

Le Souffleur

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www.mftinc.org



Bonne Année - les 31 ans du MFT !

In 2008, MFT will present two shows in May and September.

2007 Season

May – *Huit Femmes* by Robert Thomas



The Open Stage was the venue for this play upon the cult movie classic *Huit Femmes* or *Eight Women*, was based. The show was brilliantly directed by Miki Oikawa [*Théâtre Sans Animaux* by Jean-Michel Ribes 2005] and featured Chloé Brugale, as *Augustine*, Gail Grove as *Mamy*, Franciska Toubale as *Mme Chanel*, Aurelia Gachet as *Louise*, Sarah Blard as *Catherine*, Yolaine Corbin as *Suzon*, Benedicte Gutton as *Pierrette* and Catherine Jackson-Grose as *Gaby*. More than 1,000 spectators enjoyed an MFT first with an all-female cast, selected to honour women participants since foundation. This was the first offering in MFT's 30th anniversary program.



June and November – *Le Petit Prince* by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry



Adaptation and presentation of this show has been a dream for Michael Bula since the foundation of the MFT in 1977. How satisfying the project proposed by director and adaptor Karen Berger was, especially since it first saw life in Accra, Ghana, West Africa in Karen's first production. For MFT, the show was specifically conceived to tour all Victorian metropolitan and country schools, in all aspects of its set, costumes and rehearsals. The cast included as *Le Petit Prince* the multitalented Sarah Blard [*Catherine* in *Huit Femmes* 2007] designer of the final poster, postcard and program for the November/December season, Christophe Le Tellier as the Pilot and the Fox, Fleur Dean as Rose, the Businesswoman, the Lamplighter and the Serpent and David Adamson as the King, Vain Man, Drunkard and Geographer.

There were 2 Melbourne seasons in June [pre-tour season] at a previous MFT venue – St Brigid's Hall in North Fitzroy [455 spectators] and then at Open Stage in November/December [711 spectators].

The response from the schools was overwhelming [a stunning 42 schools were involved all over Victoria – 4,900 spectators]. The show was so significant that the French Embassy [Merci - Cultural Counsellor Ms Anne Bisson] managed to find a special grant to assist in its presentation. The Europcar [whom we acknowledge as a major sponsor for the tour] minibus laden with sets, costumes and actors, ably assisted by Pamela How for surtitles, was quite a sight as it left Princes Hill Gallery in Carlton for the closer and far reaches of the State of Victoria! marking the final production of our 30th anniversary year [a record total 6,066 spectators!]. A special thanks to Heidi Bula for her rehearsal and workshop work in the role of *Le Petit Prince* prior to the participation of Sarah Blard. MFT acknowledges all the many members of the production crew which made this show possible with a special mention for the designer Tiresa Ballard.



Subscriptions

Just a reminder that subscription fees for 2008 are due in January - go to our website 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.

MFT Web Site

The site continues to improve and has an archive section for plays from 1999 including photos and news. Security encryption for orders offers protection. Please consult the new 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

2008 Programme

- *Run for your Wife [Stationnement alterné]* by Ray Cooney, adapted by Stewart Vaughan and Jean-Christophe Barc – 6 to 10 May 2008
- *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* by Pierre Choderlos de Laclos, adapted by Colin Duckworth – 26 to 30 August 2008
- Restaurant evenings – PERIODIC

English Surtitles

Again, all year 2008 productions and beyond shall have PowerPoint slide video projected English surtitles. Please tell your non-French-speaking friends and acquaintances.

Life Members

On 30 November 2007 at the Gala evening of *Le Petit Prince* in the Open Stage, Professor Colin Duckworth was recognised and appointed a life member of MFT in honour of his contribution of more than 29 years as an adapter and director and consultant/adviser. For the occasion, Michael Bula donated funds and designed a new life member lapel pin, which was presented to all life members.

Life members have made major and invaluable contributions to MFT over many years, not just by continuing membership [15 years + is the threshold]. A new life member advisory council will be established in 2008 to guide and assist Michael Bula in the management of MFT.

30th Anniversary year 1977-2007



The 2007 program was highly ambitious and a fitting presentation to mark a unique and remarkable history not only in terms of the presentation of French Theatre but in Australia generally. Special 30th Anniversary lapel pins are available in limited edition by order online from the MFT website. Don't miss your chance!

Editorial

Editor, Art, Photos & Layout - Michael Bula
Secretarial – Estelle Jacques

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/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
- strong 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 2008, 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 and Consulate General, without whom MFT could not exist.

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