

entertainment

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Cabbie's savvy

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Past MFT shows have toured Noumea and Vanuatu, but co-founder Michael Bula has a long-term dream: to perform an Australian play in French in Paris.

"That would be the best way to shake the hand of cultural friendship between the countries," he says.

In the meantime, Bula is deep in rehearsals for *Stationnement Alterne*. He plays one of the two detectives who inadvertently expose Cooney's two-timing taxi-driver . . . but it'd be a shame to tell you who gets the last laugh.

Stationnement Alterne at Collingwood College Theatre (cnr Cromwell St and McCutcheon Way, Collingwood), May 6-10. Bookings: 9349 2250 or www.mftinc.org

Cabbie savvy a farce to be reckoned with

THEATRE

Simon Plant

HIS name is Jean, he drives taxis and he is married to two women. Neither woman knows the other exists.

How does the bigamous husband get away with it? Easy: his irregular taxi hours let him flit between the two. Then, one night . . .

Sounds like a classic British farce. And it is. Sort of. Ray Cooney's *Run For Your Wife*, first staged in the UK in 1982, is almost always in production somewhere in the English-speaking world.

Two years ago, Jean-Christophe Barc and Stewart Vaughan gave

this door-slamming comedy a Gallic makeover and it played to packed houses in France under the title *Stationnement Alterne*.

Now, thanks to Melbourne French Theatre (MFT), that version is coming to town. With English surtitles.

"Cooney is a master of the bedroom farce," director Stig Wemyss says. "But Barc and Vaughan have added a chaotic level only the French can get away with."

Australia's longest-running foreign-language theatre company, MFT has staged 72 productions, including plays by Moliere, Feydeau and Saint-Exupery.

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Fare cop: MFT's (from left) Richard Stacchi, Brunehilde Munier and Frederique Fouch. Picture: ANDREW TAUBER