

## Gallipoli: The Musical Auditions next Sunday!

Auditions for *Gallipoli: The Musical* by local theatre maker, actor and writer, Mark Penzak, directed by Kate Stones, are on **NEXT SUNDAY, 13 AUGUST**.

**Call Kate for an appointment on 0431 998 707**

**Performance dates: November 10, 11, 12/17, 18, 19/24, 25, 26.**

There are great comic roles for men, but also three very strong female characters. We are very excited to be performing at **Punctum's ICU** at Workspace, Halford Street, Castlemaine, which presents all sorts of interesting opportunities for thinking about our performance design in innovative ways.

*Gallipoli, The Musical* is a comedy with a serious message. No, it's not a musical (but there will be music); the play is about the commercialization of the ANZAC legend. It follows the story of Stumpy, Bluey and Sunny, 3 hapless shearers who have written a play about the ANZAC legend of Gallipoli 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 shearers proceed to get embroiled in a political maelstrom surrounding the last surviving ANZAC to serve at Gallipoli, who is in a coma in a hospital that is threatened with funding cuts. The script weaves together warmth, humour and political satire in an affectionate framing of the ANZAC legend, casting a witty yet critical eye at the commercialization and commodification of the Gallipoli narrative.

"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 today's erosion of worker's rights, privatisation of medical services or the growing impression, particularly if you're renting, that our fair go society has gone. Nor do I 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*

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.

## Characters

There are 13 characters in the play, however some are very small parts, which we will double up. The cast will probably end up being around 9, but could be more or less, depending on the results of the auditions.

DAVO	A ghost of an ANZAC digger (actor 18-40)
SLIM HOPE	The last ANZAC. (non-speaking part)
STUMPY	A shearer and director of Coonabubbala Theatre Company. (actor aged 25-55)
BLUEY	Shearer, actor and playwright. (actor aged 25-55)
SUNNY	Shearer and actor. (actor aged 25-55)
ANNA COMINOS	A middle-aged Greek/Australian nurse and union rep. (actor aged 30-55, accent realistic Greek Australian, or Anglo Australian, not comic 'Effy'-style)
REPORTER	A reporter for a tabloid newspaper.
CARRIE TRUST	An advertising executive. (actor aged 30-60)
CATHY HOPE	Slim's wife now separated. (actor aged 55-85)
MR. CROFT	A hospital superintendent.
MR. MYERHOLD	A Hollywood director.
POLICE	A member of police force.
MR. HOPE	Head of an American multinational mining company. (actor aged 35-65)

## About the Author

Mark Penzak works as a playwright, actor and theatre-maker for both adult and youth productions. Over his 30 year career he has created about two dozen productions which have toured around Australia, overseas and have been seen by a around half a million children. He has written, performed and directed cabaret, stand-up comedy and highly visual storytelling. Mark holds a BA (Theatre/Media) from Charles Sturt University, a Masters of Design (Film/TV) from Edinburgh College of Art with performance studies at John Bolton, Philippe Gaulier and at the Desmond Jones School of Mime in London. He also co-directs *Such As They Are* with Eliza-Jane Gilchrist, a company that creates highly visual productions that fuse puppetry with specially designed installations. Mark's work has featured in numerous Castlemaine State Festival productions. Mark and Eliza live in Campbells Creek.

# Arsenic and Old Lace was fabulous... (but oops, it wasn't our first ever tour)

The CTC would like to say a huge thank you to the cast and crew of Arsenic and Old Lace, directed by John Rowland. The cast should be especially commended, not only for their wonderful performances but for their willingness to help out with bump in and bump out – they rolled up their sleeves with such great generosity, which really embodies the spirit of the CTC. Thanks so much Seamus Patrick-Magee, Bronwyn Lamb, Michael Treloar, Daniel Keohan, Val Case, Hamish Whitcroft McGlade, Briega Young, David Watson, Gus Saunders and Remie Brannon. Paul Mortensen and Neil Harrison did a fantastic job on sound and lights, Jaynee Parkhill and Stella Brannon on make-up, and Rob Jorritsma was a wonderful host as front of house manager, with all his great helpers including Leonie, Ines, Margaret, Clare and Sebastian. And of course the Armchair Theatre would not exist without the commitment, talent and boundless energy and enthusiasm of director John Rowland. After our six performances to sell out crowds at The Faulder Watson Hall in Castlemaine, we were warmly welcomed at The Newham Mechanics Institute, by a hugely supportive committee and a wonderful warm audience. A special thank you goes to Stephen Mitchell for inviting us, and looking after us with such consideration and attention to detail.

**Now an apology!** Previous CTC Secretary Annette Engstrom kindly corrected me on my statement in the Autumn Headliner that this would be 'the CTC's first ever tour'. Annette explained: *Just wanted to let you know that the CTC has toured before. Back around 2005 I think, it did Dimboola, three seasons of it and at least one of those seasons, perhaps two, toured to Hepburn Springs, Eaglehawk, Kangaroo Flat, Macedon (I think) and Malsmbury.* My apologies to all those involved in that tour.



*The fabulous cast and crew of Arsenic and Old Lace. Thanks to all for their contribution to a very successful production*

# Monkey movie now on the CTC website and available on DVD

*It's not the destination but the journey: The making of Monkey and the Monk* is now uploaded onto the CTC website, on our News Desk page here:

<https://www.castlemainetheatrecompany.com/whats-on/in-production/>

We are taking orders for DVD copies currently, so if you'd like one or more, let me know via email. You can order your copy for \$15 including postage and packing. We won't do an order until we have 25 people who want one. So here's what to do:

Send an email to the [castlemainetheatreco@gmail.com](mailto:castlemainetheatreco@gmail.com) stating how many copies you would like to order, plus your name, phone number and postal address.

When we have 25 orders we will ask you to pay upfront for your dvds, and after we have received payment from everyone we will order and mail out the dvds.

## Do you know more about the history of the CTC than we do? Most likely!

The question has been asked: how did we select the CTC 'Elders' who feature in the Monkey Movie talking about the history of the CTC? The answer is that there wasn't a formal selection process at all. It was simply that filmmaker Karen McMullen was filming at our costume sort out event, and Phee Broadway happened to be there helping out. Karen got talking to Phee and decided she'd like to interview her. Phee suggested Chris Whitehead (I think), and of course Mary Edwards still regularly chairs our AGMs. I think Mary suggested Eunice.

You may have more information about the history of the CTC that you would like to share with us. We'd love to hear from you. Please email me any anecdotes or information that you would like to go down in the annals of the CTC history. I can feature them in our history page on the CTC website and in Headliner. Just keep it clean! ;) Dates of past Presidents would be great, if you know of them.

## 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.

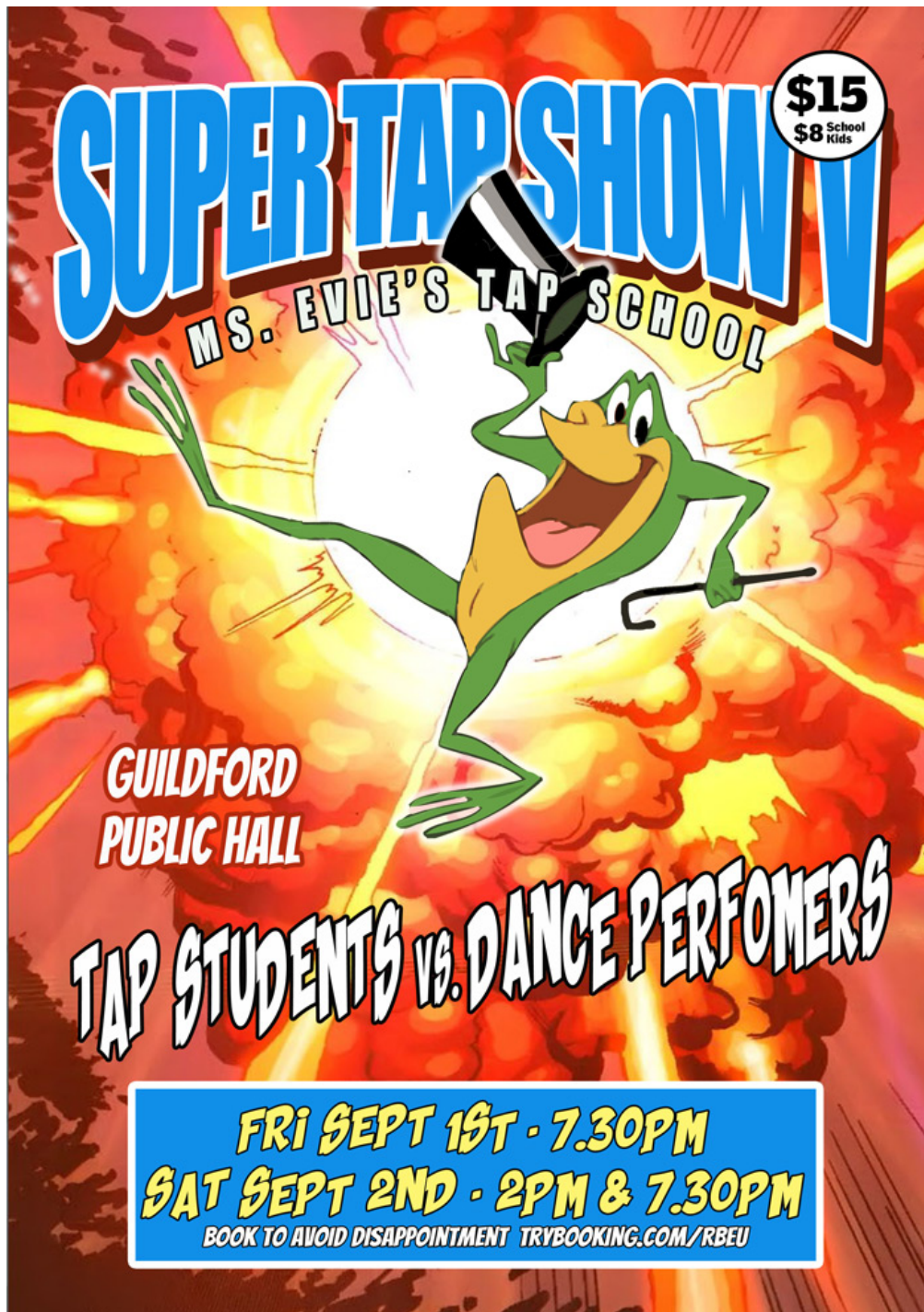
## Would you like to propose a play? Try your hand at directing?

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/>

# It's Tap Time Again!

Miss Evie's Tap School is putting on their 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Tap Show in a few weeks time! So get your tickets before they all sell out. With only 2 shows, tickets will definitely be selling like hot cakes. CTC President yours truly will be stage managing, and ex-President Ken MacLeod will be on curtain duty. Miss Evie made amazing props and headpieces for Monkey and the Monk, and performed as a Peach Girl! Her shows are always visual extravaganzas, and huge fun for all ages. Miss Evie is also part of kids punk band The Itchy Scabs.



Pricking Thumbs Collective  
presents  
**FRAILTY**

Written & Directed by Sue Ingleton

**August 16 - 19 @ 8pm**

**Matinees 19 - 20 @ 2pm**

**The Engine Room, View Street, Bendigo**

Pricking Thumbs Collective is a new theatre company based in Castlemaine. Headed by renowned playwright, actor, director and comedian, Sue Ingleton, *Frailty* has had two short sellout seasons at La Mama in Carlton, and during the Castlemaine State Festival. It's an hilarious, emotional and passionate play of our times, presenting a whole new look at Shakespeare's 'Hamlet' from a woman's perspective. Two housewives must write an essay on the line, "Frailty, thy name is woman." How they arrive, through a roller coaster ride of argument, to their earth-shattering interpretation changes both their lives forever. *Frailty* features CTC member Bridget Haylock (Playhouse Creatures) and Bev Geldard. Chookas, Pricking Thumbs!



Acclaimed actors Bridget Haylock (left) and Bev Geldard in 'Frailty'.



**Send your Headliner contributions to me at [castlemainetheatreco@gmail.com](mailto:castlemainetheatreco@gmail.com). That's all for now...stay warm and dry in the last weeks of Winter, ...like us on facebook, check out the CTC website, support local theatre...see you there!**