

CASTLEMAINE VENUES IN CRISIS: IT'S TIME TO SPEAK OUT!!

Currently our two main venues in Castlemaine are closed because they have become unsafe for use. The Phee Broadway has been closed since May of this year, and the Town Hall has been closed since the end of last year. We at the CTC are concerned about comments made by Mayor Michael Redden posted on the ABC website on 1st August 2014. His comments suggest the Phee might not be returned to a state in which theatre shows could function. This has very serious implications for our creative community at large:

"Mayor Michael Redden says a compromise could be to not hold elaborate events [at the Phee]."

"But we would be hopeful that anyone that makes just a minimal use of stage space, needs a microphone and a band or something, that you'd be able to put those kind of shows on," he said. "We think that describes about 90 per cent of the shows that come through. What we would like to do is put such measures in place that enable that 90 per cent of shows to go on." <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-08-01/shire-keen-for-theatre-to-reopen-for-castlemaine/5640250>

We are not sure where the Mayor gets his figure of 90% from, but we certainly understand that the Phee is used by many local companies and organisations for theatre shows including Three's A Crowd, Such As They Are, The Castlemaine Ballet School, The Castlemaine Secondary College, and Over The Moon Dance Studios. Our Arts Officer, Tegan Lang and her predecessor Jon Harris have put in a tireless effort to promoting the Phee Broadway as a regional tour venue for professional



Yup, that's gotta be theatre -
Aston Elliot and Stephen Mitchell
in *The Local Stigmatic*, part of the
CTC's *New Blood* series, Phee
Broadway, 2012



Hmm....looks like theatre to me – 3aC bump out Ave Q at
the Phee earlier this year

independent
companies,
providing our
community

with access to high quality professional theatre productions. The Castlemaine State Festival with its' national and international reputation, relies on these venues to be operational to a professional standard. The Festival continues to support local content, with a number of artists who are involved in the Festival beginning their creative working life in the Castlemaine Theatre Company.

Hundreds of professional and non-professional artists and community members contribute, often mostly on a voluntary basis, to the cultural capital of the Mount Alexander Shire community. The Council continues to base its' reputation as a cultural community, on the back of that significant labour force. The very least that can be done is to provide functional infrastructure to support our creative community.

PLEASE SPEAK OUT! You can make a significant difference by emailing the Mount Alexander Shire Councillors and explaining to them how important functional theatre venues are to our community:

Tony Cordy, Calder Ward, calder@mountalexander.vic.gov.au

Tony Bell, Castlemaine Ward, castlemainebell@mountalexander.vic.gov.au

Chris Cole, Castlemaine Ward, castlemainecole@mountalexander.vic.gov.au

Christine Henderson, Coliban Ward, coliban@mountalexander.vic.gov.au

Jessica Howard, Castlemaine Ward, castlemainehoward@mountalexander.vic.gov.au

Mayor Michael Redden, Loddon River Ward, loddon@mountalexander.vic.gov.au

Sharon Telford, Tarrengower Ward, tarrengower@mountalexander.vic.gov.au

I wrote to the Councillors and was gratified by this prompt response from Tony Cordy:

"The performing arts does have very strong support within council so we will try to get this moving asap.

It is worth noting that this Tuesday evening (12th Aug) is the Council meeting. I would encourage members of your group to come along and have their say during public question time.

Please note this time is not a discussion with Councillors but it does give members of the public the opportunity to state the case for getting the Theatre back in action."

Thanks Tony – contact MAS to find details of the meeting

CABARET TRIVIA FUNDRAISER – WE NEED YOUR HELP!

So what next for the CTC? Well facing a lack of venues, and also a lack of available directors and production managers, we have decided this year

instead of putting on a production, we are going to celebrate summer with a Fundraiser Cabaret and Trivia Night. Do you want to help out? Organising the event? Performing a cabaret number? Helping with lights and costumes? Drumming up some sponsors? Let us know. We haven't set a date yet, but it will be sometime in late November, early December. Should be a lot of fun for everyone....email us at castlemainetheatreco@gmail.com if you want to be involved.



And what's everyone else up to...?

THEATRE SPORTS

A message from the CTCs' Vice President, Mr. Ron Moore:

"In May this year, after interviewing and selecting nine participants, we started a series of improvisation workshops. Led by Ramon Angeloni, an experienced actor and improvisation trainer, the program has focussed on developing the actors' ability to respond to unpredictable scenarios and from them create a piece of theatre that is entertaining. While this is challenging for those of us who are more familiar with working with a script and a known storyline, we found it a liberating experience and a great deal of fun.

The need to respond to the unknown and maintain a semblance of sense requires a good deal of trust and confidence in fellow actors. Rather than leading the story or having a notion of where the story will go, we have been learning to take a lead from each other and allowing the story to find its' own conclusion.

We are starting a new series of workshops on 13th August and are inviting both experienced actors and people new to acting to take part. Workshops cost \$5/session and will be on Wednesday evenings 7:00pm – 9:00pm. You can register at Castlemaine Community House – 5472 4842 or by visiting their website www.cch.org.au

Thanks Ron!



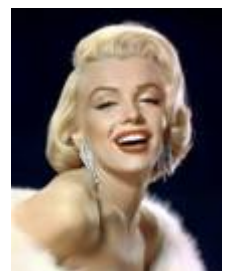
From left: Susie Burke, Facilitator Ramon Angeloni, Pennie Hume, Nikki Sutterly and Michael McMahon

CONGRATULATIONS PHIL McDONALD!

Here's some news from our very own Phillip McDonald who directed two works for the CTC's New Blood festival in 2012:

"My 10 minute play "The Last Three Blondes" was selected for a moved reading Saturday 28th June at Crash Test Drama Melbourne! Crash Test Drama Melbourne is a semi professional event for developing new works for screen and stage. Directors, actors and writers meet once a month at St Kilda's MeMo Theatre to hone their skills by crash testing fledging scripts, with only an hour to

rehearse before performing in front of industry judges for appraisal. "The Last Three Blondes" came second overall. The winning play was "Shisenhausen" a funny one pun gag on excrement. "The Last Three Blondes" is a light dramedy about the adored but loveless lives of Marilyn Monroe, Grace Kelly and Princess Diana. The opportunity to work and learn from an experienced director on how to stage a piece of writing was invaluable! Seeing these six unfinished works attempt to



stand on their feet without all the necessary story structure elements in place, spelt clearly to me what my play lacks and needs, and cannot be without! Character's in conflict driving an absorbing narrative to a fulfilling resolution makes for great theatre! I have some of these elements in place and now endeavour to write my valuable lessons in to the final draft. I have entered the play into the Short & Sweet 10 Minute Play Festival and will submit it to other various competitions around the globe so now it is a wait and see if it deemed good enough to be selected for production. My mentor, playwright Alex Broun wrote this about "The Last Three Blondes" "Congratulations Phillip! It certainly is a highly theatrical, absorbing and insightful portrait of three extraordinary women." The Castlemaine Theatre Company have produced two of Alex's short plays as part of our New Blood directors showcase; "The Letter H Girl" and "Drew Barrymore and Sigmund Freud Meet The Cookie Monster".

Thanks Phil, well done!

THRILL THE WORLD!

I can't keep quiet about this fab thing I'm doing! **Thrill the World**, a global simultaneous performance of the dance from Michael Jackson's Thriller will be happening in Castlemaine on **Sunday October 26th at 9am** (yes, that's...9am). This event will be a fundraiser for



Castlemaine Fire Brigade and Fryerstown Fire Brigade. Miss Kate Kaleb (Castlemaine Ballet Academy) is running classes in how to do the Thriller zombie dance. We are learning this in our Adult Jazz Ballet class on Monday nights at 7pm at the Anglican Hall(\$15), or Miss Kate is also running specialised zombie workshops. The next series of workshops to learn the dance has just started, but you can join in and catch up easily. Workshops are on Saturdays Aug 9, 16 (at the Anglican Hall), 23 (Anglican), 30 (Senior Citz Castlemaine), Sept 6 (Anglican) and 13 (Senior Citz). The times are 11.30am – 12.30pm, \$50 for non students, or \$8 per class, free for current students of Castlemaine Ballet Academy, their siblings and parents. It's the best kind of ZOMBIE MAYHEM...

THANKS FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO HEADLINER, KEEP 'EM COMING!

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 November, and I'd like it to reflect the many diverse voices of the Castlemaine Theatre Company. Send your articles to castlemainetheatreco@gmail.com

That's all for now...enjoy the snow, if you can find some...like us on facebook, check out the website, support local theatre...see you there!