

A VERY SPECIAL EVENING OF ENTERTAINMENT  
BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS & ANCIENT HISTORY  
AND THE NICHOLSON MUSEUM

SYDNEY  
UNIVERSITY  
MUSEUMS

## Nicholson Museum Invitation

# Menander's *Grumpy Old Man*



### MENANDER

In the 4th century BC, Menander created the very first comedy of manners and of domestic intrigue. His plays are sharply etched stories drawn from life, tenderly observing human emotion and character, and hilariously written. The tradition at whose head he stands exerted a huge influence on European theatre, from Terence and Plautus in Rome, on to Racine and Giraudoux.

Menander is one of antiquity's great culture-heroes. For nearly a millennium his comedies were staples of the stage, the schoolroom, and the dinner parties of cultured elites.

After 600 AD his works vanished, leaving little more than a handful of one-line quotations. That was until copies of his comedies began to emerge, in pieces, from the sands of Egypt little more than a century ago. The best preserved of these is the *Dyskolos*, or *Grumpy Old Man*.

**THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY HOLDS A VERY SPECIAL PLACE IN THE HISTORY OF THE COMEDY OF MENANDER.**

**ON JULY 4, 1959 STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY PERFORMED THIS COMEDY IN ITS ORIGINAL GREEK FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME SINCE ANTIQUITY.**

**NOW, 50 YEARS LATER, A COMBINATION OF STUDENTS, STAFF AND MEMBERS OF THAT ORIGINAL 1959 CAST WILL RE-PERFORM SCENES FROM THE PLAY IN CELEBRATION OF THAT IMPORTANT EVENT IN THEATRE HISTORY.**



**Thursday 17 September 2009**

**6 for 6.30 pm**

In the Nicholson Museum  
Main Quadrangle, University of Sydney

\$30 (\$20 Friends of the Nicholson Museum)  
price includes champagne & canapés  
booking essential 9351 2812 or [m.turner@usyd.edu.au](mailto:m.turner@usyd.edu.au)

A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR MENANDER'S ELEGANT GREEK BROUGHT TO LIFE ONCE AGAIN (WITH SUR-TITLES) UNDER THE DIRECTION OF DR ALASTAIR BLANSHARD AND ANTHONY ALEXANDER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS & ANCIENT HISTORY.

THE PERFORMANCE WILL BE INTRODUCED BY A LEADING EXPERT IN ANCIENT THEATRE, PROFESSOR ERIC CSAPO, AND FOLLOWED BY REMINISCENCES OF THE 1959 PERFORMANCE BY MEMBERS OF THE CAST.



The  
University  
of Sydney