

July 2011

PROSCENIUM

The Villanova Players
NEWSLETTER



Volume 50 Issue 7



MARVIN'S ROOM

LEE CONFIDES IN Dr CHARLOTTE



Play No.2 for the 2011 season, *Marvin's Room* closed recently to much critical acclaim. The play told the story of two sisters, Lee and Bessie, who learned to understand each other more, during the course of the play.

Bessie discovers she has leukaemia which presents some problems because she cares for both Marvin and Ruth, and needs not only a compatible donor, but also needs some support to help her through this crisis.

Brian Cannon brought this play beautifully to life and highlighted the sensitivity of the subject matter.

All cast members were excellent in their roles, from the comedic Dr Wally to the tragic Marvin. The two boys were excellent too - one bitter and rebellious and the other young and innocent.

The many scenes in the play were achieved by some skilful lighting effects and the scene changes were handled very well indeed. The sets themselves, were simple but very effective and colourful.

The play was truly a very good depiction of the conflicts confronting many families, highlighting compromises, tensions, stored bitterness and anger that at some point confronts us all in our family lives.

Audience reaction was very favourable and positive, with many praising the acting in the play.

All concerned with *Marvin's Room* should be proud of what was achieved.

RUTH FUSSES ABOUT MARVIN



Inside this issue:



Marvin's Room 1
Vale - Fr Michael

From our President 2
Leo Bradley

2011 Productions 2
Monthly General Meeting

Vale - Mary Donnelly 3
Morningside Festival

Wanted for Play 4 3
Speaking in Tongues

What's on in Theatres 4
June Entertainment

Office Bearers 2011 4



Diary Dates for you to note:

- Monthly General Meeting - Wednesday 20 July, 2011, at the TAFE theatre
- Management Committee Meetings and Casting Committee Meetings are monthly.
- Opening Night of *Lady Windemere's Fan* - Friday 26 August 2011-8pm

VALE - Fr MICHAEL MORAHAN

Fr Michael Morahan OSA died in Cairns last Saturday, 25 June 2011. He was some 59 years of age.

Fr Mike was the Rector of Villanova College at Coorparoo for 15 years until the end of 2009. I had the privilege to be the Chair of the College Council for 7 of those years and worked closely with Fr Mike. It is timely to reflect on the common beginnings of Villanova College and the Villanova Players, both started by the Augustinians in 1948.

Fr Mike was very conscious of the history of those shared beginnings. The College opened its Augustine Centre in 2005 which incorporates the Hanrahan Theatre named for Fr Louis Hanrahan OSA, the Founder of the Players. Fr Mike was very keen to have Villanova Players mount a production in the Hanrahan Theatre in the year of its opening.

The show chosen was *"To Kill a Mockingbird"*, directed by Jill Cross. Fr Mike kindly offered us the use of the Hanrahan Theatre for no fee. This was followed a year or two later with a successful season of *"Stepping Out"*.

Fr Mike Morahan provided exceptional leadership to the College over his 15 years as Rector. He was a fine educator, administrator, teacher, Priest and friend. However, it is fitting that he is remembered by the Villanova Players (in a very real sense) as a true patron of the arts. We extend the sympathy of the Villanova Players to Fr Mike's parents, Brian and Shirley and their family.

We have received confirmation from the Augustinian Provincial Office of the following arrangements for Mike's funeral:

Thurs 7 July, 7.30pm: Vigil/Evening Prayer including Sharing of Memories for Fr Michael Morahan OSA at St James' Church, Coorparoo.

Fri 8 July, 11.00am: Requiem Mass for Fr Mike at St James' Church, Coorparoo followed by refreshments in Parish Hall and then to Nudgee Cemetery for interment.

Patrick Mullins



FROM OUR PRESIDENT - LEO BRADLEY

It's great to be back home in Brisbane after a short holiday to visit my sister in Dubai.

Just in time for the final week-end of *Marvin's Room*. What a fantastic production. Big congratulations to all the cast, crew and production team. It was very rewarding to see our members bring such a touching story to life. Also great to see some new faces on stage in Steven Quin, Jim Solomon and Lucy Moxon, as well as some of our more regular members.

Our next production will be *Lady Windermere's Fan*, another classic by Oscar Wilde. Rehearsals are soon to be underway and I'm sure it will be another triumph.

I'd like to make a big appeal to all members to take part in this year's Morningside Festival. The festival will be on Sunday 31st of July. We especially need you to be part of our contingent in the Street Parade. The Parade is a lot of fun and is only a short walk up Thynne Road to the cheers of the crowd. It is true that the more the merrier, but it is really important to have a number of people to make an impression on the local community and all our local business and political leaders. The assembly time will be 9:00am, the parade will start at 10:00am and be finished by 10:30am (yes you will spend most of the time chatting in the street between the Morningside State School and the local Kung-fu Club!) Our theme is "Wilde at Heart" and we have plenty of suitable costumes to promote our next production. It would also be appreciated if you could bring along as many fans as possible. The Festival gets bigger each year and they expect well over 10,000 people this

year. It is always a fun atmosphere, and an easy way to get applause for just being you. Please let me know (ph 07 3891 5769) if you can take part. We usually gather at the Hut about 8:30am to get dressed and so we can ferry people across to the assembly area.

This month also sees the Theatre at Morningside being used by a couple of groups under our stewardship, for a theatre workshop and the Brisbane Eisteddfod. Many thanks to Mary Woodall, Mickey O'Donnell and Dan Knudson for making this possible. While these groups will help to defray to costs of running the Theatre, it is even more important to ensure that the space is used by the community and the need to keep it available to the community is enforced with our local political leaders.

We were all saddened to hear of the death of Mary Donnelly, one of our much loved life members. Like many of us, I was lucky to meet Mary in my first show with VPs and her passion for theatre and warm-hearted dedication and infectious laughter left a lasting impression. She will be very much missed.

Cheers
Leo



2011 FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS



Play No.3 - *LADY WINDERMERE'S FAN*
by Oscar Wilde
Directed by Jill Cross
A biting satire on the hypocrisy of Victorian society's attitudes, particularly towards marriage.
26th August to 10th September



Play No.4 - *SUMMER WONDERLAND*
by Matthew Ryan
Directed by Leo Bradley
A true blue parody of life's trials and tribulations faced by an eccentric group of neighbours in suburban Australia.
18th November to 3rd December



MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING

AT THE TAFE THEATRE
WEDNESDAY 20 JULY 2011
8:00pm

ENTERTAINMENT

Lucy Moxon will present an excerpt from "*Three Viewings*" by Jeffery Hatcher. We do not know a lot about this at the time of going to press, but we are sure you will be intrigued if we tell you that the setting is a funeral home, and that it is a black comedy. Come and make our monthly meetings the fertile training ground and experimental space that we have come to expect.



[If anyone is interested in presenting an item at our Monthly Meetings, contact a Member of the Casting Committee - phone numbers are on the back page of *The Proscenium*]

VALE - MARY DONNELLY

A £10 Pom!!! Boy, did we get our money's worth with Mary Donnelly! Because she was lonely when they first arrived in Brisbane, Mary joined the choir at St. James' church Coorparoo, met our founder Fr Hanrahan, and thus began a life long association with the Players and the Augustinian Community.

Mary's first play was *Corinth House* in 1956 ... we tried to count all the major plays and one act plays she had appeared in, but couldn't. One of our fondest memories is the days of "The Ladies in Black." The show started in 1968 and we performed for 25 years. We sang "Football Mums" at her funeral - [a song that never missed a performance in 25 years either.]

Various Casting Committees would say, "she can't do that play with that Lancashire accent!" but she could. She played 'Emma' in *Summer of the 17th Doll*, and nobody even noticed. She sang beautifully; she could act; but she couldn't dance.

She was a tiny little thing ... but Feisty. What she lacked in inches she made up for in kindness and spirit.

Her last part of VPs was 'Mrs Dubose' in *To Kill a Mockingbird* in Fr Hanrahan Theatre at Villanova College. The circle is complete. Rest in Peace, dear Friend.

With Love
The Ladies in Black



"LADIES IN BLACK" 1974
[L-R] CARMEL WENCK, PATRICIA WOCKNER, BARBARA STELLMACH, GLYNNE LIDDY, THERESE KNIGHT, MARY WOODALL, MARY DONNELLY



"SEE IF I CARE" AT TAYLOR ST THEATRE 1989 CHERYL VOIGT
[L-R] GLYNNE LIDDY, MARY DONNELLY & MERLE DINNING

SPEAKING IN TONGUES

Anthea and Dean Patrick are back to the boards with an Australian classic!!

Villanova Players alumni, **Anthea** and **Dean Patrick** would like to extend a warm welcome to all Villa Players members and subscribers to their latest production, *Speaking in Tongues* by Andrew Bovell. The show is in the crazy, exciting rehearsal stage at the moment (I'm sure you know it well) and is set to take the stage from the 20th July - 6th August, at Metro Arts in the city.

After travelling over to the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London, Anthea is excited to return to the Brisbane stage and direct this electrifying play.

Relationships risked. Mistakes made. Betrayals discovered.

Just outside the city, in a pocket of bush land, a woman goes missing.

Shoes, letters and voice-mail messages reveal a tangled web of unutterable truths.

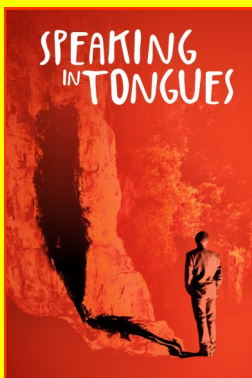
From a lonely voyeur to a publicly broken heart, this intricately tangled thriller examines nine individuals, and their relationships, when love gets tough and trust is tested. An award winning play from which the Australian film *Lantana* was forged, *Speaking in Tongues* is a lucid depiction of six degrees of separation.

This is a timeless Australian play not to be missed. Unravel the riddle.

We'd love you to come! *Speaking In Tongues* marks my first 'professional' production as a Director/Producer and I would love you to join me as I take this next step in my career development. Villanova Players Youth Theatre gave me one of my first opportunities to direct with *Antigone* (2000). Then VPs gave me my first Main Stage directing gig with *Secret Bridesmaids' Business* (2005), followed by *Over The River and Through The Woods* (2007). I am really proud of these past productions and am extremely grateful to VPs company and audiences for your support and encouragement over the years.

Through Over The River... I established a real confidence with my stylistic approach, utilizing the magic of set, sound and lighting design. This production of *Speaking In Tongues* definitely continues this style, with my set design realized by Tiffany Beckwith Skinner, lighting by Geoff Squires and sound by Tony Brumpton. All three of these designers have done some fantastic work, all of them being designers for Queensland Theatre Company and La Boite. It is very exciting to have them as part of my Production Team.

Many of you I'm sure would also remember Dean Patrick (who is now my husband) from *Good-night Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)* as the frock-wearing Romeo. He is back on stage in this production! He shares the stage with a shockingly talented cast - Zoe de Plevitz, Peter Scabissi and Ngoc Phan. It's been an honor to work with all of them.



To book, simply jump online to 'metroarts.com.au' or call (07) 3002 7100 or go in and see the lovely crew at Metro Arts, on level 2 at reception.

Details:

July 20th-August 6th

Tuesday - Saturday, 7:30pm

Adult: \$20 Concession: \$16

Groups: (10+) \$12pp *Booking fees apply*

Preview: 19th July (just \$12!)

Cheap Tuesdays - \$12 ticket sales at the door!

Hope to see you there!

Warm Regards
Anthea and Dean

NOTICES

Morningside Festival

SUNDAY 31st JULY

GATHER AT THE HUT AT 8.30am

SELECT YOUR COSTUME FOR THE PARADE DOWN THYNNE RD

ASSEMBLE AT 9.00am TO MARCH AT 10.00am

OUR THEME

Wilde at Heart

PLEASE LET LEO KNOW IF YOU CAN TAKE PART

3891 5769



Wanted for Play 4

PLAY 4 THIS YEAR IS LOOKING FOR

- ⇒ Any spare Christmas or Fairy Lights
- ⇒ Spare Christmas decorations [the tackier the better] especially of the inflatable Santa and reindeer [or kangaroo] type. Also looking for
- ⇒ Any old dolls houses or small children's cubby houses [about 30cm] and
- ⇒ A remote controlled toy helicopter

If you have anything like the above or know someone who does, please contact Leo Bradley [3891 5769] or Lucy Moxon.



2011 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

President:	Leo Bradley	3891 5769
Vice Pres:	Jane Hamer	0417 072 512
Treasurer:	Rod Thompson	3391 7180
Secretary:	Meagan Lawson	0401 001 391
Casting Liaison:	Maria Thompson	3391 7180
Members:	Trevor Bond	3393 6521
	Andrew Heron	0417 793 133
	Michael McNish	0427 353 639
	Neil Goodwin	0402 064 487

2011 CASTING COMMITTEE

Samantha Tierney	0449 861 812
Rod Thompson	3391 7180
Michael Byrnes	3849 4521
Maria Thompson	3391 7180
Jenny Brunner	3398 9592

Villanova Players
INCORPORATED
 Established 1948
 Balmoral Park, Jean Howie Drive
 off Bennetts Road **MORNINGSIDE**
 PO Box 465 Morningside Qld 4170
 Email: villanovaplayers@gmail.com
 www.villanovaplayers.com

The Hut: Phone: - 3395 5168
 Bookings: Phone: - 3899 9962



WHAT'S ON IN THEATRE

ST LUKE'S THEATRE SOCIETY presents **ON GOLDEN POND** directed by Graham McKenzie- **19th to 27th August** - Bookings - **3255 6675**

BEENLEIGH THEATRE GROUP presents **ONE ACT PLAY FESTIVAL** - **5th to 7th August** - Bookings - **3807 3922**

ARTS THEATRE presents **I LOVE YOU, YOU'RE PERFECT, NOW CHANGE** - directed by Miranda Selwood - **14th to 17th July** - Bookings - **3369 2344**

CENTENARY THEATRE GROUP presents **PIRATES OF CHRISTMAS ISLAND [A THEATRE RESTAURANT]** directed by William McCreery-Rye - **16th July to 7th August [Saturday/Sunday only]** - Bookings - **3379 3937**

SUNNYBANK THEATRE GROUP presents **THREE ONE-ACT PLAYS** by various directors - **1st July to 16th July** - Bookings - **3345 3964**

MOUNT COTTON DRAMA GROUP presents **'ALLO 'ALLO** directed by Joy Hinckley - **22nd July to 6th August** - Bookings - online at their website

TOOWOOMBA REPERTORY THEATRE presents **CAUGHT IN THE NET** by Ray Cooney - **30th July to 13th August** - Bookings **4632 8058**

WYNNUM MERCURY THEATRE presents **DUETS** directed by Helen Haberland - **16th and 23rd July** - Bookings **0431 988 965**

JUNE MONTHLY ENTERTAINMENT



[LEFT] TED IS FORCED TO RESIGN URGED BY GERRY WHILE LAURIE LOOKS ON IN DISGUST

[RIGHT] DANNY ALMOST COMES TO BLOWS WITH TED BUT IS PREVENTED BY JOCK AND GERRY



[LEFT] LAURIE HAS A TALK WITH YOUNG GEOFF ABOUT HIS LACK OF FORM



Trevor Bond directed excerpts from *"The Club"* by David Williamson. The full production had been presented as a fund raiser for a number of football clubs which had been affected by the January floods, using the Centenary Theatre at Chelmer, as their venue.

Chris Bradley and the production team kindly agreed to present excerpts at our monthly group night, as our workshop feature at the June meeting. VP members in the cast were Michael McNish, Andrew Heron, and Michael Byrnes - who unfortunately came down ill on the night and Trevor read in the part.

Members present enjoyed it and were in praise of the growing acting experience of both Michael and Andrew, and all agreed that the characters were well delineated and portrayed. Comments were made that, although this was about the politics and personalities that permeated a particular AFL Club, it could have been about any sporting body, or indeed any organisation.

Now I don't agree with that, and could see no resemblance to anyone on the Committees, past or present, at Villanova Players. None at all. Not a skerrick. Absolutely not!

Maria Plumb Thompson
 CASTING COMMITTEE