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[www.peridot.com.au](http://www.peridot.com.au)

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email [tickets@peridot.com.au](mailto:tickets@peridot.com.au), or 9808 0770

### Things are going on a bit differently at Peridot this year!

As many of you will know, our usual timetables at the Unicorn Theatre have our four productions in February, May, August and November with the One Act Play Season sometime in June, but we did tell you a while ago that things will be a bit different in 2015. The School (our landlords!) have a need for the theatre area in May so we have moved our second production (*Shush* by Elaine Murphy, directed by Richard Keown) to open on June 12 and will be holding the One Act Play Season earlier than usual, from April 30-May 2.

Richard held his auditions on March 1 and 2 so he is all fixed up; Loretta Bishop, who is directing our Season Three comedy, *Lend Me a Tenor* by Ken Ludwig, will be holding her auditions on Sunday **May 10** at **6.30pm** and Monday **May 11** at **7.30** and we will be holding a Play Reading evening for *Lend Me a Tenor* on Monday **May 4** at the theatre at **7.30**.

### Now, some more info for you...

#### “Shush”

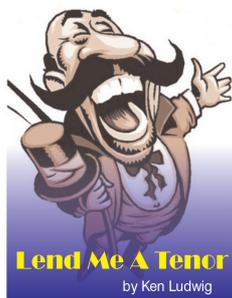


Richard has gathered a fine cast around him for this lovely Irish comedy, which we are highly chuffed to be able to say that it is a world-wide non-professional première. He had a really good roll-up for his auditions and finally cast **Jeanne Snider, Carol Shelbourn, Janis Schneider, Jodie Sibley** and **Hayley Lawson-Smith** as his five ladies. Regulars will recognize Carol and Janis, who have graced our

stage on many occasions (and gained a hatful of Peri Awards between them) and Hayley was also seen here not long ago in *Sitting Pretty* (she also has written one of the plays, *Warriors*, in the One Act Play Season). We welcome them all and look forward to seeing what will be a fine and warm production. *Shush* will run from June 12-27.

\*

#### “Lend Me a Tenor”



We have to wait until August before we can enjoy this rollicking comedy for which we remind you that Director Loretta Bishop will hold auditions on **May 10** at **6.30pm** and **11** at **7.30**. Loretta will be looking to cast:

**Max:** 30+, Assistant Manager of the Cleveland Opera Company. He longs for two things: to be a star of the opera

and to marry Maggie, but both dreams seem out of his reach. **Mr. Saunders:** 50+, Manager of the Opera Company, a blowhard used to getting his own way.

**Maggie:** Mid 20s+, Max’s girlfriend and Saunders’ daughter. Maggie is smart and practical but yearns for something “wonderful and romantic” before she settles down with Max.

**Tito:** 40s+, a world famous tenor known as “Il Stupendo”. He loves opera, himself and as many women as possible.

**Maria:** 40s-50s, Tito’s wife. She has an Italian temper. She loves her husband despite his womanizing ways.

**Julia:** 50s-60s, the “grande dame” of the Opera Company.

**Diane:** 30s-40s, the lead soprano of the opera. Diane is sexy and forceful; she knows what she wants and how to get it.

**The Bellhop:** 20s-40s, a total opera fan with a running feud with Mr. Saunders. He has a talent for popping up at the most inconvenient times.

For more information, contact Loretta Bishop on 0447 716 911 or on [ljbishop@bigpond.com](mailto:ljbishop@bigpond.com)

\*

#### “Lend Me a Tenor” Play Reading

As already mentioned, there will be a *Lend Me* Play Reading at the theatre at 7.30pm on Monday **May 4**. These evenings are always a bit of fun but are very useful if you are thinking of auditioning for a role, and we’ll lay on some bits and pieces as well.

For more details, contact David Lawson-Smith on [dlawsonsmith@bigpond.com](mailto:dlawsonsmith@bigpond.com) who is standing in for our usual Play Reading Guru Alison Knight for this one.

\*

Alison is however apparently plotting another Play Reading Night on **May 27** but she says she hasn’t the foggiest what everyone will be doing, so watch this space!

\*

#### Our One Act Play Season is not far away

Another reminder that Peridot’s One Act Season will be on from **April 30- May 3**, when we are presenting four plays:

*The Cylinder*, written and directed by Horrie Leek,

*The Portrait*, also written and directed by Horrie.

*Phantom Call*, by Chris Hodson, directed by Laura Bradley, and

*Warriors*, written by Hayley Lawson-Smith with her husband David in the director’s chair.

Tickets are \$15; booking details on the heading above, or at the door.

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**Nicely wrapping up “Six Dancing Lessons in Six Weeks”, which gained excellent comments from a couple of reviewers, (you may have read them in last month’s Gems) we also received some lovely feedbacks from the most important people we know – our audience members. Here are some:**

We thoroughly enjoyed last Thursday’s performance, and really appreciate the extraordinary talent of both actors and everyone behind the production, Congratulations to all,  
Regards, Margaret McIver

\*

*Kristen and I saw the show last week. Yes it was great. There were about 10 Year 11 students there as well who also immensely enjoyed it. We have also had some Drama students audition for your ‘youth’ production. We will keep encouraging students and staff to support Peridot. Jane Carter. (Mt. Waverley Secondary College).*

\*

I have just got home from the 2.00pm show and absolutely loved it. I took a friend who has never been to a local theatre production and she couldn’t speak highly enough about Lily and Colin. My friend couldn’t get over that you provided afternoon tea as well for such a moderate price. I have booked her in for the remaining 3 shows as well. I will tell friends about this superb production. Thanks to all concerned,  
Bev Dixon.

\*

*A friend and I saw the show last Saturday evening and absolutely loved it. Great fun with a little bit of sadness. Terrific!*  
Sylvia Lloyd.

\*



We attended Peridot’s latest play last Saturday night and we came away thinking what a great production. Congratulations to the whole team who produced this play. Accolades to Colin Morley and Christine Andrew, they did such a fantastic job. What a superb start to 2015.

Sincerely, Leonie Tidd.

\*

*We heartily agree with Leonie Tidd – a marvellous production. We are telling our local friends. Regards, Susan Hadfield.*

\*

My wife and I saw the play on Thursday and have to fully concur; the play was great and the actors excellent. The way the gentleman reset the stage between acts was a clever addition. Overall, a great production. Over the years we have been delighted with the standard set by Peridot.

Kevin and May Saunders.

\*

*We saw Six Dance Lessons and loved it. Having seen an earlier production with Todd McKenny and Nancye Hayes, we weren’t sure if Peridot could do as well (Oh, we of little faith!!!). Since attending, I have raved about it to anyone I could and recommended it to all.*

*Al & Maggy Morris (keen and enthusiastic subscribers)*

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My husband Barry and I have been “Friends of Peridot” for a number of years and just love it. “Six Dance Lessons in

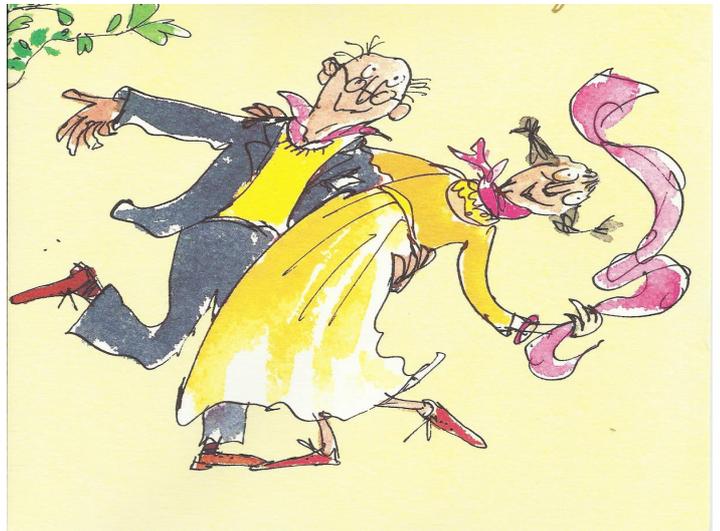
Six Months”, which we attended yesterday was absolutely wonderful. Christine and Colin were excellent, their

performances both funny and sad. I felt I could have sat through the play again, however I’m sure the actors would find that too exhausting! Please pass on our sincere congratulations to Christine and Colin – they were just so good. Also thanks to the “stagehand man”, sorry, could not find his name in the programme. *(That was our lovely Stage Manager and Committee Member Ian Carlsson – Ed.)* Looking forward to “Shush”.

Thanks again from Barbara and Barry Clarris.

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*Inspired by the wonderful dancing by Christine Andrew and Colin Morley in “Six Dance Lessons in Six Weeks” your beloved Gems Editor and Mrs. Gems Editor (below) thought they would try and see if they could dance that well.*



*They failed.*

### **A Word From Our President**



We will be holding our Annual General Meeting at the theatre on April 28 and we are keen to have some new faces joining our Committee.

The role involves attending the monthly management meetings which determine the direction of the Company and its general administration. It also involves taking part responsibility for some aspect of running a theatre group – of which there is quite a range of roles, from production based through to stores, props, costumes, front of house and so on. There are numerous tasks to be done but by spreading the load we try to ensure no one is overloaded.

To join the committee you must hold the status of Member at the time of the AGM.

Being part of a theatre company can be very rewarding; for example, when a play is over and the audience has clearly enjoyed the show, it’s a great feeling to be able to tell yourself that, in some way, big or small, you helped getting the whole thing off the ground.

If you have any queries contact our President Damian on

[damianjones1@gmail.com](mailto:damianjones1@gmail.com) or our Vice President Alison on [a8knight@bigpond.net.au](mailto:a8knight@bigpond.net.au)

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## Supporting Those Who Support Us

### A New Sponsor for Peridot...

Last month we reminded you of four groups or businesses who were valuable sponsors of Peridot, The Monash City Council, Tobin Brothers East Burwood, Kita Ku Designs Box Hill and Kookas Country Cookies. We are delighted to add another, Superior Therapy Products, of which organization Peridot's Board Member Helen McIntosh (who recently was awarded Life Membership of our Company) is an important cog. She'd like to tell you something about her company;

you  
rior  
ality  
and



sleep better all night, you Therapy's simple solution of life, through our very comfortable recliners

Superior Therapy has been operating in Brisbane since 2008, helping our customers

maintain their quality of life and independence in comfort. With our wealth of experience we now bring our proven sleep system to Victoria.

Superior Therapy beds and chairs raise and lower to support the whole body from head to toe. You can use the remote control to incline and elevate both the head and foot of the bed to achieve the most comfortable and supporting position that is just right for you. Our Memory Foam mattresses relieve pressure, by molding to your body and distributing weight evenly, which simply feels great.

The combination of Memory Foam mattress, adjustability and massage functions may give relief from a number of health issues including: sore muscles, back pain, arthritic pain, circulatory issues and respiratory problems. Superior Therapy adjustable massage beds are available in a range of sizes from Single to Queen, and we have Dual Queen & King Systems for couples who want to sleep side-by-side but be in control of their own bed.

You can call Helen on 0403 797 709 for more information and to arrange a no-obligation free in-home consultation and a Gift Voucher for Peridot, and for yet more information you can find it on their website [www.superiortherapy.com.au](http://www.superiortherapy.com.au)

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### ...and a Couple of Good Friends

Two of Peridot's best friends are John and Loretta Bishop; John has been on stage at the Unicorn and also has directed four excellent plays over the years, *Playing Sinatra*, *The Odd Couple (Female Version)*, *Time and the Conways* and *Educating Rita*, the last two gaining the Peri Award for Best Production. Loretta directed one of her first plays, the very funny *Busybody*, a couple of years ago, has directed at several other companies since and will be rolling her sleeves up to direct our Season Three this year, another terrific comedy *Lend Me a Tenor*. They have also formed their own theatre company, Swampfox Productions, and have staged a play, principally at the bakery@1812, for the past several years, usually very different, sometimes quite confrontational and challenging, but always interesting.

This year they are bringing *Killing Jeremy* to the stage. *Killing Jeremy* is an elegant and assured play about a young woman struggling to come to terms with her boyfriend lying in a coma after a car accident. So much unsaid about their lives, her dreams, his family and avoiding the inevitable decision to turn off his ventilator. While she is his girlfriend, she has no sway in the decision-making; and his family are waiting. As the burden of guilt and grief mounts, the extremity of emotion threatens to drive her mad.

A poignant, funny production, *Killing Jeremy* makes for compelling theatre. It will run from April 9 to May 2 at the bakery@1812, Upper Ferntree Gully and you can book on 9758 3964

### A possible (very) short One Act Play?

This is a transcript of the actual radio conversation between the British and Irish off the coast of Kerry in October 1998. The radio conversation was released by the Chief of Marine Operations 10/10/1998, who clearly has a good sense of humour. It went like this:

**IRISH:** Please divert your course 15 degrees to the south to avoid a collision.

**BRITISH:** Recommend you divert your course 15 degrees to the north to avoid a collision.

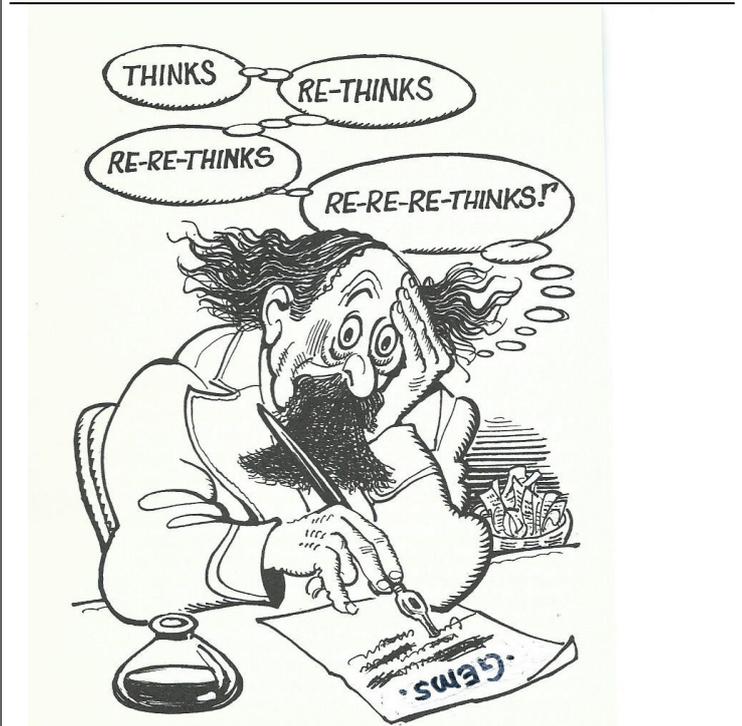
**IRISH:** Negative. You will have to divert your course 15 degrees to the south to avoid a collision.

**BRITISH:** This is the captain of a British navy ship. I say again, divert YOUR course.

**IRISH:** Negative. I say again, you will have to divert YOUR course.

**BRITISH:** This is the aircraft carrier HMS Britannia, the second largest ship in the British Atlantic Fleet. We are accompanied by three destroyers, three cruisers and numerous support vessels. I demand that you change your course 15 degrees north. I say again, that is 15 degrees north, or counter measures will be undertaken to ensure the safety of this ship.

**IRISH:** We are a lighthouse. Your call.



Guess Who!

### **\*WhatsOn\*WhatsOn\*WhatsOn\*WhatsOn\***

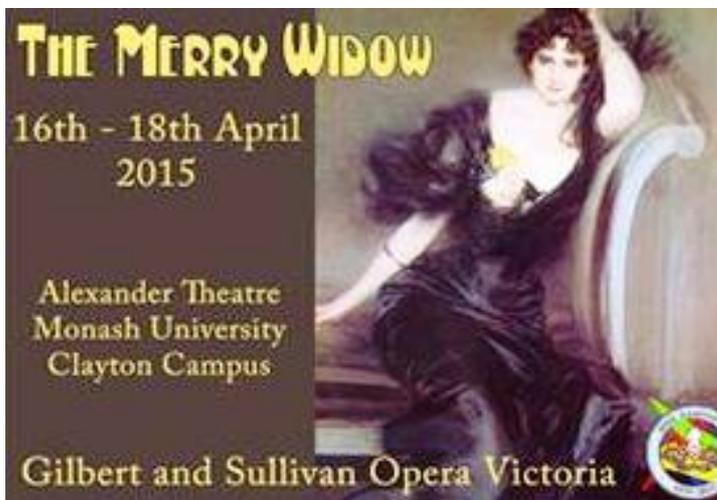
A couple of interesting plays coming up in April by our good friends on the local Eastern Suburbs non-professional theatre scene which you might find appealing:

A few years ago we staged the lovely comedy *A Month of Sundays* by Bob Larbey under Peter Newling's brilliant direction, and **Mordialloc Theatre** is offering it this time from April 24 to May 9. Bookings on 9587 5141 or you can go to [www.mordialloctheatre.com](http://www.mordialloctheatre.com).

Also running from April 24-May 9, **Malvern Theatre** is presenting the classic *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller under the always splendid direction of Geoff Hickey. Bookings on 1300 131 552 – and, as an added attraction, Peridot's hard working Committee Member and Vice President Alison Knight is in the cast.

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**And now something a bit different but with a definite Peridot connection...**



The Gilbert & Sullivan Opera Victoria is staging *The Merry Widow*, an operetta by Franz Lehár, at the Alexander Theatre, Monash University on Thursday to Saturday, April 16-18 at 8pm with a Matinee on Saturday April 18 at 2pm, and we are delighted that Ken Knight, the husband of our Deputy President/Actress/Director Alison Knight is in the chorus.

It will be a lovely show; you can book on 9905 1111.

### **...the last word**

That fine English singer Matt Munro was performing in one of the Northern Working Men's Clubs in the early 1960 at the time when he had begun to have some very popular success.

He was singing one of his big hits, 'Portrait of My Love' with great gusto when suddenly all the lights came on and a voice boomed out from the back of the hall: 'Pies've coom!' His entire audience stood up as one, turned their backs on him and stampeded out of the hall.

At a loss for what to do, Matt decided to go on singing, and gradually all the members of the audience drifted back into their seats, each one clutching an enormous pie which they happily nibbled throughout the rest of Matt's act.

\*

Another Northern Working Men's Club true story: a popular pop band in England back in the 1960s was the very cockney Joe Brown and the Bruvvers and they were once rehearsing in one of these clubs and were having a very poor time of it.

The club secretary entered the hall and Joe called out, 'Ere, mate,

the acoustics in this place are terrible.'

'I know, lad,' replied the club secretary. 'We've even put traps down for them, but it does no bloody good at all.'

\*

The Australian Helen Montague was one of the most successful theatrical producers in London's West End, and was also a great supporter of Australian talent. One year, Helen took a David Williamson play to London and Qantas agreed to fly the artists there on a contra arrangement. The deal stipulated that a sign reading 'Fly Qantas' would be posted outside the theatre and close to the other advertisements.

Just as their sign was about to be put into place, it occurred to Helen that it may not be such a good idea. She asked the workmen to wait while she went into the theatre to phone Qantas.

'I really don't think it is such a good idea', she said to the Qantas spokesman.

'Why?' he asked.

'Well, it looks rather odd, saying *Fly Qantas* right over the name of the play'.

'Why?' he asked again. 'What's the play called?'

'*What If You Died Tomorrow*' she replied.

\*

It is not unusual for actors to sometimes forget their lines. They can nearly always get a prompt from the wings but sometimes, in desperation, they might even look upwards for inspiration, though that probably doesn't work either. It did, however, once work for that fine Australian actress Googie Withers.

She was appearing in *Hamlet* at Stratford with Michael Redgrave and one night, just before she was about to go on for the famous 'willow scene', she could not remember her lines. She turned to her two ladies-in-waiting but neither knew her first line.

Googie panicked and whispered, 'My line, what's my line?' They were on a rostrum and far upstage from the stage manager and it was impossible to attract his attention, let alone get a prompt. Again, Googie called into the darkness, 'My line, what's my first line?'

Suddenly out of the darkness and some forty feet in the air came a thick Warwickshire accent, '*One woe doth tread upon another's heel, so fast they follow – your sisters drowned, Laertes*'.

It was a stagehand who had been with the Company for very many years and knew almost all the plays by heart!

\*

Another "line" story – Claudette Colbert was having trouble with her lines and said to the Director, 'Darling, I'm so sorry. I knew them backwards last night'.

'And that is exactly how you are saying them this morning', he snapped.

\*

True story – a convention of clairvoyants was held in April 1978 at the Sheraton Hotel in Paris. Readers of palms and teacups, tellers of Tarot and gazers into crystal balls turned up in large numbers.

On the last day an English reporter asked if there would be another conference next year. One of the clairvoyants replied, "We don't know yet".

\*

At the end of the sixteenth century regular processions were organized around Hereford Cathedral in England to mark holy occasions. Before one such, the Dean of Hereford, Dr. Price decided that in view of his own importance he would not, as before, walk on foot with the ruck of lower canons, he would instead ride on horseback so that he might be more easily seen reading from his prayer book. The proud cleric mounted his mare, opened his book and took to the streets.

His reading was at an early stage when a stallion broke loose, saw his mare and mounted her.

The Dean was trapped, read practically nothing and swore he would never ride in a procession again.