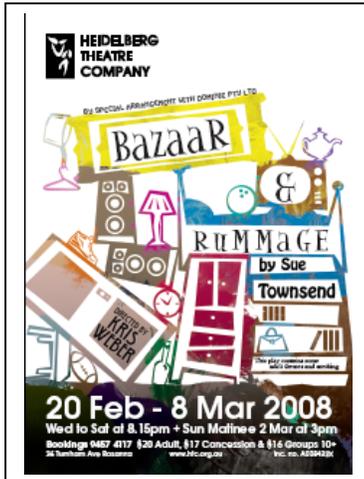


# PROMPTS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE HEIDELBERG THEATRE COMPANY



## Bazaar & Rummage

by Sue Townsend  
directed by Kris Weber

20<sup>th</sup> Feb – 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2008

Wednesday to Saturday at 8.15pm,  
Matinee Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March at 3pm

Subscribers requiring to alter their chosen night or reserve their booking are asked to call BEFORE Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2008.

The Company is delighted to introduce Director Kris Weber to HTC with the opening of **Bazaar & Rummage** by Sue Townsend on the 20<sup>th</sup> February. Kris has directed for numerous theatre companies around Melbourne and we take great pleasure in welcoming her to Heidelberg.

**Bazaar and Rummage** is set to charm us all – According to Kris, Sue Townsend has crafted an entertaining, witty and poignant play about three ordinary people who break through their troubled and insular lives by staging a bazaar and rummage sale.

Set in London, **Bazaar and Rummage**, is a touching comedy about three housebound agoraphobic women – *Margaret*, *Bell-Bell* and *Katrina* – who enlist the help of *Gwenda* and her self-help group to overcome their disorder.

The Company is pleased to welcome newcomers Ciara McKenna, Freda Mitris and Michelle Tanner to HTC together with faces well known to HTC audiences; Margaret Maloney and Kate Ballard.

*Gwenda*, (Michelle Tanner) an *ex*-agoraphobic devoted to help the “poor and innocent”, compels the three women to work at a bazaar in a local church hall where they must sift through the carnage and chaos that parallel their inner turmoil. This is a hilarious and moving play about human suffering where fears erupt, strength is tested and “caring” is challenged.

Ciara McKenna plays *Katrina*, an agoraphobic cabaret singer bearing the emotional scars of being pelted by plastic pineapples during a finale many years ago. Margaret Maloney is *Margaret* the victim of a

violent rape and Freda Mitris is *Bell-Bell*, a hygiene obsessed housewife who spends her days battling germs. *Gwenda* and *Fliss* a social worker (Kate Ballard) help the women rummage through a bazaar of emotional chaos. Townsend gives audiences a glimpse into the world of three agoraphobia sufferers and explores the intricate relationship between carers and sufferers.

Behind the scenes, a talented team will once again weave their magic with Ben Starick as production coordinator & Jim Thompson as stage manager. Dennis Pain is leading set construction with Campbell Black on the lighting operation, and Wendy Drowley in charge of costumes. We also welcome some new crew members to Heidelberg Theatre Company – Lighting Designer Peter Taurins, Sound Operator John DeGabriele, Set Designer Ian Cairncoss, Louise Anthony in charge of props and the Director Kris Weber is also the Sound Designer for the show.

With humor, chaos, phobias and drama – **Bazaar & Rummage** promises to kick off the 2008 season with a few tears and a darn good laugh!

by Suzannah Rowely & Kris Weber.

### Subscribe and Save

Save money and secure your seat by subscribing to 3, 4 or 5 productions in 2008.

Subscription forms available from the Theatre or call June or Julie on **9457 4117** now.

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**BOOKINGS & SUBSCRIPTIONS 9457 4117**



# Review

Right: Cast, some Crew and Director David Dare.  
Below: Christine Andrew, Barry James & Brian Christopher & the Van!  
Below Right: New Works Cast & Crew.

## The Lady In The Van

by Alan Bennett

Directed by David Dare

Reviewed by Frances Devlin Glass

16<sup>th</sup> November, 2007

for 3CR's CURTAIN UP

Sundays at One (855 AM)



Alan Bennett can be relied upon for good characterizations and quirky Englishness. We got that in spades at Heidelberg's **The Lady in the Van**. It's a strange play which doubles the role of the author Alan himself, with some engaging dialogue between the self that lived the experience and the self that subsequently wrote about it and tries to intervene in the story for the sake of a bit of plotting. Our two *Alans*, Barry James and Brian Christopher acquitted themselves well in these mild-mannered, somewhat whimpy roles. They also looked good in their matching clobber, and elbow patched tweeds.

The script calls for a more audacious and out there characterization for its leading lady – *Miss Shepherd*, an on-the-nose tramp who simply parks her van, in the street initially, but inveigles her way into *Alan's* meager garden, and heart. And stays installed until her death 15 years later. It's apparently based on a real person.

Her backstory emerges very slowly: despite the stench and incontinence and general unkemptness, she is improbably more upperclass than the writer and his more genteel but less alive *Mam* (played by Joan Moriarty). Christine Andrew gave the role of *Miss Shepherd* her all, and a bit more, conveying her paranoia about protecting her identity and past. The clothes Wendy Drowley and Lois Connor created for her were masterful, or should I be saying mistressful? Long before we needed to know, we guessed that the stain on the back of the mac was ominous. Make-up also assisted to make her credibly a foul figure, far removed from her concert pianist past, but that too was always credibly in her imperious make-up. Her accent was clipped, and her vocal manner wonderfully overbearing. I also enjoyed the over-the-top quality of her prayer, and one could well believe the very affecting story that had her abandon her vocation as a nun, avoiding incarceration in a lunatic asylum, and in an old folks' home. Celibacy and poverty were no problem to her as a nun, and piety she had, if of a bizarre and unconventional kind, but obedience had to have been and was a significant stumbling block. One got a good sense of the embattled English Catholic and her scruples, and the fascination of all this to Bennett.

There were a pile of minor roles, but among those Tina Pigliardo as the *Social Worker* stood out. The smarmy tone and patronizing manner generated some good comic moments.

The set was clever: two matching studies, from subtly different angles with matching desks featuring even the same shadows from the windows framed each side of the stage, and the van moved in on a revolve, which allowed some spectacular ascension effect in the final scene. Sound effects were spit-spot, as was lighting – congrats to the young people.

So a delightful play, that gained a lot of intensity in the second half, and warm congratulations to David Dare, designer and director.

## Review – HTC Youth - New Works.

**To Heat You Up and Cool You Down:** by David Finnigan.

Directed by Caesar Cordovana

**The Dead Room:** by Frederick Leonard. Directed by T. King.

**A Death in the Family:** Written and Directed by Izzi Mason.

**Pitching Alaska:** by Ian Grody. Directed by J. R. Cole

Reviewed by Suzannah Rowley.

Heidelberg Theatre Company Youth fired up the Christmas season with **New Works** – four one-act plays written, acted and directed by young people aged between 15 and 25. For a "gold coin donation" the talented young crew at Heidelberg Theatre tantalized audiences with a night of passion, drama, mystery and humor.

**New Works** opened with **To Heat You Up and Cool You Down** - a deep, provocative and sensual play exploring the trials of love, lust and death in a luxurious restaurant. A series of internal monologues conveyed the inner torment of three waiters coming to grips with their sexuality and attraction towards each other.

The fantastic use of lighting, costumes and movement swept the audience into the emotional turmoil of understanding the mysterious laws of attraction under society's watchful eye. A provocative kiss, a ghost-like girl and whispering voices of the mind culminated into a moving and fragmented journey into human love.

Audiences were then whisked off to **The Dead Room** by an elderly narrator creaking gently back and forth in an old wooden rocking chair. A fantastic array of costumes and props painted the grim but enchanting world of Theodore Roosevelt Bear who lay discarded in a dead attic until shaken by a deviant *Rat* played brilliantly by Stephanie Mauro. Thick, snobby, English accents; fantastic acting, lighting and music took the audience on a melancholy journey back to childhood storybooks and forgotten toys.

**A Death In The Family**, a biographical play written and directed by Izzi Mason, was a moving exploration of human suffering, grief and conflict as a family is torn apart by the death of a mother. An eclectic mix of sound, music, lighting and poignant dialogue set a heavy emotional tone for the play and captured the beautiful memory of a beloved family member.

The final act – **Pitching Alaska** successfully brought a true film noir to live theatre. The audience was both shocked and humored by a peculiar salesman - *Mr. Mann* (Luke Atchison) and his strange insight into the life of a terrified young lady *Alaska* (Jackie Duncan). Flawless American accents and a budding chemistry between both characters drew the audience into a mysterious and amusing dialogue.

All HTC Youth actors, stage managers, lighting, sound and costume teams are congratulated on a brilliant night of innovative theatre!

## **HTC 2007**

### **In House Awards**

Adjudicators, Helen Robinson, Judi Clark, Ian Robinson and Tim Williamson presented the Annual HTC In House Awards for the 2007 Season under the following headings:

#### **WINNERS:**

##### **Acting:**

Barry Lockett - **Grapes of Wrath**

Sean Hanson - **Dinner**

Rhiannon Leach - **The Memory of Water**

Juliet Hayday - **The Grapes of Wrath**

##### **Technical:**

Leanne Cole - Set Design - **Dinner**

David Dare - Set Design –

**The Grapes of Wrath**

Jason Bovaird - Lighting Design –

**The Lady in the Van**

##### **Special Adjudicators award:**

Paul Karafillis as musical director for **The Grapes of Wrath**

##### **Production/Direction:**

**The Grapes of Wrath** directed by Chris Baldock

##### **HTC Youth Awards:**

For a stand out performance in **Away** - Lucy Mahar

Debbie Cordovana for her sensitive and compelling portrayal in

**To Heat You Up and Cool You Down**

Caesar Cordovana for his imaginative, precise and spirited direction of

**To Heat You Up and Cool You Down**

Jess Maguire and Lucy Quinn for their excellence and efficiency in the stage management of **New Works**

### **3CR Radio Gongs for 2007:**

**Best Production: The Grapes of Wrath**

- directed by Chris Baldock

**Technical – Best Set:**

**The Grapes of Wrath**- David Dare

**Technical – Costumes:**

**The Grapes of Wrath** –

Wendy Drowley & Lois Connor ;

**The Lady in the Van** –

Wendy Drowley & Lois Connor.

**Technical –**

**Set Design: Dinner** – Leanne Cole

**Performance – Best Leads:**

Bob Crawford – **The Grapes of Wrath**

Juliet Hayday – **The Grapes of Wrath**

**Performance –**

Christine Andrews - **The Lady in the Van**

Venetia Macken - **The Memory of Water**

Rhonda Chung - **The Memory of Water**

Rhiannon Leach - **The Memory of Water**

**Performance – Supporting Actors:**

Simon Fenn – **The Memory of Water**

Paul Farrell – **The Memory of Water**

#### **WINNER OF THE 2007 XMAS HAMPER**

Congratulations to the Winner of the Hamper! If you were at the AGM and In House Awards you know the winning ticket was drawn and announced, the winner rung and the hamper collected. But by Whom?????



### **BILL CHERREY AWARD 2007 JULIE HALL**

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 recipient has a history with Heidelberg Theatre Company that dates back to 1978 when she appeared on stage at the Rechabite Hall in the 188<sup>th</sup> production, **Move Over Mrs Markham**. In addition to her stage roles she joined the Committee in 1982 as ticket secretary, continuing in this role for many years and capably managing tickets during the Company's production of **Nicholas Nickleby**. For many years, she was also the Company's membership secretary and she is also a life member of Heidelberg Theatre Company.

This year's recipient is true example of the spirit that drives our Theatre Company. She has been involved as rehearsal prompt, assistant to the director and once again this year assisting with tickets. Her commitment to Heidelberg Theatre Company and willingness to help out when required can always be relied on.

John called on June Cherrey to come to the stage to present this year's Bill Cherry Award to Julie Hall.

(J. Gilbert/J. Cherrey)

## **WHAT A TEAM! – Congratulations June and Julie from all at HTC.**

### **PRESIDENT'S AWARD 2007 JUNE CHERREY**

This is a new award which the Committee has decided to establish and it will not necessarily be an annual award. It will be presented to a member of the Company where recognition is due for a life time of service, achievement and involvement.

It is my pleasure to announce that June Cherrey is the recipient of the inaugural President's Award. June has a history with the Heidelberg Theatre Company that dates back to 1954 when she stage managed for production number 21; **Two Dozen Red Roses**. Over the years in addition to her stage manager roles she has also been a coordinator of props, ticket secretary, front of house convenor and a Committee Member since 1982.

Heidelberg Theatre Company is a stable and strong theatre company today due in no small part to the contribution made by several key people over the formative years of the Company. The President's Award this year truly recognises a member of Heidelberg Theatre Company who continues to work tirelessly as though the theatre is her own, whilst at all times encouraging all those who wish to be involved, to become actively involved and always generously acknowledging those who are positively contributing to the Theatre.

June, the inaugural winner of the President's Award is a life member who personifies the true character of the Heidelberg Theatre Company and we are richer for the benefit of her outstanding contribution which has spanned more than 50 years. (J. Gilbert)

### **VDL Awards 2007:**

The 2007 VDL awards were even more successful for HTC than the 2006 awards. Our production **The Grapes of Wrath** winning the **Gold Award** for Best Drama Production, as well as the

**Gold Award** for Best Director of a Drama production - Chris Baldock.

**Gold Award** for Best Set Design in a Comedy or a Drama. - David Dare.

**Gold Award** for Best Lighting Design in a Comedy or a Drama - Jason Bovaird.

**Gold Award** for Best Sound Design in a Comedy or a Drama - Sebastian Bertolli.

**Gold Award** for Best Supporting Actress in a Drama - Juliet Hayday as *Ma Joad*

**Gold Award** for Best Supporting Actor in a Drama - Barry Lockett as *Jim Casy*.

**Silver Award** for Best Costume Design in a Comedy or a Drama –

Wendy Drowley and Lois Connor.

**Nomination** for best supporting actress in a Drama –

Eleanor Wilson as *Rose of Sharon*.

**Nomination** for The David Perkins Perpetual Trophy for Best Actor in a Leading

Role – Best Actor in a Drama - Nigel Leslie as *Tom Joad*.

Huge congratulations to all these talented people for their fantastic results – **BRAVO!**

And **BRAVO** too to the whole **Grapes** team. **What a Show!**

## A Report on the 2008 Heidelberg Theatre Company AGM

By Suzannah Rowley

Heidelberg Theatre Company held its AGM on the 16<sup>th</sup> of December, 2007 – the year it celebrated its 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The meeting and reports were well organized and received with much interest.

The President's report reflected the strength and success of Heidelberg Theatre Company over the past year with excellent occupancy rates at all five plays – 83% for **Caravan**, 82% for **Dinner**, 93% for **The Grapes of Wrath**, 72 % for **The Memory of Water**, 80% for **The Lady and the Van** and pleasing attendances for all HTC Youth productions.

The President reported a decline in membership in 2007 of 540 compared to 570 in 2006, financial membership stands at 90 with the addition of 50 mailing list members. The President also made special mention of Mr. John McDougal, a Heidelberg Theatre Company member of fifty years who has rarely missed a production.

It was reported that expenditure was kept to a minimum with the purchase of a new audio desk and a building security alarm system. Hand rails on the side walls of the auditorium are also currently being installed for safety reasons.

The President thanked individual members and all those involved in the Company for their time, expertise and valuable contributions in the successful running of the Heidelberg Theatre Company and its role as an active and thriving community resource in Melbourne. Jan Howe was thanked for coordinating the various displays of local artists in the theatre foyer during the year. It was noted that members and audiences alike have enjoyed seeing many interesting and diverse works for each play season. As well the Company thanked our 2007 In-House Adjudicators: Helen Robinson, Tim Williamson, Ian Robinson and Judi Clark.

John mentioned the valuable contribution Heidelberg Theatre Company made to local charities via fund raisers and ticket donation and also to community groups in 2007 especially with the Company's participation in the Banyule City Arts Festival with a theatre open day, costume sale and a Play Reading.

The President referred to the outstanding work of all committee members in 2007 and thanked Rose Connors Dance and Wayne Pearn, for their dedication and contribution to the Theatre Company after their resignation from the committee in 2007. John also noted the continued lease of the 1<sup>st</sup> Rosanna Scout Hall and the need for additional funding for the Garden Project which will be named in honor of the late Alice Bugge for her 50 years service to HTC.

The President noted the passing during the year of Alice Bugge and also Brian Cooney an active and valued member of HTC both on stage and behind the scenes.

It was concluded that 2007 was a rewarding and successful year for HTC which is in a sound financial and artistic position ready to accept the challenges of 2008 and deliver another great season.

*Looking forward to another year of **REALITY TV?***

*Instead join **HTC** and enjoy a year of **MAGIC!***

*Subscribe / Become A Member / Act / Act Up / Paint / Sew / Make Coffee  
/ Make Sets / Move Sets / Set Lights /*

***Be in the Limelight at HTC** call **9455 3039***

### FEBRUARY

Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	10.30am	<b>Working Bee</b> with Lunch
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	<b>Working Bee</b> with Lunch
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	8.15pm	<b>FIRST NIGHT – Bazaar &amp; Rummage</b>
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup>	1.30pm	<b>AUDITION:</b> Over the River & Through the Woods
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	<b>AUDITION:</b> Over the River & Through the Woods
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Heidelberg Film Society – <i>Oscar &amp; Lucinda</i>

### MARCH

Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup>	8.15pm	<b>FINAL NIGHT – Bazaar &amp; Rummage</b>
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Heidelberg Film Society – <i>The String</i>
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup>	1.00pm	<b>AUDITION:</b> Angels In America. Part One.
Monday 31 <sup>st</sup>	7.30pm	<b>AUDITION:</b> Angels In America. Part One.

### APRIL

Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup>	1.00pm	<b>AUDITION:</b> Angels In America. Part One.
Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Heidelberg Film Society – <i>Look Both Ways.</i>

## LOOKING TO RAISE MONEY FOR YOUR CLUB OR CHARITY IN 2008?

Why not organise a  
**Group Booking to HTC**

The price for Groups of 10  
or more is

**\$16 per ticket**

(\$4 off the normal single ticket  
price)

Group bookings can be made  
for any night during the  
Season.

Supper can be arranged for  
groups of 20 or more for an  
additional charge.

For more details contact June or  
Julie, our Ticket Secretaries on

**9457 4117**

### WHO, WHAT, WHERE???

Chris Baldock has bounced back from his recent illness and taken on directing **The Drawer Boy** by Michael Healey for Williamstown Little Theatre. The season is from 14<sup>th</sup> February to 1<sup>st</sup> March.

Bookings can be made on **9885-9678**.

Featured in this beautiful Canadian play are well-known Heidelbergers Paul Freeman (**A Flea in Her Ear, Scenes from a Separation**) and Bruce Akers (**Art, The Grapes of Wrath** plus numerous others).

### HTC YOUTH

If you are in the 15 to 25 age group and would like to join the **HTC Youth** group in any capacity; actor, technician, behind the scenes or on set realisation call the Theatre on **9455 3039**.

**HELP!!!**

needed at the

## WORKING BEES

for **Bazaar & Rummage**

**Saturdays**

**2<sup>nd</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> February**

**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 the Theatre on**

**9455 3039**

# AUDITION NOTICE

## Over the River and Through the Woods

Sunday February 24<sup>th</sup> from 1.30 pm.  
and Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February from 7.30 pm.

at the Theatre, 36 Turnham Avenue, Rosanna 3084

Season: Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> April – Sat. 10<sup>th</sup> May 2008  
(Matinee Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May.)

by appointment only

Director – Geoff Hickey – phone 9874 1571

**THE STORY:** Nick is a single, Italian-American guy from New Jersey. His parents retired and moved to Florida. That doesn't mean his family isn't still in Jersey. In fact, he sees both sets of his grandparents every Sunday for dinner. This is routine until he has to tell them that he's been offered a dream job. The job he's been waiting for - marketing executive - would take him away from his beloved, but annoying, grandparents. The news doesn't sit so well. Thus begins a series of schemes to keep Nick around. How could he betray his family's love to move to Seattle, for a job, wonder his grandparents? Well, Frank, Aida, Nunzio and Emma do their level best, and that includes bringing to dinner the lovely and single Caitlin O'Hare as bait...

### CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS

All actors must project the ages listed for each character.

**NICK CRISTANO:** Should appear to be in his late 20's to early 30's. Nick leads us through his memories of his last few weeks with his grandparents in NJ. He is single and an up and coming marketing executive. He is earnest, self-conscious, excitable and a tad self-centered as he relates (with frustration) to his very doting, very loud and very opinionated family.

**FRANK GIANELLI:** Should appear to be in his late 60's to 80's. Nick's maternal Grandfather, Frank was sent to the US alone at age 14. He worked hard and built a life as a carpenter. His motto is "tengo famiglia", which means much more than "I have a family," and he firmly believes in the three F's...family, faith, and food.

**AIDA GIANELLI:** Should appear to be in late 60's to 80's. Nick's maternal Grandmother Aida also has a motto: "Mangia, Mangia!", which is "Eat Eat!" Love means food to Aida who adores Frank "her baby". Everything centers around veal, tiramisu and the table for her. To Aida everyone is hungry when they enter her house and every crisis can be smoothed with food. Aida is very traditional in her faith, her devotion to family, her everyday warmth, and her simple wisdom.

**NUNZIO CRISTANO:** Should appear to be in late 60's to 80's. Nick's paternal Grandfather, Nunzio, is one of the "loudest people Nick has ever met". Nunzio is not afraid of pizzazz in his wardrobe or his speech...in fact he talked his way into a life long job on the line at "Ford's". Nunzio is passionate about everything, but especially his wife Emma, whom he adores, and Nick of course!

**EMMA CRISTANO:** Should appear to be in late 60's to 80's. Emma, Nick's paternal Grandmother, is the OTHER loudest person Nick ever met. Emma is a groovy granny and a force of nature...she's no follower but leads Nunzio through nearly 50 years of marriage. She is an opportunist, and a "doer". She is an enthusiast and believes in the power of prayer as a way to guide her life. She concocts the plan to keep Nick in NJ by fixing him up with Caitlin O'Hare.

**CAITLYN O'HARE:** Should appear to be in her 20's to early 30's. Caitlyn is a nice young Registered Nurse and member of Emma's canasta club. Caitlyn is convinced by Emma to get "fixed up" with Nick for a family Sunday dinner where she is enchantingly direct and forthright in her intentions with him. She loves the grandparents' banter and has a great sense of humor about their confusion over her being a vegetarian. She challenges Nick's behavior toward his family and provides him with a great deal to think about.

# AUDITION NOTICE

Heidelberg Theatre Company Inc.

proudly announces auditions for

## Angels in America

A Gay Fantasia on National Themes

Part One: Millennium Approaches

By Tony Kushner Directed by Bruce Akers

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March from 1:00pm

Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March from 7:30pm

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April from 1:00pm

at 1<sup>st</sup> Rosanna Scout Hall, De Winton Park, St. James Rd, Rosanna. (Melway 32 A2)

(The Scout Hall is on the same side of the railway line as the Heidelberg Theatre Company and about 4 minutes walk from the Theatre via Station Rd and Grove Rd. There is vehicle access opposite Manton Street)

## ABOUT THE PLAY

**Season:** 9 July – 26 July 2008

Wed to Sat at 8.15pm Sunday Matinee 20 July at 3pm (Preview Tue 8 July at 8.15pm)  
at Heidelberg Theatre Company, Turnham Avenue, Rosanna.

Tony Kushner describes **Angels in America** as a “gay fantasia on national themes”. He garnered international acclaim for this two-part, seven-hour artistic tour de force on Aids and the ensuing crisis on the American conscience. It went on to collect the 1993 Pulitzer Prize and consecutive Tony Awards for Best Drama.

**Angels in America** is a multi-layered story set predominantly in New York City during the period October 1985-January 1986. It initially focuses on two couples:

*Prior* and *Louis*, a gay couple and *Harper* and *Joe Pitt*, a young Mormon couple recently settled in NYC.

*Prior* is a young man living with AIDS whose lover *Louis* has left him and has become involved with *Joe*, a political conservative. This story is contrasted with that of *Roy Cohn* who is struggling to remain in the closet while trying to find some sort of personal salvation in his beliefs.

It should be noted that HTC has not committed itself to producing **Part Two (Perestroika)** at this stage however it plans to hold a rehearsed Play Reading of **Part Two** during the season of **Millennium Approaches**.

## AUDITION FORMAT

Auditions are by appointment only Auditionees will read from the script  
American accents are necessary- see character descriptions for specific requirements.

## BOOKING AN AUDITION

For further information and to book for an appointment please contact the Director, Bruce Akers via email on [brucea@cae.edu.au](mailto:brucea@cae.edu.au) or by phone on **9375.2254**.

## CHARACTERS

There will be eight actors used in this production - five men and three women.  
They will play a number of roles.

### The major characters are:-

**Roy M Cohn:** age - fifties. A prominent New York lawyer and powerbroker. A closeted homosexual who disavows other gays. Unethical (he illegally intervened in the execution of Ethel Rosenberg during the McCarthy period), reptilian, malevolent and manipulative. He does however have sufficient charisma to exercise considerable influence over others especially the vulnerable *Joe Pitts*. The actor needs to be able to convey the exploitative qualities and the magnetism that enables him to be such a powerful man. He is also a “sexual” animal- able to seduce others. Jewish/New York accent required.

**Joe Pitt:** age - late twenties/early thirties A Mormon, Republican lawyer at the Federal Court of Appeals. Married to *Harper*, he grapples with his latent homosexuality. He is a Conservative and a friend of *Roy Cohn*. Can initially be seen as rather bland and naive but he is struggling to cope with enormous internal pressures. Slight mid-western accent.

**Harper Pitt:** age - late twenties/early thirties *Joe's* valium-addicted wife trapped in a failing marriage. She continually hallucinates and invents imaginary characters to escape her troubles. Spends much of the play in a pill-induced state. Slight mid-western accent.

**Louis Ironson:** age - late twenties/thirties A word processor who works at the Brooklyn federal appeals court. Anxious, neurotic and perpetually guilty, he nevertheless manages to abandon his lover *Prior* when he contracts the AIDS virus. Highly intelligent and verbose, he also idealises the American democratic system. Jewish/New York accent.

**Prior Walter:** age – late twenties/thirties Abandoned by *Louis* after he reveals he has AIDS, *Prior* is an outwardly proud gay man struck down by this disease. He spends much of the play in a weakened, hallucinatory state. A very strong character, full of fight. The actor must convince that *Prior* has been a “drag queen” in the past and possesses a flamboyant and witty nature. Mild New York accent. (Note: The actor is required to appear naked in one scene.)

**Belize:** age – thirties/forties A black ex-drag queen and registered nurse, he is *Prior's* best friend. **Belize** is a drag name that stuck. He is wise, highly ethical and perhaps the most grounded and generous character in the play. He has seen a lot of his friends perish from this disease. (Note: This character is usually played by an African-American actor.)

**Hannah Pitt:** age – fifties *Joe's* mother – a reserved, stern woman who rushes from Salt Lake City to assist in the Pitt family crisis. In **Millennium Approaches** she is unable to fully comprehend the magnitude of what is happening around her- her character will blossom in **Part Two**. Mid-western accent.

**The Angel of America:** - age thirty plus. An imposing, terrifying, divine presence that only appears once in **Part One** but is heard to great effect on numerous occasions throughout the play.

### Other Characters in Part One

**Rabbi Isidor Chemelwitz** - an orthodox Jewish rabbi, played by the actor playing *Hannah Pitt*.

**Mr Lies**- *Harper's* imaginary friend- a travel agent, played by the actor playing *Belize*.

**Emily** - a nurse who attends *Prior* in the hospital- played by the actor playing *The Angel*.

**Martin Heller** - a Justice Department official- a “flunkey” of *Roy Cohn*- played by the actor playing *Harper Pitt*.

**Henry** - *Roy's* doctor- played by the actor playing *Hannah Pitt*.

**Sister Ella Chapter** - a Salt Lake City real-estate saleswoman- played by the actor playing *The Angel*.

**The Woman In The South Bronx**- a homeless woman- played by the actor playing *The Angel*.

**The Man In The Park** - played by the actor playing *Prior*.

**Prior 1** - the ghost of a dead *Prior Walter* from the 13<sup>th</sup> century-played by the actor playing *Joe Pitt*.

**Prior 2** - the ghost of a dead *Prior Walter* from the 17<sup>th</sup> century-played by the actor playing *Roy Cohn*.

**The Eskimo** - played by the actor playing *Joe Pitt*.

**Ethel Rosenberg** - played by the actor playing *Hannah Pitt*.

## REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Rehearsals will commence mid to late April, times and dates to be arranged