



NEWS

JANUARY 2008

SHOULD AULD ACQUAINTANCE BE FORGOT? We hope not...

Welcome to Season 2008, which promises to be yet another sensational year to be acquainted with Moreland Theatre Company – with four great productions, the Sydney Road Street Party and a community theatre conference all in the pipeline. But more on that later.

First, get out your picnic gear, slap on the sunscreen, and join us for:

The First Annual Moreland Theatre Company Thespians Picnic 2008! (or BBQ, depending on the fire ban conditions...)

- When: Sunday 13 January 2008, from 1pm onwards
- Where: Coburg Lake, Murray Road, Coburg (Melway ref 17 J10)
We will have signs up so we should be easy to find!
- What to bring: A plate to share, and/or BBQables (we will provide a small amount of food, but may not cater to everyone's dietary requirements, so it's best to bring something you'll enjoy eating)
Picnic gear – blanket, plates, cutlery etc
Drinks of your choice

Come along to help us usher in the new year, reconnect with old friends and make new ones, have some fun and christen the shiny new marquee we've bought for use at the street party and other outdoor events. Friends, family and pets (under your control) are all welcome!

For more information, or if you get a bit lost on the way and need directions, please call Vikki Doig on 0417 394 514 or Kath Harper on 0408 518 065.

AUDITIONS!

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Our first production for 2008 is *The Snake Hunt*, a modern fantasy/comedy written and directed by Tristan Smith*. Private detective Max Keeler is facing her most peculiar case yet. Asked by a witch to track down a magician, with a lovesick nymph and a talking snake as her only clues, she finds herself playing an important role in a magician's revenge and romance...

Performances are scheduled for Thursday to Saturday evenings, 27–29 March and 3–5 April at 8pm, with a matinee at 2pm on Sunday 30 March.

Auditions will be held on **Thursday 17 January at 8pm at St Ambrose's Hall**, 3 Dawson Street, Brunswick (opposite the Baths). No preparation necessary, just loose comfortable clothing and a willingness to enjoy yourself. Parts to be auditioned are Max Keeler (major female role) and six to eight people (physical comedians and doubling as tech crew) to play demons, the Jinn tribe, goblins and all sorts of other characters – they will be active throughout the performance.

Rehearsals will be held regularly on Monday and Thursday evenings at St Ambrose.

For more information check our website at www.moreland.org.au, or contact Tristan Smith: 0431 524 163, playwrightsinc@hotmail.com, or Kath Harper: 9354 1301, secretary@moreland.org.au.

*Tristan has written and directed a number of plays, one of which was staged at the Union Theatre, University of Melbourne. He has had major acting roles in recent Moreland Theatre Company productions – *Breakfast, Face to Face* and *Much Ado About Nothing*. This production will be the premiere performance of *The Snake Hunt*.



NEWS

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 secretary@moreland.org.au, or faxed to 9354 1301. Any photos or drawings will also be gratefully accepted.

Publishing dates

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Moreland Theatre Company News

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Treasurer: Glenys Lewis

Secretary: Kath Harper

Public Officer: Glenys Lewis

Committee Members: Tony Faithfull, Patrick Boyle, Monique Mahony, Vikki Doig, Kerriane Bell.

Next committee meeting

The next committee meeting will be at 8pm on Wednesday, 16 January 2008 at 13 Murphy Street, Preston. All members welcome. Agenda items to Kath Harper prior to meeting (tel 9354 1301, or email secretary@moreland.org.au).

SYDNEY RD STREET PARTY

Sunday 24 February 2008

We need volunteers to help promote the company and the wonderful (and fun!) work we do for the local community – and encourage people to come along to our 2008 productions.

The street party is always a great day out – loads of scrumptious food, live music and dance and some very funky things to buy. If you have some free time between 10.30am and 6pm, come and lend a hand (and voice) on our stall (under our new marquee).

Please contact Kath on 9354 1301 or 0408 518 065, or email secretary@moreland.org.au to volunteer for an hour or so. Helpers are welcome to dress in appropriate costume!

WHAT'S NEW IN 2008

There was movement at the station, for the word had got around... the **Community Theatre Conference** was coming!!

That's right! The Moreland Theatre Company Community Theatre Conference, *Building a Sustainable Future*, is well into planning mode and is set to take off in mid to late July 2008.

We have a veritable smorgasbord of interesting and experienced community theatre practitioners – dancers, directors, sponsorship experts, performance groups and local government advisers – expressing interest in sharing their knowledge and skills.

Further expressions of interest are welcome. We'd love to hear from anyone willing to present a talk/workshop, or simply help in planning this exciting inaugural event for Moreland.

For more information, visit www.moreland.org.au or contact Vikki on 0417 394 514.

2008 activity schedule:

March/April: *The Snake Hunt* – a modern fantasy, written & directed by Tristan Smith, venue TBA.

June: *Antigone* – classic Greek tragedy, directed by Karim Shaker, at the Mechanics Institute, Brunswick.

July: Community Theatre Conference: *Building a Sustainable Future* – one-day event of speakers, workshops, panel discussions, for all interested in community theatre.

October: a whole new program in our very successful series of short plays by local writers, at the Mechanics Institute.

December: *The Importance of Being Earnest* – comedy by Oscar Wilde, directed by Brian Moynihan, at St Ambrose.

NOTICEBOARD

Congratulations to: (1) **Monique Mahony** who this year commences a Masters degree in Arts Management at RMIT – maybe one day she'll be managing that *other* MTC...

(2) **Kath Harper** for her winning entry in the 2007 national one-act playwriting competition sponsored by Boroondara Theatre Company/Camberwell Youth Theatre. Kath's play, *Sharing*, will be performed as part of our short play season in October this year.

Got something interesting for the noticeboard? Email your news to secretary@moreland.org.au and we'll make sure everyone hears about it!