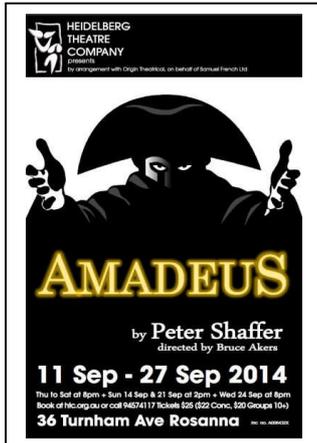


# PROMPTS

62<sup>nd</sup> Year  
No. 4. August, 2014



# AMADEUS

by **Peter Shaffer**

directed by **Bruce Ackers**

"A singular musical genius falls prey to another's jealousy and ambition.  
A sumptuous costume drama."

**Season: 11<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> September**

Evenings at 8pm. Matinees: Sundays 14<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> September at 2pm

**Ticket Prices: Adults: \$25 Concession Card Holders & Members \$22**

**Groups of 10+ \$20 per tkt, Preview & First Night Specials - Groups 50+ - \$10 per tkt**

(Subscribers requiring to alter their chosen night or reserve their booking are asked to call

**BEFORE Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> August, 2014.)**

It's been twenty-four years since Heidelberg first staged **Amadeus**. This time round, Bruce Akers, who featured *as Joseph II Emperor of Austria* in that production, is now at the helm as Director of the show. And what a show it's going to be, and what a story it tells!

Peter Shaffer's **Amadeus** is a 'sensationally successful' play full of dramatic ironies, perhaps the greatest of which is that it is not chiefly about Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart but has, as its central character, Antonio Salieri, Court Composer to the Austrian Emperor.

Mozart died young in neglect and penury. Salieri lived on into prosperous old age. Seeking some sort of lasting fame in the footnote of musical history, Salieri, on his deathbed confessed to the murder of Mozart. Psychologically, if not physically, it could have been the truth. The idea that Salieri poisoned his rival has intrigued people ever since. It was the plot of a short play by Pushkin, which later became the basis of a chamber piece by Rimsky-Korsakov. Peter Shaffer's **Amadeus**, however, is the first truly 'epic' treatment of the story.

Since its first production at the National Theatre in 1979, the play has won more than a dozen awards including five on Broadway. The award winning motion picture had a screenplay also written by Peter Shaffer.

HTC is delighted to welcome back to its stage Angelo De Cata, Cat Jardine, Paul Schmidt, Paul Kennedy, Jim Thomson, Christian Dell'Olio, Rhys Purdey, Nicholas Brown and Mick Poor. Actors new to HTC audiences are Mandy Murray, Mark Briggs, Blake Stringer, Don Nicholson, Pedro Ramos, Judith Clark, Melanie Belcher, Page Gofton, Bruce Johnstone and Leown Tarrant.

Regular readers of Prompts, may have thought your editor had made a slip up with the inclusion of Melanie Belcher's name amongst the cast, for the last however many times her name has appeared as a member of the crew. Well finally she has been lured to appear 'out front', so 'Chookers' Mel, from all your friends and supporters, have a ball.

Speaking of crew, Bruce Akers, director the show is a Life Member of the Company and has been a Vice President and its Treasurer for many years. As well Bruce has a long list of productions 'under his belt', the latest of which for HTC was **Arsenic and Old Lace** in 2013. Supporting Bruce is Assistant Director Christian Dell'Olio, Melanie Belcher is Assistant to the Director and Karen Wakeham is Production Co-ordinator. Welcome back too, to Emma Hunt who will again be Stage Manager for this production.

*ctd page 2.*

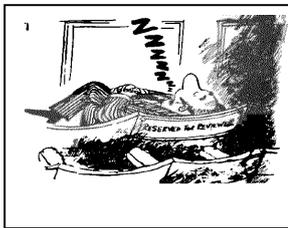


### **Rehearsal Shots from Amadeus:**

on left, from left: Angelo de Cata, Don Nicholson, Paul Kennedy and Jim Thomson.

on right, from left: Pedro Ramos, Angelo de Cata and Blake Stringer.

Photographer: David Belton



# REVIEW

## Little Murders

by **Jules Feiffer** Directed by **Paul King**

Reviewed for the Victorian Drama League's newsletter, Theatrecraft by Freeman on Sunday, July 6, 2014.



above right : The Cast & Crew of **Little Murders** (photographer: David Belton)

Jules Feiffer, a much-lauded, multi-talented literary figure, penned **Little Murders** in the 1960s. Set in New York City, it tells of a middle-class family trying to cope with law and order being eroded around them. Experienced director Paul King has chosen a cast who filled their roles with great vigour. The speed of vocal delivery and movement reminded me of people trapped on an out-of-control merry-go-round!

Julie Arnold as the loquacious wife, *Marjorie Newquist*, set the pace as did Bruce Carboon as the neurotic father, *Carol*, a salesman. We soon saw that the son, *Kenny*, played by Casey Phillips, was a typical 'Mummy's boy', flinging his arms around her all the time. Visitors were coming and the mother was frantically getting ready. Then gunshots rang out from the street below and we then noticed the padlocks, etc. on the front door. The daughter, *Patsy*, delightfully played by Stephanie Gonelli, arrived with her new beau, *Alfred Chamberlain*, played by Gavin Williams, who maintained an enigmatic, countenance until a complete change of character later in the production.

Oleh Kowalyk as *Judge Stern* and Tony Costa as *Lieutenant Practice*, had cameo roles where they declaimed their ideas of law and order; it showed how much they were out of touch with the so-called common people. John Cheshire as *Reverend Dupas* was deliciously weird in his modern interpretation of the wedding service and we were treated to a great mixture of types and costumes in the wedding guests: Ella Di Marco, Sheelagh Belton, Tracey Sutton, Dave Belton, David Tickner, Christian Dell'Olio and Jess Cook.

The set made full use of the stage spaciousness: a dining setting in front of a row of windows looking out onto the street below, with a step down into the lounge section; lots of lamps, candles and wall paintings, with good quality furniture. Lighting was excellent, showing the power failures every now and again. Sound also was on cue, especially with constant gunshots. The director's choice of music worked well. Costumes also suited the 1960s period. Just one quibble: before the production started and after the curtains were drawn back, the audience had to wait an inordinately long time before the cast appeared. Was this intended?

Mention has been made that our cities' law and order has continued to deteriorate even more as time has passed. Unfortunately this appears to be true. Thank you to the FOH staff for their personal attention.

### **AMADEUS** (ctd from page 1)

And then there are the costumes. And as the saying goes, 'You 'aint seen nothin' yet!' Wardrobe is in the capable and creative hands of Wendy Drowley, Vicki Ashton and Lois Connor. More of the valuable people associated with the show are Karen Wakeham who is also heading the Properties contingent, ably supported by Bronwyn Parker, Rhonda Huckle and Teresa Schipano, while Diane Brennan and Paris Stone are doing amazing things with the curtaining, and Morgan Thomas-Connor doing Makeup and Wigs for the show

The Set Designer is George Tranter, and Set Builders, Paddy Moriarty, Neville Wilkie, Ian McCabe, Des Harris, Doug McNaughton, Norm Monks and Noel Purdey will again be doing their wonderful stuff led by Owen Evans. Mal Cother is in charge of set painting. The Lighting Designer is Deryk Hartwick and the Sound/Technical Operator is Bruce Moorhouse with Bobbie Parrish as Rehearsal Prompt and David Belton is creating the Images, and Company members, George Bissett, Bruce Moorhouse and John Rowe are sourcing the music used in the play.

And don't forget to view our popular costume display in the Green Room and in the cabinet in the foyer.

So lots of talented people, both on stage and behind the scenes, all working to bring you a wonderful show.

**Amadeus** is a play rarely performed in the non-professional theatre due to the intrinsic theatrical problems.

HTC is proud to bring you Amadeus and urges readers to book early.

### **Araluen at the Heidelberg Theatre Company**

Heidelberg Theatre Company featured in the July edition of *extra*, the newsletter of Araluen, the not for profit public company that provides accommodation and day services for adults with an intellectual disability.

Patrons at the recent production of **Little Murders** would have enjoyed the exhibition of works in the foyer created by a client at Araluen. In the article Theresa Schipano and Wendy Drowley together with HTC were thanked for their assistance.

And on Thursday 21st August, the Theatre was the venue for another Araluen event when they presented Australian Author Andy Griffiths and his latest book, '*The 52-Storey Treehous.*' Araluen clients also took part in the event, with readings and two pieces presented by a client of Araluen, titled, '*Andy Griffiths is an Australian Author*' and an adaption, '*The Day My Bum Went Psycho*'.

# AUDITION NOTICE

## TRUE MINDS

by **Joanna Murray-Smith**  
Director: **Natasha Boyd**

### AUDITION DATES:

**Sunday August 31 from 7:30 pm**

**Tuesday September 2 from 7:30 pm**

### SEASON DATES:

November 20 to December 6, 2014

Weeknights and Saturdays at 8:00pm

Sundays at 2:00pm.

### AUDITION DETAILS:

- **Auditions by appointment**

- **Location: Heidelberg Theatre Company**

36 Turnham Ave, Rosanna, Vic (opp. Rosanna Stn. Melway ref: 32A1)  
(Hurstbridge Line - Rosanna Station)

- **For audition appointment email Natasha Boyd at [info@bookbonding.com.au](mailto:info@bookbonding.com.au) and include acting resume.**

- Scripts will be available at the theatre 30 minutes prior to the audition.

- Possible call-back scheduled for Wed 3rd September 7.30pm.

### PLAY SUMMARY:

Being introduced to your future mother-in-law is an anxious time for any young woman, so the last thing Daisy needs is her own leftish parents turning up uninvited ditto her alcoholic ex-boyfriend.

**True Minds** is not only an hilarious battle of the sexes and political polarities, but an exploration of the triumph of modern love. Along with her needle-sharp social observations and characteristic wit,

**True Minds** is Joanna Murray-Smith's most glittering comedy to date.

### CHARACTER DETAILS

- Daisy Grayson - gorgeous, fiercely intelligent, book obsessed, mid 20s. All the action takes place in her modest apartment that has a ramshackle charm. She has just published a book which argues that if a man's mother doesn't like his girlfriend there is no way he will commit.

- Tracey Grayson - Daisy's mother, 55, attractive, expensively bohemian, divorced but happily dating a much younger man

- Maxim Grayson - Daisy's father, around 60, handsome, rugged, a little bit Ernest Hemingway, a little bit Spencer Tracy.

- Mitch Carter - Daisy's ex- boyfriend, early 30s, good looking, has just come out of rehab.

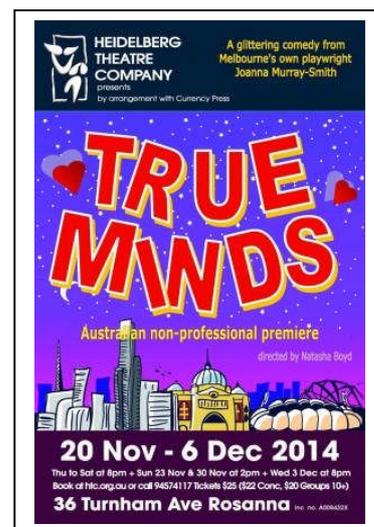
- Vivienne Reynolds - Benedict's mother, attractive, elegant, around 60 year old woman, an imperious manner - knows Maxim, but doesn't realise her son has been dating his daughter.

- Benedict Perring 28-32, Daisy's current beau, handsome, metrosexual but not camp, expensive looking, dull.

### REHEARSALS

- Rehearsals will be held on either Monday or Tuesday evenings as well as Thursday evenings and Sunday at a time to best suit the team.

- Attendance at all scheduled rehearsals is a must (not negotiable).



## HTC NEEDS AN EDITOR FOR PROMPTS

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Like to know more?

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There are a number of roles to fill;

- *managing calls to the Box Office,*
- *using the online ticketing system*
- *and at the Box Office*

If you can assist with some or all of these roles  
it would great.

Like to know more?  
Call the Theatre on  
**94574117**

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## PLEASE HELP at the WORKING BEES



for

**AMADEUS**  
Saturdays  
30<sup>th</sup> August &  
6<sup>th</sup> September  
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**

### COMING EVENTS AT HTC

#### AUGUST

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> 10.00am  
Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> 7.30pm  
Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> 7.30pm

**Working Bee** with Lunch  
**Audition** – True Minds  
**Audition** – True Minds

#### SEPTEMBER

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> 10.00am  
Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> 8.00pm  
Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> 8.00pm

**Working Bee** with Lunch  
**OPENING NIGHT** – AMADEUS  
**FINAL NIGHT** – AMADEUS

Heidelberg Theatre Company Inc  
36 Turnham Avenue, Rosanna, Vic, 3084  
Box Office: 03 94574117 Melway Ref. 32 A1  
Hurstbridge line – Rosanna Station  
Inc. No. A008432X ABN: 70 112 958 020

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**HEIDELBERG THEATRE COMPANY** is a proud member of the **VICTORIAN DRAMA LEAGUE**