



NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2008

"..IT HAPPENS!"

Moreland Theatre Company's ever popular short play season is on again. This time we're performing **"..it happens!"** – four plays written, directed and performed by members of the local community. They deal with real issues, presented with a dash of drama and a generous measure of humour.

- 1. Sharing** (award winning play written by Kath Harper and directed by Vikki Doig) revolves around a group of young house sharers with differing viewpoints.
- 2. Nobody Asked Us** (written and directed by Mick Mezza) shows how the unhappiness of divorce affects everyone, especially the kids.
- 3. Good Boys, Bad Boys** (also written and directed by Mick Mezza) explores the destructive power of greed and corruption in the police force.
- 4. Fear of Flying** (written by Cheryl Wilson and directed by Monique Mahony) presents a couple from different backgrounds facing prejudice from their families based on who they love.

When: 25–27 September and 2–4 October (Thurs–Sat) at 8pm;
matinee 28 September (Sun) at 2pm

Where: Princes Hill Secondary College Theatre,
Arnold Street, North Carlton (Melway ref 29 H12)

Tickets: \$20 full/\$15 conc (Groups of 10 or more: \$12)
Note: members receive 25% discount

Bookings: ph 9386 0048.

For more information about the play, please contact Glenys Lewis on 9386 0048 or check the company's website: www.moreland.org.au.

PLANNING FOR 2009

Next year is coming up fast, so plans need to be finalised. You're invited to make suggestions and put forward proposals as to what we'll present in our 2009 season.

Current plans include a new interpretation of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by regular director Karim Shaker, who promises a new and exciting version of this much loved classic.

Karim has also proposed that he oversee an extended project in which several groups will create their own performance piece - writing, workshopping, directing and eventually performing their own work under Karim's supervision. This would be a first for Moreland and has the potential to lead to innovative and creative theatre.

What would you like to see in 2009? If you have written a play or have a favourite by another playwright that you'd like us to perform, or a yearning to direct or produce a play, we want to hear from you. Send us the details (full script, or as much detail as possible) of your suggestion, and we'll throw it into the mix for consideration. Play suggestions and directing proposals can be emailed to Karim Shaker at k.shaker@optusnet.com.au or posted to Moreland Theatre Company, PO Box 117, Moreland 3058, and must be received by 10 October.

North West FM

Baz Daly has a Tuesday morning radion show called Tuesday Magazine, which features local news and music from the cities of Moreland and Hume. MTC vice president Monique Mahony presents a weekly 20 minute "What's On" segment on the show, with news of arts and cultural events.

Baz is happy to interview local artists and performers about their activities. If you are creative and have something to say about your work, email Baz on tuesdaymorningmagazine@

Publication details

Editorial independence

The views expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of Moreland Theatre Company Inc.

Articles and advertising

All material for publication in the Moreland Theatre Company News should be marked for the attention of the Editor, and sent to the Moreland Theatre Company PO Box address shown below. Articles may also be emailed directly to editor@moreland.org.au, or faxed to 9354 1301. Any photos or drawings will also be gratefully accepted.

Publishing dates

Moreland Theatre Company News is published quarterly, usually in February, May, August and November, but these dates may be varied somewhat to fit in with productions. The next newsletter is scheduled for Nov/Dec 2008; copy deadline: 10 November 2008.

Moreland Theatre Company News

Editor: Monique Mahony/Kath Harper

Design: Steve Gagen (Imaginative Solutions, www.imagisol.com)

Company details

Address: Moreland Theatre Company Inc. (A20748T), PO Box 117, Moreland, Victoria, Australia 3058.

Telephone: (03) 9386 0048

Fax: (03) 9309 1828

Web: www.moreland.org.au

Email: plays@moreland.org.au

Moreland Theatre Company Board of Management

President: Steve Gagen

Vice President: Monique Mahony

Treasurer: Glenys Lewis

Secretary: vacant

Public Officer: Glenys Lewis

Committee Members: Patrick Boyle, Vikki Doig, Kath Harper

Next committee meeting

The next committee meeting will be at 8pm on Tuesday, 14 October 2008 at 12 Lanark Street, Brunswick East. Members welcome. Agenda items to Steve Gagen prior to meeting (tel 0401 009 097, or email president@moreland.org.au).

SPOTLIGHT ON: KARIM SHAKER



Have you always lived in Moreland or did you grow up elsewhere?

I'm a Coburg boy born and raised – in fact I was born in the John Fawkner Hospital, but I think it was called something else back then. Moreland is my home. I love it.

As a child, did you always want to be an actor/director?

I was very shy when I was growing up so going on stage was the last thing on my mind. I don't know when I got over it but I'm making up for lost time.

Were you involved in theatre at school? If so, in what way?

In school I didn't really know what I wanted to do. Acting was something I just fell into.

When did you join the Moreland Theatre Company?

Back in 2001, but it feels like a lot longer ago than that.

What is your role as Artistic Director?

I guess the title just describes what I do in the theatre, which is to help out other directors, and give ideas on what we should do next. It does help having someone who has the theatre's artistic interests at heart (not that everyone else doesn't!) – besides, it sounds better to say "Artistic Director" than just "some guy who comes in and helps out with stuff from time to time"!

What do you believe are the benefits to the community of having a community theatre company?

It gives people a chance to be creative in something everyone can do – acting. We also give the community some good entertainment at a reasonable price, and it's a great way to meet people.

Have you ever worked as a professional actor or director?

Last year I worked as an actor in a kids show. It was good money but a lot of hard work. Kids area tough audience: if you lose them for a second you can never get them back. A few years ago I was asked to do some directing at Actors Showcase, where I had lessons. It paid well and I got a lot out of it.

How important is a sense of humour when working with inexperienced people in community theatre?

As a director you must keep in mind that it is fun. That's why doing comedy is easier than drama. If you're having fun the audience will have fun too.

If money were no object, what would be your greatest dream?

To build a theatre of our own. I know it sounds lame, but I would love to be able to plan a whole year's shows without having to wait for someone to tell us when we can use a theatre.

Who should we turn the spotlight on next? If you'd like to volunteer, or suggest someone else in the company with an interesting story to tell, email secretary@moreland.org.au.

2008 activity schedule:

25 September–4 October: One Act Play Festival – a program of short plays by local writers. Princes Hill Secondary College.

December: End of year event – format, date & venue TBA