

## Cosi Rehearsals are Rockin'

Director and CTC Vice President Ron Moore (who directed 'Good Grief' in our New Blood Festival in 2012) is leading a fantastic cast of CTC actors in the rehearsal of our next production 'Cosi' by Louis Nowra. The play is semi-autobiographical, set in the early 70s against the backdrop of the Vietnam War. A young, inexperienced director is hired to put on a play in a psychiatric hospital, to be performed by the patients. It's a great comedy about the thrills and spills of producing theatre against the odds, something we know all about at the CTC! The Cosi cast took it's time to arrive, with a few actors dropping out in the first couple of weeks, but now we have a wonderful cast with a spectacular age range from 18 to...well, I won't be specific, but it has an 8 in it too.



*Michael Gillies Smith has seen the light!*



*Thomas Jones prepares some shock treatment for David Watson and Lloyd Dodsworth – save them Nikk!*

Ron is being assisted by the very capable Rob Jorritsma, who is new to the CTC. Rob has taught at the Castlemaine Steiner School for many years, and produced plays with the students, as well as with the parents, under the guise of the 'Waldorf Players' who performed out at the Guildford Music Hall. We also welcome newcomer Gus Saunders who will be stage managing Cosi. Gus has just moved to Castlemaine and is itching to get involved! For which we are very grateful.

The Cosi cast includes CTC veterans Morgan Kurrajong (Let's Kill Agatha Christie, The Republic of Trees for the CSF 2013), Michael Gillies Smith (Good Grief), David Watson (1984, Lucky Stiff for 3AC), Thomas Jones (our youngest veteran who appeared in The Hypochondriac in 2011) and newcomers Lloyd Dodsworth, Eleanor Barkla, April Garreffa (not strictly speaking a newcomer, but it's been a while!) Mike Smythe, and Nikki Sutterley, who crewed for us on Playhouse Creatures and appeared with the Improvables at Vinyl Vera's last year.



*David shares his vision, but Lloyd is unconvinced*

Here are some reflections from Mike Smythe who plays Henry:

"Rehearsals began on Monday 19 January, and are fast approaching the "scripts down" stage before performances begin in early April. I found it disconcerting in the early weeks to see a significant number of cast changes as people dropped in and out – but we have settled down to the nine stalwarts you will see on stage. A fellow actor confided to me recently

that one of the attractions of being involved in theatre is the galaxy of personalities we always encounter, and (without giving anything away) that is certainly true of this cast and crew.

Director Ron Moore runs a tight ship, while always flexible and open to suggestions and alternatives - in summary, cruel but fair. The warm-up sessions prior to each rehearsal are a novelty for me as a new member of CTC, but certainly do give us a focus on the job at hand and promote collegiality. New also for me has been the task of preparing my character's back-story (and well-guarded secret) – although it is the sort of thing I have done informally for past productions as preparation for a role.

I was most impressed with the standard of 'Playhouse Creatures' in 2014, and am relishing the challenges of my part in what should be a very watchable production of 'Cosi' in 2015."



*It's alright Ellie, we all feel like that about Morgan sometimes!*

Thanks Mike. Cosi will be performed at the Phee Broadway in April.

## Our day at the Containers by Ron

The title reminds me of those post-summer essays we had to write at school about our holidays. Well believe me, this was no holiday! We were faced with the daunting task of sorting out the contents of two burgeoning containers, chock-a-block full of costumes, props and assorted theatrical paraphernalia, collected and stored over the ages. The task was to sort the contents into three separate categories (piles) called "Keep", "Garage Sale" and "Tip". Seemed simple enough, and as the decision making was left to the more pragmatic members of our band, it was. So we managed to do it without any major disagreements, and when we decided to call it a day we had conserved many of the rarer and more valuable items, bagged up several bags of clothes for our up-coming garage sale and had a trailer full of rejects ready to be carted off to the tip. However, despite all of this intensive labour, we had only managed to clear one half of one container; which gives an indication of the magnitude of the job; and the further we burrowed into our container, the further into the history of CTC we delved. It was not unlike





*Ron's in the director's chair again!*

an archaeological dig – photographs and memorabilia were uncovered of people we barely recognised. "Oh, that's not .....", "Look he has hair!" - a mixture of nostalgia and hilarity.

Who knows what we will uncover during our next sortie into the CTC time vault. I can hardly wait!



*Ken found a new hat - nice*



*Too big Donna!*

And look what else we found!

More pics from the past on our facebook page



*Two handsome devils...Murray Goff and...is that our illustrious president? Can't be....can it?*

## CTC Playwright member writes a winning play!

### 'The Last Three Blondes' – 'Best Play' Sydney Crash Test Drama Final!

Phillip McDonald's play *The Last Three Blondes* as reported in the Winter edition of *Headliner* received the Judges Award at Melbourne Crash Test Drama back in May. Well, after a rewrite Phillip took his play to compete in the Sydney CTD Heats in October. An added bonus this time Phillip had Alex Broun (world leading ten minute playwright) as his director, and a talented cast of actors to compete against more seasoned writers in 'ten minute play central' Sydney. Thanks to Alex's stunning dramaturge, superb acting, and savvy cuts to the script we beat the field. The win put TLTB into the CTD Final. Another flight up to Sydney in December another leg in the development process. This time after one rehearsal still scripts in hand Marilyn M. Grace K. and Princess Diana drew these responses from the audience 'breathtaking, timeless, beautiful' to overwhelm Sydney's best. The industry judge awarded TLTB Best Play because it was a true ten minute play not a skit, and showed and didn't tell. The astounded Phillip cannot believe his dumb luck the win secures the play a spot in the Sydney Short & Sweet Short Play Festival in February to receive a full production. Hard work and dumb luck are a curious mix Phillip's seven year Short & Sweet dreams have come true.

Now we compete on the biggest short play stage of all; but armed with a Best Play, a Best Director, a Best Actress and a Best Runner-up Actress to compete against 80 top worldwide short play scripts out of 500 entrants. I hope the judges like blondes.

*Philip McDonald – thanks Phil! A bit more than 'dumb luck' we think, more like the winning combo of hard work, dedication and talent. Well done – The Ed*



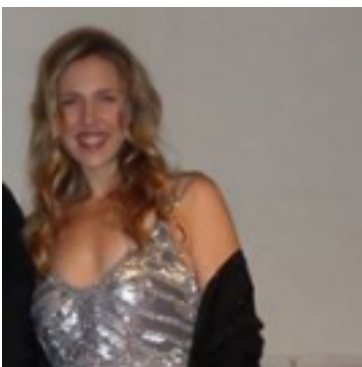
*Phillip*



*Alex*



*Genevieve*



*Michela*



*Rosemary*



*Dudley*



# Who's on at the Castlemaine Festival?

A browse through the Castlemaine Festival Program will demonstrate that it is veritably littered with Castlemaine Theatre Company members and friends – a testament to the kind of talent we foster and attract, and to the community centred focus of the Festival these days. Kirstie Babbage, who developed the Castlemaine Youth Theatre, and has been involved in numerous CTC productions over the years in appearing in *Maya Takes Flight*, alongside Thomas Moore who starred in *Aftershocks* in 2012. Performed on Sat 14 and Sun 15 at 11.30am at the Phee Broadway. Eliza Jane Gilchrist and Mark Penzac are creating an intriguing and gothic puppetry performance, *Nightmare*, performed on Tue 17 March at Castlemaine Library at 5pm. Myself and Ken MacLeod, CTC President and director of Playhouse Creatures, are performing *Purgatorio*, a play by Ariel Dorfman, at The Red Room (AKA our place), at 8pm on 14, 15, 18, 19, 20, 21 March. For details of all these shows, see the Castlemaine Festival website, [www.castlemainefestival.com.au](http://www.castlemainefestival.com.au).

## AGM 2015

The 2015 Castlemaine Theatre Company Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm. Venue to be announced closer to the date. Any paid up member of the CTC is welcome to attend the AGM and vote on any motions that arise including the election of the 2015 Committee. If you are not a member and would like to join in advance of the meeting, please fill in the attached membership form and send along with a cheque to

The Secretary (membership)  
Castlemaine Theatre Company  
PO Box 12  
Castlemaine 3450

Membership is \$20 full price and \$10 concession for one year, from March to March. You are also welcome to join on the night of the AGM, as a new member, or renewing an existing membership. Our Treasurer will be available from **6.30pm** to process new memberships and renewals.

## KEEP SENDING YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO HEADLINER!

Please send me articles for Headliner, if you have been involved in a recent show I'd love to hear your story - or you could review a local production, or let us know about other things going on in the world of local theatre. Photos to accompany your articles are much appreciated. The next Headliner will be going out in February, and I'd like it to reflect the many diverse voices of the Castlemaine Theatre Company. Send your articles to [castlemainetheatreco@gmail.com](mailto:castlemainetheatreco@gmail.com)

**That's all for now...enjoy the last day of Summer...like us on facebook, check out the website, support local theatre...see you there!**