

2005



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

PROMPTS

No.6.
December, 2005

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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: Ron Chapman, David Dare and Helen Robinson
&

CHRISTMAS PARTY on Sunday, 18th 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 2005
HTC looks forward to your continued support in 2006

HTC's DIRECTORS IN 2006

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

The Company is pleased to welcome Morgan Dowsett as director of the first play of the 2006 Season. Morgan will direct the comedy, **The Knackers ABC** by Boris Vian. This is the first time Morgan has directed for the Company. Since arriving in Australia a few years ago from the USA, Morgan has directed for the Melbourne French Theatre and will direct **Circularity** in the Short & Sweet Playwriting Competition to be held at the Arts Centre in December.

Gayle Poor will direct **Emma Celebrazione**, the second production in our 2006 Season. Gayle has built a fine reputation as a director in Melbourne, and has worked extensively with Eltham Little Theatre. Gayle directed **This Old Man Comes Rolling Home** at HTC in 2003; and it is with much pleasure she is welcomed back to direct with the Company next year.

Art by Yasmina Reza, the third play in our 2006 Season will be directed by Wayne Pearn. Wayne has played many roles at HTC over the years, both on stage, as a director, Committee Member, Adjudicator and more lately as Chairperson of the Play Selection Committee. Wayne last directed at HTC in 2004 – **The Iceman Cometh**, the first play he directed for the Company was **Equus** in 1992 followed by **Good Works** in 1999.

Geoff Hickey is a much sort after director around the Melbourne non professional theatre scene, and the Company is delighted to welcome him back as director of its fourth offering in 2006, **Cat On A Hot Tin Roof** by Tennessee Williams. Geoff first directed for the Company in 1992 with **Summer of the 17th Doll**, followed by **Come Back to the 5 & Dime Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean** – 1994, and **M. Butterfly** in 1996. He last appeared on stage at HTC in **The Iceman Cometh** in 2004.

Following the very successful production of **The Castle** in 2004, directed by Maureen McInerney, Maureen will again lead the team to direct **Front Page**, the Company's final production for 2006.
What a line up!!

So do come along and support HTC, your neighbourhood Theatre, in 2006. The enclosed Playbill includes details of the plays for the 2006 Season and Subscription options, which include generous discounts to Subscribers and Members as well as concessions for Group Bookings along with details of Gift Subscriptions and Gift Vouchers.

As well the Playbill includes a list of roles that you can play at HTC in 2006. 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.



Review

Noises Off

by **Michael Frayn**

Directed by Chris McLean.

Reviewed by **John Gunn**, Saturday 19th Nov., 2005 for
3CR's **CURTAIN UP** – Sundays at One (855 AM)

Michael Frayn's comedy-farce **Noises Off**, a play within a play, has been successfully performed both professionally and on the community circuit in numerous productions since it premiered in London in 1982.

The show commences on the stage of the 'Grand Theatre', a slightly tragic British repertory company are rehearsing the bedroom farce '*Nothing On*'. The cast struggle through the technical rehearsal under the jaded direction of *Lloyd Dallas*, former darling of the British Theatre establishment, now 'hack for hire' and philanderer. The production is being funded by its star *Dotty Otley* (Barbara Hughes) a veteran of British stage and small screen trying to make a nest egg for her old age.

The production does not go according to plan and what we see is Act 1 of the play '*Nothing On*' with the actors forgetting cues, being confused about what to do with their props, the timing is out and the director speaks to this hapless cast as if they were children, listening ever so patiently to their muddled excuses and then giving them a serve with a voice, to quote Prof. Higgins, 'that would shatter glass' sets the scene for what is to take place in Act 2.

Act 2 treats us to seeing Act 1 of the play from **behind** the scenes, the two storey set with staircase revolves to face upstage and we see what these actors get up to in the darkened wings of a theatre stage – nothing like what an audience sees from the front. The mayhem that takes place both back stage and on is fast and furious, the comedy situations, timing, slamming of many doors is excellent with laugh lines being well held.

For any one in the theatre this is a rib tickling tale that perhaps brings back agonising memories, remember when we played in.....? I think we've all been there at some stage; but whilst this is all about actors and staging a play, **Noises Off** still has much to offer a general public audience.

This production by Heidelberg has been directed with panache, energy and excellent timing by Chris McLean; the ensemble comprising Justin Stephens, Rhiannon Leach, Nicola Wright, John Cheshire, Kate Bowers, Joshua Parnell and John Keogh the old burglar, never on cue, never on time, and a delightful Barbara Hughes as *Dotty Otley* all entered into the swing of the piece with energy and a great sense of fun. Usually seen in more dramatic works Paul Farrell as the long-suffering 'Director' showed a nice feel for comedy and brought authority to the role. The production had lots of pace, some neat business, physical and vocal energy and plenty of stage know how – technique to the fore.

Costumes, lighting and sound were of a high standard as was the setting – this is actually two settings – firstly the onstage two storey setting for 'the play' showing the living room of the country home with stairs and 7 doors that are required to slam, slam, slam and secondly the reverse of the 'onstage' setting showing the backstage angle as the play '*Nothing On*' progresses.

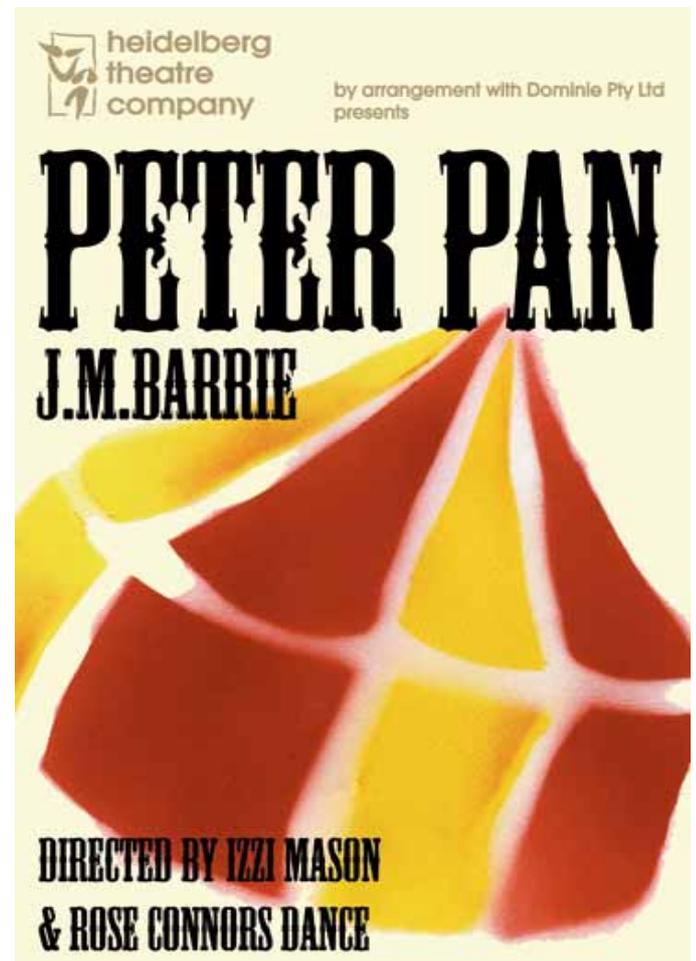
To sum up, a well staged production, directed with energy and style that should see full houses at Heidelberg for the next couple of weeks. I also liked the two-way programme.

Noises Off continues until the 3rd December and you can book on 9457 4117. Get a ticket if you can, it's great fun and very slickly done.

Roll up, roll up and prepare yourselves for our

HTC Youth

Production



Season:

**Thurs 8th - Sat 10th &
Thurs 15th – Sat 17th**

December

at 7pm

Matinees:

Sat. 10th & 17th Dec.

at 2pm

Tickets: \$10

Bookings: 9459 4117

Heidelberg Theatre Company 36 Turnham Avenue, Rosanna

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 18th DECEMBER, 2005 at 3:00pm**

BUSINESS

1. Opening of the meeting by the President
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, 2004.
4. Business arising from the Minutes.
5. President's Report
6. 2005 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 15th DECEMBER, 2005**.

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

June Cherrey Lena Minto (Vacant Position x 4)

Please complete and return by **THURSDAY 15th DECEMBER, 2005**.

NOMINATION FORM

The Secretary

(Fax: 9457 2078)

HEIDELBERG THEATRE COMPANY INC.,

36 Turnham Avenue

(P.O. BOX 141),

ROSANNA, 3084

(BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE)

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

Signed.....**PROPOSER**

Signed.....**NOMINEE**

Signed.....**SECONDER**

Date.....

COMING EVENTS AT HTC

December

Saturday 3rd

EXTRA MATINEE & FINAL NIGHT

3.00pm 8.15pm

Noises Off

Tuesday 6th

Heidelberg Film Society – Christmas Party.

Contact Gwen 9435 6927 for details.

Thursday 8th to Saturday 17th

HTC Youth Production – (see page 4 for details)

2.00pm & 7.00pm

PETER PAN

Sunday 18th 3.00pm

**Annual General Meeting, In House Awards
& Christmas Party**

WHAT'S THE GOSS?

LOOKING FOR WAYS TO RAISE MONEY FOR YOUR FAVOURITE GROUP OR CHARITY IN 2006?

GROUP BOOKINGS to HTC's 2006 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**.

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**.

HTC's CHRISTMAS HAMPER

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

The winner will be drawn at the **Christmas Party on Sunday 18th December**. So buy a ticket to support the Company and Good Luck.



Delight your friends and loved ones with a **Gift Subscription to HTC's 2006 SEASON**

complete the Gift Subscription details in the Playbill and post it together with your payment to our Subscription Secretary. 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**.



"THANKYOU!"

I would like to publicly express my heart-felt appreciation to all those lovely members who have given so freely of their time to ensure the smooth running of Front-of-House.

As a member from the beginning of last year and a regular Front-of-House volunteer, I was asked if, this year, I would be willing to take over the roster – a task I undertook with some reservations.

On becoming acquainted with members on the list I found that all are more than willing to assist whenever they are able – this was tested to the nth degree during "Wicked Sisters", when (it seemed to me) all who were not away on holidays were either in the cast or working behind the scenes!! Many of those remaining covered multiple shifts to help out. Newer members have been equally obliging. My sincere thanks to all.

Thanks also to Maureen for continuing to organize the biscuits for our interval breaks.

Have you considered becoming more involved? Front-of-House would be an excellent way to start! We are a very amiable group, and would welcome you with open arms. I'd love to hear from you - please phone me on **9459 2235** - it really is rewarding to feel you are carrying out an essential task. Imagine - No sherries! No-one to welcome you into the theatre! No interval coffee or wine! How dull!! I await your call. Season's greetings to all and a prosperous and drama filled 2006. See you next season (or at the A.G.M. and Christmas Party!)

Patricia Tyler, FOH Co-ordinator

HTC YOUTH

If you are in the 15 to 25 age group and would like to be a part of HTC Youth in 2006, in any capacity; actor, technician or behind the scenes, give Izzie a call on **0400 041 989**.

SUBSCRIBERS PLEASE NOTE

To reserve the same seats in 2006 as you had for the 2005 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, 2006

CHRISTMAS IS COMING presents a problem?

not if you give

Gift Vouchers

for the **HTC 2006 Season**
Details in the Playbill or call **94574117**



WHO, WHAT, WHERE.....?

FOH arrived on the first Friday of the Noises Off season to find the Theatre was 'dry'. A helpful neighbour was able to confirm it wasn't just the theatre that was affected. So faced with the prospect of a full house and no water for coffee, tea, washing up or toilet flushing, the FOH staff made sure there was plenty of wine and orange juice on ice. Fortunately the water supply was restored in time for interval, and many of the audience thought the conniptions out front were part of the show!

There was only a very small audience for another little drama around water closets that occurred after a recent Committee meeting, when Chris McLean having finished rehearsals for the current production was racing around, as only Chris can do, locking doors and turning off lights. Unknown to Chris, Committee Member Tim had been checking the plumbing and when he tried to return to the foyer, he found himself not only suddenly in darkness but locked in to boot. Thanks to the swift action of a couple of Committee Members with good hearing, Tim's nervous knocking on the door was identified and he was released.

It seems the foyer is proving to be another venue for farce at HTC.