

MACBETH UNEARTHED



Images:

- 1: Macbeth
- 2: Macbeth
- 3: Macbeth
- 4: King Lear
- 5: Tempest
- 6: Much Ado About Nothing
- 7: A Midsummer Nights Dream

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Murder! Mayhem! Power and Ambition! But, wait, there's more. Shakespeare's most popular and well known play – a miscellany of military might and a dose of magic for good measure – is on its way to Frankston.

The famous piece will be presented as part of the 'Life in the City' program in the beautiful surroundings of the George Pentland Botanic Gardens in Frankston by OZACT, one of Australia's leading outdoor Shakespeare companies.

OZACT will be presenting two performances only at the George Pentland Botanic Gardens, in Foote Street, Frankston on Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 April at 2pm daily.

OZACT have earned acclaim for their seasons of Shakespeare which have become landmark events: the annual summer Shakespeare by the sea at Loch Ard Gorge, the Easter Shakespeare in the Grampians at Heatherlie Quarry and Shakespeare underground in Spring at the world heritage Naracoorte Caves in South Australia.

What is OZACT? It is a touring repertory company dedicated to making the plays of William Shakespeare accessible and entertaining to contemporary Australian audiences, in some of Victoria's most spectacular settings.

Founded in 1995 by university performing arts Lecturer Bruce Widdop, the company took on the challenge of producing Shakespeare in settings of environmental significance. The name OZACT was adopted with its first production, the highly successful production of The Tempest at Loch Ard Gorge. The company consists

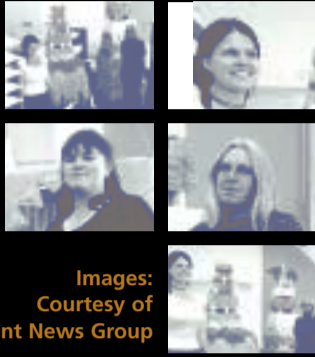
of experienced actors, musicians and talented performers from across Victoria.

So, dust off the champagne glasses, pack a picnic hamper and a rug and enjoy the finest Shakespeare in the magnificent natural surrounds of the George Pentland Gardens in Frankston

Dates: Saturday 24 April and Sunday 25 April at 2pm
Admission: Adults \$10, Concession \$8, children under 3 free, and must be booked from Frankston Arts Centre Ticket Hotline: 9784 1060
Web contacts: www.ozact.com www.frankston.vic.gov.au



THEY DID IT WITH CAKE



Images:
Courtesy of
Independent News Group

The project *Takin' the Cake* was designed to explore the almost non-existent relationship between the venerable craft of cake decorating and the power and passion of music.

The dim connection between the two only became apparent when the Frankston Guitar and Music Festival began to loom on the horizon looking for another off-the-wall visual arts project for Cube 37 at Frankston Arts Centre.

Artists Ludmilla Wdowin and Birra-li Ward, assisted by Monique Douglas, were presented with the challenge of creating a flamboyant art installation, in the glass studio at Cube 37, by simulating the craft of the cake decorator... but, with an overlay of musical panache.

To provide the project with a kind of *spiritual* ambience, members of the Cake Decorators Association of Victoria conducted workshops in the run-up to the Guitar and Music Festival for interested

members of the community, most of whom came from Frankston City Council's Social Support Program.

The project – commissioned by Frankston City Council's Cultural Development Unit – shamelessly exploited the potential for the over-the-top decorative statement, while maintaining the flimsiest connections with musical themes. This is a homage to decadence, one step away from the all-in pie throwing extravaganzas of the slapstick comedy era.

The integration of electronic visuals and kitchen sink soundscape by Birra-li Ward provides the icing on the cake, so to speak, blending the sounds of the ubiquitous cake decorator at work with the visual signposts of musical production, abstracted and reshaped to animate the scene.

All in all, the results proved that it doesn't have to be edible to be delicious!

Dates: Thursday 18 March to Monday 12 April
Venue: Cube 37

BOX OPEN: YOUNGER ARTISTS EMERGE

By Birra-li Ward

Nikki Ashman is a local sculptor who, having returned to the Mornington Peninsula, has seen positive developments in the arts in the Frankston. Impressed by these, Nikki is actively checking out what's on offer and accessing the resources available to younger artists.

Nikki has just completed an exhibition at Oak Hill Gallery. "Oak Hill is a community gallery in Mornington that came to my attention through contact with the curator, Maria Snow, whom I studied sculpture with at university. She was putting together a sculpture exhibition for emerging artists. She was keen to get me involved in producing some work," says Nikki, "I decided to continue working with and extending my existing body of work.



Images:
Nikki Ashman
"Boxes"
Aerated concrete and hessian
2003

As a younger artist I am constantly inspired by, and interested in what is going on within the arts sector."

There were two installation pieces in the exhibition that Nikki created using aerated concrete and hessian. Her work is quite large – belying her size – and exploits the tactile qualities of the medium in combination with geometric aesthetics. "I want people to touch my work. I like clean lines and clean colours. My work was quite different from the other exhibitors"; I was the only one presenting work as an installation and was probably the most contemporary. The exhibition included the work of more mature artists, who tended to take a more traditional approach, but it was interesting to see how my work fitted in."

Nikki feels that the exhibition was a positive inspiration to create artwork. "I had to take a break from my art due to other commitments, but exhibiting is encouraging as it gives one the drive to get back into it."

"I am exploring new directions in the next phase of my work. I would like to be more organic and more relaxed, and to break away from the structural approach to artwork," Nikki says. She has been working with glass, and in particular experimenting with the use of slump glass. "It's such a fascinating medium which I hope to feature in my exhibition later in the year," she says.

Like many local artists, Nikki has experienced the pressure of the city as the place to be and have listed on your exhibition CV. "I felt a need to have an alternative to city

venues and sought opportunities to exhibit in local art spaces," Nikki says. "The Peninsula has changed a lot with more venues and greatly increased local support."

Nikki has approached Frankston Arts Centre's Cube 37 with a view to exhibiting. She found the staff very supportive and interested in emerging artists and new work. She says, "When I was growing up I felt little or no support for my art's interests. I felt isolated and I couldn't express myself. I didn't feel that there were sufficient networks in the area; but now there is a huge artistic group of younger creative people."

"I find that the galleries in Frankston are trying to promote contemporary artwork. Shifting away from the watercolours, which are great in their own right, but unfortunately, the approach

tends to dominate and doesn't leave much room for people to experience other styles of artwork. Art today is so diverse, and although some of the local galleries are recognising that, there is still a gap in understanding of art in the broader community," Nikki says.

"I am glad to be back on the Peninsula and it seems that more artists from the city are also discovering the local venues. Younger Frankston artists are fortunate to have the access, support and resources now being offered. I hope they tap into it," she says.

Nikki concludes by saying "...I am proud being able to exhibit where I grew up and exhibit with fellow local artists. We have a great group of artists and we are beginning to receive serious recognition and support."

THE GUILD ART GALLERY

The Guild Art Gallery is a vibrant cooperative of 24 local, award-winning artists. All are members of the McClelland Guild of Artists who have been drawn together by a shared passion and love for painting.

Situated in the Craft Village of the Tyabb Packing House Antiques Centre on the Mornington-Tyabb Road, the Guild House Gallery moved to this location in 2000, and has

subsequently proved to be a successful, bright and friendly addition to the galleries of the Mornington Peninsula.

The works exhibited for sale are varied and include sandy beaches, mountain vistas, dry summer grasses and contrasting gorgeous flowers. Some recall romantic Tuscany or the exoticness of the East. Other artists are inspired by the traditional farmyard life and our unique Australian wildlife.

Each artist approached the subject with a different vision, which makes for a pleasant and enjoyable selection.

The Guild Gallery is gaining a reputation for quality paintings at very affordable prices. Clients often return to buy additional paintings from the continually changing exhibition and bring their friends along to meet the artists (one or two of the artists are always on hand

to assist, inform and generally share the pleasure of their creative endeavours).

The Guild Gallery is open 10am to 5pm, Thursday to Sunday; public holidays and all of January. Admission is free.

For further information please telephone 5977 4399 (during gallery hours).



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