

# Gems



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Issue 335 April 2016

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Dear Friend

## President's Prattle



This month's Prattle comes from Waterford, Ireland. I have just hung upside down over a sheer drop in order to kiss the Blarney Stone, as I believe is customary when visiting this part of the world. It's supposed to make you more eloquent – well, that's the theory anyway!

Over the past ten days I've been away, I've enjoyed some spectacular scenery in both England and Ireland. I've also enjoyed a couple of interesting cultural experiences.

On Wednesday May 18<sup>th</sup>, I attended the book launch party for best-selling crime writer Peter James' *You Are Dead* at Brighton Pier. I have been corresponding with Peter for a number of years and it was quite a thrill to be invited. Given the number of live pythons at the event, I gather snakes feature prominently in the novel!

The very next night, I saw *Othello* at the Abbey in Dublin, Ireland's national theatre. Most of the action took place on a raised, marble-effect octagonal platform, the only props being two small benches. Changes of mood were conveyed by different light effects on the stylised rear projection of sea and sky. The elegant simplicity of the staging amplified the emotional complexity of the tragedy.

I am looking forward to catching the second last night of Peridot's next production *Ancient Lights* the day after I return to Australia!

## Vale Ralph Descz

Sadly, Ralph Descz, beloved husband of Helen McIntosh and father of Alison and Georgia passed away over the weekend. Ralph was a vital member of the Peridot community. He helped a lot in set builds and with ferrying furniture to and from

Fleigner, always with a smile and a joke. Known for his signature tape measure braces, Ralph never missed a show at Peridot and will be greatly missed.

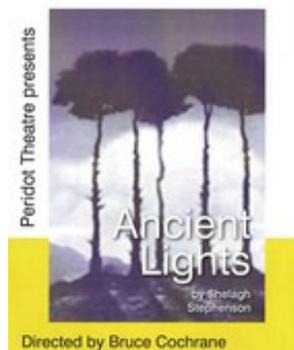
### **Language and Drug Warning**

*Ancient Lights* is shaping up to be a wonderful production. Bruce Cochrane is directing this funny and moving play about old friends reuniting after many years. Playwright Shelagh Stephenson is known for exploring ideas and the humanity of her characters.

WARNING: *Ancient Lights* contains adult language, simulated drug use and adult references however, as our Quote of the Month will reveal, sometimes it's important for theatre to be a just a little bit risqué.

This is a deliciously racy play, opening on June the 10th.

### **Ancient Lights**



Peridot Theatre are proud to announce the cast for our next season. *Ancient Lights* is being directed by Bruce Cochrane and will star:

**Greg Barison as *Tom***  
**Heather Lythe as *Kitty***  
**Ashleigh Herring as *Joni***

**Tim Murphy as *Tad***  
**Jeanne Snider as *Bea***  
**Claudia Hruschka as *Iona***

### **Performance Dates**

June 10, 11, 17, 18, 19, 20, 24, 25 at 8pm

Matinees - Sunday 12 & Saturday 18 at 2.15pm

Twilight - Sunday 19 at 4pm.

### **Our Cast for *Les Liaisons Dangereuses***

Director Peter Newling has cast all the roles for the production of *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, and we are proud to announce the following talented actors are joining the Peridot team.

Rowan Howard as Valmont

Janine Evans as Merteuil

Juliet Hayday as Rosamonde

Gabby Salter as Tourvel

Cathy Christensen as Mme de Volanges

Genie Koulaeva as Cecile

Candice Sweetman as Emilie

Pedro Ramos as Azolan

Jonathan Best as Daneny

Ken Knight as Major Domo

### **Monash One Act Play Festival**

Peridot Theatre Company are hosting the ninth annual Monash One Act Play Festival from the 16th to the 18th September, 2016, at the Unicorn Theatre in Mt Waverley. This is a fantastic time of the year, when theatre companies come together in friendly – and stiff – competition. It's a real theatre reunion!

The One Act Play Festival circuit throughout Victoria is an incredible opportunity to perform, make new friends and explore new works.

The Monash One Act Play Festival concludes the Victorian festival season. The only festival held in Melbourne, we welcome local, country and interstate groups. The Unicorn Theatre, located at Lechte Road Mt. Waverley, is a comfortable theatre seating 200 patrons with great facilities for both audience and participating companies.

The Festival rules are those outlined by the VDL, and Peridot will provide participating companies with all the necessary information for your Stage Manager as well as assistance in technical use of the bio box.

Peridot will provide a general lighting rig that should accommodate all types of performances and our Technical Co-ordinator will contact you prior to the event to answer any queries that you may have.

The Director, cast and crew of each play will be provided with non-transferable tickets to their session, however they will need to purchase tickets if they wish to view other sessions throughout the weekend.

Your cast and crew will have access to modern dressing room facilities. Over the weekend our kiosk will provide a selection of food and drinks, and a social BBQ is offered on Saturday at the conclusion of Session 2. A registration form is available on our website at <http://peridot.com.au/monash-one-act-play-festival-2015>.

An entry fee of \$65.00 per play is required, payable online.

Please contact Festival Co-ordinator David Lawson-Smith on [moapfestival@peridot.com.au](mailto:moapfestival@peridot.com.au) or phone: 0402 464645 with any further enquiries.

Please note that government regulations require that no smoking is permitted within the theatre and the school grounds.

### **Monash One Act Play Festival Awards:**

City of Monash Best Production - \$300.00 & Trophy

2nd Place - \$250.00 & Trophy

3rd Place - \$150.00 & Trophy

Excellence in Direction - \$120.00 & Trophy.

Excellence in Acting Male/Lead - The David Perkins Award - \$120.00 & Trophy

Excellence in Acting Female/Lead - \$120.00 & Trophy

Excellence in Acting Male/Supporting - \$100.00 & Trophy

Excellence in Acting Female/Supporting - \$100.00 & Trophy

Adjudicator's Award - \$75.00 & Trophy

Adjudicator's Award - \$75.00 & Trophy

Staging Award - \$50.00 & Trophy

Peridot Encouragement Award - \$75 and Trophy

Playwright Award - \$50

VDL Youth Award - \$50

### **Audition Dates**

*Becky's New Car* by Steven Dietz, Directed by Helen Ellis

### **Synopsis**

Have you ever been tempted to flee your won life? Becky Foster is caught in middle age, middle management and in a middling marriage - with no prospects for change on the horizon. Then one night, a socially inept and grief-struck millionaire stumbles into the car dealership where Becky works. Becky is offered nothing short of a new life ... and the audience is offered a chance to ride shotgun in a way most plays wouldn't dare. *Becky's New Car* is a thoroughly original comedy with serious overtones; a devious and delightful romp down the road not taken.

### **Characters**

Becky (Rebecca) Foster - a woman in her late 40s

Joe Foster - Becky's husband, a roofer, late 40s

Chris Foster - their son, a psychology student, 26

Walter Flood - a very wealthy business man, widowed, 60s

Kensington (Kenni) Flood - Walter's daughter, 23

Steve - Becky's co-worker, widowed, 50

Ginger - a neighbour of Walter's, single, 50s

### **Audition Venue**

Unicorn Theatre

Mt Waverly Secondary College

Lechte Road

Mt Waverly

### **Audition Times**

Monday, July 4th and Wednesday July 6th, starting at 730pm

### **To Book an Audition**

**Please contact Helen Ellis to book an audition time and to receive a copy of the script**

**ellisproductions@me.com**

**0429 355 465**

### **Play Reading**

You are warmly invited to a play reading of *Becky's New Car*, by Steven Dietz on Monday, June the 27th at 7.30pm  
Please RSVP to David Lawson-Smith via  
dlawsonsmith@bigpond.com

**Quote of the Month** 'Sin is what is new, strong, surprising, strange. The theatre must take an interest in sin if the young are to be able to go there.' – Bertolt Brecht

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