



GOLD COAST LITTLE THEATRE

Intimate theatre at its best

Patron: Cr. Dawn Crichlow

Licensed nominee: Andrew Blain

GOLT NEWS

March 2009

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

High Society Hits the Stage!

Director Julianne Shearer reports on progress

REHEARSALS for *High Society* are going very well. Thanks to the combined efforts of the casts of *The Importance of Being Earnest* and *High Society*, the stage was cleared after the Dolphins and the stage revolve brought out of mothballs for the set.

A number of new cast members have joined and we welcome: Ian Whyte (Billy's son) as George Kittredge; Daniel Green (chorus); Jessica Sapwell (chorus); Amy Cosgrove (chorus); Jarrad Rooke (chorus); Ann Kimberley(chorus); and Jason Hayden who has taken over the role of Mike Connor.

The production is based on the 1998 version of the script and score and contains more songs than those in the film version. As well as the well known 'True Love'; 'Who Wants to be a Millionaire?' and 'Well, Did You Evah!', additional songs include the much loved Cole Porter numbers 'I Love Paris'; 'Just One of Those Things'; 'It's All Right With Me' and 'Let's Misbehave'.

Set in 1938, the play is a glamorous romantic comedy centred on the actions of the very rich Lord family about to celebrate their eldest daughter's second wedding.

We are delighted to have Louise Harris playing the leading role of the eldest Lord daughter, Tracy Lord.



Louise in rehearsal with accompanist Mary Walters (photo by Shane Caddaye)

Louise has previously appeared on our stage as Guinevere in *Camelot* and *Nellie Forbush* in *South Pacific*. It is also great to have Shane Caddaye appearing in the role of Tracy's ex-husband, C K Dexter Haven. Shane is well known to members as the director of the very successful *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll* and was the recipient of the President's Award at the recent Dolphin Awards.

An interesting feature of the production is the role played by the Chorus. They are all servants in the Lord household and provide a sung commentary on most scenes while simultaneously changing sets. The setting is the Lord Mansion on Long Island and the Mansion of Tracy's Uncle Willie (played by Hugh Brophy) who lives next door.

Members are urged to book early as this is shaping up to be a very popular and entertaining show. Remember, our musicals are always heavily booked.

Auditions Sunday 29th March

Jury Room

By C.B. Gifford

Directed by Marion Parry

See inside pages for details

The Dolphins Make a Splash!

A packed house of members and their guests enjoyed the polished entertainment and the thrills of anticipation as Valerie Cooney presided elegantly – but firmly - over our very own night of glamour, the Dolphin Awards!

An early attempt at a lengthy speech of thanks was cut short by a burst of triumphal music from the lighting box and later winners took the hint. So the evening progressed smoothly and efficiently, to the delight of everyone.

Congratulations to all the winners and our special thanks to the many people who helped before, during and after the occasion. Lighting and sound operators, presenters and entertainers, bar staff and nibbles providers, you did us proud. (Full list of winners and helpers inside.)

And Earnest Says Good-bye



THE cast and backstage crew of *The Importance of Being Earnest* took their final bow on Saturday 21st February after a successful and much-praised season. From left to right: front row: Jessica Purcell, John Arthars, Noel Thompson, Amy-Louise Anderson and Nina Khan; middle row: Ursula Johnson and Kevin Johnson; back row Gordon Johnson, Dianne Cinelli, Renee Hoare, Cecile Campbell, John Rees-Osborne and Carolyn Judd (largely obscured by Nina's hat). (And our thanks go to Shane Caddaye for providing us with more photos than you could poke a memory stick at! JR-O)

President's Report

OUR 2009 season is well under way with the completion of the first play of the year. Many thanks to Noella Johnson and her cast and crew for an elegant production of *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

We have had a number of important matters to deal with during the past month or two. Firstly, we have introduced a computerized ticketing system. This has imposed a lot of work on some of our hard-working management and administrative team – especially Janis Sheen and Eric James. I would like to thank them very sincerely for their efforts and perseverance in bringing the project to fruition.

Sadly, due to personal commitments, Ian Lake has resigned as Treasurer. This is a very important job and critical to our financial success. If any member is interested in volunteering for the position please let us know. And as we are still at the beginning of 2009, I would like to encourage members to volunteer either for management positions, kitchen and bar duties or to work on productions. Call me for more details on 0408 068 205 if you are interested.

Our very own Dolphin Awards Night was held on Sunday 22nd February (by coincidence on the same night as Hollywood's Academy Awards Night). Like the Oscars, we celebrate and thank those who worked so hard to make 2008 a successful year for GCLT. The award winners are given elsewhere in the newsletter but I would particularly like to mention Shane Caddaye who won the President's Award for 2008. Anyone who was there on the night could not help but be impressed not only by Shane as a 'techo' on lights and sound, as a computer guru who helped put the program together and as a guest artist. Shane will play the male lead role in our next production, the Cole Porter musical *High Society*. At the Dolphins he was joined with other cast members Louise Harris, Hugh Brophy and Allison Wilby and musical director Mary Walters for two songs from the show. As featured artists at the Dolphin Awards we had two real 'pro's', Kirri Adams and Sheila Bradley. They really know how to wow an audience.

Many thanks to all who assisted in making the Dolphin Awards the successful social event it is for all GCLT members who participated.

Members may be perplexed after reading a report in Dressing Roomer's column of the Gold Coast Bulletin stating this year's Dolphins would be the last. This comment in the press was the result of a private conversation and was not meant for publication. The issue of the future of the Dolphin Awards will be placed on the agenda for our next general meeting when Members of GCLT can discuss it in full and decide for themselves what the future of the Dolphins should be.

Bruce Shearer, President



News from the Production Committee...

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

The one act play season - *Brief Encounters*

One of the recent tasks for the Production Committee was to choose the programme of One Act Plays for the 30th July - 1st August season. Our five selections are:

Sorry, Wrong Number by Lucille Fletcher, director Nathan Schultz;

Lurker by Don Nigro, director Cecile Campbell;

Naomi in the Living Room by Christopher Durang, director John Arthars;

The Marriage Proposal by Anton Chekov, director Patricia Buckler; and

Post-Its by Paul Dooley & Winnie Holzman, director Marc James.

2010 Season

We are busy planning GCLT's Diamond Jubilee Year. I can reveal that the plays will be favourites from the past 60 years. However, my lips are sealed!! More scintillating news next month.

Marion Parry, Chair of Productions

Auditions Sunday 29th March

Jury Room

By C.B. Gifford

Directed by Marion Parry

Registration: 10.00 for 10.30 am at GCLT.

Performance dates: 27th June – 18th July

The Piece: This is a challenging ensemble piece for 12 actors who all remain on stage throughout the action. Each actor plays two parts, one as a jury member and one as a character in the evidence they have just heard and that they act out. This is a murder mystery with a difference - it doesn't take place in the courtroom but in the *Jury Room!*.

Accents are American and the setting is 1959-60.

Characters:

FOREMAN: mature (plays Adrian Fletcher, the uncle)

ACTRESS: 20-30 (plays Julie Fletcher, the accused)

YOUNG MAN: 20-40 (plays George Keith, boyfriend of Julie)

ANGRY MAN: 30-50 (plays The Interloper)

MAN WITH GLASSES: 25-35 (plays Rodney Fisher, nephew of Adrian Fletcher)

FIRST OLD LADY: mature (plays Aunt Ethyl)

SECOND OLD LADY: (plays Aunt Caroline)

BLONDE: 30-50 (plays the Secretary to Adrian Fletcher)

BRUNETTE: 30+ (plays Madame Vampa, Fortune Teller)

SHY GIRL: 20-40 (plays the Nurse)

SOCIETY WOMAN: 40-50 (plays the Mystery Woman)

MIDDLE AGED MAN: 45-55 (plays the Butler, Martin)

Audition pieces will be available two weeks before

auditions. **Contact:** Marion on 55775762, or

marionp@winshop.com.au or the GCLT box office on 55322096.

Celebrate our winners!

Best One Act Play: Leo Mevissen for *Lenny and Lee*

Sound Design: Eric James Summers for *Annie Get Your Gun*

Lighting Design: Michael Sutton for *Our Country's Good*

Stage Management: Bev Lloyd for *Annie Get Your Gun*

Set Design: Michael Sutton for *Annie Get Your Gun*

Costume Design: Dawn Warrington for *Annie Get Your Gun*

Lead Male Performer in a Musical: Ian Lake

Lead Female Performer in a Musical: Alison Mackenzie

Supporting Performer in a Musical: Grant Ebeling

Lead Male Actor in a Play: Andrew Blain in *Tom, Dick & Harry*

Lead Female Actor in a Play: Maria Buckler in *Tom, Dick & Harry*

Supporting Male Actor in a Play: Marc James in *Our Country's Good*

Supporting Female Actor in a Play: Valerie Cooney in *Death Trap*

Outstanding Director: Jennifer Flowers for *Our Country's Good*

Outstanding Production: *Annie Get Your Gun*

The President's Award: Shane Caddaye, in recognition of his outstanding work for the theatre in so many areas.



Maria Buckler, Andrew Blain and Kate Peters (photo Les Karpathy)

People involved in the planning and execution were:

Allison Wilby, Hugh Brophy, Kirri Adams, Louise Harris, Shane Caddaye & Sheila Bradley as performers; Andrew Blain, Nellie & Leo Mevissen, Dawn Warrington & Robyn Vinodolac front-of-house; Bruce Shearer & Joyce Grant co-ordinators; Colin Turner voice-overs; Dawn Crichlow, John Arthars, Joyce Grant, Maria Buckler, Marion Parry, Noella Johnson & Ruth Henderson, presenters; Eric Summers microphone & data projector; Helen Hill raffle co-ordinator, raffle gift donor & publicity; Jessica Purcell assistant to the host; John McWatters spotlight; Julanne Shearer catering; Leo Mevissen Green Room & stage decoration; Maria Buckler raffle gift donor & publicity; Marilyn Culell raffle draw; Mary Walters & Stewart Kelly accompanists; Rodney Baker lighting & sound; Sandra Cillekens backstage; Shane Caddaye tech co-ordinator, sound & programme design; Valerie Cooney host.

A report from the Other Side

Our theatre ghost was at the Dolphins

FINDING time to languish and lurk is becoming more fraught. After a frenetic season I had hoped to be left undisturbed. But no...

Sunday 22nd February was a major shock to me. I was aware of tension and adrenalin racing, as a little lady, elegant in black, huffed and puffed backstage with a box full of angling bric-a-brac (*I think she must mean the Dolphins - Ed*). As she did so, a very articulate and efficient chap was instructing two other technical boffins from 'the box', disturbing my much-needed postprandial snooze.

Miffed, and with a little chagrin, I needed to vent my spleen and so, though I claim to be no poltergeist, I deftly broke one of these piscatorial set pieces and ... *voilà!* There was a crisis! (*Yes, must have been the Dolphins.*)

Desperate phone calls, a time frame with which to contend, a function to prepare... (nobody told me! and I have been in residence for years...!) Someone referred to as 'Julanne' bustled in, Superglue at the ready.

"Oh, dear" flustered the little lady in black, "she will be so upset if hers is broken..." "Nonsense," someone replied, "she is a very classy dame, and has been in the theatre for years. She'll understand. She's a pro."

Envelopes, statuettes, furniture, setting, flowers, lectern, microphones were all arranged splendidly. It's going to be a big night!

In struts an elegant young man in a gorgeous waistcoat. I glean from the chat that he is to be a 'presenter'. A spectacular lady, looking just like Tinkerbell, all in pink and sparkling 'bling', is followed by the very talented 'curtain lady' (who, I understand from my friend Oscar, is his favourite director) hovering. But why don't they ask me to work the curtain? I play with it all night when I'm alone.

A mellifluous voice from one unseen checks the sound system; the doors open, and in flood excited patrons to fill the auditorium... The suspense! The excitement!

Waiting in the wings, I linger in the shadows behind the elegant and superbly capable MC lady.

Off we go into a rapturous presentation of awards for performances, awards on which I 'kibitzed' on many sleepless evenings during 2008. Here a splendid singing lady! What a voice! There a broadly ebullient *grande dame* of the musical theatre! Here a gentleman in superb voice and there... a Dolphin ... how quaint!

What an atmosphere! What an occasion! A medley of drinks, a sumptuous supper, creative talents, and *joie de vivre!* A uniquely sensational event! How soignée and chic was the lady who drew the raffle! Back in the Green Room I rubbed shoulders with the cognoscenti, the glitterati, and the fun, fun people ... an irrepressible spirit was in the air ... oh, no, no, that's me!

I loved every minute. Judging by the rapturous applause from the audience, they'll do it again. Eat your heart out, Phantom, I've got the best gig.

The GCLT ghost

Management Committee 2008 –2009:

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|---------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------|
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Coming Events and Date-Claimers

- Sunday 29th March, auditions for *Jury Room*
 - Tuesday 7th April, Drinks With the Director of *High Society*
 - Saturday 18th April, opening night of *High Society*
 - Tuesday 16th June Drinks With the Director of *Jury Room*
 - Sunday 16th June, auditions for *Waiting in the Wings*
 - Saturday 27th June, opening night of *Jury Room*
 - Thursday 30th July to Saturday 1st August, One Act Plays
 - Sunday 23rd August, auditions for *Stepping Out*
 - Tuesday 1st September, Drinks With the Director of *Waiting in the Wings*
 - Saturday 12th September, opening night of *Waiting in the Wings*
 - Tuesday 27th October, Drinks With the Director of *Stepping Out*
 - Saturday 14th November, opening night of *Stepping Out*
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