

PROMPTS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE HEIDELBERG THEATRE COMPANY



The Woman in Black

adapted by Stephen Mallatratt from the novel by Susan Hill

directed by Shane Ryan

19th Nov. – 6th Dec., 2008

Wednesday to Saturday at 8.15pm,

Matinee Sunday 30th November at 3pm

Subscribers requiring to alter their chosen night or reserve their booking are asked to call BEFORE Monday, 3rd November, 2008.

The finale to a fine year of diverse productions is one to send chills running down your spine. **The Woman In Black** is a nail biting adaptation of the celebrated novel by Susan Hill. The play has proved to be very popular with audiences and players alike whenever it has been staged and HTC can't wait to transport its audience into a terrifying and ghostly world.

The Company is delighted to welcome Shane Ryan in his first directing role with HTC. Shane has recently caught the directing bug and directed his first full length play, **Closer** in 2007 for Beaumaris Theatre Company. He has acted with a number of companies in Melbourne in such productions as **Blackadder**, **Amadeus**; **Great Expectations** and **A Skull in Connemara** and **Laughter on the 23rd Floor**. He was seen on the HTC stage playing *Hildy Johnson* in **The Front Page** in 2006.

Shane has assembled a talented cast for this production. We welcome back the versatile and very experienced Justin Stephens who plays the young *Actor*. Keith Hutton plays the lawyer *Kipps*. Keith has not acted at Heidelberg before but has worked with many of Melbourne's best community companies and has won numerous awards. Also a big welcome to Seona Cosgriff who plays the *Woman* in the show.

Amongst the list of people in the off-stage roles are names new to Heidelberg audiences as well as many whose names feature in every production. Maureen McInerney is the Production Coordinator and Helen Barrett is Assistant Director and Stage Manager. Once again our Set Building Team is led by Dennis Pain, Jeff

Saliba is designing and operating the sound, Jason Bovaird is designing the lighting, Cassie Williams is our movement coach, costuming is in the creative hands of Lois Connor and Wendy Drowley. The set design is by George Tranter.

It's been a long time since, after a particularly agonising scream, audience members gasp and say, "*This is going to give me nightmares later on!*" What with all the hype, thunderous music and coarse virtues of super-budget Hollywood fear-jerkers, it's nice to think the theatre can still scare us too. Don't miss it!

HTC Youth *presents*

A Midsummer Night's Dream

by William Shakespeare

directed by Douglas Montgomery

Season:

Thursday 11th - Saturday 20th

December, 2008

at 8pm and 3pm

at the Theatre

All Tickets: \$10

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BOOKINGS & SUBSCRIPTIONS 9457 4117

Audition Notice

THE DINNER GAME

by Francis Veber

Sunday 23rd November 1.30 – 5pm.
and Monday 24th November 7.30 - 9pm.

at **Heidelberg Theatre Company**
Turnham Avenue, Rosanna.

Season: 19th February – 7th March, 2009
(Matinees – Sundays 22nd Feb. & Sunday 1st March at 2pm)

Open Auditions

Director – Joan Moriarty – phone 9459 3495

Synopsis: It is Pierre's turn to find a real loser to invite to dinner with his well heeled friends so that they can have a good laugh at the loser's expense and Pierre has found a winner. Francois' hobby or obsession is making models of famous buildings out of matchsticks and recording exactly how many in each masterpiece. But Pierre "does his back" M. Francois arrives and offers assistance and Pierre's world begins to fall apart.

This modern farce is very French and very funny.

CHARACTERS

French accents are a distinct possibility.

Pierre Brochant - A successful publisher, handsome, 40s – 50s.

Christine Brochant - Pierre's attractive wife, 30 plus.

Archambaud - a distinguished osteopath, any age.

Francois Pignon - a slow witted tax collector, 40s - 60s.

Juste Leblanc - handsome writer, mid 40s.

Marlene Sasseur - Pierre's occasional, highly strung, attractive but intellectually challenged mistress, 30s.

Lucien Cheval - Francois' boss at the Ministry, 40s – 60s.

Anyone interested in auditioning is welcome to contact the director to obtain soft copies of the script.

Announcing HTC'S 2009 Season

Your copy of the 2009 Playbill will be included with the final issue of Prompts, coming to you in a couple of weeks from now. Details of Subscription Renewal, New Subscriptions, Gift Subscriptions, Gift Vouchers and Company Membership will be in the Playbill.

Play 1 - **The Dinner Game** by Francis Veber directed by Joan Moriarty – 19th Feb. – 7th March.

Play 2 - **Cloudstreet** adapted by Nick Enright and Justin Mojo directed by Chris Baldock – 30th April – 16th May.

Play 3 - **A Skull in Connemara** by Martin McDonagh directed by Justin Stephens – 9th – 25th July.

Play 4 - **Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead** by Tom Stoppard directed by Chris Mclean –
17th Sep. – 3rd Oct.

Play 5 - **The Philadelphia Story** by Philip Barry directed by John Keogh 19th Nov. – 5th Dec.

PLEASE NOTE:

HTC's 2009 Season will feature the following changes:-

Starting Times: Evening performances **8:00pm**
Matinees: **2:00pm**

Exception – Cloudstreet - performances will commence at **7:30pm** (evening); **2:00pm** (Sunday matinee)

Performances: **Week 1** - Thursday/Friday/Saturday/Sunday
Week 2 - Thursday/Friday/Saturday/Sunday
Week 3 - Wednesday/Thursday/Friday/Saturday

Prices: no change

(more information of the Season will be available in the 2009 Playbill)

AUDITION NOTICE

of Nick Enright and Justin Monjo's epic adaptation of Tim Winton's

CLOUDSTREET

Directed by Chris Baldock

Season – April 30 to May 16 2009

**Audition dates – Sunday December 7 from 1pm
and Monday December 8 from 7.30pm**

Audition venue – The 1st Rosanna Scout Hall, De Winton Park, St James Road, Rosanna. Melways 32 A2
(The Scout Hall is at the end of St James Road and backs on to the railway line. It is on the same side of the railway line as Heidelberg Theatre Company)

Presented by the award-winning **The Grapes of Wrath** team, **Cloudstreet** is one of Australia's most celebrated and loved theatre experiences. Spanning 20 years between 1943 and 1963, it chronicles the lives of two working class families, the Lambs and the Pickles, who come to live together at One Cloud Street in Perth. Adapted from Tim Winton's Miles Franklin Award-winning novel, this sprawling, epic exploration and celebration of life, will be a not-to-be missed theatrical event. Don't miss being a part of it!

Characters (ages are approximates):

Sam Pickles – 40s/50s

Ted Pickles / Gerry Clay / Fred Blunt / Headley – 20s/30s

Dolly Pickles / Alma – 40s/50s

Hattie Lamb / Ted's Girl / Lucy / Pansy – 20s/early 30s

Rose Pickles – 20s/early 30s

Red Lamb / Barmaid / Darleen / Anthea – 20s/early 30s

Lester Lamb – 40s/50s

Lon Lamb / Tony Raven – 20s/ early 30s

Oriel Lamb / Mrs Tisborne – 40s/50s

Elaine Lamb / Mrs Clay / Merle / Meredith – 20s/30s

Quick Lamb – 20s/early 30s

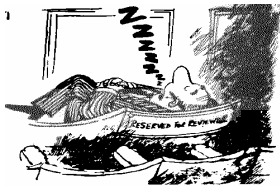
Fish Lamb – 20s

Black Man / American Pilot – 30s/40s

Chub Pickles / Doctor / Angry Father / Mr Wentworth / Sarge
– 20s/30s

Please Note:

- *Cloudstreet* has a running time of approximately 4 hours (including two intervals). Evening performances will commence at 7.30 pm. Please take this into consideration before auditioning.
- Rehearsals will commence mid-January. There will hopefully be a read-through before Christmas
- Rehearsals will be Monday and Wednesday evenings from 7.30 pm and Sundays at a time to be determined
- Cast will only be required for 1 rehearsal during the week + the Sunday rehearsal from mid-January until we move into the theatre in March. The actor playing *Black Man* will only be required for the Sundays during this period.
 - **Experienced actors only required.** Please ensure you have read the play before the auditions.
 - To book an audition time, request a script, make an enquiry etc please email the director at chris.baldock@gmail.com. Email enquiries only please.



REVIEW

Don's Party

by David Williamson

Directed by Peter Newling.

Performance: 17 September, 2008 Reviewed

by Nicky McFarlane

for 3CR's *Curtain Up* Sundays at One 855AM



First performed in 1972 and set in 1969 on Election night. The guests are eagerly expecting a Labour win. I have to admit I never saw the film and this is my first time of seeing it on stage, though I have of course read it. The dialogue is peppered (or perhaps salted) with fart stories and other scatological jokes and pictures, which do get tedious. The action mostly consists of the men proposing sex to all the women present except their own wives, and occasionally achieving it. Their own women they continually put down with derogatory remarks, otherwise totally ignoring them. Talk about men behaving badly!

Enough about the play. What about the production? The director has got together a talented team who all perform with huge enthusiasm, high energy and nice touches of appalling behaviour.

Damian Coffey as *Mack*, the only single man present (his wife has kicked him out,) is sleazy, unshaven, uncouth, and very funny indeed. His friends will never view him in the same way. *Don*, Cameron South, is any woman's worst nightmare as a host, "what no tonic water? Give your guests a drink for god's sake!" *Kath*, Janine Evans as his wife, elegant in a long flowered gown, sinks deep into depression as the night goes on. The first to arrive, *Jody*, Melissa New, and Simon Fenn as *Simon*, take *Don* and *Kath* by surprise. *Jody*, elegant in a smart cocktail dress is mortified as she realises she is overdressed. She also admits to always voting Liberal, to which *Mack* responds that he has "never met anyone who voted Lib. Can't understand how they keep getting in." At this point *Don* does his good deed for the day, hastily changing into a dinner jacket to make her feel better, much to the derision of his incoming friends. *Simon* is happy enough exchanging smutty stories with his mates, until when *Jody* stands up to him, he takes a swing at her and leaves in a huff.

Next to arrive, *Jenny*, Chris Perkins and *Mal*, Matthew Ray, have problems; *Jenny* claims to have a migraine, won't speak to anyone, and is referred to as the sulky bitch in the corner, while *Mal* is boringly worried about his job. *Evan*, David Miller, and *Kerrie*, Vanessa Alpins, come in. *Kerrie* is a successful artist, while *Evan* puts her down at every opportunity. *Cooley*, Craig Blumeris, and *Susan*, Alexandra Cooper, arrive. She is a pretty teen-ager, *Cooley* having shed his previous mature partner. But she turns out to be quite tough and able to look after herself and speak her mind. *Cooley* proceeds to get roaring drunk while lusting after every other female. All these unlovable characters drink and carry on while every now and then we hear an ABC announcer, David Small, giving voting results. By this time all the women are in the sitting room talking about babies while the men are in the kitchen and the patio with the beer. At the end, when he announces that the Liberals have won a majority, there is no one left standing to care.

The set, by George Tranter stretches the full width of the wide stage. On the right a small sitting room with a couch. Up stage, steps and a raised area with the front door and passage to bedrooms. Up stage centre the kitchen with a long bar overlooking the TV room with a couch and a bean bag, used with great effect by *Mac*. Exit down steps to the patio with table, chairs and an esky full of beer. Lighting, designed by Craig Percey, covers each area separately. I found the dimming of all the areas except the one being acted in rather overdone. Perhaps it could have been better done with a subtle touch.

A very entertaining production, and surprisingly relevant. Maybe times have not changed as much as we like to think.

Don't Miss –HTC's AGM, In House Awards & Christmas Party – Sunday 14th Dec. 3pm

NOVEMBER

Saturday 8 th	10.00am	Working Bee with Lunch
Saturday 15 th	10.00am	Working Bee with Lunch
Wednesday 19 th	8.15pm	FIRST NIGHT – The Woman in Black
Sunday 23 rd	1.30pm	AUDITION – The Dinner Game
Monday 24 th	7.30pm	AUDITION – The Dinner Game
Tuesday 25 th	1.30pm	Heidelberg Film Society – State Fair
	7.30pm	– State Fair
Thursday 27 th	7.30pm	Heidelberg Film Society -
		<i>Christmas Dinner at the Heidelberg RSL</i>

DECEMBER

Saturday 6 th	8.15pm	FINAL NIGHT – The Woman in Black
Sunday 7 th	1.00pm	AUDITION - Cloudstreet
Monday 8 th	7.30pm	AUDITION - Cloudstreet
Sunday 14th	3.00pm	HTC Annual General Meeting,
		In House Awards & Christmas Party.
Wednesday 10 th	8.00pm	FIRST NIGHT - HTC Youth season of
Saturday 20 th	8.00pm	FINAL NIGHT A Midsummer Night's Dream

HELP!!! needed at the
WORKING BEES
 for
The Woman in Black
Saturdays
8th & 15th Nov.
from 10.00am
lunch is provided
 So do come along, it's a great
 experience and a fun time too!
Working Bees not your style?
 How about assisting
 backstage or foh
Like to know more – call the Theatre
on 9455 3039