



Why You Should Drop Everything and See This Show

Shakespeare wrote *Romeo & Juliet* about 428 years ago, so how could it possibly be relevant to us today?

This question is at the heart of our new production of the classic tragedy, directed by Rob Jorritsma. The play demonstrates the tragedy that can occur when authority figures lead communities into conflict instead of cultivating harmony.

"Romeo and Juliet shows people not getting along with each other and destroying the future," says Rob.

Rob's process of creating the play also contributes to this theme; he encourages group cooperation to build the performance together. (Keep reading **Headliner** to find out more about Rob's process).

Come along, be part of our supportive, cooperative, theatre-loving community!

BOOK NOW FOR CTC'S *ROMEO & JULIET*

WHEN: Friday 19 May 2023 – Sunday 4 June 2023

WHAT TIME: Fridays and Saturdays: 7.30pm. Sunday matinees: 2pm

WHERE: Phee Broadway Theatre, Mechanics Lane, Castlemaine

HOW MUCH: Adult – \$29.00, Concession – \$25.00, Child- \$18.00

BOOKINGS: [Romeo and Juliet – Castlemaine Theatre Company](#)

RJ on R & J

Director, Rob Jorritsma, has a unique approach to working with a cast

If you were to pop into a *Romeo & Juliet* rehearsal at the CTC's Etty Street Studio in the past few months, you might have been surprised to see actors scattered across three rooms in small groups: lounging with scripts, trying out a fight scene or running lines over multiple cups of tea. It looked more like an informal social group than a production in preparation.

This is all part of Rob Jorritsma's method; he says that he is interested in what happens to the group through his directing process, which also involves a lot of play... in all senses of the word.

At the very first rehearsal, Rob began by pulling out his guitar and leading the group in song. This practice, coupled with many fun team-effort games, helps to bring everyone together.

"That's the most important thing, says Rob. "Forming a community."

And Rob has a big-picture goal.

"I do theatre because I think it's a way of making the world a better place," he says. "Of course I want a beautiful play but the main thing is it makes people think – the audience and the cast."

When Rob directs a play, he ensures that everyone's acting contribution receives equal respect and care.

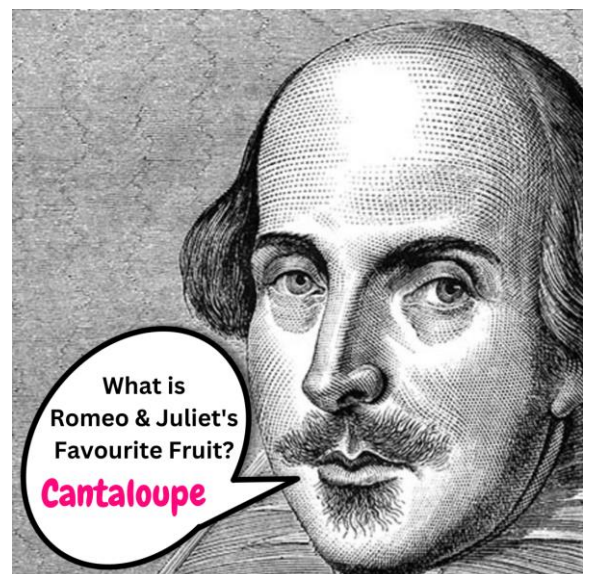
"It's lovely to see people who may have a small part, coming here and having a great time... with everyone supporting each other."

BOOK NOW! CLICK LINK BELOW:

[CTC's ROMEO & JULIET](#)



Rob Jorritsma guiding rehearsals and songs at CTC's Etty Street rehearsal studio





If Music Be the Food of Love... then CTCs Juliet was Destined for Romance



Orvokki Britton: Where Drama & Music Collide

When CTC sat down to chat to *Romeo & Juliet* star, Orvokki Britton, the question that was top of mind was whether she saw herself more as an actor or musician.

It seemed like a fair enough question, since the people of Castlemaine have regularly seen Orvokki wearing both hats, such as singing in Castlemaine Idyll or starring as Miranda in CTC's *The Tempest* in 2021.

It immediately became clear, however, that the two have always been combined for Orvokki. "Mum is a music teacher but she is also an actress and she has dragged me along to everything since I was little", says Orvokki, who also teaches piano and violin to local students.

Orvokki's mum, Jen, starred in one of the short plays in CTC's *Walk With Us, Untold Castlemaine* in 2022. Orvokki and Jen have a band together and can be seen playing gigs around town.

"My first theatre role was as Marta in *The Sound of Music* when I was 8, when mum was playing Maria."

For CTC, Orvokki has continued to combine her two loves by arranging the harmonies for the songs in *Peter Panto* last year and guiding the cast of *Romeo & Juliet* for some moody singing.

"I just love being involved in anything community," she explains.

As Juliet, Orvokki shines as the love-struck, dreamy and rebellious heroine who would rather die than be boxed in by expectations.

When she is not on stage in some capacity, Orvokki is studying for her VCE - in Classical Opera no less - which involves singing in various different languages.

So what does the future hold for Orvokki? "I hope to go to uni and study drama or music," she says.

But will she ever be able to choose between music and acting? By now we all know the answer.

"I would love to keep playing music and doing drama forever," Orvokki says, with the conviction of a heroine who knows her own mind.

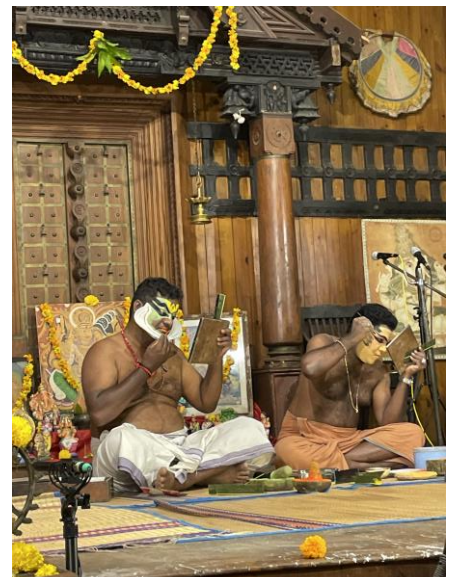
See Orvokki Britton star as Juliet in CTC's production of Shakespeare's *Romeo & Juliet*, opening on 18 May at the Phee Broadway Theatre.

A Glimpse of Theatre in India

During the rehearsal period of *Peter Panto* in late 2022, CTC's secretary went AWOL and was no help at all. The secretary in question, Michelle Dorian, wasn't deliberately avoiding hard work; she was travelling around India by train, bus and auto-rickshaw with her family (anyone who has tried it knows how hard *that* is). She reports that it also included as much theatre as possible; starting with a contemporary work at Indianostrum Theatre in Puducherry that involved smashed fruit and feminism. In Kochi, it was classical *Kathakali* which features heavily made-up actors playing all roles and communicating only through a set of long-established gestures and facial expressions. The actors go through rigorous eye-muscle training, and even apply a plant-based irritant to inflame their eyes. Michelle and her family also saw examples of tribal puppetry, dancing and drama in Rajasthan.



Photos by Michelle Dorian



Follow CTC on Social Media – Like us & Love us

If you'd like to keep up to date behind the scenes, look for CTC on the Gram and Facebook:



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



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

Triumphant Peter!

Peter Pan didn't mind crowing about his own achievements and now it's CTC's turn – our 2022 production of *Peter Panto or One Flew Over the Second Star on the Right* was one of the most successful shows that we have ever created. Written and directed by Kate Stones, it attracted record numbers (frequently filling the Phee Broadway Theatre) and left audiences smiling and singing. It had a huge cast of passionate people who now count each other as friends. Congratulations to everyone involved on this triumphant commercial and popular success!

'But Mum, I don't want to go home, I want to go back to Never Never Land! Pleaseeeee!'
- Carter, audience member.



Singing pirates, dancing crocodiles, cheap chocolates and chips at interval... what's not to like? CTC's production of Peter Panto was a HIT! Photos: Stephen Mitchell



For more photos of this fabulous production, visit the [Archive](#) tab on our website

QUBIT OF FUN

In February, CTC held an intimate 'rehearsed reading' of a new play called *Qubit*. Written by Libby Angel and Helen Johnstone, the play proved to be a quirky, savvy and very humorous look at what might happen when we rely too much on our technology.

Actors Manue René, Sach Motee, Kate Stones, Clare Shamier and Jane Staley stepped into the shoes of some intriguing characters, including a depressed influencer who blogs about shoes and ... a rapping blowfly!

Stay tuned for more news about *Qubit*, we hope, and also keep your eyes peeled for more rehearsed readings in the future. Attendees agreed that it was a great way to meet some people and experience a new play.



Cosy scenes from the CTC Qubit reading



CTC Code of Conduct

The CTC has a brand new Code of Conduct! At the CTC we are committed to creating inclusive, diverse, accessible and culturally safe spaces so that we all can be part of putting the show on the road with fun and freedom to be ourselves.

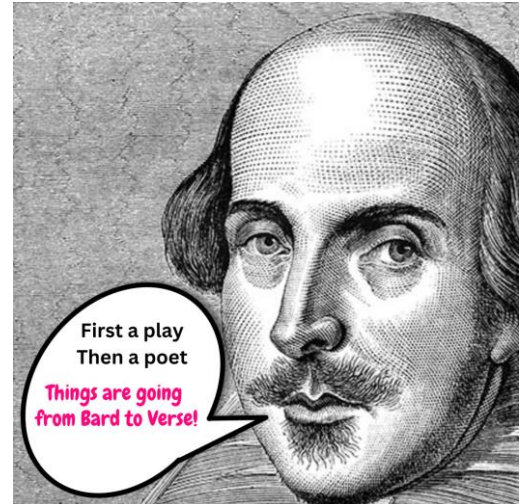
Part of this commitment is the recent committee endorsement of our Code of Conduct. This sets out our principles and values, with clear expectations for committee, cast and crew regarding what it means to be part of creating a welcoming and inclusive space to make our craft.

We want to ensure the future generations of CTC can share the same experience of actor Milly Karimi (*Peter Panto, Romeo & Juliet*): "Castlemaine Theatre Company cultivates a welcoming and passionate environment for people of all demographics to flourish and connect ... a safe space for everyone to express themselves and immerse in creativity, without fear of judgement or rejection."

Check out the Code of Conduct on our website [here](#).

Coming Soon for CTC

The CTC is currently in discussions and decision-making about our second production for 2023 and we will let you know about auditions and other details ASAP! Keep an eye on social media too.



Want to learn on the job with CTC?

Are you a theatre person, young or old, who would like to **learn new skills in the theatre world**? There are so many ways to be involved behind-the-scenes, and you could gain experience that is transferable to all sorts of other worlds (or you could take steps to work in professional theatre). **Examples include:** customer service, publicity, ticketing, marketing, project management, design, costumes, administration, stage management, budgeting, directing, sound & lights.... If you are interested, email us: castlemainetheatreco@gmail.com

*NB - CTC is not able to offer an actual, formal apprenticeship

2023 AGM and New Committee

The 2023 AGM went off without a hitch on March 10 and there have been some changes to CTC's committee, which now consists of:

President: Kate Stones

Vice President: Clare Shamier

Secretary: Michelle Dorian

Treasurer: Sam Archer

Committee Members: Toby Heydon, Isis Jordan

*Thanks for reading Headliner
As we head into winter, don't stay inside.
Get cosy in the theatre!*