

Le Souffleur

Inside this
Newsletter

- 1, 2, 3 2010 Season
3 Subscriptions, Sponsorship,
2011 Program, MFT
Website, Assistance etc..
Edition 1 2011
www.mftinc.org



Bonne Année - MFT a atteint ses 34 ans!

In 2011, in addition to the 2 shows in May and August, the Schools Tour of *Des Courtes Lignes de Courteline* will continue due to its success in 2010.

2010 Season

May - *L'Importance d'être Constant*
[*The Importance of Being Earnest*] by
Oscar Wilde



Louis, Eddy and Julien

Photo by Richard Markowski

One of our favourite directors, Stig Wemyss, returned after directing *Run for your Wife* in 2008 and its sequel *Caught in the Net* [*Chat et Souris*] in 2009 both by Ray Cooney, adapted by Vaughan and Barc, to direct a pet project of Producer and Executive Director Michael Bula – this classic Oscar Wilde play at Collingwood College. Whilst some were reticent and yet curious as to whether this quintessentially English socio-political masterpiece could transform itself easily into French, the result was better than anyone could have expected – a modernised adaptation. Michael Bula saw this play in September 2008 and was inspired to produce it again, following a rehearsed reading in 1996 [he played Algernon].

With the exception of veteran actor Margot Knight brilliantly playing the

inimitable Lady Bracknell, the entire cast was native French. Louis Bernard as John [Jack] Worthington with professional actor Julien Monnier as Algernon Moncrieff, gave the play its male sparring-style electricity, ably supported by Frédérique Fouché as Gwendolen Fairfax and the highly talented Sabrina Manac'h as Cecily Cardew. Gweltaz Jacq changed pace from the frenetic Jean Martin in *Caught in the Net* to play the Reverend Chasuble, with Miss Prism capably played by newcomer Monique Monnier.



Louis and Margot

Photo by Richard Markowski

Who can forget Eddy K. Fatha playing two roles as Lane and Merriman, the domestic help in both households?!

The combination of playwright, theme and its presentation in French saw nearly 1,200 spectators attend in a near record season.



Cast

Photo by Richard Markowski

August - *L'Emmerdeur* [A Pain in the @*#!] by Francis Veber



Victoire, Yoann and Henry

Photo by Richard Markowski

Made famous by two film versions in the 1960s and the 2000s, Michael Bula saw

another great opportunity to present contemporary black comedy to Melbourne audiences. He engaged veteran director Bruce Cochrane [*Le Médecin malgré lui* by Molière (1991) with a tour to New Caledonia, *Hôtel Paradiso* by Georges Feydeau/John Mortimer - bilingual version with tour to Vanuatu (1993)] to direct this Veber work.

Except for the cop, masterfully played by veteran MFT actor Damien Kenny [*Elle t'attend* by Zeller (2009); *Huis clos* by Sartre (1995) and *Knock* by Jules Romains (1994)], the cast again were all native French.



Henry Méra [with MFT since 2001 – *L'avare* by Molière, *En attendant Godot* by Beckett, *Le Jeu de l'Amour et du Hasard* by Marivaux (2005), *Théâtre sans animaux* by Ribes (2005)] had the title role of François Pignon in a laconic and balanced performance. Newcomer Yoann Vidor played the hitman Ralph Milan with aplomb. Romain Hermelin [*Un air de Famille* by Jaoui and Bacri (2004), *Théâtre sans animaux* (2005)] played Doctor Wolf, Pignon's wife's lover, with solid new actor Janet Besançon as Louise, Pignon's estranged wife. Experienced *comédienne*, Victoire Mazounie, helped give the play its punch as the "bellgirl", Virginie. The set, initially conceived by YunHa Song, but in fact designed and constructed by Benjamin Shaw, to sustain this "revolving door" work, its theatrical mechanics. Nearly 800 spectators graced Collingwood College [the venue for both seasons] to cap-off the main MFT season for 2010.



Henry, Janet, Romain and Yoann

Photo by Richard Markowski

May to December - Des Courtes Lignes de Courteline - Schools Tour and Seasons



Eddy and Michael

Michael Bula produced and conceived this new school tour and performance project, following the enormous success of *Le Petit Prince* by Saint-Exupéry in 2007. The structure in that year was to present a pre-season to Melbourne audiences – complete the Schools Tour – and end the season with a final series of Melbourne performances for the general public. That same program was successfully followed for *Des Courtes Lignes de Courteline* with a pre-season at Theatre Husk in May 2010 – the Schools Tour from May to December and a final performance at the Michael Bula's recently renovated *La Maison de Maître* – building – the new MFT premises in December 2010.



LA MAISON DE MAITRE BUILDING
MULTI-USE FULLY RENOVATED BUILDING
AVAILABLE FOR HIRE FOR PRESENTATIONS,
CONFERENCES, PERFORMANCES,
CORPORATE FUNCTIONS, GALLERY SPACE,
COCKTAILS, COMMERCIAL KITCHEN AND
SIMILAR USES IN THE HEART OF CARLTON -
CALL 03 9347 8333

The season was so successful that School Tours will continue throughout 2011. See the link on MFT Home Page website.

The show consists of 4 specially selected short pieces for primary, secondary and general public/university level [as adapted] –

- o *Monsieur Badin – Mr Badin* = a public servant who never shows up for work!
- o *Une lettre chargée – A Registered Letter* = a letter is trapped by a post office official
- o *L'Extra-Lucide – The Super Clairvoyant* = a sleepwalking fortune teller with a 6th sense!
- o *Avant et Après – Before and After* = a picnic goes wrong between Marthe and René

The female roles have been played by Sabrina Manac'h, Deborah Morgan and now Claire Dumans [Ovide, L'Employée, Madame Prudence and Marthe]. Eddy Fatha played Monsieur Badin and René with Michael Bula in the other roles of Monsieur le Directeur, Monsieur Labrige and Monsieur Ledaim.



Sabrina and Michael

Ovide has also been played by Olivia Bula, 9 at the French Festival Paris to Provence at Abbotsford Convent, at Camberwell Primary School and at *La Maison de Maître*.

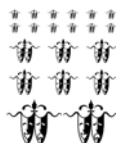
The show toured with English surtitles prepared by translation by Michael Bula and converted to PowerPoint by Veronica Hibbs.

Acknowledged are : Margaux Lasaygues previously Stage Manager + Production and Surtitles Assistant, Estelle Petit + Kate Lovig + Sally Borrell - Stage Management + Surtitles/Sound Operators; Poster Design – Eddy K. Fatha and poster computer graphics/layout – Bianca Elias





Eddy and Sabrina



Subscriptions

Just a reminder that subscription fees for 2011 are due in January - go to our website www.mftinc.org for the form.

Special offer

As MFT policy, MFT offer subscribers a **10% reduction** in fees if they supply their email address.

As advised previously, the general mailing list has now been significantly reduced. If you want to be kept informed, we appeal to you to join. Do read the NEW benefits and complete the form and support our activities as it provides important fundraising revenue, so MFT can continue to present its wonderful productions with much needed funds! Please join/rejoin today.

Tax Deductible Donations

In the subscription form, as we are no longer the recipient of the French Government grant, 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.

Special Thanks

Special thanks again must go to all actors, directors, backstage, artistic and administrative staff mentioned in the programs - some 50/60 + souls for each show without which MFT would no longer exist. They all volunteered their

time tirelessly. Our gratitude is extended to Angèle Cadge, MFT Secretary and Catering Director, Carolyn Allen, Media and Sponsorship Manager and all the unnamed *aficionados* who made the shows possible.

MFT Website

The site will be revamped in 2011. It has an archive section for plays from 1999 including photos and news. Security encryption for orders offers protection. Please consult the updated pricing policy section. MFT requests that you use the website, as we do not have adequate staff to deal with the myriad of telephone enquiries, in order to communicate with us [email contact form], download forms and information at

www.mftinc.org

2011 Programme

- SCHOOL TERMS - TOUR TO SCHOOLS - *Des Courtes Lignes de COURTELINE / Some Short Lines from COURTELINE* for Primary and Secondary Schools and Universities
- May - Molière double bill - *Le Médecin Volant [The Flying Doctor]/La Jalousie du Barbouillé [Barbouillé's Jealousy]*
- August - *Le Visiteur [The Visitor]* by Eric-Emmanuel Schmitt.

English Surtitles

Again, all year 2011 productions and beyond shall have one or two PowerPoint slide video projected English surtitles. Please tell your non-French-speaking friends and acquaintances.



Rehearsal Space

MFT has been using the City of Yarra rehearsal space since 1999 to 2010. MFT gratefully thanks the City of Yarra. With the new La Maison de Maître building, MFT has a new home for rehearsals in Carlton.

Vic Inc Ass Reg. No. A7352 ABN 53 581 103 940 Income Tax Exempt Charity and Deductible Gift Recipient

Assistance/Venues

MFT is currently seeking :

- sponsorship officers
- publicity officers
- directors
- actors
- ticket secretaries
- production managers
- set designers & constructors
- graphic artists
- stage managers
- costume coordinators
- admin & publicity staff
- drivers with vehicles.

To save time see our website and **only** send your CV through the Contact page on our website completing the form or by email, fax or post to us [see below]. and alternative theatre venues and rehearsal spaces and request you advise us through the contact page on the website.

Sponsorship

MFT is seeking corporate sponsorships for 2011, 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.

Details of our exciting sponsorship packages are on the website and interested parties are asked to contact our Sponsorships Manager Carolyn Allen on **0418 308 619**

or carolynallen84@gmail.com

Special thanks to all our present sponsors, without whom MFT could not exist.

MFT contact

"Princes Hill Gallery"

213 Canning Street, Carlton, Vic, 3053

Website www.mftinc.org

Telephone 03 9349 2250

Fax 03 9347 1741

E-mail info@mftinc.org

[The Post Office Box has been cancelled].



Editorial

Editor, Art, Photos & Layout - Michael Bula

Secretarial - Kate Lovig

