



Essendon Theatre Company Quarterly Newsletter 2011

Bradshaw Street, West Essendon

Issue 1

Bookings: 03 9330 4808

March 2011

EDITORS COMMENTS

Hi!

I have recently joined the etc this year, and will be your newsletter editor. I'm fairly new to the etc world, so I'll be floating around helping out where I can!

2011 has started off with a BANG, Tess Maurici-Ryan has come back to direct the second instalment of The Norman Conquests.

Our lovely cast and backstage crew have 'lived' at the etc head quarters for the past few weeks creating Tess' vision for the plays.

If you loved 'Table Manners', 'Living Together' is a must see! The Norman Conquests will hopefully be completed in 2012.

ETC AGM was held on the 14th February 2011 and the **ETC Committee for 2011 is:**

President – Eileen Bentley

Vice President – John Degabriele

Secretary – Rosalin Shafik-Eid

Treasurer – Christine Nilsson

Newsletter – Cat Dwyer

Set Design – Tony Leach

Social Secretary – Rachael Holt

Member – Sam Ellen Bound

We are having a **Garage Sale** as we have run out of storage space....time to clean up and sell! We are selling Furniture, props, clothing and anything else we can find in our storage room and shed that we no longer need. We will also be having a sausage sizzle on the day to help raise funds, so come along, browse and buy 😊

Sunday 10th April 2011 at
10am – 5pm

If, like me, you are keen to get amongst the theatre world and interested in volunteering for one of our productions this year, take the leap and fill in the volunteer form at:

www.essendontheatrecompany.com/getinvolved.php

Until Next Issue....

Cat xo

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2011 ETC

Productions

**The Norman Conquests
– Living Together**

24th March – 2nd April 2011

Rope

23rd June – 2nd July 2011

Tba

8th Sept – 17th Sept 2011

Beyond a Joke

24th Nov – 3rd Dec 2011

Subscriptions Due 1st March

If you haven't already paid, please do so as soon as possible.

\$20 - Single

\$25 - Family

\$15 - Pensioners/Students

PRESIDENTS REPORT 2011

2010 was another good year for etc with the first production of **'Away'** bringing in reasonable audiences. Susan Flint was thrilled to at last direct this play as it has been a dream of hers for some time, having directed it in New Zealand many years before. A strong cast with **Margaret Rawlinson, Michael Bentley, Bevan Uren, Samantha Ellen Bound, Michael Mace, Donal Taylor, Gabrielle & Michelle Tanner**, bringing nostalgic days of their youth during the summer at the beach. With Tony creating a basic set with movable back drops and painted sets.

Our next production was the **One Act Plays** under the umbrella of **'A Fly on the Wall'** with 4 plays being directed jointly by Tess Maurici-Ryan and Natasha Boyd. These were **'Racquet'** Written by Jason Silveri & Natasha Boyd. In this very funny play we introduced some newcomers in **Susanna Frith, Michael Finemore Cocks and Jessica Window, along with our two familiar faces in Xavier Ryan and Samantha Ellen Brown.** Then we had **'Kids'** written by John Morgan with another new face in **Bobbie Tyburski** (as the cute baby in my favourite costume a pink all in one body suit). We also welcomed **back Rachael Holt and daughter Abbey, Xavier Ryan and Dawn Hinrichsen.** All playing naughty children in a park I wanted to know 'Where were their Mothers?'

Our 3rd play in this season was **'Mothers Have Nine Lives'** written by Joanna Norland. A very clever play depicting 4 women in very different roles of motherhood portrayed very well by **Dawn Hinrichsen, Bobbie Tyburski, Susannah Firth, and Jessica Window.** With another lot of **naughty kids played by Rosalin Shafik-Eid, Vivian Gherbel & Claire Watt.**

The final play **'Selling Johnny Depp'** written by Alex Broun, with **Michael Finemore Cocks, Thomas Kay and Sila Simsek.** A great little 10minute

piece about selling merchandise that no one really wants.

Two of these plays were entered into our Festivals, with **'Mothers'** and **'Racquet'** bringing in some prizes at Gemco, Macedon and Peridot. Well done to all involved and the Stage Managers, Rosalin and Christine Nillson.

Our third production for the year **'The Underpants'** by Carl Sternheim and adapted by Steve Martin. This was also our Play for the VDL Awards. Directed by Dawn and John, this was an interesting piece performed by **Sally Kingsford, Emma Cox, Xavier Ryan, Donal Taylor, Drew Mason and Dan Walls.** This proved to be a very 'Cheeky' production with lots of plays on words and double entendre and some very interesting accents from the cast. Christine and I enjoyed making the costumes for the period and lots of 'knickers' featuring throughout the play and in the foyer. The set which was devised by Dawn and John resembled a 'doll house' very cleverly painted on the walls with the help of Fleur Bain a student who was hear to say "why aren't there more people at set building, it is such fun!!!"

The Underpants was nominated for Best Directors, Best Female Actress in a Comedy, Best Supporting Actress in a comedy and Best Set Design – went on to win the Adjudicators Award for Best Set Design and awarded to Overnewton College Arts Students who helped with the set building and painting.

Our final production for the year was **'Table Manners'** by Alan Ayckbourn and Directed by Tess Maurici-Ryan. Tess decided to produce this 'in the round' which worked well on the whole. A very funny play about Norman who fancies himself as a bit of a flirt and likes to play with fire as far as the womenfolk are concerned. Once again we had some new faces with James Antonas as the only

person I can see to depict the naughty **'Norman'** Jackie Fraser as **'Ruth'**, **Pauline Snell** as **'Sarah'**, **Craig Ryan** (not actually a new face) as **'Reg'**, **Kathryn Moloney** as **'Annie'** and once again for the third time for the year **Xavier Ryan** as the **bumbling but lovable 'Tom'**. The audience loved this cast so much we are going to continue with the 'Norman Conquests' again this year with the next production being the second in the trilogy of 'Living Together'. This is in production with the same cast at the moment, and is back on the stage with restaurant settings again.

Social News:

During the year we had another Sausage Sizzle at Bunnings bringing in a profit of over \$1,000.00. Luckily we had better weather this time although it was a bit wet at the time, it is always a fun thing to do and thanks to all who volunteered.

Awards/Christmas Party:

On December 11th we had the culmination of the internal awards for 2010 together with the Christmas Party. Not exactly a spectacular night, but there was quality not quantity there. Ian Cairncross Emceed for the night along with Louise Anthony as one of our judges. Dawn and Rachael catered for and decorated the hall for the occasion and it all came well with a bit of a scrub. The Awards given out on the night were mostly won by the cast and crew of 'Table Manners' Congratulations to all.

Finally, I would like to thank my committee members, **John, Tony, Sam, Dawn, Ros, Christine, Rachael & Fiona**, who did a great job in their various capacities. Without these dedicated people, we would not be able to run a successful company.

Yours in Theatre, **Eileen**



The Norman Conquests – Living Together

By Alan Ayckbourn – Directed by Tess Maurici Ryan



Living Together is part of a trilogy under the general title The Norman Conquests, the other two plays being Round and Round the Garden and Table Manners. In Living Together, Annie, the Cinderella of the family, lives in the shabby Victorian vicarage-type house where the family was brought up. Reg, her brother, and his wife Sarah come to stay for a weekend so that she may go away for a rest. The general idea is that Annie ought to pair off with Tom. But for this weekend, it is Norman, the raffish assistant librarian husband of Annie's sister Ruth, with whom she planned to go. They were to meet secretly but Norman turns up early. When Annie calls the whole thing off Norman decides to stay on at the house and gets roaring drunk.

The Cast:

Norman - James Antonas
Ruth - Jackie Fraser
Annie - Kathryn Maloney
Tom - Xavier Ryan
Sarah - Pauline Snell
Reg - Craig Ryan

Production Dates:

March 24th, 25th, 26th at
8:00PM
March 27th Sunday Matinee at
2:00PM
March 31st, April 1st & 2nd at
8:00PM

*Doors open half an hour before
the show start time*

Venue:

West Essendon Community
Centre
Bradshaw Street West Essendon
(Enter via Buckley Street)

Bookings:

Call Eileen on 9330 4808

**Performed "Theatre Restaurant
style" - BYO FOOD AND DRINKS**



Upcoming Auditions

ROPE – by Patrick Hamilton

**Adapted by Bruce Cochaine and
Lance Reenstiena**

Directed by – Karen Parrott

Synopsis:

Branden wants excitement at any price. He persuades his weak minded friend, Charles, to assist him in the murder of a fellow undergraduate, Ronald Kentley. They place the body in a wooden chest and invite some acquaintances, including the dead man's father, to a party. The horror and tension work up gradually and we see the reactions of the two murderers, closely watched by the suspicious Robert Cadell . . . will he be able to catch them?

Season:

23rd June – 2nd July 2011

Audition Time/Date:

Monday 5th April – 7.30pm

Thursday 7th April – 7.30pm

Enquiries: 0402 175 546

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