

The Armidale Drama & Musical Society proudly presents...



Armidale's Festival of Short Plays

as moved rehearsed readings

Week One Program

8pm 29/30 March

Week Two Program

8pm 5/6 April 2019

Memorial Hall, TAS



Produced by Diana Helmrich

Some plays have strong language
and adult themes



Week ONE – Friday 29 and Saturday 30 March 2019

Act I

“Myxomatosis” by Mark Konik. Directed by Benjamin Thorn.

Lia: Kris Ford

Warren: James Murray

Lou: Brie Wilson

Did you know that every married couple has an animal that is a physical interpretation of their relationship? It only shows up when things are really crook.

“Praise Be To Keanu” by Jacob Hunt. Directed by James Murray.

Rowan: Geneva Stocker

Esther: Elena Fellows

This play explores what it truly means to believe in something larger than ourselves.

“On A Tuesday” by Mark Konik.

Directed by Matthew Whittingham.

Ella: Jesse Dwyer

Greta: India Zikan

Nate: Nicholas Troon

Liam: Jacob Hunt

It's hard meeting new people. It's hard meeting the people you already know. At an art museum, two sets of friends muse on love, life, art, and jeggings. But is it the right day for this sort of thing?

“Interior - Girl at Piano” by Benjamin Thorn.

Directed by Penny Dalglish.

Chebie: Devika Wilson

Chebie's Mother: Kris Ford

The age-old battle between parent and child over completing (or even just starting!) their music practice.

Intermission of 20 minutes

Week ONE – Friday 29 and Saturday 30 March 2019

Act II

“The Explorers” by Benjamin Thorn. Directed by Corille Fraser.

Hamilton Hume: Jacob Hunt

William Hovell: Matthew Whittingham

It is October 1824, somewhere in the mountain ranges of what will become Victoria. William Hovell, 38-year-old English ex-Navy Captain and Hamilton Hume, 27 year-old, Parramatta-born Australian, already a veteran explorer of Australian bushland, mostly around the Goulburn district of NSW. They are on an expedition to find a route from Sydney to Port Philip Bay, possibly but not clearly commissioned by Governor Brisbane. They do not get on.

“From A Great Height” by Mark Konik. Directed by Corille Fraser.

Dan: Nicholas Troon

Young accountant, Dan is jubilant. His colleague, Beth has agreed to go out with him. But Dan is a worrier. He is not usually popular with girls and he begins to question Beth’s motives for accepting his invitation.

“Have You Seen My Pussy?” By Daan Spijer.

Directed by Margaret Sims.

Rose: Jan Wyles

Arthur: Benjamin Thorn

Tom: James Murray

Ruth: Amy Showell

Rose and Arthur are getting on in years and Rose in particular is experiencing the perils of aging. Their children, Tom and Ruth, react to the changing presentation of Rose in different ways. Rose however is happy in the world she lives in and Arthur is willing to spend time with her in that world, even if Tom is not.

“Folly” by Carolyn Stuart. Directed by Benjamin Thorn.

Rosalie: Margaret Sims

Judy: Marney Tilley

How does a new relationship affect two old friends? Especially one with a circus juggler. Watch out! Gran is up for anything!

Week TWO – Friday 5 and Saturday 6 April 2019

Act I

“Absolutely No Secrets” by Margaret Symonds.

Directed by James Murray.

Kate: India Zikan

John: Nicholas Troon

A sudden engagement takes a young woman by surprise. Experience a joyful tale of heartbreak and discover the cost of keeping absolutely no secrets.

“Death And Other Vanities” Written and

Directed by Eva Laurenson.

Mrs Shoemaker: Heather Stevenson

Belinda: Geneva Stocker

A family bereavement forces a mother and daughter to reappraise their relationship.

“It Hurts Again” by Jacob Hunt. Directed by Jan Wyles.

Teenage Girl: Amy Showell

This monologue conveys all facets of the angst of a teenager who was diagnosed with a painful and crippling illness at the age of 14. The actor is confiding in the audience in a way she is unable to do with friends and family with whom, much of the time, she feels the need to ‘put on a brave face’.

“Hyde Park” by Benjamin Thorn. Directed by Jacob Hunt.

Tom: Christopher Esplin

Dick: Harrison Miles-Lyons

Sheila: Jesse Dwyer

Harry: David Young

Dick and Sheila are dreamers with their heads in their perfect fantasies. It's up to Harry, the reality checker, to bring them back down to earth. But on this bench in Hyde Park, perhaps they will all discover what dreams are really for and why we need them so much.

Intermission for 20 minutes

Week TWO – Friday 5 and Saturday 6 April 2019

Act II

“One Way Ticket” by Jan Weldon-Veitch.

Directed by Nicholas Troon

Alice: Geneva Stocker

Josh: Nicholas Troon

Mel: Amy Showell

Sarah: Elena Fellows

One Way Ticket is about infidelity, and a loss of passion in a relationship. A young couple (Josh & Mel) plan on getting married in a few weeks, but the groom suddenly makes a decision to abandon his fiancé for a new flame in Brisbane, leaving his good friend (Alice) and her partner (Sarah) with the aftermath.

“Where To From Here?” By Margaret Sims.

Directed by Helen Williamson.

Sister 1: Heather Stevenson

Sister 2: Helen Williamson

Sisters who have grown apart and lead completely different lives reconnect at Christmas and realise that each other's life isn't as perfect as it seems.

“The Affair” by Louise Byrns. Directed by Laura Stodart.

John Hutton: David Young

Emma Hutton: Marney Tilley

Troy Bryant: Jacob Hunt

John Hutton comes home from work to discover his wife, Emma, is having an affair. Emma's friendly, young lover suggests they all sit down and talk it out over a nice, glass of champagne. What could go wrong?

“Masie Day” by Jan Weldon-Veitch. Directed by Jean Freer.

Masie Day: Kris Ford

Jenna: Margaret Sims

Masie Day is not your everyday kind of neighbour. When she calls on Jenna who lives in the same street Jenna's plans for her monthly Book Club Meeting turn out not quite as she expected

A Note From The Producer

Favourite Shorts is ADMS's version of the short plays festival. It provides opportunities for new actors to gain valuable experience and for directors using carefully curated scripts to learn a new skill without having the responsibility of a full length show. Props and set items are restricted to the essentials, the actors mostly wear their own clothing and footwear.

The 2018 and 2019 seasons of Favourite Shorts have utilised the rehearsed readings format as our 'home' The Armidale Playhouse is undergoing renovations so shows can be held there again. This format also has the advantage of fewer rehearsals and eliminates the onerous task of memorising lines.

As the plays rehearse individually I attend each one to gather stage management details and lighting timings. There is just two runs of the show before opening night so my organisational skills and subsequent numerous lists are an essential component of a successful show.

Since the third season participants receive a certificate of participation with a real pair of shorts on it. Some 350 pairs of shorts are now gracing lounge room walls. In the eleven seasons to date 70 directors have directed 165 plays and 55 Poetzinc mini-plays and we've performed in six venues. This is my ninth and final season of Favourite Shorts.

Production Team

Producer & Stage Manager: Diana Helmrich

Lighting Design and Operation: Martin Mantle

Sound Effects: Benjamin Thorn

Publicity: Marney Tilley, Amy Showell

Photography: Terry Cooke, Paul Webster

Front of House: Colin Barry, Dirk Gibb, Lyndall Nairn, Maria Showell,
Roslyn Manion, Margaret Kennedy, Ruth Cason, Taylor Pearce

Thank You

Ann Helmrich for making the shorts, Pat Bradley and Michael Cornford for assistance at the venue, The Armidale School for their generous sponsorship of the show