

WE'RE BACK! Thanks MASC!



Past President Kenneth MacLeod takes his seat in front of the Phee Broadway Theatre in 'Aftershocks', 2013

No, I'm not just talking about the New Year, but happy that too. We are very happy to announce that thanks to the hard work of community theatre company representatives, Mount Alexander Shire Council staff, and the support of the Mount Alexander Shire Councillors, The Castlemaine Theatre Company is at last able to return to The Phee Broadway Theatre for our first production of 2018, *As You Like It*, directed by Rob Jorritsma. Yes that's right, we are celebrating with a Shakespeare. The town is abuzz! But more of that in a moment, firstly I would like to thank MAS CEO Darren Fuzzard for his leadership in getting this ongoing issue resolved quickly, for his understanding of the importance of the life of the Phee, and the cultural life of the town, and the understanding that we all have the right to participate. I'd also like to thank (exiting) Cultural Development Officer Kara Finlay, Venues Manager Natalie Parsons and Mayor Bronwen Machin for their part in resolving the issues. We have managed to find a compromise that ensures the safety of our volunteers and audiences, while keeping costs at a manageable level, so hopefully we will be able to do at least one show a year at The Phee. Well done to all involved including past CDOs Tegan Lang and Angelica Clunes. We would also like to say a HUGE CONGRATULATIONS to our very own lighting designer and technician Neil Harrison, who is now a professional duty technician in the employ of the Council! Well done Neil!

AS YOU LIKE IT AUDITIONS



On **SUNDAY 4 FEBRUARY** Castlemaine Theatre Company is auditioning for its next production *As You Like It* by William Shakespeare. Don't be alarmed at the short lead-time, as there is no need to prepare anything! Previous experience with Shakespearean texts is not required.

We are very excited to be taking on one of the Bard's works for the very first time in the history of the Castlemaine Theatre Company. *As You Like It* is one of Shakespeare's best-loved comedies, which means that it's whimsical, and at the end, everyone ends up married, rather than dead. Which is good. Director Rob Jorritsma (who directed *The Peach Season* for the CTC in 2015) is an expert in Shakespeare, having worked for many years creating Shakespeare plays with young people at Castlemaine Steiner School.

Plot

Central to the play is the love story between Rosalind and Orlando. They fall in love at first sight, but things are not that easy. The backdrop for their journey is drawn by two feuding brothers. The friendly Duke Senior has been banished and usurped by Duke Frederick and now lives in the Forest of Arden, a lovely place of transformation – a tree-change indeed. Rosalind is Duke Senior's daughter. Forced by circumstances, Rosalind and Celia (Duke Frederick's daughter) leave the court, accompanied by the clown Touchstone. They go in search of Duke Senior in the Forest of Arden with Rosalind dressed as a boy and Celia as a country girl. Orlando also leaves for the forest, fleeing from his brother Oliver who plans to kill him. In the forest we meet other characters as well. There is the melancholy Jaques (he's got the famous '*All the world's a stage*' speech), then there's the singer Amiens and some shepherds and country folk.

A lot happens before the comedy comes to a joyful ending with multiple marriages. Rosalind has the honour of delivering the epilogue and thanking the audience. Our production will have a contemporary setting, showing the difference between life at the court and in the forest. As Duke Senior puts it:

*'And this our life exempt from public haunt,
Finds tongues in trees, books in running brooks,
Sermons in stones, and good in everything.'*

The show will include lots of music – think folk music – so any cast members who play an instrument will be part of this.

Characters

As You Like It has a big cast. Our production will have nineteen characters. It is likely that there will be some doubling up. Some roles are fairly big, but even the smaller ones will have their challenges. A basic level of health and physical fitness is required as quite a few scenes ask for physical activity.

Below, you'll find a list of the characters. It will give a brief description of the character including gender and age range. **However, for a number of characters both female and male actors will be considered and age is a relative concept (Where it says 20+, you can plus plus plus! But if you are 20 that's fine too).** A quick internet search will prove that *As You Like It* characters have been played by actors of diverse age, gender and racial background. So, if you want to be part of a Shakespeare show, come to our audition. These are the characters:

Duke Senior: Banished duke living in the Forest of Arden. Male, 30+: friendly and compassionate

Duke Frederick: His brother, usurping the dukedom. Male, 30+: aggressive

Rosalind: Daughter to the banished duke. Female, 25 -35: intelligent, talkative, dressed-up as a boy for most of the play

Celia: Daughter to Duke Frederick. Female, 25 -35: feisty, argumentative, but good-natured

Orlando: Son of Sir Rowland de Boys (friend to Duke Senior). Male, 25 - 35: a born romantic

Oliver: Son of Sir Rowland de Boys. Male, 25 – 35: loveless and begrudging

Jaques: Lord attending to Duke Senior. Male, 30+: melancholy, hard to please, always on the periphery

Amiens: Lord to Duke Senior. Male, 25+: loves to sing

Le Beau: Courtier. Male, 25+: knows everything that's going on and talks about it

Touchstone: A clown. Male, 25+: quick-witted, wordsmith, likes to make fun of people

Corin: A shepherd. Male, 40+: gentle, wise

Silvius: A shepherd. Male, 20+: young, passionate and foolish

Phoebe: A shepherdess. Female, 20+: full of disdain

Audrey: A country girl. Female, 25+: simple-minded

Charles: A wrestler. Male, 25+: strong and savvy

William: A country fellow. Male, 25+: simple-minded

Sir Oliver Martext: A country vicar. Male, 30+

Hymen: An other-worldly apparition, undefined



Audition Prep

There is no need to prepare a certain piece. Previous experience with Shakespearean texts is not required. Have a think about what character you would be interested in. We will do some reading from the script, both dialogue and monologue.

Looking forward to seeing you at the auditions!



Some of the diverse contemporary productions of As You Like It

AGM 2018

Yes, it's that time again. The 2018 Castlemaine Theatre Company AGM will take place at **7pm on Wednesday 14 March at Castlemaine Hospital Auditorium** (subject to venue confirmation). 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.**

Want to help with COSTUMES?

Our wonderful, talented costumier Louise Angwin has taken on a full time teaching job this year (congratulations Louise!) and this means that we are looking for someone to be our ongoing costume assistant, with a view to becoming our costumier with assistance from Louise. Louise has heaps of professional theatre costume experience, and has a great deal to offer someone who wants to learn the ropes. If you are experienced, and would like to be in charge, Louise would also be very happy to be your off-sider. If you would like to help, email us at castlemainetheatreco@gmail.com



Some of Louise's stunning costumes from Monkey and the Monk, 2015

FRANKENSTEIN heads to Maryborough

Castlemaine Theatre Company members, father and son, Mike and Crispin Smythe are currently involved a Maryborough production for Shane Harman Productions. The company's last production was Sweeney Todd, so it looks like Shane has a taste for the gothic! Over to Crispin for the details...(The Ed)

Frankenstein - A New Musical is coming to Geoff James Theatre, Maryborough, on 15, 17, 22, 23, and 24 March.

Forget Hollywood monster movies, this is a profound and moving tale closely based on Mary Shelley's original novel written in 1818, the tragedy of a brilliant man who reached too high. Written by Jeffrey Jackson and Gary P. Cohen, with a wonderful score by Mark Baron full of soaring ballads and ensemble numbers, the musical premiered off-Broadway in 2007 and this will be close to, if not the first amateur production in Australia. Following a stunning debut with Stephen Sondheim's **Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street** in 2017, Shane Harman Productions is back with the old team plus some new faces in a very energetic cast of 20 plus. Director Shane Harman takes on the 'Creature', Crispin Smythe plays Victor Frankenstein with Nicole Fornal as his only love, Elizabeth, while Mike Smythe (**Cosi**) appears in the ensemble cast. As before the Harman family is involved at all levels with five members acting and directing. The Director's emphasis is on strong lead vocals and a complementary ensemble - each raising the intensity - and a strong emotional portrayal of each of the diverse characters. The sets and costumes will be spectacular, and the audience can expect powerful stage and sound effects.

Early indications suggest this show may sell out so get in early and grab your tickets. Tickets are available for \$20 pre-purchase via trybooking.com/RQNF OR \$25 at the door.



Mike Smythe and Shane Harman in *Sweeney Todd*

The Ensemble from *Sweeney Todd*

Crispin Smythe and Jaclyn Holland in *Sweeney Todd*

Meanwhile at The Butterfly Club in Melbourne, our (CTC member) Bridget is at it again!

Did you know that the word DRAG, as in Drag Queen comes from Shakespeare? In plays where men appeared as female characters, the stage directions read D.R.A.G – an acronym for Dressed Resembling A Girl. So there you go, you can blame Shakespeare. Bridget Haylock is performing her post-modern feminist drag show at The Butterfly Club in Melbourne, 1-4 Feb. Tickets and details here:

<https://thebutterflyclub.com/>

**Drag Queen Sensation
Moist Yeriza!**



**When you want your
drag to be *ALL* woman!**

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/>

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. There will definitely be more members to meet in the next Headliner, and that's a promise!

**Send your Headliner contributions to me at
castlemainetheatreco@gmail.com.**

**That's all for now...stay cool in the sizzling sexy
summer heat...like us on facebook, AND FOLLOW
US ON INSTAGRAM (yup that's right, *Instagram*)
check out the CTC website, support local theatre**

...see you there!