JULY:2009

THE Artful DODGER

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

One Act Plays serve up a three course treat

If variety is the spice of life, One Act Plays are the coriander in WTC's theatrical menu. And this year's offerings over two weekends in June provided another smorgasbord of forms and performers.

St. Francis of Assisi was served up for entree as a pair of vultures made him even holier in David Ives' "St. Francis Talks to the Birds". In fact there is a risk of this becoming the David Ives' Festival, given our heavy reliance on this most entertaining of playwrights over recent years. *(cont'd page 2)*

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE, AS JOAN GOES OUT WITH A BANG!

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DATES TO REMEMBER

'Love Song' Auditions
2 Aug 2:30pm & 4 Aug 8 pm @ Hall

New Term Potters
Tues 14 July & Wed 15 July

New Term Painters
Wed 15 July

One Act Plays serve up a three course treat *(cont'd)*

Newcomer Aldo King really got his claws into the part of buzzard dressed up as vulture with well-maintained attitude and strong physicality. Simone Kiefer was the best looking bird in the show as she continues to explore her inner animal. David Howell was the praying prey as St. Frank spilled his guts but not his dignity in a performance that was pretty much without sin. And Director David Tynan brought it all safely home on a wing and a prayer.

Now we were ready to get our teeth into something more substantial. Director Adrian Rice obliged by once again eschewing the easy laughs in favour of food for thought about chance relationships whose superficiality hints at underlying loneliness and vulnerability. In "Borneo", the older psychotherapist eventually spills the beans to a young hairdresser just back from Bali. Naretha Williams played the restless Sal with all the apparent innocence and allure of Schapelle Corby. As Angelica the shrinking shrink, Toni McSweeney was given perhaps the most challenging role of the night, a big ask of a first time performer, and is to be congratulated on such a promising debut.

Sadly no photos were taken of 'Borneo' so apologies to Toni and Naretha! We'll get you while you're on tour!

Then it was time for a bit of pure lemon meringue! "The Mystery at Twicknam Vicarage" was full-on farce presented with absolute authority by an experienced ensemble who never missed a beat between them. John Milburn-Clark handled the role of Inspector Dexter as expertly as he handled the case inexpertly. Ken Virtue revelled in the plummy role of the vacuous Vicar. Naomi Oosting was assured as the prissily pretty wife with a gun in her garter. Noelene Cooper was a scream as well as a Mona in another red-hot performance and Bill Connolly was up and down as the randy corpse maintaining a stiff upper lip (and other parts) as he revealed his love for all his fellow performers (and much of the set besides) in a typically Thumpington-Fffiene performance. That everyone went over the top to just the same heights is a credit to Director Phyl Swindley.

All in all a most satisfying repast.

The company now hits the road for the Maroondah, Macedon and Foster OAP Festivals and we wish everyone great success!

Group reports.

Firstly may we congratulate Beryl our trusty treasurer upon reaching her big milestone. Lots of love. I do hope the next eighty will be as good as the last eighty.

Many thanks to Ceri for her very generous donation towards the rewiring of the kiln, a very expensive operation.

Next term dates are:- Tues 14th and Wed 15th July to 15th September. May I remind you that fees are due on these dates.

Marjorie Beecham 9844 3206

Painters are having a winter break, shall return on the 15th July, painting location to be advised

Pauline Cross 9439 1775

One Act Play success!

The 'home' leg of the OAP season has now concluded, and the troops can take a well earned rest before the away gigs at Maroondah, Macedon and Foster. All 3 plays have gone over well, strikingly different as they are! The average crowd size is up on 2008, and it can't just be explained by our fabulous winter soup offer. Wish us luck at the festivals!

Vale Joan

On behalf of the WTC and the WMIAA, I would like to extend my heartfelt and public thanks to the work of Joan Rogers, who has been our booking officer for the past 8 years. In this time she, as required, charmed and/or chastised many of our theatre patrons. It was a pretty daunting and tedious task, but one she took on cheerily and voluntarily. We shall also miss seeing her smiley face peering through the door of the bookshop, often shrouded by columns of old books. We wish her luck in the next stage of her life's journey. Come back and see us Joan! (Note: I have placed a letter in the Diary thanking her as well).

Love Song

We have had a successful reading of 'Love Song', and external director Helen Ellis is primed and ready to go. Auditions are 2nd August 2:30 pm and 4th August 8 pm. We are looking for someone to produce this, as well as helpers for the back stage roles - please let me know if you can help.

2009 Panto - Princess Gorgeous of Neverland

Keryn is busily working on revamping the script (I think they call it a 'light edit'), and planning is afoot for the Director, Musical Director and Author to meet in the next 2-3 weeks (tentatively Friday 17/7)

Follies 2010 Planning

Now that OAP fever has subsided, we will be turning our attention to preparations for the 2010 Follies. As yet we have not confirmed its director, so that would be great to confirm soon (he said hopefully).

Web Calendar

Not sure that it looks pretty - but I think its useful. I have placed the Google Calendar of events on the home page, so that upcoming events are clearly posted (see screen). Also, WTC Google group mailing list subscribers will get a day's reminder of each event. I'll test this for a few weeks to see how this works.

David Tynan 9844 5727

Rosemary Climas 9844 2154

Joan goes out with a bang!

For ten and a half years, Joan Rogers has recycled literature great and small from the Old Bakery Cottage Bookshop opposite the Hall. But sadly Joan has sold the business and is about to leave us for a new life in Clunes. Leaving, however, was more of a wrench than Joan anticipated. On her last day at the shop, a truck making a delivery to the bakery caught the edge of the awning and brought the lot down. Very symbolic.

The Arts Association's connection to the Bakery goes back a long way. In the late 1950s, the Bakery ceased making bread for a time and the Arts Association took over the building. The potters potted there, the music group played there and the drama group rehearsed and used rooms that once stored bags of flour to store their props and costumes. Whether that all included the current bookshop, which was the baker's residence, I don't know. Nor do I know how long our tenancy lasted, so if anyone is able to fill us in we'd be pleased to hear.

Joan started selling books at the Camberwell market, but as her stocks grew and grew so did her ambitions, and operating in High Street, Armadale for a time, she finally secured the heritage-listed shop she wanted in Warrandyte in 1999. At last count it housed some 14,000 titles.

During her time in Warrandyte, Joan has been a grand servant of the WMI&AA, acting as our book shop booking agent for all our productions, gathering money and womanning the ticket counter as audiences arrive at the Hall each night. We can't thank you enough, Joan, for your invaluable service over all those years.

After a stay with her daughter and a little holiday in Tasmania, Joan will move to a thoroughly charming cottage in Clunes. It has an acre of land, a nice garden and a massive shed to accommodate the truckload of books she's taking with her so she can continue to trade online. She also plans more travelling around Australia, as well as painting, gardening, cooking - and of course reading. As well as more time with her six children and as many grandchildren. It all sounds very pleasant and we wish her every success and happiness.

And what of the Old Bakery Cottage Bookshop?

In a freakish encounter in London, Ken and Libby were introduced to Steve and Jo Brazil, and in the course of conversation discovered they were the new owners of Joan's bookshop in Warrandyte. Asserting his full presidential authority, Ken appraised them of the extra duties they would be expected to perform for the Theatre Company, and extracted an assurance that they would continue to operate as our local Ticketek.

The show must go on!

Before

After