

VCASS | THEATRE ARTS | 2021



THE

presents

MASTER AND

MARGARITA

BY MIKHAIL BULGAKOV



9 AUGUST 2021 @ 6PM

SOUTHBANK THEATRE, LAWLER THEATRE

140 SOUTHBANK BOULEVARD, SOUTHBANK VICTORIA



**SOUTHBANK
THEATRE**



Victorian College of the Arts
SECONDARY SCHOOL



Education
and Training



THE MASTER AND MARGARITA

BY MIKHAIL BULGAKOV

The Master and Margarita is a classic novel written by Mikhail Bulgakov that explores the idea about how to go on living when the spirit is broken. Fearing imprisonment by his Stalinist oppressors, Bulgakov burnt his original manuscript in 1930. Two years later, he rewrote the text from memory interweaving autobiographical detail with satirical comment on literature, the communist regime and romance. In addition to this, Bulgakov added a story within the story that parallels the life of Christ. These myriad layers are then woven together creating a dream-like carnivalesque critique of the Stalinist terror in Soviet Russia. Bulgakov's wife, Yelena, succeeded in having his manuscript published in 1967. The novel has continued to be a significant influence on many artists since its first publication.

The 'text into performance' process is essential in developing young actors who are equipped to perform across a range of disciplines.



Making *The Master and Margarita* has provided the Year 12 Theatre Arts Company with great opportunities and challenged them to develop their dramatic storytelling skills.

I have been extremely impressed with the level of commitment and sense of determination from every member of the ensemble to devise a strong and original piece of theatre. The devising process was very complex, starting with an exploration of Bulgakov's novel and historical documents. The ensemble have explored Stanislavski's realism, Commedia Dell'arte and actor/audience engagement via song and gags. Students have been involved in all aspects of production, taking responsibility for roles as diverse as music composition, costume design and stage management. The culmination of all their efforts this semester is an innovative and original reimaging of *The Master and Margarita*.

I would like to thank Chris Button and Nicole Sage for their support and guidance; Daniel Holden for his work in production; Dylan Breninger for his work on publicity; Steven Thorne for filming and properties; Mrs Katakis for the beautiful art work on the lemonade stand banners. I would also like to thank our Principal, Hilary Bland, for her vision and commitment to the Theatre Arts students and program. Thanks to my family for their patience, understanding and support. I am very proud of the incredible work our Theatre Arts students have achieved; may it serve them well in their future journey as performing artists.

GORAN BANYAI
DIRECTOR

*'Follow me, reader! Who told you that there
is no true, faithful, eternal love in this world!
May the liar's vile tongue be cut out!*

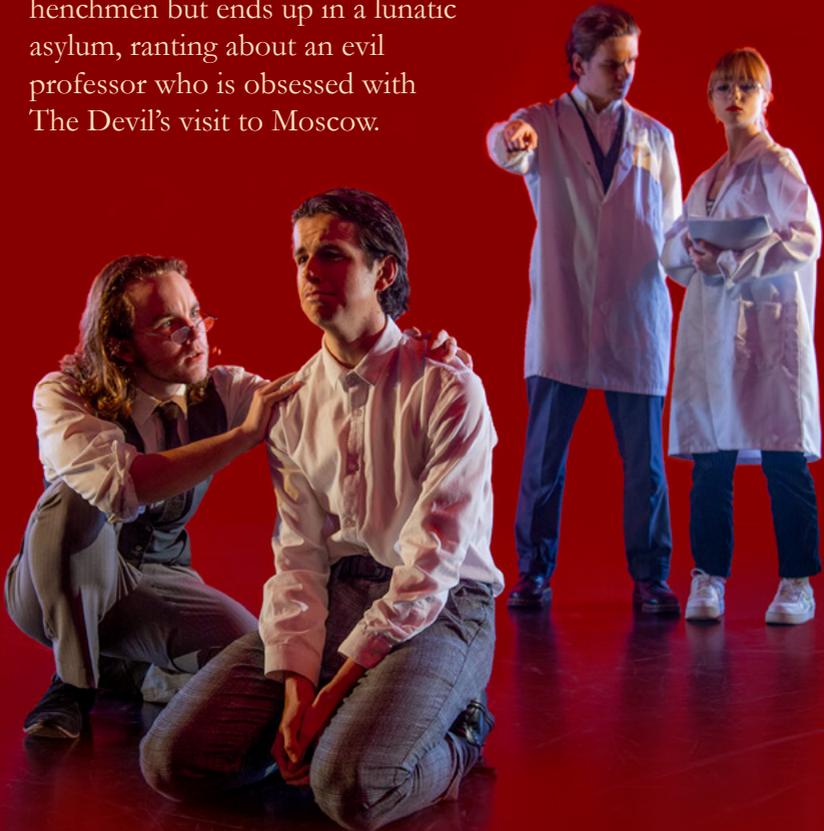
*Follow me, my reader, and me alone, and I
will show you such a love!'*



On a hot spring day, the Master, a famous playwright, is attempting to cast his latest play at Patriarch's Park. Moscow's literary critics and theatre elites are nervous because it focuses on the religious story of Christ. The Cheka, the Bolshevik 'secret police', led by Detective Zheldybin, two agents, Yelena and Sasha, and an informer, Veranukha, from the Variety Theatre have come to investigate.

Woland manipulates reality, making sure that the Master and Margarita fall in love which facilitates all future events, both tragic and comic.

The Devil then meets Berlioz and Ivan. Woland predicts Berlioz's death, which follows immediately. Ivan witnesses the incident and hears Woland telling a bizarre story about Pontius Pilate. Ivan attempts to chase Woland and his henchmen but ends up in a lunatic asylum, ranting about an evil professor who is obsessed with The Devil's visit to Moscow.



Agent Sasha becomes a servant of the Devil.

Woland has occupied Berlioz's flat and is hosting magic shows for Moscow's elite. He summons the Master's mistress, Margarita. At a midnight ball, Woland offers Margarita the chance to become a witch with magical powers. She dances with Woland and he grants her one wish. She chooses the most altruistic thing possible, liberating a woman she meets at the ball from eternal suffering. The Devil decides not to count this wish and gives her another. This time, Margarita chooses to free the Master. Their task complete, Woland's henchmen are set free. Woland reminds us that freedom comes at a price.

As a result of the Devil's mayhem and chaos, Agent Yelena must make a life changing decision that will shape the future of the Cheka and Russia.



'Would you kindly ponder this question: What would your good do if evil didn't exist, and what would the earth look like if all the shadows disappeared? After all, shadows are cast by things and people. Here is the shadow of my sword. But shadows also come from trees and living beings. Do you want to strip the earth of all trees and living things just because of your fantasy of enjoying naked light? You're stupid.'



CHARACTERS AND CAST

THE LOVERS

The Master | Revolutionary playwright | **Ashton O'Donovan**

Margarita | Master's mistress and muse | **Eryn Saunders**

JERUSALEM - 30 AD

Pontius Pilate | Governor of Judea | **Rad Valance**

Yeshua | Revolutionary preacher | **Ashton O'Donovan**

Caiaphas | Judean high priest | **Sebastian Poole**

Aphrania | Confidant to Pontius Pilate | **Desiree Katakis**

Matthew the levite | Disciple of Yeshua | **Alex Mulcahy**

THE DEVIL AND HIS RETINUE

Woland | The Devil | **Rex Balfé**

Hella | Devil's vamp and transformer | **Milana Markovic-Matovic**
| **Sarah Warren**

Koroviev | Devil's right hand man | **Janita Barber**

Behemoth | A Cat - Devil's servant | **Loz Hawkins**

Azazello | Devil's personal hitman | **Molly Simpson**

Pierrot | Devil's romantic jester | **Lucy Stubbs**

THE MASSOLITS

Ivan Nikolayich | Moscow poet | **Alex Mulcahy**

Berlioz | Moscow writer | **Sebastian Poole**

Rimsky | Variety Club owner | **James Dikranian**

Veranukha | Variety Club secretary turned informer | **Jessica Harding**

Steypa | Variety Club producer | **Jem Melzer**

Natasha Ramatovski | An aspiring Moscow actress | **Heidi Milne**

Natalya | Owner of Griboyedov Cafe and outdoor cafe | **Zuzanna Wiech**

Sergei | Reporter | **Jack Linke**

Galina | Reporter | **Grace Rosebirch**

Aunt Popolovsky | Berlioz' aunty | **Zuzanna Wiech**

Nikolai | Natasha's love interest | **Sebastian Poole**

Freyda | Satan's ball guest | **Zuzanna Wiech**

MOSCOW RESEARCH INSTITUTE ASYLUM

Doctor Stravinski | Head of Moscow Research Institute | **Jack Linke**

Professor Paskovya | Leading researcher | **Grace Rosebirch**

MOSCOW REGIME CHEKA

Detective Zheldybin | Head of Cheka | **Rad Valance**

Agent Yelena | Professional Cheka assassin | **Desiree Katakis**

Agent Sasha | Agent transformed into Pierrot | **Lucy Stubbs**

'Don't be afraid, Queen, the blood has long run down into the earth. And on the spot where it was spilled, grapevines are growing today.'





'What is all this? Get him out of here, devil take me!' And that one, imagine, smiles and says: 'Devil take you? That, in fact, can be done!' And - bang!'



THE
MASTER
MARGARITA
BY MIKHAIL BULGAKOV

THE
CAST



Rex Balfé



Janita Barber



James Dikranian



Jess Harding



Loz Hawkins



Desiree Katakis



Jack Linke



Milana
Markovic-Matovic



Jem Melzer



Heidi Milne



Alex Mulcahy



Ashton
O'Donovan

THE
MASTER AND THE MARGARITA
BY MIKHAIL BULGAKOV

THE
CAST



Seb Poole



Grace Rosebitch



Eryn Saunders



Molly Simpson



Lucy Stubbs



Rad Valance



Zuzanna Wiech



Sarah Warren
(Year 11)

*‘Once more and for the last time, the moon
flashed above and broke into pieces,
and then everything went black.’*

*'Love leaped out in front of us like a murderer
in an alley leaping out of nowhere, and struck
us both at once.'*

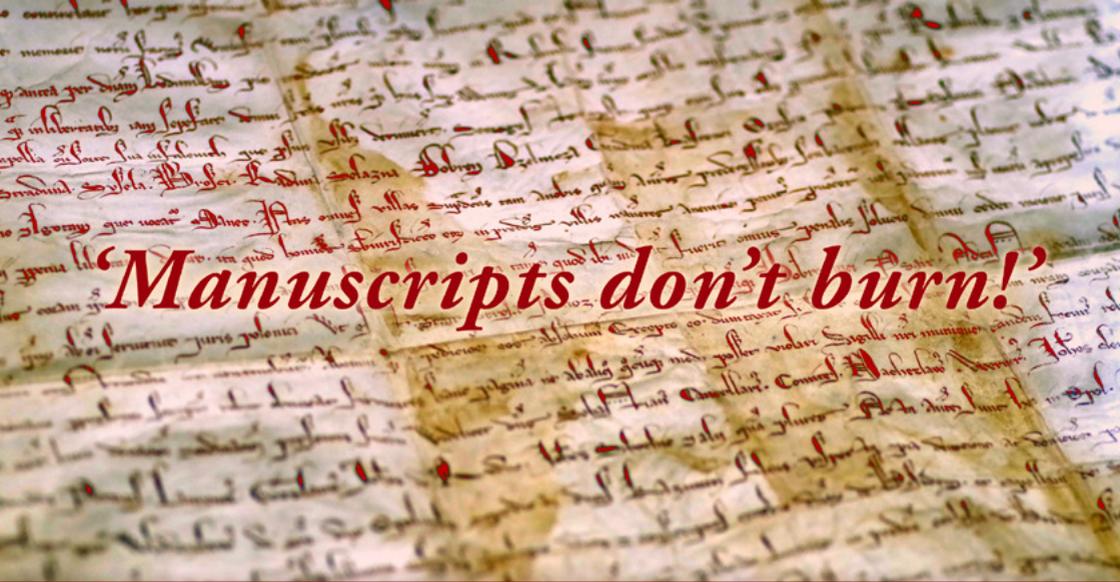
*'But what can be done, the one who loves must
share the fate of the one he loves.'*



*'Yes, man is mortal, but that
would be only half the trouble.
The worst of it is that he's
sometimes unexpectedly mortal
- there's the trick!'*







‘Manuscripts don’t burn!’

VICTORIAN COLLEGE OF THE ARTS SECONDARY SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL

Hilary Bland

ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

Donatella Mannolini & Michael Sargeant

HEAD OF THEATRE ARTS

Christopher Button

THEATRE ARTS ADMINISTRATION

Jenny Purcell

DIRECTOR

Goran Banyai

SCRIPT

Students & Goran Banyai

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Daniel Holden

COVER IMAGE

Jack Linke & Jessica Harding

PROMOTIONAL DESIGN & PHOTOGRAPHY

Dylan Breninger

Original Cat artwork by Théophile Steinlen.

From *Tournée du Chat Noir*, 1896.

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Ticket information available @
www.vcass.vic.edu.au

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5, 6 & 7 August @ VCASS
- **MUSIC | Magalu Ganngu (Beginning Here)**
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