



Official newsletter of St Jude's Players Inc
June 2009 - Issue No. 138
Print Post Publication

Hall: 444 Brighton Road
Brighton SA

Mail: PO Box 52
Brighton 5048 SA

Telephone:
(08) 8296 2628

Website: www.stjudesplayers.asn.au
Email: info@stjudesplayers.asn.au

Spotlight Spotlight

Not Just One
AWARD-WINNING COMEDY
But Two!

Our next production has been planned to serve you up a double-helping of excellent comedy. Director Robert McCarthy has chosen two contrasting comedies and a talented cast for each.



John Koch, Andrew Horwood and Anthony Clapp are featured as the three friends.

This hilarious comedy, by French playwright Yasmina Reza, has already collected many top awards including the Laurence Olivier award for best new comedy, a Broadway *Tony* award, and the London Evening Standard award for best comedy.

Laugh line after laugh line, it concerns the cataclysmic effect on three friends when one purchases an expensive work of abstract art. Their discussion (and opinions) of the painting turns into an extremely funny examination of their friendship.

"ART" contains some coarse language.

Director
Robert McCarthy



Bed Among The Lentils

This short play has been chosen as a curtain-raiser to the program and will feature Rachel Burfield in the role made famous by Maggie Smith.

It comes from Alan Bennett's famous *Talking Heads* series of monologues. It introduces us to the wife of a vicar, unhappy with her lot and on the edge of alcoholism. It is a clever observation of character - highly amusing and, at times, poignant.

23rd to 25th July and
28th July to 1st August 2009
Evening Performances 8 pm
Saturday Matinees 2 pm

Preferential bookings (form enclosed) will close 7th July. Ordinary bookings will open 8th July and can be made by telephoning our box office team Helen and Fred Allen.

Contact them Monday to Friday between 9 am and 6 pm on:



8270 4205



Tickets: Adult \$15 Concession \$12 Child \$7

PLAYWRIGHTS' CORNER



Yasmina Reza

The author of *Art* could afford to live in a grand private mansion (this play alone has grossed over \$200 million) but, instead, she prefers an apartment in a broken-down building on the Left Bank in Paris.

She has two children (aged 20 and 16). Their father is famous French filmmaker Didier Martiny. Yasmina and Didier never married but have remained close friends and he has directed several of her screenplays.

She has written eight hit plays and several successful novels. Broadway is currently abuzz with excitement over her latest play *God Of Carnage*. According to the critics it is full of razor-sharp wit and is "utterly hilarious."



Alan Bennett

Bennett was born in Leeds, West Yorkshire in 1934. In 1960 he achieved instant fame when he teamed with Dudley Moore, Jonathan Miller and Peter Cook to write and perform the satirical revue *Beyond The Fringe*.

He wrote a series of television monologues titled *Talking Heads* which were later performed at London's Comedy Theatre. In 1991 he wrote the much-praised play *The Madness Of George III*. The play won four top British awards and was made into a successful film. This play was also a highlight of St Jude's Players season of 2003.

It is interesting to note that his play *Enjoy* (1980) was one of his rare "flops". However, it was revived in 2008 to great acclaim on London's West End and has advanced bookings through until 2010.



ST JUDE'S PLAYERS AT THE FESTIVAL THEATRE



We are very pleased to announce that, through the courtesy of the Performing Arts Collection of South Australia, St Jude's Players is going on display in the foyer of the Festival Theatre.

We have been invited to set up a display celebrating our sixty years of community theatre and promoting the work and ideals of St Jude's.

The large, lighted display will be in a special showcase at one of the main entrances to the theatre. A group of Players has already commenced work on the design.

The display will open 8th September and continue until 28th October.

We wish to thank curator Jo Peoples and Helen Trepka (collections co-ordinator) from the Performing Arts Collection of SA for their help and encouragement in this exciting project.

NEWS FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM

St Jude's Players in Surrey, England have just completed a season of *Breaking The Code* – a powerful thriller that packed their little theatre on Englefield Green.

Chairman and actor Kathryn Ward sent us this email: "Thank you for your good wishes. We had a talented and experienced cast and a good director. Will send you photos and reviews when available."

We keep in regular contact with this group – unexpectedly discovered on the internet three years ago. Not only do we share the same name but theatrical notes and gossip!

ROLAND PARTIS

St Jude's Players member Roland Partis is currently on an international tour with the Slingsby production of the successful childrens' play *The Tragic Life Of Cheeseboy*.

A recent email from Roland: "All is going well. We have resumed work in Bath. Six shows there then up to Edinburgh. The past weeks have been enormously enjoyable, catching up with family I have not seen for 9 years and meeting some new additions."

When this production returns to Australia it will be staged at the Sydney Opera House.



MEMORABLE START TO OUR 60th ANNIVERSARY SEASON

"It was a privilege to witness such a fine production of a great Australian play." This was a comment made by a patron after the opening night performance.

This comment, like so many more, sums up the powerful and emotional impact of Linda Davey's direction of John Misto's drama.

The performances of Myfanwy May and Rhonda Grill will live long in the memory of all those who saw the play and our thanks to them both for their contribution to our special anniversary year.

It was a great thrill that Jan Ruff-O'Herne author of *Fifty Years of Silence* attended Opening Night as our special guest. Jan had also attended a rehearsal to give Director and cast background information.

We also wish to congratulate both Evan Pearce and Robert Aust for their professional technical input to the production, taking The Players into a new dimension of video and audio expertise.



Opening Night suppers have moved from the French Hall to St Jude's Church foyer.



Above: The Ladies of the play - Myfanwy May, Linda Davey (Director) and Rhonda Grill, relax at the after show party on the final night.



Left: Kathryn Stevens (Life Member) is on hand for every performance to style the cast members hair. Seen here reading Rhonda Grill for her role of Sheila in The Shoe-Horn Sonata.



**CELEBRATING
60 YEARS OF
COMMUNITY THEATRE
IN 2009**

Right: Rhonda Grill and Myfanwy May, their performance in The Shoe-Horn Sonata left the audience with no doubt of the trauma, shame and endurance of women caught up as POW's.



During our productions this year patrons will notice on the walls of the Hall placards of old photographs celebrating friendships made over our 60 Years of Community Theatre.



For our last show, we were pleased to promote "Fifty Years Of Silence", the memoir of her life, Jan Ruff-O'Herne

Crew members working on the show received their very own survival bag - including Rice, Caramel, Note Pad, a Jar of Nourishment and of course a Shoe-Horn !



Preparations for our Costume Cavalcade are well under way. Here three of the team working on the exhibition rummage through some of the many costumes that will be on display in St Jude's Church in September (see back page). Left to right: Isabella Norton, Judy Menz and Rosemary Taylor.

"Is it really Art ?". Andrew Horwood (left) and John Koch have a heated argument about a piece of modern art in the Hill Smith Gallery. With Anthony Clapp they are all busy in rehearsal for our production of the hilarious comedy "Art".



PREFERENTIAL BOOKINGS and

Extra Performance

for ART and BED AMONG THE LENTILS

Your preferential booking form is enclosed in this newsletter. Please complete and return it as soon as possible. This will mean you can have your personal selection of performance date and seating in, or close to, the area you prefer.

REMEMBER – THIS YEAR YOU HAVE THE CHOICE OF AN EXTRA PERFORMANCE NIGHT – on the Tuesday of the second week of the season. For Art and Bed Among The Lentils this extra Performance falls on TUESDAY 28th JULY.

Helen and Fred Allen, who manage our bookings and box-office, are only too willing to help you. However, as it gets closer to the season opening, seating becomes limited.

HELP US TO HELP YOU. PREFERENTIAL BOOKINGS CLOSE THE 7TH JULY – RETURN YOUR FORM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS WITH A “COSTUME CAVALCADE”

A large team of Players are currently working on the enormous task of presenting an exhibition of costumes and artifacts from St Jude's Players productions presented over the last sixty years.

At the helm is Isabella Norton and she reports “it is progressing very well - but we still need more dressmakers' dummies.”

If you have a spare dressmaker dummy around the house, please let us know. We will pick it up (and return).

Just call Isabella on 8296 3366

The exhibition will be presented in decades and the costumes on display will include some genuine garments from the late 1800's and early 1900's that have been used in productions.

The costume team wish to acknowledge the assistance given by Mr Tim Rugless (of Foodland) for allowing them to use an empty house for the preparation of the display.

The exhibition will be held in the St Jude's Church (next to the hall) from 10th - 13th and the 16th – 18th September. It will open on each of these days from 10 am – 3 pm.

Admission is a gold coin and tea and coffee will be available.



Diary Date

12th December 2009

**A special Evensong of Thanksgiving
at St Jude's Church**

**This special service will be followed by
“... and The Show Goes On”
a Revue written and directed by Harold Minear
and staged in the St Jude's Hall**

OUR BIRTHDAY QUIZ SPECTACULAR !

It's on again! The St Jude's Players Quiz Night – Saturday 10th October. This will be held in St Jude's Hall and will commence at 7.30 pm. Admission \$10.

Those of you who have rattled your brains at our other quiz nights will know what great fun is had by all and what good prizes can be won. We are always “packed to the rafters” so it would be wise to do the following two things:-



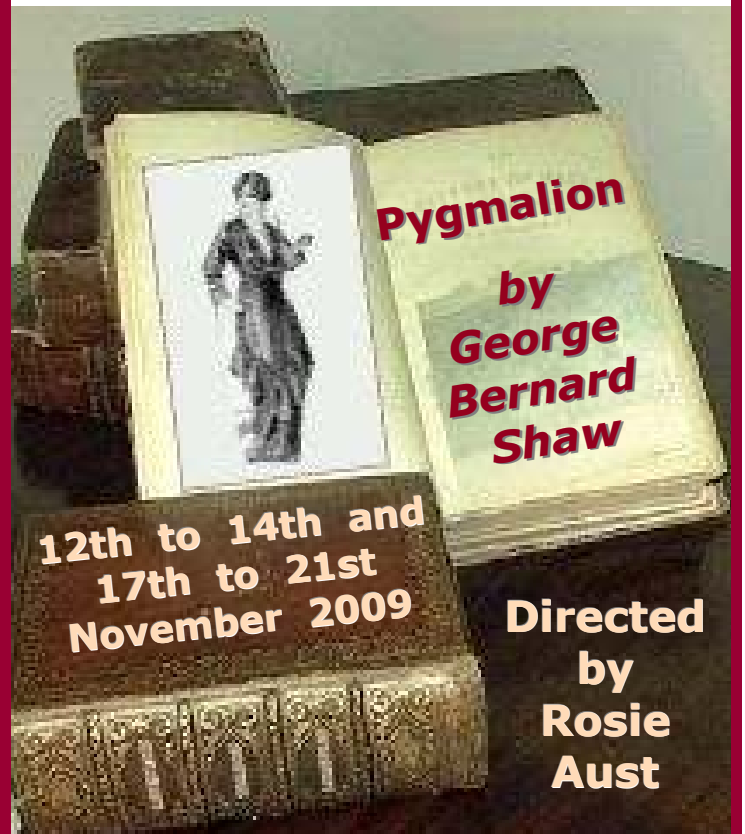
★ **Circle the 10th October in your diary now**

★ **Make your booking early – Telephone 8296 3366**

(tables of ten or eight available)

BYOG and Basket Supper

Our Next Production



**12th to 14th and
17th to 21st
November 2009**

**Directed
by
Rosie
Aust**