

All Change! It's Arsenic and Old Lace ...and the CTC's FIRST EVER TOUR

Well, it's the prerogative of a theatre company to change its mind, especially when the ladies are in charge, but more of that later. Suffice to say we are not remounting *The Ghost Train* after all – even better we have just started rehearsing a brand new radio play to bring you more of the wit, charm and nostalgia that you loved so much with *The Ghost Train* Last year. This year, the CTC's Armchair Theatre series presents 'Arsenic and Old Lace'. *Arsenic and Old Lace* was originally a stage play written by Joseph Kesserling and first performed in 1941. It was made into a movie in 1944, starring Cary Grant in the lead role of Mortimer Brewster. Set in Brooklyn, it's a creepy comedy following the story of two sweet old sisters who have taken it upon themselves to put lonely old gentlemen out of their misery, by dispatching them with spiked elderberry wine. Their



three nephews all display varying degrees of nuttiness, from the eccentric, to the deluded to the psychopathic – recipe for mayhem indeed. John Rowland returns as director, and we have a wonderful cast including some familiar and new faces. We welcome back Seamus Patrick-Magee and Bronwyn Lamb who both appeared in last year's *The Peach Season*; Michael Treloar and Daniel Keohan return from *The Ghost Train*; the lovely Val Case is a CTC newcomer, along with Hamish Whitcroft McGlade; we also say hello to Briega Young, of 3's *A Crowd* fame, who last performed for the CTC in *Burqua*, back in 2014. The infamous tapster and actor David Watson joins us again – David last appeared as the lead in *Cosi* in 2015 for the CTC. Gus Saunders returns to perform live sound effects (she's a demon with a cabbage and a cricket bat!). Peter Byrne will be warming up the audience for a July run at the Faulder Watson Hall. But never fear, the Pioneers and Old Residents are installing a brand new heating system, and we will be serving



Aunt Martha's secret recipe Gluhwein (mulled wine)....mmmm it has quite a kick! *Arsenic and Old Lace* will be performed over 2 weekends in Castlemaine at The Faulder Watson Hall (7/8/9 July and 14/15/16 July) and then the final weekend we are going on tour! That's right, it's the CTC's very first touring production – how utterly historic! We are going all the way to The Newham Mechanic's Institute for a Saturday evening and Sunday matinee show, thanks to Stephen Mitchell, CTC actor/director, who is President of the Newham MI committee.

Gallipoli: The Musical

Guess what! We're not doing Dancing at Lughnasa this year either, hopefully next year. So, hot on the heels of Arsenic and Old Lace, I'll be directing *Gallipoli: The Musical* by local theatre maker, actor and writer, Mark Penzac. So hot on the heels in fact, that we'll be auditioning in June. Yes, so soon.

Sunday 18th June. *Gallipoli: The Musical* is not a musical, although there will be music no doubt. It's a hilarious comedy essentially about the commercialization of the ANZAC legend. It follows the story of Stumpy, Bluey and Sunny, 3 hapless shearers who have written a play about the ANZAC

legend of Gallipoli. In a search to secure Australia Council funding, the shearers get embroiled in a political maelstrom surrounding the last surviving ANZAC to serve at Gallipoli, who is in a coma in a hospital that is threatened with funding cuts. The script weaves together warmth, humour and political satire in an affectionate, respectful if slightly left of centre framing of the ANZAC legend, specifically Gallipoli, one of the worlds few celebrated spectacular failures. There are great comic roles for men, but also three very strong female characters. Mark Penzac has a gothic, twisted sense of humour, and is known for his work with children's theatre productions. He has authored and performed in numerous productions for The Castlemaine State Festival. He and his partner Eliza-Jane Gilchrist work together as the theatre company Such As They Are. Their productions include Nightmare, Transplant and Spookmaster.



Author Mark Penzac (image from 'Transplant')

Would you like to propose a play? Try your hand at directing?

Wonder why we are not producing more of the sort of plays that you want to see? Ladies, notice the predominance of male directors, and want to make a difference? Make your voice heard? Your presence known? Find details on how to propose a play at the CTC website here: <http://www.castlemainetheatrecompany.com/get-involved/proposing-a-play/>

Monkey movie available on DVD

We are now able to sell copies of *It's not the destination but the journey: the making of Monkey and the Monk*. You can order your copy for \$15 including postage and packing. We won't do an order until we have 25 people who want one. So here's what to do:

1. send an email to the castlemainetheatreco@gmail.com stating how many copies you would like to order, plus your name, phone number and postal address.
2. When we have 25 orders we will ask you to pay upfront for your dvds, and after we have received payment from everyone we will order and mail out the dvds.

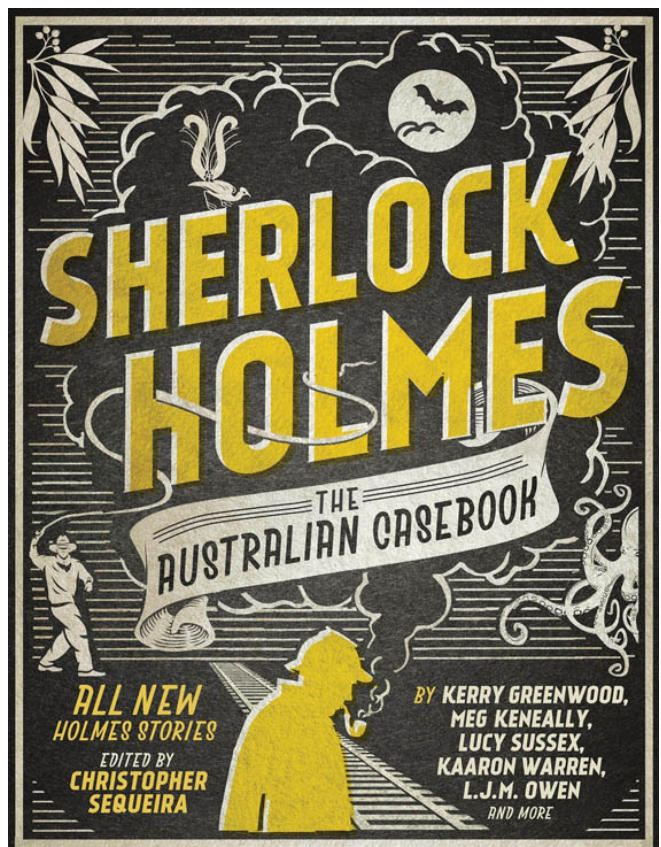
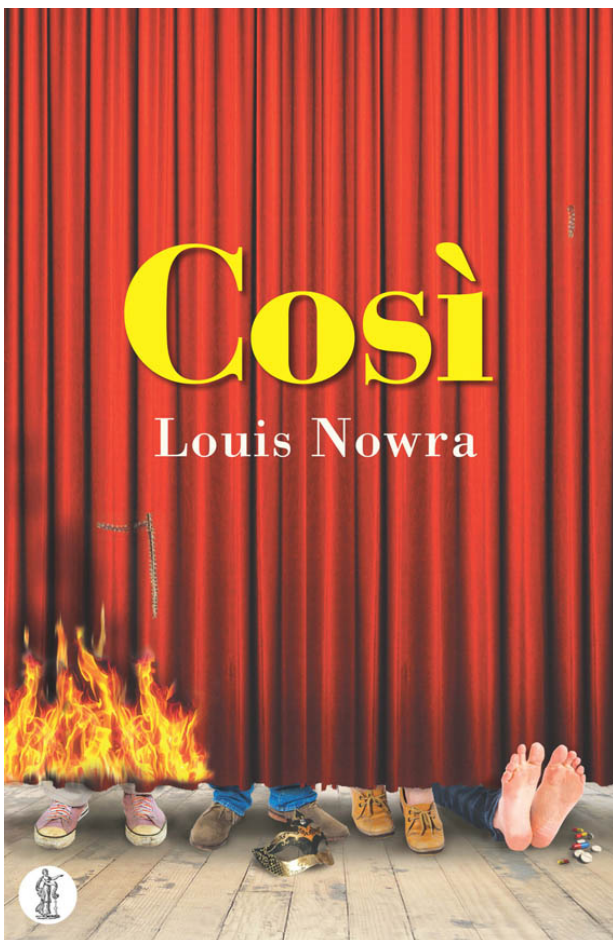
Meet Josh Durham!

Josh is a professional graphic designer specialising in book design. Back in 2012 Josh contacted the CTC to offer his services. We were so excited that Josh wanted to work with us, and his first poster was a real show-stopper! He created a memorable image of a boxer taking a punch for our season of short plays *New Blood*. The image caused a stir around town, and ever since, Josh's poster designs have been an integral element of our marketing, and have really helped to raise the profile of the company. Recently Josh let us know that he had used two of his CTC poster designs in professional jobs.



*"Just wanted you to know that a publisher asked me to re-jacket *Così* and they loved the version I did for CTC- it's a book now! Also I thought you might like to see how I reworked the *Ghost Train* poster into a *Sherlock Holmes* hard back cover for another commission! See pro bono work does have more than a feel good dividend!"*

Thanks Josh! The CTC wouldn't be the same without you.



Josh's book designs based on his CTC poster designs for *Così* in 2015 (left), and *The Ghost Train* in 2016 (above)

TIME TO ACT – don't let the Council write The Arts off the agenda and out of the budget!

Early this week I sent round an email to alert the CTC mailing list members to the fact that the new Draft Council Plan 2017-21 contains no significant mention of the arts. This is a worrying and unacceptable precedent to set. If The Arts are not part of the agenda for the next 4 years we can expect to see no action on the situation with the Phee Broadway, which has significantly deteriorated since the last Headliner. Earlier this year I reported that community and youth groups could expect to be back at The Phee by early 2018. That now seems highly unlikely, as the proposal that could have solved the problem in a simple way that was acceptable to all parties, arrived at after 2 years of negotiation and consultation, was flatly rejected by the Mount Alexander Shire Executive Team, with no alternative solution offered. Both the Cultural Development Officers subsequently resigned, following the resignation, earlier in the year, of the Director of Sustainable Communities. The Cultural Development Officer's role has been halved, and filled internally without the position being advertised. We currently have no Arts Strategy, and no evidence of any commitment to supporting The Arts broadly over the next four years. This is not good enough!

You have until next **Wednesday 24th May** to speak up about this glaring oversight. Here's the page on the Mount Alexander Shire website where you can read the Draft Council Plan 2017-21 and submit your response.

https://www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/Consultation_Have_Your_Say

Time poor? Of course you are!
Thankfully a concerned citizen has put together a handy template that you can adjust by adding a paragraph about your personal concerns. You'll find the template on the next page, which you should be able to copy and paste into your own document, but I'll also attach a Word document with the Headliner mail out. I've marked in colour where you need to make your own changes. Please spread the word and the template far and wide to all people across the Shire who benefit and participate in The Arts. I think, whether directly or indirectly, we all do.

Right: The community unleashes its frustration with a poster bomb on the windows of the Phee on the opening weekend of the Castlemaine State Festival



Your handy template to make a submission to Council

Submission to Draft Council Plan 2017- 2021 and Draft Council Budget 2017-2018

From:

To: Councillors and Council Staff

I am writing to express my disappointment and concern about the lack of clarity and inclusion of the creative and arts sectors in the draft Council Plan and Council Budget.

I am an *awesome person – insert your bit here and what you do or what your organisation does and its interest in the arts. Maybe you are a subscriber to the gallery, or regularly go see things etc etc say all of the things.*

In 2017-2018 budget Council is proposing a net cost/expenditure per \$100 rates and charges of \$1.53 on Arts and Culture, in 2016 -2017 the rate per \$100 was \$2.76. This represents a 45% decrease in expenditure in 1 budget cycle.

Say something about what the arts means to you and the importance of it to the community eg Mount Alexander Shire is well known and renowned for its creative arts scene. The number of makers, artisans, artists and creative organisations in the shire have ensured that events, exhibitions, happenings, good design, performances, gigs and markets are all part of the experience of living and visiting the Shire.

“Creative” is not the same as supporting an arts and culture program. This use of this term seems like a catchphrase and not linked to a particular program or services. The draft Council Plan says that Cultural Development ‘*Provides advocacy and support to assist develop arts, cultural and creative activities across the shire.*’ Apart from not making sense the rest of the plan does not demonstrate any of these proposed advocacy or support mechanisms.

Given that the Draft Council Plan is so unclear in its support for the arts and the broader creative sector I have concern about the future funding and support of the following: *Choose your own adventure here are some ideas...*

- Arts based events
- Arts based participation projects funded through community grants and often used to leverage additional state and federal funding
- Key creative organisations that may receive direct funding
- Support programs and partnership initiatives with creative organisations
- Ongoing operational and management issues with the Phee Broadway Theatre
- Public art projects
- Infrastructure programs for cultural facilities

I urge you to reconsider the glaring lack of commitment to the arts and culture or creative sectors within the current draft budget and plan.

Sincerely

All change at the AGM

It was all change at the 2017 AGM back in March. We welcomed new members Laura Marsden, Bert Keyser and Marylou Verberne. CTC veteran and life member Mary Edwards presided over the election of the CTC committee for 2017/18. After 7 years of dedicated service as President, Ken MacLeod resigned, and the position of President was taken up by Kate Stones (me!), who has been Secretary of the CTC since 2011. Vice President Ron Moore also said goodbye to the committee, with Donna Steven accepting the position of new Vice President. Jaynee Parkhill returns as Treasurer, and Louise Angwin and Rob Jorritsma remain and ordinary committee members (although they are far from ordinary of course!).



CTC's new President, Kate Stones

The Committee said a warm and heart felt thank you to Ken and Ron, celebrating their contribution with a lovely lunch at Bold Café where they serve undoubtedly the finest Laksa this side of Keilor, if not indeed the Southern Hemisphere.



Outgoing President, Ken MacLeod

I'd like to say an enormous thank you to Ken for everything he has done for The Castlemaine Theatre Company over recent years. Ken has worked tirelessly as a director, actor, and set designer and builder, whilst also steering the company toward a culture of inclusiveness and collaboration. He set the agenda for the

company to tackle more challenging works such as *1984*, *The Hypochondriac* and *Playhouse Creatures*.



New Vice President, Donna Steven

As the new President of the CTC, it's my intention to continue to foster the culture of inclusiveness and collaboration that Ken established. I had so much fun directing and producing *Monkey and the Monk*, that I would like to continue to explore opportunities for inter-organisation collaboration, so that we can create ambitious projects that celebrate our talented and generous community. It's my intention to see community groups back performing at The Phee Broadway Theatre, and I'll continue to work with Council and the community to make that happen, no matter how long it takes. It's my dream for the CTC to have a home space, from which we can create an exciting and welcoming environment, and expand our program of activities. I'd like to continue producing a variety of shows – fun, family oriented ones, alongside more challenging works that offer opportunities for our actors to develop. I'd love for the CTC to be able to produce 3 shows a year. That means a small-scale winter production in between 2 main-stage shows. In order to do that we will need to expand our production capacity, bringing in new members to help share the production load. The CTC makes theatre of, by and for the people, so if anyone wants to contact the CTC with suggestions, just email them through, we are always open to new ideas! xKate



Outgoing Vice President, Ron Moore

New events listing: promoters take note

So I had about 14 people respond to the question of events listing or ad hoc mail outs, and of those 10 were in favour of a monthly events listing and 4 wanted to remain ad hoc. Even though that's a relatively small number, I think it's probably indicative of general feeling. So, I'm going to try an events list. If you want to promote an event, please get your copy to me by the end of the calendar month, and I will do an events listing at the beginning of each month, assuming there are events to list. This will just be what people send me, I won't be trawling around for events, so it won't be a definitive local list. Send me a few lines of copy, one picture (under 150K) and hyperlinks to more info if you would like. I'll pop it all in a pdf and circulate to the mailing list.

Want to introduce yourself?

If you'd like to introduce yourself to the Headliner readers, or you want to do one of your friends in to do so, email me with a head shot, and I'll send you some questions, or you can just write your story and how you got involved with theatre. Then I will publish it in our Meet a Member page. So far I've featured Nikki Sutterby, Yen Kong and Jaynee Parkhill.

And here's a plug for Castlemaine Circus...

Advanced Gym 13+

Tumbling Acro Circus Arts; Thursdays 7-8.30pm; beginners welcome

For more info call 0435 462 729; classes@castlemainecircus.com.au

This is a great class for teenagers on a Thursday evening.

The class is focused on acrobatics, gymnastics, trapeze, unicycling and juggling for beginners or intermediate. The trainers are:

Ivo - Bulgarian Gymnastic champion and one armed handstand expert and

Eric - Street performer, mountain biker and rock climber.

Send your Headliner contributions to me at castlemainetheatreco@gmail.com. That's all for now...enjoy the last days of Autumn, season of mists and mellow fruitfulness...like us on facebook, check out the CTC website, support local theatre...see you there!