

THE Artful DODGER

AUGUST:2012

1.n. roystering young pickpocket from Charles Dickens' *Oliver Twist*. 2.n. printed handbill full of tidings from the W.M.I.&A.A. with a closing date for contributions of 25th of each month to Alan Cornell on 98444995 or alan@commercialventure.com.au



Phil and Ken the Dili Men

Ken Virtue and Phil Dyer recently spent a fortnight in East Timor with a group of Eltham Rotary volunteers, working on a Catholic orphanage in Dili. Phil led the builders on construction work a little outside of town, while Ken led the painting group at the main orphanage. Another former performer on the Warrandyte stage, Rowan Ellery, joined them. They found it eye-opening, hard work, but a thoroughly rewarding experience

Lunch thanks to Danks

A group of Theatre group members recently gathered at The Stonehouse a couple of Fridays ago for lunch with Rae Danks, producer of so many past productions, who we don't see as often as we'd like because she's not as mobile as she used to be. It was a very pleasant afternoon and great to see a couple of other old stagers (if you know what I mean) Yvonne Morey and Liz Long. Thanks Keryn Wood for organising it all.

Dates to Remember:

3, 4, 10, 11 August - One Act Plays
Bookings 0488 333 575 or Trybooking.com/bjtm
26 August - Painters Bargain Sale

Group reports.

Pottery



I hope you had great holidays. May I remind you that 3rd term fees are due on August 28th/29th. Providing we are able to fit it in, we plan to have an extra-curricular day of felting - please let me know how many people are interested. Thanks to Denys and Sheryle for acting as door persons in my absence.

Marj Beecham 9844 3206

Painting



Our next Bargain Sale will be held on Sunday the 26th August 2012 in the Hall 10am to 4pm. Members to have their works in the Hall for hanging between 9am and 10am. Paintings framed, unframed - oils, acrylics, pastels, drawings and watercolours. All subjects contemporary and realist.

Pauline Cross 9439 1775

Theatre



OAPs

I just came back from the tech rehearsal and everything is ready to go for this Friday's opening night. We hope to see you all there. The Trybooking website has proven to be a big success and we would like to acknowledge the residents of Templestowe. Thank you Templestowe for embracing our theatre company! (The largest percentage of tickets sold.) So Chookas to actors, directors and crew!

Warrandyte Youth Theatre

The Warrandyte Youth Theatre (WYT) is a part of the Warrandyte Arts Association and enables young people with a range of acting and performing experiences to become part of productions and shows within the Warrandyte community. Having a young cast and being part of the Arts Association will bring new and fresh faces and talent into the Warrandyte Theatre community. We are currently rehearsing for our one act play season which is opening in early October and would love the support of the community to make our first show a great one. We are always looking for new members and always excited to welcome newcomers even if it is their first time in stage.

Larry Phelan, WYT Representative

WYT One Act Plays

Rehearsals are in full swing for their very own One Act Season on October 5th and 6th. The three offerings are: "Cloudhopping" written by Jonathan Whiteside, directed by Adrian Rice, "Rememberance" written by Mark Rees, directed by Nieta Manser and "Captive Audience", written by David Ives and directed by David Tynan.

So mark the dates in your calendar and come along to support our Warrandyte youth.

Bombshells

Auditions for "Bombshells" is on Thursday August 23rd, 8-10pm, Sunday August 26th, 4- 6pm and Tuesday August 28th, 8-10 pm. It is a wonderful exploration of the many roles in a woman's life and was written for Caroline O'Connor by Joanna Murray-Smith. There are 6 roles to audition for so please email me on lisau@iprimus.com.au for more information.

Lisa Upson 9844 1436

Craft



Rosemary Climas
9844 2154



Warrandyte Mechanics Institute & Arts Association Inc 0009153X

www.warrandytehallarts.asn.au



Head to head with the Directors.



The curtain goes up next Friday on the Theatre Company's production of four one-act plays. I spoke to the two directors, one old (with apologies to Adrian Rice) and one new in Simone Kiefer.

Adrian, the OAPs' have become something of a staple for WTC over recent years. What is their appeal?

The OAPs give fledgling directors, and fledgling actors, an opportunity to get involved in something other than a Follies sketch, for instance, without the level of commitment required by a longer production. The original motivation for doing them was just that - to give people a gentle transition to a different experience.

How do you select them?

There seems to be a plentiful supply of one act plays, though finding them is never that easy. Over the last couple of years we've come to find some trusted sources, and we've created a play reading group which gives us the opportunity to put forward a lot of plays for reading and selection.

Previous year's have relied heavily on comedies, the wonderful David Ives in particular. But you yourself have often opted for more unusual pieces.

I guess I look for something that personally grabs my interest. Something that is challenging for me and the actors - and audiences. Taking on a difficult piece and making it accessible to audiences is part of the fun of directing. It would be easy to rely on comedies all the time but for me theatre is part entertainment and part challenge.

Tell us about the two plays you're directing.

Father's Day has its comedic moments but is essentially dramatic. It was written by a Welshman in Anglesey - the original Anglesey - we've actually had contact with the author, and the company he wrote it for, and they're very happy that we're doing it. We've modified the script a tiny bit to keep it relevant for Australia - with their blessing.

Android Upgrade was written originally for a ten minute play competition in Sydney and then was chosen by Eltham Little Theatre to be part of their competition in May. And

the original cast has agreed to do it again for our benefit. It's probably the shortest play we've ever done.

How short?

Ten minutes.

Of course. Sorry. Maybe you know it so well it might be getting quicker.

We may go for a personal best - we don't want to keep Warrandyte patrons from increasing the bar profits.

So we'll see some new faces?

That's significant I think this time around. It's actually been difficult getting these plays up, because we probably started auditioning too soon after the Follies and initially could not get sufficient actors involved. So we waited a little bit then we started looking a little further afield. In fact we've got eight new faces out of a total of eleven actors, which is really terrific.

It is terrific. Will we manage to hold on to any of them?

I've got great hopes that we'll hold on to at least two or three of them and I think the key to that is having the next few productions planned. We've lost people in the past because we tend to plan on the hoof a little bit, which might suit us but it doesn't suit young people who actually have a real interest in doing several things a year.

I'm certainly looking forward to them. Thank you and good luck.

Simone, we've seen you on stage many times, but what prompted you to take on directing?

I thought it would be easier.

And?

It wasn't. It was quite daunting. I wake up in the night thinking 'I hope it's going to be alright!'

At least I didn't have to learn any lines, which was good. And I kind of like the power of it.

So what was so challenging about it?

Well it's often hard to put into words what you want. And I've had to learn a bit about diplomacy, which I think I've been able to improve, so that's made me a better person.

But it's very satisfying watching it evolve and improve, week by week, largely because of the cast's hard work, but I think I've helped a little bit and that's nice. It's been hard but it's been fun.

Well tell me about your two plays.

A Talk in the Park is a terrific drama from a stable of plays Alan Ayckbourn has developed, which I thought would be very easy, because it's basically five monologues. But the tricky bit has been keeping everyone in character when they're not speaking themselves.

And *Ferris Wheel* is an interesting one, too. It's a comedy, but has quite a deal of depth and meaning to it, especially for such a short play. It's romantic, and quite sweet, but it's a lot about fear and angst.

Will you be touring the plays this year?

No. We're a bit late for most of the Festivals - or in one case too early - so the timing hasn't worked out this year.

Well good luck for next Friday.

Thanks. I'm very proud of all of the cast. They've done a good job and I'm sure people are going to enjoy it.