

# THE *Artful* **DODGER**

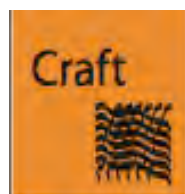
September 2015

1.n.roystering young pickpocket from Charles Dickens' Oliver Twist.  
2.n. printed handbill full of tidings from the WMI&AA with a closing date for contributions of 25th of each month to Ken Virtue on 0411238377 or [kenvirtue@gmail.com](mailto:kenvirtue@gmail.com)



## A roo loose in the bottom paddock?

After the recent Foster OAP festival, Simone Kiefer & her sweetheart ventured down to Wilsons Prom National Park for a quick squiz and walk. They breed them tough here – this one had its ears pierced.



Contact : Rosemary  
Climas 9844 2154



The Spring is sprung and Warrantdyte is looking so beautiful. Take time to walk along the river. We have a potter's wheel needing a new home – if anyone is interested, please contact me at the number below.

**Contact: Marjorie Beecham 9844 3206**



There is still no further news about reinvigoration of our Painting Group. Any interested members should contact WMI&AA President David Tynan on 9844 5727.

## ALL IN THE TIMING

25,26 SEPTEMBER 2,3 OCTOBER

*Warrantdyte Youth Theatre* present an evening of five short comedic plays by David Ives.

They showcase the comedic writing of David Ives and the sublime acting talents of our local youth! More details on this production next month.

The WTC has performed a number of David Ives plays over the last decade, and they have often won prizes at regional One Act Play festivals that we entered. They are often quite short, snappy, and a real challenge for the actors to pull off the timing and characterisation required to bring out the comedy and surreal nature of the writing. For our 2015 production, the WYT sub-committee has chosen 5 plays to stage that showcase both David Ives fine writing, and the skills of WYT. A short synopsis of each play follows.

**Enigma Variations:** Zany hijinks as a pair of lookalikes named Bebe W.W. Doppelgänger solve an identity crisis with the help of Dr William W. Williams and his nurse Fifi, who may or may not be Aphrodite the Goddess of Love. Or is she a male PE teacher in a dress?

**Variations on the Death of Trotsky:** This shows us the Russian revolutionary on the day of his demise, desperately trying to cope with the mountain-climbers axe he's discovered in his head.

**Sure Thing:** Two people meet in a café and find their way through a conversational minefield as an offstage bell interrupts their false starts, gaffes, and faux pas on the way to falling in love.

**Arabian Nights:** Utterly normal Norman walks into utterly ordinary Flora's shop looking for a souvenir of his travels and together they find whirlwind romance, spurred on by a wacky translator.

**The Mystery at Twicknam Vicarage:** A body on the carpet, three ridiculous "Masterpiece Theatre" style suspects and a bumbling Scotland Yard detective solve philosophical quandaries as they investigate: Who killed Jeremy Thumpington-Fffiennes?.





There seems to be a lot happening in WTC land at the moment.

We have had the first Follies Writers' meeting, held on 7th August. A good turn out ... Myself, Daryll, David, Tony, Simone, Alan, Noelene, Richard P but we need more.

Please don't hold back your ideas and creative instincts. We are at the early stage of brainstorming and considering everything that is tabled. Often quite scatty ideas turn into great sketches and songs. (Sometimes scatty ideas turn into scatty sketches but we won't mention them here!)

The next writer's meeting is Friday 9th October. Venue TBA. In the meantime if you suddenly notice you have written something please send it to me as I am coordinating things at the moment. Songs and musical ideas to Richard Pengelley please -richardpengelley@bigpond.com and cc me.

Note that the planned show for Nov/Dec has been postponed. Brief Encounter requires more specialist musicians than we first thought and after auditions where we didn't quite get the right mix of actors and musicians we have decided to delay this show to 2016 - provided we obtain the rights. We are currently searching for another show.

Youth Theatre is charging along in rehearsal for 5 short David Ives plays. All of the actors are taking at least 2 roles across these plays. It will be fun to see how they manage the switches. Lou, Annie and David are enthusiastic about their casts and opening night is September 25th.

Finally, at WTC committee 3 weeks ago we began to discuss what we would like the theatre to look like in a few years time. This means both physically and creatively. That's all I'm going to reveal about the conversations for now but suffice to say that plans are germinating.

And finally finally, hot off the presses from Origin Theatrical ... we have been granted the rights to perform "The God of Carnage" by Yasmina Reza. The play is reviewed here if you're interested

[http://www.nytimes.com/2009/03/23/theater/reviews/23carn.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/03/23/theater/reviews/23carn.html?_r=0)  
<http://www.theguardian.com/stage/2008/mar/26/theatre1>

Two sets of parents meet to discuss the wounding of one couple's son by the son of the other couple. What commences as a civilised discussion evolves (disintegrates) into attacks on misogyny, men vs women, women, vs men as well as couple vs couple as the evening turns to chaos.

Translated from the original French, the play has been performed widely overseas. This is a vastly different show from Brief Encounter but we now also have the rights to that show in 2016.

**Adrian Rice**

**WTC President**

**Email [aderice@tpg.com.au](mailto:aderice@tpg.com.au)**

**Telephone 9844 1528**



# Potters partying ...

On David's Tuesday off, he sauntered in to see what the Pottery Group were doing. He can report that they were as usual very industrious and joyful, and were also planning for one of their regular parties. Here are some paparazzi shots, and a view of the hall that they see, but many others do not!

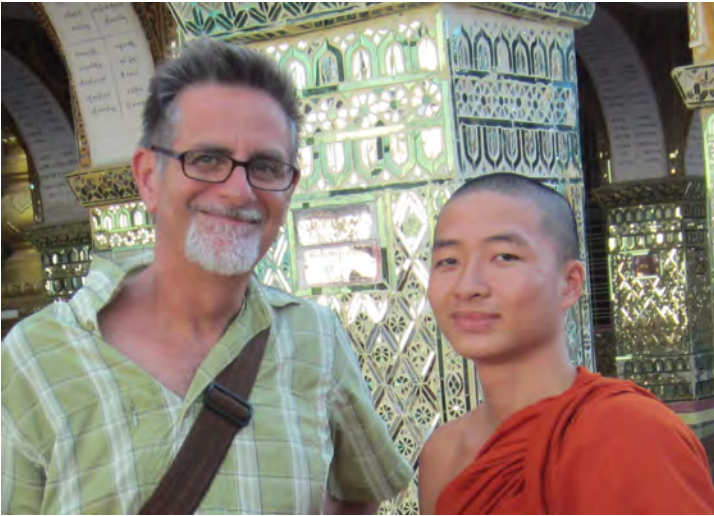


**NLNL**  
NO LIGHTS NO LYCRA

Now every Wednesday 7-8 pm in the Hall – Entry \$5

## Introducing the WMIAA Members random photos section

### Separated at Birth



Recently trimmed novice Buddhist monk Hti La No seen atop Mandalay hill, Myanmar acclaiming the sun as it sets.



While below his younger twin John Italiano is seen at this year's Follies with one of the Co-Directors in the newly decorated Mechanics Inst Hall.

### Anyone notice anything funny about this photo?





warrandyte youth  
theatre presents 

# ALL IN THE TIMING

5 brilliant plays  
by david ives

**25, 26 SEPTEMBER**  
**2, 3 OCTOBER**

8pm, plus matinee  
2:30pm 3 October

at mechanics institute hall

[WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/IQIV](http://WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/IQIV)



gardiner mcinnis  
*a good move*



## VDL Review – OAP 2015 Season

Hope you can read it – it's a bit fuzzy!

### THREE ONE-ACT PLAYS

Warrandyte Theatre Company

Reviewed by Ken Barnes – June 26, 2015

The first thing you notice as you enter the Mechanics Hall where WTC performs is the friendly greeting and informality of FOH staff and patrons. The second is the warmth of the auditorium on a cold winter evening. But let's not dwell on the coffee and cake; after all, we came here to see three plays by writers and directors I had not encountered before, even though most are well known in theatrical circles.

#### A Special Occasion

by Suzy Wilds

Directed by Susan Rundle

A young woman, her father and grandmother live together in a tension-filled house 18 years after the death of her mother. As the circumstances of the mother's death are gradually revealed, the three family members stumble through a series of admissions leading to new levels of understanding. That was the setting for a heart-warming and often moving play. The young woman, Rachel, was played with considerable verve by Annie Italiano who was able to capture the feisty mannerisms and attitudes of an 18-year-old as well as the touching sentiment which bound her to the other family members.

Noelene Cooper was perfectly cast as Rachel's grandmother and was able to bring out the crusty but equally anguished nature of the older woman. The acerbic exchanges between Gran and the other characters were a delight. Bill Mitchell performed well as Rachel's father and was able to switch from seemingly aggressive early in the play to a more conciliatory and loving person as the story unfolded. Bill had a tendency to rush his lines on occasion where pauses and changes of expression could have helped to bring home the anxiety felt by his character. Nonetheless, his lines were delivered with precision and as with the other actors he projected well to the audience.

#### The Blizzard

by David Ives

Directed by Alastair Rice

Imagine a remote country house in a blizzard, a couple called Neil and Jenny pondering what they might do to liven up the evening. Along come two total strangers who enter the house, seemingly by deception, and behave in a threatening manner. Scary? You bet! But at least it was one way to take away the boredom. The director made sure we were suitably chilled by the performance, first by suitable sound and lighting but more particularly by the way the uninvited couple behaved.

Neil was represented as a well-off and fairly conservative character played with suitable restraint and entirely credibly by David Creedon. The experienced Lisa Upson was a perfect fit for his wife, Jenny, equally conservative and able to play the role with delicious understatement, yet good stage presence. The intrusive and

Heine, brought an instant shiver of apprehension as she entered the house, and Farhad Zaiwal's character, Salim, made sure we kept on the edge of our seats while the two of them proceeded to scare the living daylight out of Neil and Jenny. Unfortunately, Angela's voice did not project well so it was difficult to hear her words at the back of the auditorium. This was not a problem with Farhad's portrayal of Salim, for we heard every word and experienced every threatening gesture from the moment he burst onto the stage.

#### Arctic Fevers

by Seaton Kay-Smith

Directed by Alan Cornell

Two intrepid explorers marooned in the Arctic, one a self-delusional egotist, the other a quirky, misanthropic realist; their only companion for nearly six months, a hungry polar bear. Surely enough to send an icy blast though any audience? So why did we all start laughing as soon as the characters appeared and why am I still smiling as I type this critique? *Arctic Fevers* is one of Seaton Kay-Smith's varied offerings to the world of comedy and surely one of the best.

Captain Edmonson (not a mis-spelling) was played brilliantly by Tony Clayton who held centre stage for the entire performance and delivered his lines with great gusto and in a variety of expressions, mannerisms and moods, all of which were credible and mirth-provoking—even as he tearfully revealed on Day 157 that he had never been loved. His companion, Elwood Fife, was the perfect foil for the captain's bravado, pomposity and final emotional meltdown, with Jon Italiano just the ideal choice in this equally demanding role. The two principals were supported by Eloise Thompson, who played their rescuing angel, Jacki. It was simply interactive mayhem but the actors did not put a foot or a word wrong from start to finish.



It seemed a pity that playwrights find it necessary to resort to coarse language to make us laugh, especially when young people are in the audience. Unfortunately that seems to be something one has to expect in today's theatre. It should be added that the language in all three plays was certainly not extreme and was more than balanced by some genuinely witty dialogue. The WTC's production standards were certainly adequate, with appropriate lighting (Ian Craig) and sound (Lawrence Phelan), tight stage management (Lisa MacGibbon), and a helpful program (Alan Cornell). Daryll Mitchell was the producer and all three of the directors should take a bow. It was a thoroughly enjoyable performance.



(l-r) Jon Italiano and Tony Clayton in *Arctic Fevers*, in Warrandyte Theatre Company's Three One-Act Plays. Photo by Stephen Reynolds