



Le Souffleur

Bonne Année à tous

Bienvenue à notre 22ème année d'existence!

1999 appears to be another full year with some travelling involved.

1998 Season

APRIL - *Dormez, je le veux* by Georges Feydeau at the residence of the French Consul General

A sumptuous supper followed the rehearsed reading of this wonderful Georges Feydeau play directed by Michael Bula on 18 April 1998. The reaction of the 40 strong select audience convinced MFT to present this play (already the 3rd time) in full production later in October. Our thanks go to our French Consul General Mr Rollon Mouchel-Blaisot and his charming spouse Gina for this wonderful initiative which may well repeat itself later in 1999.

JUNE - *La Tempête* by William Shakespeare



Prospéro, Miranda, Stéphano, Ferdinand & Ariel Mimmo Mangione, the director truly excelled with this show which incorporated live dance, multimedia (video and slide projection) and a specially designed CD soundtrack, which he compiled.

Shakespeare in French may not have satisfied the purists, but the artistic standard and the long running season of this play in France, begged to differ.

Félicitations to Nicolas Panayotis for his brilliant rendition of the difficult part of *Prospéro*, as well as the three *comédie dell'arte bouffons* Stéphano (Dominique Gibert), *Trinculo* (Eddy Fatha) and *Caliban* (Aurélien Cavaud).

Bravo to all the cast and production teams.

OCTOBER - *Dormez, je le veux* by Georges Feydeau & *L'Anglais tel qu'on le parle* by Tristan Bernard



Dormez, je le veux - à la folle

This double bill attracted a near record audience of over 750 people. It was performed in the magnificent St Brigid's 19th Century Hall in North Fitzroy.

Michael Bula directed the Feydeau and Mimmo Mangione the Bernard. Both *belle époque* and vaudeville plays, greatly complemented each other due to the varying styles of the authors and directors. Special congratulations to all the cast, crew and our new animal star *Cabotine*.



The zany cast of *L'Anglais tel qu'on le parle*

NOVEMBER - *Dormez, je le veux* by Georges Feydeau

Tour to St Arnaud French Festival

What do you get with a Tarago, the 6 cast members of *Dormez, je le veux*, Mimmo Mangione driving and Meredith Gammie assisting and all heading past Bendigo? The tour to the St Arnaud French Festival in its 2nd year. MFT performed a matinee in the old Town Hall, whilst the French Consul (the official guest who opened the Festival), wife Gina and their children rode up and down the main street in a collection of stretch limousines and open horse carriages!

MFT brought the sharp wit of Feydeau to this magnificent country town, named after a Marshall of France in the Crimean war. There were many hilarious moments such as the sight of the Eiffel Tower and star backdrop designed by the local school students, as well as the collapse of the sofa during the performance!

Inside this Newsletter

1998 Season

1998 Season, Committee, Subscriptions, Sponsorship, 1999 Program, Assistance etc..

DECEMBER - *Le Jugement de Paris* by Bill Warnock with the Alliance Française



Capitaine von Armin and Général von Choltitz

An unexpected phone call for collaboration from *Alliance Française* Director Jean-Pierre Dumont launched MFT into one of the most fascinating play readings in its history, as the photo above indicates.

With authentic reproduction uniforms and flags, the *Salle Polyvalente* of the *Alliance Française* on 3 December 1998 became Paris in the last few weeks of the German occupation in World War II. Dominique Gibert played *von Armin* and Michael Bula *von Choltitz* to a good capacity crowd, with Bernadette Dejean de la Bâtie as narrator, Mimmo Mangione as music arranger and Eddy Fatha and Jean-Pierre Dumont providing much needed-technical support (their brilliant timing in the unscheduled electricity blackout was highly complimented by the audience !). The author was actually in the audience, creating a very different *ambiance*... A dramatic and critical success.

MFT Committee

After nearly 3 years of very active participation, Mimmo Mangione has had to hand over the directorial baton to his successors, as he has found gainful employment which includes interstate travel. MFT wishes to acknowledge his immense contribution and looks forward to his continuing contribution as Artistic Director of the company.

MFT committee remains Michael Bula as Executive Director, Angèle Cadge as Secretary, Dominique Gibert as Committee Member, Bernadette Dejean de la Bâtie as University of Melbourne liaison officer and Mimmo Mangione as Artistic Director.

Ubaldo Mantelli and Suzie Bourne moved on too. MFT wants to specifically thank them for their valuable contributions.

Rae Pierce took on the challenge of Ticket Secretary in 1998 for the Feydeau/Bernard. Many thanks to her.

Subscriptions

Just a reminder that subscription fees for 1999 are due in January.

As advised last year, the general mailing list has now been significantly reduced. If you want to be kept informed, we appeal to you to join.

Do read and complete the form enclosed to reap the benefits in 1999 and show your support for our activities, so MFT can continue to present its wonderful productions! Please join/rejoin today.

Tax Deductible

Donations

In the subscription form, we urge you to consider a fully tax deductible donation of \$75 or more, for which we issue a tax receipt. You can reduce your taxable income and benefit a worthy cause.

Du Mérite

Unexpectedly, at the June Gala of *La Tempête*, the French Consul General announced that Michael Bula had been appointed a *Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Mérite* for his many years of contribution to the French culture through MFT. Appropriately, on 16 October 1998 at the Gala of the Feydeau/Bernard production, he received the decoration.

1999 Program

- Tours to Ballarat and the Multicultural Festival in Canberra of *Dormez, je le veux* - **MARCH**
- Full theatre production of *Le Voyage de Monsieur Perrichon* by Eugène Labiche in French - **AUGUST**
- Restaurant evenings - **PERIODIC**
- Rehearsed reading of *Cuisine et Dépendances* by Jaoui and Bacri - **NOVEMBER**

Set Storage

Our dear friends John and Joy Foers are selling their "Ripponlea garage". MFT needs set storage desperately and friends and sponsors should **call us as soon as possible**.

Rehearsal Space

MFT is proud to announce that the City of Yarra has become a major sponsor of MFT, providing rehearsal space for free and performance spaces at a greatly reduced cost.

MFT gratefully thanks the City of Yarra.

Le Souffleur

We are looking for casual or permanent contributors to *Le Souffleur*, to review our productions, restaurant nights and special events. Can you help or suggest anyone ?

Production

For future productions, MFT is seeking :

- actors
- directors
- graphic artists
- stage managers
- production managers
- administration/publicity officers
- drivers with vehicles.

To save time, **only** send your CV to our address below.

Sponsorships

MFT is seeking corporate sponsorships for 1999, for which extensive publicity, tickets and some exciting advertising packages are available. Special thanks to all our present sponsors, without whom MFT could not exist.

Editorial

Editor - Michael Bula
Secretarial - Frédérique Imam
Art and Layout - Michael Bula

MFT contact

Postal
PO Box 476, Carlton South, Vic, 3053
Physical
"Princes Hill Gallery"
213 Canning Street, Carlton, Vic, 3053

Telephone 03 9349 2250

Fax 03 9347 1741

E-mail gallery@mira.net