



HEADLINER

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Winter 2021

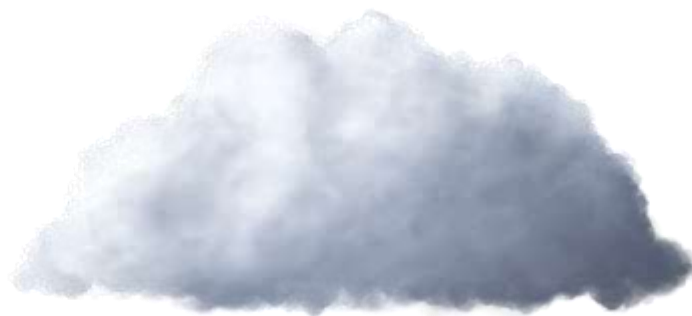
The Official CTC newsletter
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Wild Winter!

Greetings from CTC

As we wave goodbye to a wild winter, we have a few interesting projects on the boil, despite the uncertainty presented by pandemics and lockdowns. CTC hopes that all of you are managing and coping with the unusual stresses that we face, in addition to the chilly depths and stormy storms of winter, and we hope you can find a way to engage with our projects, which are designed to entertain and inspire! Read on beyond the clouds...





Kate Stones directing actors John Willis, Hannah Jeffcoat & Lisa Martin, while Toby Heydon records.

Storm Troupers

"The Tempest", our radio-play version of Shakespeare's classic, has recently been recorded under the imaginative supervision of director and CTC president, Kate Stones.

The cast enthusiastically workshopped characters and sounds in the most evocative ways; chanting in the dark, pushing lungs to capacity and finding new ways to express Shakespeare's lines. Kate sketched out visions of island grottoes, laboratories for brewing potions and a library of ancient and precious books. There are some innovative interpretations in the CTC version including gender reversals inspired by the "blind" casting process. One character is played by two actors simultaneously, which gives a magical affect with their layered voices. Kate has also raised questions around power versus delusion; is the magic-obsessed Prospera actually able to summon a gigantic storm at will or is that all in her imagination?

(We were startled by the fact that a significant, tempestuous, storm shook huge parts of Victoria during our rehearsal period! So many homes and businesses were affected by power outages and trees down; hopefully all our readers came out the other side unscathed or able to recover fully).



The Tempest recordings took place at ETTY Street, usually with two or three actors at a time, and actors read from screens rather than paper scripts in order to reduce incidental noise. What would William Shakespeare make of these modern approaches? Editing of the audio is now underway and the company plans to hold an exclusive "listening event" for a small audience if Covid allows.

The Tempest will be played in four parts on local radio, 94.9 MainFM. It will air on 22, 29 September and 6, 13 October on 'Around the Wireless' 1pm (repeated Saturdays on 'Dark Moments' 10pm)

We also plan to hold an exclusive "Listening Event" on Sat 16 Oct, 7.30pm

STAY TUNED FOR MORE DETAILS – PUN INTENDED!

A Word from the Director



We had so many interesting conversations and funny moments (I will never forget recording the snoring track for our snoozing nobles!) during the recording sessions for *The Tempest*, and I want to thank all the cast members for their commitment and creativity and patience.

It wasn't an easy task for them, as the process is more like filmmaking than live theatre - the actors didn't get much rehearsal before we started recording takes, and they could be asked to do a portion of the text several times to get it just right. The process is necessarily a little more fragmented than the usual rehearsal process.

Nevertheless the cast did an incredible job, and we had our usual perfect combination of CTC favourites and some fantastic newcomers.

Thankfully we got all the recording finished before this latest lockdown. But the work doesn't stop there!

I have spent the last few weeks listening to over 200 takes, making notes on each one, cataloging them, and grouping them into episodes with all the right music cues. Meanwhile our wonderful tech team, headed up by Simeon Roberts with Toby Heydon and Elizabeth Scanlon, are gathering sound effects and stitching rough cuts of each episode together.

We are patiently waiting for the magic moment when we can be in the same room together to make the final tweaks. It's been a fascinating adventure and we have learned so much. I'm loving that the CTC is such a robust and resilient little organisation, focused on creative solutions that expand our possibilities.

xx Kate Stones



*Rehearsing *The Tempest*... and keeping warm between takes!*

Castlemaine Stories

Currently in development by head writer and CTC committee member, Mark Penzak, is a new project focussed on local stories. With local producer, Suzanne Kalk, Mark has assembled a sub-committee which has spent some chilly evenings walking the streets and lanes of Castlemaine to discuss stories, histories and places.



Castlemaine under a full moon

Walk with Us: Untold Castlemaine will be a theatrical walk through the centre of town and Mark describes the project as a "...celebration of the community of Castlemaine and a reminder that many people, past and present, and from different cultures have helped to make Castlemaine a progressive and livable town."

Imagine watching short stories unfold on street corners and behind shops, along alleys and in front of monuments. In a town with the history and ever-changing culture that Castlemaine boasts, those stories are likely to be varied indeed.

The plan is to engage with a number of local groups and organisations, in order to have different perspectives of life in Castlemaine and as wide a representation of the community as possible.

We have recently collected expressions of interest from writers to create five-minute scenes set around Castlemaine town centre, and we'll soon be gathering directors, cast and crew to bring the whole thing together; we would love to hear from you if you'd like to be involved in any way.

If you'd like to be part of ***Walk with Us: Untold Castlemaine***, email us at: castlemainetheatreco@gmail.com

Volunteer Opportunities

As we all cross our fingers and toes that spring will see these new theatrical projects coming to fruition without a hitch or delay, we are also hoping to engage some help from volunteers behind the scenes and front of house. Experience is welcome but not essential and we will provide training and support. More information to come, but for example we will require assistance with ushering, beverage service, door ticket sales. (The photos below show that there are so many ways to help!)

Contact us at: castlemainetheatreco@gmail.com



Pssst...Do you follow CTC on Social Media?

Yes, you're a Mailing Lister (thank you!) to receive Headliner and stay informed about acting and theatrical opportunities that come our way, but if you'd like to keep up to date behind the scenes, you can find us on the Gram and Facebook too.



[@castlemainetheatreco](https://www.instagram.com/castlemainetheatreco)



[@castlemainetc](https://www.facebook.com/castlemainetc)

Chats with the Cast – The Tempest

Headliner “chatted” via email with a few members of the Tempest cast, to find out a bit about them in relation to their role and Shakespeare. The conversations were enlightening, amusing and surprising...

Lisa Martin - Prospera

“My relationship with Shakespeare started in year nine studying Twelfth Night. After being taken to a live performance of the classic text, we worked through the play and translated it into our version of contemporary English. We had a great time casting, rehearsing and performing it to the school. Playing The Duke Orsino (an all-girls school) I started the play, substituting Shakespeare's opening lines of 'If music be the food of love, play on' with 'give me more of that groovy music'. Not very classy but I loved the whole process and thank you to our teacher Mrs Fiske, the barrier that often exists for people to enjoy the Bard's work was smashed. The technique worked for me as I will always remember the quote. My involvement with CTC started with Blood Wedding in 2018. Again, working with wonderful text, this time by Federico Garcia Lorca, I had the privilege of being directed by Rob Jorritsma in the roles of The Neighbour and the wonderful character Death as a Beggar Woman”.



(Of the actors who have performed Shakespeare) I would love to have lunch with Miriam Margolyes. She seems so approachable and down to earth. I love the approach to life that she gives through her performances. How she develops her characters and takes the script off the page and into life could be just the starting points that I hope would be discussed. And if nothing else, she openly discusses bodily functions, which many others avoid mentioning, that I can relate to and am similarly amused by. I mean we all should get a giggle from a burp or fart or two.



Miriam Margolyes in Romeo & Juliet



John Willis, who plays (a dimension of) Ariel

John Willis – Ariel

Headliner: *What is your prior relationship with Shakespeare?*

John: "Ahh... we are just Good Friends"

HL: *How would you describe your character in 3 words?*

John: "Fun, fearsome, moody?"

HL: *Do you have anything in common with your character?*

John: "I think I wish I had more in common with my character. Ariel does everything with total commitment"

HL: *What has been your favourite aspect of this project?*

John: "How often do you get to scream, laugh, whisper, rant, sing, whimper and say 'cock-a-diddle-dow'? Not often enough!"

HL: *Which actor who has performed in Shakespeare (stage or screen, living or dead) would you like to have a long lunch with?*

John: Michael Clark portrays Caliban in Peter Greenaway's film *Prospero's Books* (based on *The Tempest*). He is an extraordinary dancer and I'd love to talk to him about movement, the body and theatre.

Aston Elliot - Boatswain

Headliner: *What is your prior relationship with Shakespeare, if any?*

Aston: "I've read some of the plays and seen some of the movies. Only previous acting experience was one scene of the Scottish play, in the character of someone from another play, as part of an Arts Field project I think it was."

HL: *What about your involvement with CTC, how have you been involved before?*

Aston: "I did my first play as a 16 year old with CTC and have been away and back many times since."

HL: *How would you describe your character in 3 words?*

Aston: "Loud. Cynical. Wet."

HL: *Do you have anything in common with your character?*

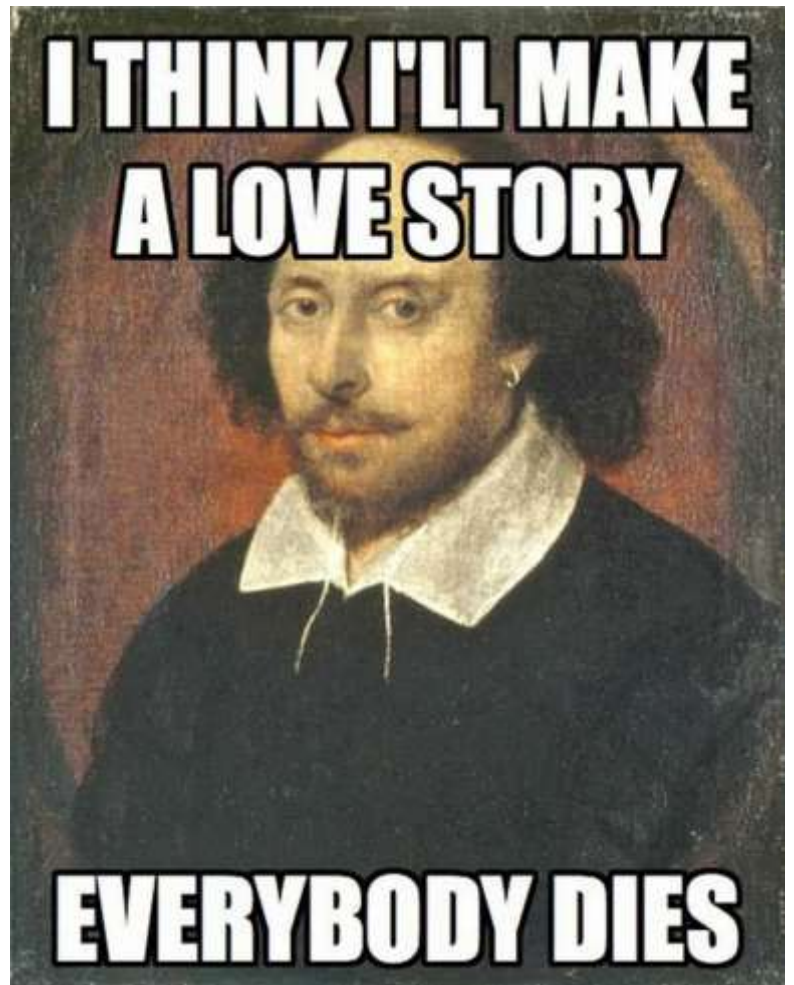
Aston: "The first 2 often and the 3rd while swimming, bathing or if caught in the rain."

HL: *What has been your favourite aspect of working on this project?*

Aston: "Tied between connecting with members of the community and yelling."

HL: *Which actor who has performed in Shakespeare (stage or screen, living or dead) would you like to have a long lunch with? What would you talk about?*

Aston: "Mel Gibson (Hamlet). Only to talk about Mad Max. Not really interested in his views on other matters."



Etty St Update

Rehearsal Space Refit & Revival

There has been progress in our transformation of the Etty Street rehearsal space, you just can't see it yet (and like everything else, it has been delayed by the pandemic). We have placed orders with a number of suppliers and our lovely new black curtains and lights are waiting in a warehouse for us to hang them.



AGM 2021

If it seems as though the Castlemaine Theatre Company AGM took place ages and ages ago, that's because it did! Since then, the new committee (featuring old and new members) has met numerous times at Etty Street, drinking tea into the night and discussing ways to keep making theatre when a pandemic is keeping us out of theatres. We'll keep trying!

Introducing your 2021 Committee:

President: Kate Stones

Treasurer: Elaine Matheson

Secretary: Michelle Dorian

Members: Kevin Cook, Mark Penzak and Toby Heydon

Check out the CTC website for more about them!

That's all for now...enjoy the early signs of spring, take care during lockdown/s and look after each other...

Follow us on social media and check out our website:

www.castlemainetheatrecompany.com

Support local theatre and local radio,
(that's where you'll find us for now)!