

vp villanova
players

Your Local Theatre
Company Presents

Play 3, 2013

Neil Simon's

The Good Doctor



directed by Maria Plumb

30 Aug
14 Sept 2013

laughter is
the best medicine!

"The Theatre",
Seven Hills TAFE,
Clearview Tce, Morningside

Villanova Players

Established 1948

*Villanova Players meets the third Wednesday of each month,
8pm at "The Theatre", Seven Hills TAFE, Clearview Terrace, Morningside.*

Come along, enjoy the entertainment and see what we're all about!

And you can also find us on [facebook.com/villanovaplayers](https://www.facebook.com/villanovaplayers)

Contact Details

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Management Committee

President	Leo Bradley
Vice president	Andrew Heron
Secretary	AJ Bradley
Members	Trevor Bond Dan Knudson Dan Kennedy Donna Thomas

Casting committee

Michael Byrnes	Samantha Tierney
Maria Thompson	Elizabeth Morris
Rod Thompson	

Patron

Ms Judi Connelli



Cast

Trevor Bond
Noelle Criminova
Shane Fell
Trish Pledger

Christine Ross
Trevor Sammon
Rod Thompson

Crew

Director
Stage Manager
Costumes
Lighting Design
Lighting Consultant
Technical Operator
Set Design
Set Construction

Maria Plumb
Donna Thomas, Elizabeth Morris
Leo Bradley
Rod Thompson, Steven Eggington
Gregg Goriss
Steven Eggington
Rod Thompson
Rod Thompson, Heinz Brunner, Gregg Goriss,
Samantha Tierney, Denise Elias

Front of House Coordinator
Publicity / Programme

Margaret O'Donnell
Andrew Heron, Dan Kennedy, AJ Bradley and Elizabeth
Morris

Graphic Design / Photography
Artist
Director

Andrew Heron / Nick Morrissey
Ed Johnson
Maria Plumb

Maria

Special Thanks

The Good Doctors, Kennedy and Morris, for the supply of surgical instruments.
Heran Constructions for their ongoing support.

Southbank Institute of Technology for their ongoing support of the Players
through donation and loan of equipment, and especially to Jo Jones, Tony
Henson, Doug Thompson and Karen Barnes for their personal assistance.



Director's Notes : The Good Doctor

This is not the first time VP have presented "The Good Doctor". It was the last play performed in the Hall at St James's Parish at Coorparoo, in 1979. When that highly successful season closed, it was with great sadness that the curtain was rung down, the set was struck, and the Players moved to our new home for the next 22 years, St Luke's at Buranda. Partly with this in mind, the play was chosen for a repeat season when the Coorparoo Parish announced special celebrations to mark its centenary in 2013. It will bring back memories for both the Players and the "dear and devoted audiences" who came in spite of rain, hail, heat and cold to that big barn of a Hall, to enjoy the variety of drama and comedy we have produced over the years.

It is not hard to see why Neil Simon found the short stories of Chekhov such a tempting prospect, a whimsical foundation on which to overlay his own comic genius and create new works for the stage. The Russian folk who inhabit these stories are well-served by his modern western take on their situations, and I as director, have been delighted to interpret again this play for your enjoyment.

About the Director : Maria Plumb

Maria's first production with the Villanova Players was in ***Our Hearts were Young and Gay (1962)*** and she has enjoyed acting in, directing and adapting plays ever since. She studied acting as well as directing for community theatre while on working holiday in London. Maria has collaborated with her husband, Rod Thompson, on a number of projects including the adaption of Suzanna Centlivre's 1706 play, ***The Busybody (2003)***, which has since had performances in Adelaide, Annapolis Maryland, and Halifax Nova Scotia. Maria and Rod also translated, adapted and Maria directed ***An Italian Straw Hat*** for the VPs in 2010. A recent role was the clairvoyant, Madame Maniefa, in ***Diary of a Scoundrel*** in 2012. She comes to direct this play straight from her role as Marilla in ***Anne of Green Gables***.

Dedication

The Villanova Players, cast and crew of ***The Good Doctor*** are pleased to dedicate this production to the memory of John Edward O'Donnell, a wonderful actor, friend and Life Member, who passed away on 4 August, 2013.

About the Playwright/s

Anton Pavlovich Chekhov was born on 29 January 1860. He was a Russian physician and author who is considered to be among the greatest writers of short stories in history. His career as a dramatist produced four classics, “The Seagull”, “Uncle Vanya”, “The Cherry Orchard” and “The Three Sisters”. His short stories are held in high esteem by writers and critics the world over, two of his best known being “The Lady with the Dog” and “Romance with a Double Bass”. Chekhov practised as a medical doctor throughout most of his literary career: “Medicine is my lawful wife”, he once said, “and literature is my mistress.”

Chekhov died of tuberculosis in 1904. His funeral procession was followed by thousands of people mourning the loss of one of their favourite literary figures.

Neil Simon is the author of over thirty plays and screenplays. “Barefoot in the Park”, “Come Blow Your Horn”, “Plaza Suite”, “Brighton Beach Memoirs”, “The Odd Couple”, “The Prisoner of Second Avenue”, “The Sunshine Boy” are some of his most memorable – all of which the VPs have produced to the delight of our audiences over the years. His comedies are based around subjects such as marital conflict, infidelity, sibling rivalry, adolescence, and fear of aging. Most of his plays are also partly autobiographical, portraying his troubled childhood and different stages of his life. Simon's facility with dialogue gives his stories a rare blend of realism, humor and seriousness with which audiences find it easy to identify. He won the Pulitzer Prize for drama in 1991, for “Lost in Yonkers”.

Music and Orchestrations by Peter Link.

THE OVERTURE

Oop Tymbali

Good Doctor Opus #1

Trans-Siberian Railroad

Father and Son

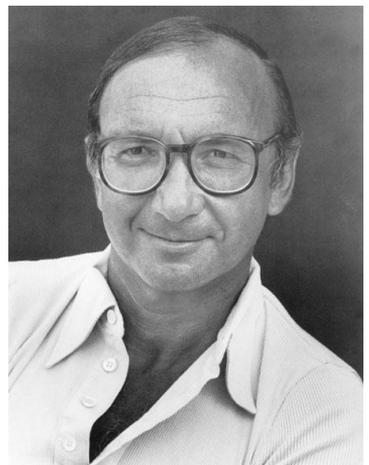
Good Doctor Opus #2

Morning Dance

Dance for Gathering # 1

Dance for Gathering # 2

We hope you enjoy this pre-play concert.



THE SCENES

ACT I

“The Writer”

Writer – Rod Thompson



“The Sneeze”

Cherdyakhov - Trevor Sammon

Sonya, his wife - Christine Ross

General Brassilhov - Trevor Bond

His wife - Trish Pledger

Theatregoers - Shane Fell, Noelle Criminova

“The Governess”

The Mistress - Trish Pledger

The Governess - Christine Ross

“Surgery”

Kuryatin - Shane Fell

The Sexton - Trevor Bond



“Too Late for Happiness”

Woman - Trish Pledger
Man - Trevor Bond
Musician - Shane Fell
Flower-seller - Noelle Criminova

“The Seduction”

Peter Semyonch - Trevor Sammon
The Husband - Trevor Bond
The Wife - Christine Ross
The Perfect Wife - Noelle Criminova



“A Quiet War”

Army - Trevor Sammon
Navy - Trevor Bond

INTERVAL – 15 MINUTES

ACT II

“The Drowned Man”

The Writer - Rod Thompson
A Gentleman - Trevor Bond
A Sailor - Trevor Sammon
A Policeman - Shane Fell
Ladies of the Night - Christine Ross, Trish Pledger, Noelle Criminova

“The Audition”

The Writer - Rod Thompson
The Actress - Noelle Criminova

“A Defenceless Creature”

The Bank Assistant - Trevor Sammon
Kistunov, the Manager - Trevor Bond
The Woman - Trish Pledger

“The Arrangement”

The Boy, Antosha - Shane Fell
The Father - Trevor Bond
The Woman - Christine Ross
Ilka, the Milkmaid - Trish Pledger
Olga from the Volga - Noelle Criminova
A Norwegian Sailor - Trevor Sammon





Rod Thompson

Rod married into the Villanova Players in 1978 when he met Maria Plumb, who had been a staunch member since 1962. Prior to joining VPs he had been a member of St Luke's Dramatic Society in Ekibin, and the Wellington Repertory in New Zealand. He is heavily involved in all aspects of production including set design and construction, lighting design and operation, sound recording and operation, directing, script writing and adaptation and, of course, acting! Rod was on stage in *Lady Windermere's Fan* in 2011. In 2012 Rod directed *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, a quirky and cerebral play, which combined his twin loves of art and science. His most recent on stage role was in *Diary of a Scoundrel* last year.

Trevor Bond

A member of the Management Committee, Trevor was last seen as Styopka in last year's *Diary of a Scoundrel* which capped off another very busy and successful theatrical year with the varied roles of Conrad in *Money and Friends* and Owen in *En Suite* for VPs and the cruel Doctor Sloper in St. Luke's *The Heiress*. This year we saw Trevor participate in his first Iona Passion play, playing Joseph and King Herod. He then played the petulant actor Garry Essendine in Noel Cowards, *Present Laughter* for St. Luke's Theatre – a challenging, yet very rewarding role.



Trevor has been enjoying his many roles in *The Good Doctor* – which range from a huffy General, a Sexton with a toothache, a father wanting an unusual birthday gift for his son to an old man searching for love in the winter of his life. Trevor returns to St. Luke's for their last play for 2013, *Holiday for Lovers*. Trevor hopes to continue acting as long as he is able and is able to please audiences.

Patricia Pledger

Patricia has been involved in theatre in some form or other on either side of the stage since she was born. She follows in her father and uncle's footsteps [Gil and Alex Perrin], who were quite well known in and around amateur dramatics societies from England to the Gold Coast to Brisbane and beyond. We last saw Patricia in *Edith Stein* as the Mother Superior. This time round she has several roles that reflect a little less of the nun and a little more of the fun! A very warm welcome back to the VP stage, Patricia





Trevor Sammon

Trevor has worked with a number of groups including St Luke's in *Seasons Greetings*; Savoyards in *HMS Pinafore*; at VPs in *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, *The Memory of Water* and most recently *Anne of Green Gables*. Trevor is also involved with the improvisation group, Impromafia. Trevor is enjoying immensely the opportunity to play a number of different characters in this production.



Christine Ross

Christine started her acting career 30 years ago with VP with roles in *Slaughter of St Teresa's Day*, *The Loudest Whisper* and *The Real Inspector Hound*. From there she went on to study Performing Arts in Toowoomba, which led to a brief but enjoyable career working for Theatre in Education. Chris particularly enjoyed performing in *The Real Inspector Hound* and most recently in *Diary of a Scoundrel* with her fun little dog Jack and the Tom Stoppard short play *A Separate Peace*. Chris has found working on *The Good Doctor* with Maria and the rest of the cast a great experience, and extremely enjoyable.



Shane Fell

Shane has previously appeared in a production of *The Good Doctor* while studying Speech and Drama with Mrs. Beres Turner in 2009, playing the Doctor himself and says it is one of his favourite plays for its old fashioned comedic style and sheer lunacy. He has enjoyed leading roles in *Back to the 80s* (2010) for Bridgidine College and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat* (2011) for St Laurence's College. He made his debut to the Villanova players last year with *Money and Friends* and early this year as the lovelorn Dickie in *Kid Stakes*. Shane is very pleased to be also making his first musical contribution to Villanova Players as a roving guitarist in this production.

Noelle Criminova

Noelle's previous work with Villanova include, ***Lettuce and Lovage***, Vivianne in David Williamson's ***Influence***, Lady Plymdale in ***Lady Windermere's Fan***, Svetlana in ***Summer Wonderland*** and a favourite, Suzanna in ***Picasso at the Lapin Agile***. Noelle recently achieved a dream by directing the Australian premier shadow cast of ***Repo: The Genetic Opera***. What Noelle loves about ***The Good Doctor*** is the lovely peek into some very curious lives!



Alone It



Stands

by John Breen

directed by Leo Bradley

When you're up against the best team in the world,
there's only one option... ~~lose!~~

~~DRINK~~ WIN!!



22 Nov - 7 Dec 2013