

Written by [Paul Kooperman](#)

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Hobson's Choice is a comedy by **Harold Brighouse**, with the title coming from the popular expression, meaning no choice at all. The plot revolves around *Willie Mossop* - a gifted, but unappreciated shoemaker employed by the domineering *Henry Horatio Hobson*. Semi-literate and content with his lot, he is bullied by Hobson's eldest daughter *Maggie* into marrying her and setting up a shop of his own. *Maggie* and her two younger sisters, *Alice* and *Victoria*, have worked most of their lives in their father's store without wages and are eager to be married and out of the shop. Between *Maggie's* sales skill and *Willie's* shoe making talent, the enterprise is very successful and, within a year, he has taken nearly all *Hobson's* trade. At *Maggie's* urging, *Willie* goes into partnership with *Hobson*, who's told he's to have no further say in the business and is obviously outraged, but what choice does he have?

Hobson's Choice is easy, light entertainment and **Richard Sarell** (Director) ably assisted by **Christine Dixon** (Assistant Director) have done an outstanding job in keeping the text clear and bringing the best out of the wonderful cast. **Caroline Lloyd** (as *Maggie Hobson*), **Ian**

Rooney (as *Hobson*) and **Peter McTighe** (as *Willie Mossop*) are likeable and fully engaging from start to finish. The rest of the cast, including **Ami-Lou Sharpe**, **Kate Drougas**, **Ezra Bix**, **Sean Scully**, **Tobias Manderson-Galvin**, **Maggie Mendelert**, **Michael Collins**, **Karla Hiram** and **Ian Smith** (of *Neighbours* fame), support the leads beautifully and each delivers a strong performance.

The musical direction by **Ben Kiley** is solid and **Darren Mort**, as producer, should be congratulated on a genuinely crowd-pleasing production. **3 Big Men Productions**, established seven years ago by Darren, is clearly about entertaining an audience. With productions of *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *Six Degrees of Separation* and now **Hobson's Choice** under its belt, the company is developing a reputation for selecting great material, attracting experienced cast and crew, developing a loyal audience-base and involving a diverse range of committed sponsors (by the look of the program).

If you're tired of the mediocre and want to see a slick piece of theatre performed well, **Hobson's Choice** is definitely worth a look. It's at Chapel off Chapel and runs until June 14.

3 Big Men Productions and the Rehearsal Room present
Hobson's Choice
by *Harold Brighouse*

Venue: Chapel Off Chapel | 12 Little Chapel St, Prahran (Melways: Map 2L Ref J10)

Dates: 29 May – 14 June

Times: Tues – Sat 8pm; 7, 14 June 3pm; 1, 8 June 5pm

Tickets: \$25 Full, \$18 Concession, \$20 Groups 10 + (+ booking fee)

Bookings: 03 8290 7000 or www.chapelloffchapel.com.au

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