

# ACTORS IN THE GARDEN



IN THIS  
NEWSLETTER

The bulletin of Theatre Onset inc

PO Box 91 Bega 2550

(p) 64926117

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(e) mahamati@internode.on.net

*The Pebble*  
set for July  
production.

Turning Circle  
production  
makes a visit.

Spoof piles up  
the bodies and  
the puns.

Open air  
theatre explores  
the nasty side  
of nature.

**Next Meeting**  
**Wed June 8**  
**6.30 Jamie**  
**and**  
**Rebecca's**  
**place 121**  
**East St.**

On the agenda  
open air  
performance  
for Dec/Jan?.

Move over Midsomer

*Let There Be Blood* followed in the finest traditions of *Midsomer Murders* bodies dropped in all directions and no sooner had the first gouts splashed across the stage than Pepper's scissors were at it again. Then when Mullet applied the old Lung Tze hold of death, 'works every time', the bodies really started to pile up. The big question was, who'll be left to take a curtain call?

As things turned out everyone was miraculously back on their feet to receive their applause.

This spoof, devised by members of In Theatre and written by Maddy Stocker, showed its TV roots with a whopping quick-fire 30 scenes ranging from a roadside car accident to a hospital bed, master crim's hideaway and back again and with a cast of characters including a testosterone fuelled football player, a psychotic, knife wielding waste disposal expert and a middle aged mother with a Peruvian llama herding lover. *Days of our Lives* eat your heart out.

Director, David Stocker, navigated the maze with a clever lighting and sound design and his cast for the most part kept up the quick fire scene changes needed to keep the show moving.

Dreadful jokes were the order of the day, none better than the one that brought two murderers, Pepper and Grinder together for a finale though, to be fair, the miraculous reuniting of a dim-witted Mullet with a long lost granny pushed it hard. A judicial trim with those murdering scissors would have tightened the show but all involved had a great time and their audiences loved it.

A great thanks to David, Jamie, the cast of 16 and all concerned. The coffee and cakes weren't bad either. (Submitted by Nic)



With Pat,  
Zhan  
Silvolli  
and Paul  
Julien  
Comer-  
Kleine on  
the job  
we can  
all sleep  
sound at  
night



Theatre Onset presents  
A Turning Circle production of:

## **"CLIMB ABOARD THIS!"**

Devised and performed by  
**PREMDA LOWSON**

**DIRECTED BY HOWARD STANLEY**

**AT**  
THE THIMBLE THEATRE,  
BEGA HIGH SCHOOL

*Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June 7.30 pm*  
*Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June 7.30 pm*  
*Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June 3.00pm*

*Premda invites you to join him on  
an autobiographical and  
metaphysical journey which is  
bravely different.*

**Tickets \$15, available at the Door**

Adult themes. Strong language

## **SOMETHING A LITTLE DIFFERENT**

If you're looking for something different in a one-man show The Thimble is the place to be this month. I saw Premda's show in Bermagui when he first presented it and can guarantee an evening at the theatre that is daring and different.

Director, Howard Stanley is a friend to Theatre Onset and was responsible for the lovely Chekhov piece that opened our last production, *Bites*

## **WHEN IS A MUSICAL NOT A MUSICAL?**

Answer, when the band's not playing. That at least is the view of the Broadway Musicians Union which has taken on the producers of *Priscilla Queen of the Desert* where nine musicians in the pit are augmented by taped music.

The muso's have the audience on side. A poll of 700 theatre goers found overwhelming support for live music but the typical Broadway musical costs somewhere between \$10m and \$15m and producers are begging writers to slim down the musical content as a cost saving.

*Priscilla* has no strings in the pit rather, recorded string music with compressed sound waves to produce an unique sound.

## **IN THE MIX**

If design is your thing go to [WWW.guardian.co.uk/stage/theatre](http://WWW.guardian.co.uk/stage/theatre) and check out the photos of what that paper's critics believe are the ten best and most ground breaking stage designs.

**Catch Jillian Rheinberger at Café Evolve Friday 17 June.**

Meryl Streep is appearing in a stage reading of a new play by Alan Alda, *Radiance, the Passion of Marie Curie*. It's Alda's first stage play who confesses to a passion for Marie Curie. Tickets are a snip at \$500.

JACK REHEARSES  
LOOKING NICELY BUFFED



## *The Pebble* Set for July Production

Hop into the Tardis and prepare to zoom back 3,500 years when we stage *The Pebble* on 22 to 31 July. Climb out and you'll find yourself at the court of Sisyphus, king of Corinth and the world's first and most successful con-man.

If you're up with your Greek Mythology you'll know that somewhere Sisyphus pushes an enormous boulder up a mountain side every day only to see it roll back again. What you may not know is why. This retelling of the old myth by Alex Nicol reveals all. You'll meet gods, nymphs, heroes and the traditional murdering Greek queen in this piece of nonsense and discover the con-trick that has condemned poor old Sisyphus to his unending up-hill battle.

When Scott Hailstone was unable to cast *The Golden Age* the scurry was on to find a replacement in short order. Nic had just finished writing *The Pebble* and when an enthusiastic group laughed their way through its first reading it was the unanimous choice. The show is cast, rehearsals are underway and we're all set to have an accidental world premiere performance in July.

*The Pebble* (title courtesy Jamie Forbes) joins a long list of writing credits for Nic. He's had premieres in Sydney, Melbourne, London and New York but never one in Bega, there's a first time for everything.

His first professional production formed part of the Sydney Festival in 1992 and he has won the Wal Cherry Play of the Year Award, a special award at Royal Exchange Theatre in Manchester and been short listed for the Sydney Theatre Company's Patrick White Award. He confesses that *The Pebble* was an attempt to break a writer's block. He's been working on a serious full length play that didn't want to be written for two years and thought something light might open the flood gates.

### AND THE CAST IS...

Sisyphus, a king and full of himself, **Scott Hailstone.**

Periclives, a pompous public servant, **Jamie Forbes.**

Autolycus, son of the god Hermes and a thief with a nifty trick, **James Arthur.**

Merope, a queen and the only one with any commonsense, **Rebecca Lupton.**

Thebe, a nymph, give her a pool of sunlight and a tambourine and she's anyone's, **Niamh Nicol.**

Asopus, a river god in danger of turning into a statue of himself, **Patrick O'Halloran.**

Hermes, messenger of the gods and nicely buffed, **Jack Berry.**

And finally Thanatos, a bit dim and servant of the god Hades (actually death) **Patrick Shields.**



## WOULD LIKE TO SEE THAT

At least Diana Nicol would. As a director she's always had a fascination for William Golding's *The Lord of the Flies* the tale of angelic choir boys stranded as a result of a plane crash on a remote island where they revert to nasty, vicious killers. Mind you, she's always wanted to direct it with an all girl cast...perhaps In Theatre? So, she'd be in her element at the Open Air Theatre in London's Regent Park.

The charred fragments of a British Airways plane lie scattered about, garments hang from trees, suitcases and an open laptop are strewn over the grass and there's smoke in the air... Ah what you can do in the open air.

The play begins at twilight and as the night draws in the once tame park takes on a fierce and mysterious air and those angelic choir boys who, once looked so keen and eager, appear with their faces painted and the look as though they might have been spawned by the undergrowth.

Fire burns like a beacon and the boys' descent into savagery begins.

Nigel William's adaptation of the novel won praise from William Golding himself but The Guardian's reviewer says that the story telling in this production is overshadowed by the set... except for the performance of George Bukhari who plays Piggy, the least lovable of the boys and the one who never reverts to savagery.



## ON OTHER STAGES

**Queanbeyan Players** are in production right now with *Jesus Christ Superstar* until 18 June.

Catch the **Sydney Theatre Co's** *In The Next Room* at the Canberra Theatre Centre 8 to 11 June.

**Cooma Little Theatre** have three one act plays under the heading *Murder Mutts and Metaphors* from 17 to 25 June.

Of course we have the premiere production of *The Pebble* opening at The Thimble on July 22 for a six performance season.

**Footprint Theatre** at Pambula are in rehearsal with *Crèche and Burn* due to open 19 August to play until 27 August.

And one act plays are the order of the day at **Spectrum Theatre** in Merimbula with *four women four plays* due for production 9 to 17 September.

Interested in a musical that wouldn't cost a mint? Ask at the next meeting for a CD of *I Love You You're Perfect Now Change*

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## Are you Footprint's good fairy?

Can you help our neighbours with any of the following props?



The production is in late August, but we will need the items well before then for rehearsals. All items will be collected, recorded and returned to their owners after the show.

### PROPS WANTED

- > 4 x cloth nappies
- > 1 pair handcuffs (police style)
- > 2 x Baby bottles
- > 3 x bunny rugs
- > 1 x Childproof gate (tall, with lift-to-open lock)
- > 1 small wooden play table - toddler sized
- > 2-3 toddler sized wooden chairs that can take adult weight
- > 1 Easy-to-remove baby sling
- > 1 Open cupboard with shelf partitions with approx 9 x 30cm sections (big enough to put a small backpack into)- preferably that can be painted
- > 1 Cupboard with shelves/drawers for larger items (toy boxes etc) - preferably that can be painted
- > 6 Nappy bags or small rucksacks
- > 1 Toddler sized red jumper
- > 1 Roll of Butcher's paper
- > 2 x Baby capsules
- > 1 Narrow Counter (chest height) with shelves/drawers
- > 1 Captain Feathersword costume (Wiggles) adult-size (or pirate costume that can be adapted)
- > 1 Answering machine (non working order ok)
- > 1 Burglar alarm panel
- > 1 Intercom panel
- > 1 Large wall clock with clear number and movable hands (no glass on front)
- > Several Baby dolls (life size)
- > Several Calico dolls (toddler size)
- > 1 Light switch (non working ok)
- > 1 Whiteboard (approx 1m tall x 50cm wide)
- > 1 Smoke alarm (non working order ok)
- > 1 Papaya box with lid (fruit market style)
- > 1 Loud hailer (functioning)
- > 1 crayon bucket large enough to fit over adult head
- > 2 teething rusks
- > 2 light-coloured pinafores (preferably same colour)
- > 3 large brightly coloured plastic toy boxes
- > 1 musical toy that plays "Old MacDonald" or similar loudly
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- > Footprint Theatre Inc
- > PO Box 111 Pambula NSW 2549
- > [www.footprint.org.au](http://www.footprint.org.au)
- > 02 6495 7160