

SPRING 2017

THE OFFICIAL CTC NEWSLETTER  
CASTLEMAINETHEATRECO@GMAIL.COM



Simon Birdsall, Tim Ratcliffe and Michael McMahon

## Gallipoli, The Musical Tickets on Sale Now!

Tickets are now on sale for our next show *Gallipoli, The Musical* by local writer and theatre maker, Mark Penzak. The title of the show has caused some brows to furrow and wonder, 'What the...?' Well, for starters, it's not a musical in the traditional sense of the word, however it does have wonderful incidental music composed by Mark Anstey, (the brains and the brawn behind Lot19). The cast includes Charles Affleck (composer, *Monkey and the Monk*), Simon Birdsall (*The Full Monty*, Mount Players), Hector Mackenzie (CTC newcomer), Lynne Jolly (*My Fair Lady*), Michael McMahon (*The Ghost Train*), Elaine Matheson, Lindsay Matheson (*Cat on a Hot Tim Roof*), Tim Ratcliffe (*Aftershocks*) and Clare Shamier (*Peach Season*). *Gallipoli the Musical* is a riotous comedy, but it has a serious and thoughtful message about the commercialization of the ANZAC legend. It

follows the story of Stumpy, Bluey and Sunny, 3 hapless shearers who have written a play called *Gallipoli, The Massacre*. Having failed to secure Australia Council funding they are seeking corporate sponsorship for their project. They happen upon the wheeling, dealing Carrie Trust, an advertising executive, who brings The Wool Board and The Hope Mining Corporation into the project as partners. The script weaves together warmth, humour and political satire in an affectionate framing of the ANZAC legend, casting a witty yet critical eye over the commercialization and commodification of the Gallipoli narrative.



*Gallipoli the Musical* touchingly and humourously highlights the spirit of mateship and egalitarianism that underpins the truest and most humane aspects of the ANZAC story – young men of many different nationalities, with big dreams, thrown together in tragic circumstances, that left life-long scars on them as individuals, and on our national culture.



*Clare Shamier, as Carrie Trust with the boys from Coonabubbla*



*Lynne Jolly as Nurse Cominos*

"This play is a humdinger. The depth of emotion that some of the cast have to feel and convey is palpable. The giggles are infectious. I've loved discovering the work so far and the history and present day significance of what the ANZAC legend is, and the director, Kate, has helped me form a 3 or 4-dimensional character for my role."

**Michael McMahon, plays 'Sunny'**

"It's been such a great time with this super cast and amazing script - discovering our characters and the complexities of human nature. It's so great to be working with the Castlemaine Theatre Company again!"

**Clare Shamier, plays 'Carrie Trust'**

"This play is not satirizing Gallipoli or mocking the sacrifices made by that generation of Australians. The opposite. I have great respect for them. They not only fought the battles of war but the battle for Federation, the 8 hour day, voting rights to women and I believe, laid the foundations for that nebulous but nevertheless real concept of a 'fair go'. In my imagination then, I don't believe they'd approve of Gallipoli being commercialised or used to promote obligatory patriotism. Remember, they voted twice during the war not to introduce conscription. I wonder too what they'd make of us having fought an additional eight conflicts since The Great War. *Gallipoli the Musical* isn't questioning their sacrifice, it's questioning whether we're living up to it."

**Mark Penzak, Author, *Gallipoli, The Musical***



*Hector Mackenzie as Fred the Reporter*



"It's a great honour for me to direct a play that features the wonderful talents of our community. Mark Penzak's script is a joy to interpret, and Mark Anstey's score brings a whole new delicious dimension to the production. The cast is top notch, featuring some of my favourite 'old hands' of the CTC, and some exciting new talent. *Gallipoli the Musical* really encapsulates the vision of the CTC, supporting local artists and honouring our traditions, whilst pushing new boundaries where we can." **Kate Stones, Director**

NB. The last surviving ANZAC soldier to serve at Gallipoli was Alec Campbell who died in 2002 at the age of 103. The characters in the story of *Gallipoli, The Musical* are entirely fictional, and do not represent any real people living or dead, and do not reflect in any way the life of Alec Campbell. The CTC regards the courage and sacrifice of all service men and women with the utmost respect.



*CHARGE!*

***Gallipoli, The Musical*** will be performed at **Punctum's ICU**, 1 Halford Street, Castlemaine from **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November to Sunday 26 November**, Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm and Sundays at 2pm. The box office and bar will be open 30mins before the show starts.

Tickets are \$25/\$20 and are available from Maine Shoes and Accessories, 174 Barker Street, Castlemaine. Ph: 5472 1136, or online at: <https://www.castlemainetheatrecompany.com/whats-on/ticket-sales/>

All these great photos are by Diana Domonkos©

# What happened to the events listings idea???

So, the thing is, I'm still receiving fliers and material in all sorts of different formats, so what the committee has decided to do is ask people who want to promote their activities to simply join as a CTC member, so that the promotional service of circulating information to the CTC mailing list is open to financial members only. Membership is currently set at the incredibly reasonable rate of \$20, so you can promote your activities for 12 months for that small sum. Excellent value. Jeff Jones recently renewed his membership – thanks Jeff! – and is now able to take advantage of this service – and here's the event he's currently producing...

## Jeff Jones Summer Soiree

You are invited to come and see the terrific work of the first intake of students from the 'Introduction to Method Acting' course in Maldon. The course has proven to be a terrific success at the Maldon Neighbourhood Centre this year.

It is run by Jeff Jones, who is the Artistic Director of Maldon-based theatre company Hobo Playhouse. Five students have been attending the weekly classes on Monday nights in the hall over the past two terms, with most coming from Castlemaine but others from as far afield as Elphinstone and Ballarat.

"They come for a variety of reasons – some are experienced actors who want to further improve their skills, others want to get a foot into the theatre industry and one of the students is simply doing it for fun," Jeff said. "During the terms, the students have been working on monologues and scenes and I am rapt with the progress they have made."

Now the public can see these wonderful monologues and scenes at a special showing called A Summer Soirée at the Maldon Neighbourhood Centre hall on Sunday, November 26 from 2pm-4pm.

Admission is free, afternoon tea will be served (a donation to the Maldon Neighbourhood Centre would be appreciated on the day) and wine will be available. Please RSVP to Amy at the Maldon Neighbourhood Centre on 5475 2093 or

[info@maldonnc.org.au](mailto:info@maldonnc.org.au) so that we have an idea of numbers.

People interested in doing this course next year are encouraged to attend A Summer Soirée and pick up an Expression of Interest form on the day or contact Jeff at [jeffwifi@live.com.au](mailto:jeffwifi@live.com.au) to have one emailed to you.



*Peter Bevin, one of Jeff's students*

## **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/>

## **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, Jaynee Parkhill and Josh Durham.

**Send your Headliner contributions to me at [castlemainetheatreco@gmail.com](mailto:castlemainetheatreco@gmail.com).**

**That's all for now...relish the last balmy days of Spring, eat broad beans...like us on facebook, check out the CTC website, support local theatre ...see you there!**