

2019 MANSFIELD FESTIVAL OF ONE ACT PLAYS

WELCOME!

A warm welcome for all our contestants near and far, to our “MFOAP2019”.

We are lucky to have a Performing Arts Centre in our small country town for purposes such as this, and we are indeed very fortunate that Acting Troupes are happy to come from Healesville, Gembrook, Maryborough, Mount Macedon and Noble Park, not to mention our local entries from Tolmie, Barjarg, Sawmill Settlement and Longwood – and last but not last the fabulous Val Kirley, Bush Poet Laureate!

We owe a debt of gratitude to Arts Mansfield members and committee who do an amazing job of supporting events such as this. Thank you also to The Produce Store, who provide marvellous, delicious catering, Ian Mallyon who always finds time to help with the Technicals, Colin Rochford for being our MC and Vicki our Stage Manager.

Thank you to our warm-hearted volunteers for running the day and looking after our guests, and, of course, those wonderful supporting businesses who make it possible, our sponsors – Williams Hunt Legal Practitioners, Eisner's Guardian Pharmacy, Vintage Traders' Emporium and the incomparable MMuDS – our local theatre group, Mansfield Musical & Dramatic Society.

Kammy Cordner Hunt
Convenor, Mansfield Festival of One Act Plays

Williams Hunt

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Extemporare



MMuDS

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SESSION A 11 AM – 1 PM

The Black Comedy Company

Rochford Productions

The Haphazard Gardener (Play Reading)

Written by Leigh Arden

Director Leigh-Anne Eldridge/Colin Rochford

Cast Rose Maria Leech
Heather Deb Dodgson
Rita Vivienne Stewart
Narrator Milton Taylor
Professor Niall Reidy

Retiree in Bonnie Doon, Rose, finds solace in her garden and music after a career in war zones. The rhythm of life in rural Victoria restores her faith in finding love again, via BBC classical radio – with bizarre consequences! (45 mins)

The Black Comedy Company is founded by writer and performer Leigh-Anne Eldridge, who draws on thirty years experience in the acting profession and teaching, to create work imbued with passion and honesty.

Rochford Productions is a Mansfield-based group formed in 2017 with an emphasis on creating radio plays and developing local writing talent. Principal Colin Rochford has a rich history in directing for several theatre companies in Melbourne, and adjudicating at youth theatre events.

Touché (OAP)

Written by Julie Van Kerkwijk

Director Kammy Cordner

Cast Jay Julie Van Kerkwijk
Tony Jeremy Kaye

Jay is coming to terms with the changes in her life, reflecting on both magical and sad moments, and how it came to this (15 mins)

Rochford Productions

Tarcutta Truckstop (Reading)

Written by Rick Lindsay

Director Colin Rochford

Cast Sarah Charlotte Lindsay
Rob Rick Lindsay
Jenny Sammy Hardiman
Carol Sioux Hardiman

A mother and daughter return to the father's home town to engage him for helping stabilise the daughter's adolescent "drift". The ensuing relationship between all three is sad, redeeming – but also alarming, as viewed by the wise Tarcutta Truckstop Lady, Carol. (35 mins)

SESSION B 2 PM – 5 PM

Something Catchy Productions

The Mount Players

I Love The Way You Cook (OAP)

Written by Brett Harvey

Director Brett Harvey

Cast Jim Christopher Dosser
Jess Samantha Reynolds
Brad Heartly Brett Harvey
Maddison Heartly Elizabeth Carr

Welcome to 'I Love The Way You Cook!' - the chart-smashing daytime television cooking show with a twist. Meet the dynamic power-couple Brad and Maddison Heartly - who put the 'heart' into the food industry. Their mouth-watering delicacies are a mouthful! Their successful show is in its fourth season and going strong... or is it? Supported by their production crew Jim and Jess - who manage to keep the show going - we explore the ins and outs of this culinary comedy! (45 mins)

The newly-formed performance group "Something Catchy Productions", based in Craigieburn, presents its first original play 'I Love The Way You Cook'. The group of experienced performers have enjoyed the challenges of producing, directing, and performing in various amateur theatre groups around Victoria as well as directing plays and musicals at the schools where they teach.

After All These Years (OAP)

Written by Christopher Milne

Director Tanya Shaw and Peter Bevin

Cast Emma Tanya Shaw
John Peter Bevin

Why does Emma contact John, after all these years, and mysteriously ask for a "catch-up"? (20 mins)

The Mount Players is one of Victoria's Premier regional theatre companies, based in Macedon, producing four dramas or musicals each year, and running a One Act Play Festival in July.

TheatreBox

TEACHERS! (OAP)

Written by John Godber

Director Tanya Ryder-Barnes

Cast Salty Claire Hanley
Gail Kate McManus
Hobby Matthew Phillips

In this pantomime-style production, three dissatisfied students create and perform a play about their take on what school was actually like for kids in a school with little money, little resources, and low expectations. (40 mins)

TheatreBox is an amateur theatre company that started out in children's theatre and progressed to performing in the One Act Play Festival circuit in 2007. Gritty dramas with a sense of irony underpin many of the plays TheaterBox performs.

SESSION B CONT'D

Dizzy Productions

Hoosierdaddy (OAP)

Written by Mark D Lucas

Director Gerard Dwyer

Cast Sandra Georgia Stergiadis
Stacey Tina P
Arlo Gerard Dwyer

Stacey and Sandra have robbed the Burgerama followed by a night of drunken antics. During these wild adventures they meet a cowboy, Arlo. The ladies must now work out where they are, what they are going to do and how to get out of that place! (45 mins)

Dizzy Productions, now based in Maryborough, is an award winning amateur production company, who have travelled across Victoria, Tasmania and Norfolk Island to perform

PRIZES

Trophies

Individually sculpted wildlife figures on red gum blocks by Timo Juntunen of Gough's Bay

Cash Prizes

Best New Play 2019 – Playwright's Prize

(By an Australian writer, play first performed no earlier than Oct 2017)

Best Play written by a local writer

(Mansfield and Murrindindi Shires)

Best Monologue

Best Lead Actor, male

Best Lead Actor, female

Best Performance by a Local Actor (Mansfield & Murrindindi Shires. Other winners ineligible)

Runner-Up Most Outstanding Production

Most Outstanding Production

SESSION C 7PM – 10PM

The Grey Nomads

Way To Go! (OAP)

Written by Dallas Daniel

Director Dallas Daniel

Cast Dot Cathie Smith
Marge Dallas Daniel
Bill Ian Todd
Jim Roger Nolan

Retirees, Bill and Dot Bishop, are veteran caravanners, having travelled the length and breadth of Australia. Marge and Jim Douglas, on the other hand, are new to the life of the "grey nomad" and eager to embrace all that being on the road entails.

The couples meet at a caravan park in NSW on the annual pre-Winter pilgrimage north to the sun, when the competition starts...

It wasn't hard to convince The Grey Nomads to pack away their sunscreen, rummage around for 'trakky daks' and fleecy jackets (long since packed away) and turn their caravans southwards to Mansfield's wintry weather and perform in the One Act Play Festival; such is their love of the theatre! At the conclusion of the weekend, they will resume their Winter sojourn, by heading back to the sun "up north". Just kidding! Between them, the members of the cast have made significant contributions to MMuDS (Mansfield Music and Dramatic Society) and appeared in many productions. It is their shared love of performing and having fun with creating characters that compelled them to agree to become The Grey Nomads, for which the writer is very grateful!

Rochford Productions

The Ghost of Polly McQuinn (Monologue)

Written by Carol Lowden

Director Colin Rochford

Cast Shandy Jen O'Donnell

Shandy is the new owner of a remote Strathbogie property near Polly McQuinn's Falls. Locals try to freak her out with ghost stories surrounding the name of the Falls, but she is above all that. Until.... (10 mins)

Gemco Players

Boy Meets Girl, A Young Love Story (OAP)

Written by Sam Wolfson

Director Michelle Drinnan and Michael Young

Cast Katie Michelle Drinnan
Sam Michael Young

Follow the trials and tribulations of this adorable love story between two 5 year olds. (35 mins)

Gemco Players Community Theatre Inc started in 1980 and attributes much of its success to the many diverse and successful types of theatre it has undertaken in almost 40 years. Gemco has a strong youth base with classes for youth players, ranging from Prep to Year 12, attending drama sessions weekly. Each year they run the Dandenong Ranges One Act Play Festival.

PERFORMANCE OF BUSH POETRY BY LOCAL ARTIST VAL KIRLEY (During adjudicator deliberations)

PRESENTATIONS APPROX 9:45 PM Prize presentations by the Adjudicator, Sandra Fairthorne

PROGRAMME

Saturday 10 August 2019

SESSION A, Morning: 11 am – 1 pm, Session A Ticket \$5

The Haphazard Gardener | The Black Comedy Company | 45 m | Reading
Touché | Rochford Productions | 12 m | Reading
Tarcutta Truckstop | Rochford Productions | 35 m | Reading

SESSION B, Afternoon: 2 pm – 5 pm, Session B Ticket \$10

I Love The Way You Cook | Something Catchy Prods | 45 m | OAP
After All These Years | The Mount Players | 20 m | OAP
TEACHERS! | TheatreBox | 40 m | OAP
Hoosierdaddy | Dizzy Productions | 45 m | OAP

SESSION C, Evening: 7 pm – 10 pm, Session C Ticket \$15

Way To Go! | The Grey Nomads | 30 m | OAP
The Ghost of Polly McQuinn's | Rochford Productions | 10 m | Monologue
Boy Meets Girl, A Young Love Story | Gemco Players | 35 m | OAP

PRESENTATIONS - Including bush poetry performance by Val Kirley

All-Day
Ticket \$20

ADJUDICATOR SANDRA FAIRTHORNE



We are thrilled to announce that the Adjudicator for the Mansfield FOAP 2019 will be up and coming writer director SANDRA FAIRTHORNE of Airey's Inlet, Vic.

Sandra has been directing plays in regional Australia and major cities for the last 12 years, including most recently a season during May 2019 in the Geelong area with "Memory of Water" to sold-out audiences.

She is a multi-award winning writer of short films and One Act Plays, and has had two of her feature length plays produced in Melbourne and Sydney for multiple seasons: "The Confessions of Jeremy Perfect" and "The Savages of Wirramai"; both of which are now under consideration for being optioned for film production.

Sandra's greatest achievements have been in the development and mentoring of actors, writers and directors over the last decade.

Mansfield FOAP Committee is very excited to be having Sandy for her FOAP Adjudicating Debut at our very own FOAP. We know that all contestants will be given the incredible benefits of her wisdom, intellect, judgments and constructive encouragement.

Our audiences will learn a great deal from her feedback after each play.