

THE OFFICIAL CASTLEMAINE THEATRE CO. NEWSLETTER, **SUMMER 2013**

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Hello everyone, the year has only just begun and already we are underway and in rehearsal of our first production "AFTERSHOCKS" directed by TRISH OHARA. An experienced and enthusiastic team has been assembled and I am happy to say, it's a beautiful cast with an excellent mix of previous CTC experience and several rather talented new faces. The rehearsals are lively and at this point full of general discussion about the themes of the play and also about how to approach some challenging aspects of style and character in verbatim theatre. The show offers actors an opportunity to work with intensity and humour, and to develop their skills in naturalistic story telling directly to an audience, a chance to portray ordinary people through the extraordinary circumstances of a catastrophic natural disaster. Now combine this dynamic cast with the depth of directing experience, her detailed, inclusive, thoughtful energetic down to earth approach, her personal connection with the play and WOW!

AFTER- SHOCKS CAST BBQ

Aftershocks rehearsals are now up and running. The cast are:

Ramon Angeloni, Shannon Butler, Laura Hall-Levetan, Kenneth MacLeod, Michael McMahon, Thomas Moore, Marie Pisani, Tim Ratcliff,

Vyvian Rodnight, Donna Stevens, Louise Taylor, and Briega Young. Cast and director, Tricia O'Hara and company all met up on a hot January afternoon for a pre-rehearsal BBQ at the Botanical Gardens. It's a dynamic bunch with many new to the CTC and some old veterans (you know who you are!). With such a great group of talent, and such poignant subject matter, it's bound to be an interesting journey and a fantastic show. More news next time.



Sustainable CTC

Those of you who receive Headliner via Australia Post will notice that you have received a postcard in addition to your newsletter. This is because I would like to check that I have your correct address and more importantly to give you an

opportunity to opt to receive Headliner via email if you would prefer. The CTC aims to have as much as possible of our mailing list on email – this helps us to be both ecologically and financially sustainable by using less resources.

What to do with the postcard:

If you would like to continue receiving Headliner via Australia Post **you must return the postcard to the CTC** – you will need to put a stamp on it unless you are a Life Member, in which case you have been provided with a stamp as a courtesy gesture.

Make sure to tick and fill out the appropriate boxes on the postcard. If you would like to receive Headliner by email, please return the postcard with your full name and email address. If you have any concerns about privacy, just pop the postcard in an envelope and address it to The Secretary, Castlemaine Theatre Co., PO Box 12, Castlemaine, VIC 3450.

Please remember **IF YOU DO NOT RETURN THE POSTCARD YOU WILL NO LONGER RECEIVE HEADLINER**. So the onus is on you to make a very small investment of time and money to tell us that you still want your Headliner in the mail, and that we have your correct address. Thank you for your assistance with creating a sustainable CTC, it is much appreciated.

The New CTC website is under way

It's been quite some time since the CTC had a properly functional website, and finally we are in a position to announce that our new site is officially under construction.

You can have a look at our lovely splash page at

www.castlemainetheatrecompany.com

We have hired the services of local web designers Green Graphics to construct the site for us, and Meg Norris, who designed our new logo will be designing the layout and graphics of the site. On the splash page you will notice we have a secondary email address now which is secretary@castlemainetheatrecompany.com, but this just goes straight to our gmail address, so you can use either.

How come we can afford to hire the professional services of web masters and designers? The excellent news is that at the end of last year we received notification that the CTC had been awarded a 'Strengthening Our Community Grant' from the Mount Alexander Shire Council for the development of our new website. The CTC would like to thank MASC for their continuing support. And thanks to our secretary Kate for all her hard work on putting together the proposal.

Speakeasy

Launched in September 2012, the CTC's Speakeasy is THE monthly gathering of members and friends of the Company. Informal, social and entertaining, this is where we chat over drinks and nibbles, catch up on the CTC news and upcoming opportunities for actors and production activities, and offer the spot for trying out your own pieces, written or selected by you.

We've had Open Mikes, extracts of local playwrights' works, a visit from the State Festival Opening Event Director to recruit actors for the upcoming event in Lyttleton Street, and call outs for auditions and production people for our adult and youth theatre shows.

We've been meeting at the Public Inn upstairs on first Tuesdays, but we need to change the day due to the rehearsal schedule for our just gone into rehearsal show 'Aftershocks', and probably the venue for pricing reasons.

By the time you read this we would have had the February Speakeasy and had a few run throughs of Phil Macdonald's short play 'English Begets'. In March it will be the

turn of local playwright Susan Mayfair's 'Ghost' play. The March venue and day will be circulated through our usual email and Facebook channels. We're also building a stupendous new website so that will come your way during the year too.

The Speakeasy is aimed 100% at creating a forum for members and friends to advance their interest in the theatre in a safe and supportive environment. We'd love to hear from you regarding your interest in and offers to lead, initiate or run activities at 2013 Speakeasys – just contact Laura or Kath below and we'll pop your stuff into the schedule. Truly Anything Goes. Happy 2013 and hoping to see many of you this year, in shows and at the Speakeasy.

Laura Hall- Levetan 0412 887 835 lauralevetan@optusnet.com.au

Kath Waugh 0419 445 510 peacheywaugh@bigpond.com

CTC AGM 2013

The CTC AGM will be held this year at 7pm on Thursday 14 March at the Salvation Army Hall in Kennedy Street, Castlemaine. Anyone who is a financial member of the CTC is welcome to attend the meeting. You can join up at the meeting if you like. We currently have 8 committee members, so that means that there are 3 places available for new committee members. We would love to have more hands as we are embarking on a very exciting program of new initiatives at the moment and need help in lots of areas. We love anyone with good ideas and the time and energy to implement them. If you would like to be on the committee you can nominate to be a regular committee member, or you can nominate for a position (secretary, vice president, president, treasurer). At the meeting all positions are declared vacant and we vote for committee members. Existing committee can nominate for any position - i.e. for the position they currently hold, or another. Nominations can (preferably) be made prior to meeting, or at the meeting before it commences. Once the meeting commences, no nominations can be accepted from the floor, unless there are no nominations for that position. If you are not a financial member you cannot nominate once the meeting has started.

If you would like to nominate prior to the meeting please contact the Secretary, Kate Stones on 0431 998 707 or castlemainetheatreco@gmail.com

Heads up on The Venetian Twins

Some of you will have been aware that we were planning to stage The Venetian Twins for our first 2013 production, but we had to change our dates due to tricky availability issues with the venue. We will be staging The Venetian Twins in September/October at the Town Hall – we will add a thrust to the stage and set the venue up for cabaret style seating so it should be perfect for the show. Auditions will be held in April – date to be announced, and rehearsals will commence in mid June, right after Aftershocks has finished.

What is The Venetian Twins all about?

The Venetian Twins
By Nick Enright and Terence Clark
(Based on a play by Carlo Goldoni)

Well here it is! Finally! An Australian classic musical set in Italy. This play has its roots in every ancient Greek, Italian and Elizabethan comedy; in French farce, vaudeville and Music Hall production that ever existed. It has inherited stock characters of old commedia dell'arte to enliven a plot that twists and turns and that gives the audience leave to hiss the villain and cheer the hero. It's a madcap, larrikin romp with just a brushstroke of Brecht and a lot of Punch and Judy with music by

Terence Clarke and sparkling witty dialogue by Nick Enright.

The Venetian Twins is about two brothers separated when young and arriving in Verona Italy on the same day with love, lust and marriage on their mind. Zanetto is a simple country boy pursuing Rosina the Judges' daughter and his brother Tonino is the suave city-bred suitor of Beatrice the lively opera singer. Confusion ensues when you add Arlecchino servant of Zanetto and Columbina the conniving servant of Rosina into the mix.

Chaos, mayhem -anything goes- as everyone, including the brothers, confuses their identities as they chase their intended lovers all over town. Deception and skulduggery abounds - in short it's a high octane farce about love lost, love gained, confused identities, a jewellery box and ...a coffin.

Start working on your audition pieces now!

Spot the CTC at the State Festival Opening 'Cornucopia'

Those of you who are attending *Cornucopia*, the State Festival opening event on Friday 15 March, keep a lookout for CTC members Donna Steven, Pennie Hume, Briega Young, Ramon Angeloni, and Aston Elliott. They will be performing as wacky waiters to attend to your every whim, so give 'em heaps!



Aston Elliott



Donna Steven



Ramon Angeloni



Pennie Hume

***That's it for Summer, enjoy the sunshine,
support local culture. See you there!***

***Don't forget to visit Castlemaine Theatre
Company on Facebook***