



# Observer Showbiz

# Community Theatre

With Cheryl Threadgold

Melbourne  
Observer



## COMMUNITY THEATRE NEWS

### The Riviera Club

The next Riviera Club will be held on Sunday, March 28 from 7.00pm to 9.45pm at the Mentone RSL, Palermo St., Mentone. All styles of performers, singers, musicians, dancers, poets with original material are invited to workshop acts in front of an audience. There is no cost involved and a piano accompanist is available. Audiences are welcome also. No entry fee and drinks are available from the bar. Enquiries 9584 2433.

## AUDITIONS

### Brighton Theatre Company

The Popular Mechanicals (by Keith Robinson) March 14 at 2.00pm and March 15 at 7.30pm at Brighton Theatre, Brighton Arts and Cultural Centre, Wilson St., Brighton. Director: Ewen Crockett. Enquiries: 9527 2681.

### Lilydale Athenaeum Theatre

Noises Off (by Michael Frayn), March 15, 16 at 7.30pm at the Lilydale Athenaeum Theatre, 39-41 Castella St., Lilydale. Director: Alan Burrows. Enquiries: 0412 077761.

### Mordialloc Theatre Company

The Underpants (by Carl Sternheim, adapted by Steve Martin) March 28 at 1pm at the Shirley Burke Theatre, 64 Parkers Rd., Parkdale. Director: Vicki Smith. Audition bookings/enquiries: 0419 329 052.

## SHOWS

### 1812

Stepping Out (by Richard Harris) Until March 27 at 8.30pm, matinees at 4.00pm at 1-3 Rose St., Upper Ferntree Gully. Director: Renee Maloney. Tickets: \$22. Bookings: 9758 3964.

### Brighton Theatre Company

Blackbird (by David Harrower) Until March 13 at 8pm sharp with Sunday matinees at 2.15 sharp at the Brighton Arts and Cultural Centre, Wilson St., Brighton. Director: Shane Ryan. Tickets: \$18/\$16. Bookings: 9589 0005.

### Basin Theatre Company

Prelude to a Kiss (by Craig Lucas) Until March 21 at 8.15pm with 2.15pm matinee on March 21 at the theatre cnr. Simpson and Doongalla Rds., The Basin. Director: Felicity Wightwick. Tickets: \$20. Bookings: 1300 784 668.

### STAG (Strathmore)

Speaking in Tongues (by Andrew Bovell) Until March 13 (Evening performances at 8pm and Sunday matinee at 2pm) at the Strathmore Community Hall, Loeman St., Strathmore. Tickets: \$20 adults, \$15 concession. Bookings: 9379 5348. www.stagtheatre.org

### Encore Theatre

Our Town (by Thornton Wilder) March 12, 13 (Gala Night), 19, 20, 25, 26, 27 at 8.00pm and March 14, 21 at 2.15pm at the Clayton Community Centre, Cooke St., Clayton. Bookings: 1300 739 099.

### Fab Nobs

Grease March 12 - 27 at 8pm at the Fab Factory, 33 Industry Place, Bayswater. Director: Anne Dewar; Musical Director: Phil Osborne; Choreographer: Felicity Hill. Bookings: Online: www.fabnobstheatre.com.au or phone 0401 018 846.

### Essendon Theatre Company

Away (by Michael Gow) March 18 - 27 at 8pm, 2pm matinee on March 21 at the Bradshaw Theatre, Essendon. Director: Susan Flint. BYO drinks and nibbles. Kiosk available. Bookings: 9330 4808 (cash only).

# NOISES OFF - AT HEIDELBERG

## SHOWS



● Pictured: Marg Weston plays Dotty Otley in Catchment Players production of the farcical *Noises Off*, being presented from March 19 - 27 at the Banyule Theatre, Heidelberg. Photo: Keryn Cresp

● Catchment Players present *Noises Off* from March 19 - 27 at the Banyule Theatre, Buckingham Drive, Heidelberg.

Written by Michael Frayn, *Noises Off* follows the antics of a second rate theatre company putting on a play called *Nothing On*. We follow the cast through the final dress rehearsal and realise the company is struggling to get a drastically under-rehearsed show ready.

*Noises Off* is one of the most acclaimed comedies in the past 25 years and anyone who has ever been involved in theatre will no doubt find familiarity in the on-stage/backstage antics.

Performances are March 19 (Gala Opening), March 20, 22, 26 at 8pm, March 21 at 2pm and March 27 at 5pm. Tickets: \$26 Gala Opening (incl. light supper), \$25 March 22 and \$27 all other performance. Bookings: 0437 228 246 or post cheque and stamped, self-addressed envelope to: Catchment Players of Darebin Inc., PO Box 205, Reservoir, Vic, 3073 (cheque made payable to Catchment Players of Darebin Inc.)

### SLAMS Musical Theatre

● Suits March 19 - 27 at the Knox Community Arts Centre, Cnr. Scoresby Rd. and Mountain Hwy, Bayswater. Tickets: Flat rate \$25. Bookings: 0417 017151 or slams.mtc@gmail.com

### GEMCO Players

● Bouncers and Shakers (by John Godber and Jane Thornton) April 16, 17, 23, 24 at 8pm and Saturday matinee April 24 at the Gem Theatre, Emerald. Director: Tanya Barnes. M15+ rating. Adult themes. Tickets: \$24/\$22.



● Scott Hili, left, (Leading Player) and Kyahl Anderson (Pippin) join a talented cast in Waterdale Players' production of *Pippin*, being presented until March 13 at 8pm at the Rivergum Theatre at Parade College, 1436 Plenty Rd., Bundoora. Tickets: \$22/\$18. Bookings: pippintickets@waterdaleplayers.com or visit www.waterdaleplayers.com/pippin. For enquiries only call 0415 978 975.

Photo: Gareth Hart

### Cheryl Threadgold on 3AW

● Non-Pro Theatre columnist Cheryl Threadgold is heard weekly on 3AW Overnighters program hosted by Keith McGowan. Cheryl presents a segment with the latest community theatre news at 12.45am Wednesdays.



## Observer Showbiz Special Feature

## The Production Company



● Chelsea Gibb and Juan Jackson will star in *The King and I*

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"Music is composed by Jule Styne, whose works include *Gypsy* and *Funny Girl*," Mrs Pratt said.

"Helpmann Award winners Mitchell Butel and Matt Hetherington will play the comic dual roles of Jerry (Daphne) and Joe (Josephine). In the role of the sexy songstress, Sugar Kane, is Christie Whelan fresh from her huge success in the role of Janet in *The Drowsy Chaperone*."

"Adam Cook, artistic director of the State Theatre Company of SA returns to direct and Christopher Horsey will choreograph."

"With this new season I am so proud to be promoting local creative talent in new stagings of these three brilliant musicals."

For the last 12 years we have offered professional engagements to hundreds of artists living here in Melbourne. We have the pleasure of watching many of them go on to major careers in this industry.

"Equally important, we are entertaining tens of thousands of people with a thrilling musical theatre experience."

"We do everything possible to make these musicals as affordable and accessible as we can, with the cost of a subscription to all three shows as little as \$102, less than the cost of ticket to a single performance of most commercial musicals!"

"I look forward to seeing you at the State Theatre," Mrs Pratt said.

The Production Company is a non-for-profit organisation and totally privately funded.

### THE PRODUCTION COMPANY SEASON 2010 DATES

● THE KING AND I – State Theat re  
July 14-17 at 7.30 pm, Saturday July 17 at 2pm  
and Sunday July 18 at 3 pm.

● THE BOY FROM OZ – State Theatre  
August 18-21 at 7.30 pm, Saturday August 21 at  
2pm and Sunday August 22 at 1 pm.

● SUGAR – State Theatre  
September 29 – October 2 at 7.30 pm, Saturday  
October 2 at 2 pm and Sunday October 3 at 3 pm.  
To subscribe to all three shows call 9247 4800 or  
email admin@theproductioncompany.com.au