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Blithe Spirit

Top of the Torrens Theatre Group



Kym Clayton - Written by the incomparable Noël Coward, *Blithe Spirit* premièred in 1941 in London's West End and ran for nearly two-thousand performances. It is frequently re-

vived and has been adapted as a film and as a musical.

Done well, Coward's plays are still a delight, and to do them well requires paying close attention to many details. Co-

Directors Mo Johnson and Kristina Vonow have done just that, and their production for Top of the Torrens Theatre Group's (TOTT) easily establishes that Coward's sparkling script can

still pull the laughs even eighty years after they have been written.

The plot follows novelist Charles Condomine (played by Heath Gladigau) who wants to learn about the occult for a novel he is writing. He invites two friends over (Dr & Mrs Bradman, played by Tim Lane and Kathryn Roth) to join him and Madame Arcati (Turea Blyth), a dubious spirit medium, for a séance, but Arcati inadvertently 'summons' his first wife, Elvira (Phoebe Wilson), who then with much mischief proceeds to disrupt his relationship with Ruth (Helen Lane), his second wife. Elvira still lusts after Charles and schemes for him to join her 'on the other side', but things go awry, and Charles is left unmoved, but eventually very much alone! It turns out that it wasn't Arcati who was responsible for the ectoplasmic manifestations, it was Condomine's maid Edith (Eden Lane) who turns out to be the 'real' psychic.

CONTINUED
ON PAGE 6



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The Bible tells us: (God) *“has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.”* (Ecc 3:11.)

The book of Ecclesiastes is believed to have been written by King Solomon and the crosswalk.com website makes the following comments on it: “Right now, we live in time, but we were made for more: Though we live our lives on a timeline now - birth, life, death - yet Ecclesiastes says that *‘He has put eternity into man's heart’* but in such a way that he can't fully understand yet. The New Testament echoes this, encouraging believers that we have eternity to fully

grasp God's glorious works in the world: *‘For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known’* (1 Cor. 13:12). Life only has meaning when lived in relationship with God. Solomon wants his readers to know that he has tried everything in a relentless pursuit to find the meaning of life. Joy can be found in life through gratitude for God's gifts... Though life is full of hardship, it is also full of beauty if we have eyes to see... Solomon had it all but found in the end that only one thing was important: a relationship with God characterized by awe and obedience. Pursued as a means of ultimate happiness,

everything else in the world ends in futility. But when God is central in life, all his gifts come into proper perspective and can be enjoyed. While we may not fully understand the meaning of all of life while we are here on earth, we can trust that God has full wisdom even when our wisdom falls short.”

And the focusonthefamily.com website makes the following statement on the importance of gratitude: “In Philippians 4, Paul talks about gratitude being the central component to guarding our minds and finding peace. He goes on to instruct us, *‘Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if*

there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things’ (Phil. 4:8). If we think about these things, we will see life very differently on our journey toward discovering God's peace.”

There are many things we can be thankful and grateful for in the beautiful world in which we live. We think it is unwise to believe that the beauty around us came into being by chance, and the eyes to behold such beauty developed by themselves. What do you think? We believe God offers us the gift of eternal life through repentance and life-changing faith in Jesus, and where we will spend eternity matters to God because we matter to Him.

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CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY

A letter of thanks to the people of Mayo

Now that the dust is settled following the federal election, and we have packed up our campaigning for a little while, I want to thank the people of Mayo for their support and for voting for me and Labor, in numbers not before seen in Mayo.

Our campaign resulted in a 4.45% swing to Labor. A wonderful and amazing result! Thank you!

It was a great honour and a privilege to be the Labor candidate in Mayo. I am humbled by the heart felt messages and congratulations I continue to receive.

I clocked up many kilometres driving through our beautiful Adelaide Hills, the Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island throughout the changing seasons. It was a pleasure to meet and listen to so many Mayoites at markets, cafes, pubs, forums, community groups and sporting clubs. So many people who care deeply about Mayo. I have learnt so much and my

passion and commitment to the electorate of Mayo is even stronger.

I am now back on the frontline, working as a health professional in intensive care. I'm committed to protecting and advocating for the health and wellbeing of our community and will continue to work within my community to ensure that we have the best health system, that those in aged care and their families receive the support and care that they need.

Senator Penny Wong looks after Mayo on behalf of the Australian Labor Party. If you need assistance with a federal matter, please contact her office on 8212 8272.

*Thank you,
Marisa Bell*



Aromatherapy in the modern world

Come and join Kerry for an Aromatherapy event at the Birdwood Hall on August 7th. Pop in from 1pm onwards and have a cup of tea and a piece of cake while Kerry will answer questions about Essential Oils and their use in your home.

Although the use of aromatherapy essential oils isn't new, it has certainly gained atten-

tion in recent years. More and more people are using essential oils in place of artificial fragrances in the home and on their bodies, for cleaning and culinary purposes and for health and healing. The more we use essential oils, the more we fall in love, and it's hard to remember a time when aromatherapy was an unfamiliar idea.

Everyone must start somewhere as few of us are born into families who use aromatherapy regularly. If you are just starting out and find yourself a bit lost in the jargon, the recipes and all the excitement, don't worry. You aren't alone. Kerry will be able to let you sample and buy different products and give advice to catch you up to speed.

For further information please contact Kerry on 0439 195 352.

Share your feedback on the draft Regional Public Health Plan

You are now invited to provide feedback on the draft Regional Public Health Plan 2022-27 for the Southern and Hills region.

The draft Plan was prepared through collaboration between the Councils of Adelaide Hills, Alexandrina, Kangaroo Island, Mount Barker, Yankalilla and Victor Harbor.

The purpose of the Plan is to guide coordinated efforts to improve the health and wellbeing of all residents in the Southern and Hills region. Your feedback will help the councils to finalise their priority actions over the next five years.

You can now view and provide feedback on the draft plan via:



engage.ahc.sa.gov.au
engage@ahc.sa.gov.au
8408 0400
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Consultation open until 4pm, Friday 29 July 2022.



Have your say from 6-29 July 2022 by visiting engage.ahc.sa.gov.au



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For next issue, ads & editorial
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LIONS NEWS

Members of the Lions Club of Torrens Valley have been busy, again.

Starting with a couple of social coffee mornings for members, then a Dinner meeting catered for by some of our Lions Ladies - casseroles and dessert for all!

We then had a busy day at Bunnings Modbury on the BBQ on Saturday. This happened to be the first day of the sausage price increase, which did not seem to deter Bunnings customers from purchasing.

Sunday saw members do BBQ sausages and burgers, cakes, sandwiches, tea and coffee for the patrons of the Guitar Festival in the Gumeracha Town Hall.

The BBQ will be on again at the 5th Sunday Market on August 31st at Federation Park, Gumeracha - call by and say hello to our Club members!

Members attended an afternoon tea to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Gumeracha Soldiers War Memorial Hospital held in the Gumeracha Town Hall. The afternoon

was attended by the Honourable Frances Adamson AC. A cheque was presented (pictured below) to Rob Carter of the Gumeracha Hall Committee, to go towards costs associated with the afternoon tea.

The Club will be collecting single vision spectacles for Recycle for Sight, keep a look out for containers in each of the townships.

Also, it will not be long now before our raffle tickets go on sale with some great prizes!



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Blithe Spirit

Top of the Torrens Theatre Group

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Johnson and Vonow's set is beautifully authentic - it looks as though a 1940's drawing room from a comfortable English countryside house has been magically transported to the Mount Pleasant Soldiers Memorial Hall where TOTTT perform. From the sponge painted walls to the period furniture and stage dressings, it looks perfect. And the costumes add icing to the cake. The ladies' gowns are exquisite, as are their hairdressings (especially Rothe) and accessories. The gentlemen are resplendent in their wide lapelled dinner suits and Gladigau's smoking jacket is a nice touch. Arcati is dressed as eccentric landed gentry with outrageous flowing garments and feathered headdresses that give Blyth much scope for exaggerated movement around the stage (and she seizes the opportunity!).

The stage lighting is adequate, but nothing special, and it doesn't really need to be either.

So, the production looks wonderful, and, pleasingly, the cast rise to the occasion and give credible performances. Their diction is appropriately Middle-class English, and they mostly capture the lilt of Coward's text. Gladigau's Charles is appropriately domineering and condescending. Early in the play he establishes that Condomine is very much the rake and treats women almost as objects. To a contemporary audience such a characterisation can easily draw contempt, but Johnson and Vonow have quite rightly directed Gladigau to also be the object of mild derision. It's a nice balance. Lane imbues her Ruth with a controlled degree of haughtiness that almost makes one understand

why Charles reacts to her in the way he does. Lane works her face very expressively - almost too much at times - and less on appropriate body language. Both Gladigau and Lane frequently anticipate a punch line before it is given, rather than listening closely to the dialogue and then responding to it. (Reacting too early often gives the impression of acting a role, rather than being the character.) Blyth's Arcati was a delight: energetic, idiosyncratic, suitably OTT (pun intended!), and always controlled. Blyth creates a believable character who grabs - no, demands! - your attention every time she sweeps on stage. Her byplay with Dr Bradman was delightfully loaded with sexual innuendo. Tim Lane makes his community theatre debut in this production, and although his inexperience shows, his Dr Bradman is quite credible. He combines very well with Rothe who essentially takes the lead in their on-stage work. Rothe is quite simply wonderful as the quintessential upper middle class English lady who has more prestige and position than brain power! Wilson's

costume and makeup as Elvira is a highlight. Dressed in a shimmering fitting silver gown with pale silver body paint, bright red lips and nails, and a silver blonde wig, she looks ectoplasmic to perfection. A central conceit of the show is that when she appears on stage, she is not visible to everyone, and the costuming greatly assists creating that illusion. Wilson looks the part, and easily and fluidly embraces all corners of the stage. Credit goes to all actors on stage who 'refuse' to see her! The cast is rounded out with a gentle performance from Eden Lane (yes, another Lane - they are all from the same family!) who plays Edith with much speed as she tries to efficiently tend to her household chores.

TOTTT is another community group that has weathered the trials and tribulations of the ongoing COVID storm and has emerged intact if not weather beaten to an extent. Their production of Blithe Spirit is enjoyable and a credit to them, and it had the capacity audience hanging on every word and in stitches of laughter. Indeed, it raised their spirits!

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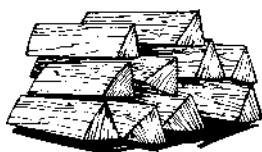
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