Announces

AUDITIONS

for the

September/October 2009 production

of

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead

by Tom Stoppard

Directed by Chris McLean

Season – September 17 to October 3, 2009

AUDITION DATES

– Sunday June 28, 2009 from 2:00 pm*
– Tuesday June 30, 2009 from 7.30 pm*

Auditions are strictly by appointment only. Contact the director via cfmclean@hotmail.com to book a time.

Audition venues –  June 28: Scout Hall ¹, De Winton Park, St James Rd, Rosanna - Melway 32 A2
June 30: Heidelberg Theatre, 36 Turnham Ave Rosanna - Melway 32 A1

¹ The Scout Hall on the same side of the railway line as our theatre. It is at the end of St James Road and backs on to the railway line.)
What's the play about?

If you know the play you can skip this bit.

Not familiar with Tom Stoppard’s works? Then you may find the first read of “Roz and Guil” a little bewildering – as is the world to many of Stoppard’s characters! If you enjoy the wit and banter of Oscar Wilde’s ‘The Importance of Being Earnest’ then you’ll enjoy Stoppard’s comic wordplay also, as you get to know him.

Stoppard, a theatre critic before becoming a playwright, was fascinated by the skills and styles of other noted dramatists such as Shakespeare - “Roz and Guil” takes its storyline from Hamlet, and indeed a lot of Hamlet text is included in this play – and Samuel Beckett – like the two main characters in Waiting for Godot Roz and Guil spend a good many moments ‘filling in time’ while waiting for something to happen. So, when first staged, “Roz and Guil” was acknowledged as combining other theatrical styles in a fresh, exciting and very amusing way.

Characters

- Hamlet – 20s early 30s, Prince of Denmark, fractious, moody and maybe mad, which – given his family history – may be not unreasonable.
- Horatio – friend of Hamlet (and the one who first alerted Hamlet that his father’s ghost was stalking Elsinore castle)
- Gertrude – Hamlet’s mother and Queen of Denmark, recently re-married – to Claudius
- Claudius – Hamlet’s uncle (brother to recently-deceased Hamlet senior) and King of Denmark
- Polonius – Senior advisor to King Claudius, full of wise counsel but apt to meddle where he shouldn’t
- Ophelia – 20s, attractive, daughter of Polonius, in love with Hamlet and not coping well with being spurned by him
- Laertes – 20s early 30s, brother of Ophelia, fights a ‘friendly’ duel with Hamlet (but that happens offstage in our play)
- Rosencrantz – 20s-early 30s, old schoolmate of Hamlet and pal of Gui, likes playing games, a little naïve but tries hard to understand, doesn’t like being confused.
- Guildenstern – 20s-early 30s, old schoolmate of Hamlet and pal of Ros, ponders energetically the world about him, despite his learned approach not giving many answers.
- The Player – 40s-mid 60s, a world-wise actor, knows how to play an audience, and to maintain dignity even while almost begging for coin.
- Tragedians – a group of versatile performers led by The Player
- Court attendants, guards, soldiers

Audition preparation:

- Prepare 2 short monologues, about one minute each will do, one from Shakespeare and one from a more recent English play.
- If Stoppard is new to you, read “The Real Inspector Hound”, written about the same time as “Roz and Guil”

Other Details: Please email cfmclean@hotmail.com