



Heidelberg
Theatre
Company

PROMPTS

a proud member of the Victorian Drama League

HTC'S REMAINING 2015 SEASON

April 2015

Please Note: Opening Nights now Fridays

No. 2, 63rd Year

Extra performance Wednesdays in the 2nd week

PLAY 2: The Three Sisters – Friday 1st May – Sat 16th May

by Anton Chekhov, Translated by Christopher Hampton – directed by Joan Moriarty

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

by Martin McDonagh – directed by Bruce Akers

PLAY 4: Quartet – Fri 11th September – 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 McLea

For further information, consult the 2015 Playbill which also contains information on subscriptions, renewals, vouchers and memberships.

You can download the Playbill from our website www.htc.org.au

All patrons of the Company are invited to become active members. Your participation will be greatly welcomed. Try something new or bring your well-practiced talents to our theatre

COMING EVENTS AT HTC

APRIL

Saturday 18th 10.00am Working Bee with Lunch

Saturday 25th 10.00am Working Bee with Lunch

MAY

Friday 1st 8.00pm **OPENING NIGHT – THREE SISTERS**

Sunday 3rd 7.00pm **The Cripple of Inishmaan Auditions**

Monday 4th 7.00pm **The Cripple of Inishmaan Auditions**

Saturday 16th 8.00pm **CLOSING NIGHT - THREE SISTERS**

JUNE

Saturday 27th 10.00am Working Bee with Lunch

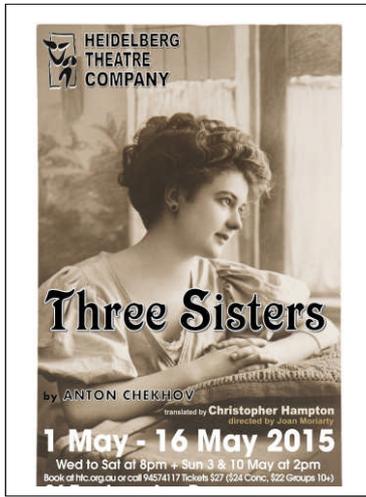
WHAT'S THE GOSS?

Bravo to Christian Dell'Olio and Mark Briggs, from our production of **Amadeus**, who are featuring in **Freedom of the City** by Brian Friel at the Essendon Theatre Company. April 9th to April 18th, phone 9330 4808 or visit essendontheatrecompany@gmail.com for further details.

Chris Baldock is busy at Williamstown Little Theatre with an acting role in Kris Weber's production of **The Other Place**.

Congratulations to Angelo de Cata (our Salieri in *Amadeus*), Leann Cairnduff, Juliet Hayday and John Keogh amongst others who are featuring in **The Crucible** by Arthur Miller at Malvern Theatre Company. 24th April - 9th of May, phone 1300 131 552 for bookings. \$20 (no concession).

Brett Turner who will be directing **Quartet** at HTC in September this year will also be directing **Visiting Mr Green** by Jeff Baron at the Williamstown Little Theatre while Kieran Tracey, who played in HTC's **The Lion and the Winter**, will play the role of Ross in this two-hander. 23rd April- 9th May, Visit Williamstown Little Theatre website for booking details.



Three Sisters

by Anton Chekhov

Directed by Joan Moriarty

Translated by Christopher Hampton

Season: **1st – 16th MAY 2015**

Weeknights and Saturdays at 8:00pm,

Sundays at 2:00 pm

Adults: \$27 Concession Card Holders & Members \$24

Groups of 10+ \$22 per ticket.

Preview & First Wednesday Night Specials

- Groups 50+ - \$10 per ticket.

For further information, our website: htc.org.au or call the Box Office on 9457 4117



Set in provincial Russia at the turn of the 19th century 'Three Sisters' is a portrait of a well-to-do family over a four year period. Their hopes and dreams they feel will be fulfilled if they can only return to Moscow. As this dream gradually evaporates, they must find new meaning in their lives.

We certainly have an "A List" cast and crew for our next production. Be sure to book early for the "Three Sisters" as our first play booked out very quickly. All of the cast have had previous experience of working at HTC. Cat Jardine, Maree Barnett and Aimee Sanderson play the sisters while Barry Lockett, Laurie Jezard, James Antonas, Pedro Ramos, Xavier Ryan, Llaaneath Poor, Mick Poor, Sam Howard, Julian Adams, Raymond Martini, Frances Hutson and Morgan Thomas-Connor complete the very accomplished cast.

Marie Mackrell has come up with a sumptuous set design beautifully depicting a turn of the 20th century Russian estate. We welcome Rachael Kertes to HTC as the designer of the the period costumes; she will be ably assisted by our regular wardrobe people. Owen Evans again heads up our set building team with his many trusty helpers. Karen Wakeham is doing double duty as Production Coordinator and Assistant Director keeping track of 15 people up there on the stage.

We are all excited about the production and look forward to presenting the audience with this wonderful play.

(Pictured left; Three Sisters rehearsal. From left; Aimée Sanderson, Llaaneath Poor and Morgan Thomas-Connor.

Pictured centre; the working bee lunch. From left: Humphrey (Wardrobe Canine Mascot), Des Harris, Doug McNaughton, Norm Munks.)

Pictured right; Three Sisters rehearsal. From left; Maree Barnett, Aimée Sanderson and Laurie Jezard.

AUDITION NOTICE

THE CRIPPLE OF INISHMAAN

by Martin McDonagh

directed by Bruce Akers

Sunday, May 3rd, 7:00pm.

Monday, May 4th, 7:00pm.

SEASON DATES

10th July - 25th July, 2015.

Weeknights and Saturdays at 8.00pm. Sundays at 2pm.

Venue: Heidelberg Theatre Company 36 Turnham Ave, Rosanna, (opp Rosanna Station)

Audition Details: Scripts will be available at the theatre 30 minutes prior to the audition.

Auditionees, please bring a recent headshot and a brief CV of your recent stage experience.

Ages are approximate. This play requires strong experienced actors.

For audition appointments or further inquiries, contact the director at bwakers27@hotmail.com or 0432 984 78.

PLAY SUMMARY

Set on a remote island off the west coast of Ireland in 1934, this is a wonderfully strange and comic tale in the great tradition of Irish storytelling.

When word arrives that a Hollywood director is coming to film 'The Man of Aran' the one person who wants to be in the film more than anyone else is young Billy Claven, keen to break away from the tedium of daily life. Filled with beautifully drawn characters, this heartfelt play will surely delight and enchant all audiences.

CHARACTERS

Character ages are indicative only. For Billy, Helen and Bartley, actors in their twenties who can pass for younger are invited to audition.

All actors have Irish accents and an attempt should be made for the accent at the Audition. There are plenty of examples of the Galway accent on YouTube.

- **Kate Osbourne:** Late 50s-60s. Billy's adoptive aunt who has been known to talk to stones. Slightly other worldly and naïve in comparison with her sister.
- **Eileen Osbourne:** Late 50s- 60s. Billy's other adoptive aunt and sister to Kate. Crustier than her sister. Similarly very attached to Billy. Runs a small, lightly stocked shop with Kate.
- **Johnnypateenmike:** 60s. The island's official gossip monger. He ekes out his meagre living by peddling traditionally irrelevant gossip to any interested buyer. Quick of temper. Has a fiery relationship with his mother.
- **Billy Craven:** 17-18. Has a twisted left arm and inflexible left leg. Behind his sweet nature is a fierce determination to get out of Inishmaan. There's a slyness about him. Has a crush on Helen and wants to find out what happened to his parents.
- **Helen McCormick:** 17-18. Known as "Slippy Helen" , a feisty lass who is the object of Billy's affections. Routinely amuses herself by pegging fresh eggs at targets that include her brother. Pugnacious.
- **Bartley McCormick:** 16-17. Helen's kid brother. Not the smartest. Life revolves around getting "sweeties" from the local shop.
- **Babbybobby Bennett:** 30s-40s. The local boatman. A rather good natured if melancholic character. Lost his wife to TB the previous year and still grieving. Sympathetic friend to Billy (for the most part).
- **Doctor McSharry:** 40s-50s. The town doctor. Trying to restore some sense to this fractured community. Exasperated.
- **Mammy O'Dougal:** Johnny's alcoholic 90 year-old mother. Intent on drinking herself to death (with some help from her son). No-nonsense woman. Still grieving for her husband who died from a shark attack in 1871.

Readings of the play and rehearsals are to be conducted ASAP after casting.

Rehearsals will commence in full from mid May. Sunday afternoons from 1pm.

Two weeknight rehearsals; possibly Monday and Thursday from 7.30pm (to be confirmed).

Additional rehearsals when and if required.

WORKING BEES: Sat 27 Jun & Sat 4 Jul; 10am-4pm. Lunch is provided.

WHEN DAD MARRIED FURY

Melbourne Observer Review

Heidelberg Theatre Company presented Australian playwright David Williamson's contemporary comedy When Dad Married Fury.

Written in 2012 in the aftermath of the Global Financial Crisis, Williamson's script uses observational socio-political commentary to focus on the ugly impact of money on human relationships and attitudes.

Financial greed, mismanagement, investors' suicides, jealousy, resentment, fear of losing family inheritances and religious issues surface as recently widowed multi-millionaire investor Alan Urquhart returns to Australia with American 33 year old new bride, Fury to celebrate his 70th birthday. Alan's sons Ian and Ben and their wives are horrified to learn there is no pre-nuptial agreement and, to complicate matters, Fury is pregnant with twins! But there is more to Fury than meets the eye, and Williamson's script ensures surprises for the audience and Alan's family as characters are tested as to which is the stronger - family love, or money?

Under the direction of Maureen McInerney, the fine cast includes Peter Hatherley (Alan Urquhart), Kylie Ryan (Fury), Darren Gregor (Ian), Gavin Baker (Ben), Mandy Murray (Ian's wife Sue), Natasha Boyd (Ben's wife Laura), and Marianne Collopy (Judy, Laura's mother). Kylie Ryan delivers a particularly strong performance as mystery new wife Fury, and Mandy Murray exudes vitality as Sue.

Marianne Collopy (Judy) beautifully delivers her poignant monologue when describing her deceased husband's good old-fashioned values, and presents a moving second scene with daughter Laura (Natasha Boyd).

Matthew McLaughlin's cleverly designed multi-purpose set is artistically enhanced by Michael Rowe's lighting, and Stage Assistants Bobbie Parish and Llaaneath Poor ensure efficient, slick scene changes.

It is wonderful to see this Australian play on Heidelberg's stage, but there was an unsettling element. Perhaps it was the pauses between the naturalistic dialogue on opening night, or maybe the overwhelming reality of the power of money to destruct lives.

This play has much for audiences to think about afterwards and can be seen until March 7.

Congratulations Heidelberg Theatre;



Cheryl Threadgold
Reviewer, Melbourne Observer

(Pictured above from left: Gavin Baker, Darren Gregor and Peter Hatherley)

WHEN DAD MARRIED FURY

Victorian Drama League Review

The sound of Angry Birds coming from Ian's (Darren Gregor) cell phone establishes the year of the play's setting as 2010 better than any surtitle could. In walks Ian's brother Ben (Gavin Baker) and they get down to business. Their father Alan (Peter Hatherley) is arriving shortly from the USA under a cloud of significant financial irregularity. The boys are worried about their inheritance, worries made worse due to Alan marrying again, to a woman half his age. Meanwhile, Ben's wife Laura (Natasha Boyd) is still grieving the death of her father. Having lost everything after investing in one of Alan's crooked schemes, he took his own life, leaving Laura to help her mother Judy (Marianne Collopy) pick up the pieces.

As the play progressed, I found myself wondering what the emotional stakes were; whose story was it? Marianne Collopy's role as Judy, provided the closest thing to a beating heart in the play. Her Judy clearly felt the weight of loss, but refused to let it stop her. Writing as someone who only lost his own father a year ago, the bravery Collopy imbued the newly-widowed Judy with was completely believable.

The staging was a little too flat in places, especially when filling the width of the Heidelberg stage meant some characters having to shout sideways to each other. There were also a couple of "soap opera" exchanges (where a character faces the audience and another comes up right behind them, facing the same way—you know what I mean) that felt a little lazy.

But, let's be honest, these are nitpicks, really. Heidelberg Theatre Company has put together a good opener for their 2015 season that's definitely worth a visit.

Alan's new wife, Fury (Kylie Ryan), is a walking contradiction. Her name conjures images of ferocity, tumult, or upheaval, but ultimately her presence is all rather polite really. At the dinner party where everyone meets, Alan is constantly curmudgeonly (he is through most of the play), while, oddly enough, it's Laura that clashes with Fury the most. Back in the States, Fury belongs to the Tea Party, as right-wing as it gets over there. However, while her political views offend Laura's left-wing beliefs in reason and compassion, it's Fury's attitude towards homosexuality and knowing Laura has a gay daughter that really cause sparks to fly.

These scenes in particular highlight the challenge with playing Fury. Her character is almost irredeemable. She quotes Leviticus to Laura, and while author David Williamson is wise not to have her quote that book of the Bible all the way to the part about putting gay people to death, the spectre of that abhorrent passage is there. Later, in a wonderful scene when Fury confronts Alan about his crimes, she is faced with an ugly reflection of her "noble" ideals, seeing what a life devoted to greed and selfishness can turn one into. It's a hefty role to navigate and one that Kylie Ryan did extremely well.

Natasha Boyd pushed a little hard during moments of sentiment, but was in wonderful form when she got to relax and enjoy Laura's delightfully acerbic moments. Darren Gregor as Ian, along with Mandy Murray as Ian's wife, Sue, made a great pair with their focus and energy. Gavin Baker began far too quiet in the opening scene, but once settled carved out a nice spot on stage as the little brother. Having only cut a deal to avoid prison time, as opposed to doing the right thing because it was "the right thing to do", the last thing Alan deserved at the end of the play was hugs from his sons. However, Peter Hatherley does deserve plaudits for playing that angry and frightened character as well as he did. 20/2/2015.



David Collins
Reviewer, V.D.L.

(Pictured above from left: Darren Gregor, Mandy Murray, Gavin Baker and Natasha Boyd)

**PLEASE HELP at the WORKING BEES
for THREE SISTERS -
Saturdays 18th & 25th April 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**



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