

Whale of a time with *Moby Dick*, *Widow's Peak* and *Under The Rainbow*

WHAT happens when you take a classic 685-page novel about a large aquatic mammal and try to encapsulate it in a 25-minute play?

The answer lies in *Moby Dick*, adapted by Michael Green from the original Herman Melville tale, and directed by Sarah Christiner as part of the Old Mill Theatre's short play season this September.

It's the epic story of a man's obsession with vengeance against a mammoth sperm whale which previously had destroyed his ship.

But the telling is a little different – Green is a pioneer of a theatrical style known as “coarse acting” which is a spoof of things in theatre going wrong.

“Effectively, it's very bad theatre taken very seriously,” Sarah, who also plays the scarred seamen, said.

“Green's *Moby Dick* script, while being fraught with theatrical faux pas, actually does manage to capture the essential moments and message of Melville's saga.

“The cast is comprised of people who have mostly all worked together before and I knew I could trust them to help with the collaborative process of staging this somewhat intricate production.

“This is also the first time I have directed and performed in a show.”

Involved in theatre since 2003, Sarah has performed in a plethora of productions and has also done extensive tech work and stage-managing, also recently extending her love of the performing arts to directing.

“My last two directorial efforts, *Flowers for Algernon* and *Lord of the Flies*, have both been fairly intense in their own ways and I wanted my next show to be more light-hearted,” Sarah said.

“Coarse acting appeals to my sense of irony because it's a depiction of theatre at its least tidy while I'm rather a perfectionist.



Sarah Christiner, left, Kit Leake, David Heder and Josh Harris are appearing in a comedy version of *Moby Dick*.

“Green's adaptation is also the only *Moby Dick* script I have really enjoyed.”

The cast of *Moby Dick* features David Heder, Josh Harris, Kit Leake, Eileen Leake, Phil Barnett, Michael Dornan, Sarah J. Christiner, Chris Thomas and Noah Humich.

WIDOW'S PEAK and UNDER THE RAINBOW

Joining *Moby Dick* for the Old Mill Theatre's season of short plays are *Widow's Peak* and *Under The Rainbow*, both written and directed by Noel O'Neill.

Widow's Peak is a poignant story of survival by the wives left behind when their husbands are killed during war and how they show determination through dark humour.

Appearing in *Widow's Peak* are Roisin Nash, Denice Byrne and Mairead Dempsey.

Under The Rainbow looks at what might happen if there was no hope nor courage and the Wizard of Oz and his crew were nobodies hiding in a forgotten bar beneath the multi-coloured arch.

The cast of *Under The Rainbow* includes Cameron Leese, Yad Sand, Andrew Hobbs, Steven Wheadon, Siobhán Skinner, Noel O'Neill and Valerie Dragojevic.

Moby Dick, *Widow's Peak* and *Under The Rainbow* play at 8pm September 7, 8, 9 and 10.



Chris Thomas plays Captain Ahab in *Moby Dick*.

**All tickets are \$20 – book on 9367 8719
or oldmilltheatre@inet.net.au**



AUDITION: Scrooge

Director/Musical Director: Justin Freind

Playwright: James Leisy

Auditions: 10am, September 18

Location: Old Mill Theatre

Season: December 2-16

Scrooge is a musical play in two acts, based on Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. Scrooge is visited by the spirits of Christmas Past, Present and Future, who reveal the misery of Christmas for the poor.

AUDITION DETAILS

- Please bring a current CV with photo attached.
- A CD player will be provided for backing CDs for songs.
- A piano is available but you must provide your own accompanist for auditions

Audition Requirements:

- All auditionees will be required to do a closed audition.
- In this audition, you will be asked to sing a song and may also be asked to sing a scale or two.
- You may be required to do a script reading depending on your suitability for a character role and at the discretion of the audition panel. If you are not asked to read for the panel this does not mean that you are not being considered for a role or part in the show.

CAST REQUIRED (singing and speaking roles)

Scrooge; Thomas, Richard, Harold (Scrooge's stooges); Fred (Scrooge's nephew); Marley's Ghost; Spirit of Christmas Past; Spirit of Christmas Present; Tiny Tim.

CAST REQUIRED (speaking roles)

Bob Cratchit, Mrs Cratchit, Belinda, Martha, Peter Cratchit, Topper, Polly, Emily, First and Second Ladies, Scrooge (as a boy), Sister Fan, Fezziwig, Dick Wilkins, Scrooge (as a young man), Scrooge's Fiancée, Spirit of Christmas Future; First, Second and Third Merchants; Joe the Pawnbroker, The Undertaker's Assistant, Mrs Filcher, Mrs Dilber.

Please note: full character breakdowns are available at www.oldmilltheatre.com.au

For an audition time, please email Justin Freind at belcanto@westnet.com.au or phone 0408 855 458.

HAIL MARY 2: THE HAUNTING

"beautifully-structured script and perfectly-timed interaction"

Extract by GORDON THE OPTOM

Source: www.ita.org.au

Hail Mary 2: The Haunting is the sequel to last year's hit show by prolific playwright, Perth's Noel O'Neill.

Numerous Milly and Finley nominations and awards have come Noel's way for his writing and directing, including several for the original hilarious *Hail Mary*.

The scene is the vestry and office of Father Costello. The walls are limestone blocks adorned with photos of religious dignitaries.

To the right of the stage is an area that acts as part of the office, then as a courtyard garden.

The textbook costumes were supplied by Jenny Prosser and Cathy Puzey. Award-winning lighting designer John Woolrych has taken relative newcomer John Spurling under his wing and allowed him to come up with some quite complex lighting effects.

Spurling tried dimming the lights when a dramatic speech was being made – but did so with subtle careful control – so the desired effect was excellent.

It is late in the evening in the Our Lady of the Vines convent. Into the dimly lit office come two nuns, leaping and dancing to wild radio music.

Yes, Sister Abbott (Caroline McDonnell – excellent) has been sipping the communion wine for most of the day.

She is accompanied by the newest holy sister, nervous Rosa (Sofie Reidy-Crofts) who is still trying to come to terms with life in a convent.

Staggering in comes Father Costello (Noel O'Neill – hilarious), as always the worse for wear. He heads straight for his whisky bottle.

Since the tragic accidental death of the Mother Superior (Norma Davis), dedicated Sister Marilyn (Susan Meikle) seems the only vestal interested in the religious faith and the upkeep of the crumbling convent.

The trendy Italian, Sister Vinnie (Valerie Dragojevic), is trying to fight off her mafia upbringing and sitting in the garden of remembrance, listening to young Rosa's concerns about some ghostly noises she has heard in the night.

Their conversation is interrupted by the arrival of the bewildered and worried Archbishop Monticello (Rex Gray).

He has been sent by the church hierarchy, who have just learned about Father Costello's dubious lifestyle, and has asked the Archbishop to give Costello a warning.



Vivienne Marshall and Valerie Dragojevic getting their *Hail Mary 2* on.

Sister Francis (Vivienne Marshall) has come up with a sacrilegious suggestion to solve Rosa's haunting problems – but under no circumstances must the Archbishop find out.

Director Noel O'Neill, assisted by Valerie Dragojevic, have retained most of their previous, strong, award-winning team. Why not? The chemistry was again superb with subtle delivery of the beautifully-structured script and perfectly-timed interaction. Great cast.

Noel allowed himself to slip out of character and have a couple of "boom, boom" jokes but the audience loved it. There is certainly no place in heaven for Noel.

The audience on the night I saw the show included a couple of dozen fans, who were there to support their actor friends. Many of them had never been to a community theatre show before and were blown away by the quality. One even said that she came prepared to fall asleep with boredom but laughed the whole way through. They will all come back again.

Sequels are rarely as good as the original but Noel's zany lateral thinking has once again produced a laugh-a-minute show. Highly recommended.

If you didn't see the first episode, don't worry... a knowledge of the previous show – foreplay? – is not necessary.

Colour your world: check out the colour version of this edition at www.oldmilltheatre.com.au

Memberships due!



OLD MILL THEATRE
 PO Box 1390, South Perth WA 6951
 ☎ (08) 9367 8719 /e: oldmilltheatre@inet.net.au

Membership fees are due on **October 1** each year. Please complete ALL areas of the form below and post to the above address to receive information on the interesting mix of plays and theatre activities planned for 2017.

APPLICATION or RENEWAL—NEWSLETTER/ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP 2016-2017
 TAX INVOICE ABN 19250378001

NAME.....
 ADDRESS.....
POSTCODE.....
 PHONE.....(H).....(W).....(M)
 email.....

We appreciate people completing this form, even if you are a long-time member, because it helps us maintain up-to-date records. Please write email addresses LEGIBLY. If no change, write "as before". If you're a new member, welcome aboard!

SUBSCRIPTIONS from October 1, 2016, will be unchanged:
 Newsletter only: \$12 per year, full membership: \$20 per year (double/family \$30)
 [Full membership entitles you to act, direct and be an active member of the theatre. Our "membership year" runs from October 1 to September 30]

FOR ALL MEMBERS: If you would like to assist with front-of-house during a season, please tick this box and we will contact you.

For active members: please tick your areas of special interest: ACTING SINGING
 DIRECTING STAGE MANAGEMENT SET BUILDING LIGHTING/SOUND
 PUBLICITY WARDROBE/COSTUMES
 ANYTHING ELSE? (please indicate).....

Cheques should be made payable to the Old Mill Theatre and sent with this completed form to the address at the top of the page. Alternatively, you can pay by credit card:

VISA/MASTERCARD number: Exp.....
 Amount: \$

OFFICE USE: Date received Amount Cheque/credit card
 Receipt Category

Youthfest & Dramafest

SEPTEMBER is the month for the Independent Theatre Association's annual Youthfest and Dramafest, both to be held at Stirling Theatre this year.

Youthfest runs from September 17-18 with *Pirates vs Mermaids* and *Most Epic Birthday Ever* from Sawyers Valley Primary School, *The Wolf has No Teeth* by WA Children's Theatre, *Eggshells* from Roleystone Theatre and St Norbert College's *For the Love of Three Oranges* on the Saturday.

The Sunday schedule features *Hush Little Celia*, *Don't Say a Word* by KADS Theatre, *Early Man* from Playlovers and *Dream Jobs* and *The Snow*

Queen, both from Garrick Theatre.

Dramafest starts on September 23 with the Old Mill Theatre's *Under The Rainbow*, *Widow's Peak* and *Moby Dick* and *Under the Balcony* from the Irish Theatre Players.

September 24 features *Sisters of St Judas* (Stirling Theatre), *Bitten* (KADS Theatre), *Jilted Lovers Helpline* (A lad in sane productions), *Hello Out There* (Playlovers), *Little Brother*, *Little Sister* (Playlovers) and an invited performance from Youthfest.

For more details and bookings, go to www.ita.org.au.

WHAT'S ON ELSEWHERE?

BAREFOOT IN THE PARK
 Melville Theatre



Neil Simon's romantic comedy about a newly-wed couple learning to live together.
 8pm September 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, & 17; 2pm September 11
 Book on 9330 4565 or at www.meltheco.org.au.

SKYLIGHT
 Limelight Theatre, Wanneroo



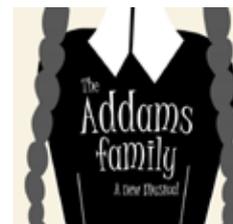
Two people attempt to re-kindle their once passionate relationship.
 8pm September 22, 23, 24, 29, October 1, 6, 7 & 8. Book on 0499 954 016 or at www.limelighttheatre.com.au

GUARDS! GUARDS!
 Latvian Centre Theatre, Belmont



Terry Pratchett's eighth *Discworld* novel on stage.
 8pm October 21, 22, 27, 28, 29, November 3, 4 & 5; 2pm October 23, 20 & November 6.
 More details at www.facebook.com/arenaarts

THE ADDAMS FAMILY
 Phoenix Theatre, Hamilton Hill



A new musical – and it's every father's nightmare.
 8pm November 24, 25, 26, December 1, 2, 3, 8, 9 & 10;
 2pm December 4
 Book at www.darkpsychicproductions.com

Coming soon: HONOUR



THE Old Mill Theatre's October season is *Honour*, written by Joanna Murray-Smith and directed by Dale James.

This frank, honest play cannot fail to move anyone who has ever put their trust in another human being.

George and Honor have been happily married for 32 years.

They have a perfect understanding of each other until a beautiful female journalist, sent to profile columnist George, methodically sets out to challenge that understanding.

With love, hope and raw emotion, *Honour* tells this affecting tale of thoughtless

conceit from the perspective of the three women involved.

Honour has been produced in more than 35 countries, including productions on Broadway and at London's Royal National Theatre in London.

It also scored a 1996 Victorian Premier's Literary Award.

The cast features Maree Grayden (pictured left), Alan Kennedy, Ruhama Geiger and Jessica Warriner.

Honour plays October 7-22 - earlybird bookings can be made by calling 9367 8719 or email oldmilltheatre@inet.net.au

The Old Mill Times
PO Box 1390
South Perth WA 6951

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Play reading



HERE'S one for your diary - the next play reading will be held on **SEPTEMBER 28**.

Keep an eye on the Old Mill Theatre's website and our Facebook group for confirmation of the play's title.

But the all important details are as follows:

Time: 6.30pm for light refreshments and 7pm for the start of the play reading in the theatre's Constance Ord Room.

To RSVP (for catering purposes), contact Siobhán O'Gara on 0409 374 731 or siobhanog@westnet.com.au

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