



NEWS

FEBRUARY 2009

AUDITIONS DOUBLE-HEADER

Nothing like an ambitious beginning to the theatrical year: to get our 2009 program off to a flying start, we're auditioning for **TWO** productions at the same time! They are:

A Midsummer Night's Dream A brand new take on this classic Shakespearean comedy of magic, mystery and mayhem by experienced director Karim Shaker; performances start mid June at the Mechanics Institute

Out of Our Heads This is an exciting and experimental project, in which three groups (each consisting of director and 6-8 cast members) are given some basic guidelines and six months in which to create, rehearse and eventually perform their own short theatrical production under the able supervision of our artistic director, Karim Shaker, and other experienced members of the company as needed; performances in late August at St Ambrose's Hall

AUDITION DETAILS

When: Monday 9 March and Thursday 12 March, 8pm start
(note change of dates from those originally advertised on the website)

Where: St Ambrose's Hall, 3 Dawson Street, Brunswick
(opposite the Baths - Melway ref 29 G8)

Cost: No charge for the auditions, but if you are taking part in one of these productions - whether as a director, cast member or backstage helper - you'll need to take out, or renew, membership of Moreland Theatre Company (annual membership cost: \$35 full/\$20 unwaged)

Note: 2009 memberships will remain current until February 2010.

Requirements: Enthusiasm and willingness to participate and have fun; loose comfortable clothing. No preparation or prior acting experience necessary

More information: Contact Karim on 0432 543 498 or k.shaker@optusnet.com.au, or Kath Harper on 0408 518 065 or secretary@moreland.org.au; or check the company's website: www.moreland.org.au.

Karim is the company's artistic director. He has directed a number of productions for Moreland, including *Antigone*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *A Doll's House* and a previous production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. He has broad experience in all facets of theatre, including as an actor, producer, stage manager and workshop presenter.

Kath has once again rashly put her hand up to be producer for the group project, and is very keen to hear from anyone who would like to get some backstage experience instead of, or as well as, being onstage in one of our productions. Since this is an experimental project, this could be your chance to develop or hone a whole new range of skills - in costume creation and/or acquisition, set design/construction, stage management, publicity, script development, dance or voice training, and perhaps some more that we haven't even imagined yet!

REMINDER: MEMBERSHIPS ARE NOW DUE - SEE ACCOMPANYING MEMBERSHIP FORM AND NOTE NEW RATES FOR 2009

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 vary to fit in with productions. The next newsletter is scheduled for May 2009; copy deadline: 10 May.

Moreland Theatre Company News

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Moreland Theatre Company Board of Management

President: Steve Gagen

Vice President: Monique Mahony

Treasurer: Glenys Lewis

Secretary: Kath Harper

Public Officer: Glenys Lewis

Committee Members: Karim Shaker, Patrick Boyle, Vikki Doig

Next committee meeting

The next committee meeting will be at 8pm, Wednesday, 11 March at 12 Lanark Street, Brunswick East. All welcome. Agenda items to Steve Gagen prior to meeting (tel 0401 009 097, or email president@moreland.org.au).

SYDNEY ROAD STREET PARTY

Sunday 1 March: the amazing Street Party's on again, as a precursor to the Brunswick Music Festival - spreading over several blocks of Sydney Road, with a wonderful array of multi-ethnic food and drink, crafts and whatnots, and lots and lots of great music all day and on into the evening!

This event always attracts huge crowds so it's a terrific opportunity to promote the theatre company to the local community as well as to a much wider audience. Our stall will be right outside the Mechanics Institute, and will have general information about the company and advance notices of this year's productions and other activities.

What we need are **VOLUNTEERS** willing to give an hour or so of their time to share their love of theatre with a very happy crowd of passersby. Spruik if you feel inclined, dress up if you want to, but mainly just be there to answer questions about local theatre and encourage people to add their names to our email list so we can keep them informed.

We aim to start setting up our shelter, banner and assorted promotional materials from about 10am, and muscular help in that first hour would be particularly appreciated. Pack up time at the end of the day (usually around 5.30-6pm) is another key time when able-bodied helpers are very useful.

If you can help at any time during the day, even if only for a short time, please contact Kath on 0408 518 065 or secretary@moreland.org.au, or Glenys on 9386 0048.

Please don't leave it to the usual few stalwarts to do all the hard work. Come along and share the load - and the fun!

WHAT'S ON IN 2009?

Some of our plans for the year have been finalised (see page 1); others are still wide open.

PLAYS

Our end of year production, to be directed by Steve Gagen, may be "An Evening with Dylan Thomas" (incorporating his play *Under Milk Wood* and another short performance piece), or a new Australian play, yet to be selected. Watch for more details...

The performance schedule is:

18-27 June: *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at MIPAC

Late August: *Out of Our Heads* - presentation of group-devised pieces at St Ambrose's Hall

8-17 October: Production TBA (see above) at MIPAC

WORKSHOPS

We're also considering a proposal to run a short series of workshops this year, and a more extensive season in 2010. We're interested in hearing your ideas on what the workshops should cover: acting skills? movement and dance? voice work? script writing? directing? stage management? all of these, or something entirely different?

Send your suggestions, including as much detail as you want, to: plays@moreland.org.au, or by post to PO Box 117, Moreland 3058. Your feedback will enable us to structure the workshops to best meet YOUR needs and abilities.