

The Importance of Being Earnest

"the perfect English comedy"

by Oscar Wilde directed by Wendy Drowley

12th – 28th July, 2012

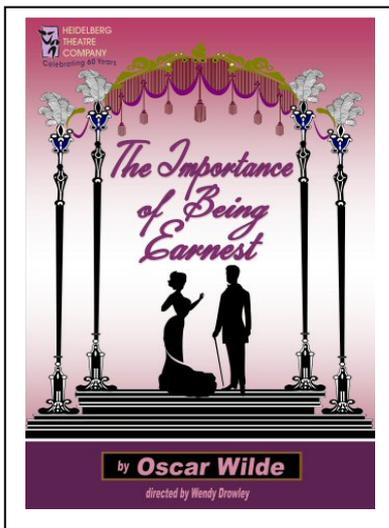
Evenings at 8.00pm

Matinees: Sundays 15th & 22nd July at 2pm

Subscribers requiring to alter their chosen night or reserve their booking are asked to call BEFORE Wednesday, 27th June, 2012.

PROMPTS

No. 3. June, 2012



It's been over a century since it was first performed to the London public in 1895, but after countless productions and numerous film and television adaptations, **The Importance of Being Earnest** is still as fresh and sparkling as a glass of fine champagne.

In Oscar Wilde's classic comedy of manners and mistaken identity, two loveable rogues create fictitious alter-egos and spin intricate tales of deceit and deception in order to escape the rigors of high society. When love comes along and threatens to expose the façade, John and 'Ernest' go to hilarious lengths to keep their secret identities under wraps.

Packed with rapid-fire dialogue and dripping with Oscar Wilde's signature wit, **The Importance of Being Earnest** is a wickedly funny exposé of the vicious class snobbery and societal rituals of Victorian England. Wilde deftly pokes fun at the trivial pursuits of London's elite whilst weaving a wildly entertaining story that has long since become a theatrical classic.

We are thrilled to have director Wendy Drowley onboard for our upcoming production. Wendy's previous credits include directing the HTC's production of Tom Stoppard's **Rough Crossing**, and directing G.B. Shaw's **Pygmalion** during our 50th Anniversary Year in 2002. And now Wendy is back for our 60th Anniversary Year to bring this amazing production of Oscar Wilde's classic to life. Wendy has also designed the set for this exciting production.

And what a cast we've assembled! Ian McGregor and James Jackson will star as the devious duo *John Worthing* and *Algernon Moncrieff*, respectively. Frances Hutson will bring to life the delightfully sardonic *Lady Bracknell*, whose classic line "a handbag?" has long been considered one of the highlights of this much-loved comedy. Rounding out the cast of wonderfully eccentric characters will be Aimee Sanderson as *Gwendolen Fairfax*, Taryn Eva as *Cecily Cardew*, Judi Clark as *Miss Prism*, John Cheshire as *Rev. Chasuble*, Ian Robertson as *Merriman*, Tom Hall as *Lane* and Laura Curtis as *the Maid*.

Our backstage crew has been working tirelessly to ensure this production will be a visual treat. Owen will be leading the set building team, with Marie, Doug, Dennis, Paddy, Des, Neville, Malcolm, Sam, Ian and Christian working together to construct an amazing set.

Marie Mackrell will be charge of décor, George Bissett will design the sound, Deryk Hartwick will design the lighting and Dianne Brennan will be leading the wardrobe department. And with Bronwyn Parker handling props and Melanie Belcher at the helm as Stage Manager, Assistant Stage Manager Laura Curtis, this is shaping up to be a gorgeous production and a beautiful evocation of Victorian-era England.

The Importance of Being Earnest is proving to be a popular show so book now to avoid disappointment and join us for a great night of hilarity and high farce.

**BIG BANG at the 2012 AGM on
SUNDAY 16th December.**

From 2pm

*the Business will be brief and the
Celebration long!*

All Subscribers, Members and Friends
of the Company
are invited to this

Very Special Annual General Meeting
And 60th Anniversary Party!

BOOKINGS – Online at www.htc.org.au or call 9457 4117

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Review



Below from left: Roderick Chappel and Chris Gaffney.

An Inspector Calls by J.B. Priestley Directed by John Jenkins Reviewed by Deborah Fabbro for **Theatrecraft** on Thursday, 10th May, 2012.

Heidelberg are celebrating their 60th year by re-visiting the company's most popular plays, and their second offering for the year was J. B. Priestley's **An Inspector Calls**.

This play was written and first produced in the 1940s but is set in 1912. A very cleverly written piece, the human nature side of it still resonates today and although the class system is less rigid, there is still a divide in society, albeit more a wealth one than social status. As with many of Priestley's plays, time and the idea of cause and effect are strong themes and these are portrayed well in this production.

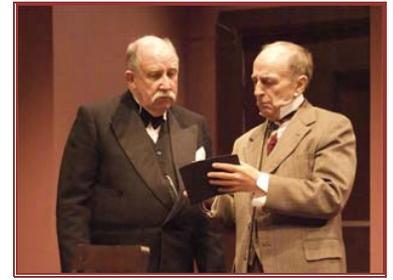
The set, the concept of director John Jenkins and designed by Marie Mackrell, made full use of the wide Heidelberg stage and, while well-dressed to suggest the wealth of the occupants, perhaps would have enhanced the play if it had been brought in a little to give more of the sense of claustrophobia and menace that evolves as the connections between the various members of the family and the sacking, pregnancy and death of Eva Smith are exposed by Inspector Goole.

Deryk Hartwick's lighting, particularly the effective 'flickering fire' in the fireplace, and evocative original music by Drew Lane assured a strong technical aspect to the production. The costuming was a little more hit and miss; some was appropriate but there was a lack of attention to detail to finish, and the wig worn by Sybil was appalling.

Chris Gaffrey as Inspector Goole (a play on words?) captures the mood at times but his habit of 'mugging' to the audience detracted from the impact of the threat he poses to the Birling family. The Inspector intrudes on the evening of their celebrations of the engagement of daughter Sheila to Gerald Croft, where he exposes each of them in turn. The acting is a little contrived from the rest of the cast. Roderick Chappel's Arthur Birling is woodenly over the top but he did convey pompous certitude of the character. Unfortunately, we did not see enough of the self-centredness of his wife, Sybil, from Linda Morgan. Lyall Mabin portrayed Gerald Croft satisfactorily but again there was a lack of depth to the character. The younger Birlings, Eric (Anders William Ross) and Sheila (Nicole Gregurek) are the only ones to react to and show some remorse for their actions. Miss Gregurek's performance was particularly effective in capturing this change.

There were some strange directorial decisions regarding context. There were blocking problems which caused some masking which, given the size of the set, should not have happened. There were also some nice touches in revealing the depth and feel of Priestley's wonderful play but overall it was the play that held attention rather than the production.

Above from left: Linda Morgan, Chris Gaffney, Nicole Gregurek and Roderick Chappel.



FRONT OF HOUSE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We need you!
Guys or Gals we'd love to have you behind the counter, ushering, and serving our patrons.

So if you would like to join our FOH Team, Patricia would be only to delighted to slot you in!
Give the Theatre a call on **9455 3039**.



"For a Rep Company they certainly put on a good cup of tea."

A number of our subscribers and patrons took the trouble to email or telephone the Company to pass on their congratulations about **An Inspector Calls**.

We are always pleased to receive feedback on our shows and with the writers' permission their comments are included below.

From Barry Gray, Subscriber: *'I would like to congratulate the actors and the organisation on the presentation of "Inspector Calls" on my own behalf, although I was there with 12 other people from our club they also had the same opinion. I don't think there was anybody in our group including myself that knew anything about the storyline, so it came as complete and delightful surprise at the conclusion of the play. We had been as a group to 2 or 3 other previous plays can't remember exactly but this one was outstanding. The only advice I could give you to improve things, purely from an non-actor's point of view, was the voice projection missing in some of the softer passages of dialogue but otherwise you could with a bit of imagination make up the dialogue from what the next actor said. A bloody good show, congratulations again.'*

From Jon Buttery, Subscriber: *'Last night's production was great! Thanks very much.'*

From Richard Fitzgerald, patron: *'At my first visit to Heidelberg Theatre, I enjoyed An Inspector Calls on Saturday 5th May.'*

And a patron who rang our Box Office in the week following An Inspector Calls to book for Earnest, described the production as 'superb'. Thank you all.

AUDITION NOTICE

Heidelberg Theatre Company's production of
Summer of the Seventeenth Doll

by **Ray Lawler**

Directed by Paul King

Auditions will be held at the Theatre

36 Turnham Avenue Rosanna (Melway ref: 32 A1)

Sunday July 15th from 6.30pm
& Monday July 16th from 7.00pm

Play Season: 13th – 29th September, 2012

Weeknights and Saturdays at 8:00pm

Sundays at 2:00pm

For sixteen years Barney and Roo, two masculine Queensland cane-cutters, have come south to Melbourne for their annual lay-off season. Each year they bring a kewpie doll as a memento for their barmaid sweethearts, and stay for five months in a faded Carlton terrace house—a time which all four live for, and which makes the rest of the year endurable. But on their seventeenth visit, in the summer of 1953, things “go off the rails” with unforeseen outcomes.

At the heart of this remarkable, iconic Australian play lies the pain of having to change despite the desire to keep the way they’ve always been.

Characters:

Kathy “Bubba” Ryan - aged 22, shy, rather naive, wears ‘rose-coloured’ glasses.

Pearl Cunningham - late 30s; refined, straightforward, realistic; smokes, knits.

Olive Leech - aged 39; feisty, defiant, desperately romantic.

Emma Leech - late 60s, her mother; cranky, cynical but wise; plays the piano.

Arthur “Barney” Ibbot - aged 40; solidly-built, medium height; a larrikin.

Reuben “Roo” Webber - aged 41; tall; a man’s man, easy-going; smokes.

Johnnie Dowd - aged 25, a young cane-cutter; big, boyish, friendly-looking; self-aware.

Note: - working-class Australian accents are required for all roles.

Auditions by appointment only

Please email the Director for an appointment: kzs058@yahoo.com

Please include a current photo and CV of recent performances.

HTC's 60th ANNIVERSARY REMINISCENT SUPPERS

will be held after

Opening Nights & First Sunday Matinees

during our 60th Anniversary Season..

Cast and Crew from the original productions have been invited and if you were among the audience of the original production we'd love to see you there too, along with all our regular audience.

So if you would like to join us for these Special Events - Book an Opening Night or 1st Sunday – Booking details on page 1.

HTC YOUTH ARE BACK!! – AND BUSY!!

The Company is delighted to announce two forthcoming local events that will feature our HTC Youth.



On Saturday July 21st from 10am – 12 noon, actors from our HTC Youth will present a puppet show in a shop window on Watsonia Road. In addition to this they will entertain the crowds with street theatre and face painting, all part of Winter In Watsonia.

So remember the date and come along to Watsonia and join in the festivities. A number of the shops will have decorated windows and there will be much to enjoy, so bring all the kids for a morning of fun.

fun, the Group is also organising a TheatreSports event as part of the Winter in Banyule Festival which takes place from 16th – 25th August. The date and place has not been decided yet, so do check our website, htc.org.au for more information or the Banyule Festival Program or call the Council on 9490 4222..

If you haven't experienced TheatreSports before, then here's your chance, come along and bring the kids, as Shakespeare wrote; 'All the world's a stage and all the men and women merely players.' HTC Youth's TheatreSports will prove him right again!

HTC Youth are happy to welcome new members. If you are aged 15 – 25 and interested in acting, lighting, sound, set realisation, wardrobe or behind the scenes or would just like to know more about the Group, call the Theatre on 9455 3039 and leave your name and contact number and Christian or Monica will be in touch.

Jon Faine causes a stir at the Theatre

When our audiences arrive at the Theatre everything is spic and span, but between productions, well that's another matter!

Last week, well into rehearsals for Earnest and with set building underway the Theatre was in its usual pre-production state which means building materials, flats, furniture, paint and costumes strewn around the auditorium and out into the foyer, when the word came, Jon Faine is coming!

The Rosanna Library had invited Jon to give a talk, show slides and promote his latest book. The response from library patrons was overwhelming so the Theatre became the venue and the clean up was on!

As part of the preparations for the next show, a couple of the mannequins used for the Costume Display on the Mezzanine had already been de-robed. We've had a couple of naked ladies in our plays over the years and we thought of labelling one **Les Liaisons Dangereuses** and the other **Veronica's Room**, but Wendy didn't think we'd get away it, so off to Wardrobe and Wendy turned up a couple of stunners.

Top left a costume made in 1975 for the now defunct Regent Dramatic Society's production of **Camelot** and donated to HTC by Subscriber Val Pagram and altered by Wendy and worn by Maureen McInerney in **The Imaginary Invalid** in 2003 and the other, originally a 1950s ball gown cut up and made over for Joan Moriarty to wear in **Ten Times Table** in 1998.

Remember to make your way to the Mezzanine to view costumes made and worn in the 1980s. On view will be garments from **Romeo & Juliet**, **The Importance of Being Earnest**, **The Life & Adventures of Nicolas Nickleby**, **Macbeth** and **Time & the Conways**. What a treat.

JUNE

Tuesday 26th 7.30pm Heidelberg Film Society – Those Magnificent Men in their Flying Machines

Saturday 30th 10.30am **Working Bee** with Lunch.

JULY

Saturday 7th 10.30am **Working Bee** with Lunch.

Thursday 12th 8.00pm **FIRST NIGHT** – The Importance of Being Earnest

Sunday 15th 6.30pm **Audition** – Summer of the Seventeenth Doll

Monday 16th 7.00pm **Audition** – Summer of the Seventeenth Doll

Saturday 28th 8.00pm **FINAL NIGHT** – The Importance of Being Earnest

Tuesday 24th 7.30pm Heidelberg Film Society – The Bucket List

AUGUST

16th – 25th August Winter in Banyule - Heidelberg Theatre Company's HTC Youth present Theatresports, check the Winter in Banyule Program for details.

Tuesday 28th 7.30pm Heidelberg Film Society – The Illusionist.



What's the Goss??

GOD OF CARNAGE

Bruce Akers, HTC stalwart, is directing **God of Carnage** by Yasmina Reza, from 28th June – 14th July at Williamstown Little Theatre. Cast includes Chris Baldock, Kellie Bray, Steve Shinkfield and Janine Evans, actors who have worked at Heidelberg within the last couple of years. Bookings **9885 9678** or online wlt.org.au.

WHERE'S NEVILLE?

Your Ed called by the Theatre yesterday and Owen, Paddy and Des were hard at work on the set, but where was Neville Wilkie? He was off as one of the 100 amateur musicians chosen to play in *Symphony in a Day* with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra. Congratulations Neville!!

WHAT DID THEY SAY??

Patrons will be delighted to know that your Box Office Belles, June, Toni, Linda and Jenni, have recently gone through an intensive training course on how to test and ensure that when patrons use the Phonic Ears they can actually hear through them!

So if they haven't worked for you in the past, we promise they will now!

MOCKINGBIRD THEATRE

And the Company wishes Chris Baldock every success with his new venture. Chris has formed the Mockingbird Theatre, a new and exciting Melbourne-based independent theatre company which will present contemporary and modern classic plays. Their first is a return season of **The Laramie Project** which received the Victorian Green Room Award for Best Independent Production when first directed by Chris in 2005. It will be staged at Chapel Off Chapel later this year.

HELP!!!

Needed at the

WORKING BEES

for

The Importance of Being Earnest

Saturdays
30th June & 7th 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 front of house.

Like to know more – call the
Theatre on **9455 3039**