



GOLD COAST LITTLE THEATRE

Intimate theatre at its best

Patron: Cr. Dawn Crichlow  
Licensed nominee: Andrew Blain

# GCLT NEWS

February 2009

21a Scarborough Street Southport. Bookings: 5532 2096  
A founding member of the Gold Coast Theatre Alliance

## The Importance of Being Lucky

*Director Noella Johnson tells us why*

Directing *The Importance of Being Earnest* has been a pleasure. It is a brilliant play – indeed, considered one of the best in the English language! Luckily I have been blessed with an excellent cast and crew. The first show of the year is always a challenge as it is necessary to allow for a Christmas/New Year break and then a resumption of rehearsals when everyone has to ‘recharge’.

I decided to go without a formal set as the play moves from London to the country. There is merely the suggestion of these two areas, using brilliant designs by Jackie James and painted by Hugh Brophy assisted by Dianne Cinelli. Suitable furniture and props then highlight the pictures. Here again we found community support with First Class Seconds leasing us some beautiful period pieces for a minimal cost, while John Rees-Osborne's brother-in-law David Perry made our beautiful period cake stand.



Amy-Louise Anderson (*Gwendolen*) keeps a watchful eye on Noel Thompson (*Jack, or is it Ernest?*)



Meanwhile, Nina Khan (*Lady Bracknell*) is resolutely unamused.



Ursula Johnson (*Miss Prism*) confers with Kevin Johnson (*Canon Chasuble*) over Jessica Purcell's (*Cecily*) education.

Nina Khan both designed and made our stunning costumes for the women whilst the majority of the men were able to

be dressed from our own wardrobe with the assistance of Brisbane Arts. Dawn Warrington and Robyn Menzies also gave us valuable support.

I would like to say a special thank-you to Shane Caddaye who has helped out in so many ways - as indeed he does at all times throughout our performing year here at the Gold Coast. I hope that the effort put in by all will result in a very good start to the Theatre's 2009 season.

Noella

## Auditions Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March

### *Jury Room*

By C.B. Gifford

Directed by Marion Parry

**Registration:** 10.00 for 10.30 am at GCLT.

**Performance dates:** 27<sup>th</sup> June – 18<sup>th</sup> July

**Characters:** 7F, 4 from 20-40, 2 from 50-60; 5M 20 – 60.

**Cast:** Each actor plays two parts, one as a jury member and one as a character in the evidence that they act out. This is a murder mystery with a difference - a challenging ensemble piece.

**Contact:** Marion on 55775762, [marionp@winshop.com.au](mailto:marionp@winshop.com.au) or GCLT box office on 55322096

## Don't miss out on the Dolphins!

IF you haven't sent in your voting form yet, you have only until 6<sup>th</sup> February. So make your votes count. And don't forget to book for the Big Night, Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

## Vale Harold Pinter

THE news of Harold Pinter's death at Christmas came too late for our January newsletter, but not too late for us to recognise the huge debt the English-speaking theatre owes to his work. As his obituary in *The Times* (UK) pointed out, 'he was such an influential playwright that his name evolved into a figure of speech'.

The phrase 'Pinteresque pauses' has become a cliché used by many who have never experienced the menace of the real thing. (See inside for 'Pinter plays at GCLT')

## ... and John 'Rumpole' Mortimer

JUST as we were finalising page one, I read the news of John Mortimer's death. I urge you to get hold of Kathy Lette's obituary (*The Australian*, 19/01/09) by hook or by crook. It is a warm, touching and laugh-out-loud funny tribute to a fine writer, playwright and friend.

## Vice-President's Report

*What's been happening around the theatre*

JUST as we welcomed back one and all from holidays we wished *bon voyage* to Joyce Grant, our Newsletter Editor, who was taking off for a visit to the Arab Emirates and other exotic places. Joyce will be back in early February.

So too will President Bruce Shearer, fresh from his overseas travels with Julanne, and we look forward to receiving his President's report in our March Newsletter.

*The Importance OBE* has been earnestly in rehearsal and is shaping up to be a top production. Nina Khan designed fabulous costumes for the ladies and you can study her sketches and fabric samples in the Green Room.

The new SABO on-line ticketing system is now up and running, as reported elsewhere in the newsletter. Our special thanks go to Eric James for his work in preparing the box office to accommodate all the new machinery and to Janis Sheen and Eric again for their many hours spent on bringing the system into operation.

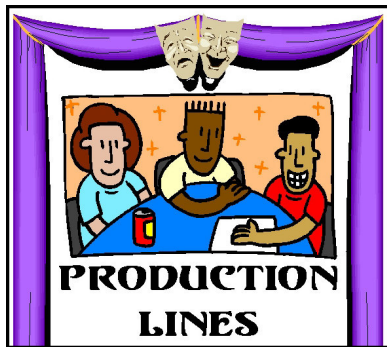
We received many 2009 'early bird' subscriptions by the 24th December deadline for the draw and congratulations go to our winner. Laurel Hosking, your cheque for \$100 will be forwarded very soon.

Don't forget that your Dolphin voting forms must reach the box office by Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February.

Finally, thanks to all patrons for your patience in regard to the issue of tickets for the 2009 season. Change is never easy and not without its problems. But every problem has a solution.

Best wishes and regards,

*Yvonne Rossell – Vice-President*



### News from Production Committee...

*Marion Parry,  
John Arthars,  
Maria Buckler,  
Shane Caddaye  
Ruth Henderson,  
& Noella Johnson*

WELL, 2009 has certainly moved smoothly into first gear. *The Importance of Being Earnest* has proved to be a fine production to begin the year, with stylish acting, beautiful costumes, an elegant set - and good audiences! Our congratulations to Noella Johnson and her cast and crew.

Meanwhile more people are beavering away to ensure a top-class show in our second slot, with our big musical for the year, *High Society*. In spite of Julanne's absence overseas, Molly's is full of the sound of song and dance rehearsals. This promises to be first class entertainment, especially with those great Cole Porter songs.

The One Act Plays are the next thing to be decided, so if you are keen to direct, make sure you follow the guidelines set out in the following ad. They are there to help us make good decisions about what to accept and support.

### One Act Play Submissions

#### URGENT REMINDER

Submissions for the One Act Play Season must be in by the end of February, addressed to Marion Parry. If it is an adaptation or a dramatisation we need: a copy of the script **in its final form**; and a covering letter outlining why it will appeal to audiences, any special staging needs, character descriptions and casting requirements.  
*Production Committee*

The next auditions will be on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March for *Jury Room*, directed by Marion Parry. This is a murder mystery with a difference - a challenging ensemble piece. Each actor plays two parts, one as a jury member and one as a character in the evidence they decide to act out. A full cast list will be in the March Newsletter.

Looking further ahead, we are close to making decisions on plays for our Diamond Jubilee season in 2010. All will be revealed shortly.

In the course of our search we have been using our Library a lot, looking over the last sixty years of plays, but it is in such a state we have decided to have a working bee to tidy it all up. So if anyone is throwing any old bookcases away, throw them our way!

*Production Committee*

## The Annual Dolphin Awards

*Our night at the Centre of the Known Universe*

ON Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February, head for the epicentre of all things glittering, theatrical and glamorous and be swept up in the style and excitement of the Dolphin Awards!

It's the night when we celebrate and cheer the winners of:

- Best One Act Play
- Outstanding Sound Design
- Outstanding Lighting Design
- Outstanding Stage Management
- Outstanding Set Design
- Outstanding Costume Design
- Outstanding Lead Male Performer in a Musical
- Outstanding Lead Female Performer in a Musical
- Outstanding Supporting Performer in a Musical
- Outstanding Lead Male Actor in a Play
- Outstanding Lead Female Actor in a Play
- Outstanding Supporting Male Actor in a Play
- Outstanding Supporting Female Actor in a Play
- Outstanding Director
- Outstanding Production

So don't forget - the Dolphin Awards Night will be held at the Theatre on **Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2009**, commencing at 7.00pm. The cost of \$5.00 includes finger food. Formal dress is preferred. Bling is optional, but should be excessive.

*Joyce Grant*

## GCLT goes on-line

GCLT customers can now book seats on any home computer. You can choose your show, day and seat preferences and check out the exact view from your chosen seat. Pay via our "SecurePay" credit card system and then pick up your tickets at the theatre Box Office.

Just go to our web-site [www.goldcoastlittletheatre.com.au](http://www.goldcoastlittletheatre.com.au), click on **Book Your Ticket Now** and follow the prompts.



*Clear proof that the online ticketing system works*

NELLIE and Leo Mevissen and Janis Sheen are amazed at what they found on the Internet! Here they are being supervised by Dennis Doulgeridis, who flew up from Sydney to train GCLT volunteers in the new system.

*Eric James*

## Share your Trivia

Lorraine Whyte writes: "My earliest childhood memories of live theatre were school holidays spent with my Grandmother who was the cleaning lady at the Tivoli Theatre in Melbourne. I remember she had a little room in a laneway between the main theatre and the rehearsal and dressing rooms at the back. It was wonderful to hear the voices in training and to catch glimpses of the actors and actresses rushing past in their costumes. Sadly, I never got to see any of the shows, not even from the wings. I was only around 5 or 6 at the time.

"Then, for my 13th birthday, my eldest sister Daphne took me to see my first live show - the wonderful, magical, spellbinding *Kismet*, I think at the Princess Theatre. And the **bestest** part of the day was being taken backstage to meet the cast; somehow they had found out it was my birthday! The whole cast sang Happy Birthday to me. I was on Cloud 9 for weeks after that, and what a show-and-tell I had for my classmates at High School.

"Since then, I've been lucky enough to see *Hair* (with my new boyfriend at the time), several others whose names escape me, and of course we saw *Phantom* twice!! Since moving to the Gold Coast to live, husband Alan and I have been to several of the local shows and loved every one of them."

Send YOUR theatre trivia stories and photos to me at [jre54165@bigpond.net.au](mailto:jre54165@bigpond.net.au), or post them to GCLT.

*John Rees-Osborne*

## The latest news on the Gold Coast Area Theatre Awards

*Kate Peters updates us about progress.*

THE eight judges involved in the Gold Coast Area Theatre Awards have hit the ground running this year, as several participating groups' shows began in January. There is a real buzz about the Awards, with many of the Gold Coast theatre community members showing huge enthusiasm for an initiative that will bring together groups from Ballina to Beenleigh - and all points in between!

A minor hiccup in the design of the awards (objections from the C.A.T. Awards people in Canberra) has resulted in the renaming of the Awards as the **Gold Palms**. Seems the Canberra Awards people felt that future funding and sponsorship may be affected through 'confusion' about the two different systems. Unwilling to engage in a long and expensive legal battle, the GC Area Theatre Awards judges and convenor took in a different direction, with the awards redesigned to reflect the local scene more closely.

The website is at [www.gcareaatheatreawards.com.au](http://www.gcareaatheatreawards.com.au). The major award will now be the **Platinum Palm Award** for an outstanding production or individual.

*JR-O*

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## News cues

*The latest goss around GCLT*

HOT off the press! Kate Peters was awarded the Gold Coast City Council Australia Day Cultural Achievement Award at the Mayor's breakfast. "Feeling pretty chuffed!" says Kate. "Well done!" we say.

Our former Publicity Director Helen Hill will be slogging around Europe later this year. Look out Prague, Budapest, Amsterdam, and Paris. And Joyce Grant, our Assistant Secretary (and absentee newsletter editor - mutter, mumble!) is taking a break in the Emirates. Stand by for despatches from our latter-day Hester Stanhope.

Meanwhile, Maria Buckler and Shane Caddaye have been flat out on the campaign for *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Shane took the photographs on page one). Now it's the turn of *High Society*. As Shane has the male lead, no doubt he'll take a particular interest!

*JR-O*

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## Pinter plays at GCLT

*An interesting track record*

GCLT has produced three of Pinter's acknowledged major works, beginning in 1979 with his first full-length play, *The Birthday Party*. (However, our records do not name the director or cast. Can anyone help with the names?)

In 1982 Joyce Grant directed *The Homecoming* with a cast of Michael Beard, Libby and Victor Newcombe, Garfield Prowse, Jack Manning and Joey (???). Five years later Kurt Lerps directed *Betrayal* with Lynn McPherson, Jason Ingram Roth and Alistair Beer. Among Pinter's major pieces *The Caretaker* is the only one that has not so far appeared in our production history.

*JR-O*

## Management Committee 2008 –2009:

President: Bruce Shearer	5531 1514	queen248@bigpond.net.au
Immediate Past Pres: Leo Mevissen	5538 3901	leo.nel@bigpond.com
Vice-President: Yvonne Rossell	5537 4598	yrossell@bigpond.net.au
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Asst Treasurer:	(VACANT)	
Building Director: Eric James	5526 3474	madlondo@onthenet.com.au
Chair of Productions: Marion Parry	5577 5762	marionp@winshop.com.au
Publicity Director: Maria Buckler		mariabuckler@hotmail.com
Front of House: Nina Khan	5577 4092	nina.khan@bigpond.com
Social Convenor: Valerie Cooney	5575 7000	
Librarian: Lyn Smith	5532 0720	lsmit130@eq.edu.au
Wardrobe M'gr: Dawn Warrington	5573 6584	colinanddawn5@bigpond.com

## Production Committee 2008-2009:

Chair: Marion Parry	5577 5762	marionp@winshop.com.au
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Member: John Arthars	0408 549 511	john_david_arthars@yahoo.com.au
Member: Shayne Caddaye	5563 9016	shanegoldcoast@hotmail.com
Member: Maria Buckler		mariabuckler@hotmail.com
Member: Noella Johnson	5591 8493	<u>kevinandnoella@hotmail.com</u>

## Contacting GCLT

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## Coming Events and Date-Claimers

- Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February, Dolphin Awards Night
- Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April, Drinks With the Director of *High Society*
- Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April, opening night of *High Society*
- Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June Drinks With the Director of *Jury Room*
- Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June, opening night of *Jury Room*
- Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> July to Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August, One Act Plays
- Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September, Drinks With the Director of *Waiting in the Wings*
- Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September, opening night of *Waiting in the Wings*
- Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November, opening night of *Stepping Out* (Drinks Night date to be confirmed)

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## And another thing...

For those readers who skip, don't absorb what they read, or simply like to start at the back first, here are your final warnings:

- Dolphin voting papers must be in by 6<sup>th</sup> February at the latest!
- Dolphin Awards Night is Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February – and you must book!
- Marion's auditions for *Jury Room* are on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March!

Don't say nobody told you.

JR-O

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