

IN THIS  
NEWSLETTER

DON'T MISS  
THE VAGINA  
MONOLOGUES  
THIS  
WEEKEND.

SCOTT IS  
PRIMED FOR  
THE GOLDEN  
AGE,

FIRST ENTRIES  
IN OUR TENTH  
ANNIVERSARY  
PLAY QUEST

DAVID CALLS  
AUDITIONS FOR  
LWBB

NEXT  
MEETING  
9 MARCH  
6.30  
121 NEW ST  
AND OF  
COURSE  
YOU'RE  
WELCOME

# ACTORS IN THE GARDEN



The bulletin of Theatre Onset inc  
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March 2011  
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## TICKETS SELLING FAST FOR VAGINA MONOLOGUES

The word is out and despite a deliberately low-key advertising program tickets for *The Vagina Monologues* are selling fast. Director Mahamati reports that the show is travelling well and that we can look forward to some fine performances from Alli Faulkner, Donna Cotter, Jennifer Willcox, Mahamati, Patricia Mills, Penny Hunt and Skye Etherington.

Licensing arrangement restrict this show to just three performances so, be warned, if you're in the habit of waiting to the second week of the run to book a ticket you'll miss out. Instead of paying royalties in the traditional fashion author Eve Ensler asks that ten percent of the profits be directed to an organisation raising the issue of violence against women and Bega's Women's Resource Centre will be the beneficiary. Promotion through the

centre is bringing us patrons who've not visited any previous Theatre Onset productions so, we're looking to add to our stable of regular patrons.



Okay, we promise Dave isn't in the show  
but some one has to focus the lights

*THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES*  
THIS FRIDAY, SATURDAY AND  
SUNDAY AT THE Thimble.

Friday and Saturday  
performances at 8pm. Sunday  
matinee at 4pm. All tickets \$20  
and bookings are available at  
64922619

### CHECK OUT THE WEB SITE

Rebecca Lupton is a lone hand establishing our web site but the number of hits for information about our play quest and interest from international writers shows just how important it is. If you have historical information about the company Rebecca would like to hear from you 64924928.

## GOLDEN AGE IN PRE-PRODUCTION

Scott Hailstone has been hard at it planning our third production for 2011, *The Golden Age*. Ten or twelve of us got together last week for a read-through of this complex play. Production is set for the July School Holiday period with Bega High School main hall booked for the show.

In many ways *The Golden Age* promises to be one of the most challenging production yet tackled by Theatre Onset. The setting ranges from the wilds of North Eastern Tasmania through to Berlin in the final stages of World War Two and the characters encompass members of the colonial society, their rebellious children and a curious 'tribe' of settlers lost for three generations in the wilds of the bush. These members of the cast speak their own language and have developed a culture apart from mainstream western culture, fascinating stuff.



### First read Golden Age

Sixteen roles, some quite small others very demanding, are available and Scott is planning a nine week rehearsal period to deal with the play's complexities. Technically too there are plenty of challenges so this is a production that will really stretch us.

Watch for auditions in late April

## GOOD RESPONSE FOR PLAY SEARCH

We have the first of what promises to be dozens of entries in our search for a play to celebrate our tenth birthday.

Rebecca Lupton reports in excess of 350 hits on our website promoting the search and Alex Nicol says that there have been more than 80 hits on an international playwrights website he frequents. We've even had four plays by an American writer from this source who says he knows he can't enter the quest but hopes we might read his plays anyway.

An internal reading group including Claire Lupton has been set up to cull entries down to a short list which will then be handed over to a group of three. This will include Diana Nicol, who will direct the play, and she'll be joined by two independent theatre professionals. We've already had confirmation that Kevin Poynter, artistic director of Gearstick Theatre Wagga and a former lecturer in the Performing Arts faculty at Charles Sturt University, will join the panel.

Melbourne Writers Theatre and La Mama are among the groups actively promoting the quest.



## SPOILED FOR CHOICE

If you're one of the lucky ones who've been making the trip to Narooma to see the NTLive productions you'll have seen seven nominations for Olivier Awards including two best actors, best director and best musical.

Next up is the unusual staging of the Frankenstein story to be followed later in the year by Zoe Wannamaker in Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard*

## ONE FOR THE KIDS

The hardy souls who journeyed to Narooma for King Lear last month will doubtless raise an eyebrow when they hear of an English actress currently doing the whole show on her own ... and for kids!

Susanna Hamnett is performing *Nearly Lear* for brave youngsters and their parents in New York. She's reduced the play to 90 minutes and the conflict between Lear and those nasty daughters of his Goneril and Regan.

Taking on the character of Norris... who's auditioning for the role of the fool... She tells the ripping tale of what she saw at court and promises her young audience, "There will be bodily fluids pouring out of your eyes and nose" and she passes around the Kleenex to make her point.

Yes, she does keep in bits and pieces of the famous speeches but that terrible storm which reduces Lear to tears comes down to a spray bottle and a soaked audience.

## It could be a gentle little love story...

But with a name like, *Let There be Blood*, I wouldn't hold my breath.

LTBB by Rupert Lord is the next offering from our youth arm, In Theatre, Director David Stocker has held his first round of auditions and has another planned for this week.

With a completely straight face he admits that there are 'quite a few murders' in the show so naturally he needs a large cast. Currently he's looking for older teenage males for acting roles but is also keen to hear from anyone who's technically minded.

We've been able to increase the stock of working lamps in the Thimble and we now have a good, flexible sound system so there's plenty of opportunities for the technically minded to get creating.

## Want to do a musical ?

But make it small. Who's got the \$100,000 budget to do a biggie. Try *Ordinary Days*, the story of four young New Yorkers whose lives are unexpectedly interconnected by circumstance OR another four hander *I Love You You're Perfect Now Change*, the longest running Off-Broadway musical. Thanks to the magic of YouTube you can hear songs and see whole scenes from several productions.

Production dates for *Let There Be Blood* (I really want to write that as BLUD) are set for late May, early June.

Remember In Theatre doesn't just cater for students at Bega High so if you know someone who could be interested David is waiting to hear on 64926117

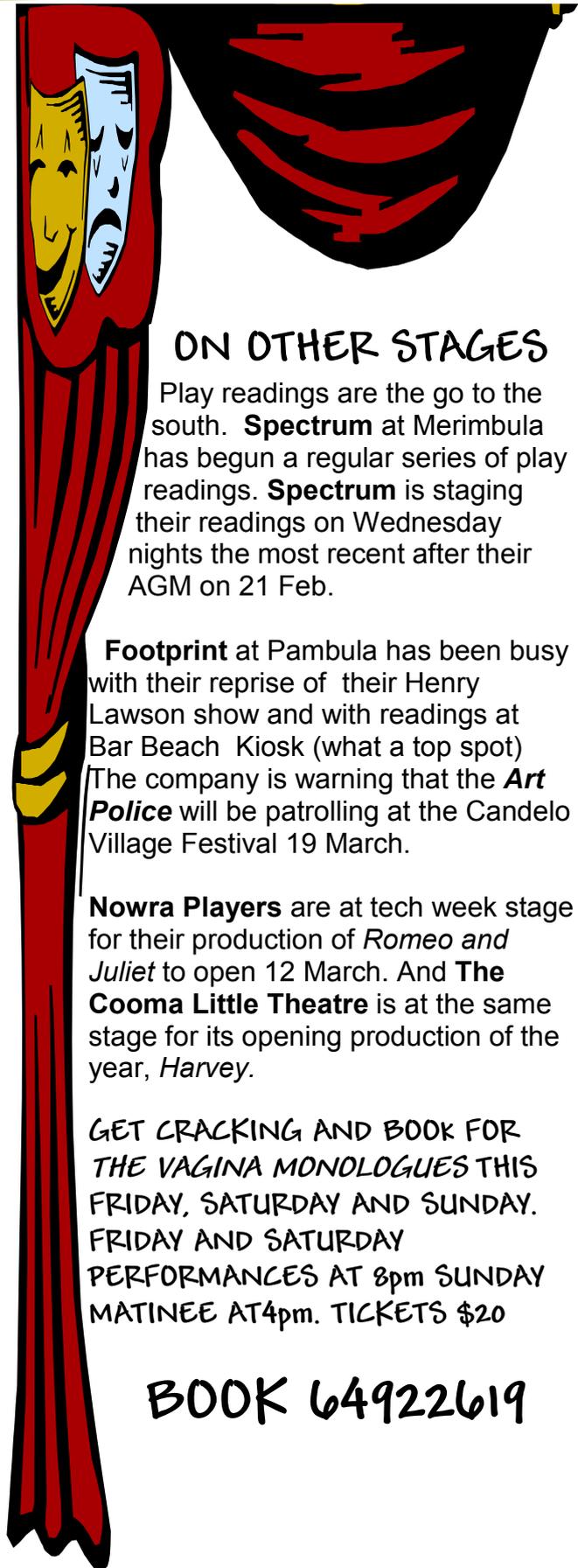
## YOU LIKE TO SEE THAT

Perhaps we should start by saying Jamie Forbes would like to see this. Melbourne Theatre Company will stage Sarah Ruhl's *In the Next Room* or *The Vibrator Play* opening 7 April

- Dr Givings is a coolly rational man of science, whose modern method for treating hysteria has many advocates – not least the female patients themselves, who come back wanting more. Hearing the unrestrained paroxysms from the surgery, Mrs Givings would like to know why such wonders of the electrified age might not also be of benefit to the general female population.
- Wracked with pleasure. From the author of *Dead Man's Cell Phone* and *The Clean House*, comes a comedy about knowing what is good for you even though there are no acceptable words for it.
- Jamie apparently feels it would be a great follow up to *The Vagina Monologues* and sees himself as the perfect Dr. Givings.

*Frankenstein* is the next offering from the National Theatre Live, Benedict Cumberbatch and Jonny Lee Miller are alternating the roles of Victor Frankenstein and the Creature. Audiences in cinemas will have the chance to see both combinations, with two broadcasts a week apart. Danny Boyle, *Slum Dog Millionaire*, is directing.

*Frankenstein* shows at Narooma 9, 10 April. Check out a clip from the play on You Tube



## ON OTHER STAGES

Play readings are the go to the south. **Spectrum** at Merimbula has begun a regular series of play readings. **Spectrum** is staging their readings on Wednesday nights the most recent after their AGM on 21 Feb.

**Footprint** at Pambula has been busy with their reprise of their Henry Lawson show and with readings at Bar Beach Kiosk (what a top spot) The company is warning that the **Art Police** will be patrolling at the Candelo Village Festival 19 March.

**Nowra Players** are at tech week stage for their production of *Romeo and Juliet* to open 12 March. And **The Cooma Little Theatre** is at the same stage for its opening production of the year, *Harvey*.

GET CRACKING AND BOOK FOR  
THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES THIS  
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PERFORMANCES AT 8pm SUNDAY  
MATINEE AT 4pm. TICKETS \$20

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