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Welcome to the Torquay Theatre Troupe newsletter!

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Happy 2019 to all of our TTT friends !

Happy new year everyone! We hope you all had a great holiday season. With 2018 behind us, we reflect upon some of the highlights of the year that was. Our November comedy "Any Given Monday" was a huge success with audiences, receiving nominations and awards at the "Geelong Oscars".

2019 brings yet another great year of performances, projects and activities for the troupe and our theatre community. We have held auditions for our May 2019 play, "The Memory of Water" and welcome local writer Sandy Fairthorne as our next director. Read about the details, dates and our fabulous new cast for the production. Our bid for a theatre space in Torquay has taken another step forward with council approving further assessment for a 'black box' style theatre and arts space in our town. What is a black box you ask? All is explained below.

If you would like to become a TTT member, make a note in your calendar to attend our membership launch on February 3rd. Come along and hear about what we do and how you can join in. Community theatre is for everyone who wants to be

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As always, we welcome all newcomers whatever your passion. Backstage, costumes, acting, directing, set building, lighting - you name it! Whether you enjoy the spotlight or being behind the scenes, whether you are experienced or a newcomer - come and join us!

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TTT MAY PRODUCTION "The Memory of Water"

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presents

The Memory of Water

written by
Shelagh Stephenson
Directed by
Sandra Fairthorne

May 13, 16, 17, 18, 19, 23, 24, 25 2019



Price Street Theatre, 16 Price St., Torquay

"The Memory of Water" by
Shelagh Stephenson directed by Sandy
Fairthorne

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production “The Memory of Water” by Shelagh Stephenson.

Set in Northern England, this is the story of three sisters coming together, complete with dysfunctional spouse and/or lover, for the purpose of arranging their mother Vi’s funeral.

Haunted by their mother’s memory, (quite literally for one daughter), the sisters deal with their grief in their own peculiar and often hilarious ways.

For this season the wonderful Kathryn O’Neill and Ethan Cook will be making a much anticipated comeback, and much loved Geelong actor Claudia Clarke will also be joining the Troupe for the first time. We also welcome new additions to the cast and crew, with local playwright Sandy Fairthorne in the director’s chair, and talented locals Skye Staude, Frankie Swithinbanke, and Timothy Parsons-Yarrow.

At times funny, at others moving, this play won the Lawrence Oliver Award for Best New Comedy and is bound to delight.

Tickets will be available through trybooking.com. The play opens Monday May 13th at 8pm, with performances on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings, with Sunday 2pm matinee, until 26th

Adults \$23, Concession \$20. For more information, ring Gay on 52 616111.

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Geelong 'Oscars' Theatre Awards 2018

In November 2018 the Geelong theatre community came together to celebrate another year of musical and dramatic theatre in the Geelong region. Colin Mockitt and his team from Entertainment Geelong hosted a gala night at the Potato Shed in Drysdale where all attended in their finery to mingle with their theatre colleagues from a variety of local amateur companies.

Torquay Theatre Troupe received nominations in a variety of categories for our 2018 plays "Strangers on a Train" and "Any Given Monday".

A huge congratulations goes out to our award winners as follows:

Best actor in a non-musical production - Michael Baker

Best supporting male actor in a non-musical production - Fred Preston

Best production - non musical - Any Given Monday

Congratulations to all involved!



TORQUAY THEATRE TROUPE NEW MEMBERSHIP DRIVE - 2019

We will be holding a launch afternoon/evening to introduce our new membership package.

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Sunday February 3 - 10 PM @ 5-7.00 pm](#)

Come along, hear all about the new benefits available to members, what's on the agenda for the coming few months and enjoy a drink & a nibble with the committee and other members.

We would appreciate an RSVP with your name and how many of you attending to help with catering. Please text or call Zina on 0408 001667.

And if you have any ideas for future events you might like to see happen bring them along too!

Cheers and we look forward to seeing you.

If you would like further information go to ttt.org.au

TORQUAY THEATRE PROJECT

For many years TTT has been active in lobbying for a dedicated performing arts centre in Torquay. Our most recent submission to Council, in May 2018, resulted in the provision of funds to explore the viability of converting the existing Sports and Recreation Centre into a theatre at a reasonable cost. A Project Working Group was established to work with consultants on the report which was presented to the November Surf Coast Council Meeting.

We thank our supporters who came to that meeting, (many in their funny hats) to hear the result.

The councilors passed the following resolution:

That Council:

- 1. Notes the Torquay Theatre Feasibility Study*
- 2. Acknowledges the contribution of community members of the Project Working Group.*
- 3. Considers allocating funds in Council's 2019-20 Budget to undertake further planning including detailed design.*

The Torquay Theatre Feasibility Study has affirmed the possibility of re-purposing the Surf Coast Recreation Centre to provide a Black Box Theatre and Arts Space for

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grants to assist with funding the further planning and detailed designs which are expected to cost \$200,000.

What is a Black Box Theatre?

A black box theatre is a bare room with a movable seating area, a movable stage, and a flexible lighting system. It became popular during the explosion of experimental theatre in the 1960s, when storefronts, church basements, and even old warehouses suddenly became intimate performance venues.

As per the name, black boxes are often painted black and are square or rectangular in shape, with the idea that this is the most neutral setting in which to give productions a wide array of design and staging choices. The Potato Shed on the Bellarine Peninsula is an example of a Black Box Theatre.

There are five basic ways to stage a play: with the audience on one side (traditional proscenium style), two sides (center stage), three sides (thrust), four sides (theatre in the round), or environmental staging, in which the audience and actors intermingle.

The beauty of a black box theatre is that you can have any of those possibilities within one theatre space.

Flashback - Small Secrets

Julie Bright and Fred Preston rehearsing for their one act play performance

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The Last Word

Life is difficult. People want to experience that from the safety of a comfortable seat.

Janet Suzman, *The Jewish Chronicle*, June 2017



2019 Torquay Theatre Troupe Inc
January 2019

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