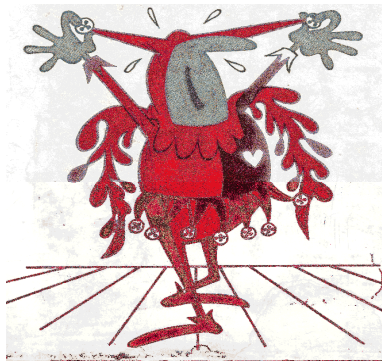


General Correspondence:
PO BOX 2100,
Mt. Waverley 3149

www.peridot.com.au

All Bookings, Ticket Enquiries, Returns,
write to PO BOX 1026, Box Hill 3128 or
peridotboxoffice@yahoo.com.au



**Deridot Theatre Company
Presents the Seventh
2014 Monash One Act Play
Festival
at the Unicorn Theatre. Lechte
Road, Mt. Waverley**

***Twelve Companies presenting seventeen
plays in friendly competition***

Friday September 19

Session 1 – 8.00pm

Saturday September 20

Session 2 – 2.00pm Session 3 – 7.30pm

Sunday September 21

Session 4 – 12.30pm

**Followed by a tea break and then the
Awards Ceremony presented by the Festival
Adjudicator – Malcolm Sussman**

**Tickets available at the theatre on the day of
performance \$10 per session or you can book
online at www.peridot.com.au. (General Admission,
no Seat Allocation)**

**Enquiries to the Festival Co-Coordinator Robyn
Kelly on 0438 724 664 or email to
robynperidot@yahoo.com.au**

Have a look at the terrific line-up on page 2

ARE YOU A BUDDING ACTOR?



We are delighted to announce that we will be holding an Acting Workshop for adults in September which will be held over three evenings, on Monday the 22nd, Wednesday the 24th and the following Monday, September 29th all at 7.30pm.

They will be conducted by the enormously talented actress and director **Helen Ellis**. Helen held a similar Workshop a couple of years ago which was highly successful and we are delighted that she will be bringing her skills, experience and her great sense of humour to Peridot again.

The workshop will cost \$70; bookings are essential and can be made by contacting Alison Knight on a8knight@bigpond.net.au.

For further enquiries with regard to the course you can contact Helen on Mob 0429355465 or email her on ellisproductions@me.com

Bob's Up and Running...



Our Director Bob Bramble (that's him on the left) has finalized his cast for our final production for 2014, the very funny *Key for Two* and an excellent cast it is too.

Many of you will fondly recall Bob's last production at Peridot, the terrific comedy *Caravan* back in November 2011. So come along for a laugh and you'll meet:

Harriet... ..Sarah Somers
Gordon... ..Michael Knowles
Alec... ..Glenn Baker
Anne... ..Tina Bono

Richard... ..Chris Shaw
Magda... ..Sue Rosenwax
Mildred... ..Alison Knight.

There's a nice mixture of familiar and new faces for you remember or get to know; we welcome them all to the Unicorn Theatre and hope they enjoy their time with us.

Key for Two opens on Friday November 14 and will bubble along to the 29th.

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Mentioning *Caravan* above reminds your beloved Gems Editor of two rather elderly ladies sitting behind him at a performance.

They were most impressed by the half-caravan on stage, which was of course opened right up so that the audience could see the shenanigans going on inside.

"Wonder how they got it in the theatre," mused one lady. "I think they must have dropped in through the roof."

"Probably," said the other, "but they would have had to cut it in half first!"

Your Guide to the 2014 Monash One Act Play Festival

THE COMPANIES, THEIR PLAYS, THEIR STARTING TIMES

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 19 @ 8.00pm

Pop Culture Theatre	<i>Hopping the Bags</i>	Drama (30 mins)
Peridot Theatre	<i>No Strings</i>	Comedy (40 mins)
Peridot Theatre	<i>Peter Stone</i>	Drama (35 mins)
Dramatic Pause	<i>It's on Me</i>	Comedy (20 mins)

Total 125mins + 30 mins set changes + 20 mins review. Approx finish time 11.00pm

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 20 @ 2.00pm

Adelphi Players	<i>Doggies</i>	Comedy (22 mins)
Page to Stage	<i>Henna Night</i>	Drama (40 mins)
Tribes	<i>Still Life</i>	Drama (40 mins)
Sherbrooke Theatre	<i>Day Must Break</i>	Drama (14 mins)
Adelphi Players	<i>A Visit from Miss Prothero</i>	Poignant (25 mins)

Total 140 mins + 40 mins set changes + 20 mins review. Approx finish time 5.30pm

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 20 @ 7.30pm

Here There and Everywhere Theatre	<i>Couples</i>	Com/Drama (40 mins)
Adelphi Players	<i>The Les Darcy Story</i>	Com/Drama (34 mins)
Essendon Theatre	<i>A Formal Tradition</i>	Comedy (35 mins)
Theatrebox	<i>Roughing It</i>	Drama (20 mins)

Total 130 mins + 30 mins set changes + 20 mins review. Approx finish time 10.30pm

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 21 @ 12.30pm

Mount Youth Players	<i>The Actors Nightmare</i>	Comedy (30 mins)
Peridot Theatre	<i>In by the Half</i>	Com/Drama (45 mins)
Mount Players	<i>The Gift of the Magi</i>	Com/Drama (40 mins)
Pop Culture	<i>Kill a Better Mousetrap</i>	Comedy (40 mins)

Total 155 mins + 30 mins set changes + 20 review. Approx finish time 4.00pm

The Awards Presentation by the Festival Adjudicator Malcolm Sussman will be held at around 4.45pm

Just to make sure everyone doesn't go hungry and get thirsty, between Saturday afternoon and evening sessions there will be a barbeque on the go from around 5.30pm at a cost of \$5. We will also have a licensed café operating throughout the weekend where food and drinks will be available.

****WhatsOn*WhatsOn*WhatsOn* elsewhere.***

In addition to our terrific One Act Play Festival, there were quite a lot of productions on around our Eastern Suburbs area during August (including one at our place) so consequently there aren't many opening during September. However, you might be interested in these:

The **Mordialloc Theatre Company**, which is staging the drama *That Good Night* (interesting title!) by N.J Crisp from September 5-20. Bookings can be made on 9587 5141 or on line at www.mordialloctheatre.com.

Many of you will recall the terrific multi-Oscar winning 1984 film *Amadeus* and if you fancy seeing the original play version (written by Peter Shaffer) trot along to the **Heidelberg Theatre** sometime in the September 11-27 period. It's a fine play, so book on 9457 4117 or on line at www.htc.org.au

The **Hartwell Players** are presenting the comedy *How Does Your Garden Grow* by Geoff Bamber from September 19-27 in the Ashwood College Performing Arts Centre, Vannan Drive, Ashwood. Bookings on 9513 9581.

HOUSE GUEST WRAP-UP

Very Entertaining...if just a bit Ridiculous!

Ewen Crockett reviews *House Guest* for the VDL's *Theatrecraft's* magazine

I have to admit that the first few minutes of this play put me into a "ho-hum" state of mind and wishing that I was home with my book which had reached an interesting point... Then I realised that something clever was happening up there on the stage.

Director Cameron South has taken a play written in 1982, reminiscent of a 1940s murder mystery (*The Ghost Train*, *Turn of the Screw*, etc) and set it in 1996. WHY? I shout, metaphorically and quietly of course.... Answer: because this play could not have worked any other way. It was a send-up of the genre done in a different style and I congratulate the director for having the courage to go with his conviction. It did not totally work, but that is the director's choice and can always be questioned or misinterpreted. I think that it would be nothing less than a disaster if taken seriously, as was probably the author's intention.

The play deals with a convoluted plot including the kidnapping of the Drury's son and visitations by a host of spurious individuals, most of who manage to wind up dead.

Complete with a 1996 set (which was very well put together and obviously lovingly dressed), anachronistic dialogue, ill-fitting costumes and over-acting, we were treated to the very best of the very worst am-dram. An inspired and very courageous concept.

Glenn Hunt, as Robert Drury and Philip Henderson, was remarkable as he "square-shouldered and with feet planted firmly" bombasted his way through the difficulties with which his characters were confronted. Never quite believable, as was intended, but with a great deal of conviction and energy.

Philippa Bain, as Stella Drury, remained almost calm throughout the ordeal, seemingly less concerned by the fact that her son had been kidnapped than that strangers had occupied her house. Whatever may be, their purpose appeared to be incidental and dead bodies were just an inconvenience, so long as somebody cleaned up the mess and "Oh, can I please have my son back soon?"

Michael Redmond, as Inspector Burford, dead-panned his way through some of the most impossible lines ever written and managed to make them entertaining and almost plausible. Not an easy task, so well done.

The other members of the cast, Janna Wright as Jane Mercer, Jean Millward as Vivien Norwood, Marcus Ingleby as Major Crozier, Brendan Allan as Sergeant Clayton and Leanne Savage as Dorothy Medway, all maintained the melodramatic style of the production and all deserve plaudits for bringing what is a very poorly scripted play to life.

Lighting and sound were basic plots but were effective in adding to the melodramatic foolery.

Thanks to Peridot, the cast and the crew for this rather ridiculous, but quite entertaining, piece of theatre.



Glenn Hunt and Philippa Bain as the distraught parents Robert and Stella Drury in "House Guest".



Glenn Hunt with an unwanted House Guest, Major Crozier (Marcus Ingleby)



Glenn again, this time as his double, Philip Henderson, threatening another dastardly character, Inspector Burford.

We were delighted to host two Groups for our Charity Preview Night and that they nearly filled the whole theatre. We received these nice letters soon after:

Hello Lisa and Robyn,

Thank you so much for allowing us the opportunity to share the Preview Night with Wavecare. It was appreciated.

Our members enjoyed the evening and are already considering attending the next production. Events such as these allow us to fundraise for our community projects. Should there be availability for another preview night I am confident our members would be eager to attend.

Once again, thank you,

Melissa

Rotary Club of Box Hill

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Dear Lisa and the Board of Management of Peridot Theatre,

The CEO and Board of Wavecare would like to thank you very much for your very generous donation of tickets to Wavecare to assist us with our fundraising. We had a very successful evening.

Everyone who attended the play last Thursday evening thoroughly enjoyed the story and the way in which it was executed. Please pass on our congratulations to the Director and the actors.

Thank you also, for your assistance with regard to the logistics of the evening and to the Peridot Theatre staff who assisted us with the supper.

Kind regards, Penny Alberts

Wavecare Inc. Board of Management



And now, something new at Peridot

Always looking for something a bit different, Peridot Committee Members Robyn Kelly and Helen McIntosh are considering holding a Shopping Afternoon at the theatre on **Sunday October 12** between 2 and 5pm, with friends like Kita Ku and other party plan sellers coming along. The idea is to give some party plan people and others an opportunity to promote their wares and to book parties, and to have a social event for our patrons, supporters and theatre friends.

We're still working on the details but at the moment we are thinking of an entry fee of \$10, which will include afternoon tea, and sellers of around \$20.

Places will be limited, so if you are interested in participating as a seller, please contact Helen McIntosh on 0403 797 709 or email her on hemd01@optusnet.com.au

We'll have more information in the next *Gems*.

Peridot's Play Reading Group

An Evening with Brian Hatfield: "The Power of Yes"



Our August 27 Play Reading took a different form from usual with a guest presenter, Brian Hatfield.

Brian is widely experienced in many areas of the performing arts and is currently working as an acting coach and teacher in Vienna. While planning a trip to visit his parents in Pinewood, Brian found Peridot Theatre on the internet (the wonders of technology!), noticed that we have a Play Reading Group and promptly offered to run an evening for us.

The play he chose was David dare's "The Power of Yes", which concerns the 2008 Global financial crisis. Not the most promising topic for a play you might think, but under Brian's expert guidance we all became rapidly absorbed in the unfolding drama. The play takes the form of "The Author" investigating the causes and consequences of the crisis by interviewing a range of observers and participants. The sheer arrogance of those responsible was simply breathtaking, and Dare aptly compares the event to a tragedy in five acts.

The many people who attended the reading would like to thank Brian for such a stimulating evening. Naturally, we didn't let him out of the theatre before extracting a promise to host another evening on his next visit.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SPONSOR?



As you can see on page two, the Monash One Act Play Festival is almost upon us. There are thirteen Awards to be won and we are most fortunate that ten have been sponsored, by two benefactors (Tobin Brothers of East Burwood, who are generously sponsoring two Awards and the City of Monash) and seven generous people: Richard Keown,

Chris Bartle, Gail Brackley, Grace and Lisa McNiven, Connie Bran and your "Gems" Editor.

There are three Awards as yet unsponsored: Excellence in Acting-Female Lead (\$120), Excellence in Acting-Male Supporting and the Encouragement Award (both \$100), and if anyone is kind enough to sponsor any of these, please contact our Festival Organiser Robyn Kelly (9898 6316). She would be delighted to hear from you.

Supporting those who support us...



Consider hosting a Kita Ku Party? Enjoy getting together with your friends or social group for two hours of fun whilst having the opportunity of privately viewing their fabulous range. Catering for groups of up to 15 with a minimum of 8 guests parties are held at the Kita Ku Factory Outlet in Box Hill South, benefits include a terrific group discount, door prizes and the serving of morning or afternoon tea. As you are aware Kita Ku has been a valued sponsor to Peridot over the past two years and our Artistic Director, Robyn Kelly is the manager of the shop. Group bookings can be made by ringing her on 9899 9666, however if Robyn is not available, ask for Sandra or Nicki.

...the last word

Who is or was the Worst Singer of all time? No, it isn't Bob Dylan. Well, maybe.... But perhaps one Florence Foster Jenkins might fill the bill.

The glory of the human voice has never had fuller expression than in the career of Florence. La Jenkins was not apologetically low key in her badness; she was defiantly and gloriously dreadful. No one, before or since, has succeeded in liberating themselves from the shackles of musical notation. Opera was her medium and she squawked heroically through the best known arias with a refreshing abandon.

From her birth in Pennsylvania in 1864 to her debut 40 years later, it is fair to say that neither her parents nor her husband gave the slightest encouragement to her musical ambitions. Then her father died and left his fortune and, with this newfound wealth, she launched her assault upon the musical world by funding everything associated with staging a opera – with of course her in the lead role.

Her flair for dress design fully equaled her singing gift and, in any concert, thrilled audiences were treated to a minimum of three costume changes. One minute she would appear sporting an immense pair of wings to render 'Ave Maria'. The next she would emerge in the garb of a senorita, with a rose between her teeth and a basket full of flowers to unload her Spanish showstopper, 'Cavelitos'. In this song she would punctuate every verse by hurling rosebuds into the audience. Once she also hurled the basket as well.

The audience could always tell when she was going to grant an encore. She would dispatch her overworked accompanist Cosme McMoon out into the auditorium to collect up the flowers so that she might repeat her triumph.

On 26 October 1944, she hired and filled to capacity the Carnegie Hall in New York for her farewell appearance. She started disappointingly with three correct notes, but her admirers need not have feared. Before long she abandoned pitch, stave and key and was as out of tune as it is possible to be without coming back in tune again.

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