

HEADLINER

SUMMER 2017

THE OFFICIAL CTC NEWSLETTER
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The year that was, and what's on for 2017

Firstly, an apology from me about the lack of Headliners in 2016. I missed Winter and Spring, and couldn't even get Springer sorted! There are two reasons for this. Firstly I had a crazy year finishing my Masters, working a new job, and doing a solo work at the Melbourne Fringe. Secondly I kept waiting for our venue issues to be resolved, so I could report conclusively on them. But that never happened! So anyway, many apologies.

2016 at the CTC saw the first mainstage production directed by Rob Jorritsma, who recently joined our committee. Rob selected a gritty contemporary

work with great parts for young people. The result was a critically acclaimed production with a wonderful ensemble. Then we had the container clean out and following costume sale, which was a great success, and provided lots of opportunities for reminiscing about the good ol' days. Throughout the year we were negotiating with the Shire to try to work out a way that we can use The Phee as a venue, and with Castlemaine Secondary College to create home for us at the Etty Street Campus. These negotiations are on-going. We said goodbye to erstwhile Treasurer Laura Hall-Levetan, and hello to new committee member and Treasurer Jaynee Parkhill, and finally we performed our first radio drama, in the form of *The Ghost Train*, directed by another CTC first time director, bringing with him years of professional radio experience, the very special John Rowland. The limited season was sold out, and audiences loved the show. Here's a commentary by Main FM presenter Glenn Williams: "Just returned from 'The Ghost Train'. Congratulations to all. What a wonderful experience. I now appreciate why the radio shows were so popular, especially when you were in the audience of a live show. I found myself closing my eyes and drifting back to the days of radio. Many thanks to the Castlemaine Theatre Company for transporting me back to 'The Ghost Train'. Thanks Glenn!

If you missed *The Ghost Train*, don't panic, there will be another one arriving at the station shortly, yes, we will be restaging the production in 2017. Stay tuned for details!



Some of the cast of The Ghost Train: L-R Daniel Keohan, Michael Treloar (who will direct the next CTC production), Donna Steven and Vyvian Rodnight.

Meanwhile, we are proud to announce that Michael Treloar, who played Teddy in *The Ghost Train*, will be directing the next CTC production scheduled for the second half of 2017. Michael is well known to Castlemaine audiences having performed at Castlemaine State Festival, and numerous 3's A Crowd productions, most recently to wide acclaim in *The Assassins* by Stephen Sondheim.

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 like? 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/>

First up for 2017 is a special free CTC screening of *It's not the destination, but the journey – The making of Monkey and the Monk....*

The Making of Monkey *Free* Screening at The Theatre Royal



"Look Monkey, they finally finished the movie!"
Yen Kong and Peter Bevin in rehearsal, 2015



'M' is for making magical monkey moves...and movies!
Louise Osland and April Bevin prepare for rehearsal.

It's hard to imagine, but some readers may not know about *Monkey and the Monk*, our 2015 production, based on the traditional Chinese legend of the monk Tripitaka and his cohort of crazy supernatural beings including the irrepressible Monkey King (Sun Wu Kung), Pigsy, and Sandy, and their epic journey to the West to find sacred Buddhist scriptures and bring them home to China. It was our first foray into collaborating with other organisations, and we worked with The Castlemaine Youth Theatre, the Omoikiri Karate School, and Movement Zone dance school to bring this mammoth production into being. The production also featured original music by local artists Charles Affleck and Patrick Killeen. It was back in 2014 when he was directing *Playhouse Creatures* at the Old Castlemaine Gaol, that Ken MacLeod first raised the idea that we should document the process of creating a production. *Monkey and the Monk* was a perfect candidate, and thanks to Mount Alexander Shire, we managed to procure some funding to create a film about the making of *Monkey and the Monk*. Local filmmaker Karen McMullen took on the task of shooting, directing and editing the film. During the process she

became interested in the history of the CTC, and interviewed some current and former members. The resulting film, titled *It's not the destination, but the journey – the making of Monkey and the Monk*, is a fascinating and heart warming journey behind the scenes during the rehearsal period, and a wonderful investigation into the history of The Castlemaine Theatre Company.

There will be a FREE screening of *It's not the destination, but the journey – the making of Monkey and the Monk* at THE THEATRE ROYAL, Castlemaine. All are welcome. We will begin the proceedings with a dance comp (well, maybe more of a romp than a comp) where we'll try to remember our Monkey Moves from the show, then have a celebration raffle, followed by the film, which runs for around half an hour. Put it in your diaries:

Date: Saturday 11 Feb
Time: 4pm – 5pm
Venue: The Theatre Royal,
Hargraves St, Castlemaine



Michael Smith, Morgan Kurrajong, and the kids from The Castlemaine Youth Theatre rehearse their monkey moves. If you want to practice, they are still up on the CTC website!

Venue saga continues

Well, I'm glad to report that it looks like the Castlemaine Theatre Company will eventually be able to stage a production in the Phee Broadway Theatre once more, and this is likely to happen towards the end of 2017. The Shire's Cultural Development Officers have been working to put together a special grant program, for groups wanting to perform at the Phee. This process is not yet complete, so we can't start celebrating quite yet, but the program is likely to be officially announced with the announcement of the results of the Community Grants in the first half of 2017. It is annoying that we will have to make an application to receive Shire funds, that we then need to give straight back to the Shire, and this point has been raised at meetings, however, this seems like the only feasible solution to the problem. The Shire staff are doing their best to help us get back into the venue, because they realise that without the support of the local community, the venue will not survive.

Last year we excitedly announced that we had finally found a home at the Etty Street Campus of Castlemaine Secondary College. Principal Mary McPherson had put together an ambitious and innovative proposal to invite community organisations to have a base at Etty Street, whilst utilising the campus as a centre for students who want a more 'hands on', real-world approach

to their education, providing opportunities for intergenerational mentorship and collaboration. We were thrilled to be part of this plan, as it would allow us to have a studio for rehearsals and small scale performances, storage for our props, costumes and set, an office area, and facilities for building and costume construction. Sadly, although we were given the ok to announce this, it followed that more negotiations became necessary with the Education Department. It's a complex situation, and will take time to work out. It may not happen at all, but if it does, it's likely to be later in the year or next year. So please everyone pray, chant, visualise, cross your fingers and toes, do whatever it is you do to work some magic and make this vision a reality. It will be great for our kids, great for our community organisations and great for our community in general.

We can all help by supporting our local secondary school. There has been some unhelpful commentary about the school last year on social media, so let's counter that and focus on all the great things that the school does. A vibrant community needs young people to be active and integrated, - we need our secondary school, so stay positive to benefit our whole community. Anyone who was present at the recent launch of The Castlemaine State Festival would have seen the vibrancy, talent and intelligence of our local young people, supported by a great educational infrastructure. They did an incredible performance that was created and rehearsed in the space of two weeks! Well done Castlemaine Secondary College students and staff.



The other idea I had was that we start organising big syndicates to win Tattsлото and build our own theatre....



Castlemaine Secondary School students rock the house at the recent Castlemaine State Festival Launch at the Goods Shed. Nioka and Greta, pictured here, were both in Monkey and the Monk too, playing Peach Girls!

Meet a Committee Member

Hello Jaynee Parkhill

This month we meet the CTC's new Treasurer...



How long have you lived in the area?

We moved from Malmsbury in 2014. I love this area, doubt I'd ever move. They'll have to carry me out!

Where are you from?

I grew up in the northern and western suburbs of Melbourne. I moved to Kyneton in 2001 when I met my partner.

How long have you been involved in the Castlemaine Theatre Company?

I was introduced to CTC in 2015. My daughter was cast in 'Monkey and The Monk' as a karate demon. While waiting around during her rehearsals I ended up filling in as a crew and minor cast member when someone pulled out of the production at the eleventh hour.

Tell us about your first experiences with the CTC?

While being the rear-end of a Chinese dragon, I stepped on a sharp pin on stage barefoot and had to keep running. While running, my 'special' green dragon leggings were working their way south, my pinned foot was bleeding all over the place and I had to keep hold of the dragon fabric while also holding on to my wayward leggings. Right about that time, a monkey threw a banana straight at my head, with that the dragon took a big run down the stairs and I was yanked off the top step down three large stairs. How I stayed upright and fully clothed I'll never know!

Why did you decide to nominate for the Committee?

What really drew me to CTC was the friendly and inclusive nature of the company members. Right from the start I felt like I'd been there for years. I have much less experience than the vast majority of the members, but I've always been treated as equal and valuable. I became the Treasurer in 2016

Have you always been interested in theatre, or is it a new passion?

During my teenage years I took drama classes in Melbourne. I remembered just how much I loved it when I joined up with CTC. I really love just how talented all the members of CTC are. We are so lucky to have so many talented people living in our community. No matter who you are, there is a place for everyone in the theatre and everyone matters.

What other passions and/or pass times do you pursue?

Currently I'm studying Early Childhood Education and Care and am beginning a career change from Administrative positions to become a Family Day Care Provider. One of my passions is collecting vintage things. I love antiques and collectibles. Ooh and bargains! I love bargains! I live with my partner Anthony and our two children. We have three crazy Jack Russell's and a three legged house panther. We he's actually our Russian Blue rescue-cat, Chad who we just adore.

What are the special Jaynee things that you bring to the CTC?

I aim to bring a relaxed feel to what can sometimes be quite an intense business. It would also be great to work a production that will enable me a little speaking part with an accent. Doing accents is such fun. I really look forward to seeing the company produce bigger productions, which will appeal to wider audiences. Like the way that 'Monkey and the Monk' and 'The Ghost Train' appealed to the people's sense of nostalgia.

Thanks Jaynee, you'd better start practicing your Irish accent for Dancing at Lughnasa!

AGM 2017

This year we said au revoir to erstwhile Treasurer Laura Hall-Levetan, who put in many years of dedicated service to the CTC, and welcomed Jaynee Parkhill as our new Treasurer, and Louise Angwin as an official committee member. Our committee currently stands at 7, including Ken MacLeod, myself, Ron Moore, Donna Steven and Rob Jorritsma. You can have a look at our lovely faces on the CTC website here: <http://www.castlemainetheatrecompany.com/who-we-are/committee/>

The 2017 Castlemaine Theatre Company Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 9th March at 7pm, venue to be announced closer to the event. 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.



Au revoir from the committee Laura, thanks for everything - your humour, intelligence and dedication. See you at the next audition!

Send your Headliner contributions to me at castlemainetheatreco@gmail.com. That's all for now...enjoy the rest of Summer...like us on facebook, check out the CTC website, support local theatre...see you there!