



NEWS

May 2004

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Play readings are back!

New production of *A Doll's House*

Auditions for *Mulga Bill's Bicycle*

Coming soon to a theatre near you . . .

. . . Moreland Theatre Company's latest show – "A Doll's House", written by Henrik Ibsen and directed by Karim Shaker

Mechanic's Institute Performing Arts Centre,
corner Sydney Road & Glenlyon Road,
Brunswick

May 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15 at 8pm
Matinee Sunday May 9 at
2pm

Tickets: \$15 waged,
\$10 concession

Bookings: 9388 1942
(MIPAC)

The play that outraged critics and scandalised audiences with its critique of women's traditional roles when first performed in 1879 is just as relevant when set in the confines and conventions of postwar society of the 1950s.

Book your tickets now – it promises to be a great production!

See the website for more details on the background to the play, and information about this production and other activities of Moreland Theatre Company.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Please note that the Annual General Meeting, which was scheduled to be held on 27 May, has been postponed until late June - date and venue to be advised in the next newsletter. Details will also be posted on the website.

Reminder: In order to vote at the AGM, or nominate for a position on the Board of Management, you must be a financial member of Moreland Theatre Company. Send renewals (\$25, or \$12 concession), to Moreland Theatre Company, PO Box 117, Moreland 3058.

Play Reading Series

Back by popular demand – the first session of one-act play readings, on Sunday 21 March, was so enjoyable that we've bowed to popular pressure and scheduled another one.

The next play reading will take place on Monday 24 May, at the St Ambrose Hall, Dawson Street, Brunswick, starting at 7.30 p.m.

The intention is to make these readings a regular activity for Moreland Theatre Company, with the aim of developing one or more plays for an end-of-year performance. This is a wonderful opportunity for would-be directors, or those with limited experience. Try your hand at a short play, hone your skills, and move on up to a major production.

The play readings are fun for all, whether you've had previous acting experience or just want to give it a go for fun. All welcome.

If you know of a great short play – bring it along to share. Some plays will be provided, but we're always open to new ideas, or a fresh look at old favourites.



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 9383 3684. 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 to appear in August; the deadline for copy is 31 July 2004.

Moreland Theatre Company News

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Moreland Theatre Company Board of Management

President: Steve Gagen

Vice President: Albert Hudson

Treasurer: Glenys Lewis

Secretary: Glenys Lewis/Kath Harper

Public Officer: Glenys Lewis.

Committee Members: Karim Shaker, Gino Tomisich, Peter Davey, Cheryl Wilson.

Next Committee Meeting

To be advised following AGM (check the website for details). All members are welcome to attend: this is where ideas are thrashed out, plans are formed and decisions made about future productions and other performance-related or social activities of Moreland Theatre Company.

MULGA BILL'S BICYCLE

Auditions for our September production, *Mulga Bill's Bicycle*, will take place in the St Ambrose Hall, Dawson Street, Brunswick, on 17 June at 8.00 pm.

Mulga Bill's Bicycle was written by director Steve Gagen with original music by Margaret Somerville. It was first performed by The Hartwell Players in 1995. The story centres around the famous poem of the same name by Banjo Paterson, but has been considerably extended.

The play is set in some indefinite time – long ago, the present, whenever – and though it is a cheerful musical comedy that will appeal to young and old, is also a gently-barbed satire on some of the political events of recent years.

Briefly, Mulga Bill and his childhood sweetheart Noreen – orphans both – are defrauded of what little they have by the villainous Sam Snakeoil. Sam is keen to develop Bill's native town of Eaglehawk as a tourist resort, with casino, bike GP tracks, freeways, etc. The town pub is to be demolished, and the market traders evicted from their market square.

When Bill discovers gold in Dead Man's Creek (as a consequence of the famous runaway bike ride) his joy is short lived. Sam has acquired the rights to that too, aided and abetted by Bill's wicked step-mother, Edwina.

Sam's plans are eventually thwarted by a wily old swaggie called Saltbush Jack – and by an extraordinary coincidence. Jack also acts as a narrator to the main action. Sam and Edwina (who have

by this time married) are stripped of their ill gotten gains and leave town as a bickering married couple, thoroughly deserving each

other. Bill and Noreen acquire the wealth that is their due and the townsfolk return to their quiet but happy ways.

Mulga Bill's Bicycle will require a cast of about 20, who must be able to sing and dance to some extent. Most of the singing is fairly simple stuff, so don't be put off if you're no

Caruso or Callas! Also required are Stage and Technical Crew and Musicians.

The play will be staged at the Mechanics Institute Performing Arts Centre on September 23, 24, 25, 26 (matinée) and 30, and October 1, 2 and 3 (matinée). Rehearsals will begin the week after the auditions, almost certainly on Mondays and Thursdays at 8.00 pm, at the St Ambrose Hall.

You can find further information (including a copy of the play and a list of parts) on the Moreland website (www.moreland.org.au), or you can contact Steve Gagen directly – by email for preference – on steve@gagens.com, or by telephone on 9309 3010 (home), 0401 009 097 (mobile).

Note: for insurance purposes, anyone taking part in a production must be a financial member of the Moreland Theatre Company.

