NOVEMBER:2012

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 98444111 or alan@commercialventure.com.au

IS RICE CRACKERS?

Adrian Rice has too much time on his hands. Or ADHD, or something.

He kicked off 2012 as Stage Manager of the Follies. Then directed not one but two of the One Act Plays. Next he directed one of the plays in the Youth Theatre's recent program, overlapping that responsibility with directorship of the eagerly anticipated *Bombshells*, shortly to explode at a Mechanics Hall near you.

This of course was all too dull for Adrian, so he popped over to Myanmar (which is Burmese for Burma) for three weeks to give them some direction on the road to democracy. And is now hosting an Afghan refugee at David Rd for some six weeks. Here's a photo to remind Hazel of what her husband looks like.

YOUNG STAGERS

Youth is popularly said to be wasted on the young. But not on the Warrandyte Youth Theatre, an earnest group of juvenile thespians who have organized themselves into a brand new company and plunged into a program that would have had even the most experienced actors stretched to their limits. For their first outing, they gave us three One Act Plays that they chose themselves, eschewing easy laughs and frivolous themes for more challenging, gritty fare.

The first offering, *Cloudhopping*, involved a fair bit of heavy lifting. That they tackled it was impressive; that they pretty much pulled it off even more so. This was a confusing play about a confused Elenor who loses her mind after losing her teenage sweetheart. It veers alarmingly through time and place, with memories as unreliable as they are unsettling. The role of Elenor was by far the most demanding of the night and Annie-Emma Italiano's interpretation was a major achievement. Nick Stuyfergen as her lost love Tom and Lawrence Phelan as her husband and friend gave fine support. Not mad about the play but mightily impressed by the confidence and capabilities of the players.

The second piece, *Remembrance*, dealt with the disturbing subject of under age recruiting in the First World War. It worked a treat, crisply directed and well staged as the large and lively cast flaunted the bravado of youth and the power of peer-group pressure. We followed the young man torn between the love of sweetheart and country, the parliamentary posturing that hasn't dated in almost a hundred years,

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Dates to Remember:

16, 17, 23, 24, 29, 30 November, 1 December (incl 2pm matinee)

Bombshells @ the Hall

Group reports.

Painting

Congratulations to Pat & John Anderson for their Community Organisation Green Sustainability Award for their Open Garden from the Nillumbik Shire Council - most worthy recipients.

We are missing our most loyal painting member, Gill Beddington. Gill had a fall and after a stay in hospital is now at Peter James Centre rehabilitating. We all wish you a speedy recovery, Gill.

Pauline Cross 9439 1775

Pottery

As our trusty kiln is becoming more fragile by the week, Ceri Masulanis has very generously offered a beautiful hand crafted queen sized bed spread to be raffled. It has a traditional design of tulips, poppies and daisies stitched in glowing clear colours on a background of fine cream cotton. Ceri estimates that she has spent upwards of four hundred hours embroidering it in mainly satin stitch. We are hoping to hold the raffle early in the new year.

Marj Beecham 9844 3206

Theatre

WYT

What a great success! Sold out on opening night and two big audiences on the Saturday. The Youth Theatre's very first production went off without a hitch, behind the stage, as well as in front of it. All three plays were excellent and everyone involved should feel very proud. Special thanks goes to Nietta, Louise, David and Adrian for their unwavering support. And the best news of all was that everyone made it to 'bump out' the next day - what champions! I can't wait to see what WYT will get up to next year. Congratulations Lawrence. Your vision became a reality.

Bombshells

The posters are up around town and everything is in full swing. All the lines are learnt and the choreography is set for a fabulous show. Don't miss out on this funny and cleverly written play. All six characters own the stage and will have you laughing and shedding a tear as they let you in on their innermost feelings and insecurities.

Booking is easy through Trybooking. Check out their website www.trybooking.com/BVUR or call Marion on 0488 333 575. Performances are Nov 16th, 17th, 23rd, 24th, 29th, 30th at 8pm and December 1st at 2pm and 8pm.

Christmas Party

Come and join us in a celebration of a wonderful year of community theatre on Saturday, December 8th at the Hall starting at 7:30pm. BYO drinks and a plate to share. If we're lucky, June may come as a Christmas tree and Bill may make a surprise visit as Santa. Hope to see you there.

Lisa Upson 9844 1436

Craft

Rosemary Climas 9844 2154

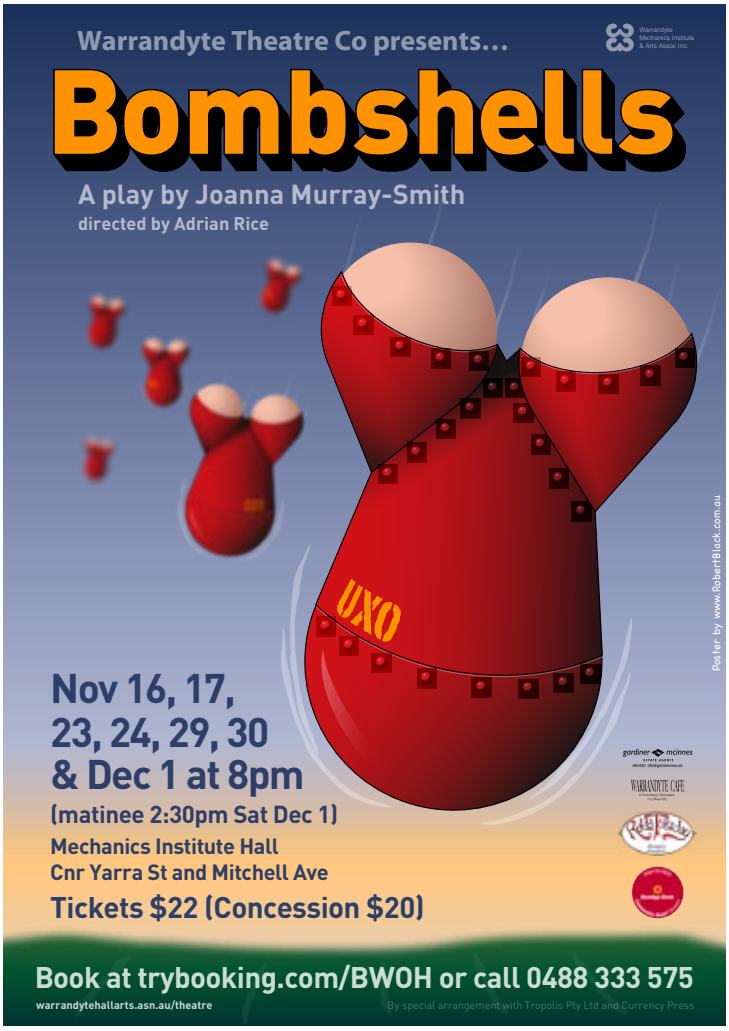
Three One Act Plays

and the inevitable tragic outcomes in a conflict ill-described as the Great War. Special mention to the impressive Georgina Topp as the voice of reason and her impressionable friend Tegan Wright, and to the warring MPs Lawrence Phelan and Jarryd Black (who surely has a future with the Chasers). And to the skillful direction of Nieta Manser.

By this time we were hanging out for a good laugh and *Captive Audience,* by the absurdly dependable David Ives, got the reception it deserved. Television has consumed us we were told just in case we didn't know already. The medium became the master as we watched a couple overdose on their addiction until being literally sucked into the ether to star in their own nightmare for the days of their lives. It was all great fun, with Georgina and Jarryd, in particular, giving us a masterful vision of plasmatic seduction, exercising complete remote control as they turned the couch potatoes into silicone chips. (Or have I gone too far?) A great epilogue to a fine night's viewing.

Many people contributed to the establishment of WYT and their premiere performance. None more so than Lawrence Phelan who had the dream, and the energy to make it happen. His Mum, Louise, did what Mum's do, which is pretty much everything. Directors Adrian Rice, Nieta Manser and David Tynan took their raw talent to the next stage. And the Theatre Company applied a professional polish to the whole production. Keeping the torch burning is the next substantial challenge for the group; we hope they manage, because the future looks bright in its glow.

photos courtesy of Douglas McManus



Try booking now

Selling democracy to Adrian in Myanmar

Chinese Museum, Level 1 Gallery, 22 Cohen Place, Melbourne
www.chinesemuseum.com.au
Dates: 10 November - 25 November
Exhibition Opening: Saturday 10 November, 3-6pm
Artist talks: Saturday 17 November 2-4pm
Hours: 10am - 5pm

The artists Zheng Xuewu, Sun Baijun, Freda St John Watkin and curator Denise Keele-bedford have come together as two Northern based Chinese male artists and two Melbourne based female artists who recently exhibited in Guangzhou, southern China - thus physically and metaphorically Meeting Halfway between their homes.

Supported by the Australian Consulate-General in Guangzhou and in conjunction with the 40th Anniversary of Australia-China Diplomatic Relationship,s Meeting Halfway in Melbourne will be officially opened by Damian Smith, Curator, Arts Writer and Director of Words for Art on Saturday 10th November 3pm at The Chinese Museum.

Denise Keele-bedford is feature Artist at Stonehouse Gallery and Ruby Tuesday.

The young are restless