

VHP Vagaries

Issue: 6

July
2013

Bringing Live Theatre to Local Rural Communities



a Sub-Committee of the Kyogle & District Arts Council

DIRT OPEN HOUSE

DIRT's 2nd Birthday celebration in June was a lot of fun for students and parents and friends who made up the audience.

Students cut the wonderful birthday cake donated by a parent (*see photo below – look at those smiles!*) and then started the short programme which consisted of an abbreviated version of a typical DIRT class and a short play *Outwitting the Imp* (in association with Whootie Owl) set in the Congo.



Starting with voice and body warm ups, Paul leads the class through a normal routine on the safety of their gym mats. (*See photo below.*)



Then it was time for a quick improv game where the students start out doing a neutral walk and then, on the direction of the instructor, change and act walking through snow, jelly, crashing waves, a desert, or any other of the scenarios put to them by the instructor. The students get to use their imaginations as well as their bodies and facial expressions to help them portray the scene.



Above: Trying to walk through thick jungle.

The Bean Skit was next on the programme followed by *Outwitting the Imp*.

Below: The farmer, his wife and son meet the Imp



Above: The cast (missing is the Narrator).

The wonderful scenery, which pictures a typical Congo farmer's hut and cassava fields was designed by our artist, Eden and painted by Eden and Lynette. Additional set construction by Paul.

Congratulations to all the DIRT kids, instructors and crew who worked so hard to make the programme a success. Well done!



DIRT has moved to Thursday!

The DIRT program will move to Thursday afternoons from the commencement of Term 3. The first class will be on 18 July at the KMI Hall, Stratheden Street, Kyogle from 4pm – 6pm.

VHP are now accepting applications for new students for Term 3 and further information is available on VHP's website or you can email us. Both addresses are below.



Above: Paul attaching frames to scenery flats.



Above: Eden doing final touch-ups!

As part of his involvement in painting the scenery for the play, Eden spent time in class discussing the geography of the Congo, typical huts and cassava plants so that the students would understand the background to their play.



Playwrights' Competition News

Patron: John Summons

VHP is thrilled to announce that John Summons has offered to organise an online text discussion/forum for playwrights who may be interested in entering the competition. In fact, he has offered to facilitate two forums, one for schools and one for interested others.

VHP will initially be doing a trial forum with one school. Once our pilot forum has proven a success, we will be contacting all schools in the area and inviting them to participate.

For anyone else thinking of submitting an entry in the competition, whether an aspiring or published playwright, who would like to be involved in this amazing opportunity, please email villagehallplayers@gmail.com by 31st July.

Also, if you would be interested in helping VHP to organise either the Competition or the Festival or both, please contact us at the above email address and we'll be in touch!



VHP Theatre Workshop



Unfortunately, we have to cancel this Workshop as the Hall is not available on 20th July and after that

the Players will be very busy working on the getting our *Light & Dark* production ready for opening night on 10th August.

So we will look to reschedule it at a later date.



Murder Mystery Game

As promised, here are some more photos of VHP members at the Bowling Club for the Kyogle Community Cinema fundraiser dinner and murder mystery game.



Left: Jane Russell (aka Odette Nettleton) looking a million dollars!



Right: Aspiring Starlet (aka Bree Johnston) checking her mobile phone for that all important call from her agent.

Above: Dean Martin



(Paul Worsnop), Mae West (Lynette Zito) and Endora (Meg Ainsworth) at the party.



2013 VHP Calendar

Time & Date	Venue	Production
7 pm Saturday 10 August	KMI Hall Kyogle	Light & Dark
7 pm Saturday 17 August	KMI Hall Kyogle	Light & Dark
2 pm Sunday ** 18 August	KMI Hall Kyogle	Light & Dark
7 pm Saturday 24 August	KMI Hall Kyogle	Light & Dark
2 pm Saturday 19 October	Rous Mill Hall	It's My Party and I'll Die if I Want To
7 pm Saturday 26 October	Bundgeam Hall	It's My Party and I'll Die if I Want To
7 pm Saturday 2 November	Eden Creek Hall	It's My Party and I'll Die if I Want To
7 pm Saturday 9 November	Woodenbong Hall	It's My Party and I'll Die if I Want To

Light & Dark combines three, short one act plays, with a thought provoking drama sandwiched between two comedies. Co-produced by Lynette Zito and Gordon Hook, the theme of the production is the power of language, and each play illustrates a different aspect of this central theme. Tickets \$15

Note: Matinee performance will consist of the two comedies only and tickets will be \$10.

He Said and She Said is a comedy with a sting by American playwright, Alice Gerstenberg. Set in the first months of WWII, Mrs Packard, a dinner guest at the home of wealthy socialites and a terrible gossip, causes havoc before dinner is even served! This play is directed by Lynette Zito and Gordon Hook and is Gordon's directorial debut!

Two in a Room, a drama by our own John Summons, deals with a bizarre encounter between two people – he's trying to buy love and she is simply selling sex. Directed by Lynette Zito. **MA15+**

Call Girls is written by British playwright David Muncaster and directed by Lynette Zito. This play is a very funny comedy set in an IT call centre where four women work. Laura, the new girl on the team, has raised the ire of her three co-workers with her low cut

tops, short skirts and her unwillingness to be one of the team. The others speculate on the relationship between Laura and Gary, the boss.

It's My Party and I'll Die If I Want To is by Australian author Elizabeth Coleman. This two-act comedy, produced by Lynette Zito and directed by Paul Worsnop, tells the tale of Ron, a quintessentially Aussie family man who, due to an intractable illness, has been told by his doctor that he has only a short time left to live. He decides to hold a party so he can break the news to his wife and family and enjoy a few last quality moments with them. This is a comedy of anxiety, absurdity and occasional terror.



Village Hall Players Committee

Village Hall Players Committee Meetings are for committee members only, while General Meetings (including the AGM) are an opportunity for anyone interested to come along. We've had to move our AGM to September to allow time for the financials to be completed. Dates for meetings from October onwards will be advised after the AGM.

10 September – **Annual General Meeting**

Production meetings are a way for everyone to get involved in a current production. If you'd like to join us, please email us for the date of the next meeting.



Village Hall Players Play Reading Group

Play reading group will be taking a break for a few weeks as many members of the group are involved in the upcoming *Light & Dark* production. This means that rehearsals, technical rehearsals and dress rehearsals will be taking up most of their time.

We'll let everyone know when we recommence and the play we'll read will be a ripper.



Vagaries Goes Quarterly

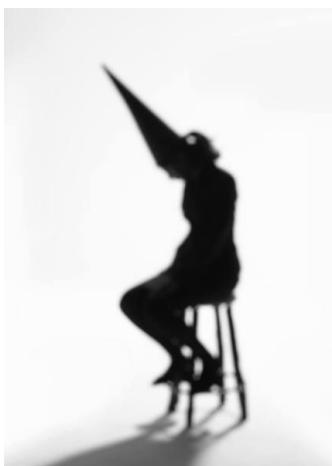
With a very full season this year – four productions in all – the play reading group, DIRT, the inaugural Playwrights' Competition and our involvement in supporting other community groups, we are all so very busy that putting out a monthly newsletter is more than we can manage.

So Issue 6 (this issue in case you missed it) will be our last monthly issue – at least for now.

We'll look to publish Vagaries at least quarterly from now on but don't be surprised if a special edition crops up now and then when we have breaking news.

So by my reckoning, the next issue will be in October but you can always keep up with our news via Facebook and our web page.

See you at the theatre, Editor.



APOLOGIES

I offer my sincere apologies to last month's Player – Meg AINSWORTH – not Meg Atkinson as written. I have apologised to Meg personally and she has graciously accepted my apology, which just goes to show what a truly lovely person she is.

So I have put on my dunce's hat and sat myself in the corner for punishment! Ed.



(Each newsletter you'll meet one of the diverse group of amazing people who make up the Village Hall Players. We hope you enjoy meeting us! Ed.)

Bree Johnston was born in Victoria and moved with her family to Queensland when she was seven. Eight years ago, Bree and her husband purchased land in Kyogle and finally moved here four years ago with their eldest son who was five at the time. Since then they have had another son and Bree owns Plum Vintage, a small retail store in town, where she works and also cares for her younger son.

From an early age, Bree would perform little skits and the like with her cousin to a family audience. When Bree was fifteen, she performed in the Scouts Gangshow production. She also studied Drama at High School but did not pursue anything further until this year.

Bree joined VHP because she wanted to try something different, meet new people and have some selfishly child free hours in her life!

She has enjoyed seeing what actually is entailed in a production and how much work is involved in travelling and taking these productions to the villages.

Bree will be performing in two of the three plays in the August production *Light & Dark* – in the role of Diana in *He Said and She Said* and as Tracy in *Call Girls*. These are two very different roles and Bree has not only welcomed the challenge in learning both roles but is revelling in it! She is a very talented actor.

