

Gems



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Issue 337 July 2016

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Dear Friend

President's Prattle



I returned from my European trip a few days ago, just in time to catch the second last performance of *Ancient Lights* and to find rehearsals for our Season Three offering, *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, already in full swing. This play, directed by the highly credentialled Peter Newling, is our Victorian Drama League Awards entry and promises to be a colourful, entertaining production.

Last month, I reported on a couple of cultural activities I'd enjoyed in England and Ireland. The third country we visited was Iceland. Reykjavik boasts an impressive concert hall, Harpa. The facade is stunning, with two walls composed of hexagonal glass prisms, mostly clear but with some in pastel colours which glow on the floor in the evening sun. They represent the basalt columns characteristic of the country. We saw two events here. The first, 'How to become Icelandic in 60 Minutes', proved to be a hilarious one man comedy routine. I learned how to pronounce the name of 'that' volcano and discovered that fermented sheep's head is a special delicacy. (Think I might pass on that one!) The second event was 'Pearls of Icelandic Song', featuring two sopranos, one of whom had worked in a shrimp factory and slaughterhouse. While the music was of a high standard, I found the lyrics rather depressing: ghosts, malevolent elves and murdered babies featured prominently, with a humorous song about a mother-in-law thrown in to redress the balance! It's certainly been quite fascinating observing aspects of Icelandic culture and pleasing to see the importance placed on the arts in a country with such a tiny population.

Season Three

Les Liaisons Dangereuses by Christopher Hampton.

Directed by Peter Newling

Synopsis

Le Vicomte de Valmont begins the play as an unworthy, cynical pleasure-seeker proud of his reputation as a seducer. He is encouraged in his enterprises by his former mistress, Madame de Merteuil, who seems to share his cynicism, but who has an ulterior motive. Set in France among aristocrats before the revolution, this is nevertheless a play for all-time about sexual manners and manipulation ending in tragedy.

Monash One Act Play Festival

Theatre companies are reminded to enter the 2016 Monash One Act Play Festival.

This year's adjudicator will be the experienced Tim Long, and we look forward to showcasing a fabulous weekend of varied performances!

The Monash One Act Play Festival concludes the Victorian festival season. The only festival held

in Melbourne, we welcome local, country and interstate groups.

The Festival rules are those outlined by the VDL, and Peridot will provide participating companies with all the necessary information for your Stage Manager as well as assistance in technical use of the bio box.

Peridot will provide a general lighting rig that should accommodate all types of performances and our Technical Co-ordinator will contact you prior to the event to answer any queries that you may have.

The Director, cast and crew of each play will be provided with non-transferable tickets to their session. However, they will need to purchase tickets if they wish to view other sessions throughout the weekend.

Your cast and crew will have access to modern dressing room facilities. Over the weekend our kiosk will provide a selection of food and drinks, and a social BBQ is offered on Saturday at the conclusion of Session 2. A registration form is available on our website at

<http://peridot.com.au/monash-one-act-play-festival-2015>.

An entry fee of \$65.00 per play is required, payable online.

Please contact Festival Co-ordinator David Lawson-Smith on moapfestival@peridot.com.au or phone: 0402 464645 with any further enquiries.

Please note that government regulations require that no smoking is permitted within the theatre and the school grounds.



Auditions

Becky's New Car by Steven Dietz, directed by Helen Ellis

Synopsis

Have you ever been tempted to flee your won life? Becky Foster is caught in middle age, middle management and in a middling marriage - with no prospects for change on the horizon. Then one night, a socially inept and grief-struck millionaire stumbles into the car dealership where Becky works. Becky is offered nothing short of a new life ... and the audience is offered a chance to ride shotgun in a way most plays wouldn't dare. *Becky's New Car* is a thoroughly original comedy with serious overtones; a devious and delightful romp down the road not taken.

Characters

Becky (Rebecca) Foster - a woman in her late 40s

Joe Foster - Becky's husband, a roofer, late 40s

Chris Foster - their son, a psychology student, 26

Walter Flood - a very wealthy business man, widowed, 60s

Kensington (Kenni) Flood - Walter's daughter, 23

Steve - Becky's co-worker, widowed, 50

Ginger - a neighbour of Walter's, female, single, 50s

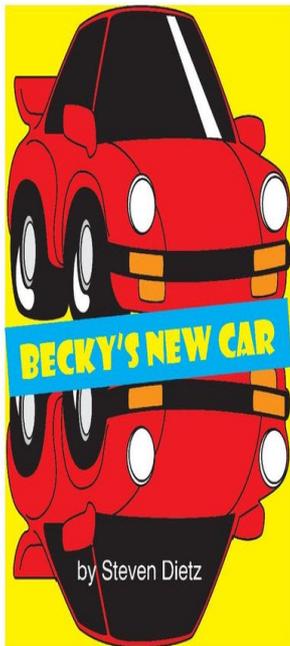
Audition Times

Monday, July 4th and Wednesday July 6th, starting at 7.30pm

To Book an Audition

Please contact Helen Ellis to book an audition time and to receive a copy of the script:
ellisproductions@me.com

Peridot Theatre presents



Directed by Helen Ellis

Set Build

Peridot Theatre Company warmly invite you to be part of our set building weekend for our season of *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*. Set building days are a great way to volunteer in the community and an opportunity to learn new skills and make new friends.

Dates are as follows:

Saturday 2nd July 9 AM – 4 PM - **Builders & Painters**

Sunday 3rd July 9 AM – 4 PM - **Builders & Painters**

Saturday 9th July 9 AM – 4 PM - **Builders & Painters**

Sunday 10th July 9 AM – 4 PM - **Builders & Painters**

Please contact our Productions & Crewing Manager Helen McIntosh on 0403 797 709, if you would like to attend.

Theatre Tales

'There was this one time that I, a Brazilian-born naturalized Canadian, played a Scottish bartender in an English play... with a Mexican accent. To an Australian crowd. And the play was written in ye olde English. And I was the first person on stage. With all the first lines. And all of them were exposition. And the director insisted that I pick up the pace and speed up my delivery. So you have the audience coming in to watch a show in olde English, which is already hard enough to understand, and the exposition is all unexpectedly in Cheech's voice, (from Cheech and Chong), which takes some getting used to at the best of times, and it comes out in speeds that couldn't be replicated by the best rappers!'

- Pedro Ramos

What's On

One Act Play Season - Me & My Friend, Overtones, While You Were Sleeping

Hartwell Players Inc.

30th - June - 2016 to 3rd - July

Visiting Mr Green

Mordialloc Theatre

24th - June to 9th - July

If I Should Die Before I Wake

Williamstown Little Theatre Inc.

30th - Jun to 16th - July

Mount Players One Act Play Festival

9th - July - 10th July

Dandenong Ranges One Act Play Festival

22nd July - 24th July

Quote of the Month

'Acting is a very personal process. It has to do with expressing your own personality, and discovering the character you're playing through your own experience - so we're all different.'

- Sir Ian McKellen

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Peridot Theatre Inc.
PO Box 2100
Mount Waverley, Victoria 3149
AU