

## The Peach Season commences

The Peach Season, our current production directed by Rob Jorritsma, has opened to standing ovations at the Town Hall. All the cast and crew are doing an absolutely incredible job. I can't say it better than Lisa Dennis, local journalist who published this review in the Castlemaine Mail today. Do yourself a favour and come along this weekend. As Lisa says **'This show is not to be missed!'**

"Castlemaine Theatre Company's (CTC) latest offering *The Peach Season* written by Debra Oswald and directed by Rob Jorritsma opened last weekend at the Castlemaine Town Hall and has audiences raving. A highly talented cast, poignant subject matter and minimalist but innovative set combine to deliver one of the most moving shows to hit the stage in Castlemaine in recent times. *The Peach Season* tells the tale of Aussie mum Celia played by talented young actress Clare Shamier who moves to a peach farm in the country to raise her daughter



*Star-crossed lovers Kieran (Sebastian Marshall) and Zoe (Israel Little)*



*April Bevin as Sheena and Seamus Patrick Magee as Joe*

Zoe (Israel Little) after her

husband is killed in a service station robbery.

Determined to keep her daughter safe, Celia sends Zoe to an all girls school and during holidays keeps her hidden away from the outside world at the idyllic peach farm. However, fate eventually steps in with the arrival of the haughty and brash Sheena played to perfection by April Bevin and misfit Kieran (Sebastian Marshall) who are desperate for picking work to get their car back on the road.

All Celia's instincts tell her to send the pair packing but she too is desperate to find workers to pick her fruit before it literally rots on the trees. Attractions are ignited and Celia's perfect world begins to unravel with potentially fatal consequences. Bronwyn Lamb as Celia's neighbour, employee and confidant Dorothy and Seamus Curtain-Magee as Dorothy's son Joe round out the rich cast. Lamb is absolutely superb in the role

of Dorothy - narrating much of the tale she takes the audience by the hand and leads it on the journey from start to finish.

Lighting, sound and simple props are used in a clever way to add another dimension to the mesmerizing production whilst ensuring they do not distract from the raw, emotive subject matter. This is a show not to be missed.

*The Peach Season* will be performed at Castlemaine Town Hall this weekend May 6, 7 and 8 and next weekend May 13, 14 and May 15 (Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm, Sundays at 2pm). Tickets are available from Maine Shoes and Accessories, 174 Barker Street, Castlemaine (5472 1136) or at <https://www.trybooking.com/KZYA>

Thanks so much Lisa!



*Techies Neil Harrison and Lindsay Matheson congratulate each other on a job well done!*

## An update on The Phee Broadway situation

You may be wondering what is happening with The Phee Broadway Theatre and the issue of access for local community theatre organisations like The CTC, 3's A Crowd, and The Castlemaine Youth Theatre. Last year the Council introduced prohibitive new fees for the venue, expecting community not-for-profits to pay \$50 an hour for a duty technician to be present at the venue at all times. For a standard show this adds thousands of dollars to our budget. Mayor Christine Henderson has been very concerned about our plight, as have a number of other councillors, and earlier this year, 3's A Crowd Artistic Director, Matt Sheehan presented a petition to the councillors signed by several community theatre organisations including us. The petition was a well-researched document outlining the issues and providing a number of short and long-term solutions. On 14 April there was a meeting between the Mount Alexander Shire staff, and local theatre groups to nut out the issue. Council staff were open to our suggestions, and negotiations are currently in progress to move steadily towards a workable solution. At the meeting the Shire representatives (Vicky Mason, Tegan Lang, Angelica Clunes and David Leatham) stated that the Shire was committed to the idea that The Phee Broadway Theatre should be accessible to local community theatre organisations. Stay tuned for more updates on this issue.



# The Container Project

Well our Container Sort and Sell Project Sub-committee, made up of Louise Angwin, Gus Saunders and Laura Hall-Levetan have achieved great things with our crazy chaotic containers. We had heaps of assistance from volunteers and members past and present – here's Gus's take on the whole thing:



"The CTC'S two shipping containers – housing about 25 years' worth of costumes, clothes, props and technical equipment – had become nearly useless with congestion and it was decided that it was time to SORT THEM OUT!!! 4 days and 25 people later we had hundreds and hundreds of costumes and 'regular' clothing ready for sale (and some very sore shoulders from reaching to put up hundreds and hundreds of coat hangers). Among all the MANY hard working volunteers was Helen Gramberg (our costumier for many,

many years), who lent a hand on day 4 and was able to identify costumes from the shows that she dressed. Phee Broadway was there the first day and was also a big help and also gave us lots of history as she is a previous actor and active member on and off stage with the company.

The Grand Sale was held at the Senior Citizens' Hall in Castlemaine, and over 40 people joined the morning queue winding down the street and easily over 100 came throughout the doors that day. The left over items at the end of the day went to the Salvos, Vinnies and a women's shelter. The absolute joy on the faces of those coming in and seeing a hall stuffed to the brim with all the bright costumes, shoes, hats, clothes, fabric and props FOR ONLY \$1 EACH (Except for a few exceptional things on the \$5 rack) was delightful to behold. The dress-ups boxes of some children and the wardrobes of some adults (and a few adult dress-ups boxes apparently) have been successfully topped up for 2016 and beyond.



The shipping containers are now functional and accessible and NEATLY full of things we can actually find and use. We are looking forward to the final steps of creating a photo catalogue and installing shelves to more safely house all the boxes of props. There is even the possibility that we might make our stock available to hire out in the future

A HUGE AND GRATEFUL  
THANK YOU TO EVERYONE  
WHO WAS ABLE TO JOIN IN  
The team support was breath-  
taking and very effective”

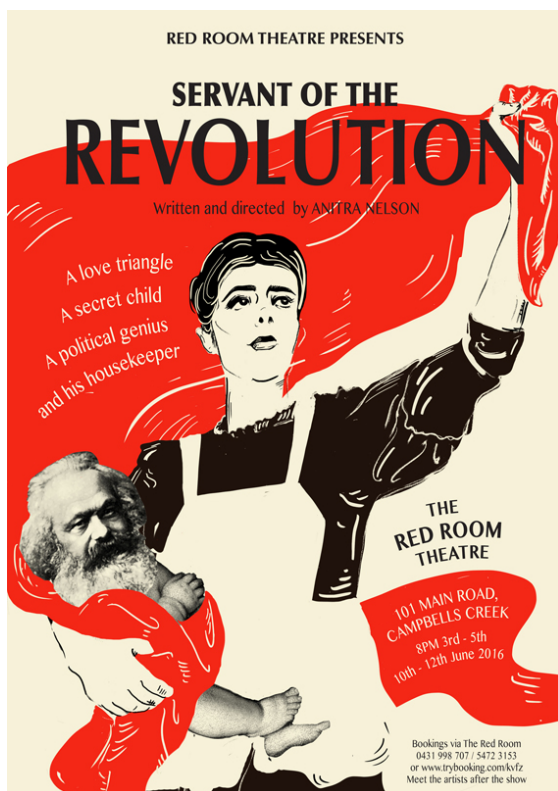
Thanks Gus! And a huge thank  
you to Louise, Gus and Laura  
for all their hard work  
organising this monster project  
from the rest of the CTC  
Committee.



L-R Ken MacLeod, Rob Jorritsma, Bron Lamb, Ron Moore –  
Thanks everyone!

## Up next on your theatre calendar, the latest from The Red Room Theatre: *Servant of the Revolution*

Locally produced theatre is coming thick and fast this year, and the next show for your calendar is *Servant of the Revolution* by Anitra Nelson. It's a Red Room Theatre production from the team that brought you *Purgatorio* (State Festival 2015) and *Emilie's Voltaire* (Castlemaine Fringe 2011). Anitra is a local writer and academic, a new CTC member and an expert on Karl Marx. The play is 'creative non-fiction' based on the true story of Marx's scandalous relationship with this housekeeper, Helene Demuth. Featuring Kenneth MacLeod, Kate Stones, Nioka Mellick-Cooper and Anitra Nelson. The production will run over the first 2 weekends of June, and be performed at The Red Room, 101 Main Road Campbells Creek. To buy a ticket go to [www.trybooking.com](http://www.trybooking.com) and search for 'servant'. Lookout for upcoming information on facebook and local media.



That's all for now...keep sending us material about local  
theatre...enjoy the falling leaves and the steaming  
pies...like us on facebook, check out the website, support  
local theatre...see you there!