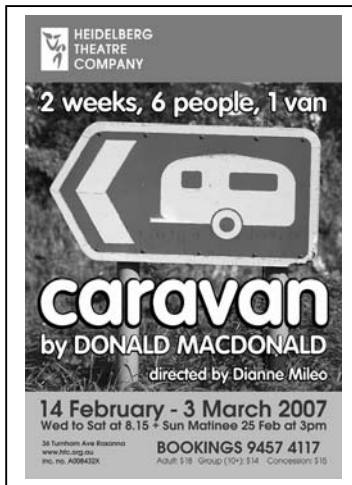


PROMPTS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE HEIDELBERG THEATRE COMPANY



caravan

by Donald Macdonald
directed by Dianne Mileo

14th Feb – 3rd March, 2007

Wednesday to Saturday at 8.15pm,

Matinee Sunday 25th Feb. at 3pm

Subscribers requiring to alter their chosen night or reserve their booking are asked to call BEFORE Monday, 28th January, 2007.

The Company has great pleasure in introducing Diane Mileo, making her directorial debut at Heidelberg with Donald MacDonald's **Caravan** which opens on Valentine's Day 2007.

This production promises to be an absolute hoot. Diane tells how when she first read the play some years ago she laughed out loud and she did the same when she came back to it a few months ago.

The action takes place in a secluded, and largely undiscovered camping spot somewhere on the coast of northern New South Wales. MacDonald has peopled his stage with six wonderfully obnoxious characters, all of them lovely roles in their own way. Putting *these* people in confined space allows for plenty of opportunity for the comedic skills of the cast to bring the story to life.

Rehearsals are underway – just and already there is a great feel developing. She has a fabulous cast and, at this stage, a partial crew (anyone interested...). Some members of the cast will be familiar to HTC and there are some new faces too.

The long planned holiday gets off to a poor start as Penny and Parkes arrive with Penny praying "Please let it not be a disaster" and Grumpy-Bum Parkes complaining that "somebody has taken his spot." When Monica and Rodney arrive we discover that this is the first time he and Penny have seen each other after an alcohol-induced indiscretion a fortnight previously. Along comes Pierce with a girl half his age whom the others have never met. And that's just the beginning!

Brett Turner is *Parkes Robinson* – the proud owner of the 'titular' Caravan and playing his long suffering wife, *Penny*, we have Maria Passalacqua. Old friends, *Monica* – who'd rather be shopping in Paddington - *Rodney* – her less than faithful husband, are played by Jo Warr and Adrian Valenta. Fresh from his acting debut in **The Front Page** Dave Miller plays *Pierce*. Another long time friend of *Penny* and *Parkes*, he is a bachelor who is untouched by responsibility and with a never ending string of increasingly younger girlfriends. Flowerchild, *Gwendolyn*, who is the latest and youngest in the string, is played by Melissa New.

The Set Building Crew for **Caravan** is led by **Dennis Pain** and another interesting challenge has been thrown at the Team, thankfully made up of the usual talented suspects, **Ted Drowley**, **Paddy Moriarty**, **Ron Young**, **Des Harris** and **Michael Mileo**. Leanne Cole is working with the Set Building team to assist with design issues and she has also planned the colour scheme for the set. And that's not all of the fantastic team! **Bruce Akers** is Production Co-ordinator and Stage Manger, **Tim McLaughlan** is designing the Sound, **Struan McGregor** is designing the Lighting, **Wendy Drowley** is overseeing the costuming and **Julie Hall** is Assistant to the Director.

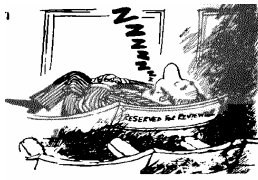
One caravan, two weeks, six people...and the rain. A great show to start the 2007 Season with plenty of laughs in store!

Please note: When BOOKING TICKETS phone our Ticket Box on – 9457 4117 or fax to 9457 2078. DO NOT use email to make Bookings or for any queries regarding tickets.

P.O Box 141, Rosanna VIC 3084
Enquiries 9455 3039
Fax 9457 2078
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, address & phone number

BOOKINGS & SUBSCRIPTIONS 9457 4117



Review

The Front Page

by Ben Hecht & Charles MacArthur

Directed by Maureen McInerney

Reviewed by John Gunn 16th November, 2006 for

3CR's CURTAIN UP – Sundays at One (855 AM)

There have been many film adaptations along with a stage musical version of this classic play from 1928 Broadway and I can understand its durability being as it is a tale of corruption with the wheeling and dealing in the newspaper industry all wrapped up in a kind of screwball comedy.

Ace reporter Hildy Johnson is leaving for New York to be married, but his unscrupulous boss Walter Burns wants him to cover just one last assignment, the execution of Prisoner Earl Williams who is to be sent to the electric chair. The setting is the Pressroom above the Criminal Courts building in Chicago, and the press guys are all waiting for the big moment and eager to be first with the news for their various papers.

Add to this a corrupt Sheriff, a bent Mayor and quite a few other odd characters and you have the ingredients for a fast moving and stimulating comedy of power building and gain. There are several twists to the story but it would be unfair for those who don't know this play to give too much away.

It is a piece that requires quick fire delivery and over the top characters by today's standards, but it also needs subtlety to bring out the many elements of this fine script - in other words it is not an easy play and puts a lot of demands on a director.

Heidelberg's production under the direction of Maureen McInerney was a little disappointing, while overall boasting a reasonably talented cast it lacked fire in the belly, tension and surprise. I didn't feel that Stelios Karagiannis lighting plot was up to his usual standard and was rather dim, also the key point when Hildy Johnson (in the now darkened press room) capitulates per phone to Editor Walter Burns did not impact – here a small spot highlighting his face as he makes his decision would have helped set the scenes to come.

The set could have had a few nooks to give it more character, it was all too open and spread across the stage. Detail such as the sign over the main doors, bathroom etc were good as was the music. I also felt that for period detail that some of the guys' hair was a little too long and I do question the outfit worn by the Sheriff.

Looking at the cast: Shane Ryan as *Hildy* looked right, had loads of energy but he came in on such a high that it left him nowhere else to go, a bit too loud and frenetic. In the other major role Jim Murphy as *Walter Burns* had good placing of the dialogue, looked just right and gave the production a lift. The ensemble of reporters worked well together but could have defined their individual characters more thereby adding variance and colour to the production. I should say that Chris Rogers as the prisoner *Earl Williams* did well

I felt that the roles of the *Mayor* and *Sheriff* were a little caricatured and the women were a little lack lustre, Kim Watty as *Mrs Grant* (mother of Peggy, .i.e Hildy's fiancé) was nearest to the mark.



Pictured are our 2006 Adjudicators, Judi Clark, David Dare and Helen Robinson with Chris Baldock, winner of a Performance Award for the role of Father in The Knacker's ABC

Heidelberg Theatre Company In House Awards for 2006

John Gilbert, HTC President, in his Report, thanked the In House Adjudicators: Judi Clark, David Dare and Helen Robinson for their enthusiasm, diligence and expertise.

This year our Adjudicators presented the Annual HTC In House Awards under the following banners:-

Winners

Production ART directed by Wayne Pearn

Direction Wayne Pearn - ART

Performance, for their roles in:-

1. **The Knacker's ABC** as *Father* - Chris Baldock
2. **Emma Celebrazione** as *Emma* - Catherine Christensen
3. **Art** as *Yvan*, - Barry Lockett
4. **Cat On A Hot Tin Roof** as *Big Daddy* - Bob Crawford
5. **The Front Page** as *Hildy Johnson* - Shane Ryan

Commendation - Gayle Poor for bringing many different elements of theatre together Musicians/Singers/Actors and melding into a working team, maintaining the cultural integrity throughout the play.

Unsung Heroes

* **The Ticket Secretary**, June Cherrey - for being a brand for the Company (always smiling and pleasant). Good marketing.

* **The Set Construction Team** - Dennis Pain, Ted Drowley, Paddy Moriarty, Jim Thomson, Ron Young for presentation of well-constructed sets ready for the final artistic finishes over the five productions in 2006

Nominations for Performance Awards

The Knacker's ABC *Father* - Chris Baldock

Emma Celebrazione *Emma* - Catherine Christensen

Mariannina - Carmel Behan, Trio Part: *Domenico Orlando*,

Domenico Ciccotosto, *Peter Cicotosto* - Simon Fenn

ART *Marc* - Bruce Akers, *Serge* - Chris McLean,

Yvan - Barry Lockett.

Cat On A Hot Tin Roof *Maggie* - Deborah McKelvey,

Big Daddy - Bob Crawford.

The Front Page *Endicott*, *Pincus* - David Miller, *Walter*

Burns - Jim Murphy, *Hildy Johnson* - Shane Ryan

Directors Nominations and Production

The Front Page - Maureen McInerney,

Emma Celebrazione - Gayle Poor, **Art** - Wayne Pearn.

To sum up, a difficult play that perhaps needed a couple of weeks extra rehearsal time to allow more character development and the fine tuning of the actual dialogue which in turn would help in establishing and controlling the pace; the first act in particular was a little slow and didn't get the laughs it should have. However having said that it is good to see these classic plays getting an airing on our stages.



Wendy with her Bill Cherrey Award
BILL CHERREY AWARD 2006

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 winner has been involved with the Theatre Company since 1953, when as a teenage school student she played the role of *Elsbeth* in the production of **Lace On Her Petticoat**. Known then as Heidelberg Repertory Company the production was directed by Mr Dean and performed at the Ivanhoe Eisteddfod Hall.

Her involvement with HTC has continued through to the current day which has included a career of many acting roles and also as a director of several plays. In addition, this year's winner is also responsible for wardrobe and is the Company's archive historian, as well as being a Committee Member, Vice President and the person who can always be relied upon to fix any problem or undertake any challenge with the responsibility that's needed and with the attention to detail that is required.

John Gilbert HTC President, called on June Cherrey to come to the stage to present the 2006 Bill Cherrey Award to Wendy Drowley.

(John Gilbert/June Cherrey)

WINNER OF THE 2006 CHRISTMAS HAMPER

It is always an exciting moment at the AGM when the Raffle is drawn and again this year the lucky ticket holder, **Rod Chappell**, was there to share in the excitement and collect the Hamper!

Rod has been associated with HTC for many years as an actor, he played the *Mayor* in **The Front Page**. Congratulations Rod from us all.



Alice Bugge OAM

Esteemed Life Member of Heidelberg Theatre Company.

If all the world's a stage then you strode it magnificently. As an Artistic Director, actress, director, youth theatre creator and committee member, your 50 years contribution to HTC has been immeasurable. One of the true architects of HTC. Our thoughts are with George, Barbara and the family. Alice you will be missed forever and a day. obituary from HTC Committee and Members.

It was a full house, standing room only, at the Theatre at the Celebration of Alice's Life on Sunday, 14th January. HTC President, John Gilbert welcomed the 'audience'; George and grandsons Cameron and Andrew, friends from the Theatre world in Melbourne and further afield together with colleagues from Alice's working life.

Cathy Christensen, Lois Connor and Bruce Akers gave readings from plays Alice had directed. Edna Bartlett and Barbara Barrett spoke of Alice's work with the VDL. Tributes from Ian Robinson and Bill Roberts were read by John Gilbert and Julie Hall. Stephen Hall spoke of his experiences in Youth Workshops run by Alice and Wayne Pearn and Wendy Drowley read tributes to Alice. Followed by video tributes of Alice.

At the close of the Celebration, John announced the Company's plan to incorporate a lasting tribute to Alice in the redesigned front garden of the Theatre. He then invited everyone to continue the Celebration in the Foyer, sharing memories of Alice and toasting her life.

A Tribute to Alice written and read by Wendy Drowley at the Celebration.

Alice started at Heidelberg Rep in 1957, fifty years ago, in **Trial And Error** playing *Briggs the Girl Reporter*, very apt, because Alice always realised the importance of publicity, and maintained this role with us for many years. Alice's name is on the last programme, assisting with publicity for **The Front Page**.

Hers is a remarkable story of a life dedicated to the Theatre, she acted in thirty-six plays and directed twenty-three more plus the nine Pantos and Youth Theatre Productions. She won many awards for her plays and directing: **A View From The Bridge, St Patrick's Day, Absurd Person Singular, Servant Of Two Masters**, and my favourite, **Miracle Worker**. She directed spectaculars like **Romeo And Juliet** and **M....** that Scottish play which was to have been costumed as 1940s, but ended up feudal with stripped down furs, real swords and shields – great ideas, sometimes too grand and too late, but with her vision we usually succeeded.

She was an imposing, elegant actress who took on some great roles. I remember her as *Branwen* in **Song Of The Wind** in 1957 with another great actress, Stella Dunn. She took over from Stella as the 'Grand Lady of Theatre', in the theatrical world everyone knew her and everybody admired her, she was a dynamo, always with some new idea for the betterment of the Theatre. Her commitment was not just to acting and direction. She was soon on the Committee, first as Publicity Officer, then as Artistic Director, a role she relished. Changes were made under her guidance and the Rep gained in reputation. She encouraged the move to Rosanna and helped plan the renovation. She was involved in the VDL during the 80s and 90s, overseeing the welfare of all amateur companies. In the 80s Alice heard of the RIVBs need for readers for the print handicapped, so OK we will do that as well. She organised rosters and for many years this community contribution was made, and when numbers fell away, Alice did it herself – ask a busy person. Banyule Festival Parades, down the street with her Youth Theatre kids, all dressed up, Fashion Parades, she loved to dress up! At our Open Day this year she was there showing people around her second home, the Theatre.

Alice on stage or directing and George in the bio box organising Sound. Alice, you were unique. Thank you for the vision, may we carry it on and pass it on to younger generations. May HTC thrive for many years to come. We won't forget you, but we will miss your wise counsel.

(The Tributes will be available on the HTC website in February)

A Report on the 2006 Heidelberg Theatre Company AGM

The 2006 AGM proved to be very successful, both for those responsible for presenting the various items on the Agenda and for the 'audience'. The Reports presented by President, John Gilbert, Treasurer Bruce Akers, Anne Smith and Joan Moriarty were well prepared, delivered with great style and received with much interest and general approval by those present.

In his President's Report, John Gilbert gave the occupancy rates for the five productions in 2006:- 57% for **ART**, 64% **The Knackers ABC**, **Cat On A Hot Tin Roof** 81.5%, **Front Page** 79.6% and **Emma** 96%, as well John reported that the attendances for the two HTC Youth productions, **Blackrock** and **Cosi** were very pleasing.

It was reported that there were 570 Subscribers in 2006, financial members numbered 75, plus another 96 people were on the mailing list. John also reported on audience comments which were both favourable regarding the quality of the productions and also at times critical, particularly with regard to noise in **The Knacker's ABC**.

It was noted that expenditure had been kept to a minimum in 2006. Items purchased were a light box, and a sofa, chairs and lights for the foyer.

In his President's Report, John described the many tasks and skills needed to successfully run our great Company in 2006 and went on to thank individual members who had made valuable contributions to achieve this end through the giving of their time and expertise.

He also referred to HTC's commitment to supporting local community groups by making the Theatre available to them for functions and of the donations to various charities made in the form of tickets used for fund raising events.

John reported on the due diligence of the Committee in its dealings with the Banyule Council in relation to the lease of the Theatre, the procurement of a grant for the beautification of the front garden, the leasing of additional rehearsal space in the local area and the Company's enthusiastic participation in Banyule Council Festivals.

The passing of life member Bill Knight, and Elisabeth Twining and James Fitch during the year were noted with regret.

Eight members, Bruce Akers, Wendy Drowley, Brett Hunt, Maureen McInerney, Tim McLaughlin, Vlad T, Rose Connors-Dance and Isabelle Mason were elected unopposed onto the Committee.

(If you would like to read the various Reports presented at the AGM they will be posted on the Company's website in early February.)

HTC YOUTH PRODUCTION – COSI by Louis Nowra REVIEW by Joan Moriarty

Director Adrian Boyce gathered together a uniformly strong cast that worked very well as an ensemble. Adrian is to be congratulated for his preparation and hard work in blocking the play and keeping his cast totally believable.

The Youth Group more or less have to bump in a couple of days before their season and run with the previous set. This was no trouble in this case and it worked very well. Lighting and sound were just fine as was the costuming.

I would like to congratulate all the cast and if a couple needed a little more technique they made up for it with the energy and zest of youth. All in all a production I thoroughly enjoyed and wished that more people had seen it.

Last but not least a very special congratulations and thanks to Anne Smith for being a very effective Guardian Angel.

(checkout the HTC website in early February for the complete Review)

FEBRUARY

Saturday 3 rd	10.30am	Working Bee with Lunch
Saturday 10 th	10.30am	Working Bee with Lunch
Wednesday 14 th	8.15pm	FIRST NIGHT – Caravan
Sunday 18 th	2.00pm	AUDITION: Dinner
Monday 19 th	7.00pm	AUDITION: Dinner
Tuesday 20 th	7.30pm	Heidelberg Film Society – It's Ruth & The Absolutely Astonishing Ashtons

MARCH

Saturday 3 rd	8.15pm	FINAL NIGHT – Caravan
Tuesday 20 th	7.30pm	Heidelberg Film Society – Casablanca

APRIL

Sunday 1 st	2.00pm	AUDITION: The Grapes of Wrath
Monday 2 nd	7.00pm	AUDITION: The Grapes of Wrath
Tuesday 24 th	7.30pm	Heidelberg Film Society – Rats In The Ranks

VDL AWARDS 2006

Great news from the VDL Awards Night 2006. Our production of **ART** has been recognised at the 2006 VDL Awards winning the following: -

Stelios Karagiannis –

Silver Award for Lighting.

George Tranter -

nomination for set design.

Bruce Akers and Barry Lockett -
nominated for Best Comedy Actor in a

Leading Role.

Barry Lockett –

Gold Award for Best Comedy Actor in a
Leading Role.

Wayne Pearn –

Gold Award - The Edna (Jones) Chandler
Perpetual Trophy-for Best Direction –
Comedy.

HTC Gold Award –

The Charles (Bud) Tingwell Perpetual
Trophy for Best Comedy Production.

Congratulations to Wayne, Wendy,
Bruce, Stelios, George, Barry and the
team for a fantastic result.

In addition Stelios and Chris
Baldock won several awards which are
available for review on the VDL web site.

WHO, WHAT, WHERE???

In the last *Prompts* we reported that
Leanne Cole, currently studying at the
Victorian College of the Arts, who painted
the wonderful backdrop for **Cat**, was to
have her work on display at the VCA
Graduation Show. It was a great show and
Leanne's talents were rewarded when she
received an Encouragement Award for her
entry. Congratulations from us all Leanne!

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 give Anne a call
at the Theatre on **9455 3039**.

HELP!!! needed at the **WORKING BEES**

for **caravan**

Saturdays
3rd & 10th 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

AUDITION NOTICE

Sunday 18th February at 2pm

Monday 19th February at 7pm

at Heidelberg Theatre Company, 36 Turnham Avenue, Rosanna

Dinner

by Moira Buffini directed by Joan Moriarty

Season: Wednesday 18th April – Saturday 5th May, 2007 at 8:15pm

Sunday Matinee 29th April at 3pm

This English play is set in the present.

Middle class English accents are required except for the character, Mike – cockney or regional.

DRAMATIS PERSONAE

Paige	late 30's to early 50's. Cool, in control and ascerbic.
Penny	40-55. Her husband. Urbane believes himself to be intellectually superior.
Wynne	35-50. A hippie artist. A woman scorned - unhappy.
Hal	40-50. A microbiologist. A little on edge – sensitive to criticism.
Sïan	25-40. A T.V. newsreader. Hal's new second wife. A little hysterical.
Mike	25-40 A working class intruder.
The Waiter	A pivotal character – on stage most of the time. Very busy waiting. Says very little. Would prefer someone exotic looking. A male – age unimportant.

All ages are approximate.

Enquiries to the Director

Joan on 9459 3495

Heidelberg Theatre Company

is excited to announce

AUDITIONS

on Sunday 1st April from 1.30pm

& Monday 2nd April from 7.30pm

at the **1st Rosanna Scout Hall, De Winton Park, St James Rd , Rosanna. Melways 32 A2**

(The Scout Hall is at the end of St James Road and backs onto the railway line.

It is on the same side of the railway line as Heidelberg Theatre Company)

The Grapes of Wrath

adapted by **Frank Galati** from the novel by **John Steinbeck** - directed by **Chris Baldock**

Season: Wednesday 4th July – Saturday 21st July, 2006, Matinee - Sunday 15th July.

Renowned first as a much-loved Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, and then as an award-winning motion picture, John Steinbeck's classic story of the Joad family - and their flight from the dust bowl of Oklahoma to California in search of a better life - comes brilliantly to life in this Tony Award-winning adaptation. With a large cast and stunning theatricality, this deeply moving affirmation of the strength of the human spirit is a dramatic epic not to be missed.

“This is a thrilling theatrical achievement that gets its power from the still sharp relevance of its human message.”

N.Y. Post.

Cast requirements:

Tom Joad: late 20s/early 30s (main role)

Ma Joad: 50s (large role)

Pa Joad: 50s (large role)

Jim Casey: 40s (large role)

Rose of Sharon: 20s (medium/large role)

Al Joad: 20s (medium role)

Uncle John: 50s (medium role)

Ruthie Joad: 12 two actors will be cast in the role and alternate in the role during the season.

Winfield Joad: 10 two actors will be cast in role and alternate in the role during the season..

Grandpa / Mayor of Hooverville / Camp Guard: 70s/80s

Granma / 3rd Narrator: 70s/80s

Noah Joad / Boy: teenager

Plus ... An ensemble of 2 women and 8 men to play the following roles:

(role allocation subject to change)

- **Man with Guitar / Car Salesman #2** - ****Strong singing and guitar playing ability required****

- **Connie Rivers / 2nd Man**

- **Mrs Wainwright / Elizabeth Sandry**

- **2nd Narrator / Car Salesman #1 / Deputy Sheriff / Man in the Barn**

- **Al's Girl (Aggie)**

- **Officer / Car Salesman #4 / Young Man / Gas Station Attendant / Hooper Ranch Guard**

- **1st Narrator / Muley Graves / Man Going Back / 2nd Man with Club / 2nd Man**

- **1st Man (Act 2-Sc 4)/ Man / Agricultural Officer #1/ Contractor / 4th Narrator / 1st Man (Act 2-Sc 6)**

- **Car Salesman #5 / Gas Station Owner / Floyd Knowles / Weedpatch Camp Director / 3rd Man**

- **Car Salesman #3 / Camp Proprietor / 1st Man with Club / Hooper Ranch Bookkeeper / Agricultural Officer #2**

****Also strongly desired, actors/singers who can play the harmonica or violin to complement the Man with Guitar****

Please note:

* It is envisioned that the entire cast will be on stage for most of the show meaning that the ensemble will be required to do more than the roles listed above.

* Only actors with proven experience and versatility are required for the roles listed above. An ability to work as part of an ensemble will be sought.

* However up to ten "extras" with no/minimal experience may also be cast to round out the ensemble. If you have no/minimal experience or you just wish to be a part of this special event, you are encouraged to audition.

* As **The Grapes of Wrath** is an "epic" production, rehearsals will commence mid-April. Rehearsals will be Wednesday evenings from 7.30 pm and Sundays from 3 pm to 7 pm from mid-April until mid-May with Monday evening rehearsals added early May and then Tuesday and Thursday evenings and Sunday afternoons /evenings once we move into the theatre. Not all cast members will be required for all rehearsals during the first month of rehearsals.

* Dust Bowl Folk Songs and hymns are integral throughout the play. You do not need to be a trained singer but the ability to hold a tune will be looked upon favorably. Please note also that the *Car Salesmen* are singing roles.

* There is a scene in the play that involves rain and another involving a river. This will involve most of the cast getting wet. Please do not audition if this is an issue.

* It will be a requirement of acceptance into the production that cast members attend at least two set building sessions as required (these are held on Saturdays leading up to the production). Please do not audition if this is an issue.

* Costume calls will be built into the rehearsal schedule and it will be a requirement to attend as required.

* All auditionees are required to have read the script before attending auditions. To organise a copy please email TGOWatHTC@gmail.com.

* Auditions are strictly by appointment. Spaces are limited so it is strongly suggested to book your time asap as interest in the production is extremely high. Auditions can be booked via email: TGOWatHTC@gmail.com

* Please arrive at least 15 minutes before your audition time.

All enquiries preferably to the above email address or 0402 616 609.