

VHP
Vagaries

Issue: 2

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a Sub-Committee of the Kyogle & District Arts Council

JOHN SUMMONS ACCEPTS DUAL ROLE

VHP is proud and excited to announce that Australian playwright, **John Summons** (*pictured right*), is Patron of VHP's inaugural Playwrights' Competition and also one of its judges.

Many of you who have attended VHP performances will have seen one or more of John's plays. Our first production in 2010 included his very funny comedy *Law of the Jungle*, while our first public production in 2011 was of his wonderful play *Grand Tour*. In addition, *Shadow Boy* was the play the DIRT programme used to workshop in its first semester and VHP has included *Two in a Room* in its 2013 winter production, *Light & Dark*.

VHP Artistic Director, Lynette Zito, said, "I am an admirer of John's plays which are universal in theme while being very Australian in language. I contacted him in hope but didn't really expect him to accept one, much less both, roles!"

In response to VHP's invitation, John wrote, "I would be honoured to be Patron and a judge."

John has been writing stories and plays for adults and children for over thirty years. *The Coroner's Report* was his first professionally produced play, presented by the Nimrod Theatre in 1977. Other plays John has written for adults include *Massacre at Myall Creek* and *Lamb of God*. Plays for children include *Kamikaze Kate and the Sword of Captain Kuroda*, *Adventure at Whaler's Bay*, *Rats!* and *A Rat's Tale*.

He was playwright-in-residence at Sydney's Ensemble Theatre and has had plays produced by a number of Sydney's leading theatres. John has been a high school teacher of English, ESL, history and drama and a lecturer in a course for playwrights at Sydney's Institute of Technology. His publishers include Cambridge University Press (UK), The Dramatic Publishing Company



(USA) and Currency Press (Australia) and he is a member of the Australian Writers' Guild.

"I believe VHP can learn a lot from our association with such a respected playwright as John Summons and I hope John will gain something from it as well," said Lynette, "even if it is only the thanks of the Players and the participants in the competition for his involvement."



TRUSCOTT – One More Chance!

The performance of Truscott publicised for 23rd February was washed out due to flooding. So, if you haven't already seen it, please try to make it to the final performance on Saturday, 9th March at 7pm at the KMI Hall in Kyogle.



Upcoming Productions

Laugh Your Dreams Away is our first touring production for 2013 and is produced by Veronica Cooling.

Two one act plays make up the show which runs for approximately two hours including interval.

Farmer Will Swap Combine Harvester for Wife, by Australian author Hugh O'Brien, is the hilarious but very touching story of a man who needs an heir so that he can pass on the family farm.

Can You Hear the Music? by British author David Campton looks at the dreams of six individual mice living in a loft. Their dreams are conjured up by music, as each one hears and must respond to a different tune played by the invisible Piper.

Light & Dark combines three, short one act plays, with a thought provoking drama sandwiched between two comedies. Produced by Lynette Zito, the theme of the production is the power of language and each play illustrates a different aspect of this central theme.

He Said and She Said is a comedy with a sting by American playwright Alice Gerstenberg. Set in the home of wealthy socialites, Mrs Packard, a dinner guest and gossip, causes havoc before dinner is even served!

Two in a Room, a drama by John Summons, deals with a bizarre encounter between two people – he's trying to buy love and she is simply selling sex.

Call Girls, by British playwright David Muncaster, 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. What are his intentions?

2013 VHP Calendar

Time & Date	Venue	Production
7pm Saturday 9 March	KMI Hall Kyogle	Truscott
7 pm Saturday 6 April	Rous Mill Hall	Laugh Your Dreams Away*
7 pm Saturday 13 April	Mallanganee	Laugh Your Dreams Away*
7 pm Saturday 20 April	Woodenbong Hall	Laugh Your Dreams Away*
7 pm Saturday 27 April	Old Bonalbo Hall	Laugh Your Dreams Away*
August Date to be Advised	KMI Hall Kyogle	Light & Dark#
August Date to be Advised	KMI Hall Kyogle	Light & Dark#
August Date to be Advised	KMI Hall Kyogle	Light & Dark#
August Date to be Advised	TBA	Light & Dark#
7pm Saturday 19 October	TBA	It's My Party and I'll Die if I Want To *
7pm Saturday 26 October	TBA	It's My Party and I'll Die if I Want To *
7pm Saturday 2 November	TBA	It's My Party and I'll Die if I Want To *
7pm Saturday 9 November	TBA	It's My Party and I'll Die if I Want To *

It's My Party and I'll Die if I Want To is by Australian author Elizabeth Coleman. This two-act comedy, produced by Veronica Cooling 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. 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.

For more information, please email us.

We hope to see you at one of our performances this year, so mark your calendars!



Playwrights' Competition & Festival

Patron: John Summons

Village Hall Players, Inc is looking for aspiring or published local playwrights to participate in our Playwrights' Competition.

The winning play in each section will be performed at VHP's inaugural Scriptwriters Festival to be held in the Northern Rivers in early 2014. The first place play in each section will also win \$100 and three commended writers, one from each section, will win \$50 each.

Entries must be received no later than Friday, 28 June 2013. Late entries will not be accepted.

Information on how to enter the competition, along with Entry Forms, is available for download on the Village Hall Players website, www.villagehallplayers.com.

You can also email us at villagehallplayers@gmail.com or write to

Village Hall Players
PO Box 622
Kyogle NSW 2474

and request the Information Sheet and an Entry Form.



Apologies

The photograph for the Australia Day article in Issue 1 was provided by Carol Worsnop and I failed to acknowledge that. My apologies and thanks, Carol. Ed.

Margaret Wallace, one of VHP's wonderful committee members, was incorrectly identified as Margaret Saw. My apologies, Margaret. Ed.



DIRT

DIRT (Drama In a Rural Town), the VHP youth theatre program, has two new instructors in 2013 - Veronica Cooling and Rick Broomhead. In the late 1980's, Veronica and Rick, together with Susan Thiselton, founded the Music And Drama Society (MADS) under the auspice of the Kyogle and District Arts Council. MADS' held acting workshops for both adults and children and a number of performances were produced.

The MADS Kids took part in the annual Fairymount Festivals for a few years. As many of you will remember, each year the Festival had a different theme, and MADS members young and old would come to town dressed to the theme and would perform in the street and also in the concert program. The first year's performance in the Festival concert was a song and dance presentation by the MADS Kids of three songs from the musical *Oliver!* Another year, the adult members of MADS joined with the kids to perform three traditional fairy tales.

Acting workshops were directed by Veronica and Rick directed the rehearsals of the kids' performances.



DIRT production of Pyramus & Thisbe 2012

Veronica and Rick are delighted to have a new opportunity to work with children as DIRT Program Instructors. Veronica said, "The children work hard; they are very generous. So we have a lot of fun and it doesn't seem like work at all."

DIRT classes are held Monday afternoons during school terms from 4pm to 6pm at the KMI Hall, Stratheden Street, Kyogle.

Please see our website for more information about the DIRT program, as well as the application form.



Village Hall Players Committee

Village Hall Players committee meets monthly on a Tuesday. In 2013, the dates are:

12 March
9 April
7 May
4 June
2 July
13 August
10 September
8 October
5 November
3 December

Please join us at 6.15pm at the KMI Hall, Stratheden Street, Kyogle.

No experience needed!



Play Reading Group

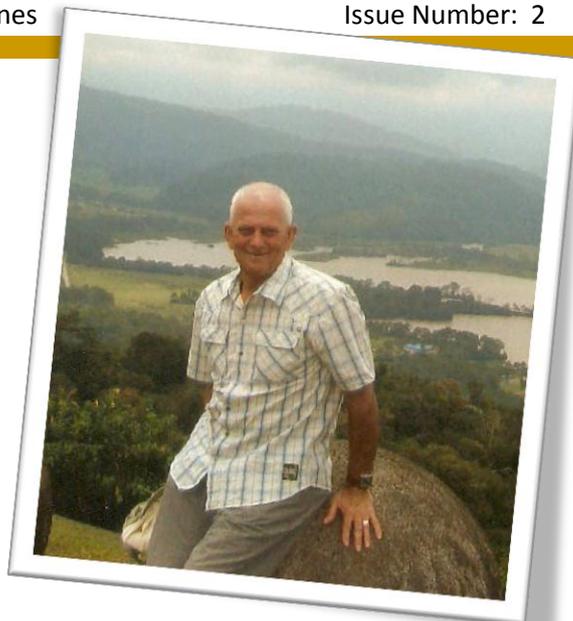
Our play reading group meets every two weeks on a Wednesday evening from 6pm to 8pm. We read an eclectic mix of plays, from Shakespeare to Oscar Wilde, Judith Prior to John Summons. One, two and three act comedies, dramas and farces have all been on the reading list. Many of the plays we read end up becoming part of future productions and all plays in our productions are now read by the group prior to selection.

You need not even read. We have members who like to come along and simply listen.

So if you would like to join us, please contact Lynette on 0429 922 169 for details of the venue.

There is a \$1 per person per night fee to help defray the cost of the venue hire.

We look forward to meeting you there!



Meet the Players

(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.)

Our *Producer in Residence*, Harry Yates (pictured above) has an amazing pedigree in theatre, film and television.

Harry has been involved in theatre in some way or the other since he was in High School. Following this was involvement in university drama groups and amateur theatre companies. In 1976, Harry was a co-founder of the Footlighters Theatre Company, a professional theatre company producing music hall style melodramas and children's pantomimes in licensed clubs and other venues on the Mid North Coast of NSW. Harry was also the founding Producer of S.O.A.P. – the School of Arts Players for young people aged 8 to 18 in Laurieton NSW.

Harry then concentrated his interests on the film industry, and has since been a Location Manager, Production Manager and Line Producer for many Australian and international drama productions, television series and international television commercials.

Harry recently finished working on *Gods of Wheat Street*, the ABC production filmed on location in Casino and Coraki in 2012.

While he is very modest about his work, Harry is much sought after and travels all over the world for his work. The above photo was taken in Costa Rica on a recent business trip there.

We are very happy to have Harry as part of our team.

