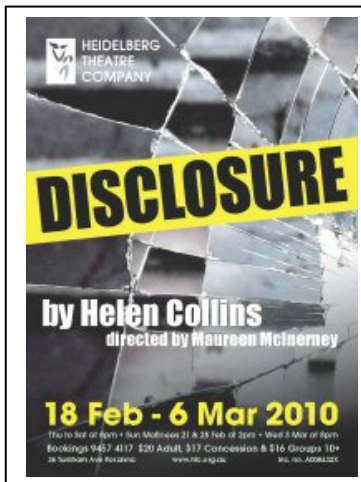


# PROMPTS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE HEIDELBERG THEATRE COMPANY



## Disclosure

*a new Australian play* by Helen Collins

*This play contains adult themes*

directed by Maureen McInerney

**18<sup>th</sup> Feb – 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2010**

**Evenings at 8.00pm**

**Matinees: Sundays 21<sup>st</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> Feb at 2pm**

Subscribers requiring to alter their chosen night or reserve their booking are asked to call BEFORE Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2010.

The first play for 2010 is **Disclosure**, an intriguing drama, by local playwright Helen Collins, and is directed by that well known HTC personality, Maureen McInerney who is assisted by Margaret Hassall.

**Disclosure** is set in Melbourne in the present time and involves five seemingly unrelated women from different walks of life. As their personal histories unfold we discover they connect in a fascinating underbelly of lies, deceit, and murder.

The play is structured in five scenes, where we hear the main characters gradually disclose their secrets:

It opens with a Detective Inspector interrogating a possible murder suspect. The next scene we see the same Detective Inspector in a therapy session with a psychiatrist – the tables being turned to show the interrogator now being interrogated.

The third scene has the therapist confiding to her friend about life, love and betrayal, and the fourth scene has that friend being interrogated by a fellow prison inmate as they both await further questioning on the mysterious deaths that have occurred.

The final scene wraps it all up – but the question is have we really discovered the truth, or have we been left with another layer of lies and deceit?

The script was submitted to La Mama who then staged it in 2006, and interestingly, in that

production, Emma, the daughter of our Secretary Brett Hunt, was the Stage Manager.

Rehearsals are well underway, with a great cast lined up for the show;

As *Gina Sturrock*, the Police Inspector, we welcome again Margaret Moloney who appeared in **Grace** a few years ago at Heidelberg, as well as **Bazaar and Rummage**.

We also have another HTC regular – Lena Minto is playing the first suspect, *Anne Carson*. Lena's most recent appearance on stage was in **Over the River and Through the Woods**.

We have a few newcomers to Heidelberg. As *Glenda Hartley*, the therapist, we have Tricia McCann. Cathy Patti is playing her "friend", *Susan Riley*, and Natasha Boyd has the role of *Holly Briscoe*, a fellow prison inmate (or is she?).

Cameron South is doing a double act as the Stage Manager, and also the small role of *Tom*, the Police Constable – you may have seen him before in **Angels**, and **Don's Party**.

Set building is screaming along, managed by Owen Evans who has rounded up the usual suspects to assist. Siobhan Early, a behind-the-scenes regular is back as Assistant Stage Manager. Callum Robertson, George Bissett and Margaret Hassall will manage the sound and lights for the show.

So don't miss this chance to see a great new Australian play.

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Inc. No. A008432X

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](mailto:prompts@htc.org.au) and include your name, address & phone number

**BOOKINGS & SUBSCRIPTIONS 9457 4117**



# Review

## The Philadelphia Story by Philip Barry

Directed by John Keogh

Reviewed by John Gunn, 21<sup>st</sup> November 2009 for  
3CR's CURTAIN UP Sundays at One (855 AM)

While I have seen both screen versions of Philip Barry's celebrated play, this is the first time I have seen **The Philadelphia Story** on stage in its original form. This is the play that brought Katherine Hepburn back to the screen and where she remained as a major star for the next 50 years. Set in the 1930s it tells of rather selfish socialite *Tracy Lord* and how in the lead up to her second marriage she finally discovers just what true love means.

This is a gentle, yet sophisticated comedy that has lots of style and gives us a glimpse of the manners and morals of upper-class American society at that time and in some ways was quite advanced as shown by the occasional line. It is also a longish play by today's standards and requires a distinct acting style quite unlike today's more naturalistic approach.

The play also provides some very good roles for its leading players and the production has some very nice performances in particular Aimee Sanderson in the central and demanding role of *Tracy*, she never tried to mimic either Hepburn or Grace Kelly, she put her own stamp on the role, showing us the almost 'ice-maiden' and unforgiving side of her character gradually softening into the understanding of the human frailties of both herself and others.... and boy was she glamorous, wearing the elegant 1930's gowns so naturally. Bruce Carboon had a nice relaxed style with pertinent input as Tracy's first husband, *Dexter*. I also enjoyed the performance of Peter Newling as Tracy's brother *Sandy Lord*, this character is so important to the story, but sadly was cut out of the musical version which did change the plot slightly.

While I felt there was a little unevenness in the supporting roles a little more character development by both director and cast would have firmed this up. We did see solid work from Tom Travers as *Tracy's* father, *Seth Lord*, John Cheshire as the bottom-pinching *Uncle Willie*, Jo Warr as *Tracy's* mother, *Margaret Lord* and Basileira Paras as the younger sister *Dinah*.

Heidelberg's production under the direction of John Keogh was quite stylish aided by John Shelbourn's very elegant set design and upper-class furnishings (cream, some mauve and burgundy). Costumes, props etc were generally of the usual high standard seen at Heidelberg. I also like the choice of music that underscored on occasion. Lighting was a little patchy in particular up stage left in the grand piano/telephone area which left faces in shadow.

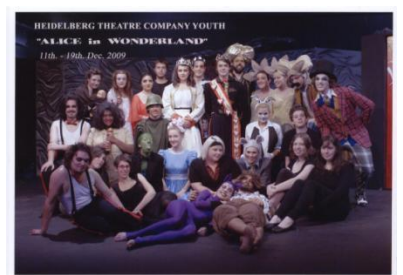
To sum up, a well written play, not in the screwball comedy style that we associate with the 1930s but still very entertaining and it is good that we can have the opportunity to see these classics, no four letter words, and a play with a beginning, middle and end, I'm surprised we haven't seen a professional revival – these older plays get re-staged on Broadway from time to time, why not here

### Subscribe and Save

Like to SAVE MONEY and secure your seat? Then subscribe **NOW** to 3, 4 or 5 great shows in the Heidelberg Theatre Company's 2010 Season of Plays. Subscription forms available from the Theatre or call June on 9457 4117.



above: Cast & Crew of *The Philadelphia Story*, right: Cast & Crew of *Alice*.



## Review – HTC Youth's **Alice**

By Lewis Carroll, adapted by Charlotte Chorpenning

Directed by Michelle Witttrup

Reviewed by Joan Moriarty

The perennial issues surrounding **Alice** are (A) is it really for young children and (B) how well does it really hang together as a unified piece? We grown ups with hindsight realise it shrieks of political overtones and to be absolutely fair – this production was never billed as a pantomime. I would have been disappointed if a group of 25 young people didn't give the story a real edge. It still always seems to me a series of fairly unrelated scenes.

If one reads this story to a child, it depends on the imagination of the child how he/she pictures the characters. There they are visual and the children have them in full costume and make-up and looking very real. A couple looked very intimidating but on Saturday afternoon, I saw no one leave.

Now to the Production.

Michelle has done an excellent job. She has worked hard and it shows, managed a huge cast admirably, many of them very young. *Alice* is only 14 years old. Well done Olivia. The tea party was very cleverly directed and played. Congrats to Luke and Toni. Julia's *Queen of Hearts* reminded me of a domatrix – good work – and Jessica's *White Rabbit* was a treat.

The whole ensemble worked well as did the set, music and lights (where were Jefferson Airplane and The Beatles)?

Costumes and make-up were professionally done. Our Youth Group continues to go from strength to strength.

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

#### HTC's 2010 Season

#### Starting Times:

Evenings 8:00pm

Matinees 2:00pm Sundays only

#### 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 2010 Playbill or call the Theatre Booking Office on 9457 4117)**



left: Wendy & Lois scoop the pool with their costumes.

left: HTC President with the 2009 In-House Adjudicators, Rose, Geoff & Barbara.



below: June Cherrey & President John Gilbert with Bill Cherrey Award winner, Marg Hassall

## HTC 2009 In House Awards

Adjudicators, Barbara Hughes, Rose Capuano and Geoff Hickey presented the Annual HTC In House Awards for the 2009 Season under the following headings:

### WINNERS:

#### Performance: - Cloudstreet

Chris Young as *Fish Lamb*  
Anne Pagram as *Oriel Lamb*  
Kellie Bray as *Dolly Pickes*

#### Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead

Barry Lockett as *The Player*

#### The Philadelphia Story.

Bruce Carboon as Dexter.

#### Design & Technical:

Paul Karafillis – Original Music- **Cloudstreet.**

Justin Stephens – Overall Design Concept – **A Skull in Connemara.**

John Shelbourne – Set Design – **The Philadelphia Story**

Wendy Drowley & Lois Connor for excellence in costuming.

#### Cloudstreet - Production

Chris Baldock – Outstanding Direction.

Outstanding Production for 2009.

## Victorian Drama League Awards

Our VDL-nominated play for 2009 was

#### Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead.

We are proud to have received the following Nominations:

Best Set - Leanne Cole

Best Sound - George Bissett

Best Actor - Supporting Role – Barry Lockett

Best Actor - Leading Role – John Jenkins

Best Director of a Comedy – Chris McLean

Best Comedy Production.

We were delighted to win Gold Awards for:

Best Costume Design – Wendy Drowley and Lois Connor

Best Actor in a Leading role – Tim Constantine

We congratulate our VDL Award winners and the Cast and Crew of **Rosencrantz and Guildenstern** for their success.

### CURTAIN UP's 'GONGS FOR 2009 for productions, performances, etc that really made an impact !

#### Rosencrantz And Guildenstern Are Dead. -

**Direction** Chris McLean, **Music** Paul

**Karafillis, Actors** Tim Constantine, John

**Jenkins, Barry Lockett.**

#### Cloudstreet - **Direction** Chris Baldock, **Set**

**David Dare; Actors** Chris Young, Tim

**Constantine, Rose Braybrook.**

**The Dinner Game – Actor** Laurie Jezard.

**Philadelphia Story – Set Design** John

**Shelbourne, Actors** Bruce Carboon, John

**Cheshire, Aimee Sanderson.**

## BILL CHERREY AWARD 2009

This Award is given each year to an individual member of The Heidelberg Theatre Company as recognition of their outstanding contribution and service to the Company. This year's recipient has a history with Heidelberg Theatre Company that dates back more than 10 years.

As a person who is usually behind the scenes, this year winner has been involved with many roles in the Company including, audio operation and design for several productions, mentoring the HTC Youth Group, Assistant Director for **The Front Page** and **The Castle**, assisting with programmes and Prompts, a member of the Play Selection Committee and coordinator for rights and royalties arrangements.

This year's recipient is true example of the spirit that drives our Theatre Company, always available to assist and willing to step in, sometimes at a moment's notice, and always with a positive commitment that can be relied on.

I would now like to call on June Cherrey to come to the stage to present this year's Bill Cherry Award to Margaret Hassall.

(J. Gilbert/J. Cherrey)

## HTC'S XMAS HAMPER

The 2009 Winner of this coveted prize

is Pauleen Smith from Mordialloc.

Congratulations from all at HTC.

### PLEASE DON'T FAX HTC!!!

We won't receive it! The fax machine is gone, the option is no longer advertised in Prompts, our website or in the Playbill.

**Please email or phone us instead!**

## Highlights from the President's Report at the 2009 Heidelberg Theatre Company AGM held 12<sup>th</sup> December 2009

- \* Strong occupancy rates for the Season.
- \* Two HTC Youth productions.
- \* 529 Subscribers, 77 Members, and 17 Life Members.
- \* Turnover \$120,000 per annum.
- \* Increased expenditure on productions and R&M obligations.
- \* Delivery problems with Prompts.
- \* Important People thanked: – Committee, Administration Team, Set Building Team, Technical and Backstage Crews, In-House Awards Adjudicators, Banyule Council and many individuals named and thanked for their contribution to the Company during the year.
- \* Continued leasing of 1<sup>st</sup> Rosanna Scout Hall for rehearsal space,
- \* A draft Lease document is being prepared by the Council giving the Company a further 10 years with a 10 year option on the Theatre.
- \* Funds to replace auditorium seating remains an ongoing issue.
- \* The front garden project realised.
- \* No critical OH&S issues.
- \* Local and national charities and non-profit organisations were supported.
- \* Vale. It was noted with regret the passing during the year of Bud Tingwell, Ron Conroy and Ben Shaw.

The 2009 year has been a successful and rewarding one for the Company. For nearly 60 years HTC has been an active and thriving community resource and continues to provide opportunities for involvement at all levels.

We are always looking for talent and skills both on stage and behind the scenes. There will always be a need for people with administration, hospitality, accounting, marketing and handy man skills. Regardless of what level of experience you hold we will be able to make use of your offer. If you have ever considered or are thinking of becoming more involved, make your interest known to the Company so that we can organise a suitable introduction for you.

John Gilbert, President, 2008

(a full transcript of the President's Report is available on the HTC website)

## FEBRUARY

|                           |         |                                      |
|---------------------------|---------|--------------------------------------|
| Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup>  | 10.30am | <b>Working Bee</b> with Lunch        |
| Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> | 10.30am | <b>Working Bee</b> with Lunch        |
| Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> | 8.00pm  | <b>FIRST NIGHT – Disclosure</b>      |
| Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup>  | 7.30pm  | Heidelberg Film Society – The Castle |

## MARCH

|                          |        |  |
|--------------------------|--------|--|
| Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> | 8.00pm | <b>FINAL NIGHT – Disclosure</b>            |
| Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup>  | 2.00pm | <b>Dedication of the Alice's Garden</b>    |
| Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> | 7.30pm | Heidelberg Film Society – Muriel's Wedding |

## APRIL

|                          |        |  |
|--------------------------|--------|--|
| Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> | 7.30pm | Heidelberg Film Society – Some Like It Hot |
|--------------------------|--------|--|

# AUDITION NOTICE

Heidelberg Theatre Company's production of

## GLENGARRY GLEN ROSS

by David Mamet

Directed by Paul King

**Auditions will be held at the Theatre  
36 Turnham Avenue Rosanna (Melways ref: 31 A1)**

**from 7:30pm on  
Sunday Feb. 21,  
& Monday Feb. 22.**

**Play Season: 22<sup>nd</sup> April – 8<sup>th</sup> May 2010  
Weeknights and Saturdays at 8:00pm  
Sundays at 2:00pm**

The play takes place over two days in the lives of four desperate Chicago real estate agents, a group of hardened hucksters prepared to engage in any number of unethical, illegal acts—from lies and flattery to bribery, threats, intimidation, and burglary—to sell undesirable Florida land developments to unwilling prospective buyers.

### Characters

**Shelly Levene**, fifties. A once-respected and successful salesman.

**John Williamson**, forties. The office manager.

**Dave Moss**, fifties. A big-mouthed salesman.

**George Aaronow**, fifties. A salesman with low self-esteem.

**Richard Roma**, forties. The most successful salesman in the office.

**James Lingk**, forties. Roma's latest client.

**Baylen**, forties. A police detective; appears in Act 2 only.

**Auditions are by appointment only.**

**Please ring the Director on 9646 3226 to  
make an appointment or email**

[kzs058@yahoo.com](mailto:kzs058@yahoo.com)

Online scripts are available at:

<http://www.dailyscript.com/scripts/glengarry.html>

### LOOKING TO RAISE MONEY FOR YOUR CLUB OR CHARITY IN 2010?

Why not organise a  
**Group Booking to HTC**

The price for Groups of 10  
or more is

**\$16 per ticket**

(\$4 off the normal single ticket  
price)

Group bookings can be made  
for any night during the  
Season.

Supper can be arranged for  
groups of 20 or more for an  
additional charge.

For more details contact June our  
Ticket Secretary on  
**9457 4117**

### WHO, WHAT, WHERE???

Justin Stephens, Actor at  
HTC; **Angels in America**, **The  
Woman in Black** and Director - **A  
Skull in Connemara** and Rhiannon  
Leach, Actor; **Angels in America**,  
**Noises Off**, **Little Voice**, etc,  
welcomed into the world a beautiful  
daughter, Harper Nikki Stephens,  
born 4<sup>th</sup> January, 2010. Mother and  
daughter are doing splendidly.  
Father beaming.

### HTC YOUTH

If you are in the 15 to 25 age  
group and would like to join the **HTC  
Youth** group in any capacity; actor,  
technician, behind the scenes or on  
set realisation call the Theatre on  
**9455 3039**.

### *HELP!!!*

needed at the

### WORKING BEES

for Disclosure

**Saturdays**

**6<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> February**

**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**