Deal with devil delivers

MAKING a deal with the devil and suffer the consequences in a world where only God can provide salvation. That's the far-reaching message in Gounod's mid-19th century grand French opera, Faust. With more than a century of passing, its religious and moral fearsmongering might appear heavy-handed but the work still delivers a jolt.

Faust. That's the far-reaching but the work still delivers a jolt of century of passing, its religious mania. Reviewer: Paul Selar

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REAL men knit! That is the message. David Collyer is a third-generation knitter and lace maker who creates most of the jumpers he wears. Luke Hockley revels in making his own clothing. For some of these artists, hitting the needles and yarn is hit-and-run level. lukehockley.com.au

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Review: Kate Herbert

THE Honourable Violet Gibson, a wealthy Irishwoman, shot Italian dictator Benito Mussolini in Rome in 1945, before taking her own life. She was shot at the National Gallery of Victoria, to celebrate you could win a tiny but tough premium Sony ultra-compact digital camera and other Angry Birds prizes!

AUSTRALIA, THE Honourable Violet Gibson (Heather Lythe, pictured) played the eccentronic Violet with an impeccable Irish accent, and is compelling, disturbing and credible as this woman who figned madness, confesses to political conspiracy, or tilts into genuine delusions and religious mania.

The ensemble, wearing black and white, plays multiple roles as nuns, police, judiciary, journalists and so on. It's acting enables the ensemble to vary and some of the Ianlet accents are patchy, but there are some standouts. Despite its unevenness, this production leaves us wondering how the world might have changed had Violet succeeded.

Faust.

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