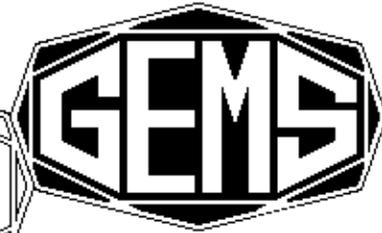


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## Another Successful Monash OAPF at Peridot

The Seventh Annual Monash One Act Play Festival, hosted by Peridot, proved again to be a terrific event, with seventeen plays in friendly competition in four sessions over three days and in front of some excellent audiences. The standard was extremely high throughout and the Festival Adjudicator, Malcolm Sussman, had some tough decisions to make for the various Awards. But make them he did, and the results are:

**Best Production:** *Henna Night* – Page to Stage Theatre

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place Best Production:** *Roughing It* – Theatrebox

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place Best Production:** *Couples!* – Here There & Everywhere Theatre

**Excellence in Direction:** Kate McManus, *Henna Night* – Page to Stage Theatre

**Excellence in Acting, Male Lead:** Matt Phillips, *Roughing It* - Theatrebox

**Excellence in Acting, Female Lead:** Tara Rankine, *Henna Night* - Page to Stage Theatre

**Excellence in Acting, Male Supporting:** Chris Knights, *Couples!* – Here There & Everywhere Theatre,

**Excellence in Acting, Female Supporting:** Julia Lambert, *Couples!* – Here There & Everywhere Theatre

**Adjudicator's Award 1<sup>st</sup> Place:** Warrick Smith, for his multiple roles in *The Les Darcy Show* – Adelphi Players

**Adjudicator's Award 2<sup>nd</sup> Place:** Chris Dickens for his Sound Design for *Still Life* – Tribes (Theatre & Education)

**Staging Award:** *Roughing It* - Theatrebox

**Peridot Encouragement Award:** The Mount Players Youth Theatre for *The Actor's Nightmare*

**Playwright Award:** Kylie Rackham, *Roughing It* - Theatrebox,  
**The Victoria Drama League Youth Award:** The Mount Players Youth Theatre

\*

There was a lovely relaxed atmosphere to the whole Festival, with jovial audiences being looked after, well fed and watered in the breaks between performances by the cheerful Peridot volunteers, to whom we give our warm thanks. Thanks also to those lovely people who worked hard back stage and in the bio box, and to Doug Brewer and his partner Gayle McCann who coordinated the raffle during the weekend. The first prize went to Mike and Joanne Street, who were in the cast of Tribes play *Still Life*. And a huge thank you to the wonderful Robyn Kelly who worked so hard and long to pull all the strings together.

\*

We were thrilled that all fourteen awards were sponsored by lots of generous people and we gratefully acknowledge them here:

*Continued on page two...*

## Coming to a Peridot Theatre near you!

Still one more fine production to come in November but we are delighted to be able to tell you what will be on offer at the Unicorn in 2015.

To start the year off nicely, for **Season One** we are presenting *Six Dance Lessons in Six Weeks* by Richard Alfieri, a touching and human comedy about a formidable retired woman, Lily Harrison, who hires an acerbic dance instructor, Michael Minetti, to give her private dance lessons. What begins as an antagonistic relationship blossoms into an intimate friendship as they reveal their secrets, fears and joys while dancing the Swing, Tango, Waltz, Foxtrot, Cha Cha and Contemporary Dance. Splendidly directed by Alan Burrow earlier this year by our friends at Williamstown Little Theatre, we all thought it such a good show that we would move their production to the Unicorn so that another audience could enjoy this delightful comedy.

*Six Dance Lessons* will dance around our stage from February 6-21.

\*

Director Richard Keown has directed many fine productions at Peridot and he is returning for **Season Two** with another fine and very new Irish comedy *Shush* by Elaine Murphy. This is a funny and insightful glimpse into the power of female friendship and its power to overcome life's adversities: we meet five women with five different stories on a girl's night in to remember. It's Breda's birthday and she's in no mood to celebrate. Her friends, however, have other ideas and after some homemade birthday cake and a few too many Bacardi's, it turns out that Breda is not the only one with problems.

We are proud to announce that this production is a world premiere for a non-professional company to perform.

You can meet these five ladies from June 12-27.

\*

For **Season Three** we are presenting a very popular comedy *Lend Me a Tenor* by Ken Ludwig. When a fiery-tempered world famous opera singer goes missing just as he's to make his debut with a local opera company, a three-ring circus of chaos ensues, complete with mistaken identities and backstage shenanigans. The play was nominated for the Laurence Olivier awards for Comedy following its opening in London, and for ten Tony Awards (winning two) on Broadway. *Lend Me a Tenor* is a madcap screwball comedy that will leave you teary-eyed with laughter and will be directed by Loretta Bishop, who so delighted us with the very funny *Busy Body* a couple of years ago.

*Lend Me a Tenor* will chaotically run from August 7-22.

*Continued on page two...*

## Wrapping up the MOAP Festival (continued from page one)

Tobin Brothers of East Burwood for the Second and Third Best Productions

The Victorian Drama League for the VDL Youth Award

Richard Keown (himself an outstanding Director), in memory of his father Annesley Keown, for the Best Director

Chris Bartle, in memory of a great Peridot actor, Committee Member and friend, David Perkins, for Best Actor

Two long time Peridot supporters Al & Maggy Morris, who very generously sponsored three Awards, Best Actress, Best Supporting Actor and the Peridot Encouragement Award

Gail Brackley for Best Supporting Actress

Lisa McNiven for the First Adjudicator's Award

Grace McNiven for the Second Adjudicator's Award

Connie Bram for the Staging Award and

David Briggs for the Playwright Award

And we would also mention that one of our Sponsors, Kita Ku stumped up a \$100 voucher for a raffle prize.

## And Now Something Completely Different

We mentioned in last month's *Gems* that we were considering holding a Shopping Afternoon at the theatre on **Sunday October 12** between 2 and 5 pm. Well, it's on!

Lots of interesting people and small businesses will be showing us their wares. Perhaps you can think of it as a bit of Christmas shopping without the stress of crowded shops (that should appeal to the men!), with the added bonus of raffles and door prizes, all of which is in a very good and worthwhile cause. It will cost just \$10 to come along, which includes a delicious Devonshire Tea.

Any queries, contact Helen McIntosh on 0403 797 709 or on [hemd01@optusnet.com.au](mailto:hemd01@optusnet.com.au).

We hope to see lots of you there.

**Shopping**  
**Afternoon In**  
**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2-5 PM**

**Raffle & Door Prizes**

Kita Ku Clothing  
Intimo Lingerie  
Lilly Anne Jewellery  
Mary Kay Cosmetics  
Pre-loved Books  
Your Inspiration (spices)  
Lorraine Lee Linen  
Partylite Candles

**Gift Ideas**

**Hosted by Peridot Theatre**  
Unicorn Theatre,  
Mount Waverley Secondary College  
Lechte Road, Mount Waverley

**Entry \$10 - includes Devonshire Tea**  
**Proceeds to Breast Cancer Research**

## Our 2015 plans for you... (continued from page one)

And to wind up the year, for **Season Four** we are highly chuffed to stage Yasmina Reza's award winning sharp-edged comedy *God of Carnage*, which will be directed by Tim Long, who brought you the excellent *The Peppercorn Tree* a couple of years ago. The play asks 'What happens when two sets of parents meet up to deal with the unruly behaviour of their children? A calm and rational debate between grown-ups about the need to teach kids how to behave properly? Or a hysterical night of name-calling, tantrums and tears before bedtime?' Boys will be boys, but the adults are usually worse – much worse!

Many of you will remember another fine play by Yasmina Reza, *Art*, which we staged a few years ago, and we are delighted to bring another offering from this excellent playwright, the original production for which won both Tony and Olivier Awards for best comedy. *God of Carnage* will run from November 20 to December 5.

\*

You may notice that our Season Two production will begin in mid-June rather than the usual April/May. This is due to our having to fit into school's requirements.

\*

The One Act Play, usually staged in June will be brought forward to April 30 - May 3 and we are planning the following four very diverse plays, all written by three talented local playwrights:

*The Cylinder* by Horrie Leek. In an unnamed country, living under a brutal regime, all sources of water have been exhausted. The last remaining cylinder of the precious liquid becomes the centre of a deadly battle of wits between a woman and two men.

*The Portrait*, also by Horrie Leek, tells of two women, strangers, who are locked together in an art gallery after closing time. But, are they alone and will they survive until morning?

*Warriors* by Hayley Lawson-Smith. There are many different types of heroes and many of them are unsung or unheard of. In Zordana's land, a hero fights bravely in the open field, destroying monsters and dark magic. In Amy's world, her hero is the sister who takes care of her. In Maddie's world, her hero is her brother, who may tease her mercilessly but loves her dearly. Unknown to all of them, it is the Warrior Queen Zordana who will bring them altogether to fight the hardest of battles.

*Phantom Call* by Chris Hodson Charlie has two main interests in life, horse racing and his ferrets. His wife, Marge, adds a touch of interest to her own life by participating in a local psychic group. Each Friday evening, Charlie goes out to the working man's club for a social get-together with his mates and Marge's psychic group comes around for a séance. Except, this week, the club is closed for renovations and Charlie experiences the world of the supernatural with hilarious results.

\*

The Monash One Act Play Festival will be held in September as usual.

\*

**Subscription Forms for 2015 should be ready early in October and we will send one to you as soon as we can so that you can start planning your dates!**

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**Mr. Plimsole's Invention**

## **"House Guest" – Epilogue**

Cameron South has told us how much he enjoyed directing "House Guest", - his first for Peridot – and he has sent us his thoughts about his time with us to finally wrap things up;



Some say it's not over 'til the fat lady sings. Others say it's not done 'til the battle is fought and won (or when the director finally puts away his Fijian shirts!). Whatever your opinion is, I am sure that the events that unfolded in Drury Manor no doubt left you with many questions as well as answers with the myriad of twists, turns, likeable and spiteful characters, whether it be from the man himself at the centre of all the confusion or Thor's evil younger brother who so

desperately wanted to get in on the mix and come out victorious, but in the end suffered at the hands of insatiable and inscrutable wannabee policeman.

For me, this project was yet another exciting venture into a world full of knowns as well as unknowns. As the program stated, I love directing this genre as I believe it offers so much to actors as well as technical people alike if the correct amount of spice is added into the mix. Coupled with that was the thrill of directing a number of people who were treading the Peridot boards for the first time. Not only did we see evidence of this from a box office perspective, but it also provided a large amount of positive spirit both within the cast as a whole (and, yes, it's every director's wish, I'm sure, to have this every time) as well as wanting to be so involved and bring anything and everything to the table. I certainly had that in abundance and I know this enthusiasm, which does become infectious in all the right ways, added to the whole experience for all.

Never again will audience members wonder if they can escape without talking to at least one of the cast, even on a matinee, when they least expect it. Never again will a medical practitioner be surprised at an injury sustained due to strangling someone multiple times in a one month period who just will not lay down to rest permanently. Never again will people wonder if Dr. Sheldon Cooper has an evil twin label making spirit. Never again will an actor wonder if they can blend normal street clothes into the colours on the set. Never again will an actor be more confused about how to walk and talk and never again will a cast or crew member be blinded by a deafening noise with only a hint of blood to show for it.

Who knows where this journey will take us and whether it will ever end. There is already talk of doing the sequel. Who knows, maybe ending #48 will make it into the final script after all and give the audience a new definition of Elvis's hillbilly cousins. What I will say, however, is that, whatever the outcome, the red herrings that started from the outset as part of storytelling with the cast became even larger than life as the audiences worked their own way into the end state that is such a beautiful trademark of live theatre.

So, with all that in mind, if the above makes little or no sense to you, then you have missed out on an incredibly exciting piece of theatre, and with that I will say adieu from one crazy wild eyed director who was incredibly thrilled with the end result, especially all the positive comments to come out from the season that was.

\*

And there's a final word from another enthusiastic reviewer in the next column

## **We think Deborah rather liked our play!**

We didn't have room in the last Gems to put Deborah Marinaro's splendid review of our August play "House Guest" in the Melbourne Observer's August 13 edition but we thought, as it was so kind, you might like to see it anyway...

"It's not often you sit down to a play full of murder and intrigue. Much less one that also gives you lots of laughs along the way. That's what you get with Peridot Theatre's current production, *House Guest* directed by Cameron South.

The play, written by Francis Durbridge, has a fantastic script that follows a very weird and frightful day in Robert and Stella Drury's life. Five minutes into the show, the action begins. We learn Mr and Mrs Drury's son, Mike, has been kidnapped, yet no ransom demand has been made. Very soon, the Drury's are playing host to a series of unusual guests with some funny, some horrifying, and many very unexpected outcomes.

The cast do well to bring these colourful characters and their drama to life. Glenn Hunt, as Robert Drury, is just fantastic, performing with a captivating intensity and fervour. Brendan Allen as Sergeant Clayton and Michael Redmond as Inspector Burford are just as fantastic to watch, physicalising their characters very well.

Philippa Bain (Stella Drury), Jean Millward (Vivien Norwood), Marcus Ingleby (Major Crozier), and Janna Wright (Jane) are good additions to the cast and, in a small role, Leanne Savage makes a big impact on audiences as the delightful Dorothy.



*The delightful, if somewhat loopy, Dorothy (Leanne Savage)*

The action of the play takes place in Robert and Stella's home, which is superbly recreated by set designer Damian Jones and set dresser Chris Bartle. I would love to live in that home!"

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

Not a lot happening around the Eastern Suburbs non-professional theatre scene in October – most companies, like us, are gearing up for the busy end-of-year bash in November – but there are some productions which might interest you:

The **1812 Theatre** is presenting *The Guys* by Anne Nelson from October 8 until November 1 in its intimate Bakery. Centred around the 9/11 attack on New York, a fire captain who lost most of his men in the disaster, spends a long afternoon with a journalist who is helping him write the eulogies that he must present at the  
*Continued on page 4...*

### **\*WhatsOn\* continued from page 3...**

numerous memorial services, and which provokes many memories and emotions. A big Peridot contention here: the fire captain will be played by Peridot's multi-talented President, Damian Jones alongside the fine actress Kathy Lapan-Walker. Bookings on 9758 3964.

The **Croydon Parish Players** are reviving *Jesus Christ Superstar*, the musical by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice at the Mahon Theatre, Aquinas College, Great Ryrie Street, Ringwood from October 10-18 and which will be directed by a good Peridot friend Nick Walter. Bookings can be made on line at [www.CroydonParishPlayers.com](http://www.CroydonParishPlayers.com) or, between 4pm-6pm on 0447 014 584.

The **Malvern Theatre Company** is offering *Dracula*, an action packed retelling of the Bram Stoker classic tale of horror, adapted by William McNulty. This will run from October 31 until November 15 and bookings here are on 1300 131 552, and on the thriller theme, **Encore Theatre** are presenting in their comfortable theatre in Clayton, the hugely successful *The Woman in Black* by Stephen Mallaratt, from the novel by Susan Hill. This classic drama has been running on London's West End for over twenty five years; Encore's production will run slightly less, from October 10-25, and you can book on 1300 739 099 (9am-9pm).

And here's something a bit different: **ARK Theatre** is doing the interestingly titled *Radio Arkadia – Phillip Marlowe in "The Panama Hat" and Harry Lime in "The Third Man"* by Raymond Chandler and Orson Wells at the Lilydale Heights College Performing Arts Centre (Gate 2) 17 Nelson Road, Lilydale from October 10-18. We are told that ARK Theatre will "take you back to a bygone era with a live broadcast of two 19740s radio plays with Foley artists providing sound effects and musical entertainment from the Lark Sisters and tap dances". So there. Bookings on 0413 422 847 or [www.trybooking.com/97996](http://www.trybooking.com/97996).

### **.The VDL's Big End-of-Year Event Beckons...**

In our local world of Victorian non-professional theatre, the annual Victorian Drama League Awards Night is a major event, where most of the major Companies, usually between twenty five and thirty, enter what they feel is their premier production of the year and which is judged by a panel of three highly regarded people in the local theatre field. Excellence in acting, direction and staging is rewarded by nominations and Awards, but the night is also a bit of an exuberant end-of-the-year bash amongst people for whom theatre is very important where they can mix, catch up with fellow theatre folk and perhaps celebrate surviving another year!

Peridot has participated in this for many years – with some success on many occasions - and our Awards entry for 2014 is our splendid May production *Heroes*, directed by Geoff Hickey with a cast of three outstanding actors Kirk Alexander, George Werther and John Keogh.

The Awards Night will be held on Sunday December 7 from 6.00-11.00pm at the splendid Merrimu Receptions, 1300 Dandenong Road, Murrumbeena (Melways 69 C4, more or less opposite Chadstone Shopping Centre) and Robyn Kelly will be booking our needs shortly. The cost is \$78, all inclusive, which includes drinks and savouries on arrival, a three course dinner with red and white wines, beers and soft drinks (other drinks can be purchased at the bar) and entertainment, with the Presentation Ceremony being the high point of the evening. Special dietary requirements can be arranged, and there is plenty of nearby parking.

If you think you might like to come along and help us celebrate, contact Robyn on 0438 724 664 or email her on [robynperidot@yahoo.com.au](mailto:robynperidot@yahoo.com.au).

### *...the last word*

#### *A few little music stories...*

In 1940 Walt Disney created a whole full-length animated film, the legendary *Fantasia*, with a score provided by many of the classical greats, including Bach, Beethoven, Tchaikovsky, Schubert, Stravinsky, Ponchielli, Mussorgsky and Dukas which was played by the Philadelphia Orchestra under its conductor, Leopold Stokowski. On hearing the section featuring Beethoven's *Pastoral Symphony*, Walt Disney was reported to have said: "Gee! That tune'll make that Beethoven!"

\*

Whilst on the subject of classical music and films, some of the most famous examples of wonderful classics being extensively featured are Rachmaninov's *Piano Concerto No. 2*, which was played throughout Noël Coward's *Brief Encounter*, Mozart's *Clarinet Concerto in Out of Africa*, Richard Strauss's *Also Sprach Zarathustra in 2001: A Space Odyssey*, and even Mozart's *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik* in the rather unlikely setting of *Ace Ventura: Pet Detective!*

\*

And continuing the subject of film music, here's something you might find interesting... (on the other hand, you might not). The very first film soundtrack ever written is believed to have been composed by Camille Saint-Saëns (he of *The Carnival of the Animals* fame) for the 1908 movie *L'Assassinat du Duc de Guise*, a film which doubtless will be familiar to you all.

\*

The longest album title ever is – "*The Boy Bands Have Won, and All the Copyists and the Tribute Bands and the TV Talent Show Producers Have Won, If We Allow Our Culture to Be Shaped by Mimicry, Whether From Lack of Ideas or From Exaggerated Respect. You Should Never Try to Freeze Culture. What You Can Do Is Recycle That Culture. Take Your Older Brother's Hand-Me-Down Jacket and Re-Style It, Re-Fashion It to the Point Where It Becomes Your Own. But Don't Just Regurgitate Creative History, or Hold Art and Music and Literature as Fixed, Untouchable and Kept Under Glass. The People Who Try to 'Guard' Any Particular Form of Music Are, Like the Copyists and Manufactured Bands, Doing It the Worst Disservice, Because the Only Thing That You Can Do to Music That Will Damage It Is Not Change It, Not Make It Your Own. Because Then It Dies, Then It's Over, Then It's Done, and the Boy Bands Have Won*".

Released in 2008, the title runs to 158 words! The album was by a British alternative band called Chumbawamba, which broke up in 2012. By the time you have read the title, the album has probably finished

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You've doubtless heard of Handel's *Water Music*. It's not the only one. Most toilets flush in E flat.

\*

About those National Anthems: The Greek National Anthem, *Innos Pros Tin Eleftherian (The Hymn to Liberty)* is officially the longest national anthem in the world, with 158 verses. Two countries, Qatar and Bahrain, can lay claim to having the shortest since neither have any words. The shortest with lyrics is the Japanese, which is just four lines long; the lyrics consist of 32 syllables, written 1,000 years ago and celebrate the longevity of their seniors.

\*

Another little story about Anthems – this time the Longest Rendering of a National Anthem. *God Save the King* was played by a German military band on the platform of Rathenau railway station in Brandenburg in 1909. Since King Edward VII was struggling inside the train to get into his German Field Marshal uniform, the band had to play the anthem 17 times!