

WHAT'S THE GOSS?

HTC's 2005 Season

Decisions have been made, your copy of the **2005 Playbill** will be included with the final issue of Prompts, coming to you in a couple of weeks from now... and in the meantime, to whet your appetites

Play 1 - Born Yesterday
by Garson Kanin
directed by John Keogh

Play 2 - The One Day of the Year
by Alan Seymour
directed by Paul King

Play 3 - The Sideman
by Warren Leight
directed by Bruce Akers

Play 4 - Oedipus Rex
by Sophocles
directed by Joan Moriarty

Play 5 - Noises Off
by Michael Frayn
directed by Chris McLean

Details of subscription renewal, new subscriptions, Gift Subscriptions and Vouchers will all be in the Playbill.

2004 VDL AWARDS

They are on again this year, Sunday 28th November, and HTC's entry is *The IceMan Cometh*, directed by Wayne Pearn.

It is sure to be a great night, if you are interested in attending and would like more details, give the Theatre a ring on **9455 3039**.

CHRISTMAS HAMPER

Remember to buy your tickets during the seasons of **The Castle** and **Take A Bow**. The winner will be drawn at the Christmas Party on Sunday, 12th December.

HTC YOUTH presents

TAKE A BOW

A series of four interconnected plays linked to the idea of individuals taking their metaphorical bow.

written and directed by
Luke Dixon
co-directed by Gen Mehan

Season: 9 - 11 December
at 8.15pm

Actors ages range from 15 - 25 years

Bookings - 94574117
Tickets \$10

(Box Office opens Monday 6th Dec.)

Like to be involved with the production?

It's not too late!

Call Luke on **0417 996 108**

WHO, WHAT WHERE.....?

At last we don't have to travel to see Jim Thompson in his latest production, Jim is playing *Darryl* in **The Castle!** Home at last!

And John Keogh and David Macrae are playing in Malvern's November production of **A Flea In Her Ear**.

Wayne Pearn, who directed **The Iceman Cometh** at HTC this season and is Convenor of the Company's Play Selection Committee is directing **How I Learned To Drive** by Paula Vogel for Hoy Polloy Productions. Featured in the cast are faces well known at HTC;

HELP!!!

needed at the
WORKING BEES

for
THE CASTLE

Saturdays
6th & 13th November

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 CASTLE

Like to know more - call Maureen at
the Theatre on

9455 3039

Paula McDonald, Venetia Macken, Chris Baldock, Libby Gott and Ashley Oliver (both from **Iceman**). The Season runs Thurs 18th until Sun. November 28th 8.00pm and 5.00pm Sundays at MIPAC. Bookings **9388 1942**

Gardening and theatre, two past times, or should that read obsessions, appear to go hand in hand at HTC. Wendy was at the **ABC Garden Show** and caught up with Presenter, Melissa King, who asked to be remembered to all. Melissa played *Eileen* in **Moon Over Buffalo** at HTC in 2000. And were you one of the 500 who took the opportunity to enjoy June Cherrey's Australian native garden opened recently to the public as part of the Open Garden Scheme? An overwhelming response that did not daunt our multi-talented Ticket Secretary, who probably gave the same sigh of relief at the end of the day that is heard at HTC when the last patron is finally seated!

HTC YOUTH

Studies finished for the year and looking for a stimulating and engrossing pastime? If you are in the 15 to 25 age group and would like to work on the HTC Youth production, **Take a Bow**, in any capacity; actor, technician, behind the scenes or on set realisation give Luke a call on **0419 541 954**.

2004



52nd Season
The Newsletter of the
Heidelberg Theatre
Company Inc.
Inc. No. A0008432X



No.5.
November, 2004

36 Turnham Ave
Rosanna, 3084

General Enquiries
P.O Box 141, Rosanna, 3084
Phone 9455 3039
Fax 9457 2078

Email:
Heidelbergtheatrecompany@hotmail.com

Bookings & Subscriptions
9457 4117

Prompts online:
<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~htc/>
email to Prompts on:
htcprompts@hotmail.com

EMAIL PROMPTS CAMPAIGN

Like to join HTC's email list and receive **Prompts** in soft copy? Just send an email to htcprompts@hotmail.com and include your name, address and phone number in the email.

THE CASTLE

Adapted from the screenplay with kind permission from
Working Dog Productions
directed by Maureen McInerney

17th Nov - 4th Dec., 2004

Wednesday to Saturday at 8.15pm

Matinee Sunday 28th Nov. at 3pm

PLUS EXTRA MATINEES

Saturday 20th, 27th Nov & 4th Dec at 3pm

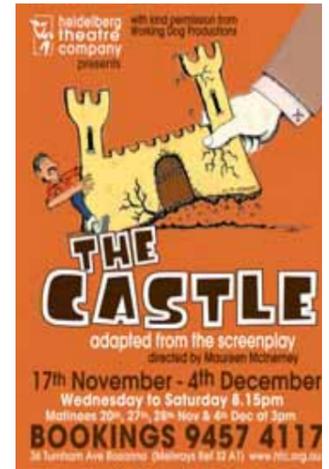
BOOKINGS - 9457 4117

Subscribers requiring to alter their chosen night or reserve their booking are asked to call BEFORE Monday, 1st November, 2004.

The Company is delighted to be bringing this Australian Icon to its stage and doubly delighted to have Maureen McInerney directing the show with very able assistance from Margaret Hassell.

The Company is very pleased to welcome lots of newcomers to the Heidelberg stage for **The Castle**: Peter Phenga (*Denis Denuto*), Rachael Holt (*Sal*), Peter Ryan (*Cop*), Louise Steele (*Evonne*), Kath Fogarty (*Council Officer*), Xavier Ryan (*Farouk*), Graham Philpott (*Jack*), Sue Stojanovic (*Chairperson*), Melinda Watts (*Tracey*), Kevin Keen (*Wayne*). Whew!! And as well as that, there are more, actors who have worked at HTC in previous shows!

Jim Thomson is a wonderful *Darryl Kerrigan* and familiar from **Breaker Morant**, **The Imaginary Invalid** and **I'm Not Rappaport**. David Hunt is loving the role of *Lawrence Hamill*, saviour of the Kerrigan family in their David and Goliath struggle. Tim Huff was last seen in **Arcadia**, and is delivering his narration as *Dale* in wonderfully deadpan style. Kim Watty struts the stage for the first time, having Stage Managed on a number of occasions. Sam Lee (*Con*) has assisted in the lighting area, and Joshua Parnell was outrageous as the drunken waiter in **Rough Crossing** earlier this year.



George Bissett, Tim McLaughlan and Struan McGregor are the production coordinators and sound team. Maureen White is designing the lighting for the show and Denis Pain has designed a great set and is leading the team in its construction. Wendy Drowley, Lois Connor and Sue Stojanovic are handling the costumes, Annie Holcombe is Stage Manager and Rose Capuano is assisting with props.

As you can see, this is a very big show!

We are having a wonderful time with this modern Australian icon.

Bookings are extremely heavy and consequently there are **three, yes three, extra matinee performances on**

Saturday 20th & 27th November and Saturday 4th December at 3pm.

Don't miss **The Castle** and don't miss the Mini - Exhibition to be staged by the *Banyule Group of Artists* during the run of the show. Jan Howe who has organised the displays in the Foyer this season is a member of the Group. The Green Room on the mezzanine houses the art works, the theme of the Exhibition is in keeping with the fun atmosphere of **The Castle**. And also, make sure you get to see the display in the glass cabinet in the Foyer, it's an installation of boxes making allusions to 'Aussie Icons'.

COMING EVENTS AT HTC

NOVEMBER

Saturday 6th 10.30am
Saturday 13th 10.30am
Wednesday 17th 8.15pm
Monday 29th 7.30pm
Tuesday 30th 7.30pm
Tuesday 23rd 7.30pm

Working Bee with Lunch
Working Bee with Lunch
FIRST NIGHT - THE CASTLE

AUDITION: Born Yesterday

AUDITION: Born Yesterday

Heidelberg Film Society - Trains 'N Roses
(German/Finish 1997)

DECEMBER

Saturday 4th 8.15pm
Saturday 9-11 8.15pm
Sunday 12th 3.00pm

FINAL NIGHT - THE CASTLE.

HTC Youth Production - **TAKE A BOW**
Annual General Meeting, In House Awards
& Christmas Party

(First week in December)

Heidelberg Film Society - Xmas Party
at Heidelberg RSL for details call Will - 9497 3265.



UNCLE VANYA

by Anton Chechov

Direct by **JOAN MORIARTY**

Reviewed by John Gunn 15th September 2004–

for **3CR's CURTAIN UP** – Sundays At One (855AM)

Chekhov's **UNCLE VANYA**, first directed by Stanislavsky in 1899 has continued to intrigue both practitioners and theatre lovers for well over a 100 years. The title role has been played by many – from Laurence Olivier, Michael Redgrave, Ian McKellen, Derek Jacobi, Michael Gambon to Anthony Sher.

The versions or adaptations are just as numerous – from such established writers such as Michael Frayn and Pam Gems, to Irish dramatists Frank McGuinness and Brian Friel and even American playwright David Mamet. The number of characters vary (one version includes a barman and bar patrons) as does the running time 98 mins, 2 hrs, 2 ¾ hours etc etc.....

It is said the themes of weakness, delusion, and despair (with surprisingly some hope) make this one of the most expressive of Chekhov's works; in short the Chekhov mystique for many is the stillness, boredom and underlying passions of his characters.

UNCLE VANYA is set, as are all of Chekhov's plays, against the background of the crumbling Tsarist-Russia around the turn of the century and the drama takes place on the family's remote country estate. The protagonists are a retired professor *Alexander* (Michael McCarthy) gout-ridden, peevish and selfish, his young second wife, the immature *Yeliena* (Sofie Angelle), and from his first marriage, his daughter *Sonya* (Elena Ladd) and brother-in-law *Vanya* (Chris McLean).

The elderly Professor and his young wife have, for financial reasons, left St. Petersburg and returned to the country home and their arrival has disrupted the orderly, rural life of the family; *Sonya* and *Vanya* have worked for years running the property in order to support *Alexander* with *Vanya* revering the professor's academic status but is now disillusioned and filled with despair at the realization that he has expended all his energies and efforts on a fraud and a charlatan.

His personal situation is made worse by his all-consuming love for the young *Yeliena*, who has also attracted the love of the local doctor *Astrov* (Barry James) regarded as an eccentric idealist for his desire to save the forests and who in turn is also the object of *Sonya's* love.

Other characters are the elderly *Matriarch* of the family (Lois Connor), the old family nurse *Marina* (Norah Toohey) and *Ilya* (George Bissett) their impoverished rustic neighbour.

As directed by Joan Moriarty, the general thrust or focus of the play generally succeeds although, to me, the measure of this classic work was a little patchy on occasion and I felt that the women scored best; Norah Toohey as the old nurse, stolid yet compassionate but still making her presence felt. Lois Connor as the Matriarch showing strength and control and Elena Ladd with a beautiful characterisation of the daughter Sonya, holding everything together whilst surrounded and undervalued by the three key men in her life, her selfish father, her emotional uncle and



the distant doctor who does not return her affection – also she had very graceful movement..

Sofie Angelle worked hard as the young wife *Yeliena* but for me was a little sharp in approach differing from the cool detachment or aloofness that I have seen in other interpretations which I see as the attraction for *Vanya* and *Astrov*.

Taking over the demanding role of *Vanya* with its gamut of complex emotions at short notice is certainly no mean feat and Chris McLean impressed and got a lot from this classic role. Barry James was suitably impassive as *Doctor Astrov* who succumbs to his passion for *Yeliena* although perhaps we could have seen his other passion – the zeal in saving the trees and planting birches – light up a little more. *Ilya* (George Bissett) was a little underplayed to my liking and I suspect more could have been done with this role.

Period costumes were excellent – detailed and no skimping; settings of the summerhouse with leafy background, cane furniture, samovar and swing etc for the opening all revolving round to reveal the spacious interior of the large house, complete with wall and floor rugs, immense sideboard and large dining table, worked exceptionally well, complimented by strong colouring (dark reds and greens) and well chosen music from Tchaikovsky – lighting was suitably atmospheric but could have been a little stronger on occasion.. Overall an ambitious production which generally paid off. I did enjoy it.

ALL MEMBERS, SUBSCRIBERS & FRIENDS

of the
HEIDELBERG THEATRE COMPANY

are cordially invited to the
**Annual General Meeting,
In House Awards &
Christmas Party**

on
**Sunday 12th December
commencing at 3pm.**

The champagne corks start popping around 4.30pm, so come and catch up with fellow Thespians and celebrate another great year at HTC,
YOUR Theatre Company.

IN-HOUSE AWARDS

Adjudicating the five productions this year: **Dinner With Friends, Rough Crossing, The Iceman Cometh, Uncle Vanya and The Castle** are Joan Chapman, Bruce Akers and Paul King. The Awards follow the AGM which commences at 3pm.

AUDITION NOTICE

Monday 29th & Tuesday 30th November
at 7.30pm

at Heidelberg Theatre Company, 36 Turnham Avenue, Rosanna

BORN YESTERDAY

A play by Garson Kanin in 3 Acts.

Directed by: John Keogh

Season: Wednesday 16th February – Saturday 5th March, 2005,
Matinee – Sunday, 27th February.

This world famous 1940's comedy tells the story of the vulgar junkman, *Harry Brock*, who comes to Washington to make crooked deals with government big-wigs. He brings with him the charming but dumb ex-chorus girl *Billie*, whose lack of social graces embarrasses even *Harry*. *Billie* is soon smitten by an idealistic journalist, named *Paul*, who becomes *Billie's* mentor and *Harry's* nemesis. A delightful comedy with a strong social message, *Born Yesterday* enjoyed one of the longest runs in Broadway history.

CHARACTERS

Billie Dawn	20s-30s Archetypal dumb blond. Main role. (Judy Holliday won the best actress Oscar for it in 1950)
Harry Brock	30s-40s-50s Big rude bully. Self made man, crook. Main role.
Paul Verrall	Personable, intelligent, mid 20s to 30's. Main Role.
Ed Devery	50 – 60 Lawyer and a lush. In Harry's pocket. Main Role.
Senator Hedges	60-ish Nice character part
Mrs Hedges	50 – 60 the same.
Eddie Brock	30-40-50 Harry's cousin, and gopher. Medium sized character part - on and off a lot.
Assistant Hotel Manager	Small part, character, Act 1 only.
Helen	Any age, a maid, nice small character part.
Bell hops (2?)	}
Barber	}
Manicurist	} Bit parts. Act 1 only (very few rehearsals)
Bootblack	}
Waiter	}

Please call John prior to attending the auditions on
98276903 or Mobile 0401745483