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## Farewell Girls, great to see you!

Sadly, our first production for 2014 has already come to an end and we must say farewell to the bunch of cheerful ladies known as *The Hallelujah Girls* who entertained us so well. To Sugar Lee, the sort of leader of the gang (Phillippa Adgemis), Carlene (Cathie Lee), Nita (Christine Bridge), Mavis (Joan Krutli), Crystal (Monique Venus), thanks y'all for dropping by and giving us such a fun time, to Bobby Dwayne (Greg Barison) and Porter (Paul de Freitas) as the two males caught up in the mayhem, even the very nasty Bunny (Suzanne Gooding, who isn't nasty at all); a fine cast gathered and directed beautifully by Annie Blood.

Of course, a successful play and cast need s a strong backing and *Hallelujah* certainly had that with Stage Manager Lachlan O'Connor and his splendid bunch of Assistants in Lindsay Owen, Alec Kensit, Bernie Walsh and Richard Farr who did several big scene changes very quickly and professionally plus Robin Le Blond who did the Lighting Design operated skillfully by Kate Deavin and multi-skilled Annie Blood, who, apart from directing, also designed and operated the sound. Thanks to all these fine people and also all the other special supporters who built, painted, dressed, costumed, propped and more, all contributing hugely to getting this and all our other productions up and running. And, never forgetting the Front of House army which looks after our audiences so well.

*Hallelujah* was the ideal cheerful comedy to get the year going (especially in February – who wants a big drama when it's so damned hot!?) and, judging by the audience reactions, we made a good choice!



*The driving force at the Hallelujah Girl's Beauty salon, Spa Dee Dah, Sugar Lee (Phillippa Adgemis) gets stuck in.*

\*\*\*We thank Annette De Boer for taking some lovely  
*Hallelujah* photos for us\*\*\*

## Important Notice on Page Three

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### *Five Lyrebirds Awards for Peridot*

The 2013 Lyrebirds Awards were handed out on Saturday February 8 in a big bash at the Karralyka Theatre in Ringwood to which a big group of Peridot people went along. It's always an important event: whereas theatre companies can only enter one production in the VDL Awards, the Lyrebirds judges see every event (in our case four full-scale productions and three One Act plays) that the companies, musical and youth groups put on, so competition is fierce!

We received twenty-two nominations in a plethora of subjects, an impressive number, and won five Awards. **Claire Hanley** was voted the winner in the Highly Commended Performance in a Drama/One Act Play for her performance as the slightly desperate single girl in *Leap Year*, **Ron Paddon** won in the Highly Commended Performance in a Comedy for his delightful performance as the Butler who had seen it all in *Easy Virtue*, and our comedy *Cupboard Love* won the Best One Act Play. Our Noël Coward satire *Easy Virtue* won two technical awards: Best Costume in a Comedy for **Chris Bartle** and Best Sound in a Comedy for **Bruce Parr**.

We warmly congratulate and thank all the nominees and winners for all the skill and enthusiasm they brought to our Company during 2013.

We can't really take credit for one other Award, but we would like to mention, and congratulate, David Lawson-Smith, who has recently joined Peridot's Board of Management and has been in several of our productions; he took off the Best Actor in a Comedy for his role in *Lend Me a Tenor* for the Basin Theatre Company

### *Geoff Hickey Has Gathered His Heroes*

Auditions for the three roles in our second production for 2014, the comedy *Heroes*, written by Gérald Sibleyras and adapted by Tom Stoppard, were held at the theatre on Sunday February 9 and, following a very good turn-out, the play's director, Geoff Hickey, was able to cast three very experienced actors: George Werther as Gustave,, John Keogh as Philippe and Kirk Alexander as Henri.

We welcome all three actors and especially welcome back to the Unicorn Geoff Hickey after far too long. Also, as a bonus, we will be able to welcome back as Set Designer the legendary George Tranter, who has created many fine sets over the years but hasn't been around our way for quite a time.

*Heroes* will run from April 25-May 10

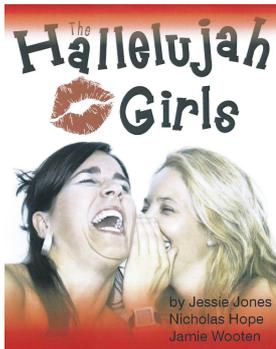
## The Men's Shed Men\* loved our Hallelujah Girls!

Our Artistic Director Robyn Kelly received this nice email from the Monash Men's Shed who came along to our Charity Preview Night on February 6 (the day before the official Opening Night):

"Hi Rob,

On behalf of Monash Men's Shed, thank you and the Committee of Peridot for your kind offer for the Preview Night. As you will see from the write up that was on our Shed Blog today everybody thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Once again a very big Thank You.

Warmest regards and luv\*\*,  
Ray x"



And this appeared on the Men's Shed Blog on Friday February 7: "*The Hallelujah Girls*" by Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope and Jamie Wooten, directed by Annie Blood.

Monash Men's Shed had the privilege of seeing the pre-production evening for this show on Thursday February 6 - and what a show it was! An almost full theatre enjoyed this spirited performance

and responded with plenty of laughs, giggles and nudges in the ribs to their husbands as the story line obviously reminded some of the audience of their own home life or that of their friends.

About the play - after the loss of a dear friend, a group of feisty females of Eden Falls, Georgia, USA decide to shake up their lives. The women realize that time is precious and if they are going to change their lives and achieve their dreams they have to get on to it NOW! But Sugar Lee, the high-spirited leader, has her hands full keeping the women motivated whilst she works hard at establishing her own beauty business in a disused church. Carlene's given up on romance having buried three husbands, Nita's a nervous wreck from the on-running interference between her problematic son and his probation officer, Mavis's marriage is so stagnant she is wondering if she can fake her own death to get out of it, and sweet simple Crystal entertains them by singing Christmas carols with her own hilarious lyrics. Sugar Lee's determination is further tried when a sexy ex-boyfriend shows up unexpectedly, a marriage proposal comes from an unlikely suitor for Carlene, and Sugar Lee's arch rival since kindergarten vows she will stop at nothing to steal the building away from her. Finally the women rally together to overcome these obstacles and launch their new improved lives.

This talented Theatre Company put on an excellent show thanks to the director, Annie Blood, and her team of skilled performers and professional production staff.

It was an excellent performance by the Peridot Theatre Company well enjoyed by the audience and used as a Fundraiser toward facilities for the members of Monash Men's Shed. I can strongly recommend this production to any of you who may have missed last night's performance".

*\*and so did the ladies! \*\* that's how he spelt it!*



Mavis (Joan Krutli) and Carlene (Cathie Lee) just wonder about love and life



How can any girl not fancy Bobby Swayne (Greg Barison)?



Sugar Lee tangles with the dastardly plotting local big-wig Bunny Sutherland (Suzanne Gooding)

## ***Our June One Act Play Auditions Reminder***

Our mid-year One Act Play Seasons have proved increasingly popular over the last few years and we think we have three excellent plays to present to you in June.

First, of course, we have to hold some Auditions to gather some casts and they will be held in early March at our theatre.

And here they are:

On **Monday March 3** at **7.00pm**. Director Lisa McNiven will be auditioning for *No Strings*, a comedy by John Tilbrook. She needs three characters: Jenny and Glen, both mid 30s-late 50s, plus one further male, age indeterminate, which is a non-speaking role.

The play's synopsis is: Jenny and Glen, both suffering somewhat from marital fatigue, have established a connection with each other through an internet dating site for married individuals seeking a little more excitement out of life. Although Jenny (or Delia as she calls her cyber identity) suspects that her new on-line lover Jason (Glen) has been more than a little extravagant with the truth when it comes to his physical attributes and possessions, she is still intrigued enough to want to meet him. And so the two eventually make a date to get together at the nearby Burton Hotel, just, as Jason assures her, to check out the chemistry and see if they click.

It's a comedy about what goes on between men and women and just how really complicated it all can get.

For more information, contact Lisa on 0410 567 834 or on [lm.mcniven@optusnet.com.au](mailto:lm.mcniven@optusnet.com.au).

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Then, on **Wednesday March 5**, also at **7.00pm**, we will be auditioning for Jimmie Chin's fine play about the theatre *In by the Half*, which Alison Knight will be directing. For this, Alison will need one Female about 60ish, one Female in her 40s, one Female in her late teens and one male, between 40-60.

The play is about Madam, once a distinguished actress, who lives in seclusion, looked after by her ex-dresser. Their peaceful routine includes visits from the doctor and by the insipid Sylvia, who takes acting lessons from Madam. But the initial acerbic comedy of the play gives way to a poignant drama with the arrival of Madam's estranged daughter, who nurses a bitter secret.

Contact Alison on [a8knight@bigpond.net.au](mailto:a8knight@bigpond.net.au) or on 0437 380 533 for more information.

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And to make up the trio, Alison Knight has written a new play, *Peter Stone*, which will be directed by Bruce Cochrane and for which he will be looking to cast one male (Peter Stone) aged around 35, one male about 16, one female aged about 39, one female 65ish, plus one walk on role of a nurse.

The actor playing Peter must have a Northern English accent; the rest would be Australian.

This play is a drama in which Peter Stone looks at how a dark secret from the past can cast shadow over the lives of a Melbourne family.

For more details, contact Bruce on 0426 347 960 or on [Bcochrane1@optusnet.com.au](mailto:Bcochrane1@optusnet.com.au)

Our One Act Play season will run from June 12-15.

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*Thought for today...*

*When you are dissatisfied and think you would like to go back to your youth, think of Algebra.*

## **A Special Play Reading in March**

We will be holding a special Social Play Reading on Tuesday March 18<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm in the Unicorn Theatre foyer when we will be reading a number of works by much acclaimed local playwright John Tilbrook, including his new comedy-thriller, *Kidnapping Susanne*. Supper provided!

Please let Alison Knight know if you're coming by March 15<sup>th</sup> at [a8knight@bigpond.net.au](mailto:a8knight@bigpond.net.au).

One of John's plays, *No Strings*, will be staged as part of our June One Act Play Season.

## **Important Changes to Peridot's Constitution, Membership and Management**

*From Peridot's Business Manager Damian Jones*



Late in 2012, there were some changes to the law relating to Incorporated Associations, which apply to Peridot. Concurrent with these changes, the Management of Peridot took the opportunity to revisit the Company's Constitution. While the resulting changes have been relatively minor, there are some noteworthy alterations which we

would like to bring to your attention.

### **Membership change:**

The category of General Member has been broadened, and made more easily accessible to those with an interest of Peridot. Subject to acceptance by the Committee, anyone interested in the company may apply for General Membership of Peridot. Effective from this year's Annual General Meeting on April 14<sup>th</sup>, this category of membership will have AGM attendance and voting rights for Committee positions for the forthcoming year. The annual cost of General Membership is \$20, and there is no limit on the number of Members.

### **Committee change:**

There has also been some change to the structure of the Committee, with redefined positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. These positions will be elected for the 2014/15 year at the AGM, by the General Members of Peridot.

### ***So how does this affect you?***

For those who would like a greater say in the management of Peridot, the opportunity to access information and influence decisions for the company has become much easier than previously. The Committee is also hopeful that these changes will give those who are passionate about Peridot the opportunity to have their voice heard and put themselves forward to assist in the running of the Company.

### **So what do you do next?**

If you would like to exercise a greater interest in the running of Peridot, to attend the AGM on April 14<sup>th</sup>, and have voting rights for Committee positions - then application for General Membership is the next step. To apply, fill in the Application Form and send it to the Secretary, PO Box 2100 Mt Waverley, 3149, before 30<sup>th</sup> March 2014. You will be informed of the outcome of your application prior to the AGM.

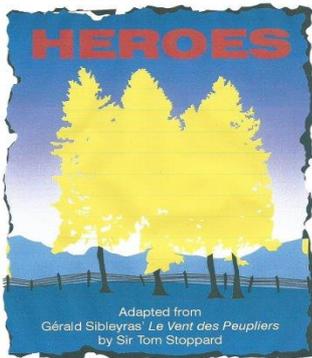
Ring Damian on 0419 537 871 if you have any queries.

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

There are a couple of our fellow theatre companies in the Eastern Suburbs that have a play opening in March and which you might think are worth supporting:

**Lilydale Athenaeum** is presenting a terrific comedy, *Double Act*, by the Australian actor and playwright Barry Creyton from March 5-22. Bookings can be made on 9735 1777.

Down in their lovely theatre in Clayton, **Encore Theatre** is offering the cutely titled *Love, Loss and What I Wore*, written by the talented American film and play writers Norah and Delia Ephron from March 7-22. This is a comedy about clothes and accessories and the memories they can trigger, and will be directed by the amazingly talented Helen Ellis, so it's bound to be good! Bookings on 1300 739 099 (from 9am-9pm only).



### **DON'T FORGET!**

*Our next production: "Heroes", directed by Geoff Hickey.*

*April 25-26, 30, May 1- 3 and 7-10 at 8pm, Matinees Sunday April 27 and Saturday May 3 at 2.15pm plus our Twilight Matinee Sunday May 4 at 4pm.*

*This will be our entry in the 2014 VDL Awards.*

### *...the last word*

*Peter Newling forwarded the following to your beloved Editor, something which we both think is one of the most brilliant pieces of writing we've ever come across – the wonderful Ronnie Barker's version of "Hamlet":*

*(It's better if you can read it out loud!)*

In olden Scandinavia when standards of behavior  
Were rather lax and Income Tax was tuppence in the ducat,  
Denmark's democratic king one day became a static king.  
He went to rest, became non est, in fact he kicked the bucket.

He had, it seems, been victimized. The reason for his quick demise  
Developed from a charming trick of brother Claude, the thug,  
Who, while the King was sleeping sound, came silently a-creeping  
round  
And dropped a deadly poison in the royal Danish lug.

Then to the Queen, a flirty gal, he whispered: "Listen, Gertie gal,  
Now I'm the King and everything we might as well be one.  
So, when we've had the funeral, or even rather sooner'll  
Just suit me fine, oh Gert be mine. "Gert said: "It might be fun."

The former King had had a lad, called Hamlet, and a sadder lad  
You never saw, a royal bore, an autocratic dope.  
In introspective reverie, he'd spend his day forever. 'E  
Could ask for nothing better than to sit around and mope.

One night upon the battlement, or so the tittle-tattle went,  
A ghost was seen in shades of green a-frightening the warders.  
The sergeant, one Sebastian, said: "Blimey, 'ere's a nasty 'un,  
Go fetch the prince, this 'ere's against the current Standing Orders.

When Hamlet came the fear he'd had all vanished as his eerie  
Dad,  
Told how he'd died, young Hamlet cried, and not without a  
wince,  
"He poisoned up your ear'ole Dad? Then I'll avenge you, dear  
old Dad."

"Thank you kindly," cried the phantom. "Not at all," replied  
the prince.

"I'll sham," he said, "delirium, and worry 'em and weary 'em,  
Produce a play, and in this way suspicion I'll dispel.  
He went too far, as soon as he decided on this lunacy  
The things he did quite soon got rid of half the personnel.

While in a boudoir chatting there, he said he heard a rat in  
there.

Ignoring the demean-our of the Queen and looking on,  
He shouted, "For a duck it's dead." right through the arras  
bucketed

And stuck a yard of rapier through his mother's best cretonne.

His statement was erroneous; he'd done for poor Polonius,  
Who, embarrassed, from the arras tottered out and sadly said:  
"As to make a rat o'me, then puncture my anatomy,  
Call this a lark?" With which remark, he hit the carpet, dead.

Polonius a daughter had, who reckoned that she oughter had  
Ha'wed the prince some ages since, but all he did was mock'er,  
By saying, "Dear Ophelia, I really feel you merely are  
A silly slut," – a cruel cut, which sent her off her rocker.

She chanted snatches sundry, sighed, went out into the  
countryside,  
And climbed some trees, still chanting glees, a little off the  
key.

Alas an envious slither there dropped her into the river there  
And, quite serene, she last was seen, a-heading out to sea.

Her brother, name of Laertes, imagined he could slay at ease  
Young Hamlet with a poisoned sword which Uncle Claud had  
lent him.

But Hamlet soon discerned the trick, plugged Laertes and  
turned the trick

Then made a spring right at the King and rather badly bent  
him.

Meanwhile a jug of lemonade the King had with some venom  
made

Caught Gertie's eye, and feeling dry, she drained the poisoned  
jug.

While Hamlet, still rhetorical, got rather allegorical,  
Some phrases coined, then quietly joined his mother on the rug.

And while the bodies dropped around, Horatio, who'd popped  
around,

To see the end, and superintend, came through the palace  
doorway.

With Fortinbras and legions of hairy Norwegians,  
Who trampled in with pomp and din and seized the throne for  
Norway.

The moral of this story, boys, is don't be Death or Glory Boys,  
Don't try to rule, or maybe you'll find you are apt to bungle.  
Don't bother with detection, lads. Just stick to introspection,  
lads,  
Be kind, be good, and if you would, try not to stab your ungle.