

A graphic consisting of several concentric, curved lines in a reddish-brown color, resembling sound waves or ripples, positioned above the word "ECHOES".

ECHOES

Newsletter | June 2018

Welcome to the June edition of *Echoes*, Encore Theatre's quarterly newsletter.

THE WEEKEND - On Sale Now

Book now to escape the winter and warm up with Encore's prime-time comedy in July!

Our next production is Michael Palin's *The Weekend*, directed by Dexter Bourke and running from 13 - 28 July 2018.

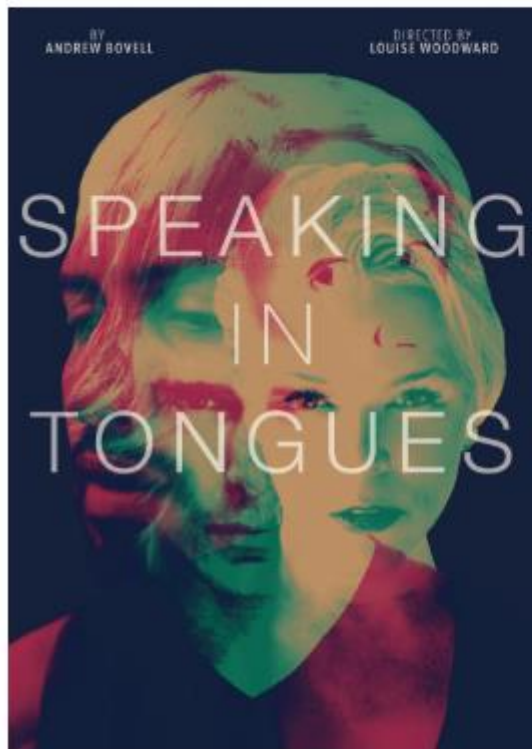
Written by one of the founding members of Monty Python, *The Weekend* is a dark comedy about family meltdown – poignant yet bound to keep you laughing.

Bursting with familiar-feeling characters we all know and love to hate, this show is jam-packed with the laugh-out-loud delights of family dysfunction.

So come on down, escape the winter and warm up with our prime-time comedy for 2018! [Click here](#) to book now!



Audition Notices



Speaking in Tongues

Auditions are fast approaching for our final show of the year, *Speaking in Tongues* by Andrew Bovell.

Directed by Louise Woodward, this production is Encore's entry into the annual Victorian Drama League Awards, and we are seeking a strong ensemble of eight actors to bring Bovell's masterful script and multiple narratives to the stage in a collaborative and unique way.

Auditions will be held on 15 & 16 July 2018.

To view the audition details, go to www.encoretheatre.com.au, or contact the director on 0416 777 356 or idobridalfloristry@gmail.com to register your interest.



Annual Children's Show

We are extremely excited to be planning another Roald Dahl classic for our January school holiday kids' show - soon to be announced!

Do you have a young aspiring actor in your family?

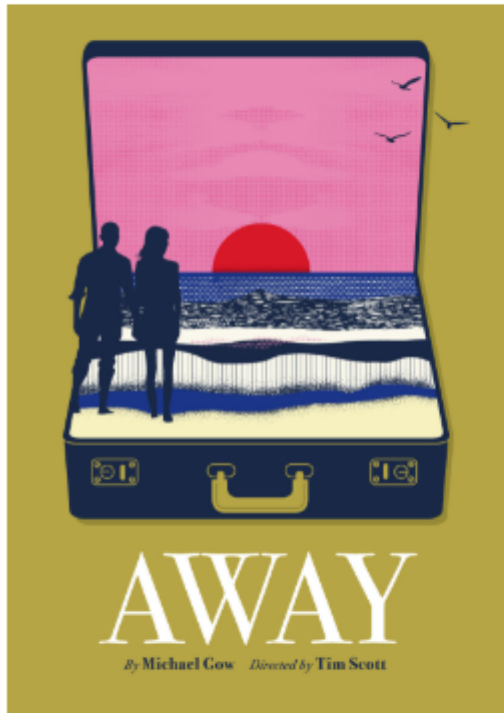
Encore will be seeking youth actors to create magic on stage for our young audiences.

Auditions will be held in November/December (exact dates to be confirmed), with performances scheduled in January 2019.

To register your interest early, please contact director David Collins on divcollins@gmail.com.

That's a Wrap

A note on our last production.



A huge thank you to all of you who braved Melbourne's cold weather to attend our most recent production, *Away* by Michael Gow.

We were delighted to have an opportunity to bring this acclaimed Australian story to Encore's stage for the second time, having previously produced it with a very different team back in 2002!

Our cast of nine was a strong ensemble of actors, including a fantastic mix of both new and familiar faces, who worked tirelessly to delight their audiences.

We congratulate director Tim Scott, his production team, and the entire cast and crew on a great season, and hope to have you all back with us again soon.

In the Press

Congratulations to the cast and crew of "Away" on their review in this month's edition of "Theatrecraft".



AWAY by Michael Gow

Encore Theatre

Directed by Tim Scott

Reviewed by Rod Nash for Theatrecraft — April 22, 2018

Away has become somewhat of an Australian classic. I first attended a performance of this play in 1990 at the Playbox and also saw their recent 2017 production. Additionally, I was involved in Clayton Theatre Group's 1991 production (directed by Trevor Bickerstaff). On all occasions (including Encore's production) I was entertained and moved by this play. The play involves three families and deals with grief and loss. It also reflects on the tensions of Australian suburban life—there is a sense of unease. As its playwright, Michael Gow, commented, "This sense of unease beneath the shiny surface of Australian life found a voice in this play". The play is very theatrical and jumps in time and location; there is an underlying Shakespearian influence.

The set design lent itself well to the shifts in time and location: the initial setting of two deck chairs on the "sand" with a rear projection of the beach set up the holiday mood. Rear projection was used effectively to establish the location of each scene. Effects like the use of a moveable door frame and the repositioning of a chair, etc, were very effective in efficient scene changes; they were well choreographed. Even though the set looked simple, a lot of thought had gone into its style and execution. Congratulations to designer John Shelbourn and director Tim Scott.

To some extent the play could be interpreted as the world seen through the eyes of the young protagonists, Tom and Meg, played by Ryan Fahlbusch and Alanah Allen. Both actors acquitted themselves well, particularly in their beach scene, handling the complex emotions in a very believable way. Ryan also played the character of Rick—he differentiated the roles well.

Paris Romanis and Nicola Taylor played Tom's parents, Harry and Vic, in a sympathetic way. They handled their characters' pent up emotions well. Both excellent performances. Ian Tweeddale played Meg's father, Jim, with a solid performance, with a slight edge of the buffoon. Lana Stojanovic played Meg's mother, Gwen, in a somewhat overwrought fashion, almost to the level of caricature. Even though the character is written a little over the top, to my mind, it would have been good to see a more nuanced performance.

The third set of parents, Roy and Coral, were played by Ricki Howden and Maree Barnett. Both actors created very believable characters. Ricki captured a complex character torn between maintaining his social standing and dealing with his grieving wife's condition—a solid performance. Maree handled the complex character of Coral, struggling with her sense of loss and mental stability, with sympathy and depth—a very satisfying performance.

Molly Forshaw rounded off the cast playing the two small roles of the Teacher and the Motel Guest. She also helped with the scene changes as did the cast generally. The use of masks (carrying on the "Midsummer Nights" theme) made each cast member anonymous during the scene change process—very effective.

Lighting and sound design/operation were seamless and added to the slickness of the production. Congratulations to Geoff Peterkin, Annie Blood and Tim Scott. Props and Costumes were all appropriate—well done Sally Scott, Margaret Baxter and Annie Blood.

Overall, this was a strong production. Congratulations to director Tim Scott and his production crew for a well choreographed production. Generally there was depth in the performances which contributed to a very satisfying show—well done.

*From "Away" by Rod Nash, 2018, Theatrecraft, Volume 42 Issue 5, p. 14.
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Etceteras

by Kevin Trask - 96.5 Inner FM



"Away"

Congratulations to our director Tim Scott and our sensational cast and crew for all their hard work on *Away*. Special mention to Ryan Fahlbusch and Ricki Howden who each took on two roles following the sudden departure of a cast member.

It was a very good production technically and the slide projections worked well. I loved the slow lighting fade at the end of the play. *Away* is played without an interval and our Front of House volunteers got a night off during the season.

I was very pleased to hear Maureen McInerney on 96.5 Inner FM during the Local Theatre programme raving about *Away*. The theatre availability issue on the last Friday was handled very well by all involved. We had a great show with this production.

Celebrating Mary Kappner

The celebration of the life of our former president Mary Kappner was held on Sunday the 18th of March at her home in Murrumbeena. It was a beautiful afternoon with the sun shining as family and friends gathered on the front lawn to remember Mary in the way that she had requested. Thanks to Eleni Miller for saving the day with her portable amplifier which was used during the speeches.

There were wonderful stories told about Mary. One of the highlights was when Eileen Nelson sang a song from *Granny Gum Nuts*. Many people travelled long distances to be there. I am sure Mary would have been delighted with the tribute. Our sympathy is extended to Jane, Helen, her brothers, Grandson Leo and all the family.

Are you a member of The Victorian Drama League?

The Victorian Drama League at Ross House, 3rd Floor [247 Flinders Lane, Melbourne](#) is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10am to 3pm. Have you thought about becoming a member and receiving the wonderful magazine *Theatrecraft*?

Vale Kathleen Brown

Sadly, we lost Kathleen Brown, the grandmother of Ally Kearney (now Ally Watson) recently. Kathleen was one of our most loyal supporters and never missed a show. Encore Theatre was mentioned during her funeral service on Wed 28th March. Kath first took Ally to the theatre to see *Steel Magnolias* at the Elwood Theatre all those years ago. Ally stage managed at Encore and got her love of theatre from her grandmother. Kath's beautiful smile will be missed by everyone at Encore Theatre. Our sympathy to all the family.

Clayton Community Centre - 10 Year Anniversary

It is 10 years since we staged our first production in the new Clayton Community Centre. *Over the River and Through the Woods* was directed by the late Edna Bartlett. There was a major disaster averted when Michael Knuckey took ill during the run and Tom Travers went on with the book in his hand.

Boom Gates No More

No more hold ups for our audience members caught at the Clayton railway gates. On the 16th of April the trains begin to run on the new 1.4 -kilometre stretch of elevated track. Those endless delays whilst the trains went through the boom gates have gone, Hooray!!!

Become a Subscriber & Save

Did you know that you can save by booking tickets with us in advance? Simply by becoming a subscriber. Subscribers who book for three plays before January 31st receive the third play at half price! Subscribers also get first choice of seats for each new play season.

To subscribe and save, download our Playbill Booking Form from our website www.encoretheatre.com.au and mail it back with your payment by January 31st 2019.

Thank You, Paris Romanis!

Hey, thanks so much to Paris Romanis and his wonderful truck – Paris is always there to lend a hand at the “bump in” along with our fantastic volunteers. Many hands make light work.

Thank You, Loyal Supporters!

Thanks so much to our loyal supporters who come every time to see our shows. We appreciate the wonderful support from our local groups such as Probus. It is amazing to see patrons who have been with us over many years at our shows. Without you we would not have an audience.

There are lots of interesting websites for thespians these days – our own website at www.encoretheatre.com is a must but there are some others to mention: Theatre People at www.theatrepeople.com.au and the Victorian Drama League website at www.theatrecraft.org.au

A special “shout out” to all our members who are on the “sick list” at the moment. We are all thinking of you.

William Shakespeare: A Horse, a Horse, my Kingdom for a Horse. (Richard III)

(Methinks it may be another of those dreadful television betting advertisements.)

Front of House Report

by Joan Krutli - Front of House Coordinator



Our April production was Michael Gow's award-winning play entitled *Away*, which was directed by Tim Scott.

And, as always, our FOH volunteers rose to the occasion and played their parts by welcoming our patrons, serving them pre-show sherries and nibbles, and then escorting them into theatre.

As this production ran straight through without an interval, there were no teas or coffees required, no cleaning up afterwards – in fact our workload was lightened considerably!

The indomitable Bill Rendall was there for every performance, setting up and making sure the sherry glasses were all ready to be filled as the eager patrons arrived. And he was always accompanied by at least one or two volunteers.

The following workers deserve a big vote of thanks: Richard and Liz Burman, Crenagh Kelly, Hannah Johnson, Margaret Baxter, John Locke, Lyn Laister, Natalie and Bill Irvine, Di Shingles.

Not forgetting of course Heather and Graeme Smith, our intrepid Ticket Secretary duo who were also present for all performances, and who were always happy to step in and help if needed.

The role of a Front-of-House volunteer is an extremely important one. They are the first people our audiences come into contact with, and it often sets the tone for the rest of the evening. So to be greeted with a friendly smiling face and a willingness to ensure the comfort of our patrons makes it a happy night for everyone! And our FOH volunteers at Encore are to be congratulated on achieving this goal at every production!

What's On Around the Traps

Check out the Victorian Drama League for a full listing!



For the latest info on upcoming shows and auditions around Melbourne, go to www.theatrecraft.org.au today!

Volunteers Wanted

Are you interested in being part of the magic of the theatre?



We would love to meet you!

We are a friendly volunteer organisation and we are always seeking new members to join us in the fun! There are many exciting aspects of the theatre to enjoy, both on- and off-stage, and we need people just like you!

Would you like to be the face of our company by welcoming and serving patrons at **front of house**?

Perhaps you can help with **set-building** – no experience is necessary, and it's a great opportunity to meet new people and chat over lunch!

Maybe you are a student, hobbyist or professional looking for opportunities to gain practical experience to add to your CV? We would love to support your skill growth in areas such as **sound and lighting operation, stage management, photography, costuming, graphic design, marketing**, and anything else you can think of in between!

We run four shows a year and your commitment need not be significant – even helping to build just one of our spectacular sets or spending a few nights a year serving your fellow patrons would be of great assistance.

If you – or any of your family or friends – are keen to lend a hand, we'd love to hear from you.

Contact us on info@encoretheatre.com.au or 0409 500 589 to find out more!

Sponsors

Encore Theatre is proudly supported by:

