July 2019

The Artful DODGER

1.*n.* roystering young pickpocket from Charles Dicken's *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 David Tynan on 98445727 or davidtyn@gmail.com

Who are all these people in our hall?

Armed with tools, positive attitudes and skills, a hardy team of volunteer fixers set up our first Repair Cafe in the hall on July 7. And the people came - some things were fixed, others given sage advice, but it was a joyful experience. Many laughs, many stories - one passerby asked if we could fix her brain. The pictures later in this Dodger tell more of the story. Thanks to all - onwards and upwards in the fight against waste! Next one is on Aug 4 - feel free to drop in and join us for a coffee and a sticky beak.

Newest life member enjoys life – no surprises there!

At the recent AGM, the lovely Denise became our most recent WMIAA Life Member. To celebrate this (Ok - it was also her birthday), she decided to holiday in Croatia with friends. Those of you on the social medias may have seen more photos, but this one reminds us all that it is not cold everywhere - look at her happy smile!

Hello Lady!

Season 2 is over, and now we welcome Ibsen's play "The Lady from the Sea". Staged in the round, and directed by Grant Purdy, this play is our 2019 entry for the Victorian Drama League Awards. Don't forget to book your tickets!

Group reports

Pottery News

The upcoming WMIAA artists' exhibition has inspired the potters to create a beautiful collection of bird themed pottery. The kiln has been running extra hot with weekly firings of bird baths, bird feeders and birds! There's always time for wombats too.

The raku glazing workshop in July has spurred the creation of plenty of pots made using raku clay. A number of potters from the Tuesday and Wednesday groups are currently making and bisque firing their pots in preparation for an off site session of specialised raku glazing and firing.

Happy birthday wishes to Rene who has recently celebrated her 101st birthday. Rene is a regular Wednesday potter who creates beautiful pottery in her distinctive style.

The potters' fabulous garden of birds shall be on display alongside amazing artworks by the painting group at the WMIAA hall on the weekend of the 28th and 29th of September. Come along and have a look.

Brenda

Group reports

Visual Arts News

Happy July. The life drawing group has again booked a model for 3 consecutive weeks, begining 19th July. She will maintain one pose for the duration, unless as a group we decide differently. We continue on Fridays testing our skills and loving it. Still life continues Friday afternoons, here are some studies.
Just a note to those interested in exhibition & art sale in September 28 & 29th, prepare. Thanks to all for your continued involvement.

Marion Cooper

Group reports

Theatre News

All My Sons

Season 2 – All My Sons came to an end in June. A very successful run with excellent audiences. Thank you to everyone involved in the show. A huge set building effort and subsequent well turned out bump out. Thanks to those involved led by Bill Mitchell and including: Pete Rundle, Sim and David, Grant plus director and cast members. Special mention to cast members for getting involved in the less glamorous tasks, a reminder that Warrandyte Theatre is an "actors" theatre that relies heavily on everyone getting involved and does not have dedicated, pre-determined teams for the variety of tasks that enable us to function. In similar vein, thanks to Hazel and her teams of Front of House volunteers, some of whom we see on stage too, who roll out for every show.

We now look forward to season 3 – rushing towards us on a North Sea tide (and since we are awaiting the heating to be re-fixed following faulty installation and parts) the temperature in the hall is appropriately Norwegian … but soon to be remedied.

"The Lady from the Sea" by Henrik Ibsen directed by Grant Purdy.

Set in a town on a fjord in Norway. Powerful, restless and emotional. This is a classic from one of the great playwrights.

And in this show we welcome the following new actors to our stage:

Alan Ashby, Francesca Carl, Reg Ellery, Rowan Francis and Steve Saul; and and a welcome back to Andrew Scarborough and Donna Cleverly. Rounding off the cast is Renata Levin-Buckland in a role that is very different to her last as Benjamin the donkey in Animal Farm.

This show will be something different and being staged in the round on the floor of the hall promises an up close and intimate nigh of classic theatre.

Auditions upcoming – a reminder

We are auditioning for our season 4 plays on July 24th at 8 pm and July 28th at 6 pm. We can arrange other times by appointment up to August 5th if you can't make those dates. But it is essential you contact David or Adrian if you cannot make 24th or 28th. The plays are …

"Contractions" a very funny and satirical look at employee relations by Mike Bartlett.
2 female actors: 35-55 and 25-35

"Elegy for a Lady" by Arthur Miller. Another classic Miller. An adulterer seeks a gift for his mistress and the man discusses his dilemma with the shop owner .

1 female actor 25-35 1 male actor 45-65

Scripts available in advance – contact Adrian for more detail aderice@tpg.com.au 0439 311 428

And, getting ahead …

Season 1 2020 will be "Calendar Girls" a comedy by Nigel Cole. Auditions (multiple roles for women.)
October 20th at 7pm and October 23rd at 8pm. Contact Susan Rundle for further information.

And even further ahead …

Follies will be back at the very special new time of November/December 2020. This is the first call for all Follies stalwarts to clear their calendars for the end of next year. We want to make this a very big show. Working title is "Follies 2020 - The Visionary Follies" obviously. However, we also have "Follies 2020 – the "Is it better now? Follies" as an optional title I'm sure you'll get that cryptic reference to opticians. I need guidance on placement of the "?", but there are more important things in life … such as cricket.

Adrian

All My Sons – VDL Review

ALL MY SONS

by Arthur Miller
Warrandyte Theatre Company
Directed by Alastair Rice
Reviewed by Bruce Cochrane – June 15, 2019

In his own words, Arthur Miller found himself attempting to explain to the New York theatre world what his play meant when it hit the stage seventy years ago: "Whenever the distant hand of the past reaches out of its grave, it is always somehow absurd as well as amazing … but that emergence, of course, is the whole point of *All My Sons*." For Alastair Rice, the impact of seeing the play in his youth left a lasting impression of the characters' struggle to reconcile their beliefs and values with what was developing around them.

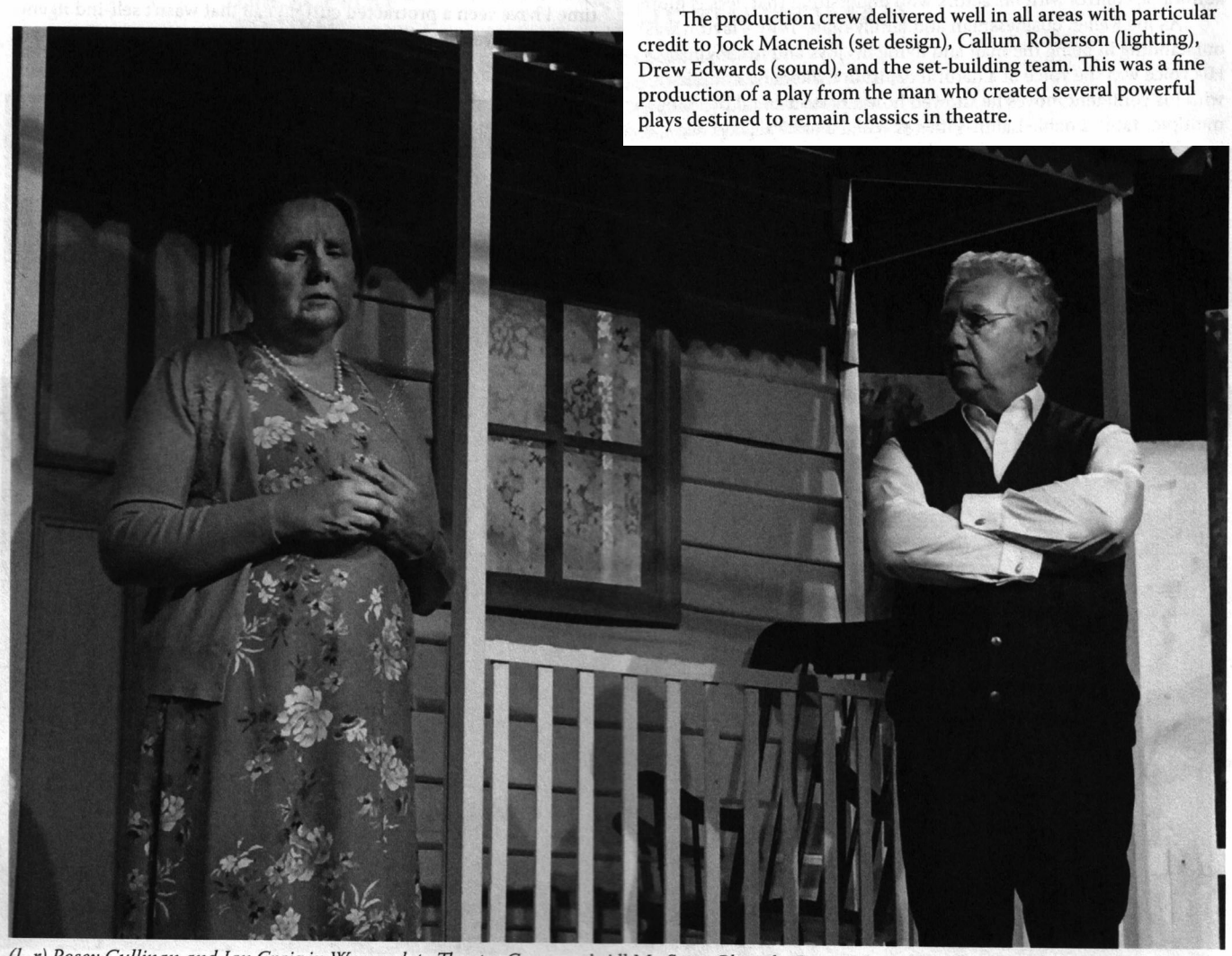
Beginning with images of fighter planes engaged in combat, which were projected onto the exterior of a modest two-storey home, and accompanied by music from the period, we are introduced progressively to Joe Keller, his family and neighbours. The conversation between Joe, his son Chris and Jim, his neighbour, is light-hearted until the arrival of the wives. It then becomes clear that there are some unresolved issues in Joe's family and beyond. As the interaction between family members becomes more intense and reveals raw emotions, we are drawn into witnessing a family tragedy told with the gravitas that Miller would continue to use in ensuing works.

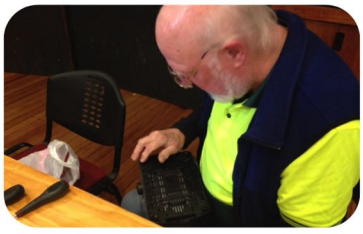
The crucial factor in bringing his stories to life is that they not be overplayed by veering into melodrama, and therefore losing the reality of the story and its characters. Alastair Rice achieved admirable control with his actors who understood that 'less is more.'

As Joe Keller, businessman and family man, Tony Clayton was outstanding in being the man and living his joys and his anguish. His voice was the voice of a natural decision maker and combined with his confident moves he showed how a person could be living in multiple states. Lochie Laffin-Vines also had a natural presence but in a different way, playing Chris, the younger son of Joe and his erratic mother, Kate Keller (Rosey Cullinan). At first it seemed that Lochie was too young for what he had to navigate but he proved capable of the changes of mood and emotion required to stand up to his parents while loving his dead brother's girlfriend Ann, played impressively by Erin Brass. In a role that could easily have been predictable, Erin brought spontaneity in her responses to the world of the Keller family and her uncertain future with son, Chris.

The support roles were all generally consistent but none more so than 9-year-old Charlie French-Craig as Bert the 'neighbourhood kid.' Onstage for the first time, and sharing it with his dad Ian, who played next door neighbour Jim Bayliss, Charlie showed the composure and projection to be a successful performer in the future. Don Nicholson made a late entrance as George Deever, a troubled man and brother of Ann. In presenting the conflicted state of mind, which would now be diagnosed as PSTD, Don walked a difficult line but was believable and ultimately likeable. Mandy Murray brought fire and purpose to the part of next-door neighbour Sue Bayliss, leaving no doubt of her intent to influence events around her. Flora Terrens as Lydia Lubey was a pleasure to watch in her intermittent happy entrances and Sam Hargreaves as her nerdish husband Frank was appropriately always preoccupied when visiting the neighbours. So, a diverse bunch of ordinary people doing their best to manage their lives as we do but with the added fallout of World War II.

The production crew delivered well in all areas with particular credit to Jock Macneish (set design), Callum Roberson (lighting), Drew Edwards (sound), and the set-building team. This was a fine production of a play from the man who created several powerful plays destined to remain classics in theatre.



(l–r) Rosey Cullinan and Ian Craig in Warrandyte Theatre Company's All My Sons. *Photo by Drew Edwards.*

Warrandyte Repair Cafe Premiere!