

2005



53rd Season
The Newsletter of the
Heidelberg Theatre
Company Inc.
Inc. No. A0008432X

PROMPTS

No.2.
April, 2005

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 ONE DAY OF THE YEAR

by Alan Seymour

directed by Paul King

by arrangement with HLA Management Pty Ltd.

27th April – 14th May, 2005

Wednesday to Saturday at 8.15pm

Matinee Sunday 8th May at 3pm

BOOKINGS – 9457 4117

Subscribers requiring to alter their chosen night or reserve their booking are asked to call BEFORE Monday, 18th April, 2005.

"It's because I'm a bloody Australian that I'm getting on the grog. It's Anzac Day this week, that's my day, that's the old diggers' day." - Alf Cook.

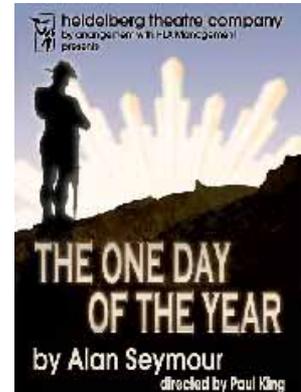
In 1960 *The One Day of the Year* was selected for presentation in the inaugural Adelaide Festival, a decision that was overturned by the Festival's Executive Committee, who felt its content was too controversial - apparently the RSL would have been offended. Since then it has been staged regularly throughout Australia and also overseas.

Set in 1958, the play shows us *Alf Cook* (Barney Fyfe) and *Wacka Dawson* (Bert McKay), his old digger mate, preparing for Anzac Day celebrations. For these two the day is a chance to catch up with old friends and reminisce, march with pride and ultimately drown their sorrows.

But for Alf's son *Hughie* (Matt Gould) and his new girlfriend *Jan* (Bree Heffernan) it is a day enmeshed in myth, a farcical celebration, which they are intent on exposing through the lens of a camera. Only Hughie's long-suffering mother, *Dot* (Dianne Mileo), can perceive the emotional timebomb waiting to explode between father and son.

Anzac Day continues to enjoy unusual reverence in a country where emotional public rituals are otherwise absent. At a time when we reflect on and debate issues surrounding our involvement in war, and when the Anzac legacy is experiencing a resurgence of interest across the nation, our second production is timely.

This year Anzac Day is also the 90th anniversary of the landing of Australian and New Zealand forces at Gallipoli on 25th April 1915.



Cast members Barney, Matt, Bree and Bert are newcomers to HTC's stage. Dianne has appeared here in *Dancing at Lughnasa*, *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* and *Passion Play*. We welcome them all.

Production personnel for the show - Director Paul King, Production Coordinator Maureen McInerney, Stage Manager Lena Minto, Lighting Design Stelios Karagiannis, Audio Design George Bissett, Wardrobe Wendy Drowley, Set Construction led by Ted Drowley and Properties Rose Capuano.

So don't miss it, it is going to be another great production at HTC.

HTC YOUTH presents



THE CRUCIBLE

by Arthur Miller

Directed by Anne Smith

Season:

19th, 20th, 21st May 8:15pm

at Heidelberg Theatre Company
Turnham Avenue Rosanna

Tickets: \$10

Bookings – 9457 4117

Don't miss it!!!

The issues are as relevant now as then.



Review

BORN YESTERDAY

by Garson Kanin.

Directed by John Keogh.

Reviewed Thursday 24th February, 2005 by **John Gunn** for **3CR's CURTAIN UP** – Sundays at One (855 AM)

This is only the third time that I have seen Garson Kanin's classic comedy of the quintessential dumb blonde and her triumph over the shady junk dealer who made good - with a little help from the Senate. It is also the first amateur production that I have seen.

Born Yesterday first hit the stage in 1946 with Judy Holiday as *Billie Dawn* although the role was originally intended for Jean Arthur who dropped out during the rehearsal period. Ms Holiday was a tremendous success and repeated the role in the 1950 film snaring the Oscar from Bette Davis and Gloria Swanson. It was filmed again in 1993 with Melanie Griffith.

The play opens with *Harry Brock*, his mistress *Billie* and his brains trust in Washington where *Harry* hopes to do a deal with the Government via the help of *Senator Norval Hedges* and *Harry* decides that it is time for *Billie*, an ex-chorus girl, (well a chorus role in **Anything Goes** AND 5 lines) to have the rough edges smoothed out and hires bookish reporter *Paul Verrall* for the job.

As progress is made, *Billie* begins to question just how *Harry* makes his money and the legality of the whole business, she also begins to question other aspects of her life with *Harry* which could cause a threat to his little empire, like perhaps a jail term. Under scoring this is the wheeling, dealing and corruption that public figures indulge in.

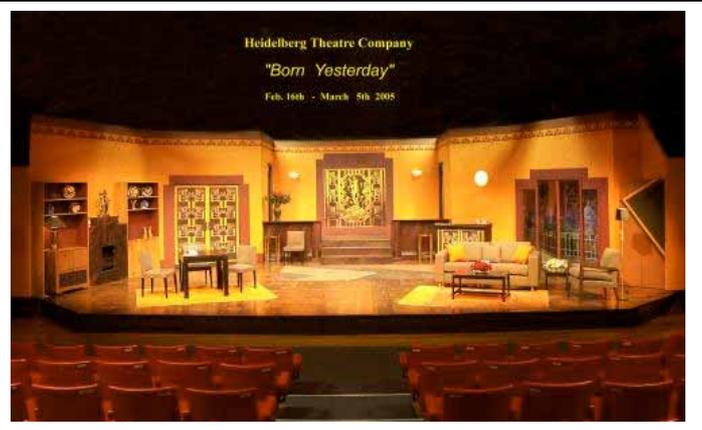
While written approximately 60 years ago, it still makes a point today, we only have to read the papers, watch the news to see and hear that in some instances the same games are still being played which doesn't say much for progress or society today.

Under the very capable hand of director John Keogh, **Born Yesterday** is quite a classy production, the cast manage in most instances to bring out the brittle comedy and the rhythms and moods of the piece are nicely balanced.

In the central role of *Billie*, Elena Ladd, usually seen in more serious or classical plays (I recall her roles in **The Rainmaker**, **Uncle Vanya**, etc) gives a charming and telling performance, perhaps the best *Billie* I have seen – her character so well drawn, facial expression, body language and Bronx type accent.

Peter Prenga as *Harry Brock* while perhaps not everyone's physical idea of this character (the role was written for a big man, hence Broderick Crawford's casting) was loud, vulgar and exuded the bullying tactics of the uneducated self-made man - although I did feel that, on occasion, he bordered on the Chicago gangster type, however he did get right into the role and gave a strong and sound performance; also both *Billie* and *Brock* had good comedy timing.

I enjoyed the contrast and laid back style of Paul Dineen as *Paul Verrall*, this was a confident an assured performance, like wise Simon Dowling as *Harry's* legal eagle *Ed Devery*, nicely balanced and well paced. Other featured roles were capably handled by Adrian Valenta as



WHAT A SET!!

With each play it happens, that feeling of anticipation, what is waiting on the other side of the doors to the auditorium this time? And there it is, the set, and oh what a set this was, a great opener for the 2005 Season at HTC!

For those of us who were fortunate enough to see **Born Yesterday**, one of the many delights of the production was the set.

A great deal of hard work goes into the design, construction and finish of a large set and on this occasion Marie Mackrell was responsible for the set design and finish while Dennis Pain and the Crew consisting of John Keogh, Paddy Moriarty, Ron Young, Ted Drowley and Jim Thomson built the set.

Set building takes place at the Theatre on weekdays and weekends depending on the availability of the Crew. By the time the two Working Bees that are always advertised in *Prompts* come around, the set construction and painting is well under way. If you have thought of coming along to be a part of the team but not quite got around to it this is the time to get in touch!

Why not try set building on the next production, take a sensible approach, plan to work on one production each Season, see if you can. But be warned, set building is a contagious disease, once you have the bug you can never throw it off, just ask our current crew!

Contact Dennis Pain at the Theatre on **9455 3039** he will be only too pleased to answer any queries and sign you up!

Senator Norval Hedges, Margaret Rawlinson as his wife and Joshua Parnell as *Eddie Brock* although I did feel that with this character there was more comedy in the role than we saw. The supports - Lena Minto as the maid *Helen* and the *Bellhops*, *Bootblack* and *Manicurist* showed confidence and looked right although perhaps again a little more comedy could have been built in with the latter three.

The production was enhanced by Marie Mackrell's superb Art Deco set, an excellent design with good use of colour, finely detailed and finished, costumes props etc were in period.

To sum up – an enjoyable production with excellent production values, good cast and a fine start to 2005 for Heidelberg, **Born Yesterday**. Whilst the play was originally written with 3 acts, director John Keogh has wisely combined acts 2 and 3 so that the production does not make for a longish night at the theatre as some of these older plays can do.

AUDITION NOTICE

**Sunday 1st May from 2pm &
Monday 2nd May from 7.30pm**
at Heidelberg Theatre Company, 36 Turnham Avenue, Rosanna

Side Man

by Warren Leight
Directed by Bruce Akers

Season: Wednesday 6th – Saturday 23rd July, 2005
Matinee - Sunday 17th July.

Spanning the 1950s to the 1980s, **Side Man** is an elegant, atmospheric play set in New York City in the era when Rock'n'Roll replaced Jazz as America's popular music of choice. It shows the effect of this change through the experiences of one family - the Glimmer family - as seen through the son, Clifford, who acts as narrator/ observer.

The action moves backwards and forwards in time between 1985 and 1953, consequently the actors are required to age over three decades. Makeup will not be relied upon to achieve this effect.

CHARACTERS

The Family

- Clifford Glimmer.** (age range 25-35). The son who moves between narrator/ observer in a scene and is the pivotal character. Has to effortlessly slip between 30-year old wry commentator to 10 year old child caring for his dysfunctional family. Dispassionate but not overly cynical.
- Gene Glimmer** (age range 35-50). The Father. The "Side Man" of the piece. Oblivious to all around him when in the grip of his jazz music - married to his music. Unaware of his own virtuosity as a musician and the effect his lifestyle has on his family. Plays the trumpet.
- Terry Glimmer** (age range 35-50). The Wife. A difficult role as she starts the play as a tough but naïve Italian-American girl and ends up a disillusioned, hard drinking, three-packs-a-day smoker.

Others in the Cast

(all aged 35-50)

- Al** Slick-talking ladies' man. Good looking. Trumpeteer.
- Ziggy** Comedic role. Speech impediment. Very much in tune with Al. . Almost a double act.
- Jonesy** The sole trombonist. A tragic character- strung out on heroin but maintains a weary and dignified nobility.
- Patsy** Lounge waitress. A spitfire of a woman who changes her jazz musician partners with alarming regularity. A warm, mother-earth character to Clifford.

Actors are not required to play musical instruments, some miming will be necessary.
American accents are required.

It must also be noted that in keeping with the lifestyle of the times, this play contains smoking, drug references and the occasional coarse language.

For further information please ring the Director,
Bruce Akers, on 9375 2254 (home).

what's the goss?.....

WHO, WHAT, WHERE...?

Jim Thomson together with Carmel Behan and Chris Baldock feature in **Scenes From A Separation** at Williamstown. Josh Parnell is working with Malvern in Ron Conroy's production of **Angel On My Shoulder**. By the time you read this, John Keogh who directed **Born Yesterday**, will have cast his next show, **The Price** by Arthur Miller, due to begin in July at Malvern.

When chatting with John he remarked on what a great effort the cast of **Born Yesterday** put in, the show had a brief 6 weeks rehearsal time, and they made maximum use of that time, with all the cast on time for every rehearsal.

A big cheerio to Wayne Pearn who we are pleased to report is well on the mend after giving everyone, including himself, a big fright. Looking forward to seeing him back at HTC real soon.

Alice and George Bugge and Wendy and Ted Drowley are grandparents again, to girl babies this time, Imogen and Chelsea respectively. Delighted to report all are doing well including Rita Finch who at 98 is great-grandmother to Chelsea.

Did you pick up the blooper on the Malthouse blurb for their forthcoming production of **Ham Funeral** where it said, "never been staged in Melbourne"? Well not QUITE correct – you will recall it was the opening play of HTC's 2001 Season under the direction of Paul King – and Paul is with us again to direct the next show, **The One Day Of The Year** !

FOYER DISPLAY

Jan Howe has again assembled a dazzling foyer display for the run of **The One Day Of The Year**. Textiles will feature in the exhibition that is sure to delight HTC patrons.



"Attention, fellow citizens: the following is the Fenton T. Armbrewster list of the ten best plays of all time."

THE CRUCIBLE

by Arthur Miller

Is the first production for 2005 by HTC Youth. Don't miss this classic modern play which speaks to us of then and now, of goodness versus evil, of truth and deceit!

The Crucible is as relevant today as when it was written, as proof of this, for many years the play has consistently appeared on the VCE list.

Anne Smith, who is well known to HTC audiences as an actor is delighted to be working with HTC Youth in her directorial debut at HTC.

So do come along and check out the exciting new talent and enjoy those actors seen in the Group's past productions. They will be wearing some wonderful old costumes that hark back to the 1985 and 1966 HTC productions of **The Crucible**!!!

Arthur Miller has sadly passed away but his play and those cozzies live on!

Don't miss it!!

HALL LUDLOW EXHIBITION

Don't know if you have caught up with the gorgeous creations in the Hall Ludlow Exhibition at the RMIT Storey Hall Gallery, if you haven't then do yourself a favour and take a peek, it closes on the 20th April.

The doors had barely opened before our Wardrobe Guru, Wendy Drowley, was there. As well as the divine garments on display there are photos from fashion parades in the 50s and 60s, and Wendy recognised one of the gowns from a photo, the original is carefully stored in the HTC Wardrobe!

It's a dramatic number in wide black and tan strips, the skirt, tight over the hips, ends in a whooshy flounce from the knees

It was donated anonymously to the Company and has never had an airing on the HTC stage, and now never will, because as with the Ross Weymouth jacket worn by Louise Whiteman in the **Cherry Orchard** in 2003, the Hall Ludlow gown will be gifted by the Company to the official collection of this great Australian designer.

So, another coat hanger is free for one of your 'gems', and you can give to the HTC Wardrobe in the knowledge that your gift will be treasured!

HELP!!! needed at the

WORKING BEES for

THE ONE DAY OF THE YEAR

Saturdays

16th & 23rd April

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 assisting

backstage or foh

Like to know more – call Maureen on

9455 3039

APRIL

Saturday 16th 10.30am

Tuesday 19th 7.30pm

Saturday 23rd 10.30am

Wednesday 27th 8.15pm

MAY

Sunday 1st 2.00pm

Monday 2nd 7.30pm

Saturday 14th 8.15pm

Thursday 19th 8.15pm

Saturday 21st 8.15pm

Tuesday 24th 7.30pm

Working Bee with Lunch

Heidelberg Film Society – The Family Game
(Japan 1983, sub titled)

Working Bee with Lunch

FIRST NIGHT – The One Day Of The Year

AUDITION: Side Man

AUDITION: Side Man

FINAL NIGHT – The One Day Of The Year

HTC YOUTH Opening Night – **The Crucible**

HTC YOUTH Final Night - **The Crucible**

Heidelberg Film Society – Trouble With Harry
(U.S. 1955)