

# PROMPTS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE HEIDELBERG THEATRE COMPANY

## Dinner

by Moira Buffini

by special arrangement with Dominie Pty Ltd

directed by Joan Moriarty

**18 April – 5 May, 2007**

**Wednesday to Saturday at 8.15pm, Matinee Sunday 29 April at 3pm**

Subscribers requiring to reserve their booking or alter their chosen night are asked to call 9457 4117 by Sunday, 1 April, 2007

*Patrons are advised that this play contains course language, which may offend.*

### Preview by Joan Moriarty

An artist, a scientist and a sexpot are coming to dinner. Paige, hostess extraordinaire, is celebrating the publication of her husband Lars' best seller. The arrival of Mike, marooned in the foggy lane after crashing his van, provides an unexpected addition to the evening's entertainment. A silent waiter, sourced from an obscure website completes the picture.

Primordial soup is first in the menu – let the dinner from hell begin...

This new offering from British playwright Moira Buffini is the first non-professional season in Victoria. HTC has many well-known faces in the production: Barry Lockett (winner of the VDL "gold" for his performance in **ART** last year at HTC) is playing Lars. Anne Smith is Wynne the artist, John Cheshire is Hal the scientist, Rhianon Leach is Sian the sexpot, Justin Stephens is Mike the uninvited guest and finally Adrian Boyce -the enigmatic waiter. HTC also welcomes Genevieve Ryan who is taking on the role of Paige the hostess.

Stelios Karagiannis is designing lights, and we



**HEIDELBERG THEATRE COMPANY**

By Special Arrangement With Dominie Pty Ltd

Welcome to the dinner party from HELL!

**DINNER**  
by Moira Buffini  
directed by Joan Moriarty

**18 April - 5 May 2007**  
Wed to Sat at 8.15 + Sun Matinee 29 Apr at 3pm  
36 Turnham Ave Rosanna  
www.htc.org.au  
inc. no. A008432X

**BOOKINGS 9457 4117**  
Adult: \$18 Group (10+): \$14 Concession: \$15

have a wonderful set and realisation from the talented Leanne Cole, with many more dedicated people volunteering their precious time. Joan Moriarty, the director applauds them all.

P.O Box 141, Rosanna VIC 3084  
Enquiries 9455 3039  
Fax 9457 2078  
Web [www.htc.org.au](http://www.htc.org.au)  
Email [htc@htc.org.au](mailto:htc@htc.org.au)  
Inc. No. A008432X

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**BOOKINGS & SUBSCRIPTIONS 94574117**



# Review

## Caravan

By Donald Macdonald

Directed by Dianne Mileo

Reviewed by Frances Devlin Glass for  
3CR's Curtain Up programme  
- Sundays at 1pm - 855AM

I'd love to say I enjoyed this production as the actors and director (who stood in for one of the actors) worked their butts off, but I didn't, and the reason was not their work but the banality of the play. It was about the quality of a low-level American sitcom, and involved lots of slapstick, and running gags with people hitting their heads on the caravan intel, and lots of crossed wires among six erotically charged individuals who endlessly changed places. It was silly-season fare, but how low can that go? For me, it was too low altogether, and I think the script selection committee need to be a bit more discerning. There is clearly value in choosing Australian plays, but this one didn't have a lot to recommend it: no really Australian features (though it deals with iconic subject-matter), no character development except for one character who uncharacteristically said what she'd normally repress, no subtlety. I found it very leery and stereotypic about male sexuality and unknowing about women.

It was a single-set piece, and the caravan interior was pleasant to the eye with its red and white decor. I didn't go for the simulated wood, which looked very painted. Surely it would have been easy to get some wood grain veneer. The offstage annexe construction noises were effective, though at points they threatened the audibility of the dialogue, so perhaps more careful timing and less of that is indicated. I could have done with more evidence of actual living in the caravan. More food production etc. in the interests of realism. I loved the song with which the first half ended.



The best sequences were the overheard conversation in the first half, with its wonderful revelation, well used in the second half of the weird fantasies of some folk when they make love. But the scene that was the clincher was the one in which the two main women, Jo Warr and Dianne Mileo, engaged in a cyclonic emotional explosion to outrival the cyclonic rains outside. One really did not see the power of these actors until this scene in the second half. I enjoyed the way the director differentiated the three women characters -the third was an ever-so-girlish, though also horny, escapee from an ashram. I quite enjoyed the older cynical woman, but the characterization is not entirely consistent as she ends up becoming quite saccharine.

The married men on the other hand were less well differentiated, and were almost interchangeable. Parkes' congenital anger needed to be a bit more nuanced because it became rather tediously monotonous, and he needed to be more responsive to the outbursts when they happened. The wave had rolled over him on Wednesday before he realized. The pace quickened when the week of enforced niceness was imposed and I enjoyed some of the business, especially Penny's heavy-duty drinking to get up the nose of her husband. The unmarried man, Pierce, played by Dave Miller did some nice work with his eyes and eyebrows, and seemed fully engaged in the spats.

So, a rather lacklustre night in the theatre, I'm sorry to say.

# HTC Youth

## Away

by Michael Gow

directed by Vladimir Tsyganov

HTC Youth – 11, 12, 16-19 May

### Preview by Suzannah Rowley

In his multi-award winning play **Away**, Michael Gow plunges his audience into real life tragedy and lifts them into a theatrical world of lights and dancing fairies. Set in Australia during the Vietnam war, **Away** tells the story of three families who decide to go on a summer holiday as they try to deal with issues of death, pain and alienation.

Tom, a young English boy, is terminally ill and his family is trying to protect him from the reality of his imminent death – but he already knows. He befriends Meg whose family is embittered by past tragedies and third family battles to accept losing a son in the Vietnam War. Their lives are connected by a single holiday, which becomes an uplifting journey through grief, healing and happiness.

**Away** is a juxtaposition of humour, trauma and fantasy. It weaves Shakespearean performances through an exploration of contemporary issues of war, racism and alienation.

### HTC Committee Member Profile

#### Vlady T (HTC Youth Coordinator)

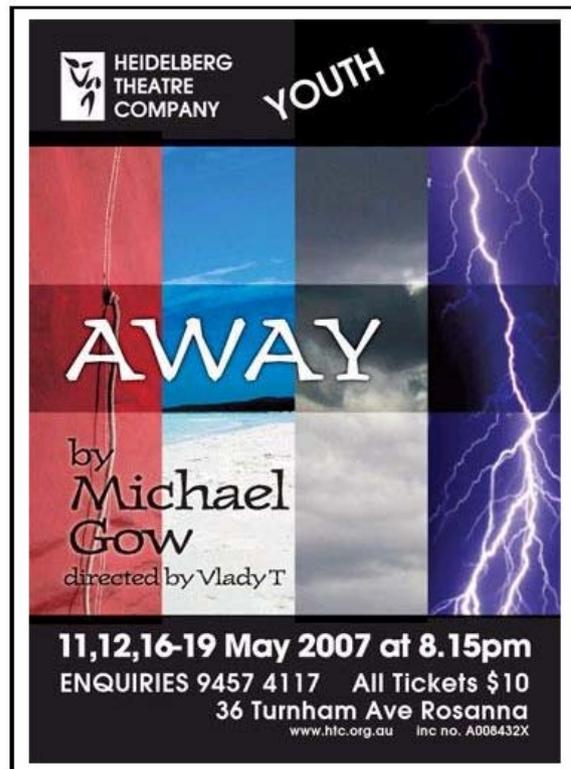
by Suzannah Rowley

Vladimir Tsyganov (Vlady T) is an original member and one of the brains behind HTC Youth. In 2003, he acted in the group's first production, **The Uninvited Guest**, and co-wrote **Christmas' Confessions**.

Vlady has worked on nearly every HTC Youth production over the past four years, sharpening his talents in a plethora of roles – acting, stage-managing, production co-ordinating, assistant directing and directing.

Last year Vlady directed **Blackrock**, assisted on **Cosi** and is currently directing **Away**, which will be performed by HTC Youth in May. He has also worked on HTC main bill productions, acting in **Born Yesterday** and running the lighting operation for **Cat On A Hot Tin Roof** and **Caravan**.

Vlady embarked on his acting career when he was seven and enjoyed studying theatre and drama at high school, the Victorian College of the Arts and Victoria University.



Vladimir Tsyganov is the director, and recently held auditions with assistant director Luke Dixon and production co-ordinator Tim McLaughlan. Vlady says national identity is a recurring theme in Gow's plays. "In **Away** he focuses on the fact that everyone in this country has to move emotionally and physically from place to place. The country is based on migration historically, so he is saying we should be open to different cultures, we should be open to different mind-sets, we should be open to different challenges."

**Away** is a compelling Australian production not to be missed!

At sixteen, Vlady stumbled across Heidelberg Theatre Company and quickly realised that acting would be an integral part of his future.

He believes HTC Youth is a fantastic outlet for many talented young people who are constantly improving their acting and technical skills all the time.

In 2006, Vlady was elected to the HTC committee and became HTC Youth Coordinator when Gen Meehan stepped down.



# What's the Goss?

## Who? What? Where? When?

Brett Turner, Adrian Valenta and Dave Miller who were all in **Caravan** are involved in Willamstown's next production, **Beyond Therapy**. Brett is directing with Adrian and Dave in the cast. The cast also includes Ben Starrick, well known to HTC through his performance in **Sideman**. Ben also assists and advises HTC in the realm of PR, marketing and publicity.

Geoff Hickey is directing **Doubt** at Malvern. Geoff was at the helm of last year's production of **Cat On A Hot Tin Roof**. In the cast of **Doubt** is the inimitable Sandy Green and Lee Cairnduff (happy \$#th Lee!) both who were seen in **Cat**.

Angelo De Cata also seen as Brick in **Cat**, has been cast in **Doubt** at Malvern.

On Stage peoples choice voted Emma Celabrazione as best non-professional play for 2006 and Barry Lockett was adjudged best actor for his portrayal of Yvan in **Art**.

Jim Thomson, a regular at HTC, has taken to Brighton's stage in their production of **Death and The Maiden**.

## HELP!!!! needed at the WORKING BEES for

# Dinner

Saturdays 7<sup>th</sup> April and  
14<sup>th</sup> April

from 10:30am

Lunch will be provided

Come along, it's a great  
experience and a fun time  
too!

If working bees are not  
your style, how about  
assisting back stage or  
FOH?

If you'd like to know more,  
call Julie on 9455 3039

## Upcoming HTC Youth productions

At the moment HTC Youth is focusing on producing Australian works and are searching for young Australian playwrights under 25, interested in workshopping their ideas in May for a December production.

If you are interested,  
contact Vlado T on  
0413 224 707.

## Did you know .....

Tim Williamson (one of HTC's '07 in house adjudicators, along with Judi Clark and Ian Robinson) has returned from the U.S after two weeks of intense study and an 8 (yes 8!) hour exam to become a Clinical Research Associate. He passed. Mmm .... nice new wheels, Tim.

## A big congratulations to...

Di Mileo on her directorial debut with **Caravan**. At 82% audience capacity not only were the patrons beaming but we're sure it put a smile on our Treasurer's face as well !

## Dates for the diary .....

### APRIL

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> 2pm  
Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> 7pm  
Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> 10:30am  
Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> 10:30am  
Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> 8:15pm  
Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> 7:30pm

AUDITION – The Grapes of Wrath\*  
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**Working Bee** with lunch  
**Working Bee** with lunch  
**FIRST NIGHT** – Dinner  
Heidelberg Film Society – **Rats In The Ranks**

### MAY

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> 8:15pm  
Friday 11<sup>th</sup> 8:15pm  
Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> 7:30pm  
Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> 8:15pm

**FINAL NIGHT - Dinner**  
**FIRST NIGHT** – **Away** (HTC Youth)  
Heidelberg Film Society – **Weeping Camel**  
**FINAL NIGHT** – **Away** (HTC Youth)

### JUNE

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> 7pm

Heidelberg Film Society –  
**Monsieur Hulot's Holiday**

\* Auditions will be held at the Scout Hall, DeWinton Park, St James Rd. Rosanna

## And the last word goes to .....

Leeanne Cole is looking for old or disused mobile phones and remote controls for a project she is doing for at the V.C.A. She is going to cast them and when the project is complete will safely dispose of them.