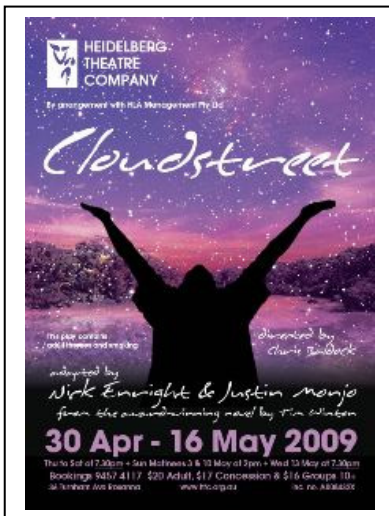


PROMPTS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE HEIDELBERG THEATRE COMPANY



Cloudstreet

adapted by Nick Enright and Justin Monjo

directed by Chris Baldock

the play contains adult themes and smoking

30th April – 16th May, 2009

Evenings at 7.30pm

Matinees - Sundays 3rd & 10th May at 2pm

Subscribers requiring to alter their chosen night or reserve their booking are asked to call BEFORE Wednesday, 15th April, 2009.



Rehearsal shots from Cloudstreet

Heidelberg Theatre Company is delighted to present **Cloudstreet**: an Australian classic adapted by Nick Enright and Justin Monjo from Tim Winton's Miles Franklin Award-winning novel.

Cloudstreet is a poignant exploration of meaning and identity that is full of humour and a true celebration of life! It debuted in Sydney in 1998 and is one of Australia's most celebrated and loved theatre experiences.

Set in Western Australia during the Menzies era, **Cloudstreet** depicts the 20 year journey of two rural families who move to Perth after suffering separate tragedies. United coincidentally under the one roof, both families are polar opposites: the Lambs are hard-working but the Pickles are rather lazy. As their lives become slowly intertwined, an epic story of love, happiness and drama unfolds that is funny and uplifting.

We welcome back Chris Baldock as **Cloudstreet** director. A talented all-rounder who directed **The Grapes of Wrath**, **The Rise and Fall of Little Voice**, **Shirley Valentine** and starred in **Side Man**, **The Knacker's ABC** and many other HTC productions.

A talented and tight-knit cast has been busily rehearsing since January which includes Bruce Akers (**The Grapes of Wrath**, **Art**, **Nicholas Nickleby**), Anne Pagram (**Molly Sweeney**, **A Flea in her Ear**, **Nicholas Nickleby**), Peter Prenga (**Born Yesterday**, **Side Man**), Tim Constantine (**Angels in America**), Melanie Rowe (**And A Nightingale Sang**, **The Knacker's ABC**), and Craig Blumeris (**The Cherry Orchard**, **Don's Party**). HTC is excited to present some new stars to our theatre: Rose Braybrook, Kellie Bray, Maree Barnett, Matt Reynolds, Caroline Buckle, James Antonas, Andrew Mayes and Chris Young – a VDL nominee and a dedicated actor from Geelong!

Our wonderful backstage crew includes: David Dare on Set Design, Jason Bovaird on Lighting Design, George Bissett on Sound Design and original music by Paul Karafillis. Maureen McInerney is Production Coordinator and Dennis Pain heads the Set Building Team. Heidelberg Theatre Company welcomes Stage Manager Shirley Sydenham and Assistant Stage Manager Robyn Legge. Shirley and Robyn are also working on props alongside Wendy Drowley and Lois Connor on costumes.

Cloudstreet will captivate the hearts and minds of audiences and promises to be an unforgettable night of theatre!

Book quickly because seats are selling fast with some sold-out or nearly sold-out performances already!

(Preview by Chris Baldock & Suzannah Rowley)

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 Email htc@htc.org.au
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EMAIL PROMPTS CAMPAIGN: Like to join HTC's email list and receive *Prompts* in digital format? It also saves us money on printing and postage. If so please send an email to prompts@htc.org.au and include your name, address & phone number

BOOKINGS & SUBSCRIPTIONS 9457 4117



Review

"THE DINNER GAME" by Francis Verber,
 Directed by Joan Moriarty
 Reviewed by John Gunn, 22nd February, 2009 for
 3CR's **CURTAIN UP** Sundays at One (855 AM)

This play translated from the French, and in recent times performed in French by a local French Theatre Company, is the story of *Pierre*, a successful publisher who belongs to a cynical and rather cruel group that has a rather nasty... shall we say... *dinner game* every Wednesday to which they invite a guest; the premise for the guest's selection is that he must be an idiot or simpleton or have particular traits or interests that will lay him open for ridicule by this elite group, for their enjoyment. The guest this week is *Francois* who since his wife left him two years ago has taken up building match stick bridges/building etc and works for the dreaded Taxation Dept.

Pierre's wife, *Christine*, is not impressed with this Dinner Game and goes out for the evening which unfortunately goes all wrong and does not live up to *Pierre's* expectations. *Pierre* has put his back out and when the hapless *Francois* arrives, tries to fob him off for another night, *Christine* rings to say she is not coming back, *Pierre's* occasional 'bit on the side' *Marlene* arrives as does his friend *Le Blanc*, who was *Christine's* ex lover before *Pierre* pinched her from him.....then there's *Cheval* also from the Taxation Dept.

When I first viewed this play last year it did not come across to me as being a farce in either the traditional English sense or the style of the Feydeau plays, but more a soufflé that needs to be played with as much French style as one can muster as the text is really gossamer thin. It is a play that requires those special mannerisms and nuances, and in this director Joan Moriarty's cast have wisely used French accents which did highlight the French theatrical craziness. The tight direction and physicality made for a much more entertaining night at the theatre.

Looking at the cast, in the key role of *Francois*, Laurie Jezard, a very talented actor who plays comedy like an old master, had loads of physical and vocal energy along with excellent timing – a joy to watch.... Chris McLean as *Pierre* also put lots of energy into his role. I also enjoyed the performance of John Cheshire as the other rather odd Tax Inspector *Cheval* who is brought in to help track down *Christine*, who *Pierre* thinks might be engaged in some hank panky as pay back for his Dinner game antics.

Catherine Ryan Christensen had elegance and a nice sophistication in the small role of *Christine* and I noted that the role of *Marlene* as performed by Kylie Bell, was much stronger in this production than previously seen but I do feel that the playwright Francis Veber has not written these two female roles well at all – it really is a play for men... he was nominated for a Best Adapted Screenplay Oscar nomination for *La Cage aux Folles* but like *Dinner Game* had only mediocre roles for women. This strong cast was rounded out by a nice performance by George Bissett in the small role of the *Doctor*.



from left: *Pierre* (Chris McLean) *Francois* (Laurie Jezard) and *Le Blanc* (Jim Thomson) in *The Dinner Game*

Leanne Cole's set design worked well as did the sound design by Tim McLaughlan, and voice-overs and the constancy of the telephone ringing (such an important adjunct to the flimsy plot) came across well – costuming was of the usual high standard seen at Heidelberg.

To sum up, this mediocre play with an excellent cast and expertly directed by Joan Moriarty proved so much more entertaining and was a stronger and more polished production than seen previously – the show absolutely ripped along with the audience chuckling throughout

PLEASE NOTE:

HTC's 2009 Season features the following changes:-

Starting Times:

Evenings **8:00pm** Matinees **2:00pm** **Sundays**

(Exception – Cloudstreet performances commence at

Evenings 7:30pm; Sundays 2:00pm)

Performances:

Week 1 – Thursday/Friday/Saturday/Sunday

Week 2 – Thursday/Friday/Saturday/Sunday

Week 3 – Wednesday/Thursday/Friday/Saturday

Prices: no change

Tickets are to be paid for at time of booking.
 (more information is available in the 2009 Playbill or call the Theatre Booking Office on **9457 4117**).

HTC has two types of Assistive Listening Devices.

1. Induction Loop System.

Permanently installed for Rows A - F Seats 1-10.

This can be accessed by switching on the T switch on your hearing aid.

2. F.M. System - Phonic Ear (no hearing aid required)

Patrons will need to wear a headphone to access the sound. A limited number of headphones will be available at the Theatre for

Matinee performances only.

Please reserve them when booking tickets.

(The FM System is being trialed with assistance from the Banyule City Council)

Further information is available at the Ticket Box.

AUDITION NOTICE

Heidelberg Theatre Company's production of

A Skull In Connemara

by Martin McDonagh

**Auditions will be held at Heidelberg Theatre Company
36 Turnham Avenue Rosanna
on the following dates:**

Saturday May 2, 2.00pm

Monday May 4, 7:30pm

**Play Season: 9th – 25th JULY 2009
Weeknights and Saturdays at 8:00pm
Sundays at 2:00pm**

The Story:

Mick Dowd has a dirty job - he has to get rid of dead bodies that have been in their graves for 7 years in order to keep the cemetery from getting too full for new burials. How exactly he disposes of the dead bodies is a mystery, until one night he has to dig up his own dead wife's body. Under the surveillance of local policeman Tom Hanlon and with the assistance of Tom's younger brother Mairtin he digs up the coffin...

Characters:

Mick Dowd, age bracket 50-60. Haunted by the past, but never clear on his intentions or motives. Has a brooding quality about him, but is also quite cheeky. This character carries the human soul of the whole play, requiring a strong actor.

Maryjohnny Rafferty, age bracket 70+. Grandmother to Mairtin and Tom. She is grumpy, holds grudges and is quite sceptical, suspicious and superstitious. She also cheats at the local church bingo. Friend to Mick but they constantly bicker. The script refers to this character as having a plus size figure.

Mairtin Hanlon, age bracket 19-25. Tom's thick younger brother. This character doesn't think much of anything, but has an uncanny ability to create mischief. Strong comedic timing required.

Thomas Hanlon, age bracket 25-35. Tom is the local policeman and is besotted by American TV Detectives and cold cases. He sees murder and mayhem everywhere, particularly in places where it doesn't exist. Smoking required.

**All actors require a strong Irish accent suitable
for their respective age brackets.**

Anyone wishing to audition is welcome to contact the
Director, Justin Stephens,
on 0409 33 88 50.

HTC YOUTH *presents*

RUBY MOON

by **Matt Cameron**

directed by **Elise Dorian**

21st – 23rd May, 2009 at 8pm

Matinee Saturday 23rd at 2pm

BOOKINGS: 9457 4117 TICKETS: \$10



The HTC Youth are back with the haunting production of **Ruby Moon**, written by Australian playwright Matt Cameron and directed by Elise Dorian. It was produced in 2003 by Currency Press, Playbox Theatre (Sydney, Melbourne) and nominated for the Queensland Premier's Literary Award.

Ruby Moon is a dark, psychological mystery – a fairytale that quickly becomes a baffling and desperate search for a little girl. In picturesque Flaming Tree Grove, 10-year-old Ruby vanishes on the way to visit her grandmother. A strange package appears on her parents' doorstep prompting Ray and Sylvie Moon to interrogate the suspicious and quirky characters in their street. Their distress intensifies as the mystery deepens and we are left plagued by Ruby's absence.

Elise Dorian (**Peter Pan, Blackrock, Cosi**) will direct a talented and experienced HTC Youth cast including: Julia Foskey (**New Works, Shakespeare's Shorts**) as *Ruby Moon*, Jessica Cole (**Peter Pan, Blackrock, Away, New Works, Shakespeare's Shorts, A Midsummer Night's Dream**) as *Sylvie*, Eben Rojter (**Shakespeare's Shorts**) as *Ray*, Jackie Duncan (**New Works, Shakespeare's Shorts, A Midsummer Night's Dream**) as *Dulcie*, Tony Cocking (**Blackrock, Cosi, Away, New Works, Shakespeare's Shorts, A Midsummer Night's Dream**) as *Sid*, Debbie Govorcin (**X-Stacy, Cosi, New Works**) as *Veronica*, David Yeates (**New Works, Shakespeare's Shorts**) as *Sonny Jim*, Michelle Wittrup (**New Works, Shakespeare's Shorts, A Midsummer Night's Dream**) as *Dawn*, Tim Camilleri (**Shakespeare's Shorts**) as *Carl* and Rory Shepherd (**Peter Pan, Blackrock, Cosi, Away, Shakespeare's Shorts**) as *Wizard*.

The Company welcomes Richard Gorr in a skilled backstage crew which also includes Brittany Goss and Jessi Galitis-Sant.

The HTC Youth will plunge audiences into an intriguing and sinister tale as we are left to ponder – who kidnapped Ruby and where has she gone? Don't miss a spectacular and *mysterious* night of theatre!

(Preview by Jess Cole & Suzannah Rowley)

APRIL

Tuesday 14 th	7.30pm	Heidelberg Film Society – <i>Love Actually</i>
Saturday 18 th	10.30am	Working Bee with Lunch
Saturday 25 th	10.30am	Working Bee with Lunch
Thursday 30 th	7.30pm	FIRST NIGHT – Cloudstreet

MAY

Saturday 2 nd	2.00pm	AUDITION: A Skull in Connemarra.
Monday 4 th	7.30pm	AUDITION: A Skull in Connemarra.
Saturday 16 th	7.30pm	FINAL NIGHT – Cloudstreet
Tuesday 19 th	7.30pm	Heidelberg Film Society – <i>African Queen</i>
Thursday 21 st – Saturday 23 rd		HTC YOUTH Production: Ruby Moon
		Evening performances at 8pm plus Matinee Saturday 23rd at 2pm.

JUNE

Tuesday 16 th	7.30pm	Heidelberg Film Society – <i>Monsoon Wedding</i> .
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What's the Goss?

A MOTHER'S DAY TREAT!

at Heidelberg Theatre Company

Bring Mum along to see

Cloudstreet

on Mother's Day,

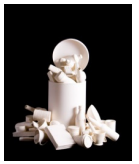
Sunday 10th May at 2pm

and the Company will treat her to a complimentary glass of champagne during the interval.

Book now: 9457 4117

WHO, WHAT, WHERE???

Leanne Cole, known at HTC as set designer and Curator of HTC Art Space was one of 39 ceramic artists invited to enter their work in the recent prestigious 2009 Manningham Ceramic Award Exhibition. Leanne's entry, Domestic Bliss, is pictured above.



David McCrae (**The Weir, I'm Not Rappaport**), flew out to Los Angeles on the 15th April, returns mid-October. During his time away, David is participating in a four month course at TVI Actors Studio, at the end of which (the US Government willing!) he may have the opportunity to find paid work for one month as an actor. So have a great time David, looking forward to catching up on your return.

And great to see a scene from HTC's 2008 production of **Don's Party** featuring on the Banyule 2009 Calendar for the month of May.

HELP!!! needed at the
WORKING BEES
for

Cloudstreet

Saturdays

18th & 25th April

from 10.30am

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**