



The Peach Season Commences

Hello again mailing listers, for the last Headliner I made up a new season called Springter, and I almost thought I'd have to invent another one for this newsletter called Sumtum, which sounds lovely doesn't it? But I'm determined to get this out before the end of the month. What season is it? The Peach Season of course! Over to director Rob Jorritsma...

"Having a deep love of the classics, be it Greek tragedy or Shakespeare, I asked myself why I wanted to do Debra Oswald's *Peach Season*. This is what I wrote in my journal: *because it's an Australian play*. The script had been on my shelf for quite some time before I actually read it. I was instantly blown away. This was the play I wanted to do. It's about personal relationships between the six characters: mother-daughter, first love, brother-sister, immigrants, drug use, crime, it's all there; personal stories but recounting big themes.

The cast meets twice a week in the Scouts' Hall in Reckleben Street. And what a cast it is! I'm very fortunate to have four experienced actors. CTC-regular April Bevin has left her Kwan Yin serenity from *Monkey* behind and is now exploring the roughness of Sheena. Clare Shamier is an impressive Celia, mother/farm-owner. Bronwyn Lamb is delightful as Dorothy, a Hungarian immigrant in her 70s. And Seamus brings a very solid Joe to the stage, as Dorothy's solicitor son. So there are some new faces for CTC. But that's not all, there's more! The script asks for a 16-year-old girl called Zoe, Celia's daughter, and an 18-year-old boy, Kieran, half brother to Sheena. I'm delighted to have two 'real' youngsters in these roles. It will be a challenging project for Izrael Little and Sebastian Marshall, but the energy in the group has been exhilarating and supportive. It's also great to have Ron Moore as an assistant in the room.



Ron Moore, Clare Shamier and Bronwyn Lamb warm up with some Colombian Hypnosis



Sebastian Marshall, April Bevin, Seamus P. Magee and Bron Lamb

The rehearsal space is new for the company and I thoroughly enjoy it. It's big, spacious and it perfectly fits my physical approach to the work. It's still early days and we're spending our rehearsals exploring the dynamics between the characters and it looks like everyone is having a great time. Working hard, sweating, but having rewarding experiences. We're also going to find out more about the life on a peach farm. Katie Finlay at Mount

Alexander Fruit Gardens has kindly agreed to have us come to pick

peaches and explore the logistics. The show will be in the Town Hall, but not on the stage. We'll be performing on the hall floor with the audience right up close, which will be exciting for both actors and audience. The show opens April 29 and runs for three weekends. Put the dates in your diary." (Tickets for The Peach Season will go on sale on April 4– *the Ed*)

Some comments from the cast:

"This play goes deep into the dark places of people's hopes, desires and fears...and I have spent many a sleepless night after rehearsal! It's been a really fantastic experience getting back into theatre and being able to share this experience with such a dedicated cast and crew."

Clare Shamier (plays Celia)

"Having spent many years involved with the Mount Players in Macedon, I am thrilled to be cast as

Dorothy in Debra Oswald's play The Peach Season for CTC. Its a



Clare Shamier, Bron Lamb, Izrael Little, April Bevin, Ron Moore

wonderful play and already the rehearsal process is exploring the strong themes of the various relationships, whether its working with the script or playing one of Rob and Ron's many games. I feel privileged to be part of it!"
Bronwyn Lamb (plays Dorothy)

"As someone who was parachuted into the production a week into rehearsals it's been wonderful to get back into the grove of theatre after a 5 year absence. I'm enjoying Rob's approach and having a great time experimenting with this wonderful and haunting text." Seamus Curtain-Magee (plays Joe)



The Hobo Playhouse presents an Aussie comedy with a twist!

Hobo Playhouse will present a wonderful Australian comedy/drama, *Come Back for Light Refreshments After the Service*, in Castlemaine and Maldon in March. Directed by Jeff Jones, this beautifully written play by Julie Day is packed with laughs and also has quite a few dramatic twists. "You will be laughing in the aisles one minute, gasping at the severe honesty of the characters the next and you might even end up wiping a few tears away at the end of the show," Jeff said. Set in a kitchen in Melbourne in the 1980s, the play follows four women as they prepare traditional food - you know, curried egg sandwiches, asparagus rolls, cakes, party pies and pots of tea - for a wake. Beth's father slowly succumbed to Alzheimer's and she nursed him for five years. Now that he has passed away, Beth suddenly announces that she plans to sell the house and go backpacking around Europe. It's a shock to some of the women but welcomed by others and that's what creates the tension in this play. The play is about relationships and the different expectations of three generations of Australian women as they explore the role of carers in our community. The cast includes Sue Bester, Susan Casey, Carol McCoy, Pietra Dekker, Steve Cooper and Catherine Koerner. The play garnered rave reviews and a Fringe Award for Excellence at the Edinburgh Festival. Don't miss the chance to see this wonderful show at the 2016 Castlemaine Fringe Festival and at the 2016 Maldon Easter Fair. Tickets: \$25 adults/\$15 concession.

Come Back for Light Refreshments After the Service will be performed at Trades Hall, 127 Mostyn St., Castlemaine on Saturday, March 12 at 8pm; Sunday, March 13 at 2pm; Saturday, March 19 at 8pm and Sunday, March 20 at 2pm. Bookings: www.trybooking.com/KAZE



Susan Casey, Carol McCoy, Pietra Dekker, Sue Bester and Steve Cooper in 'Come Back for Light Refreshments After the Service'.

AGM 2016

The 2016 Castlemaine Theatre Company Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 10th March at 7pm at The Castlemaine Hospital Auditorium – that's the current hospital in front of the Baco, not the old one in Halford Street. Enter the auditorium via the hospital main entrance at the back of the building, through the glass doors and then the double doors on your left. 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 2016 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 **6.45pm** to process new memberships and renewals.

If you would like to nominate to join the CTC Committee, please let me know via email in advance of the meeting.

And we haven't forgotten about the containers...

This time last year CTC Vice President Ron Moore reported on our first foray into the containers to begin the process of sorting and cataloguing our 'goods and chattels'. It was quite an overwhelming experience, as those who've seen inside the containers will be able to appreciate, and in good CTC tradition, we put the project on the back burner/too hard basket for the rest of 2015. Well, now it's a new year and we have some fired-up new friends in the shape of Gus Saunders, who was props and stage manager for both *Cosi* and *Monkey* and the *Monk*, and Louise Angwin, our wonderful costumier, who is becoming more involved with committee shenanigans these days. Louise and Gus and our treasurer Laura make up our Project Container Clean Up team and are attacking said project with gusto. We'll be doing the big sort in mid-March, and Louise will be sending out the call for helpers shortly, so stay tuned. We are sorting into 3 categories: keep, chuck and sell, then we'll follow up with a massive garage sale. Yay! Should be great fun.

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!