

2004



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

PROMPTS

No.6.
December, 2004

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Rosanna, 3084

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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.



All HTC Subscribers, Members & Friends
of the Company are cordially invited
to the
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
IN-HOUSE AWARDS**

Adjudicators: Gayle Poor, Cheryl Ballantine,
Paul King and Bruce Akers

&
CHRISTMAS PARTY
on Sunday, 12th December
commencing 3pm at the THEATRE

and includes the presentation of the
Bill Cherrey Award for Service to the Company

Thankyou for your patronage in 2004
HTC looks forward to your continued support in 2005

HTC's DIRECTORS IN 2005

Five great plays coming your way next year and here we introduce the Directors.

The Company is pleased to welcome John Keogh as director of the first play of the 2005 Season. John will direct the comedy, **Born Yesterday** by Garson Kanin. This is John's first directorial role at HTC, although he will be well known to our audiences, having played in **Rough Crossing** and **The Iceman Cometh** this season.

In the past couple of years, as well as directing many shows around Melbourne, Paul King has been an Adjudicator at HTC and the Company is delighted to welcome him back as Director of its second offering in 2005, that great Australian piece by Alan Seymour, **The One Day Of The Year**. Paul has been directing for the Company since 1994 with **Passion Play**, followed by **The Rehearsal** - 1996, **Skylight** - 1998, **Ham Funeral** - 2001 and **Grace** in 2002.

Side Man, the third play in our 2005 Season will be directed by Bruce Akers. Bruce has played many roles at HTC over the years, both on stage, as a director and as the Company's Treasurer, a role which he has again taken on after a few years break. Bruce last directed at HTC in 2002 - **Sylvia**, the first play he directed was **Translations** in 1991 followed by **The Accrington Pals** in 1993, **A Streetcar Named Desire** in 1995 and **A Perfect**

Ganesh in 1999.

When a Greek Tragedy was mooted for 2005, who else but Joan Moriarty to head the production. Since 1988 with **Long Days Journey Into Night**, Joan has directed plays of every kind from every country, bringing to her productions insightful and assured interpretations of the playwright's work. The Company is delighted Joan will be doin' it again in 2005 with Sophocles **Oedipus Rex**.

The Company is delighted to welcome Chris McLean in his directorial debut at HTC. Chris was Assistant Director for **Uncle Vanya** this season and as well he played that role and you will also remember his fine performance as the *Imaginary Invalid* in 2003. Chris is directing the final production for 2005, **Noises Off**. What a line up!!

So do come along and support HTC, your neighbourhood Theatre, in 2005. The enclosed Playbill includes details of the plays for the 2005 Season and Subscription options, which include generous discounts to Subscribers as well as concessions for Group Bookings along with details of Gift Subscriptions.

As well the Playbill includes a list of roles that you can play at HTC in 2005. So if you would like to try your hand at something different next year, why not look to becoming involved with the Company; at a working bee, backstage, front of house, new faces are always welcome.

WHAT'S THE GOSS?



“THANKYOU!”

A great big “Thankyou” to all those Members, Subscribers and Friends of the Company who assisted with FOH during the past year. If you are able to assist with FOH or in any other roles in 2005, please complete the details in the Playbill and we will be in touch. Or call the Theatre on **9455 3039**.



Delight your friends and loved ones with a
**Gift Subscription to
HTC's 2005 SEASON**
complete the Gift Subscription details in the Playbill and post it together with your payment to our Subscription Secretary, and there is nothing more for you to do, it is so simple, we take care of the rest.
All of your Christmas Gift giving worries are over!
Gift Subscriptions are available for 3, 4 or 5 plays in the Season.
If you would like more information give the Theatre a call on **9457 4117**.

HTC's CHRISTMAS HAMPER

Tickets for the renowned HTC Christmas Hamper are currently on sale at Front of House during the season of **THE CASTLE** and they will be available at the **Annual General Meeting**.

The winner will be drawn at the **Christmas Party on Sunday 12th December**. So buy a ticket to support the Company and Good Luck.

WHO, WHAT, WHERE.....?

John Keogh, who is directing the first play in the 2005 at HTC is currently to be seen in **A Flea in Her Ear** at Malvern TC in company with other well known faces at HTC, Barry Lockett, David Macrae and Paul O'Connor. And if you got to see Malvern's production you'll know they didn't have the same problem with firing their gun as the unfortunate Company in the story recorded below...

A packed church hall was silent as the hero drew a revolver and fired at the villain. Six times he pulled the trigger and each time the gun misfired. The villain was rooted to the spot, the vicar, who was seated in the front row, considered singing a hymn or taking up a collection. The hero, waiting for an off-stage bang and not getting one, pulled his pen from his pocket, jumped forward and stabbed the villain. The villain fell gladly to the floor.

“That's the first time,” shouted the hero, waving his pen about, ‘I've ever used a poisoned pen.’ (World's Best Acting Jokes by Ernest Forbes)

And Congratulations from all at HTC to Diana Burleigh, who last appeared at HTC in 2003 as *Fanny* in **Bermuda Avenue Triangle**. Diana made winning *The Einstein Factor* on the ABC look a breeze. Well done Diana, a great performance, great timing, not to mention all that knowledge!

If you were watching the 7.30 Report a few weeks ago and saw an item on wind power and thought the name if not the face of the expert being interviewed was familiar, that's because it is! Paddy Moriarty has featured as Set Builder in programs for every production for the past 15 years or so. Great to see you on ‘on the other side’ Paddy.

LOOKING FOR WAYS TO RAISE MONEY FOR YOUR FAVOURITE GROUP OR CHARITY IN 2005?

**GROUP BOOKINGS
to HTC's 2005 Season
is a great idea.**

Generous concessions apply for groups of 10 or more.
Like more details,
please call June at the Theatre on **9457 4117**.

SUBSCRIBERS PLEASE NOTE

To reserve the same seats in 2005 as you had for the 2004 Season please return your Subscription Form as soon as possible.

**SEATS WILL BE
ALLOCATED
IN ORDER OF RECEIPT**
*we would appreciate the return
of your subscription form
before Friday,
21st JANUARY, 2005*

HTC YOUTH

If you are in the 15 to 25 age group and would like to be a part of HTC Youth in 2005, in any capacity; actor, technician or behind the scenes, give Luke a call on **0417 996 108**.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING

presents a problem?
not if you give

Gift Vouchers

for the **HTC 2005 Season**
Details in the Playbill or call **94574117**

In ‘Theatre in Australia’ Allan Aldous wrote that in the 1890s, Australian playwrights had great success with dramas that had Australian settings and spectacular effects:

Their plays were dotted with impressive spectacles, such as holding up a gold escort, a corroboree, bush fires and real horse races on the stage. One play, *The Double Event* or *Tale of the Melbourne Cup* was blurred: “In the Great Cup Scene no less than twenty thoroughbred horses will complete and all the accessories of lawn and paddock will be reproduced with lifelike fidelity.”

A great relief to know that to get a ‘Full House’ in 2004 the backdrop needs to be nothing more than a modest suburban villa....

HELP TO SPREAD THE WORD....

HTC would like more people to know about its forthcoming productions and it is you, our loyal audience, who can help spread the word. If you know of a prominent place to display our classy Playbills, contact our Ticket Secretary, FOH staff or call the Theatre on **9457 4117**.

HEIDELBERG THEATRE COMPANY

NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the City of Heidelberg Theatre Company Inc. will be held at the Theatre, 36 Turnham Avenue, Rosanna, on **SUNDAY 12th DECEMBER, 2004 at 3:00pm**

BUSINESS

1. Opening of the meeting by the President
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, 2003.
4. Business arising from the Minutes.
5. President's Report
6. 2004 Play Season Report
7. Treasurer's Report
8. Election of Six Committee Members
9. General Business

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Nominations are invited for six positions on the Committee of the HEIDELBERG THEATRE COMPANY INC.

The nomination form below must be signed by the Proposer, Seconder and Nominee and returned to the Secretary by **THURSDAY 9th DECEMBER, 2004**.

The retiring committee members, who are eligible for re-election, are:-

Anne Smith Dennis Pain (Vacant Position x 4)

Please complete and **return by THURSDAY 9th DECEMBER, 2004**.

NOMINATION FORM

The Secretary
HEIDELBERG THEATRE COMPANY INC.,
36 Turnham Avenue
(P.O. BOX 141),
ROSANNA, 3084

(Fax: 9457 2078)

(BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE)

I wish to nominate.....for the HEIDELBERG THEATRE COMPANY Committee.

Signed.....**PROPOSER**

Signed.....**NOMINEE**

Signed.....**SECONDER**

Date.....

Letter to HTC Subscribers from our President

The Committee has undertaken a review of the HTC ticket prices and has decided that the adult price for the 2005 Season will increase from \$17 to \$18 and all adult subscription rates will increase by five dollars. There will not be any adjustment to concession prices. This is the first price increase in four years and the Committee is conscious of the need to balance value of money against the pressures of rising running expense.

Heidelberg Theatre Company continues to invest each year into the Theatre's equipment and facilities, ensuring that we can continue to deliver great productions in a modern venue. Recent examples of works undertaken include the refurbishment of the foyer and the toilet areas, whilst behind the scenes we have purchased new lighting and sound equipment to enable the delivery of alternative mediums such as the sound and vision elements seen during the season of **The Iceman Cometh**.

Future projects that are in the planning stages include the replacement of the theatre auditorium seating, the establishment of adequate office services and administration facilities and a number of technical improvements and upgrades behind the scenes.

Regards,
John.

(John Gilbert, President, Heidelberg Theatre Company Inc.)



HTC YOUTH

(actors ages ranges from 15 to 25 years)

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: 9th – 11th December, 2004 at 8.15pm

Bookings: 9457 4117

Tickets \$10

(bookings open Monday, 6th December)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Prompts editor,

Please be advised of the error on Page 2 of the November edition of Prompts. Joan Chapman is not on the In-House Adjudication Panel this year. She declined when she was asked last year. Bruce Akers was a panel member for the first two shows of the year but withdrew when he was cast (some five months ago) in *The Iceman Cometh*.

Cheryl Ballantine gracefully accepted the role of adjudicator for the last three shows. Gayle Poor has been on the panel since the start of the year. The panel consists of myself and Gayle (for the whole season), Cheryl (for three productions) and Bruce (two productions). It would be courteous to acknowledge the positions held by Gayle and Cheryl in the next edition of prompts. Regards, Paul King

Thanks Paul for setting the record straight and a big thankyou from the Company to all the Adjudicators for their interest, enthusiasm and skills. Ed.

SOUND EFFECTS

One piece of backstage equipment gave a new phrase to the language that is still used today. Nearly three centuries ago John Dennis invented a new machine for making the sound of thunder in the theatre. After it was used in one of his plays, a rival copied it for another theatre, causing Dennis to exclaim angrily: 'He's stolen my thunder!'



"Suddenly Fiona screamed at him like a scalded cat."