

'Le Jeu de l'Amour et du Hasard'

That's the title of the next production from Melbourne French Theatre *The Game Of Love And Chance* being directed by Karen Berger and presented in French with English surtitles From Tuesday August 30 to Saturday September 3 (see What's On for full details)

Melbourne French Theatre was founded in 1977 by Michael Bula and David Gorrie celebrating their 25th Anniversary in 2002 with a lunch at Chez Bob in Armadale.

In 1985 Melbourne French Theatre was constituted as a non-profit incorporated association and was placed under the patronage of the French Consul General in Melbourne. In 1986 they were honoured to receive the patronage of His Excellency the Ambassador of France to Australia as a measure of the official recognition and prestige the Company has attained over the years.

In 1991 MFT was entered on the Register of Cultural Organisations administered by the Department of the Arts in Canberra, thus providing tax deductibility for all private donations. They also receive an annual grant from the French Foreign Affairs Ministry through the French Embassy in Canberra. The Company is sponsored or supported by a number of large French companies established in Victoria as well as through business and private donations.

One or two productions are mounted each year (more than 50 productions since 1977) being mainly theatrical plays either entirely in the French language or in bilingual (French/English) form. On some occasions cafés-théâtres and other projects

are presented. The theatre draws its inspiration for plays from a large répertoire of French playwrights from the Middle Ages until the present day.

Among its actors are to be found professionals and amateurs alike of French, Australian, European and other nationalities and origins.

MFT employs professional directors, artists, set designers, technicians and other staff who may change from production to production to enhance the great variety of styles and presentation of theatrical works. The Company has performed in conventional and experimental theatre spaces as well as in National Trust mansions.

MFT have toured three times to New Caledonia - in 1988 with *Le Jeu de l'Amour et du Hasard* by Marivaux, in 1989 with *Pauvre Bitos* by Jean Anouilh and in 1991 with *Le Médecin Malgré Lui* by Molière. The last tour to the South Pacific was of the bilingual adaptation of *Hôtel Paradiso* by Georges Feydeau/John Mortimer created by Jean Papillon to Vanuatu in August 1993.

The company toured four times with great acclaim to Canberra by special invitation of the French Ambassador to Australia with the Marivaux classic *Les Fausses Confidences* in February 1993, *Antigone* by Jean Anouilh in May 1994, being *Huis clos* by Sartre in May 1995 and *Dormez, je le veux* by Feydeau in March 1999 for the Canberra International Multicultural Festival.

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Scenes from Melbourne French Theatre's
2004 production of "On ne Badine pas avec l'Amour"
("You can't Trifle with love")



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MELBOURNE FRENCH THEATRE

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The production of *Le Père Noël est une Ordure* toured to the inaugural Adelaide French Festival in November 2000.

The management of Melbourne French Theatre consists of professionals from the fields of law, accounting, university administration and teaching in order to provide the wide base that is required to manage the specialised enterprise of presenting live French theatre in Australia and overseas.

The French Embassy and the French Consulate General actively support the activities of MFT and all its endeavours. MFT also shares a healthy relationship with other French interest and cultural groups such as Alliance Française de Melbourne and the French-Australian Association.

In May 1995, MFT concluded an historic association agreement with the Department of French and Italian Studies at the University of Melbourne, where the company was founded. The agreement provides for, amongst other things, exchanges and co-operation for the promotion of mutual interests, student and staff participation in MFT activities, a staff member appointed ex officio to the MFT Committee, as well as the Theatre officially forming part of the prestigious University community.

In June 2005, MFT signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Australian Catholic University, to collaborate on various levels and cement relations in the use of Central Hall.

Audiences are made up of French speaking ethnic groups, French speaking Australians as well as school and University students. The very existence of Melbourne French Theatre serves to fill a cultural need in the presentation of the most exciting vehicle and exponent of French culture - live theatre.



"Boeing, Boeing"
staged by
Melbourne French
Theatre in 2005



MFT is also an agency which provides French "looking" and speaking actors and extras for films, TV, commercials and photographic work.

The Theatre provides an opportunity for the public, students at all levels, francophones and francophiles including certain ethnic communities and lovers of French dramas to witness, participate in and enjoy the excitement of quality French theatrical productions.

SOME RECENT MFT PRODUCTIONS

- 2005 *Penetration* written and directed by Joris Lacoste
Boeing Boeing by Marc Camoletti - directed by Morgan Dowsett
- 2004 *Un air de famille* by Agnès Jaoui and Jeanne-Pierre Bacri - directed by Morgan Dowsett
On ne badine pas avec l'Amour by Alfred de Musset - directed by Colin Duckworth
- 2003 *La Tête des Autres* by Marcel Aymé - directed by Morgan Dowsett
Don Juan by Molière a modern bilingual adaptation directed by Chris Bendall
- 2002 *C'est une Femme du Monde* and *Les Pavés de l'Ours* by George Feydeau directed by Michael Bula
Le Triomphe de l'Amour by Marivaux directed by Léna Pangalo
- 2001 *L'avare* by Molière directed by Henry-Claude Méra
En attendant Godot by Samuel Beckett directed by Colin Duckworth
- 2000 Extracts from *Cyrano de Bergerac* by Edmond Rostand directed by Colin Duckworth
Le Père Noël est une ordure by Balasko, Chazel, Clavier, Jugnot, Lhermitte et Moynot directed by Chris Bendall

All productions since 1977 are listed on the MFT website: <http://www.mftinc.org>

Melbourne French Theatre Inc. present **LE JEU DE L'AMOUR ET DU HASARD** (*The Game of Love and Chance*) by Marivaux (1688-1763) directed by Karen Berger in French with English surtitles - Tuesday August 30 to Saturday September 3 at 8 pm Matinees: Friday 2 and Saturday 3 Sept at 2.30 pm Gala Night: Friday September 2
CENTRAL HALL - 20 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy (Melways 2C A12 near Victoria Pde) Bookings: www.mftinc.org or Phone: 9349-2250 Fax: 9347-1741

Information supplied by Benedicte Gutton,
Press Liaison Officer, Melbourne French Theatre Inc.



Australian comedy
by Louis Nowra
Directed by
Geoff Hickey
SEPTEMBER 2 to 17
at 8.15 pm
Matinees: Sat 3 at 2 pm,
Sun 11 at 3 pm
by arrangement with
Hilary Linstead & Associates



American comedy
by Joe Di Pietro
Directed by Bruce Cochrane
NOVEMBER 11 to 26
at 8.15 pm Matinees: Sat 12 at 2 pm,
Sun 11 at 3 pm
by arrangement with Hal Leonard Pty Ltd

BOOKINGS: 9530-8586
or email: malv.t.c@bigpond.net.au
website: www.malverntheatre.com.au

