

# TRUE MINDS

by **Joanna Murray-Smith**

directed by **Natasha Boyd**

"needle-sharp social observations and distinctive wit make this the most glittering comedy to date from Joanna Murray-Smith"

## PROMPTS

62<sup>nd</sup> Year

No. 5. October, 2014

**Season: 20<sup>th</sup> Nov. to 6<sup>th</sup> Dec., 2014**

Evenings at 8pm. Matinees: Sundays 23<sup>rd</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> November at 2pm

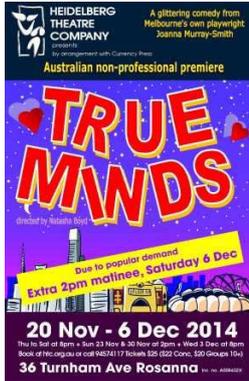
**EXTRA MATINEE – SATURDAY, 6<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER at 2pm.**

**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 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2014.)**



There has been great enthusiasm for HTC's final play **True Minds** by Joanna Murray-Smith with 35 attending the play reading back in August to hear more about this new comedic play and 54 people auditioning for the 6 roles over two nights, making for some tough decisions and necessary callbacks.

However, director Natasha Boyd is very proud and excited to announce the cast;

Clare Hayes - *Daisy Grayson* - familiar to HTC audiences from her roles in **The Glass Menagerie**, **One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest** and **Blithe Spirit**.

Jeremy Just - *Mitch Carter*, Daisy's ex-boyfriend, new to the company and has just finished the lead role in **Killing and Chilling Annabel Lee** at Brighton Theatre and earlier in the year as the lead in **Barefoot in the Park**, the VDL entry for Strathmore Theatre.

Cathy Christensen - *Tracey Grayson*, mother to Daisy - familiar to HTC from many shows such as **The Dinner Game**, **Sylvia**, **Dancing at Lughnasa** and **See How They Run**.

Ken McLeish - *Maxim Grayson*, father to Daisy - a recognizable face to many as Ken has worked with many non-professional companies and was last seen at HTC in **Breaker Morant**.

Blake Stringer - *Benedict Perring*, Daisy's fiancé- well known to HTC and just on stage in **Amadeus**, as well as performing earlier in the year in two other VDL entries **The Vortex** at Malvern and **As Bees in Honey Drown** at Brighton.

Julie Arnold - *Vivienne Fairfax*, mother of Benedict - well known to HTC and recently seen in **Little Murders** and **The Dresser**, as well as **Wicked Sisters** earlier this year at Malvern, and **33 Variations** at WLT last year.

Natasha is excited to be working with five new actors and one previously known acting colleague and well supported by wonderful crew; Maureen McInerney as Production Coordinator, Melanie Belcher as Stage Manager. Owen Evans who again leads the set building team comprising Paddy Moriarty, Neville Wilkie, Ian McCabe, Des Harris, Doug McNaughton, Norm Monks and Noel Purdey and working with new set designer Matthew McLaughlin whose talent will be all on show for all to see come November 20! Wardrobe is again in the capable and creative hands of Wendy Drowley, Vicki Ashton and Lois Connor.

Natasha also says how it is a great privilege to be the second only group ever to perform this fun show (having premiered professionally at MTC last year) and with such an experienced and talented cast, fun and creative times abound!

### Rehearsal Shots

#### True Minds:

below, from left: Julie Arnold, Ken McLeish and Clare Hayes. Next, left: Julie Arnold and Clare Hayes.

Photographer: David Belton



### THE COMMITTEE IS DELIGHTED TO ANNOUNCE THE PLAYS FOR 2015.

Please Note: Opening Nights now Fridays plus performances Wednesdays in the 2nd week

**PLAY 1 When Dad Married Fury - Fri 20th Feb – Sat 7th March.**

by David Williamson – directed by Maureen McInerney

**PLAY 2 The Three Sisters – Fri 1st – Sat 16th May**

by Anton Chekhov – directed by Joan Moriarty

**PLAY 3 The Cripple of Inishmaan - Fri 10th – Sat 25th July**

by Martin McDonagh – directed by Bruce Akers

**PLAY 4 Quartet - Fri 11th – Sat 26th September**

by Ronald Harwood – directed by Brett Turner

**PLAY 5 Don't Dress For Dinner – Fri 20th Nov – Sat 5th Dec**

by Marc Camoletti – directed by Chris McLean

**More information on the plays will feature in the 2015 Playbill. A copy of the Playbill will be included with the final issue of Prompts coming to you in a couple of weeks.**



# Review



left : The Cast & Crew of **Amadeus**  
(photographer: David Belton)

## AMADEUS

by **Peter Shaffer** Directed by **Bruce Akers**.

Reviewed for the Melbourne Observer newspaper,  
by Cheryl Threadgold on Sat. 13 September, 2014.

Heidelberg Theatre Company's reputation for presenting high quality theatre continues to soar with its splendid production of **Amadeus**.

**Amadeus** is playwright Peter Shaffer's fascinating, fictionalised version of Italian composer Antonio Salieri's implication in the mysterious death of Austrian classical composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart in 1791, aged 35. Russian writer Alexander Pushkin gave this rumour credibility in his 1830 poetic drama Mozart and Salieri.

Set in Vienna in 1823, elderly court composer Salieri claims he poisoned Mozart and offers to explain his story.

In flashbacks to the eighteenth century, *Salieri* admires and envies *Mozart's* compositions, but when meeting the gifted prodigy is appalled by his eccentric personality and naïve, childish behaviour.

Believing music to be 'God's art', *Salieri* resents this 'filthy little thing' receiving God's gift of genius. *Salieri's* jealousy, betrayal, lies and attempted seduction of Mozart's wife *Constanze*, eventually become a war with God, through *Mozart*.

Bruce Akers' artistic, masterly direction ensures this compelling, beautifully staged production explores its full potential for drama, humour, irony and emotion.

The wonderful cast is headed by Angelo De Cata as *Antonio Saliero*. De Cata's outstanding, riveting performance in this powerful role reaffirms his fast-growing reputation as one of Melbourne's finest stage actors. Mark Briggs as *Mozart* embodies his character's vulnerability, emotions, and erratic behaviour with expert flair.

Pedro Ramos and Blake Stringer (*Venticellos*) add a delightfully entertaining Greek-chorus element, while Cat Jardine as Mozart's wife *Constanze*, captures well her common touch, and chemistry with Mozart.

Paul Schmidt effectively portrays egalitarian *Emperor Joseph II*, with strong performances also enjoyed from Paul Kennedy (*Count Franz Orsini-Rosenberg*), Don Nicholson (*Count Johann Kilian Von Strack*) and Jim Thomson (*Baron Gottfried Van Swieten*).

Unfortunately space limitation prevents mentioning everyone individually, but congratulations to all actors.

The subtle grandeur of George Tranter's set design, complimented by Deryk Hartwick's lighting, is perfect for creating a lavish setting without detracting from characters, and bravo to the HTC wardrobe team for the magnificent costumes.

### Letter to HTC Subscribers from our President

As many members and subscribers would be aware, the Heidelberg Theatre Company has not increased the price of tickets or subscriptions since the 2011 season.

The Committee has reviewed our revenue and expenditure and in order to maintain our high production standards against the pressures of ever increasing costs we have set the following prices for next year's season.

- The cost of an adult general admission ticket will be \$27 and a concession ticket will be \$24. Concession tickets will also be extended to include senior's card.
- Subscription rates will be offered for 5 or 4 plays and group bookings for 10 or more will be \$22 a ticket. Flexibook subscriptions no longer available.
- Subscription rates for 5 plays will be \$120, with the concession price \$96.
- Subscription rates for 4 plays will be \$110, with the concession price \$88.
- Membership is not included in the subscription rates and is available for an additional cost of \$15 per year.

The 2014 season has been very well received by our subscribers and the fantastic audience occupancy rates that we have achieved again this year have been confirmation of our play choices and the quality of theatre that that the Company has delivered.

You should be receiving your 2015 Playbill in the mail in the coming weeks with all of the details of the coming season. We look forward to continuing to Deliver affordable quality theatre and hope that you will be back next year to enjoy many more entertaining nights with us.

Regards,  
Heidelberg Theatre Company Inc.

### IN 2015 DUE TO POPULAR DEMAND PRE-SHOW SHERRIES WILL BE BACK!!! & WINE WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE.

presented by HTC YOUTH

## WIND IN THE WILLOWS

by **Kenneth Grahame**

adapted by Ryan Purdey and Erich Fordham  
directed by **Rhys Purdey**

**Season: Wed. 17 – Sun. 21 December at  
7pm & Sat 20th at 2pm**  
**Tickets: \$10 Adult, \$5 Children & Students**  
**General Admission Bookings:**  
**online at [www.htc.org.au](http://www.htc.org.au), Box Office  
on 9457 4117 or at the door.**

Young Mole dreams of an adventure, and finds himself right in the middle of one when his home is seized by weasels! With his friends Ratty and Badger, Mole seeks help from the wildly eccentric Mr Toad of Toad Hall, but the amphibian's obsessions with cars ultimately put the unlikely group of friends through a wild ride of planes, trains, automobiles, fisticuffs and prison escapes before ultimately proving there is no place like home. A must see theatre play for all ages!

**Audience:** Families including children from 7 years  
**Running time:** approximately 80 minutes.  
**Venue:** Heidelberg Theatre Company, 36 Turnham Ave.,  
Rosanna.

# AUDITION NOTICE

## WHEN DAD MARRIED FURY

by **David Williamson**  
Director: **Maureen McInerney**

**AUDITION DATES:**  
**Sunday November 23rd, 6pm till 9pm.**  
**Monday November 24th, 7pm till 9pm**

### SEASON DATES:

20th February - 7th March, 2015.  
Weeknights and Saturdays at 8.00pm & Sundays at 2pm.

### AUDITION DETAILS:

- **Auditions by appointment**
- Auditions by Appointment only.
- Venue: Heidelberg Theatre Company  
36 Turnham Ave, Rosanna, (opp Rosanna Station)
- Please contact the director by phone-0409655603 or email  
maureen@costumefactory.com.au to make an appointment.

### PLAY SUMMARY:

Published in 2012, **When Dad Married Fury** is a sharp, funny play reflecting contemporary Australian society. Millionaire businessman Alan has returned to Australia to celebrate his 70th birthday with his two sons and their wives. Fury, his new 33 year old American ex-beauty queen wife is with him. Questions of inheritance loom large! What ensues reveals family resentments and even tragedy previously hidden by Alan's rise to wealth and corporate prominence.

### CHARACTERS

- **Alan Urquhart**, 70. Charming, tough self-made millionaire.
- **Fury**, his glamorous new American wife. 30s
- **Ian Urquhart**, Alan's son. Hard and materialistic. Late 40s.
- **Sue**, Ian's wife. Ambitious go-getter. Mid to late 40s.
- **Ben Urquhart**, Alan's son. Less materialistic and a little more principled than Ian. Mid to late 40s.
- **Laura**, Ben's wife. Appears not to be so money driven. Mid forties.
- **Judy**, Laura's mother just widowed by the suicide of her husband, ruined in one of Alan's schemes. Early 70s.

Ages are approximate.

Educated Australian accents required for all characters  
except *Fury*, who has a middle American accent.

This play requires strong experienced actors, **OVER 30** only.

### COMING EVENTS AT HTC

#### NOVEMBER

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> 10.00am  
Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> 10.00am  
Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> 8.00pm  
Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> 6.00pm  
Monday 24<sup>th</sup> 7.00pm

**Working Bee** with Lunch  
**Working Bee** with Lunch  
**OPENING NIGHT – True Minds**  
**Audition** – When Dad Married Fury  
**Audition** – When Dad Married Fury

#### DECEMBER

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> 8.00pm  
Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> 3.00pm  
Wed. 7<sup>th</sup> 7.00pm  
Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> 7.00pm

**FINAL NIGHT – True Minds**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & XMAS PARTY**  
**OPENING NIGHT – WIND IN THE WILLOWS**  
**CLOSING NIGHT – WIND IN THE WILLOWS**

### HTC NEEDS AN EDITOR FOR PROMPTS

You can be

## EDITOR

of HTC's Prompts  
in 2015

Like to know more?  
Call **0409 550 444**  
or email:  
[htc@htc.org.au](mailto:htc@htc.org.au)

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & XMAS PARTY REMEMBER

to keep

**Sunday 14th December**

**FREE** for the **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** at 2pm  
followed by the **XMAS PARTY** at 3pm

### AMADEUS – those costumes!!!



(photo 1, from left) Lois Connor, Vicki Ashton and Wendy Drowley in the Green Room preparing the display of **Amadeus** costumes during **True Minds**.

HTC is thrilled that **Amadeus** has received rave reviews for Acting, Set, Lighting, Costumes and Music - Oh that music!

Speaking of Costumes, a selection of these will be displayed in the foyer during the next play for patrons to closely view these beautiful garments.

Also I wish to thank my C team responsible for the wonderful result. Especially, Vicki Ashton who created the magnificent costumes for *Salieri*, *Mozart*, *Constanze*, and more, about twelve in all, with waist coats, breeches, shirts and all the lacy bits. Lois Connor, Di Brennan and Paris Elstone sourced, sewed and organised the many costumes from HTC wardrobe - we pulled out everything we had!

### AMADEUS - AN INSIGHT INTO THE OUT OF SIGHT

by **Pedro Ramos** - cast member

Unfortunately space does not permit the full transcript of Pedro's article here.

You can read it online at: [htc.org.au](http://htc.org.au)

(below from left) United, Sometimes the paranoia was well-justified, Morgan prepares the *Venticellos*



and The Tireless Technicians: - Mel & Christian.



**Amadeus** takes after its namesake in more ways than one. Like the young man from Salzburg, the play can be unruly, demanding, exuberant, uncooperative, and stubborn; it is prone to mishaps and misfortunes, wherein it must simply learn to make do with what it's been given, and it makes no compromises - it also has a lot of heart and oozes brilliance. Unlike the man himself, however, *Amadeus* does not achieve the latter effortlessly.

**Amadeus** had more than its fair share of unexpected changes to adapt to, and we would all have to put in a lot of effort to stay the course. Let's begin with the fact that **Amadeus** was being helmed by the esteemed and infamous Bruce Akers, whom inner circleists of the HTC community will know is cursed. I won't tell that story. Some people knew this going in, others, like me, were blissfully oblivious.

Into rehearsals and we had thus far managed to offset any setbacks through diligence and delegation, beautifully coordinated by Christian, Mel, and Mr. Akers. And so we went on, every show, in fear and excitement of what might happen to us next. For just a small moment in time, a moment the size of thirteen shows, our lives acquired a terrifying and thrilling purpose. We had the power. So it would be a battle to the end - and **Amadeus** was the battleground.

Did we surface from this as victors, successful in our campaign? Or must we too survive to see ourselves become extinct? Well, we all have our opinions; I'll leave you to form your own. My thoughts on the matter are inconsequential, but I will say this: I'm looking forward to the VDL Awards. Vi saluto!

## PLEASE HELP at the WORKING BEES



for **TRUE MINDS**

**Saturdays**

**8th & 15th 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**

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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