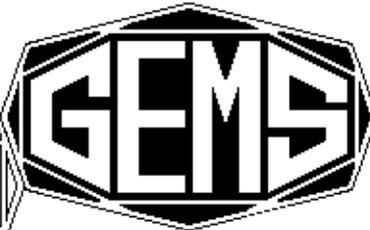


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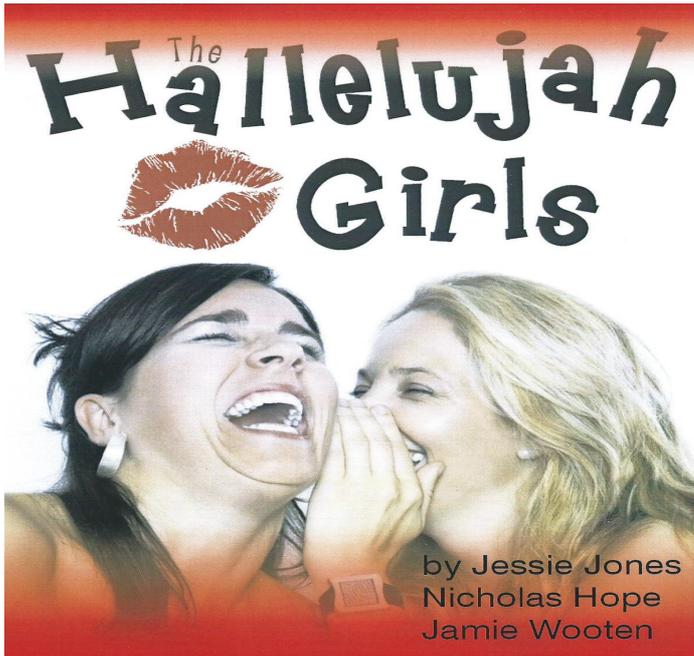


General Correspondence:  
BOX 2100,  
Waverley 3149

[www.peridot.com.au](http://www.peridot.com.au)

For Bookings, Ticket Enquires, Returns,  
write to PO Box 1026, Box Hill, 3128 or  
[peridotboxoffice@yahoo.com.au](mailto:peridotboxoffice@yahoo.com.au)

## Opening Soon at Peridot!



Just a reminder that *The Hallelujah Girls* will open on February 7 and will run at the Unicorn Theatre February 22 at 8.00pm with Matinees on Sunday 9 and Saturday 15 at 2.15pm plus our popular Twilight Matinee at 4.00pm Sunday February 16.

For bookings ring John Kelly on 9898 9090 between 10am and 3pm Monday to Friday plus (during season performances only) 10am to 3pm Saturdays, or email him on [peridotboxoffice@yahoo.com.au](mailto:peridotboxoffice@yahoo.com.au)

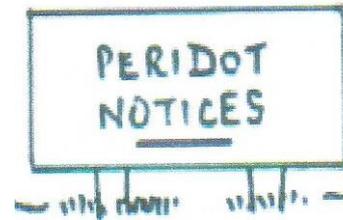
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### Whilst on the subject of tickets...



There are many back-stage tasks in staging a play and certainly one of the most important is that of the Ticket Manager. Organising more than 2000 tickets for each play, trying to give folks what they want in terms of dates, seating and so on is a massive, time-consuming job (and sometimes thankless) job and we at Peridot are lucky to have the very splendid and extremely

conscientious Ticket Manager on board in John Kelly. He really tries hard to give everyone what they want, although sometimes it just isn't possible. We all truly appreciate his enormous contribution to our Company.



### June One Act Play Auditions

We've got Season One opening soon, we've got auditions for Season Two also on the near horizon, but we need to tell you about the auditions for our June One Act Play Season which we will be holding on three dates in the period between March 3-9.

First up, on **Monday, March 3** at 7.00pm, Director Lisa McNiven will be holding Auditions for *No Strings*, a comedy by John Tilbrook at 7.00pm at the theatre. Lisa needs one female and one male, both mid 30s-late 50s, plus one male, age indeterminate in a non-speaking role.

For more details, contact Lisa on 0410 567 834 or email her on [lm.mcniven@optusnet.com.au](mailto:lm.mcniven@optusnet.com.au)

Then, on **Wednesday March 5** at 7.00pm, Alison Knight will be holding Auditions for Jimmie Chin's popular comedy *In By the Half*. For this, Alison will be looking for One Female, 60s-70s, one female in her 60s, one female in her 40s and one female, in her late teens, plus one male 40s-60s.

You can reach Alison on 0437 380 533 or by email on [a8knight@bigpond.net.au](mailto:a8knight@bigpond.net.au) for more information.

To complete the splendid line-up of plays, on **Sunday March 9** at **5.00pm**, we welcome back to Peridot Trevor Bickerstaff, who will be directing a new play by the aforementioned Alison Knight, *Peter Stone*, a drama in which Peter Stone looks at how a dark secret from the past can cast a shadow over the lives of a Melbourne family. For this new play, Trevor will be looking for one male about 35 who must be able to present a Northern English accent, one male about 16, one female 39ish, one female around 65 and a (walk on) Nurse. Enquiries to Trevor on 9802 9545.

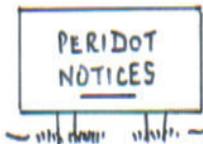
Our mid-year One Act Play Season will run June 12-15.

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### "Hallelujah" Cast Change

Sadly, there has had to be a change in the cast of our soon to be delivered comedy *The Hallelujah Girls*. Unfortunately, Jennie Kellaway has been unable to attend any

*Continued on page two...*



Continued from page one...

rehearsals due to knee surgery and has regrettably had to withdrawn from the cast. Jennie has been replaced by

Monique Venus (nee Brasher) in the role of "Crystal". Monique is no stranger to Peridot after completing the Future Development Course a few years ago and being in the cast of "The Man Who Came To Dinner" and a One Act Play "La Dilemma di Columbina" .

We welcome Monique back to Peridot and hope she enjoys her time with us again.

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### “Heroes” Auditions

A reminder - we will be holding Auditions for our Season 2 play, *Heroes*, on **Sunday February 9** at **6.00pm** and **Monday February 10** at **7.00pm** at the Theatre, when the Director, Geoff Hickey, will be looking to cast three males in the 55+ age range. Auditions are by appointment only and direct contact should be made to the Director Geoff Hickey to arrange an audition or obtain further details by phoning 9874 1571.

“Heroes” will run from April 25 to May 10.

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### Our Next Play Reading

We are having another Play Reading Evening on **Wednesday February 26** at the theatre at 7.30pm, when we will be having a go at the three One Act Plays that will form our June OAP Season. The plays are *No Strings*, a comedy by John Tilbrook, *In By The Half*, a bitter-sweet comedy/drama by Jimmie Chinn and a new drama, *Peter Stone*, written by Peridot’s Alison Knight; three interesting plays which we think will make an entertaining evening’s programme. For more details, Contact our Play Reading Guru Alison at [a8knight@bigpond.net.au](mailto:a8knight@bigpond.net.au)

**Coming along to these will be useful should you be thinking of auditioning for one or more of these in March.**

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### And Yet More Play Readings...

You are invited to a Social Play Reading on Tuesday March 18<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm in the Unicorn Theatre foyer. We will be reading a number of works by much acclaimed local playwright **John Tilbrook**, including his new comedy-thriller, *Kidnapping Susanne*. Supper provided! Please let Alison Knight know if you’re coming by March 15th at [a8knight@bigpond.net.au](mailto:a8knight@bigpond.net.au)

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### Good News about a Couple of Seminars

A bit later this year we will be holding a couple of interesting Seminars at the theatre by two very fine and experienced ladies, which we think will be well worth considering. Actor, director and producer **Helen Ellis** will be holding one on Acting, and one of the best Stage Managers around the local non-professional theatre scene, **Marion Egerton**, will be holding one on, believe it or not, Stage Managing.

Both these lovely ladies have held these Seminars at Peridot before and they have always proved both successful and illuminating. We’ll give you full details as soon as they have been finalized.

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### A Letter from Michael



At our Peri Awards Ceremony in December, Michael Knowles (below) won the 2013 Award for Best Actor for his role in “The Wisdom of Eve”. Sadly, Michael couldn’t be at the presentation and afterwards he wrote this rather nice letter to our Artistic Director, Robyn Kelly:

“Hi Robyn,

Please pass on my thanks and appreciation to the Adjudicators and also the Board/Management team at Peridot, including your good self of course, for my Best Actor's Peri Award. I was very honoured, and I have loved my three stints at Peridot in such a supportive environment. Peridot makes actors (including novices) feel at home and feel empowered to achieve. It’s a great learning environment and the volunteering crew and directors are wonderful. Peridot is literally a jewel in the suburbs and I thank you and the team for your support. I was annoyed at myself for not attending the Awards where I would have of course made a spectacular and emotional speech lasting 30 minutes. I didn't realize I was nominated and so will next time jump out of my skin to ensure I attend.

Thank you once again, Michael”.

\*\*\*

### Lyrebirds Awards Night Reminder

We mentioned in our last “Gems” that the Annual Lyrebirds Awards Night will be held on Saturday February 8 at the Karralyka Theatre, Mines Road, Ringwood, in which Peridot’s 2013 four full-scale productions and four One Act Plays have scored twenty-two nominations in a host of many different categories. Robyn Kelly has already organized a large group from Peridot to go along but you probably can still get a ticket or two, or more information of what’s going on at this big non-professional theatre event by contacting 9751 2886.

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### “Hallelujah” Preview Night

We will be holding our usual Preview Charity Night for “The Hallelujah Girls” on February 6 which this time will be for the benefit of the Monash Men’s Shed. We hope they have an enjoyable and beneficial evening.

### A Note from ye Olde Editor



We would like to remind you that this is **your** Newsletter, so if you have any comments, criticisms (we won’t feel hurt!) or suggestions, if you have any little stories or you find an interesting article somewhere (preferably something to do with theatre) that you would like to share with everyone, send it along to your beloved Gems Editor. You will usually find him on [tawnyowl1@bigpond.com](mailto:tawnyowl1@bigpond.com) or you can drop a line to David Briggs, 43/15 Fulham Road, Rowville 3178



## At the start of another year at Peridot

Here we go again: another year of what we hope will be full of good theatre for all our lovely patrons; our 29<sup>th</sup> year actually. Been quite a while since we got started!

Your beloved "Gems" Editor was looking through some old correspondence and came across a memo sent by Peridot's founder, Edna Bartlett (or Edna Jones as she was then) after the short (five performances) run of our very first production, a comedy called *Moving* by Stanley Price, which Edna directed. It ran from August 14-17 1985 at the Monash High Scholl Theatre and shortly after Edna sent the following to everyone involved:

"Well, we've done it! Begun, initiated, launched, bred, commenced, originated, raised, founded or whatever – Peridot is off and performing. It took a lot of TALKING many months ago to start wand a lot of HARD WORK to finish last week, but they're what we do best, most of the time, so-o what's new??"

PERDOT THEATRE!

At the beginning I said we would be sticking our necks out and sometimes, as expected, we got them chopped off; but mostly our audiences were delighted and surprised by performances in all areas: on stage, back stage and front of house – and THEY are the reason we put on a show! Apart from extroverts needing applause of course!!

Although was hard work and we had some mishaps and hiccoughs, everyone must be proud of our first achievement and this is the start of a very happy association of artistic and dedicated people working towards the same goal – great entertainment. Even though the group will change over productions, as is inevitable in this type of activity, I trust that all those bonded together throughout these weeks will retain great memories of a job well done and will become involved in some capacity in our future programs. Nothing happens because of any one person and PERIDOT needs you.

I have tried to say "Thank you" to all over the last few days and the same words have been said back to me in many different ways but the spirit of comradeship and fun was evident in every way and so, Thank You again.

That was the original aim – to make our leisure a pleasure.

Luv, E.J."

\*

That was the first sort of newsletter for Peridot and Edna suggested the next issue could be named 'GEMS' as standing for – 'Good Entertainment Must Succeed' and with a lot of help from many people we think we have managed that in the following 28 years!

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## And you might like to see Peridot's first review

*Reviewed by Stanley Price for a local newspaper.*

"Who on earth is Peridot Theatre? I hear you ask. Peridot is a greenish semi-precious stone, according to my dictionary! It's also the name given by Director Edna Jones to a new theatre group she has formed.

I went along to review their inaugural production, a season of 5 performances at the Monash High School of Stanley Price's witty comedy "*Moving*". I joined half a full house on the second evening, which is not a bad effort for a new company. I was delighted with the set and the standard of acting.

"*Moving*" is a well written play and is well worth doing. It's a lengthy play with thirteen scenes. Peridot used brief blackouts between the scenes, which worked well. The play traces the frustrations of the Gladwins in trying to sell their home and purchase a flat, and is set in the Gladwin's living room in outer London. The legal settlement of real estate appears, from the script, to be much more complicated in the UK than in Oz. The Gladwins had many added problems, including a wayward daughter, a "born-again" son, and suspect house foundations. The cast worked well together but especially Graham Fletcher and Sandra Fowler as Frank and Sarah Gladwin. The many scenes between these two experienced actors produced very enjoyable theatre. The part of Sarah's sister, Liz, was well handled by Marita Robertson. Peter Clarke made the most of his role as the house painter, Jimmy, and Bettina Herbert was the personification of a difficult teenager.

I look forward to seeing more productions by the new Group".

\*\*\*

*"Moving" was our first: the forthcoming "The Hallelujah Girls" will be our 115th. Plus who knows how many One Act Plays! And we survive because of the support we get from our loyal audiences.*

## \*WhatsOn\*WhatsOn\*WhatsOn\*WhatsOn\*

Like us, several local theatre companies start their year with a production in February and, in addition to coming to see our *Hallelujah Girls*, you might consider another night or two out in the Eastern Suburbs to see:

**Mordialloc Theatre's** production of Ronald Harwood's very popular comedy *Quartet*, which will run from February 14 to March 1 at their Parkdale theatre. One of our perennial Peridot favourites, Carole Shelbourn (and, incidentally one of this year's Peri Awards Adjudicators), will be in this lovely comedy. Bookings can be made on 9587 5141 or on [www.mordialloctheatre.com](http://www.mordialloctheatre.com).

Coincidentally, if Parkdale is a bit too far for you, the **Basin Theatre Group** is also staging *Quartet*, from February 14 to March 8. Bookings here on 1300 784 668 (7pm-9pm only) or on [www.thebasintheatre.org.au](http://www.thebasintheatre.org.au).

Also opening on February 14 will be **Eltham Little Theatre's** production of Eric Chapel's slightly black but very comedy *Natural Causes* which will run until March 1; bookings on [www.elthamlittletheatre.org.au](http://www.elthamlittletheatre.org.au).

**Brighton Theatre Company** is offering *As Bees in Honey Drown* by Donald Carter Beane, which will be directed by our good friend, the talented Peter Newling, from February 20 to March 8. You can book here on 1300 752 126 or on [www.brightontheatreco.com](http://www.brightontheatreco.com).

From February 28 to March 15, the **Malvern Theatre Company** is presenting *Trap for a Lonely Man* by Robert Thomas (book on 1300 131 552.)

*Continued on page 4...*

And, for something a bit different, the **Sherbrooke Theatre Company** is having a “Play in a Day” on February 22 at the Doncaster Secondary College, Church Road, Doncaster, where groups of actors have to write, rehearse and then perform a One Act Play before an audience, all in one day. The performances kick off at 7.30; no bookings required, just pay at the door.

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***It's the beginning of another year and time to remind you all again of the splendid***

**\*\*\*Victorian Drama League\*\*\***

The Victorian Drama League was formed back in 1952 and has been serving the local non-professional theatre scene ever since. Based in their offices in Ross House, in Melbourne's Flinders Lane (between Swanson and Elizabeth Streets), the VDL provides many services to its members, both individual and company, with its extensive library of plays, books, tapes and information. The League also keeps everyone up to date with what's happening through its entertaining and informative monthly newsletter *Theatre Craft*, in which you can find full details of forthcoming productions, auditions, festivals and exhibitions, plus lots of interesting articles and reviews – and it's all run on a non-profit basis by an enthusiastic and knowledgeable bunch of volunteers.

Individual membership is \$55 a year, which gets you a copy of *Theatre Craft* mailed to you every month, plus borrowing rights from the vast VDL library. If, however, all you want is to keep up to date with all that's happening in the Victorian non-professional theatre scene, you can just receive *Theatre Craft* every month for just \$40 a year.

Peridot has always been a big supporter of the VDL – indeed without it we, and the other companies, would find it extremely difficult to continue, and we feel membership of the VDL by our friends and subscribers is a real good idea. You will doubtless find it interesting and worthwhile and your membership would also greatly help keep the VDL going – which is a must for Peridot and our fellow non-professional companies.

For more details ring the VDL on 9663 4222 between 10 and 3 on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, or perhaps you might like to have a look at its splendid website [www.theatre Craft.org.au](http://www.theatre Craft.org.au)

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***A little bit sordid perhaps, but I just love this story...***

The German operatic singer Frida Leider (1888-1975) was one of the most important and famous dramatic sopranos of the Twentieth Century, and one day a young girl singer went to Germany's foremost teacher of Lieder in the hope that he would give her lessons.

“Ah!” he sighed as he contemplated the tender young maiden before him. “To sing Leider you need to have lived and loved and suffered. Tell me, child, are you perhaps a virgin?”

She blushed and admitted she was.

“Well, my dear, return to me when you have lived and loved and suffered, and then I shall teach you to sing the great songs of Schubert and Wolff as Lieder would.”

The following morning there was a knock on his door, and the young girl put her head into the room and said brightly, “It's all right now. Can I come in?”

***...the last word***

***Let's get away from our theatre for a change and look at that other theatre – the law:***

The American journalist, novelist and screenwriter Adela Rogers St Johns liked telling this story about her father, the barrister Earl Rogers. One day Adela was sitting in her father's chambers when a well-dressed high-bred old Chinaman came in; her father had for many years represented most of the high class Chinese in California. The Chinaman wanted to know how much her father would charge to defend him for murder. Mr. Rogers told him a rough figure. The Chinaman sat down and began pulling little bags out of his voluminous garments and finally counted out the amount in gold. Then he rose and, with a deep bow, headed for the door.

“Hey,” said Mr. Rogers. “Come back here. What's all this? Where are you going?”

“I go kill the man now” said the Chinaman. “Then I be back.”

\*

A Bolton, Lancashire, woman petitioning for a divorce, was asked to give an example of her husband's behavior.

“Well, last year Harry asked me if I had anything to discuss with him before the football season began,” she said.

\*

In an English court one Monday morning the judge said: “I'm afraid we'll have to adjourn the case. I have written my judgment out, but I left it in my cottage in Devon and I can't get it sent here until tomorrow”. “Fax it up, my lord,” the helpful barrister suggested, to which the judge replied, “Yes, it does rather.”

\*

How about this exchange from a court case in Massachusetts:

“Did you check the body for signs of life?” asked the barrister.

“No.” replied the Pathologist.

“Did you check to see whether the body was breathing or not?” asked the barrister.

“I did not,” replied the Pathologist

“Did you check the pulse?” asked the barrister.

“I did not.”

“So how could you be sure the patient was in fact dead?” the barrister persisted.

“Because his brain was in a jar on my desk,” sighed the Pathologist.

“But he could, possibly, have been alive?” said the barrister.

“...and probably practicing law in Massachusetts,” replied the Pathologist.

\*

A husband in a London court who strangled his wife because she kept on waking him in the night to ask him to help her with her crossword was acquitted on the grounds of temporary insanity.

And in a court in Texas, when Orvell Lloyd was asked in court why he had killed his mother-in-law, he said he had mistaken her for a raccoon.

\*

Undistinguished and often shabby in appearance, Ulysses Grant, the American Civil War General and later the 18<sup>th</sup> US President, was often misjudged by strangers, but he did have a quick tongue. He once entered an inn at Galena, Illinois, on a stormy winter's night looking particularly disheveled. A number of lawyers, in town for a court's session, were clustered around the fire. One looked up as Grant appeared and, rather mockingly, commented “Here's a stranger, gentlemen, and by the looks of him he's travelled through hell itself to get here.”

“That's right, I have” said Grant cheerfully.

“And how did you find things down there,” leered the lawyer.

“Just like here,” replied Grant, “lawyers all closest to the fire.”