

PROMPTS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE HEIDELBERG THEATRE COMPANY

KNACKER'S A B C

directed by Morgan Dowsett

by Boris Vian

15th Feb – 4th March, 2006

Wednesday to Saturday at 8.15pm

Matinee Sunday 26th Feb. 3pm

Subscribers requiring to alter their chosen night or reserve their booking are asked to call BEFORE Monday, 30th January, 2006.

by arrangement with Eric Glass Ltd

The Company is pleased to welcome Morgan Dowsett as director of **Knacker's ABC**. This is Morgan's first directorial role at HTC, and he brings to our stage a production that will delight and engage our audiences.

Boris Vian, French novelist and playwright, was a jazz connoisseur and critic, Dixieland trumpeter, and author of more than 400 songs. He was born in 1920 and died aged 39 in 1959.

Vian's avant-garde plays had much connection to the theatre of the absurd. **Knacker's ABC**, written in 1946, is a "paramilitary vaudeville". It is set in a Normandy knacker's yard, and depicts farcical marriage problems of a family on D-Day. The place is destroyed by wartime allies, the Free French, and other military personnel. So look forward to a night out with a difference, there is lots of energy and plenty of laughs.

The show has a large cast including faces well known at HTC; Chris Baldock, Adrian Valenta, Christian Gabriel and Joshua Parnell.

As well there are lots of newcomers to the HTC stage and the Company is pleased to welcome

Christina Walls, Florence Rivière, Olivia Crang, Oliver Trew, Alex Christopoulos, Jordan Lee, Romain Hermelin, Curtis A. Farrell, Hano Kotevski and Tara Daniel

The Production Team is shaping up well with Wayne Pearn as Production Coordinator, Dennis Pain is leading the set building crew, Lois Connor and Wendy Drowley are creating the Costumes and Rose Capuano is looking after props.

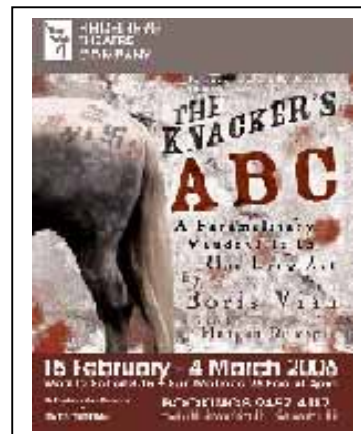
Don't miss **Knacker's ABC**, the opening production in HTC's 2006 Season.

A NOTE TO SUBSCRIBERS

Again there has been a great response for our Subscription series with many requests for seating in Rows A & B.

The Company's policy is to handle requests in order of receipt, and June, our Ticket Secretary, asks that our patrons understand that the seats they request may have already been allocated

June is making every effort to meet requests, and she asks for your understanding if you are not allocated your preferred seats.



TONI TYERS, WINNER OF the 2005 BILL CHERREY AWARD

This Award is given each year to an individual member of The Heidelberg Theatre Company as recognition of their outstanding contribution and service to the Company.

This year's winner is a member of the Theatre Company who is always working tirelessly behind the scenes, whilst her face may not been seen on the stage, her words are read by all of us. Her organisational disciplines, knowledge of the Theatre Company and its people, together with her editing and writing skills ensure that our communication via *Prompts* is always on time and an interesting read.

WINNER OF THE CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

The Company is delighted to report that the winner of the **2005 Christmas Raffle**, drawn at the AGM, was a local resident and long time subscriber to HTC, Mrs Shirley Currie. Congratulations from us all and we trust you enjoyed our delicious hamper!!

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EMAIL PROMPTS CAMPAIGN: Like to join HTC's email list and receive *Prompts* in digital format? It also saves us money on printing and postage. If so please send an email to prompts@htc.org.au and include your name, address & phone number

BOOKINGS & SUBSCRIPTIONS 9457 4117

AUDITION NOTICE

**Sunday 19th February &
Sunday 26th February
from 7.00pm**

at Heidelberg Theatre Company, 36 Turnham Avenue, Rosanna

EMMA CELEBRAZIONE

by **Graham Pitts**

Directed by **Gayle Poor**

Season: Wednesday 19th April – Saturday 6th May, 2006, Matinee - Sunday 30th April.

As a teenager, Emma Ciccotosto migrated from an impoverished rural village to Australia.

Now her granddaughter is getting married and Emma is preparing the wedding feast.

In this life-affirming play, she relives the memories of Australia and Italy, while mixing pasta, recipes and family disaster into a concoction of the joys, triumphs and tragedies of Italian-Australians.

CHARACTERS

(Italian accents will be used also some Italian is spoken in play)

Emma - 35-55

2 women - 60+

Male - 40-50 to play 3 parts

For further information,
please ring the Director on **9857 6818**.

Join the Choir for EMMA CELBRAZIONE

A Choir comprised of female voices singing Traditional Italian Women's Folk Songs in Italian is needed for this production.

The Company is delighted to have obtained the services of Phil Carroll as the Choir Director. Phil will conduct and play the piano-accordion while his musical partner, Ernie, will play violin. Phil and Ernie appear on television with Gabriel Gaté and on World Music.

We are looking to involve *lots of women*, previous experience singing in a choir is not a requirement, if you would like to be apart of this great experience and would like to meet Phil and hear more then come along on Monday 30th January to the Theatre at 7.30pm

If you can't make the 30th and would like more information, please call Maureen on 9458 3358 and she will be happy to give you more detail about the Choir, rehearsals and performances.

FEBRUARY

Saturday 4th 10.30am

Saturday 11th 10.30am

Wednesday 15th 8.15pm

Sunday 19th 7.00pm

Tuesday 21st 7.30pm

Sunday 26th 7.00pm

Working Bee with Lunch

Working Bee with Lunch

FIRST NIGHT – The Knacker's ABC

AUDITION: Emma Celebrazione

Heidelberg Film Society – *Limelight* (U.S.A.)

AUDITION: Emma Celebrazione

MARCH

Saturday 4th 8.15pm

Tuesday 21st 7.30pm

FINAL NIGHT – The Knacker's ABC

Heidelberg Film Society – *Power of One*

HELP!!! needed at the

**WORKING
BEES** for

***The Knacker's
ABC***

**Saturdays
4th & 11th February
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

HTC IN-HOUSE AWARDS, 2005

John Gilbert, HTC President, in his Report, thanked the In House Adjudicators: Ron Chapman, David Dare and Helen Robinson for their enthusiasm, diligence and expertise.

This year our Adjudicators presented the Annual HTC In House Awards under the following banners:-

UNsung HEROES & COMMENDATION

Bruce Akers - Commendation for Direction of *Side Man*

Rose Capuano -- Unsung Heroes Award - for Props

Wendy Drowley & Lois Connor - Unsung Heroes Award for Costumes

AWARDS for EXCELLENCE IN PERFORMANCE

PETER PRENGA – *Henry Brock* in **Born Yesterday**

KATE BOWERS – *Terry Glimmer* in **Side Man**

CHRIS BALDOCK – *Gene Glimmer* in **Side Man**

RHIANNON LEACH - *Brooke Ashton* in **Noises Off**

ISOBELLE MASON - *Elizabeth* in **The Crucible** (HTC Youth Production)

AWARD for EXCELLENCE IN DIRECTION –

Chris McLean – **Noises Off**

AWARD for BEST PRODUCTION –

John Keogh - **Born Yesterday**

2005 VDL AWARDS

Side Man was the Company's entry for 2005. The Awards were presented at a glittering evening attended by thespians from the Melbourne non professional theatre scene.

To top off a great night, **VDL Gold Awards** were won by

Peter Prenga – Best Supporting Actor in a Drama,

Chris Baldock – Best Actor in a Drama,

Stelios Karagiannis – Best Lighting and

George Bissett- Best Sound Design for *Side Man*

As well, **Side Man** received **nominations** in the following categories:-

Best Actress in a Drama – Kate Bowers,

Best Director of a Drama – Bruce Akers,

Best Drama Production – Bruce Akers,

Best Set Design – Bruce Akers.

Congratulations to the Director, Cast and Crew a great result for the show and the Company.

CURTAIN UP's – 2005 CURTAIN CALLS

Curtain Calls came Heidelberg's way in the North/West suburbs sector of Theatre Companies whose shows are reviewed on **Curtain Up**. CCs to Chris McLean, Director of **Noises Off** and to the ensemble comprising Justin Stephens, Rhiannon Leach, Nicola Wright, John Cheshire, Kate Bowers, Joshua Parnell, John Keogh, Paul Farrell and Barbara Hughes. And more CCs for the female acting ensemble in **Wicked Sisters**:- Lois Fleming, Anne Smith, Margaret Maloney and Maureen McInerney and it doesn't stop there; Elena Ladd as *Billie* and Marie Mackrell's superb Art Deco setting for **Born Yesterday** also received CCs.

Thanks to **Curtain Up** for a great program in 2005 and looking forward to more of the same in 2006.

FOLLOWING IN THE FOOT STEPS

The other evening, while getting audition details from Gayle Poor, the Director of our second production – **Emma Celebrazione** – Gayle mentioned that her daughter Llaaneath is in the cast of *The Philadelphia Story* to be staged by the Athenaeum Theatre, Lilydale from 7th – 25th March.

The cast includes Venetia Macken and Fred Barker and is directed by Doug Bennett, all of whom are well known to HTC audiences. Bookings 9735 1777.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR OUR SET BUILDING TEAM!!!

Can you hammer a nail or handle power tools? If you can then come and join our Set Building Team, if you can't and would like to learn, then come along too!

We want to attract new people to join our team of Set Builders. Members of the Team can be found at the Theatre on Saturdays and occasional weekdays, preparing for productions, de-constructing sets, or just having a chinwag.

If you have thought of coming along to be a part of the team but have not quite got around to it this is the time to get in touch! Do come and have some fun with like minded people who love being part of Show Biz!!

Call the Theatre on **9455 3039** and Dennis Pain will be able to answer any queries and sign you up!



Come along and share the load, the friendships, the satisfactions and the applause when you Set Build at HTC.

WHAT'S THE GOSS

OUR NEW NOTICEBOARD

Hopefully it is hard to miss and you have already been attracted by the Company's new backlit Notice Board that was recently erected outside the Theatre. Very stylish and easily seen, even by train travellers, look out for it.

A THANKYOU FROM OUR WARDROBE

Again in 2005 numbers of our Subscribers and friends have donated gorgeous items to the Company's wardrobe and Wendy and Lois have asked that their thanks be passed on with the message to, "Keep 'em coming!"

WHO, WHAT, WHERE

HTC members Anne Smith, Tim McLaughlan and Kim Wattie are busy with rehearsals, not for a forthcoming HTC production, instead they are preparing for their roles as volunteers for the forthcoming Games in March. Kim and Tim are ASMing for the Opening and Anne is dancing in the Closing Ceremony. So keep an eye out for them!

Awards are definitely in the air at this time of year and I am sure you will be as chuffed as Stelios was when he won the Best Lighting Award for CLOC's **Jekyll and Hyde** at the Music Theatre Guild Awards, word has it that he was "absolutely over the moon!!"

Every OPENING NIGHT at HTC is a ***great night!*** - Stay on after the show and mingle in the foyer, meet the actors and crew, enjoy a light supper, all with the compliments of the Company.

Get your social club or charity group together.
A Group booking for 10 or more is \$12 per ticket (\$14 all other nights) on ANY Wednesday night in the Season

Contact June on **9457 4117**

HIGHLIGHTS of the 2005 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Playbill

As we come to the close of 2005 we complete our 53rd year as a theatre company. Audience comments were both favourable regarding the quality of the productions and also at times critical, particularly with regard to language.

We were pleased to welcome first time directors to Heidelberg Theatre Company, John Keogh – **Born Yesterday**, and Chris McLean - **Noises Off**. In both cases these were very successful productions.

In addition, during the 2005 year, the HTC Youth performed **The Crucible** and **Peter Pan**. Youth group leader Gen Meehan and the dedicated team that make up HTC Youth Theatre were strongly supported by Anne Smith.

It is our hope that the experience gained by the HTC Youth group will provide the foundation for our future actors and back stage people in the mainstream of the theatre.

Bookings and Membership

Our secretary Brett Hunt has done an outstanding job managing the membership and subscription returns and database plus the distribution of *Prompts* via email. The work and efforts of June Cherry, Trevor McAllister, Julie Hall and Rose Capuano ensures that the box office runs without any hassles right through the season.

Financial

We have not embarked on any major expenditure items this year and our financial status has accordingly been kept in check to cope with the reduced income, which was as a result of lower audience attendances during the middle of the year. Our financial position remains sound and must remain so in order that we can continue to upgrade the theatre facilities and be provided with the resources to deliver the high standard of production quality that our audiences have come to expect.

Capital Expenditure

Expenditure was kept to a minimum this year with a careful eye kept by our Treasurer, Bruce Akers.

HTC Committee

The Committee elected a second Vice President, Bruce Akers who is also the Company's Treasurer. This is in addition to our existing Vice President Wendy Drowley. The other Committee Members are Brett Hunt – Secretary, Alice Bugge, June Cherrey, Lena Minto, Maureen McInerney, Tim McLaughlan, Joan Moriarty, Anne Smith, Dennis Pain, Gen Meehan, Wayne Pearn and newly elected Patricia Tyler.

Important People

We have been fortunate this year to have Patricia Tyler take charge of the Front of House and Photography. We also appreciate the numerous volunteers who willing undertake the Front of House duties during the year.

Our talented team of Set Builders includes Paddy Moriarty, Ron Young, Jim Thomson, Dennis Pain, Ted Drowley and Ashley Phillips. Our technical and back stage crews include the talents of Simon Dixon, Struan McGregor, George Bissett, Tim McLaughlin, Stellios Karagiannis and many more who the audience will never see and Lena Minto and Alice Bugge for their work in organising publicity and advertising during the year.

The Company would also like thank Jan Howe for coordinating the various displays of local artists in the theatre foyer during the year.

Vale

We note the passing of Rita Finch, life member of HTC who was a founding member of the Heidelberg Rep in 1952 and was active both on stage and behind the scenes.

Also the passing of Jean Baker who was a past City of Heidelberg Councillor and past Mayor, in addition to being a strong supporter of HTC.

Lease

The Council has shown no urgency to formalise our occupation at Turnham Avenue and our occupation is currently on hold over as per the terms of the expired lease. The Council has confirmed that terms will not be commercial and will recognise the contribution that HTC has made to the facility.

Community Involvement

We continue to make the theatre available for various community events. This includes groups such as the Heidelberg Film Society, and The Banyule City Council. The Heidelberg Theatre Company again participated in the Banyule Winter Festival. Our preview nights continue to be an opportunity for charity groups to raise money and organisations who took advantage of these nights were, Oxfam- Community Aid Abroad, Templestowe College, Banyule Support Group, Uniting Church, Amnesty International, Livingstone Community Centre, Heidelberg Lions and Linlithgow.

Close

The 2005 year has been a challenging and rewarding year. As we prepare to enter the 2006 year we can safely report that the Heidelberg Theatre Company is in a sound position and ready to accept the challenges ahead and deliver a great season again.

John. Gilbert, President, HTC 18th December 2005

FLYING HIGH

HTC YOUTH'S production of *PETER PAN*

The tumultuous applause for **Noise Off** had barely subsided when HTC Youth bumped in and pumped up for a big production of J M Barrie's **Peter Pan** with lots of choreography, wacky costumes, magical makeup and a great mix of music from Elvis to Cirque du Soleil's Allegria.

A cast of 23 romped and stomped for nearly three hours, delighting the young audience and wearing out lots of adults! Directors Issy Mason and Rose Connors-Dance worked hard to realise their ideas which incorporated elements of circus, Commedia Dell'Arte and absurdism. Cast amused audience with their pre show antics and encouraged lots of participation. The final night saw lots of audience joining cast on stage in a curtain call chorus of "I Believe"

Thanks to all those who did believe it could be done and made it happen. Without a dedicated cast and crew and HTC's support **Peter Pan** could not have got off the ground (Pardon the pun). Special thanks to Wendy, Maureen, Dennis, Paddy, Ted and others who pitched in and to Chris McLean's production for graciously bestowing their fabulous 2 storey set which was used to great effect.

2006 will see two more Youth productions (in May and December).

Our May production will again focus on serious Youth issues. Auditions will be held in early March so watch out for further details as the year gets under way and more great theatre comes to life at HTC.

The Group's members are in the 15 to 25 year age group, so if this means you, and you'd like to find out more, then contact Gen at the Theatre on 9455 3039, she will be happy to fill you in.