

HEADLINER

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WINTER 2018

THE OFFICIAL CTC NEWSLETTER

Here it is, screeching hot off the press in the very last hour of Winter, the Winter Headliner...

It's been a busy season for us, even though we haven't done a CTC production as such, many of our committee and members have been busy with other independent and community projects. 2018 is the year that Bendigo and Central Victoria are the Regional Centre for Culture, and this has meant heaps of extra cultural events to create, which is great, but phew! It's a bit crazy at the moment.

Meanwhile...I may be being melodramatic, but in the last few years, so much corruption in our major institutions has come to light that it seems to me like our society is run by a number of criminal gangs – The Priests, The Banks, The Murdochs, and now evidently Canberra is rife with standover tactics and corruption. I was listening to Radio National this afternoon and there was a discussion on Big Ideas with The Belarus Free Theatre. An expert panel explained why performing art should be used as a tool of dissent and why we need to fight for our freedoms also in a democracy – or we will lose them. Have a listen!

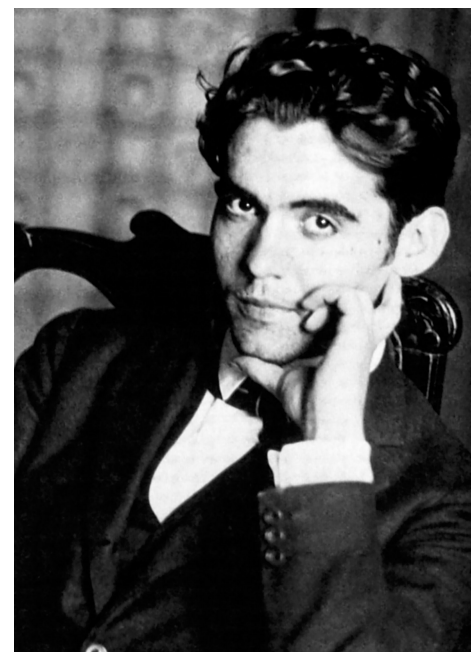
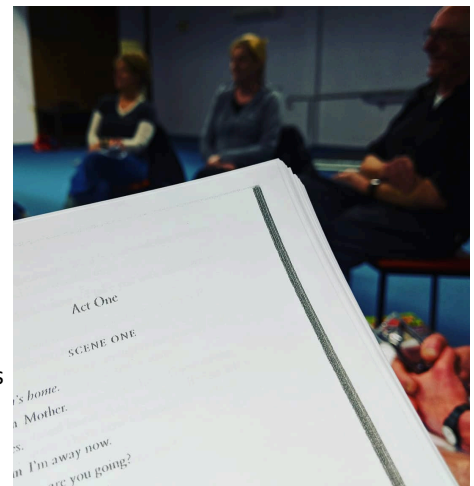
<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/bigideas/theatre-for-dissent-and-opposition/10115402>

Ken and I will be doing a bit of political theatre this coming October 5 and 6 at the Phee Broadway. The show is called *Abattoir Noir*. Come and see it if you dare! xxKate

BLOOD WEDDING COMMENCES

Rehearsals have started for our next production *Blood Wedding*, by Spanish playwright Federico Garcia Lorca (1898-1936), with a beautiful poetic translation by Ted Hughes. *Blood Wedding* is one of Lorca's famous rural tragedies, set in the sweeping, parched landscape of 1930s Andalucia, on the Southern tip of Spain. This is the world of Salvador Dali, where ritual and magic were intimately bound with the harsh realities of life lived close to the bone.

The story follows a young woman and two men fighting for her love. The woman is in love with the dashing and passionate Leonardo, but because of a deep-seated family feud, Leonardo marries another woman. The heroine has been promised to another man, whom she doesn't love, but will marry to appease her family. Although Leonardo is already married, he confesses to our heroine that he is still in love with her. At first she tells him to be silent, but then confesses that she still loves him too. Despite these revelations, she goes ahead with her marriage, but on the night of the wedding reception, she elopes with Leonardo. When their disappearance is discovered, the bride's mother commands everybody to search for them. The play takes a mystical, magical turn as members of the wedding party pursue the lovers into the forest where they have fled. A bloodthirsty Moon and Death, personified by an old beggar-woman, conspire to goad the bridegroom and Leonardo to mete out their revenge on one another in mortal combat. At the end of the play, the devastated Bride returns to the church hoping that the Bridegroom's Mother will kill her, but philosophy finally wins over bloodshed, as the women reflect on their shared loss.



Frederico Garcia Lorca

In true CTC style, The Blood Wedding cast is made up of some exciting new-comers to the company, and some old favourites including: Diane Addington (who has just finished Les Mis, with The Mount Players), Peter Bevin (Sweeney Todd for 3AC, Monkey and the Monk for CTC), famed burlesque artiste Angela Down, Laura Hall-Levatan (Monkey and the Monk, Aftershocks), newcomers Dominic Hayes, Kirsty MacCallum, Sebastian Marshall (The Peach Season), Bendigo based newcomer Lisa Martin, Phillip McDonald (1984), Michael McMahon (Gallipoli The Musical and heaps of others!), Rebecca Morton (Sweeney Todd), Louise Osland (The Ghost Train, Monkey and the Monk) and newcomer Erin Scanlon.

Director Rob Jorritsma, has hardly stopped to take a breath after directing *As You Like It*, which was a hugely successful production. He has started off the cast with his signature approach, lots of fun games interspersed with text analysis, research and physical explorations...this

is a really rewarding process for the cast, engaging mind, body and soul. Promises to be another great production. We have all the main characters cast, however we are still looking for a male to play a Woodcutter (small speaking part) and a wedding guest or two (female or male). If you are interested in being part of the cast, call Rob on 0428 379 879 .

Blood Wedding will be performed at The Castlemaine Town Hall, 16 November-2 December. Tickets will be on sale from 26 October



Life in Andalusia in the 1930s

Chronicles and Curiosities of Old Castlemaine,



Michael Treloar, Daniel Keohan, Stephen Mitchell and Kate Stones

Some of you may know that our Vice President, Donna Steven works at Castlemaine Library. Donna is also passionate about local and family history, and she runs family history programs at the Library. On 3 August Donna presented a library event in collaboration with The Pioneers and Old Residents Association called Chronicles and Curiosities of Old Castlemaine. Donna led the presentation and showed some fascinating artefacts that belong to the PORA, using them to illustrate stories about the early days of Castlemaine. Donna was joined by CTC actors Michael Treloar, Daniel Keohan, Stephen Mitchell and Kate Stones, who read some first hand accounts by early settlers. It was a cold and blustery day, nevertheless the Faulder Watson Hall was packed to the rafters, and everyone enjoyed a nice hot cuppa and some arvo tea.

CTC website history page update

In the back rooms of the Telegraph Officer, next to the Faulder Watson, we discovered some fabulous 19th Century playbills including one promoting The Odd Fellows Amateur Dramatic Society's 1857 performance, "commencing with Douglas Jerrold's far famed Domestic Drama, *The Rent Day*, continuing with the admirable farce *An Irish Engagement...*". The poster informs us that "Previous to the Raising of the Curtain, A Prologue will be spoken by Brother Hankins, to be followed by a Grand Tableau of the Order, Illustrated by the Brethren, between the Drama and the Farce, The Emblem of the Widow and Orphans". And all that for one night only at The Theatre Royal! You certainly got bang for your buck in the old days! This has enabled us to update the History page on the CTC website.

<https://www.castlemainetheatrecompany.com/who-we-are/history/>



Biting the Hand

In between directing *As You Like It* and *Blood Wedding*, Rob Jorritsma managed to squeeze in another directing gig. He was working with The Hobo Players to deliver a performance called *Biting the Hand*. The script was written by LaTrobe University lecturer in Education Anne Southall, and performed on 17 August at the Old Fire Station, Bendigo, as part of the Hard Yards Conference. Hard Yards educated its participants (mostly teachers) about how to work with young people who have experienced trauma in their lives. Mother and son team Rebecca Morton and Sebastian Marshall, who will appear in *Blood Wedding*, were in the cast, and also Michael Treloar.

Rob says: *When I first read it I thought it's not for me, but when I filled in for Jeff [Jeff Jones started the project] it really grew on me. It was hard to see it on the page, as what you were portraying was really a round table discussion between academics, but we got the characters up and moving, so that made it more dynamic. It was challenging but I think we did a good job.*



Sebastian Marshall
in *Biting the Hand*



Back in July I was honoured to direct some wonderful CTC actors in *Letters From the Inside*, a project created by Lisa D'Onofrio, supported by Creative Victoria via the Regional Centre for Culture. Lisa is the brains and braun behind The Castlemaine Children's Literature Festival, and Lisa also does some fantastic literature programs in our local prisons. Letters from the Inside was a rehearsed reading featuring Hector Mackenzie, Stephen Mitchell and Donna Steven. We performed to a huge crowd at Castlemaine Old Gaol, and the performance was recorded by John Rowlands, and broadcast on Suzanne Donnisthorpe's Art Swank program on Maine FM. Letter writing is one of the only forms of communication through which prisoners can communicate with those outside the prison system, as they do not have access to email or phones. Lisa facilitated workshops with local prisoners from Castlemaine and Tarrengower Prisons to write letters to various recipients including parents, their younger selves, their future selves, and other more abstract concepts like 'darkness' or their cells. It was a moving and fascinating experience, and a great treat to have an intensive rehearsal period at the Phee Broadway Theatre. Thanks to all involved for bringing this project into the world! xKate



Hector McKenzie and Donna Steven rehearse at The Old Gaol

Will you still love us when we're....60???

Yes next year we are turning 60! And we are busy cooking up a fantastic program of events and shows. Stay tuned for the details...

Want to help with PROPs and SET?

With the departure of Gus and Stef, we are losing our props and set department in one go – ouch! Interested in helping out in this important and creative aspect of theatre? Email me at castlemainetheatreco@gmail.com

TOO MUCH INFORMATION

(ain't no such thing)

HEY THANKS FOR SHARING

Thanks to everyone for sharing our CTC facebook posts – we are getting great reach thanks to you and our fab new publicity managers Clare Shamier and Seamus Curtain-Magee

**That's all for now...make the most of the last
porridge mornings (what's your favourite flavour?)
find us on facebook, instagram and at
www.castlemainetheatrecompany.com
Support local theatre...see you there!**