

PROMPTS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE HEIDELBERG THEATRE COMPANY



ART

by Yasmina Reza
directed by Wayne Pearn
translation by Christopher Hampton

5th – 22nd July, 2006

Wednesday to Saturday at 8.15pm, Matinee Sunday 16th July at 3pm

Subscribers requiring to alter their chosen night or reserve their booking
are asked to call BEFORE Monday, 26th June, 2006.

by arrangement with Dominie Pty Ltd.

A witty, sophisticated night in the theatre. Yasmina Reza's play will, however, raise questions during the evening, chief among them what constitutes art and what is friendship.

Wayne Pearn, who has a long association with the Company is directing the show. Wayne directed **The Iceman Cometh** in 2004, he has been an Adjudicator for our In-House Awards and was last seen on stage at HTC in 1995 when he played *Stanley Kowalski* in **Streetcar Named Desire**.

With Wayne at the helm and three of Melbourne's best - Barry Lockett, Bruce Akers and Chris McLean playing the roles, audiences will enjoy a humorous and thought provoking hour and a half.

Taryn Gater is Stage Manager, and assisting the Director are Julie Hall and Laurel Gourlay. George Tranter has designed the set and the Set Building Team is headed up by Ted Drowley, with the 'usual suspects' assisting; Dennis Pain, Paddy Moriarty and Jim Thomson.

Wendy Drowley with assistance from Lois Connor is doing the costuming and Wendy and Wayne are designing the décor. Leanne Cole is doing the Artwork, Wayne is designing the sound/music and Struan McGregor will operate sound. Stelios Karagiannis is designing the lighting plot with Luisa Stephens doing the operating.

So don't miss **Art** it's going to be a winner!

Banyule Winter Festival attraction –
HEIDELBERG THEATRE COMPANY

PLAY READING

Saturday 5th August at 8pm

The More We Change

by

Anne Rutherford

Directed by Joan Moriarty

a new play that cuts through the lives of three generations of women

Admission \$5.

FAREWELL

Bill Knight, HTC Life Member, has died aged 92 years. Bill has been a great friend and supporter of the Company since 1959 when he helped Heidelberg Rep lease the Rechabite Hall in Ivanhoe which was renovated by Rep members into a theatre, known for twenty three years as The Rep.

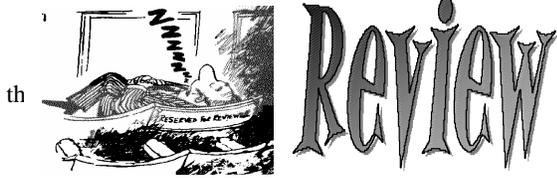
Since the move to Turnham Avenue, Bill and his wife Thelma have continued their association with HTC as loyal first night audience members, always ready with praise and encouragement for our productions.

Our sympathy to Thelma Knight and family.

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BOOKINGS & SUBSCRIPTIONS 9457 4117



Emma Celebrazione

by Graham Pitts

Directed by Gayle Poor

Reviewed by **John Gunn** on Saturday, 22nd April 2006 for
3CR's CURTAIN UP – Sundays at One (855 AM)

Whilst this is the fourth time I have viewed this play, it is the first non-professional production I have seen. When first produced at the (now) Malthouse Theatre (some years back) it was a tremendous hit and went on to have several return seasons at various venues. Its success is due in part to the warmth that the play generates as it tells us the story of an Italian migrant girl, *Emma* and her life in this new land which brings hardship, romance, but throughout there is still a strong sense of family values.

The play takes place in *Emma's* kitchen as she is preparing for her daughter's forthcoming wedding, she is preparing the food for the Wedding Breakfast (with eggplant, peppers and so forth) and her story moves backwards and forwards in time as she tells us about her life and reveals her innermost thoughts.

The other characters are, her Mother in-law, *Concetta*, her Mother, *Marianina*, her husband *Peter Ciccotosto*, her father, *Domenico Orlando*, father in-law, *Domenico Ciccotosto* and the manager of a biscuit factory where she works for a time. There are also two musicians and a wonderfully joyous Italian Women's Choir who act rather like a Greek chorus.

Heidelberg's production under the very firm hand of director Gayle Poor is full of warmth and humour which embraced Saturday nights', 22nd April, capacity audience leaving them contented and sending us all home on a high note.

Yes there were some moments that perhaps didn't work quite as well as others and at times some of the accents were a bit shaky, however over all it was a very engaging production that absorbed us and welcomed us into this tale of Italian family life with its dictates, principles and traditions.

Looking at the cast, Catherine Christensen in the huge role of *Emma* was to my mind a delight... she had a great rapport with the audience, warm with a wonderful sense of humour, accent never dropped and she conveyed the many complex aspects of a young Italian girl starting life in a new country. Carmel Behan as her Mother, *Marianina* looked great and brought to the role strength and compassion.

Cheryl Ballantine as the overbearing, crusty *Concetta*, after a slightly slow start, gained as the story progressed, getting the humour out of the biting lines - likewise Simon Fenn as the three men in *Emma's* life (i.e. husband, father and father-in-law) playing three roles is a difficult call for any actor. The small role of the *Factory Manager* was played with vigour by David Dodd and let's not forget the wonderful Women's Choir that added so much energy, charm and atmosphere to the production - grouped around the auditorium before the start of the play really engendered a sense of excitement and a warm feeling of expectation.

Glancing around the auditorium from time to time during the show, I noted many happy Italian faces, presumably recalling an earlier time back in their birthplace



Emma Tribute from The Choir

(to the tune of My Favourite Things from The Sound Of Music)

Maria, Maria, Maria and Mara
 Rosemary, Rosalba, Rosina and Anna
 Heather and Joan, Marianne and Kiki
 All some of the Chorus in the Emma Company.

There's also Caterina and two named Silvana
 Plus two called Luisa to go with Teresa
 One Lucy, a Nella, a Pina and Ann
 Most talking "wog" lingo as fast as they can.

"Go in file now
 Not like Brown's Cows"
 David tears his hair
 But somehow we manage to get back on stage
 To sit on our own soft chair!

We've still got more singers - a Toni and a Wendy
 Giselle, Judy, Enza, Ruth, Lilian and Gerri
 Plus a fantastic cast who're all playing their parts
 And Hoppalong Cassidacky, Kookiburras and Farts

Now Ernie and Phil are our musos exciting
 They keep entertaining and audience delighting
 And Gayle, our Director, with sherry in hand
 Enjoys backstage suppers of food Italian

Now it's all over
 And we're all sad
 "Cos the fun is done
 We've all simply had an amazing great time
 So here's till we meet again!

and so many pairs of hands quietly beating time to the many traditional Italian songs they so obviously remembered.

Set design, props and costumes were so right for the times represented and of course were of the usual high standard we expect from Heidelberg - all adding up to a very enjoyable night at the theatre. I also liked the warm earthy colours of the 'today' clothes worn by the musically and physically energetic Italian choir.

Emma Celebrazione continues at Heidelberg Theatre Company until the 6th May, well worth seeing but I believe it's (understandably) very heavily booked.

A FOOTNOTE: The very first production of **Emma** which I saw at the old Playbox Theatre, South Melbourne, had *Emma* making vast quantities of delicious and aromatic pasta which was later served to the audience.... BUT, I understand now that our pedantic Health and Safety persons (as is the case apparently with school canteens) will no longer allow this food facet in a production UNLESS it is prepared in an approved kitchen facility.....Remember the bush fires in the Grampians back in January? That was when all the wonderful members of the local Country Womens' Association were going to prepare all those sandwiches for the weary Firefighters who apparently (as I understand it) couldn't accept them because they weren't prepared in an approved kitchen facility!!how ridiculous we have all become! John Gunn.

AUDITION NOTICE

Sunday June 18th at 1.30 pm & Monday June 19th at 7.30 pm
at 1st Rosanna Scouts Hall, De Winton Park St. James Road, Rosanna
(The Scout Hall is at the end of St. James Road and backs onto the railway line.)

Cat On A Hot Tin Roof

by Tennessee Williams

Directed by Geoff Hickey

Season: Wednesday 13th – Saturday 30th September, 2006

Matinee - Sunday 24th September.

CAST

Note – ages are approximate and southern accents are required for all characters.

Brick – (28 – 36) – former football hero now turned to alcohol. Trying to come to terms with the death of his “friend” skipper and his own sexuality.

Maggie – (28 – 36) – sensual wife of Brick desperate to reignite her failing marriage, produce a child and assure their place in “Big Daddy’s” household.

Big Mama – (55 – 65) – wife of “Big Daddy”, flashy and at times coarse and vulgar, who favours Brick as the successor to the Pollitt fortune and stands by a man who despises her.

Big Daddy – (55 – 65) – physically imposing man failing from the effects of cancer. Brash, overbearing and intolerant self made man who favours Brick over his other son “Gooper”.

Gooper – (30 -40) – the classic “other son” who can’t understand why he is not the favourite son and with his wife “Mae” connives to win their way into “Big Daddy’s” will.

Mae – (30 – 40) – shrewish and calculating wife of “Gooper” who parades her children in an attempt to replace Brick and Maggie in “Big Daddy’s” affections and inherit the Pollitt fortunes.

Dr Baugh – (40+) – family doctor to the Pollitt family.

Rev Tooker – (40+) – southern preacher also intent on the Pollitt money for his “stained glass window”.

Lacy – (40+) – African American handyman – long time employee with the Pollitt clan.

Sooky – African American servant with the Pollitt family.

Children of Mae & Gooper – (5yrs – 12 yrs) – rowdy and boisterous “no neck monsters”.

Auditions by appointment with the director Geoff Hickey
phone 9874 1571

A Response to Heidelberg Theatre Company’s production of ‘EMMA CELEBRAZIONE’ by Graham Pitts from HTC Subscriber, Kay Arthur.

I would like to congratulate the writer, director, cast and company responsible for the production of ‘Emma Celebrazione’ currently being presented by the Heidelberg Theatre Company.

The opening moments, of female voices and Italian folk songs, were enough to make me happy to be sitting in my theatre seat. I would have been quite content to simply hear these women sing – with or without the play that was to follow. As it turned out, the quality of the play, and its delivery, maintained the quality that was promised by the music of the introduction.

Catherine Christensen was a charming and lovable Emma. She moved from grandmother to young girl, through young wife to seasoned daughter in law, and back again and around, and back again, without effort. She was utterly convincing in her depiction at each stage of Emma’s growth into womanhood. The essential spirit of Emma was always, unmistakably, there. Her wit, strength and cheeky humour enriched each of the scenes which cleverly captured quintessential moments of her life.

Cheryl Ballantine, Carmel Behan and Simon Fenn brought their respective characters to life with energy, spirit and conviction. I was impressed by the way that the larger than life Italian mother/ mother in law came to us as so much more than the simplistic caricature than she could so easily have been.

Thanks to all involved for a performance that left me smiling, feeling warm inside . . . and thinking, without being told to, in the ways that some didactic theatre can do.

What's the Goss?

Congratulations to HTC YOUTH for the successful season of BLACKROCK



Ricko Seb Costello, confronts Toby Gareth Trew, while Scott Rhys Hamlyn, looks on.



Some of the Blackrock cast chill out on the HTC stage.



The boys on Blackrock Beach. From left: Rick Costello, Scott Rhys Hamlyn, Toby Gareth Trew, Davo William Moore and Jared Rory Shepherd.

WHO, WHAT, WHERE?

Hoy Polloy Productions presents the haunting and powerful psychological thriller, **Frozen** by Bryony Lavery. The show is directed by Paul King and the cast includes Paul Farrell and Christina Costigan, all three are well known to HTC audiences. **Frozen** has been described as, "a major event in British Theatre". Season: June 22nd - July 1st at MIPAC, cnr Sydney & Glenlyon Roads, Brunswick. Bookings **9388 1942**

Emma was barely behind her when Director, Gayle Poor was 'at it again', this time at Eltham Little Theatre where she is directing their Youth Production, **How The West Was Warped**, the season opens 30th June, for bookings call **9437 1574**.

And again the Poor's are 'keeping it in the family' with Mick directing Eltham's September show, **Then There Were None** by Agatha Christie. Auditions June 18 at ELT, call Mick for details, 9857 6818.

Art at HTC followed by **Art** at Peridot from 4th - 19th August. David Macrea and Max Rackham, familiar faces at HTC, are in the cast.

Bookings **1300 138 645**.

Ben Starick who played **Clifford** in **Side Man** at HTC in 2005, is in Essendon Theatre Company's

The rollicking rap of **Peter Pan** gave way to the doof of beach party music in HTC Youth's May production of **Blackrock**. Based on real events, Nick Enright's powerful script deals with the rape and death of a young teenage girl at a beach party and the subsequent struggle of individuals involved to come to terms with what has happened and move on with their lives. It examines relationships within the peer group and the clash between youth and their parents. The play also makes us aware of tensions relating to the different socio economic circumstances of the characters: the ones who come from the right side of the tracks and the ones who don't. The central character **Jared**, played by Rory Shepherd, has to realize that his loyalty to 'mate' **Ricko** (Seb Costello) is misplaced. **Jared** finally comes forward and faces the truth. **Ricko**, the sadly fallen hero commits suicide in custody.

Vlad T assisted by Adrian Boyce and a dedicated cast and crew did justice to Enright's work with strong performances over a well attended six night season. A proud Vlad felt that this was the best youth production to date. Congratulations to Vlad, cast and crew.

Winter in Banyule attraction:

OPEN DAY at HTC

Saturday 19th August 10am - 4pm

HTC Open Days have proved so popular we are doing it again, so if you have missed out in the past then this is your chance to:-

Join in a tour of the Backstage, Wardrobe, Sound, Lighting, and Props areas.

Or drop by and browse through the many **Vintage** and **Old Costumes**, that following an essential cull due to a lack of storage space, we are forced to offer up **for sale**.

Refreshments will be served

production **Nasty Neighbours** by Debbie Issit. The season begins on 22nd June. For bookings call **9330 4808**.

JUNE

Sunday 18th 1.30pm

Monday 19th 7.30pm

Tuesday 20th 7.30pm

Saturday 24th 10.30am

JULY

Saturday 1st 10.30am

Wednesday 5th 8.15pm

Tuesday 18th 7.30pm

Saturday 22nd 8.15pm

AUGUST

Saturday 5th 8.00pm

Tuesday 15th 7.30pm

Saturday 19th 10am - 4pm

AUDITION: Cat On A Hot Tin Roof

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(at 1st Rosanna Scout Hall, St James Road)

Heidelberg Film Society -

Rosencranz & Guildenstern (USA)

Working Bee with Lunch

Working Bee with Lunch

FIRST NIGHT - ART by Yasmina Reza

Heidelberg Film Society - Journey to Italy

FINAL NIGHT - ART by Yasmina Reza

Winter in Banyule - PLAY READING

Heidelberg Film Society - 42nd Street

Winter in Banyule OPEN DAY at HTC

HELP!!! needed at the WORKING BEES

for

ART

Saturdays

24th June & 1st July

from 10.30am

lunch is provided

So do come along, it's a great experience and a fun time too!

Working Bees not your style?

How about assisting

backstage or foh

Like to know more - call Julie on

9455 3039