



NEWS

JUNE 2009

TURNING WINTER INTO MIDSUMMER

Looking for a way to escape this chilly winter weather? Sink into the warmth of endless summertime in our latest production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Young lovers, feuding fairies, night-time shenanigans in the forest, pillow fights and magical makeovers – it's got the lot!

Directed by Karim Shaker, and featuring a big cast combining familiar faces and talented newcomers, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* opens in mid-June at the Mechanics Institute Performing Arts Centre for a two-week season. Book your seats now for this very popular play (please note booking details below).



A Midsummer Night's Dream

Dates: 18–20 June and 25–27 June (Thursday to Saturday) at 8pm

Matinee: Sunday 21 June at 2pm

Note that due to the length of the play performances must start promptly, so please arrive in plenty of time to be seated before the advertised starting time.

Venue: Mechanics Institute Performing Arts Centre, corner Sydney Rd & Glenlyon Rd, Brunswick (Melway 29 G8)

Prices: \$20 (full), \$15 (concession); groups (10 or more) \$12

Bookings: Email preferred: bookings@moreland.org.au – please include name and contact number, date of the performance/s you wish to attend, number of tickets required and whether full or concession. Tickets can be collected and paid for on the night.

Phone bookings: 9388 1942 (MIPAC booking line) Note that if booking by phone it is advisable to call during business hours (9.30am to 5pm) Tuesday to Thursday. At other times the phone may be unattended and the answering machine problematic.

Group bookings only: 9386 0048 (Glenys Lewis)

OTHER NEWS

See over for updates on other coming Moreland productions, and read about an opportunity to use your theatre skills for the benefit of the wider community.

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 August 2009; copy deadline: 1 August.

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

Next meeting TBA. Committee meetings are generally held at 8pm on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. All welcome. Agenda items to Steve Gagen prior to meeting (tel 0401 009 097, or email president@moreland.org.au).

'OUT OF OUR HEADS' GROUP PROJECT

What is this? A self-devised project, where small groups are given a set of guidelines, a small budget and a limited time frame within which to create and perform their own short plays. This exciting initiative is the brain-child of the company's artistic director, Karim Shaker, who devised the guidelines to be followed by the participants.

Several groups have taken up the challenge, and for the past few months they've been busy dreaming up ideas and developing their scripts for performance in late August/early September.

Most are now at the exciting stage of completing the writing and are getting ready to rehearse their finished scripts. As soon as the *Midsummer Night's Dream* cast bump in to MIPAC, the *Out of Our Heads* crew will take over St Ambrose's Hall on Monday and Thursday nights and the real fun will begin.

Performances will be at St Ambrose, so watch for more details in the next newsletter, on our website at www.moreland.org.au, or on posters in local venues and businesses.

AN EVENING WITH DYLAN THOMAS

Our final (October) production this year will be a performance of two pieces by Welsh poet Dylan Thomas: *A Child's Christmas in Wales* as a curtain-raiser, followed by *Under Milk Wood*.

Director Steve Gagen will take a similar approach to that of his recent production of Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* – there will be no stars or leading parts, just a group of people telling the story, using narration, vignettes and transformational theatre techniques. The cast will be working with the original texts, not the stage-play versions adapted from Thomas's work.

If you're not familiar with Dylan Thomas, search out an online or print copy of *A Child's Christmas in Wales* – we guarantee you'll be charmed immediately!

'An Evening with Dylan Thomas' will be performed over two weeks, 8–11 and 15–17 October, at the Mechanics Institute Performing Arts Centre in Brunswick. Audition dates will be advised later.

If you can't wait for the auditions, contact Steve on his mobile, 0401 009 097, or email him at plays@moreland.org.au. He would welcome your creative input!



PUT YOUR THEATRE SKILLS TO GOOD USE

Volunteers (over 18 years) are sought by Vision Australia to narrate audio books for its library in Kooyong. Good knowledge of English, accuracy and concentration skills needed; theatre background an advantage. Recruitment includes telephone interview and audition, and you need to supply a sample voice recording. Training is provided. You must be available for 3-hour recording sessions 2–4 times a week for up to 3 weeks per book. If you're interested and would like more information, please contact Vision Australia's volunteer coordinator, Stella Glorie by email at stella.glorie@visionaustralia.org, phone 9864 9286 or visit the website at www.visionaustralia.org.