



GOLD COAST LITTLE THEATRE

Intimate theatre at its best

Patron: Cr. Dawn Crichlow
Licensed nominee: Andrew Blain

GCLT NEWS

APRIL 2009

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Janis Sheen and Eric James have been working diligently to iron out the difficulties that we have faced with the new computer ticketing scheme. We have now overcome the issue of how to register "comps." with the ticket marketing computer headquarters. This means that we can resume giving out "comps" including to the cast and crew of "The Importance of Being Ernest". Those involved will receive their tickets for "High Society" soon.

The people who work on the plays certainly deserve a complimentary ticket. We are an amateur theatre so doing a play takes huge amounts of a person's free time. Picture the scene at the theatre last weekend for example. On Saturday we had Barry Bladen and his team building the innovative set for "High Society" designed by the director Julianne Shearer. We had Hugh Brophy and Margaret Goldman painting the backdrop. Other members of the cast and crew were re-designing and painting furniture and polishing silver-ware for the stage. In the foyer of the theatre, a work team including Robyn Vinodolac, Denis Watkins and Billie Whyte had various members of the cast trying on and being measured for clothes so the ladies on their sewing machines in the Green Room could costume the play. Over in "Molly's", musical director Mary Walters and her team of nine musicians were busily practising Cole Porter's music for "High Society" and they sounded fantastic. Meanwhile Shane Caddaye was everywhere: as the leading man he was practising songs with the band; he was getting his clothes organised in the foyer and he was problem solving with Julianne on the intricacies of the set. Then there was the full day of rehearsal on Sunday.

Last Management Committee meeting I invited Kate Peters along because she was upset that I

stated in the last newsletter "that the comment in the press (about the future of the Dolphin Awards) was a result of a private conversation (between Kate and me) and was not meant for publication." I agree with Kate that, though I may have thought I was having a private conversation, I certainly did not indicate that this was so. Hence Kate and I have agreed on the following statement:

The president of the GCLT has told Dressing Roomers (Kate's column) any implication that a confidence was broken was unintended and should not in any way be assumed as such. The future of the Dolphin Awards will be decided by the GCLT Management Committee in due course.

At this meeting I have apologised to Kate and to members of the Management Committee for any unnecessary stress I have caused. I sincerely hope that this will be the end of the matter.

Bruce Shearer (President)

DRINKS WITH THE DIRECTOR OF COLE PORTER'S HIGH SOCIETY

6.00 to 8.00 pm - Tuesday 7 April 2009
GCLT members and their friends are invited to join the Director, Julianne Shearer, as she leads us through the creative process behind the staging of this famous romantic musical comedy, based on the play *The Philadelphia Story*. Members may remember the motion picture, *High Society*, starring Grace Kelly, Bing Crosby and Frank Sinatra. Well-known Cole Porter songs include *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire? I Love Paris, Well Did You Ever? and True Love*. Entry is \$5.00 for members and \$6.00 for guests which includes a welcome drink and finger food. **Bookings are essential. Phone GCLT box office 55322096.**

A special thank you to garden gnome, Pam Barber, for restoring our entrance garden.

NEWS FROM THE PRODUCTION COMMITTEE

After the very successful season of *The Importance of Being Earnest*, the cast and crew of *High Society* immediately bumped into the theatre and enthusiastically started working on this very popular musical. The set has been constructed with the “revolve” in place. The theatre is abuzz with costume and props being made. Frank Culell is now the Stage Manager, and Julianne Shearer and Mary Walters are knocking the cast into great shape for the opening performances. Book early. Opening night, Saturday 18 April.

Jury Room auditions were on Sunday 29 at 10 pm. All female roles have been cast, and 2 of the 5 males roles – any interested males please contact Marion.

Waiting in the Wings auditions will be on Sunday, 14 June. Directed by Joan Stalker-Brown. She will be looking for a lot of mature ladies to take the parts of retired actresses who reside in “The Wings” a charity home for entertainers down on their luck. Good fun.

The One Act Plays this year are being co-ordinated by Joyce Grant, assisted by Valerie Cooney. They are entitled *Brief Encounters*. More on these from Joyce.

Season 2010, Diamond Jubilee. The invitation to direct letter has been sent to all directors who have been active with GCLT over the past 60 years. To make the Diamond Jubilee Year special, the Production Committee is planning to formulate a 5 play season made up of plays that have been performed at some time during the past 50 years. More than 40 directors have been asked to submit plays from a list that has been submitted to them, which we are sure will give our audiences a broad and interesting programme across a number of genres: drama / comedy / musical / Australian plays. We are looking forward to receiving some interesting submissions.

That’s all for now.

Marion Parry
Chair of Productions

HIGH SOCIETY

Mary Walters, musical director for the upcoming HIGH SOCIETY, is very excited about the orchestra that she's gathered together to back the show. They are a talented mix of young & not-so-young players, and comprise piano / keyboards, percussion, brass (trumpet), woodwinds (saxophone / flute / clarinet), double bass and guitar: BOY do they put out a wonderful sound! Cast members have been blown away by the quality of the orchestra at rehearsals and can't wait to get on-stage and put the whole package together for an audience. The score is an interesting mixture of lyrical numbers & up-beat jazzy pieces that are real toe-tappers, and the orchestra delivers them all with style - you're guaranteed to leave the theatre singing your favourites! The show opens on April 18th and plays until May 16th at 8.00pm each Thu / Fri / Sat with 2.00pm matinees on Sat 25 April, Sun 3 May and Sat 9 May. Bookings can be made by phone at the box office on 5532 2096, or on-line via our website at <http://www.goldcoastlittletheatre.com.au/> - just select Book Your Ticket Now



The Director, Julianne Shearer

RAFFLE

The raffle held on the Dolphin Awards night to assist the victims of the Victorian bushfires raised \$257.00. This has been donated to the Bushfire Relief Fund.

High Society



Shane Caddaye & Louise Harris

The flowers have arrived, the champagne is on ice, and the guests the press and the paparazzi are assembling. All they need now is for the bride to choose the groom.... Cole Porter's classical music is a giddy blend of corking songs, fizzing one liners and champagne-fuelled farce.

The "Sabo" On-Line Ticketing System

In January this year GCLT introduced the new Sabo electronic Ticketing System which is now well in place: many thanks to Eric James Summers for his time, patience and guidance in assisting to set it up. It is a system which ensures there can be no double bookings. We print our own tickets and patrons have the option of booking on-line or through the box office. All box office staff are ready to put the system into practice when the B/O officially opens on **Mon 30th March for High Society**. This musical is filling fast so don't miss out.

Book early.

Janis Sheen

GC Theatre Alliance Briefs: From Joel Beskin

The Alliance, as it is popularly known, recently held an informal gathering of top GC performing

arts Leaders. Those busy, dedicated people included Bruce Shearer, President of GCLT. He was among those who put their heads close together with their counterparts from as far afield as Murwillumbah and Mt. Tamborine. Although each group might have its own particular problems and aspirations, they soon found that there are many situations that are common. It is that ground that the Alliance will be able to explore in the future. The website of the Alliance continues to post up to date information on all Alliance member shows and auditions.

GCLT ONE ACT PLAY SEASON BRIEF ENCOUNTERS

Naomi in the Living Room (2F, 1M) by Christopher Durang is, in the words of its author, "a very silly play." Naomi has visitors, John and Johnna, a young married couple. Her mood swings are violent and unpredictable, and her ideas about hospitality leave a lot to be desired. Watching this play will be a bit like driving past a car accident - you know you shouldn't look, but somehow you just can't help it. Director: John Arthars.

The Proposal (1F, 2M, 'A Joke in One Act' by Anton Chekov. This is a farce displaying an extensive gamut of emotions. Chekov has taken the serious business of a man proposing marriage and turned it into a situation where things go wrong because of information that is withheld from other characters. Director: Patricia Buckler

Sorry Wrong Number (1F, 2M) by Lucille Fletcher. Leona Stevenson is confined to her bed. One night, whilst waiting for her husband to return home, she accidentally overhears a telephone conversation between two men planning a murder. She becomes desperate as she tries to work out who the victim is so the crime can be prevented. Director: Nathan Schultz

Lurker (1F, 1M) by Don Nigro. A man catches a glimpse of a girl undressing in her bedroom window, and gradually becomes more and more obsessed with her. He lurks in her bushes, spies on her as she sunbathes in her garden, and one night finds an unlocked window in her house. The play unfolds simultaneously from both characters' viewpoints. Director: Cecile Campbell

Post-It's (1F, 1F) by Dooley & W. Holzman. In this homage to *Love Letters*, an actor and an actress read the posted notes between a couple that spans their lives together. Director: Marc James

Management Committee 2008 –2009:

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| President: Bruce Shearer | 5531 1514 | queen248@bigpond.net.au |
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| Treasurer: | (VACANT) | |
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Contacting GCLT

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Coming Events and Date-Claimers

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