

Le Souffleur

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Bon Millénaire !

Qui aurait cru qu'à ce beau jour du 27 mars 1977 le MFT fêterait ses 23 ans !

The year 2000 will be an MFT Theatregoers delight.

1999 Season

MARCH - *Dormez, je le veux* by Georges Feydeau at the Canberra Multicultural Festival

This play now holds the record for the most performed play, in terms of seasons and tours in MFT history. At the invitation of the French Embassy and sponsored by the French Government, MFT toured to Canberra between 18 and 21 March 1999. The tour was received with critical acclaim, including a very complimentary article to the Director (Michael Bula) and the actors (Eddie Fatha, Dominique Gibert, Frédérique Fouché, Nicolas Panayotis and Catherine Pierce). Bravo MFT !

JULY - *Cuisine et Dépendance* by Jaoui & Bacri



Dominique (Georges) Valérie (Charlotte)

Written in 1991 and winner of the 1993 Molière award, MFT presented one of its most modern plays in recent times, since *Potiche* by Barillet et Grédy (1986). There was no-one more appropriate to direct and then act in the play, than Frédérique Fouché, herself a professional actor.



Frédérique Fouché (Martine)

The play was presented in the historic St Brigid's Hall in North Fitzroy. For such a

contemporary play, the all-French cast interpreted the show to perfection. The set was a wonderful reproduction of a parisian kitchen, complete with balcony and painted sets by Pete Groves (*below*).

Congratulations to Frédérique Fouché in her directorial début, Guillaume Dessuyer, Valérie Blayac, Dominique Gibert, Jef Beaudiment and everyone in the production team.

OCTOBER - *Le Voyage de Monsieur Perrichon* by Eugène Labiche



The recently "saved" Perrichon

Our year of female directors, continued with Brownyn Tweddle, who was Assistant Director to Mimmo Mangione in *Le Malade Imaginaire* by Molière in 1997.

In lieu of a formal set, the backdrop was created by slide projection. As an experiment, MFT introduced an English video projection surtitle system for a scene by scene English résumé. The system was very well received by audiences.



Bertrand Cadart as Perrichon

The ebullient Bertrand Cadart as Perrichon, returned to the stage after many years, surrounded by a brilliant cast, beautifully dressed in 19th century costumes.

Labiche is a favourite in the MFT

répertoire, with the last play, *Un Chapeau de Paille d'Italie*, being an equal success. Despite the many problems along the way, MFT thanks Brownyn, all the final cast (and any predecessors !) and the crew for a wonderful job.



L'Equipe de Perrichon

Committee et al.

Frédérique Imam, Assistant Theatre Secretary for nearly 8 years, found it was time to move on and we wish her all the very best. The friendly voice on the telephone and smiling face at the box office throughout 1999 was Audrey Demange, who also leaves for her native France, because her boyfriend François-Marie (surtitles operator for *Perrichon*) completed his one-year contract.

Finally at the end of 1999, Mimmo Mangione left us as Artistic Director and his talent and enormous assistance will be greatly missed. We hope to see Mimmo at all our shows in the audience and thank him for his contribution. He has gone on bigger and better things in a new Italian theatre company.

MFT Committee remains Michael Bula (Executive Director), Angèle Cadge (Secretary), Dominique Gibert and Bernadette Dejean de la Bâtie (University of Melbourne liaison officer).

Subscriptions

Just a reminder that subscription fees for 2000 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 2000 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.

MFT Web Site

MFT makes request for tenders to create and maintain a new Internet Site. We already have one quote and invite any interested persons to contact us for the tender papers.

2000 Program

- Extracts from the principal scenes of *Cyrano de Bergerac* by Rostand (principal scenes with live *musique d'époque*) - **MAY**
- Full theatre production of *Le Père Noël est une Ordure* by Josiane Balasko, Marie-Anne Chazel, Christian Clavier, Gérard Jugnot, Thierry Lhermitte, Bruno Moynot - **AUGUST**
- Restaurant evenings - **PERIODIC**

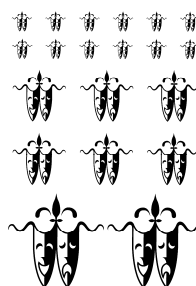
English Surtitles

Always seeking new media to facilitate presentation and increase audience numbers all year 2000 productions and beyond shall have Powerpoint slide video projected English surtitles.

MFT believes that for the new century it must widen its spectator base. Please tell your non-French-speaking friends and acquaintances.

Set Storage

Our dear friends Mimmo and Diana Mangione are renovating their 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 continues to be a major sponsor of MFT, since 1999, 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

MFT is currently seeking :

- directors
- actors
- production managers
- set designers & constructors
- graphic artists
- stage managers
- costume co-ordinators
- admin & publicity staff
- strong drivers with vehicles.

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

Sponsorship

MFT is seeking corporate sponsorships for 2000, for which extensive publicity, tickets and some exciting advertising packages are available, including projection of logos at shows. Special thanks to all our present sponsors, especially the French Embassy, without whom MFT could not exist.

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