

# WHAT'S THE GOSS

## WHO, WHAT WHERE.....?

Geoff Hickey, who is in the cast of **The Iceman Cometh**, directed the highly successful season of **Our Town** for Peridot in May; familiar faces in the cast were, Anne Pagram, Barry Lockett and Vivienne Spence. Suzanne Shubart who played *Karen* in **Dinner With Friends**, is in the upcoming Williamstown production, **How The Other Half Loves**, Bruce Grainger played in **Breaking the Code** at Malvern recently and Jim Thomson is again featuring somewhere other than HTC, this time in Essendon's production of **Man Alive**. Cheryl Ballantine is directing Eltham's next production, **This Way Up** by Elizabeth Coleman. The season, 2<sup>nd</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> September for bookings call **9437 1572**. And trust you didn't miss Eltham's recent youth production, **RockaSocka**, directed by Gayle Poor and Lois Fleming.

Lois Connor did it again with her costumes for **Rough Crossing**. Great job Lois and those bathers - well they were just inspired! And speaking of **Rough Crossing** it was great to have Jim Murphy in the audience, returned to the fold after illness.

And did you recognised Diana Burleigh out of her Elvis suit; *Fanny*, **Bermuda Avenue Triangle**, knocking 'em dead on Einstein Factor? Well done!

Wendy Drowley, who has set up the displays in the glass cabinet of the foyer at HTC for countless seasons, was delighted with what HTC Youth came up with for their season of **X-Stacy**. It consisted of a poster advertising the production taped to the back of the cabinet and a small, white pill placed

strategically on the shelf below - the inspired mind of Simon Dixon at work! Yes, he's back from his travels to the West and very glad we all are to have him with us once more.

**ACTORS WANTED** to take part in a **Rehearsed Reading** of **THE CASTLE** to be performed before an audience on **Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> August at 7.30pm**.

The **Castle** is the final production in our 2004 Season and is currently being adapted from the movie script by Scott Ramsay. There will be some rehearsal time set aside prior to the **Rehearsed Reading**.

If you are interested in taking part, or would like more details, please call Joan at the Theatre on **9455 4117** before 12<sup>th</sup> July.

## FOH HELPERS WANTED

Like to join the jolly team on FOH? To join up, call Maureen at the Theatre on 9455 3039 or email direct to: [edinburghantiques@bigpond.com](mailto:edinburghantiques@bigpond.com).

Everyone will agree it is always a pleasure to get a call from Maureen, even if it is only about filling the FOH roster. However numbers of the FOH team have now agreed on their FOH dates for the **YEAR** and the arrangement is they will ring Maureen if they can't be available. A great time saver for our busy Maureen and a money saver for the Company too. If you would like to be a part of this arrangement, just tell Maureen, she will be delighted to hear from you!

## COMING EVENTS AT HTC

### JUNE

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> 10.30am **Working Bee** with Lunch

### JULY

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> 10.30am **Working Bee** with Lunch

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> 8.15pm **FIRST NIGHT - THE ICEMAN COMETH.**

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> 2.00pm **AUDITION: Uncle Vanya**

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> 7.00pm **AUDITION: Uncle Vanya**

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> 3.00pm **MATINEE - THE ICEMAN COMETH.**

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm Heidelberg Film Society - *Johnny Guitar* (U.S.)

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> 8.15pm **FINAL NIGHT - THE ICEMAN COMETH**

### AUGUST

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> 22<sup>nd</sup> **Banyule Winter Festival**

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> 10.00am **HTC OPEN DAY** at the Theatre

7.30pm **Rehearsed Reading - THE CASTLE**

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm Heidelberg Film Society - *The Whale Rider*

## HTC YOUTH

**X-Stacy** had a very successful season in May, the play was very well received and the director, Gen Meehan and the cast and crew did a great job, leaving audiences eagerly awaiting their next production.

Speaking of which, HTC Youth is looking for scripts for future productions, so if you have a play that you would like to be considered by this active and talented group, then give Luke Dixon a call on 0417 996 108.

The HTC Youth Theatre Sports night held in early June at the Theatre was a great night and another will be held later in the year, keep an eye on *Prompts* and the Theatre noticeboard for dates.

If you are interested in being a part of HTC Youth then give Luke a call on the number above and he will be happy to fill you in on the Group's activities. The Group is looking for members in the 17 to 24 age group.

## HELP!!!

**needed at the WORKING BEES**

for **THE ICEMAN COMETH**  
**Saturdays**  
**26<sup>th</sup> June & 3<sup>rd</sup> July**  
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** or **foh** for  
**The Iceman Cometh**  
Like to know more - call Maureen at the Theatre on  
**9455 3039**

## EMAIL PROMPTS CAMPAIGN

It's not too late to join HTC's email list and receive **Prompts** electronically! Just drop a line to the email address below, include your name, address and phone number to assist Julie in identifying you:

[htcprompts@hotmail.com](mailto:htcprompts@hotmail.com)

2004



**52<sup>nd</sup> Season**  
**The Newsletter of the Heidelberg Theatre Company Inc.**  
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[htcprompts@hotmail.com](mailto:htcprompts@hotmail.com)



# THE ICEMAN COMETH

by Eugene O'Neill  
directed by Wayne Pearn

**7<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2004**

Wednesday to Saturday at 8.15pm  
Matinee Sunday July 18<sup>th</sup> at 3pm

**BOOKINGS - 9457 4117**

Subscribers requiring to alter their chosen night or reserve their booking are asked to call BEFORE Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2004.

Acclaimed as a masterpiece, Eugene O'Neill's epic is set in New York at Harry Hope's seedy saloon bar where a bunch of disparate characters congregate.

The Company is delighted to welcome Wayne Pearn back to direct the show. Wayne has a long association with the Company; he was an Adjudicator for the In-House Awards for three years, in 1998 and again for the 2002 - 2003 Seasons. Wayne was last seen on stage at HTC in 1995 when he played *Stanley Kowalski* in **Streetcar Named Desire**. Wayne directed **Equus** in 1992 and **Good Works** in 1999 for the Company.

**The Iceman Cometh** has a large cast and the Company is delighted to welcome back to its stage members who have recently tread the boards at HTC and a number who haven't been on stage at HTC for quite a while. So it's welcome back Libby Gott, John Keogh, Paul Behan, Glenn Mackie, David Macrae, Geoff Hickey, Simon Fenn, Ron Chapman, Ian Grealy, Bruce Akers and John Gilbert. And a big welcome too, to newcomers to our stage; Monica Bruce, Nerida Lydiard, Andrew Down, Evin Bryant, Trevor Paparella, Ashley Oliver, and Christian Gabriel

The set has been designed by Wayne and Stelios Karagiannis and Stel is also taking care of the lighting design. Maureen McInerney is Production Co-ordinator, George Bissett is designing and organising the

sound and Maureen McInerney, Lois Connor and Wendy Drowley are taking care of costumes while Dennis Pain will lead the talented set building team for the show.

**The Iceman Cometh** is a riveting journey that plumbs the depths of the human condition in a profound yet strangely compassionate way.

It is not very often that the chance arises to see a production of this great play, and it's your Company that is making it happen. Don't miss this rare opportunity, it's going to be a beauty!

*Banyule Winter Festival* attraction -  
**HEIDELBERG THEATRE COMPANY**  
**OPEN DAY** - 10am - 4pm &  
**REHEARSED READING** -  
7.30 pm of **THE CASTLE**  
**Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> August** at the **Theatre**

**Everyone is invited;** Subscribers, Members and the General Public.

## OPEN DAY HIGHLIGHTS:-

Join in a tour of the Backstage, Wardrobe, Lighting, Sound, Paint Shed and Props Storage areas or drop by and browse through the many costumes, including hats and gloves that will be **on sale** in the foyer, enjoy a cuppa and a chat with HTC Committee Members and supporters.

**REHEARSED READING - 7.30pm,** no need to book, just come along and get to see a "work in progress", then stay on for supper to talk with the cast and Scott Ramsay, who is adapting the film script and is directing the "finished product" as our final play in 2004. \$5 donation.



**ROUGH CROSSING** by Tom Stoppard  
directed by Wendy Drowley  
Reviewed by John Gunn, Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2004, for  
3CR's Curtain Up – Sundays at One (855AM).

**Rough Crossing**, based on Molnar's **Play At The Castle** or **The Play's The Thing**, whichever you prefer, sees playwright Tom Stoppard (former journalist and theatre critic who also won an Academy Award for his **Shakespeare in Love** screenplay) in a much lighter and frivolous mood with his text complemented by Andre Previn's 1930 style music. MTC staged **Rough Crossing** at the Russell Street Theatre in the late 1980s with Gary Down, Rod Challinor and Julia Blake with direction by Babs MacMillan.

Set in the 1930s aboard the cruise ship the SS Italian Castle sailing from Southampton to New York, **Rough Crossing** follows the misadventures of a theatrical team attempting to finish and rehearse their next Broadway musical comedy. When infidelities threaten to destroy the romance of the composer and the leading lady, it's up to the *creativity* of the playwrights to see the project through, transforming reality's confusion into the play's conclusion. **Rough Crossing**, although a farcical stage play is really a spoof on the musicals of the 1920s and 30s and provides all the opportunities for rapid fire wordplay, sight gags, double entendres- in short a madcap ping-pong match with the added fun of a play within a play.

The stock characters are reminiscent of Edward Everett Horton, Eric Blore and Erik Rhodes in the Fred Astaire/Ginger Rogers movies and Sig Ruman and Felix Bressart in **Ninotchka** with the Leading Lady recalling Jessie Matthews and Gertrude Lawrence, the Leading Man – Jack Buchanan or Cyril Ritchard. Quasi Hungarian or eastern European accents appropriately abound on occasion.

The characters are Writer-Director *Shandor* (Chris McLean), *Ivor* - The Leading Manor, (Barry James), Writer *Gal* (John Keogh), Composer *Adam* (Ian Frost), *Natasha* - Leading Lady and Fiancée to Adam - (Diana Mazaris) and the Ship's drunken Waiter *Dvornichek* (Joshua Parnell). The action takes place on the private verandas of two suites on board, the interior of *Shandor's* cabin and the luxurious Pisa Room, so aptly named as we see what happens physically to the ensemble when the weather gets rough.

In this light piece about love with a little intrigue and much chaos, Composer Adam (in fear of his mother) has lost the ability to speak freely and there are long, long comedy pauses before he can get his words out. *Natasha* is having a sneaky little affair with *Ivor* which devastates poor *Adam* and the waiter is permanently drunk. Just how is this all going to be put right and what will be the outcome? Well, you will have to go along and see for yourself.

Heidelberg's production under the direction of Wendy Drowley makes for a very pleasant couple of hours in the theatre with plenty to amuse although I did find it a little lacking in pace in the first scene and the ridiculousness of the situations which are quite farcical could have been broader.

The ensemble cast worked hard and generally captured the playing style of the 1930s but as this play also requires singing and musical comedy type movement, it was

in this area that the production was not quite strong enough, with one vocal exception in Barry James as the Leading Man. The others were not all that great on the musical comedy side (albeit the supposed 'rehearsals') and needed a bit more oomph, sharpness and precision. Having said that we did see some good work and characterisation from the ensemble as *actors*.

I enjoyed the performances of Chris McLean (an excellent farceur), a young and promising Joshua Parnell and John Keogh in particular, Diana Mazaris looked great and had some good moments, Barry James' experience showed and we saw some steady work from Ian Frost.

Now to the challenge of three different settings: these looked good although perhaps portholes painted on the deck would have given that extra feel, with stylish furniture the cabin interior was deliciously Art Deco as was the superb last scene, the Pisa Room with the cream grand piano set so traditionally upstage centre; costumes generally reflected the period well particularly those for Natasha and among the quality props the amount of food displayed on buffets were convincing enough to make me feel ravenous!

To sum up not perfect but a very entertaining and enjoyable production that as it settles into the run should prove popular with Heidelberg's audience. Great fun.

## WANTED!

### A SECRETARY and A SUBSCRIPTION SECRETARY for the Heidelberg Theatre Company DESPERATELY SEEKING SECRETARIES .....

In the last issue of *Prompts* the Company advertised for members, subscribers, friends of HTC to join the Committee in the roles of Treasurer and Secretary.

The Committee is delighted to announce that Bruce Akers, HTC Life Member, Director, Actor and generally great to have around person, is returning to fill the role of Treasurer, a role that he last played with the Company in the mid '90s. Welcome back Bruce and our thanks to Jan Hodge who has done a great job for the Company over the past eighteen months.

So that left the Company still without a Secretary and then Julie Hall, Subscription Secretary for many years, decided it was time for a life change so she is off pursuing new adventures, including professional acting roles – look out for her in the new series based on the Shane Maloney crime novels soon to be seen on ABV2. Julie wants the new Membership Secretary to be ready to "fly solo" and do a hand over at the end of year, so the sooner a replacement – *it could be you* - is found the more time there will be to "learn the ropes."

So it's a big bouquet for Julie and the Committee's grateful thanks for the great job she has done in this vital role for the Company.

If you would like more information about either of the positions, then please call our President, John Gilbert, on 9521 5877 (b.h.) or 9457 5634 (a.h.).

**Please Note:** Neither of the roles is gender specific!

# AUDITION NOTICE

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> July at 2pm and  
Monday 12<sup>th</sup> July at 7pm  
at Heidelberg Theatre Company, 36 Turnham Avenue, Rosanna

## UNCLE VANYA

by Anton Chekhov  
directed by Joan Moriarty

Season: Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2004,  
Matinee - Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> September.

Uncle Vanya, written as the nineteenth century closed, is set on the landed estate of the Serebriakoff's. The arrival of the retired Professor and his beautiful young second wife upset the routine and everyone's life is changed forever.

### CHARACTERS

**ALEXANDER SEREBRIAKOFF** An elderly retired Professor, widowed and remarried to a young woman. He comes to live on the estate managed by his first wife's brother. Aged 60's+.

**ELENA SEREBRIAKOFF** Twenty-seven year old wife of the old Professor – beautiful, captivating and selfish.

**IVAN VOINITSKAYA (Uncle Vanya)** Brother of Serebriakoff's first wife. Vanya is 47 and in love with Elena.

**SOFIA SEREBRIAKOFF** Serebriakoff's daughter by his first marriage, in love with Dr Astroff. She is 32 and lives with her Uncle Vanya.

**MIKHAIL ASTROFF** A provincial doctor, overworked and embittered by his isolated existence. Aged about 40.

**MARIA VOINITSKAYA** Mother of Uncle Vanya and mother of the Professor's first wife. A foolish old woman who dotes on the Professor's every word. About 70.

**ILYA TELEGIN** An impoverished land owner living on the estate. Nicknamed "Waffles" because of his pockmarked skin. 60's.

**MARINA** An old nurse – kindly 70's.

Please ring  
Joan Moriarty, Director  
on 9459 3495 for an appointment.

Auditions will be open but appointments will still be required for the time allotment.