

PROMPTS

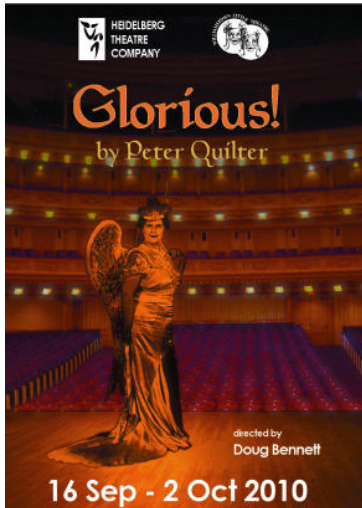
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE HEIDELBERG THEATRE COMPANY

Dear Subscribers

Due to circumstances beyond our control Heidelberg Theatre Company apologises that we are unable to stage **Oh! What A Lovely War** as originally advertised in the 2010 Playbill. In its place, HTC is delighted to be able to present **Glorious!**, an outstanding production by the Williamstown Little Theatre on stage at Turnham Avenue.

If you are a subscriber who chose **Oh! What A Lovely War** as part of your season ticket and if you are looking forward to attending the alternative production, **Glorious!**, you do not need to make any alternative arrangements as the season dates will remain unchanged. We are confident that most of our subscribers will be pleased with the playbill change, however should you not wish to attend **Glorious!**, please contact the theatre box office for a ticket refund

John Gilbert. President. HTC.



GLORIOUS!

by Peter Quilter directed by Doug Bennett
A Williamstown Little Theatre production
presented by Heidelberg Theatre Company

by special arrangement with Dominie Pty Ltd

16th Sept – 2nd Oct, 2010

Evenings at 8.00pm

Matinees: Sundays 19th & 26th Sept at 2pm

Subscribers requiring to alter their chosen night or reserve their booking are asked to call BEFORE Monday 6th Sept, 2010.

Glorious! is a truly uproarious comedy based on the true story of wealthy eccentric American widow, Florence Foster-Jenkins, (1868 – 1944), famous for her complete lack of rhythm, pitch, tone and overall singing ability. The 'First Lady of the Sliding Scale' gave an annual recital in The Ritz Ballroom, and a sell-out performance at Carnegie Hall shortly before her death.

It was the overpowering awfulness of her voice that led to her becoming a star in her own right, with a large cult following despite her bad reviews. Regulars at her recitals included Cole Porter and Enrico Caruso! 'I bet Nellie Melba never had to put up with this!' she said, while her critics said, 'You will never hear a voice like this at Carnegie Hall again!' A household of people almost as eccentric in their own way ensure an evening of hilarity. We glimpse Florence at home and in concert in her outrageously over-the-top costumes.

Not only will the cast be from the original WLT production, but the set, props and

costumes are coming too. A huge undertaking that will be supervised by the WLT Set Designer, David Dare. David will be remembered by Heidelberg audiences for the set he designed for our production of **Cloudstreet** last year and the play, **The Lady In The Van** which he directed in 2007.

Glorious! also heralds the welcome return of Doug Bennett to HTC. Doug directed and acted in Heidelberg productions for many years, the last time as the Director of **I Hate Hamlet** in 1996.

The cast comprises WLT members; Patricia McCracken, Peter Dennis, Robert Harsley, Robyn Legge and Christine McGowen and the Company takes this opportunity to welcome them all to our stage.

Construction of the set will be by HTC'S great set building team together with David Dare. The Production Co-ordinator for the show is Jim Thomson, Maggie McInnes from WLT is the Costume Co-ordinator and the Lighting Design is by Craig Pearcey and Jason Bovaird.

So book early, don't miss a great opportunity to enjoy a hugely entertaining evening.

P.O Box 141, Rosanna VIC 3084
Enquiries 9455 3039
Web www.htc.org.au
Email htc@htc.org.au
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 and include your name,

BOOKINGS & SUBSCRIPTIONS 9457 4117



REVIEW

The Judas Kiss by David Hare

Directed by Bruce Akers

Reviewed by Carolyn Gunn on 9th July 2010 for
3CR's Curtain Up Sundays at One 855AM.

David Hare's play **The Judas Kiss** is another of the many works about Irish playwright Oscar Fingal O'Flahertie Wills Wilde, the outrageous Victorian intellectual and classicist who was one of the most renowned personalities of his day, known for his scintillating and sparkling conversation, ostentatious and colourful dress and his cutting wit. However the career of this darling of London's literary and cultural society came to a swift end when he foolishly pursued the Marquess of Queensberry (father of the young Lord Alfred 'Bosie' Douglas) for libel in which the former accused Wilde of posing as a sodomite. Wilde was then tried for the criminal offence known then as 'acts of gross indecency' and sent to Reading Gaol where he served two years hard labour.

David Hare's wordy play covers: the time just before Wilde's arrest by the police and the first act is really about 'to flee or not to flee' with Lord Alfred Douglas covering his back by distancing himself from Wilde and the futile attempt by one of Wilde's former lovers and friend, the critic Robert Ross, to persuade Wilde into leaving his lobster lunch in his Cadogan hotel room, catching the train and getting the hell out of England. But here in these emotional departure scenes, Wilde's intelligence is over-ridden by his arrogance and naiveté and we witness the betrayal of the Judas Kiss, known to most but from a slightly different biblical perspective.

The second act is after the penniless and wasted Oscar has been released from gaol and sees him residing in a run down villa outside Naples, Bosie is also in residence and has managed to pick up Galileo, a barely (?) literate fisherman who we see in the second nude scene in the play. Here we see the tragic reminiscing and to my mind surprisingly some of Wilde's despised sentimentality – then there's the bartering about the root of all evil...money, firstly from Bosie, then from Robert Ross as an intermediary from Wilde's wife Constance.

Overall, despite feeling that the play was a little long, the work and the production held my attention at all times from Oscar's bombast and flamboyance, the falseness and the gradual betrayal in Act 1; in many parts of Act 2, you could almost have heard a pin drop as the audience was so intent – this surprised me slightly as the subject matter is not for everyone. But Oscar's gradual decline amidst the youthful lust and selfishness of Bosie and his presumably one night stand was indeed a pitiful closure to the life and career of a discerning and great literary man of his era.

Now to the actors: very good support came from those in smaller roles, i.e. the hotel staff comprising - Andrew McNess as *Arthur Wellesley*, Elise Moorhouse as *Phoebe Cane* and Simon Papon as *Sandy Moffat*, also Giovanni Piccolo as the fisherman *Galileo Masconi*.

Angelo De Cata as *Robert Ross* struck a careful and well placed balance as the friend and 'middle-man' and Tim Constantine as *Lord Alfred 'Bosie' Douglas* proved to be, in my opinion, almost the epitome of this shallow and 'self-first' Adonis although I would have like to see just a little of the youthful and narcissistic guile the fascination or appeal that apparently attracted Oscar in the first place.

Just one point with these two performances, despite the dramatic requirements I did feel that some of the dialogue was a little rushed and could have been better paced – this is a wordy

Bruce Akers,
centre front,
*Director of **Judas***
***Kiss** with the Cast*
& Crew



play and whilst the actors know it backwards, remember the audience is seeing it for the very first time and there is a lot to absorb.

Now to Chris Baldock as *Oscar Wilde* – a superb performance of a tour de force role – the range of emotions from the bravado, posturing and flamboyance in Act One to the tragedy of the broken man in Act Two, excellent pacing in both mood and dialogue and on a personal level, I delighted in his excellent vocal craft – a joy to watch and listen to.

The London hotel with its lavish and colourful Victorian setting (dark green) with quality furnishings contrasted well with the poverty of the Naples villa which was well served by designer Deryk Hartwick's subtle change in lighting – music was also pertinently chosen. Costumes of the period were very well detailed by Wendy Drowley and Lois Connor and I noted the 'green carnation' adorning Oscar's colourful mauve costume in Act One.

All in all, **The Judas Kiss** as directed by Bruce Akers for Heidelberg Theatre Company is a quality production and is recommended for discerning theatre-goers.

A footnote - Oscar Wilde was finally buried in France in Père Lachaise Cemetery along with such notables as Moliere, Chopin, Callas, Piaf, Sarah Bernhardt.

On 14th February 1995, a small stained glass memorial was unveiled in Poets' Corner in Westminster Abbey for Oscar Wilde. The memorial was unveiled by his grandson Merlin Holland and the address was given by Seamus Heaney. Sir John Gielgud (who had suffered similarly to Oscar Wilde) read from the final part of *De Profundis*, the letter written to Lord Alfred Douglas when Wilde was in Reading gaol in 1897. Dame Judi Dench and Michael Denison read an extract from **The Importance of Being Earnest** and flowers were laid by Thelma Holland, widow of Oscar's son Vyvyan.

Have just read Oscar Wilde's tragic - **The Ballad of Reading Gaol** – which details those two years in prison between Act 1 and Act 2 of **The Judas Kiss**, absolutely wretched and heartbreaking – from which I quote:-

Yet each man kills the thing he loves
 By each let this be heard,
 Some do it with a bitter look,
 Some with a flattering word,
 The coward does it with a kiss,
 The brave man with a sword!

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 AUDITIONS for the 2010 production of

The Pain Killer

by **Francis Veber**
directed by **Joan Moriarty**

AUDITION DATES

**Sunday 19th September - 5.30 – 7pm &
Monday 20th September – 7.30 - 9pm**
at **Heidelberg Theatre Company**

36 Turnham Avenue Rosanna - Melway 32 A1

Season 18th November – 4th December, 2010
Weeknights & Saturdays at 8pm, Sundays at 2pm

About the play

The further misadventures of *Monsieur Francois Pignon* of **The Dinner Game**. The lovelorn *Pignon* is holed up in a Parisian hotel with suicide in mind. In the adjoining room is a hit man poised to complete his latest assignment. Caught between these total opposites is the hapless concierge, who is desperate to finish his shift before disaster strikes. To complete the chaos there is an estranged wife, a psychiatrist, policemen and mistaken identities. It all happens at a breakneck pace.

CHARACTERS

French accents are a distinct possibility.

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

Ralf Milan – the hit man, mid 40s.

Pignon's estranged wife – alluring, 30s – 40s.

Psychiatrist – a neurologist, sturdy, nervous looking man, Pignon's wife's lover, 40s.

Concierge

Policeman

For further information please contact the
Director, **Joan Moriarty**.

phone: **9459 3495**

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

Vale Evi Kuehlenthal

born: January 05, 1921 in Linz on Rhine, Germany
died: June 26, 2010 in Melbourne, Australia.

Evi was one of the founding members of the Ivanhoe Film Society, later to become the Heidelberg Film Society. She and her late husband Heinz Kuehlenthal were awarded Life Membership of the Society. She attended the daytime screenings till March this year. They were also regular attendees of the Heidelberg Theatre Company shows. We remember a cheerful, positive women, always beautifully dressed. Loving memories, from Inge Schmidt.

We want to book early for **Glorious!** so we don't miss out. What's the news on the online ticketing system?

Unfortunately it's not going to be in place for **Glorious!** so best you call the Theatre on **9457 4117** to make your booking. But, online will be in place for the 2011 Season.

Banyule Winter Festival - HTC *presents:-*



htc capers 2010

on **SATURDAY AUGUST 28th @ 8pm**

at **Heidelberg Theatre Company**

Turnham Ave. Rosanna

Entry \$5

Join with other htc members and friends to enjoy some light entertainment *with musical accompaniments and performances*

followed by a light supper with drinks on sale at the bar

See our set builders strut the stage!!!!!! See Paddy do something!!!!!!!!!! with the horse????????? And more.....

**What other talents are lurking out there????? Got an idea??? An item???
Call Anne Smith 94598702 a.s.a.p. or email absmith44@hotmail.com**

Heidelberg Theatre Company Youth is proud to announce their upcoming end-of-year production of Frank L. Baum's timeless classic...

THE WIZARD OF OZ - *The Play*

Adapted by Alfred Bradley, Directed by Elise Dorian.

Performing 8 shows from

Friday 10th - Saturday the 18th of December, 2010.

It will be an exciting interpretation that moves between the original book and the much-loved 1939 film.

We travel down the Yellow-Brick Road with all the sense of a warm nostalgia remembered from the musical, yet this play version enables audiences to enjoy much more than simply a trip down memory lane.

Be prepared for Oz as you've never seen it before - circus-styled mobs of Munchkins, a creepy crew of wicked Lloyd-Webber-like cats, enchanted prancing poppies, and lots more surprises.

Interested in helping out the production or being in it? Lots of roles to be filled and jobs to be done, just shoot an email to Colleen at c.jeffery@live.com.au

Help with PUBLICITY

You don't have to sing, dance or act to join the great team at HTC. Even if you can but you don't want to tell anyone, you may be interested to know that the Company has many more roles to fill off-stage and right now we need help with our Publicity.

So if you have computer and organisational skills, like working with creative, demanding and entertaining people, then you are the person the Company is looking for to help our team.

Interested? Call our President, John Gilbert, on **9457 5634**.

HELP!!!

needed at the

WORKING BEES

for

GLORIOUS!

Saturdays

4th & 11th Sept.

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

AUGUST

Tuesday 24th 7.30pm

Saturday 28th 8.00pm

Heidelberg Film Society – Moulin Rouge

htc capers 2010

- HTC's Winter in Banyule Extravaganza

SEPTEMBER

Saturday 4th 10.30am

Saturday 11th 10.30am

Thursday 16th 8.00pm

Sunday 19th 5.30pm

Monday 20th 7.30pm

Tuesday 28th 7.30pm

Working Bee with Lunch

Working Bee with Lunch

FIRST NIGHT – Glorious!

AUDITION – The Pain Killer

AUDITION – The Pain Killer

Heidelberg Film Society –

Death in Brunswick

OCTOBER

Saturday 2nd 8.00pm

FINAL NIGHT – Glorious!