations. Elizabeth Dingle performed
the *Evil Queen* monologue from **Snow White** and
Zach Smith played the *Green Goblin* from **Spiderman**.

Some HTC regulars, Steph Gonelli, Anne
Smith, Chris McLean, Christian Dell O'Illo, and Jim
Thomson then performed a play reading in the style of
a high speed live radio play of a condensed poetry
version of **The Wind in the Willows** with wildly varied
costumes, hats, props and concentration levels.
Carnage ensued and a great time was had by all
including the odd audience member.

The script was arranged by Chris McLean who
also put together some music for the show. The whole
cast put in a big effort behind the scenes to make it
happen, so a big thank you goes out to all.

All the children's names were placed in a hat
and at the end a prize of an illustrated book of **The
Wind in the Willows** was awarded to the lucky winner
as a gift from HTC.

AUDITION NOTICE

Heidelberg Theatre Company's production of

The Glass Menagerie

by Tennessee Williams

Directed by Karen Wakeham

Auditions will be held at the Theatre

36 Turnham Avenue Rosanna (Melway ref: 32 A1)

**Sunday 24th & Monday 25th November
from 7.00pm**

Play Season: 20th Feb. – 8th March, 2014

Weeknights and Saturdays at 8:00pm, Sundays at 2:00pm

**The play is set in St. Louis, USA, in the period after
the Great Depression, before World War II.**

Actors are required for the roles of:

LAURA WINGFIELD:

20s, A childhood illness has left her crippled, one leg slightly shorter than the other. Her separation from the harsh realities of life outside her home has made her too fragile emotionally to move outside it.

JIM O'CONNOR:

20s-30s. A nice, ordinary young man. In his teens he was a star of high school musicals and a football hero.

Open Auditions. American accents are required.

The roles of AMANDA WINGFIELD and TOM WINGFIELD have been cast.

Enquiries: Karen Wakeham, at hamnet84@gmail.com

**THE COMMITTEE IS DELIGHTED TO ANNOUNCE
THE PLAYS FOR ITS 2014 SEASON**

- PLAY 1 **The Glass Menagerie - 20 February – 8 March.** by Tennessee Williams,
directed by Karen Wakeham
- PLAY 2 **The Dixie Swim Club - 1– 17 May.** by Jones Hope Wooten, directed by Gayle Poor
- PLAY 3 **Little Murders - 3 – 19 July.** by Jules Feiffer, directed by Paul King
- PLAY 4 **Amadeus - 11 – 27 September.** by Peter Shaffer, directed by Bruce Akers
- PLAY 5 **True Minds - 20 November – 6 December.** by Joanna Murray-Smith,
directed by Natasha Boyd

More information on the plays will feature in the 2014 Playbill. A copy of the Playbill will be included with the final issue of *Prompts* coming to you in a couple of weeks.

Details of Subscription Renewal, New Subscriptions, Gift Subscriptions, Gift Vouchers and Company Membership will be in the Playbill.

All patrons of the Company are invited to become active members. Your participation will be greatly welcomed. Try something new or bring your well-practised talents to our theatre. There are plenty of opportunities to hone and use your skills, make new friends and have fun.

HTC YOUTH presents

ROBIN HOOD and MAID MARIAN

by Karl B. Peterson directed by Christian Dell'Olio

Wednesday 18th – Saturday 21st December at 7pm
& Saturday 21st at 2pm

Tickets: \$10 Adult \$5 Children

Robin Hood takes from the rich and gives to the poor. Will Robin's masculine and idealistic ways win Maid Marian's heart? Can a rough and tumble outdoorsy guy like Robin Hood be compatible with a rich and pampered woman like Maid Marian? Will Marian's mother consent to her daughter marrying a man who doesn't own a home? And what about Robin's arch enemy the Sheriff of Nottingham? Will Robin Hood escape from the Sheriff's evil schemes?

You'll laugh your way through this zany retelling of the age-old tale.

Audience: Families including children from 7 years

(running time: approx 70 minutes)

Venue: Heidelberg Theatre Company, 36 Turnham Ave, Rosanna

The Adventures of Tim

Well, life has certainly been busy for one of HTC's favourite actors, Tim Constantine. After a highly praised performance as McMurphy in the sold-out season of "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest", which saw our intrepid hero hospitalised after falling on stage, resulting in the last two performances being cancelled. Tim recovered sufficiently well enough to marry the love of his life on Monday 14th October.

This rather unusual and spontaneous ceremony occurred on stage at the Heidelberg Theatre because this is where Tim and Pauline first met during the rehearsals of "Under Milk Wood" in 2011.

It was conducted in just the way the two happily marrieds wanted- unorthodox, full of laughter and plenty of "interesting" music and wardrobe choices. Oddly enough, it proved to be very emotional for all involved.

A honeymoon in London and surrounds beckons and then back just in time to change their inner city residence. Yes, life is indeed full on for our Tim.

(pictured right Pauline & Tim cut the



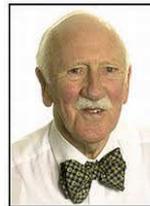
Bruce McBrien OAM (1926 -2013)

who died in September was an early member of the Heidelberg Repertory Group (now HTC). Bruce founded the Music Theatre Guild of Victoria and was awarded an O.A.M for his contribution to non-professional theatre.

He made his stage debut with HTC in 1952 in *The Ringer*, he and five other Young Liberals from the Ivanhoe Branch were recruited by Joyce Whitfield to play policemen in the show. In Bruce's words; *'it all began with the Heidelberg Rep'* he had become 'hooked'.

Bruce served as Vice President, Set Designer, Front of House Manager and Actor in many plays until 1957.

He was a gentleman and a gentle man, always impeccably dressed. He will be missed by us all.



NOVEMBER

Saturday 10th 10.00am **Working Bee** with Lunch
Saturday 17th 10.00am **Working Bee** with Lunch
Thursday 21st 8.00pm **OPENING NIGHT – Steel Magnolias**
Sunday 24th 7.00pm **Audition – The Glass Menagerie**
Monday 25th 7.00pm **Audition – The Glass Menagerie**

DECEMBER

Saturday 7th 8.00pm **FINAL NIGHT – Steel Magnolias**
Sunday 15th 2pm **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING &**
Sunday 15th 3pm **HTC's CHRISTMAS PARTY**
Wed.18th Thur.19th Fri.20th & Sat.21st at 7pm -HTC Youth present: –
& Saturday 21st at 2pm **Robin Hood & Maid Marian**

PLEASE HELP
at the
WORKING BEES

for

Steel Magnolias

Saturdays
10th & 17th

November
from 10.00am

lunch is provided

So come along, it's a great
experience and a fun time too!

Working Bees not your style?
How about assisting backstage or
front of house.

Like to know more – call the Theatre
on 9455 3039