

VCA DRAMA presents:

Give 'Em Enough Rope Two Classic Comedies ~ Goldoni / Molière Acting Company 2007

The Venetian Twins by Carlo Goldoni ~ Friday 24 August to Monday 3 September
The Imaginary Invalid by Molière ~ Saturday 25 August to Tuesday 4 September



Two of the funniest plays ever written...in repertory.

Let the peerless Molière and the dynamic Goldoni whisk away your winter woes.

***The Venetian Twins** is the classic comedy of mistaken identity and ensuing confusion, in which love is turned into war at every opportunity, but finally conquers all.*

*In **The Imaginary Invalid** the hypochondriac and stubborn Argan is (almost) gulled by a batch of medicos and (almost) gives away his daughter in the bargain. But no one has reckoned with the wiliness of the maid Toinette, who somehow saves the day.*

In both plays the servants rule (thank heavens), the rascals are defeated in the nick of time and the lords and ladies... well ... Give them enough rope and they'll hang themselves.

VCA Drama presents **Give 'Em Enough Rope**: a double dose of the funnies, performed in repertory celebrating spring's return. Just what the doctor ordered after a long cold winter!

This is a rare opportunity to see these two seldom-staged plays. **The Venetian Twins** and **The Imaginary Invalid** are fast-moving, sharp works; two hilarious satires on Love, Family and Health – the classic forerunners of situation comedies. Audiences can expect unexpected bedlam and delicious mayhem and confusion around every corner.

The witty, bright and versatile cast (Acting Company 2007) - have jumped straight from the drama to comedy genre after VCA Drama's recent critically-acclaimed production, *The Perjured City, or the Awakening of the Furies*. See Australia's next generation of actors tackle these comic gems with gusto.

Carlo Goldoni - the first Italian playwright of modern times and **Molière** – the king of French comedy have both constructed clever, layered, snappy pieces with universal themes.

Guest directors **Tom Healey** and **Gary Down**, respected as actors and directors throughout Australia, both have a strong affinity for comedy. Their productions bring a contemporary energy to the wit of two playwrights who have brought laughter to centuries of theatregoers.

An essential component of both plays is the imaginative and versatile staging and costume design by VCA Production graduates, **Andrew Bell-Chambers** (The Pillow Man/MTC, Rabbit Hole/Red Stitch) and **Esther Hayes** (A Man for All Seasons/Complete Works Theatre Company) respectively.

THE VENETIAN TWINS

by Carlo Goldoni ~ directed by Gary Down

Dates/times: Friday 24, Monday 27, Friday 31 August and Monday 3 September at 7.30pm
Wednesday 29 August at 2pm and 7.30pm

THE IMAGINARY INVALID

by Molière ~ directed by Tom Healey

Dates/times: Saturday 25, Tuesday 28, Thursday 30 August and Tuesday 4 September at 7.30pm
Saturday 1 September at 2pm and 7.30pm

Cost: \$15 Full / \$10 Concession

Bookings: www.vca.unimelb.edu.au/dramabookings

Venue: Grant Street Theatre, VCA, Grant Street, Southbank

Information: 03 9685 9225

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