

# COMING EVENTS AT HTC

## FEBRUARY

Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	2.00pm	<b>AUDITION: I'm Not Rappaport</b> by Herb Gardner
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	7.30pm	<b>AUDITION: I'm Not Rappaport</b> by Herb Gardner
Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	<b>Working Bee</b> with Lunch
Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	<b>Working Bee</b> with Lunch
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	8.15pm	<b>Opening Night</b> – Bermuda Avenue Triangle by Renee Taylor & Joseph Bologna
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	Heidelberg Film Society – <b>All About Eve (USA)</b> .

## MARCH

Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup>	8.15pm	<b>Final Night</b> – Bermuda Avenue Triangle by Renee Taylor & Joseph Bologna
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	Heidelberg Film Society – Banyule Festival Event - <b>Looking for Alibrandi</b> (Aust.)

# The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Annual General Meeting



*June Cherrey presents the 2002 Bill Cherrey Award to George Bissett.*



*New Life Members, Joan Moriarty and Lois Connor*

HTC's 2002, 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Annual General Meeting took place on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> of December at the Theatre.

HTC's President, John Gilbert, welcomed members, subscribers and friends of the Company to the meeting and thanked Jenny Gilbert for taking on the task of recording the Minutes of the AGM.

The President reported on activities the Committee had instigated during the year. These included the introduction of EfPost facilities for ticket and subscription payment. John reported that it has proven to be a convenience to audiences and also means less cash is handled and as well, the prior payment of tickets means less instances of "no shows on the night" by audience members. In addition a Masterkey system was installed, a smoke machine bought - and used in every production since and a very well appointed paintshed was constructed during the year in the grounds behind the Theatre by an enthusiastic group of workers. A termite eradication exercise is underway and a grant has been applied for from the Banyule Council to re-model the garden in the front of the Theatre.

He also reported that it had not been possible to obtain the services of an Honorary Auditor, so it had been necessary for the Company to engage an Auditor at a yearly fee. As well, the Company's Treasurer, Laurie Jezard, has resigned and John thanked Laurie for his work and dedication especially with the increased workload involved in managing the GST requirements.

John highlighted the fact that with Laurie's resignation, two vital Committee positions were unfilled, that of Treasurer and Secretary. And he called on members to consider offering their support to the Company so that these vital positions are filled.

The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reminiscence Afternoon in March was attended by 100 friends of the Company and other highlights during the year were the Awards gained by in the Victorian Drama League competition for **Pygmalion** directed by Wendy Drowley. Wendy's contribution to the local community, particularly to HTC in its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year, was acknowledged when she was invited by the Banyule Council to be Patron of the Banyule Winter Festival in 2002.

John spoke too of the death of a number of friends of HTC during the year; David Ashton, Beryl Young, Brett Jones and Roy Mackrell were remembered and John

expressed the Company's sadness at the loss of these dear ones.

Three Committee members resigned during the year, Bruce Akers, Rhonda Chung and Laurie Jezard. John thanked a host of members for their work behind the scenes during the year and also thanked Bill Roberts for the donation of guns, hand made by Bill, which have appeared in many productions at HTC during the years.

## **LIFE MEMBERSHIPS**

Joan Moriarty and Lois Connor were presented with Life Membership to the Company. Maureen McInerney spoke of the commitment Joan has made in numerous roles since her first appearance in **Fallen Angels** in 1981. Lois Connor's long association with Heidelberg, since the first production of **See How They Run** in 1957, were recounted by Wendy Drowley.

## **PLAYBILL REPORT**

Joan Moriarty presented the Playbill Report on behalf of the Committee, highlighting the fact that the gender balance for the year was not as planned as **Noises Off** did not 'come off' and the all male cast of **Breaker Morant** tilted the scales somewhat. In 2003 the balance is planned to be very even - 18 Females and 17 Males.

Attendances rates for the 2002 Season were 95.9% **Pygmalion**, 80.71% **Grace**, 73% **The Weir**, 76% **Breaker Morant** and 82% **Shirley Valentine**.

Joan also reported that the Theatre had been used by a variety of groups other than the Company during the year, in particular groups with young members associated with theatre.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Laurie Jezard presented the Treasurer's Report and distributed copies of same.

## **COMMITTEE ELECTIONS**

Retiring Committee Members at the AGM were June Cherrey, Marie Mackrell, Leanne Cole, Laurie Jezard and Owen Evans. June and Marie chose to re-nominate for the Committee and Amy Joseland and Lena Minto were also nominated and all were duly appointed. The President thanked all those who had served on the Committee during 2002 for their contribution to the Company.

## **THE BILL CHERREY AWARD**

The President called on June Cherrey to present the Bill Cherrey Award for Service to the Company during the year. The Award was made to George Bissett for his on going support to HTC in the technical area as both designer and operator of Audio in 2002 and also for his contribution in over twenty productions at HTC.



*HTC Life Members Assemble for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary AGM*



# Review

## Shirley Valentine

by Willy Russell

directed by Chris Baldock

Reviewed by Francis Devlin Glass for **Curtain Up**,  
3CR on 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2002.

It's a long time since I first saw **Shirley Valentine**, but it's the kind of play one remembers because of its clean lines and directness of communication. I was surprised to see its date, 1986. It can't have been exactly ground-breaking then, reading like a 1970s feminist version of **The Doll's House**, but it probably had the effect of giving unthreatening expression to the by then familiar large social changes around women, work and changing gender roles. Its mixing of comedy with homily makes it very appropriate and appealing silly season stuff. Its gender politics won't get up a single person's nose because of its gentleness and the way it generalises *Shirley's* boredom with her life to her husband who is similarly trapped by routine and house and job.

Chris Baldock's direction of **Shirley Valentine** gave us an endearing and feisty Shirley, played by Jayne Lindill. It's her second big role this year (she played the lead in Williamstown's **W;t** earlier this year), and the two performances make quite clear that this actor has really hit her straps. She has no trouble eye-balling audiences and giving herself generously body and soul to a performance, and an audience. I like the way she uses her body: hopping up on tables, painting her toe-nails and generally being active around the set. This role allowed her to do a virtuoso range of cameos and the voices of several significant others in her life: her husband, son, daughter and Greek lover, and a few more to boot. Her mastery of accents, especially her *Shirley* accent (lower-class Pom –perhaps Liverpudlian?) was quite remarkable and she never faltered. The material also tests her range, from kid to free spirit, from depression about opportunities for growth lost to exhilaration as she finds her wings and makes her own decisions. One of the cruxes of the performance is when she puckishly assigns the care of her unprepossessing husband to her exploitative daughter who intends to be waited on, as is the husband, by the wife. It's easy to enjoy *Shirley's* breaking out of the stifling cocoon of habit and domesticity.

Marie Mackrell and Chris Baldock's set design and costuming (done by Lois Connor, Wendy Drowley and Jayne Lindill) visually amplified the idea of escape into a richer set of possibilities. The set change was brilliant and great to return to after interval. In the first half we had a very detailed functioning kitchen, in a dreary shade of blue, which allowed *Shirley* to serve up chips and eggs, cooked expertly and without fuss by the multi-talented Lindill. It was detailed down to the working stove, fridge magnets and flowing water. More junk under the magnets might have increased the realism a tad! But that's a very minor niggle. I must also commend the excellent door-opening device and its operator. In the second half, there is a welcome transformation to Greek beach full of wonderfully realistic rocks (which I assume to have been painted polystyrene), with a barely used table, chairs and umbrella. Stelios's lighting meant that we were credibly sun-drenched and the blue of the first scene was transformed into a radiance which sang of good mental health and healthy tans. The brown/gold flooring suggested beach without the messiness of sand which I remember being used in the original Melbourne production. Chris Boeck's sound also helped create the Greek mood. *Shirley's* transformation via costume was also important: from dull blue uniform to brilliantly red silk wrap in an oriental style. She was all but unrecognisable, as she must be.

This is a crowd pleaser and I'm not surprised to hear that audiences are good. It's a very fine production, so congrats to all concerned.

**HELP!!!**

**WORKING BEES**

for

Bermuda Ave Triangle

Saturday

8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> February

from 10.30am

Lunch is provided.

A great chance to begin, resume or continue  
YOUR involvement with HTC and have lots of  
enjoyment into the bargain!

or

**Working Bees not your style?**

**How about Backstage for Bermuda?**  
The services of a Sound Operator are needed.

Like to know more – call Maureen at the

Theatre on **9455 3039**

# AUDITION NOTICE

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February at 2pm and  
Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February at 7.30pm  
at the Theatre

## *I'M NOT RAPPAPORT*

by Herb Gardner

Director - Wendy Drowley

Season: Wed. 30<sup>th</sup> April - Sat. 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2003.

“Central Park, New York. On a bench overlooking the lake two elderly men sit, talk and argue at length. They dream and confront their fears.”

This award winning play has wonderful characters.

### CAST

<b>NAT</b>	Elderly male, Jewish American, approx 70-80 yrs. A very large role
<b>MIDGE</b>	Elderly male, African American, approx. 70-80 yrs. A very large role.
<b>DANFORTH</b>	American – Head of the Tenant’s Committee - 40 yrs.
<b>LAURIE</b>	American girl – art student, (taking drugs) – 25 yrs.
<b>GILLEY</b>	Irish male, could be American – a street-wise kid/Punk – 16 yrs.
<b>CLARA</b>	Nat’s daughter, American – early 40’s.
<b>THE COWBOY</b>	Texan drug dealer, violent – 37 yrs.

For more information call  
**Wendy – 9459 0847**

CONGRATULATIONS to the  
winner of the  
**2002 CHRISTMAS HAMPER.**  
Ms Eva Nagy of Montmorency.

Eva enjoys attending HTC productions in company with ten of her friends, who with the exception of our prizewinner, are all subscribers.

Congratulations on your win and we trust you and your friends will continue to enjoy the shows in the coming season at HTC.

### ***HTC IS SEEKING A SECRETARY AND A TREASURER***

At the recent AGM the positions of Secretary and Treasurer were not filled.

The Company would like to hear from any of its friends who are suitably qualified to act in these honorary Committee positions.

For further information please call Wendy Drowley at the Theatre on **9455 3039**.

**And remember,  
if you would like more  
information on how to**

- \* **RENEW MEMBERSHIPS**  
or  
**SUBSCRIPTIONS**
- \* **ARRANGE GROUP BOOKINGS**
- \* **PURCHASE GIFT VOUCHERS**

**Please call the  
Theatre on  
9455 3039**



The 2002 In House Award Adjudicators present the trophies to the prizewinners. (Those prizewinners not shown here provided large enough paper bags to your editor).

## 2002 IN HOUSE AWARDS



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chose to select six actors for Outstanding Performance without differentiation for the size of the role. And the winners were:-

**Outstanding Performance** - Angeline Thompson - **Pygmalion**, Anne Smith - **Grace**, Jayne Lindill - **Shirley Valentine**, Glen Mackie - **The Weir**, Paul Farrell, Mat Hudson - **Breaker Morant**.

**Direction** - Chris Baldock - **Shirley Valentine**. **Set Design** - Paul King - **Grace**.

**Non-Performance** - Marie Mackrell - Set Detail and Scenic Art.

**Production Values and Realisation** - Steve Cummins - **Breaker Morant**.

Thanks to the Adjudicators for the enthusiasm they brought to the Awards and well done all.

Following the Awards, Laurie Jezard took on the role of Quizmaster for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Quiz Show. With the audience as participants, there was enthusiastic response as answers emanated from all parts of the auditorium, with, sad to say, not always a high degree of accuracy. Alas, the questions (and answers) cannot be reproduced in this publication for fear of the libellous consequences.

After the Quiz, much needed drinks and supper were enjoyed in the foyer, as members, subscribers and friends of the Heidelberg Theatre Company brought the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year of the Company to a successful close.



## WHAT'S THE GOSS?

### 2002 VDL JUBILEE AWARDS

**Pygmalion** directed by Wendy Drowley was HTC's entry this year and again, it's "well done all!"

**Best Actress in a Leading Role** - Angeline Thompson - *Eliza*

**Best Supporting Actress** - Lois Connor - *Mrs Higgins*

**Nominations for:- Acting:** John Keogh - *Doolittle*, Chris Bradtke - *Professor Higgins*, Judi Appleby - *Mrs Eynsford-Hill* and Connie Washington - *Clara Eynsford-Hill*.

**Best Costumes:** Lois Connor. And it doesn't end there.....

**On Stage** awarded the Best Non Professional Play for 2002 to joint winners: **Breaker Morant** at HTC and **Educating Rita** at 1812 and Best Actress to Jayne Lindill for **Shirley Valentine**.

### WHO, WHAT, WHERE...

At the AGM, Amy Joseland joined the Committee, she and her late husband Peter, have had a long association with HTC, welcome back Amy.

**Shirley's** director, Chris Baldock, is directing **Love! Valour!**

**Compassion!** at Gasworks until Feb 8 and **Shirley's** star, Jayne Lindill, is handling publicity for the show! Bookings on **9699 3253**.

Jim Thomson, who played in **Breaker** at HTC is starting the year off in Essendon Theatre Company's production of **Cosi**, playing *Henry*. If you'd like to catch the show, call **9331 0932**. The Season starts on the 3rd April.

Rose, FOH guru and house sitter of renown is currently fulfilling that at Wonthaggi but will be back to get HTC's FOH under way for Bermuda. If you can volunteer, give the Theatre a call on **9455 3039** and Rose will be in touch.

### DRESSING UP

Cupboards full of stuff that Aunt Maud collected on her world tour? Well if she bought you any souvenirs when the boat stopped in the Pacific or when she flew into Las Vegas, here's your chance to put all those gorgeous pieces on show - on the set of Bermuda Avenue Triangle.

If you have anything you can lend to dress (or is it, over-dress) our set,

please call Maureen at the Theatre on **9455 3039**.

### LIKE TO KEEP IN TOUCH?

If membership or subscription to HTC is not really an option for you in 2003 but you would like to 'keep in touch', then just fill out the form below and return it to our Subscription Secretary. By mail to:

**P.O. Box 141, Rosanna Vic, 3084,**

or fax on: **9457 2078**

or call Julie on: **9457 4117**

or email to: [www.htc.org.au](http://www.htc.org.au)

and information on HTC's 2003 productions will be sent to you.

Please send me details of the forthcoming productions at HTC.

Name .....

Address.....

.....pcode.....

Fax No. ....

Email: .....

(Please indicate your preferred contact method:

**Mail**

**Fax**

**Email**

2003



51<sup>st</sup>  
SEASON

The Newsletter of  
the  
Heidelberg  
Theatre  
Company Inc.  
Inc. No. A0008432X

PROMPTS

No. 1.  
February, 2003

36 Turnham Ave  
Rosanna 3084

General Enquiries  
Phone 9455 3039  
Fax 9457 2078

Bookings and  
Subscriptions  
9457 4117

Online:  
[www.htc.org.au](http://www.htc.org.au)

# Bermuda Avenue Triangle

by **Renee Taylor & Joseph Bologna**

another title for this play could be –

*“The Golden Girls Meet Finkelstein and Errol Flyn”*

**February 19 - March 8, 2003**

Wednesday to Saturday at 8.15pm

Matinee Sunday March 3, at 3pm

**BOOKINGS 9457 4117**

Subscribers requiring to alter their chosen night or reserve their booking are asked to call  
BEFORE Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2003  
(10 DAYS BEFORE THE START OF THE SEASON)

The Company is opening its 51<sup>st</sup> season with this light-hearted and lively comedy that will have you rolling in the aisles.

Not to give too much away, this Broadway success tells of the adventures that befell a Jewish widow, an Irish widow and their daughters, who move their mothers into a shared retirement village condominium in Las Vegas where they are befriended by a sweet talking gambler and then..... the fun begins!

Directing Bermuda Avenue Triangle is Ron Conroy. HTC is delighted to welcome Ron in his directorial debut at Heidelberg. Ron is held in high regard for his productions, where his light but assured touch has ensured that his shows, at companies in the Melbourne non-professional theatre world, including **All Of My Sons** and **The Fantastiks** for Malvern and **Jigsaws** and **Goodbye Charlie**.at Peridot are eagerly anticipated and enjoyed by audiences of all ages.

The Company is pleased to introduce a number of new faces in the cast: Diana Burleigh, Tamasin Tunny, Bobby Connelly, Paul O'Connor and Stephen Hutchison will play to HTC audiences for the first time and we are delighted to have these experienced actors join our Company for the show.

Another treat in store for audiences is the return of Cathy Christensen in this production.

Behind the scenes, Maureen McInerney is Production Co-ordinator, Deslie Wynn is Stage Manager, Set Design is by George Tranter and Ron Conroy, Dennis Payne is leading the set building team, Maureen McInerney is doing Costumes, Rachel Rendell and Michael Hardy are designing the Lighting. Sound design and realisation is in the hands of George Bissett and Ron Conroy.

A great team, a great show, bring your friends and begin the year as you want like it to continue – with a good laugh and a great time - Bermuda Avenue Triangle - a great start to 2003 at HTC.

## A NOTE TO SUBSCRIBERS

Again this year there has been a great response for our Subscription series with lots and lots of requests for seating in Rows A and B.

The Company's policy is to handle requests in order of receipt, so, as A & B rows were filling fast by mid January, June, our Ticket Secretary, asks that our patrons understand that the seats they request may have already been allocated.

As always June is making every effort to meet requests, and she asks for your understanding if you are not allocated your preferred seats.