



Le Souffleur

Insi

de this Newsletter

Bon Vrai Millénaire !

Le MFT fête ses 24 ans et l'année prochaine cela va faire un quart d'un siècle! The year 2001 sees MFT return to the true classics!

2000 Season

MAY - Cyrano - Radio de Bergerac by Edmond Rostand



Dominique Gibert, seasoned actor and committee member (see below) adapted this famous text by using principal scenes. The director Colin Duckworth adapted the work to a brilliant radio studio performance in the form of a rehearsed reading.



The play took place at our new venue the Mechanics Institute Performing Arts Centre in Brunswick with eleven in the cast including Anna Robertson (see below) who admirably played Roxanne, Eddie Fafa, Michael Bula, Cynthia Seeker, Bruno Chéné, all part of the talented cast.

The play toured to the Association of French Teachers of Victoria Congress in Bendigo just before it opened in late May. The production team of Meredith Gammie, Mario Nicolosi, Douglas Proctor, Angèle Cadge and Jacob Jones ensured the success of this very ambitious production which registered a small surplus...congratulations!



OCTOBER - *Le Père Noël est une Ordure* by Balasko, Chazel, Clavier, Jugnot, Lhermitte and Moynot



Since its inception as a play and then a film in the late 1970s and early 1980s, *Le Père Noël* has been a cult favourite amongst French audiences; reason for which, we presented it for the first time in Melbourne under the guidance of a new director Chris Bendall of the Footlite Theatre Company and a directing graduate from the Victorian College of the Arts.

The play was performed with a full set created and constructed by Darin Frankpitt and ably assisted by Sylvie Leber for the set and Kris Courtney for props and costumes in a new venue, the Richmond Library Theatre in Church Street, Richmond.

As the play is very colloquial and idiomatic in its French, the now established English video surtitle system struggled in parts to provide the true meaning of some of the wonderful and constant punch lines.

The cast consisted of Dominique Gibert as Morteux and four newcomers to theatre, Valérie Fimat-Faneco as Thérèse, Vanessa Peltier as Josette, Clifford Edouard, a seasoned Mauritian Theatre company actor as Katia the transvestite (exquisite!!!) and Jean-François Delvaen as the understudy for Morteux, the voices and Mr. Suicide, as well as Michael Bula in his second Slavic role, after Kovshnadief in *Occupe-toi d'Amélie* by Georges Fédeau in 1995, as Preskovich.

Chris Bendall ably interpreted the subtleties of this modern French cult

classic, assisted by a wonderful friendly cast which made it a pleasure to present the show.

Thanks go to the production crew of Mario Nicolosi, Meredith Gammie, Angele Cadge, Jessica Day, Fleur Dickie and Douglas Proctor apart from Kros Courtney and Sylvie Leber, mentioned above.

The play toured to the inaugural French festival organised by the Alliance Française and the French Embassy, as a guest who played to over 800 people over two performances.



Committee et al.

After nearly four years on committee and in numerous shows from a tree gardner to *Cyrano* and later *Mortez*, Dominique Gibert is leaving us with his new wife Anna (Roxanne) for Canberra. The couple changed the course of the Rostand play by falling in love and marrying adding that sweet twist to MFT history. We wish them all the best.

Jean-François Delvaen from *Le Père Noël est une Ordure* replaces Dominique on the committee which now consists of Michael Bula (Executive Director), Angèle Cadge (secretary) with one or more new faces to be appointed in the year 2001.

Subscriptions

Just a reminder that subscription fees for 2001 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 2001 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 \$100 or more, for which we issue a tax receipt. You can reduce your taxable income and benefit a worthy cause.

MFT Web Site

MFT has now secured the domain name mftinc.org. François-Marie Nicol, Audrey Demange's (previous MFT assistant secretary) is working on the MFT website which should be a success.

2001 Program

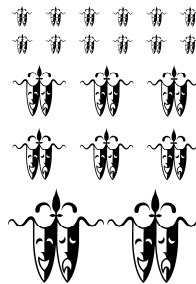
- *L'Avare* by Molière - MAY
- *En Attendant Godot* or *Waiting for Godot* by Samuel Beckett - OCTOBER
- Restaurant evenings - PERIODIC

English Surtitles

All year 2001 productions and beyond shall have powerpoint slide video projected English surtitles. Please tell your non-French-speaking friends and acquaintances.

Set Storage

Our dynamic theatre secretary Angèle Cadge and her husband John Cadge are renovating their house, so MFT has now stored its sets temporarily at our dear friends Mimmo and Diana Mangione BUT 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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