

Playbill

November, 2005

The newsletter of the Melbourne Writers Theatre

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MEETINGS

November 7 – Note times :
Meeting 7:30pm ; Reading 8pm

SLICES

We will be reading four "slices" which are works in differing stages of progress. The writers have submitted their scripts for a reading and would welcome your feedback on their work in progress. After each piece has been read there will a time for discussion. This is an excellent opportunity to explore problems or issues that you might be having in your writing.

In the Ghetto by James May

By the author of "The Good Son" in the MWT Short Play Season. Set in Sydney's Kings Cross, In the Ghetto explores the relationship between two dysfunctional young gay men A farcical power play set in their "family home"

Patchewollock by Jack Opie

A scene set in the Patchewollock Progress Association Hall ...how can Patchewollock be put on the map – maybe a Patchewollock Anthem .. and Jack has written the words and music....

Love on the Line by Adam Jones

A graphic expose of the intersection of sex and the internet – welcome to sex in the 21st century

Ciao bella! by Trevor Armstrong

Ever wondered why is Leonardo da Vinci's *Mona Lisa* the most visited art work on the planet ... this one sided dialogue with the *Mona Lisa* only serves to create more questions than its answers

December 5

To be advised.

SCRIPTS

We want yours! It doesn't have to be perfect, it just a good draft for the first review. It can be **any** length. We would love to give it to a panel to be read. Once it has gone through a panel reading, it can be eligible for a rehearsed reading by professional actors, in front of an audience of supportive members, all willing to give you constructive feedback. This is a valuable process, both for the writer, the panel reader, and the audience – and it's FREE for the writer, if they are a MWT

member. You can bring along your friends so they can hear your work, and contribute to its development.

Rules for script copies : For panel readings: **FOUR** copies of scripts are required.

Once the draft is approved to be read by actors, please submit: **ONE COPY** for **EACH** character, plus **ONE** copy for director. This is mandatory. If these are not provided, the script cannot be read.

PANELS

Join a panel to read somebody else's play. It will broaden your reviewing skills, and provide an opportunity for you to see what other writers are writing and how they are writing it. Meet other members, and discuss writing with fellow writers. A most re-

warding experience. A couple of hours to read the play, an hour to discuss it with fellow panel members and the writer, and you've gained a new skill. We usually have at least one experienced panel member on each panel.

PEOPLE IN GLASS HOUSES...

Thanks to all those members who made the season a success! With fifteen performances spanned over three weeks, we had a total of 447 audience members. We've had some great feedback on the writing/performances and overall it seems the vast majority of audience members were highly entertained.

All play seasons produced by MWT are on a co-operative, profit-share basis, enabling us to make small payment to actors,

directors and stage managers. We made a total of \$6347.50, of which \$4200 was distributed to the nineteen staff and the rest covered expenses and publicity.

Thanks again to all members who came along and supported the show, especially those who brought groups of friends & family! Congratulations again to the writers who had their work performed. We hope you enjoyed, and were inspired by the experience.

THANK YOU!

Ray Mooney, Kathryn Martin and Melissa Thomas for all the work you did for the season. A job really well done.

PLAY READINGS

At readings, a small entry fee of **\$5 for members and \$10 for non-members** applies. This money is given to actors and directors to cover their out-of-pocket

expenses. It does not go into MWT consolidated revenue. Often, MWT makes up the difference when revenue is insufficient.

YOUR NAME IN LIGHTS

If you have won a writing prize/competition **over the last twelve months**, let us know. Send full details of the organization,

the competition and the prize, and **we will publish this on our website.**

DIRECTORS

If you would like to direct, or know somebody who would like to direct, let us know. Email us a short expression of interest, including theatre experience. We

will send you an information sheet. You will need to have access to at least four actors. (We can probably help you with this.)

Quotable quotes :

An incurable itch for scribbling takes possession of many, and grows inveterate in their insane breasts.

Juvenal (AD 60 -140)

WAL CHERRY AWARDS 2006

Members are invited to submit **one script** to be considered for inclusion in the MWT nominations for the award.

There are no restrictions on the length or subject of the play but preference will be given to scripts which have been through the MWT assessment process. Scripts that have been previously nominated by the MWT are not eligible to be renominated.

Entries close: December 31, '05

Entries should have a cover sheet which includes the following information:

Name, Postal Address, Email address, Telephone contact, Running time of script, List of characters, Brief synopsis (no more than 100 words)

MWT will form a judging panel which will include an independent judge from outside the MWT.

CONGRATULATIONS

Cerise De Gelder, Marg McKenzie (whose plays appeared our Glass Houses season) and Alix Phelan, have had plays chosen in the Wildcard Section of the Short & Sweet competition. The plays will be given rehearsed readings. They are different from those in Glass Houses, and were chosen in the top 60 of 1000

submitted. See Short & Sweet website.

Brigette Burton, whose short play, The Value of a Dollar, was performed in our recent season, has won one of six grants provided by The R.E. Ross Trust Playwrights Script Development Awards 2005, to develop her play, Killing Jeremy.

FUNDING SUBMISSION

MWT needs to make some applications for funding to help its members develop their writing and theatre skills. Any member who has some experience in preparing

successful funding submissions is invited to contact :

MWT President, Trevor Armstrong on
0412 870 639

MWT NOVEMBER PRODUCTION

**The Courthouse Theatre,
349 Drummond Street, Carlton
November 27 – December 17**

We are delighted to announce that MWT Vice President, and well known playwright, **Ray Mooney**, will be producing his new play

Everyone's Entitled To My Opinion

which is a satirical/realistic look at the libel action brought by Magistrate Jelena Popovic against Andrew Bolt and **The Herald Sun** - saying among other things, that she "hugged drug traffickers she had let off with a bond." She was awarded a quarter of a million dollars.

Watch the website for more details about this challenging new production.

SHORT & SWEET FESTIVAL

The Short & Sweet Festival November 26 – December 10

For further information on
Fully produced plays and Play readings
See

<http://www.theartscentre.net.au>

NSW LITERARY AWARDS

In 1987 the NSW Government inaugurated the annual literary awards to honour distinguished achievements by Australian writers.

In 2006 nominations are sought for the following awards :

The Christina Stead Prize
The UTS Award for New Writing
The Douglas Steward Prize
The Kenneth Slessor Prize
The Patricia Wrightson Prize
The Gleebooks Prize

The Ethel Turner Prize
The Play Award
The Script Writing Award
The Biennial Prize for Literary Scholarship
The Community Relations Commission for
Multicultural NSW Award

The prize most likely to interest MWT members is the **Play Award** for \$15,000 offered for a play or a work of music drama given its first production in Australia between 6 November 2004 and 4 November 2005. The production may be given by a professional or amateur theatre co, but it must involve a season of several performances before a general audience. Unpublished plays **must** be submitted in a bound form, not loose-leaf. More information can be obtained below :

NOMINATION FORMS AND ENQUIRIES :

www.arts.nsw.gov.au

Email : ministry@arts.nsw.gov.au

2006 GRIFFIN AWARD

Attached is an entry form for the above, for which there is apparently a **\$5,000 Award**

NOIRSTALGIA

Three one-act plays

by Marg McKenzie, Mark Jones and Amedeo Astorino

Direction by Brenda Palmer, Bruce Langdon, Michael O'Malley

Chapel off Chapel

October 28 - November 6

Tickets \$18 Full/\$15 Conc. Preview (28/10) \$10

Bookings 82907000

2006 Griffin Award Entry Form

Please send your entries to:
Christopher Hurrell
Literary Manager
Griffin Theatre Company
13 Craigend St
Kings Cross NSW 2011

Author's Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Mobile: _____ Email: _____

Script Title: _____

Conditions of Entry:

1. To be eligible plays must be:
 - a) at least 60 minutes in length
 - b) unproduced and unpublished
 - c) unencumbered by agreements for future production or publication
 - d) Not previously submitted for the Griffin Award
2. Playwrights must be citizens of Australia or resident in Australia for at least 12 months prior to the Award closing date.
3. While all reasonable care will be taken with works submitted, no responsibility can be taken for loss of material received.
4. The decision of the judging panel is final and no correspondence will be entered into.
5. The work must be submitted in hard-copy form, delivered to the Griffin office.
6. If you wish to have your play returned, please included a stamped, self-addressed envelope.
7. Griffin shall have world-wide first right of refusal to produce the winning play for a period of 12 months following announcement of the winner.

Declaration:

I have read the Conditions of Entry for the Griffin Award for New Australian Playwriting. I declare my eligibility under the conditions and agreement to the terms listed. This script is my original work and has not been produced for public performance.

X _____
Sign here

Please check that your entry includes the following:

1. A copy of the play, double spaced and printed singled sided on A4 paper
2. A cover page featuring the title of the play
3. Do not use binding, staples or folders. A single bulldog clip is preferred.
4. Make sure all pages are numbered
5. **Attach a detailed synopsis – 250-350 words.**
6. Do not print your name on the title page or anywhere on the script – entries are judged anonymously.

ENTRIES CLOSE 4.00PM FRIDAY, 20 January 2006