



● Michael Bula and Ophélie Durand in the Melbourne French Theatre's *Every Trick in The Book*.

# Every trick in the book

■ The Melbourne French Theatre celebrates its 40th anniversary year by presenting the classic French farce, *Every Trick in the Book*, from September 7-16 at a Pop up Theatre at 203-205 Canning St, Carlton.

Written by Georges Feydeau and directed by Alec Gilbert, *Every Trick in the Book* is regarded as a 'thinking person's comedy', featuring a total of 10 performers.

The story centres around Ribadier, who thinks he's got it right by hypnotising his wife Angèle. But his plans come unstuck when Thommereux, her former lover, learns the technique and tries it too – with unexpected and chaotic consequences.

Enter Gusman, love-struck by Ribadier's maid Sophie, then throw wine merchant Savinet into the mix, and the ending is sure to surprise.

With surtitles in English, the play is accessible to the non-French-speaking and the hearing impaired, and is all-age-friendly.

With its transposition from the Belle Epoque of the original to glittering 1930s Hollywood, *Every Trick in the Book* offers a glimpse into social tensions and class welfare of the era, with a comedic twist.

Included in the ticket price, Melbourne French Theatre patrons can enjoy pre-show wine and beer, cheese and French bread, enhancing the sensory experience of the play that combines live French theatre with the sights, smells, sounds and taste of French culture.

Performance Season: September 7 – 16

Venue: Pop-up Theatre, 203-205 Canning St., Carlton.

Booking Details: Visit [www.melbournefrenchtheatre.org.au](http://www.melbournefrenchtheatre.org.au)

- Cheryl Threadgold