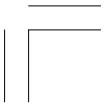


Heidelberg Theatre Company  
**ENCHANTED APRIL**

A horizontal banner with a red-to-dark-red gradient background. On the left is a white square containing a stylized red logo of a person with arms raised. To the right of the logo, the text "Heidelberg Theatre Company" is written in a white sans-serif font, and below it, "ENCHANTED APRIL" is written in a larger, bold, white sans-serif font.



HEIDELBERG THEATRE COMPANY (HTC)

BOOKINGS 03 9457 4117

ENQUIRIES 03 9455 3039

EMAIL [htc@htc.org.au](mailto:htc@htc.org.au)

WEB [www.htc.org.au](http://www.htc.org.au)

HTC is a member of the Victorian Drama League.

HTC acknowledges financial assistance from the City of Banyule.



HEIDELBERG  
THEATRE  
COMPANY

by arrangement with  
Hal Leonard Australia Pty. Ltd,  
on behalf of Josef Weinberger Ltd. London

Who wouldn't move from  
dreary 1920's London to undergo  
a renaissance in sunny Italy?

# *Enchanted April*

by **Matthew Barber**  
from the novel by Elizabeth von Arnim  
directed by Maureen McInerney

**17 Feb - 5 Mar 2011**

## HTC Artspace Exhibition

### **Thelma Reaburn**

Thelma trained as an Art teacher at RMIT in the late 40s/early 50s. She has taught at secondary level at Lowther Hall Girl's Grammar, and spent fifteen years involved in furniture design and production. Thelma has also held eight solo exhibitions of flower paintings in water colour: one of these in a Collins Street Arcade, one in Heidelberg, and six as open studio exhibitions in connection with the Winter in Banyule Festival.

Thelma writes – “My paintings express my appreciation of the design and beauty I see in the natural world, although I do not pretend to do it justice. It is closely linked to my observing nature that which is too wonderful to have come about without the engagement of a master designer. This too I find to be in harmony with my understanding from biblical study and the ever unfolding possibility of a truly Christian life style.”

Thelma also has poems in books published by The International Library of Poetry, and submitted another in a Glasgow competition which was exhibited there and received special mention.

Leanne Cole  
Curator

## About the author



Elizabeth von Arnim (1866 – 1941) was born Mary Annette Beauchamp, in Kirribilli Point, Sydney. The daughter of a merchant, Elizabeth travelled often and met her first husband, Count Henning August von Arnim Schlagenthin, while travelling in Italy in 1889.

Arnim took up writing as an escape from her unhappy marriage. Her husband amassed so many debts he was eventually sent to prison. After his death Arnim entered into another disastrous marriage with Francis Russell, Bertrand Russell's brother, in 1916.

She fled from him less than a year later to take residence in the United States. Arnim's highly regarded work, 'Vera', is said to be based on her relationship with Russell.

Because of her experiences with men, Arnim's plays and books typically address issues of feminine empowerment and male tyranny. Her first book, a semi-autobiographical work called 'Elizabeth and Her German Garden', was published anonymously and was such a hit that her future works were signed 'by the author of Elizabeth and Her German Garden' and later simply 'by Elizabeth'.

E. M. Forster and Hugh Walpole were tutors to her children and her friends included Bernard Shaw, Max Beerbohm, and Katherine Mansfield, her cousin. Arnim died in 1941 due to complications from influenza. She is buried in England.

## About the playwright and the play



Matthew Barber is a UCLA graduate in literature and drama. 'Enchanted April', his first full-length play was written while he was working at an advertising agency as a proof-reader of recruitment ads. Impressed by the realistic characters in Arnim's novel, Barber created his stage adaptation which was produced in 2000 at the Hartford Stage in Connecticut. It went on to have a successful Broadway premiere in 2003, and later that year received a Tony Award nomination for Best Play, along with several other prestigious awards.

While changing some of the character's names from the original von Arnim book, the play stays faithful to many of the character traits and attributes. And although the play's dialogue has been constructed for theatrical effect, significant sections are drawn directly from the book's text.

Barber now lives in London, where he continues to write.

In addition to the play, 'The Enchanted April' was adapted into a BBC TV version in 1992. It was released theatrically in the United States, netting three Oscar nominations.

# *Enchanted April*

## **Cast**

*LOTTIE WILTON*

*Rachel Negus*

*MELLERSH, her husband*

*Bevan Uren*

*ROSE ARNOTT*

*Michelle Tanner*

*FREDERICK, her husband*

*Donal Taylor*

*LADY CAROLINE*

*Gabby Llewelyn Salter*

*ANTONY WILDING*

*Andrew McNess*

*MRS GRAVES*

*Margaret Rawlinson*

*COSTANZA*

*Sarina Cassino*

## **PLACE**

*Act One: London, England*

*Act Two: Mezzago, Italy.*

## **TIME**

*1922*

## Production Team

DIRECTOR	Maureen McInerney
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR	Margaret Hassall
PRODUCTION COORDINATOR	George Bissett
STAGE MANAGER	Margaret Hassall
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER	Siobhan Earley
SET DESIGN	Owen Evans
SET CONSTRUCTION	Owen Evans, Doug McNaughton, Dennis Pain, Paddy Moriarty, Des Harris, Neville Wilkie, Jim Thomson & HTC Members
COSTUMES	Wendy Drowley, Lois Connor & Dianne Brennan
PROPERTIES	Bronwyn Parker
LIGHTING DESIGN	Craig Pearcey
LIGHTING OPERATION	John Rowe
SOUND DESIGN	George Bissett
SOUND OPERATION	Jessi Wilcox
PHOTOGRAPHY	Patricia Tyler
PROGRAM	Chris McLean
PUBLICITY	Lena Minto
POSTER DESIGN	James Hutson
BOX OFFICE	June Cherrey & Toni Tyers
FRONT OF HOUSE	Patricia Tyler & HTC members

There will be a 15 minute interval between Act 1 and 2 during which refreshments will be available in the foyer.



**Director: MAUREEN MCINERNEY**

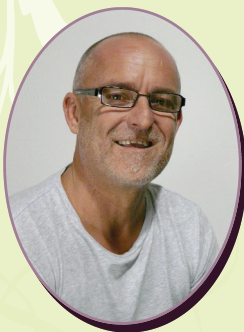
*Maureen has been involved at HTC for many years both on and off stage. Regular patrons will remember her for performances in 'The Imaginary Invalid', 'A Flea In Her Ear', 'Wicked Sisters' and 'Good Works' amongst others.*

*Maureen's directorial credits include 'Ten Times Table', 'The Boys Next Door', 'The Castle' and 'The Front Page'. She last directed 'Disclosure', in 2010.*

*In between acting and directing at HTC Maureen also performs with a variety of other theatre companies around Melbourne. To ensure enough theatre in her life, Maureen also manages JC Westend Costume Hire in Kensington. Maureen was made a Life Member of the Company in 2008.*



**RACHEL NEGUS** (Lottie Wilton) *Rachel's extensive community theatre experience includes Mitcham Theatre Group, 1812, Mordialloc Theatre Co, STAG, Encore Theatre, Waverley Theatre, Hartwell Players, and Malvern Theatre Co. Her favourite shows include 'Speaking In Tongues', 'Proof', 'Away', 'Private Lives', 'Steel Magnolias', 'Romeo and Juliet', 'A Midsummer Nights Dream' and 'Allo Allo'. This is Rachel's first foray with Heidelberg Theatre Company and she is excited and exhilarated to be part of 'Enchanted April' at this fine theatre.*



**BEVAN UREN** (Mellersh Wilton) *'Enchanted April' is Bevan's debut at Heidelberg Theatre Company. Past roles with theatre groups in Torquay, Essendon and Sunshine include Duffy in 'Life After George', Barney in 'Last of the Red Hot Lovers', Moley in 'The Wind in the Willows' and most recently Roy in 'Away'. Having performed in this delightful play in another role Bevan is much relishing the challenge of now presenting Mellersh Wilton: Family Solicitor.*



**MICHELLE TANNER** (Rose Arnott) *Michelle has had a very active theatre life over the past 8 years performing in over 20 plays for theatre companies all over Melbourne including Essendon, STAG, The Mount Players, Malvern, Brighton, Eltham and Williamstown as well as Heidelberg. She is very happy to be playing 'Rose' in this delightful play under the expert direction of Maureen McInerney and with such a talented cast. Favourite past roles include Nancy in 'Steaming', Sharon in 'A Suitcase Unclaimed', Diana in 'California Suite', Diana in 'Absent Friends' and Miss Blacklock in 'A Murder is Announced'.*



**DONAL TAYLOR** (Frederick Arnott) *Donal has previously appeared at STAG, Essendon Theatre Company and Malvern Theatre Company, and he is very pleased to now include Heidelberg Theatre Company on his resumé. Donal has assumed various roles from the Prince in 'Romeo and Juliet' to a cross dresser rock star in 'Katerina'. His most recent role was that of a frustrated German scientist, and his favourite performance to date is playing Leo in 'Chapter 2' at Eltham Little Theatre. Doubtless 'Enchanted April' will also be one of his favourites.*



**GABBY LLEWELYN SALTER** (Lady Caroline) *Gabby has recently appeared as Holly in Fly-On-The-Wall Theatre's 'The Idea Of America', as Gladys in ELT's 'Gladys of the Goldfields' and as Coral in ETC's 'Away'. When not at the theatre she can be found watching Curious George with her two young sons, growing pumpkins and wondering what her husband would like for dinner. She is loving working with the HTC and suspects that this production is indeed enchanted.*



**ANDREW McNESS** (*Antony Wilding*) Andrew is delighted to return to HTC with 'Enchanted April', having recently appeared in the company's production of 'The Judas Kiss'. Non-HTC productions include 'Divine Dining' for The Melbourne Fringe Festival, and 'Remember Ronald Ryan', 'Harvey', 'Bedroom Farce' and 'The Seagull' for Geelong Repertory Theatre. He also directed 'The Real Inspector Hound' for Geelong Rep. Big congrats and many thanks to the talented and supportive cast and crew of 'Enchanted April'!



**MARGARET RAWLINSON** (*Mrs Graves*) Margaret last appeared at HTC in 2005 as Mrs. Hedges in 'Born Yesterday'. In the meantime, she has been in a number of productions at Eltham, Essendon and Strathmore. Last year she appeared as Vic in the Essendon production of 'Away', and a Dora in Eltham Little Theatre's production of 'A Murder is Announced', as well as being assistant director for ELT's end of year Music Hall. Margaret's other theatrical pursuits include active membership of the Heidelberg Allstars and the Tap Diamonds. Margaret is delighted to be back at Heidelberg in this beautiful play.



**SARINA CASSINO** (*Costanza*) Sarina's two grandmothers, Charlotte, a Londoner, and Rosarina, a Sicilian, sit on her shoulders as she takes on the role of Costanza. She celebrates the two cultures which have been a part of her own life. Being an English teacher, she now feels that her Italian side can have a say. What an honour to be involved in such a play, with such a talented director and cast. It is truly a celebration of life, love and the eternal truths of 'La Bella Italia'.



## HTC Playbill 2011

Shows to come...

**THE BUSINESS OF MURDER** by Richard Harris  
\* John Jenkins director \* 21 April - 7 May

**THE HISTORY BOYS** by Alan Bennett  
\* Bruce Akers director \* 7 July - 23 July

**THE 39 STEPS** by John Buchan adapted by Patrick Barlow  
\* Justin Stephens director \* 15 September - 1 October

**UNDER MILK WOOD** by Dylan Thomas  
\* Sandy Green director \* 17 November - 3 December



To assist those with hearing difficulties, a hearing loop is installed in the theatre—seats 1 to 10 in all rows. HTC gratefully acknowledges the City of Banyule grant for this service.

**ENCHANTED APRIL**

Heidelberg Theatre Company ♦ Season 2011 ♦ Play 1

