

THE *Artful* DODGER

JULY:2008

1.n. roystering young pickpocket from Charles Dickens' *Oliver Twist*. 2.n. printed handbill full of tidings from the W.M.I.&A.A. with a closing date for contributions of 25th of each month to Alan Cornell on 98444995 or alan@commercialventure.com.au



John Milburn-Clark, Simone Kiefer and Bill Connolly attempt Shakespeare.

ONE ACT PLAYS TO PACKED HOUSES

The sound of eighty people laughing confirms that life is good, especially when Warrandyte Theatre Company is in full flight. Apparently there were ninety the night before, and almost as many on the earlier nights, and I guarantee every last one of them loved the experience.

For this was a fabulous night of inspired theatre, journeying from the absurd to the bizarre to the joyous.

The three one act pieces were linked by the theme of language - not to mention madness in one form or another. All were simply staged, surely directed and brilliantly performed. The quality of acting

in amateur productions often varies, understandably, especially where shorter productions like these give less experienced directors and cast members a chance to explore nascent skills; yet here was a night where every single performer shone and not infrequently dazzled!

As they now move on to the Festival circuit, there can be little doubt that Warrandyte's theatrical reputation will be greatly enhanced, and if we don't come home with a fistful of awards then I'm a monkey's uncle!

My reviews appear on page 3. I make apologies in advance for the excess of alliteration, equivoques and big words like equivoques, but none for the praise which is in no way excessive but richly deserved!



DATES TO REMEMBER Play Reading ~ Friday, 4 July @ Hall

"Kismet" (Diamond Valley Singers) ~ 8pm 4,5,9,11,12 July & 2pm 5,6,12 July @ Warrandyte High. Ring 9444 0537.

Group reports.

Pottery



Never before in all the years of tutoring have I had the privilege of celebrating a 90th Birthday with one of my creative students.

Congratulations to rene who turned 90 years young last week. We are in awe of rene who is so active and interested in everything. Not only does she pot she also attends U.3A for French

and music appreciation. Loves the theatre, travelled alone overseas last year to the UK and has already visited Norfolk Island this year where she jumped off a wall and is now complaining of a sore hip. What does she expect for goodness sake? So from all of us - Happy Birthday! May there be many more. The PAVERPOL sculpture day was fascinating. It is always great to learn a new skill.

Third term dates are Tues 14th July to Wed 17th September..

Marj Beecham 9844 3206

Theatre



One Act Plays

The One Act Plays have gone very well – with attendances almost doubling last years (about 70 people per performance). A hearty congratulations to all involved! We now take the show on the road to Maroondah (12-13 July), Macedon (19-20 July)

and Ararat (2-3 Aug).

Play Readings – The Memory of Water

This Friday night (4/7) in the Supper Room, we will be doing a reading of The Memory of Water (by Shelagh Stephenson) – as a possible Sept/Oct production. Please come along (bring a bottle/plate) and join us!

Follies Video

The 2008 Follies video is nearly ready. For those who would like a copy, please send me a quick email to place your order!

David Tynan 9844 5727 or davidtyn@gmail.com

Painting



Pauline Cross 9439 1775

Gill Beddington 9844 1203

Craft



Rosemary Climas 9844 2154

Music



Pat Anderson 9844 3442



Paverpol gnome and Eastern gentleman



A Paverpol fairy

Here's a musical treat!

An a capella version of "The Flight of the Bumblebee at www.youtube.com/watch?v=az1592YE8Nk

One Act Plays.



The Lesson by Eugene Ionesco

This was theatre at its most absurd, as a timid professor fawns before a confidently competent young pupil till the balance of power begins to turn and madly rushes to an alarming conclusion. Leaving the maid to clean up the mess as the all-forgiving mother to the all-powerful Fatherland in a frightening world where words speak louder than actions.

Nick Anning made the journey from sycophant to psychopath in a role of daunting dimensions - the madder he grew the more convincing he became (disturbing in itself!) Caroline O'Meara was equally effective as the novice turned nervous under a barrage of linguistic lunacy and fatalistic philology. Lisa Upson played the maid with her usual assurance and, in a further twist on the language theme, revealed another of her many talents by speaking fluent French!

Adrian Rice directed and apparently understood what it all meant!



Words, Words, Words by David Ives

The first of two wonderfully imaginative plays by David Ives, a playwright we seem to be adopting at Warrandyte and why not? Here three street-wise monkeys set about the task of trying to reproduce the words of Shakespeare in a torrent of random typing. The result was hysterical! Madness of a different hue. Great comic lines were slickly delivered but it was the physical antics that had the audience rolling about nearly as much as the chimps. In an inspired piece of direction, Caroline Shaw gave her cast a day at the zoo and it showed, as they aped their ancestors with uncanny accuracy. Bill Connolly revelled in a brilliant display of physical comedy. John Millburn-Clark, first seen in this year's Follies, again demonstrated his fine skills as a character actor as Swift the sardonic simian who objects to his objectification. And Simone Kiefer's exquisite expressions and outlandish feeding habits were just plain laughable! Three great performers who left the stage in a mess and the audience likewise!



The Universal Language by David Ives

Another piece of Ives inventiveness that brought together a lonely stutterer and a looney utterer. Naomi Oosting is another newcomer from this year's Follies who quickly manages to get her tongue around Unamunda, something she struggles to do with English. Naomi has the great gift of acting without looking as though she's acting, and is as promising a performer as we've seen for some time. David Tynan, of course, we have seen many times before, but never better than as the creator of a universal language he dreams will unite the world, and make him a quick buck in the process. This role was absolutely made for David as he sparked his way through a riotous display of verbal pyrotechnics that Festival judges will be hard pressed to resist.

Ian Craig's first effort at directing was a huge winner.

Maybe next time we should just have a David Ives festival! Great work Theatre Company!



oil
 OIL
 everyone in
 Warrantdye these
 days must be into
 Extra Virgin Olive
 OIL
 such luxury
 nothing to do
 with ferocity of
 OIL
 wars disguised by
 any other name
 OIL
 lamps of wise
 virgins or pouring
 OIL
 on troubled waters

EXTRA VIRGIN: Extra Virgin Olive OIL comes from cold pressing of the olives; tastes great on cooked vegetables or brushed onto fish. La Cucina Italia reports it is most digestible (Google)

WISE VIRGINS: "Ten virgins took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. The foolish ones did not take any OIL with them. The wise took OIL in jars along with their lamps." Matthew 25:3 New International Version of the Bible

WARS: from Robert Fisk THE AGE OF THE WARRIOR quoted in email from Helen Cox, once of Warrantdye, Sunday 22 June 2008 "The number of years that OIL reserves will last at current production rates: USA 10 years, Canada 8.1, Iran 53.1, Saudi Arabia 55.1, Kuwait 116.1, Iraq 526.1 years."

TROUBLED WATERS: Google: "Benjamin Franklin mentioned the practice of pouring OIL on troubled waters in a letter. English idiom: to do or say something, to soothe, in order to make people stop arguing and become calmer."

books
 imagine Germaine
 Greer agreeing with
 Somerset Maugham
 we're not superior
 at all lovers of
 BOOKS
 just plain greedy
 addicted compulsive
 our Warrantdye house
 crowded in confusion of
 BOOKS
 at least we learn we
 don't have to read every
 BOOK
 in the world or finish one
 we've started a Treasury
 of birthday books piled
 high

TREASURY: A BOOK ADDICT'S TREASURY by Julie Rugg & Lynda Murphy/Francis Lincoln Limited Publishers 2006 "a quirky and engaging catalogue of bookish behaviour; obsessives who surreptitiously rearrange other people's bookshelves"

GERMAINE GREER: P.163 "It would be wrong to think that because I read books, any books, some over and over, I enjoyed them. I did not read for pleasure; I was an addict. I read for greed. I jammed books into my brain like a compulsive eater."

W. SOMERSET MAUGHAM: p.165 "I fly to my book as the opium-smoker to his pipe. I would sooner read the catalogue of the Army and Navy Stores or Bradshaw's Guide than nothing at all. Of course to read in this way is as reprehensible as doping."

FINISH: My informant, on 06 - 06 - 2008, from a Reading Group for men and women, found that women always finished a book while men, if they disliked it, stopped reading after a few pages.

l'etranger
 you don't have
 to be good
 at languages
 to wear a
 medal of honour
 L'ETRANGER
 is mine Camus
 Last Words echo
 my French exam
 failure but I read
 L'ETRANGER
 my friends learn
 Latin Hindi Italian
 how about French
 at Warrantdye
 Neighbourhood
 House you might
 have a crack at
 L'ETRANGER

LAST WORDS: The Guardian Weekly 30.05.08 p.35 Reviewer Michael Dirda, Washington Post: "LAST WORDS of a literary god" NOTEBOOKS 1951 - 1959 by Albert Camus publisher Ivan R. Dee \$27.50 "Albert Camus epitomised the coolness of what it meant to be a European intellectual. 'The Stranger', his classic short novel was followed by the equally classic essay, 'The Myth of Sisyphus'."

L'ETRANGER: 1942 by Albert Camus is one of the best-known examples of Absurdist Fiction (Google)

Get your Dodger by email!

To get your Dodger sooner, in colour, complete with 'extras', email me at alan@commercialventure.com.au

The Directors. Our illustrious One Act Play directors in less illustrious times.

