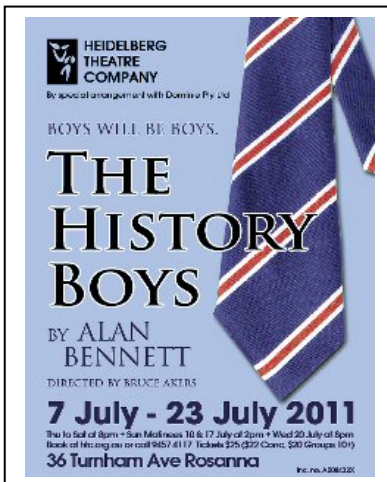


PROMPTS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE HEIDELBERG THEATRE COMPANY



THE HISTORY BOYS

by Alan Bennett directed by Bruce Akers
 7th – 23rd July, 2011
 Evenings at 8.00pm
 Matinees: Sundays July 10th & 17th at 2pm

Subscribers requiring to alter their chosen night or reserve their booking are asked to call BEFORE Monday, 27th June, 2011.
 (some coarse language)

We welcome "newbies" James Plunkett, Tim Driver, Joshua Kerr, Sam Chappel, Alex Goldsworthy, Ryan Purdey and James Acok to HTC. These seven plus Brian are **The History Boys**.

Wendy Drowley is taking on the dual roles of Production Co-ordinator and Wardrobe (ably assisted by Lois Connor); the well-recognized talents of designer David Dare will be coming to the fore with his wonderful set design and he is enjoying the chance to work again with our terrific set building team - Owen, Dennis, Des, Neville, Jim, Paddy, Doug and Mal.

Emma Hunt is the Stage Manager and she will be ably assisted by Siobhan Earley. Deryk Hartwick is designing the intricate lighting plot and Neil Williamson and David Crothers are combining to design the sound. Bronwyn Parker is working with the director in gathering the necessary furniture and properties.

So, that's the cast and crew! Everyone is hard at work to bring this wonderful play to our audience. It promises to be a real treat. Come and enjoy **The History Boys**.

In an English grammar school in the early 1980s, a roguish bunch of senior boys who thrive on brilliance and banter are within the grasp of a coveted place at one of England's finest universities. But can they put aside their confusions about sex, class and identity long enough to master their field of study, history? For mastering history ensures these boys a bright future.

One of Alan Bennett's finest works, **The History Boys** won the 2005 Olivier Award for Best New Play and the 2006 Tony Award for Best Play.

Other works by Bennett include the award-winning TV monologues **Talking Heads** starring Maggie Smith, Julie Walters and Thora Hird, **Habeas Corpus** (HTC 1984) and **The Lady in the Van** (HTC 2007).

Bruce Akers, a stalwart of HTC, is directing this wonderful play. Fresh from his success with the 2010 In-House Award winning production of **The Judas Kiss**, Bruce has assembled a highly talented cast comprising HTC regulars and exciting newcomers.

We are delighted with the return of regular HTC actors Peter Maver (**The Rehearsal** and **The Gulls**), Tim Constantine (**Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead** - VDL Award winning performance, **The Judas Kiss**, **Cloudstreet**); Paul Kennedy (**A Skull in Connemara**, **Angels in America**), Juliet Hayday (**The Grapes of Wrath** - VDL Award winning performance, **Angels in America**) and Brian Farrell (**A Skull In Connemara**) to the HTC stage.

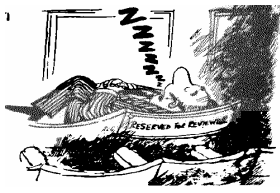
The HTC Box Office is delighted to report that 88 of our patrons for **The Business of Murder** booked their tickets for the first time using our new online Ticketing System accessed via our website: htc.org.au. A very few patrons had difficulties, and if you do, please make sure you let us know by either emailing to htc@htc.org.au or calling the HTC Box Office on 94574117.

Chris, Actor and Wonder Webman, has prepared a great step by step guide, so if you do get into strife, let us know so we can help you out. cheers HTC Box Office.

P.O Box 141, Rosanna VIC 3084
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 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, address & phone number

BOOKINGS – Online at www.htc.org.au or call 9457 4117



REVIEW

The Business of Murder

by Richard Harris Directed by John Jenkins
Reviewed by Jill Watson for Theatrecraft,
the VDL Newsletter, Sunday, 24th April, 2011.



Cast of *The History Boys*
from left to
right: Xavier
Ryan, Ben
Starick and
Jessica
Hutchinson.

It is an autumn afternoon in the 1980s. The setting is a first floor flat of a converted house in a London inner suburb. Heidelberg's wide stage gave us a detailed, conventional set. Hidden front door upstage right with a hallway showing doors to bathroom area leading into a living room. Net curtained windows at the back used for peering down into the road. Kitchen upstage left with dining area downstage. A door to the bedroom was set below the hallway, stage right, with a mesh wall, for the audience's benefit, so some later action could be seen in the bedroom. Furnishings were basic and unremarkable.

The action begins with the entrance of Mr Stone accompanied by John Hallett, a policeman. We learn that they are due to meet Mr Stone's son at the flat. The son isn't there but there is evidence of untidiness — papers, dishes and cutlery on the floor, chair cushions in disarray. Mr Stone sets about tidying it all up, in a very agitated fashion. We further learn that Mr Stone is a whistle blower for his son, having rung the policeman to report his drug dealings.

No sign of the son and, after some discussion, John Hallett leaves planning to return later in the evening. In the meantime Dee Redmond arrives. She is a well-known writer of TV detective shows and has been invited by Mr Stone to discuss a script his wife has written which had been sent to Miss Redmond. She is told Mr Stone's wife is in the bedroom and will be ready soon.

And that's all I intend to say as the plot is very intricate and well worked out. An air of tension is sustained the whole time as cat and mouse games are played out. Nothing is as it first seems but it does become evident that all three characters are connected by ... The Business of Murder.

Ben Starick, as the very odd Mr Stone, was marvellous. He had a mammoth part and never missed a beat. His agitation, nervousness and creepiness were never overdone. He led himself into anger and varying emotions with great skill. My hearty congratulations on keeping us all on our seats wondering what he was going to do next.

Xavier Ryan, as John Hallett, was equally skilful in presenting a very low key, cynical policeman with a hidden agenda. His cockney accent was well done — shades of Ray Winstone! Facial expressions were well thought out.

Jessica Hutchinson, as Dee Raymond, looked good and did well with what I felt was a difficult part. This woman has come along to a stranger's flat in a trusting fashion and walks right into a spider's web. She is a good detective writer but appears to be fairly naïve.

Jessica could have reacted more strongly to certain revelations and tense moments, particularly a violent confrontation between the two men.

Lighting (Craig Pearcey) worked well. Sound (George Bissett) was also good; I liked the tense music used when Mr Stone is "up to things" on his own in the flat. Costuming was appropriate. This is a most intriguing play which I thoroughly enjoyed; a great ensemble piece and my congratulations to Heidelberg for presenting a very professional production.

Heidelberg Theatre Company In-House Adjudication

The Committee felt our readers would be interested to know more about our adjudication process, so here is a rundown.

Each year HTC organises three independent adjudicators to determine the artistic and technical quality of its productions and to allocate awards for demonstrated expertise in direction, in performance and in non-performance areas (such as design). For example, when considering a performance award, they may consider consistency and credibility of characterisation, vocal qualities (accent, diction, projection), body language/movement and timing.

Awards are made in the following areas:

- Technical/Non-Performance (e.g. Set, Audio, Lighting, Wardrobe, Properties).
- Performances in Supporting and Leading roles.
- Direction
- Adjudicator's Awards: may also be made at the discretion of each adjudicator in areas not necessarily covered above.

This year the Adjudicators will be well known to our followers, as over the years you will have seen them, or their productions on stage, at HTC: Gayle Poor, Doug Bennett and Paul King.

The In-House Awards are presented following the AGM and our audiences and those involved in our productions are invited to attend.

Our next show The 39 Steps has already been cast but you can still be a part of this great production. Below is a request from Justin Stephens, the Show's director to all Subscribers, Members and Friends of HTC.

The Heidelberg Theatre Company invites you to step over the footlights and be part of the production team of at least 10 people, working backstage, for our fourth show, The 39 Steps. It's a big commitment we are looking for from you.

So let's paint the picture: There will be 4 weeks of rehearsal and all performance dates - that's the minimum. Wow! But we need to be straight on what we are asking from you and up front.

BUT what we can promise you is:

- the chance to part of the organised chaos of this truly magical show.
- lots of time away from the telly
- a truly rewarding experience
- lots of fun
- zero pay and
- you get to take a bow at the end of each show and bask in the tumultuous applause

from an audience reeling from experiencing one of the great theatrical events of our time – and you will have helped to make it happen.

Now we know you, or maybe it's someone you know, won't want to miss out on all that!

The play opens on the 15th September and runs until October 1st.

Like to know more, then send off an email and include your contact number to: htc@htc.org.au with the subject: "HTC Stage Crew". Don't forget to include your phone number or call the HTC Box Office on 9457 4117, and leave your name and a contact number.

Cheers

Justin

Have your say about turning 60!!

Thanks to all those Subscribers and Friends who filled in their forms with their play choices and suggestions for ways for the Company to celebrate turning 60 in 2012 during the run of **The Business of Murder**.

If you missed out, never fear it's not too late to have your say. The forms, lists and suggestion box will be in the foyer for the run of **The History Boys** or you can email your suggestions to htc@htc.org.au

1952	The Browning Version/Harlequinade		
1955	The Heiress	1957	Rebecca
1959	Sailor Beware	1961	An Ideal Husband
1961	Rookery Nook	1963	A View From The Bridge
1964	Our Town	1969	The Matchmaker
1972 & 1991	Hay Fever	1975	The Servant of Two Masters
1976	The Fantasticks	1980	Hedda Gabler
1981	Death Of A Salesman	1982	Death Trap
1983	The Lion in Winter	1983	Dusa, Fish, Stas and Vi
1987	The Importance of Being Earnest		
1989	Arsenic And Old Lace		

a full list of plays is available on the 'About HTC' page of the HTC website: www.htc.org.au

Yes folks the Banyule Winter Festival is looming and so is.



-----htc capers 2011 -----



on Saturday August 20th @ 8pm

presented by the Heidelberg Theatre Company

at the Theatre, 36 Turnham Avenue, Rosanna

NEVER FEAR!

The usual suspects will appear as hopefully will some hitherto unforeseen talent!!!

Our charismatic construction crew and other talented techies will tread their boards

MAYBE

You have an unobtrusive sketch simmering somewhere a song you're dying to deliver..... an ode you can offer.

YOU COULD BE

winging it in the wings and flying by the seat of your pants

ACROSS THE HTC STAGE!!!

Includes a light supper (byo drinks) and the jovial company of htc members and friends

ENTRY \$5

GOT AN IDEA FOR A CAPER?????

Contact: Anne Smith via absmith44@hotmail.com
or phone: 9459 8702 or 0414 515 939

(and remember ... capers go well with lots of things.)

HTC YOUTH

Early this year in March many members may have seen a couple articles in the Heidelberg Leader reporting the disappointment expressed by a number of young performers following the decision for HTC Youth to take a break for 12 months. Contrary to what was reported in the local press articles the decision for taking a break was not based on financial constraints.

The Committee has always encouraged the HTC Youth program and over the past 10 years we have been fortunate to have a HTC Youth representative on the committee. Unfortunately for the 2011 year no nominations were received from the youth group. Recognising that we are committed to an already demanding 5 play season, it was considered to be too great a burden to expect our existing members and volunteers to take on additional workload. As no production had been confirmed the decision to take a 12month break was obvious.

Historically we have managed to finance the youth productions from the company's resources and thankfully most of the Youth productions have achieved a break even position. Looking forward to the 2012 year we would encourage any of the past HTC Youth members to consider nominating for committee and be prepared to forward their ideas to the play selection committee now so that our forward planning for next year's calendar can be completed.
John Gilbert, President, HTC.

JUNE

Saturday 25th 10.30am Working Bee with Lunch
Tuesday 28th 7.30pm Heidelberg Film Society - The Getting of Wisdom

JULY

Saturday 2nd 10.30am Working Bee with Lunch
Thursday 7th 8.00pm FIRST NIGHT – THE HISTORY BOYS
Saturday 23rd 8.00pm FINAL NIGHT – THE HISTORY BOYS
Tuesday 26th 7.30pm Heidelberg Film Society - The Maltese Falcon

AUGUST

Saturday 20th 8.00pm Banyule Winter Festival – htc capers 2011
Tuesday 23rd 7.30pm Heidelberg Film Society – My Life As A Dog

WHO, WHAT, WHERE???

We had a call from the Seymour Probus Group making a group booking for The 39 Steps on the 2nd Sunday of the run. When asked how they came to hear about us, the reply was "Ron Young has joined our Probus Group and recommended that we get a Theatre Party together for a show at HTC!"

Members will remember Ron as one of our great set building team members before he moved to Nagambie a couple of years back. Thanks Ron for spreading the word and it will be great to catch up with you and your new friends at HTC in September.

NICA Pre-Audition Workshop

The National Institute of Circus Arts is holding a Pre-Audition Intensive Workshop, checkout the website for details: <http://www.nica.com.au/workshops>.

FM System Phonic Ear Headphones (no hearing aid needed) will be available again at the Sunday Matinee performances of **The History Boys**. Please reserve them when you book. The System is being trialled with assistance from the Banyule City Council.

BLOCK BOOKING OPTIONS

Preview Night & First Nighters' Specials – Groups of 50 –
\$10 per ticket.

BOOK NOW -

call our HTC Box Office on
9457 4117.

Groups of 10 or more -
any performance – **\$20 per tkt.**

BOOK ONLINE at: htc.org.au
or call the **HTC Box Office**
9457 4117

HELP!!!

needed at the

WORKING BEES for THE HISTORY BOYS

Saturdays
25th June & 2nd July
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