

# Le Souffleur

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## Bonne Année: 25 ans du MFT !

*Le MFT fête avec fierté ses 25 ans d'existence - déjà un quart d'un siècle!*

For 2002 MFT is presenting two productions with the theme "love in all its bizarre forms", followed by an end of year 25th birthday party.

### 2001 Season

#### MAY - *L'avare* by Molière

*L'avare* (*The Miser*) was directed by Henry-Claude Méra (our friend, co-actor and committee member), ably assisted by Julia Feeney as assistant director and répétitrice.

This ambitious production attracted record audience numbers in the mid-600s, producing a much needed surplus to assist the diminishing coffers of MFT.

Once again the play was staged at the Mechanics Institute Performing Arts Centre in Brunswick with a cast of ten (see below). Ably suffering for his art, Henry took on the invidious role of Harpagon, the main role as the miser.

The cast included the energetic Aurélien Mondon as Cléante, Cynthia Sica as a romantic Elise, the cinematographic Laurent Boulanger as Valère, our wonderful Canadian Andrea Onofrio as Mariane, Franciska Toubale as a convincing Frosine, Clifford "Katia" Edouard as La Flèche, Michael Bula in culinary mode as Maître Jacques, Michael "the Wig" Dupuche as Anselme/Brindavoine, and our dancing man from Mauritius Mevin Murden as La Merluche/Le Commissaire.

The production was ably supported by a wonderful production team in Sylvie Leber, Kris Courtney, Katherine Young, Karin McLean, Mario Nicolosi, Meredith Gammie, Fleur Dickie (that wonderful flautist), Angèle Cadge, Christin Quirk, Nadia Khosraviram and Douglas Proctor.



#### The cast of *L'avare* by Molière



"... donnez-moi la cassette!"



Director Henry Méra

#### OCTOBER - *En Attendant Godot* by Samuel Beckett



A scene from *Godot* - Pozzo, Lucky, Estragon and Vladimir

Samuel Beckett wrote this play originally in the French language, a fact that is not well known. The director Colin Duckworth had long intended to direct this play, a "must" in the repertoire of all great theatre companies, so MFT took on this ambitious project.

The play was presented in our new home at the Richmond Library Theatre (all 2002 productions will be staged there). The surtitles were carefully crafted by Kris Courtney and as for *L'Avare*, this play would not have had the success in attracting audiences without them.

Every cast member with special top marks to Henry-Claude Méra and Jean-François Delvaen, put in great effort and brilliant performances.

The cast consisted of Henry-Claude Méra as Vladimir, Jean-François Delvaen as Estragon, Andrew Gillard as the larger than life Pozzo, Franciska Toubale in a stunning performance as Lucky and Cynthia Sica in a versatile interpretation of the *jeune garçon*.

The production look was attributed to Karin McLean and a fine production team consisting of Kris Courtney, Katherine Young, Mario Nicolosi, Frederic Jobin, Angèle Cadge, Fleur Dickie and Nadia Khosraviram and a number of volunteers.



Jean-François Delvaen as Estragon and Henry-Claude Méra as Vladimir



Director Colin Duckworth

## Committee et al.

The 2001 committee comprised Michael Bula (Executive Director), Angèle Cadge (Secretary), Henry-Claude Méra, Jean-François Delvaen and Kris Courtney (Production).

## Wine bar

The wine bar proved so popular and profitable for MFT, that it has become a permanent fixture. We shall continue to offer wine, soft drinks, tea and coffee and

assorted foods to enhance that unique Melbourne French Theatre experience.

## Subscriptions

Just a reminder that subscription fees for 2002 are due in January.

### Special offer

For the first time, we are offering subscribers a **10% reduction** in fees if they supply their email address.

*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 2002 and show your support for our activities as it provides important fundraising revenue, 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 retains the domain name mftinc.org. Production of the web site has proved more time-consuming and costly than anticipated and any suggestions for assistance would be appreciated.

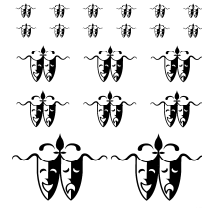
## 2002 Program

- *C'est une Femme du Monde* and *Les Pavés de l'Ours* both by Georges Feydeau on the one program directed by Michael Bula - **7 to 11 MAY**
- *Le Triomphe de l'Amour* by Marivaux - **10 to 14 SEPTEMBER**
- Restaurant evenings - **PERIODIC**
- 25th Birthday Party - **NOVEMBER**

## English Surtitles

Again, all year 2002 productions and beyond shall have powerpoint slide video projected English surtitles. Please tell your non-French-speaking friends and

acquaintances.



## 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.

## 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 **postal** address below.

## Sponsorship

MFT is seeking corporate sponsorships for 2002, for which extensive publicity on posters and programmes and complimentary tickets are available, as well as advertising on our video screen by projection of logos at shows. Special thanks to all our present sponsors, especially the French Embassy, without whom MFT could not exist.

## Editorial

Editor - Michael Bula  
Secretarial - Fleur Dickie  
Art, Photos 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 info@mftinc.org