

Wyong Drama Group proudly presents
by special arrangement with Dominie Pty Ltd

Last
of the
Red Hot
Lovers

by Neil Simon



Wyong Memorial Hall
August 2011



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Wyong Drama Group proudly presents
Last Of The Red Hot Lovers by Neil Simon
Designed and directed by Brian Fitzsimmons

President's Note

Our winter production takes us away from our conventional stage and set and puts us "into the round". With the direction of Brian Fitzsimmons and the organization of our super secretary, Jenny Newman, this dynamic duo have transformed *Last Of The Red Hot Lovers* into a worthy stage show. John, Ruth and Sally bring to our audiences a freshness and experience you'll all enjoy.

Next year is our 60th year of producing entertainment for Wyong and becomes a crossroads for our group. Will we get a new and well deserved Performing Arts Centre (money raising permitting) or will we trek on in hope until the next council elections when new councillors may have new priorities. We hope that the present Mayor continues his great work and vision.

Enjoy our show and don't forget to finish the year with a ripping comedy *Chase Me Comrade* in November.

Howard Oxley

Director's Note

Neil Simon is arguably America's most successful playwright and *Last Of The Red Hot Lovers* has been one of his biggest hits. It is a delightful example of how so called "escapist" theatre can be both entertaining and revealing of insights into the human condition.

We have chosen to keep our production set in the 1960's where it belongs. Its revelations about human nature are of course just as pertinent today as then. Working with the very talented Sally, Ruth and John in doing justice to this wonderful play has been enormously rewarding and we have been greatly supported by a superb production team.

I would like to express our thanks to Ruth Crawley for her earlier commitment to the production, until injury prevented her continuing, and to Ruth Jordon for bravely stepping in and taking over the role of Jeanette as well as that of Bobbi.

Brian Fitzsimmons

Sweet Savoury Swordfish Swimming in Salivary Succulence

The scene is the Manhattan apartment of the mother of fish-restaurant owner, Barney Cashman.
The period is a year in the mid 1960's,

Act 1: A midwinter afternoon

There will be a 10 minute break

Act 2: A midsummer afternoon

There will be an interval of 20 minutes

Act 3: An autumn afternoon

The Cast

Barney	John Czerniecki
Elaine Navazio	Sally Bartley
Bobbi Michele	Ruth Jordon
Jeanette Fisher	Ruth Jordon



Sexual Secrets of Seafood Sufferers



Brian Fitzsimmons

Director Brian Fitzsimmons' career has been in theatre, film and television. He has performed and directed in all these media both in Australia and overseas. He has a Ph.D in Theatre Arts from the University of Colorado where he also acted in several seasons of the Colorado Shakespeare Festival. He also participated in the university's *Semester - at - Sea* program, completing two round the world voyages as Professor of Theatre Arts. After 10 years as artistic director of a dinner theatre company in Coffs Harbour, Brian has chosen to base himself on the Central Coast, and is delighted to be now working with the Wyong Drama Group.



Barney Cashman – John Czerniecki

John is well known on the Central Coast theatre circuit with performances for WDG, GMS, WWLT Fringe Theatre and AdHoc. In recent years John has been seen in WDG's *Fawlty Towers*, as Mr McLeavy in *LOOT*, Axel in *Maggie's Getting Married* and Danny in *Soul Mates*. John's last role was as Henry in *Cosi* in 2010 and he was enticed back to the stage with this wonderful role of Barney Cashman - a man after his own heart.

Flaming Florentine Flounder



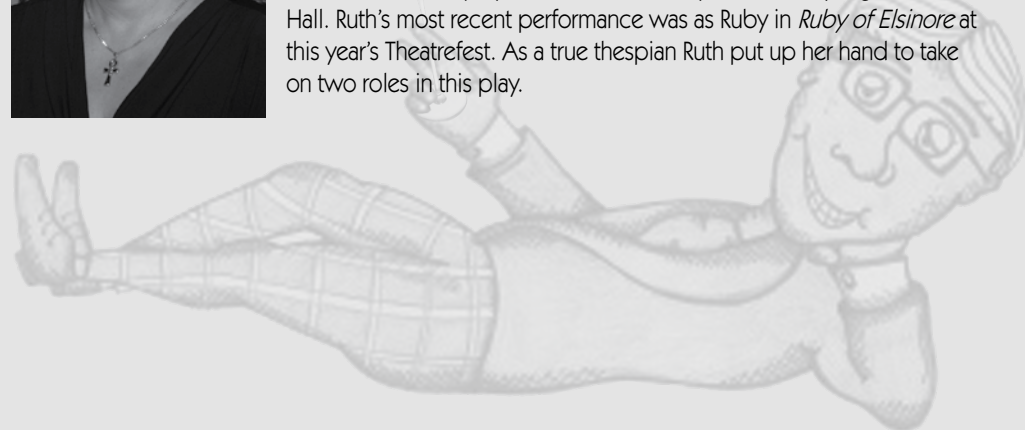
Elaine Nevazio – Sally Bartley

Sally has worked for a number of years as an extra in many TV dramas. After getting a taste for the stage through short courses at the Actor's Centre, she joined WDG in 2008. Sally has worked backstage on several WDG productions the last being *Little Women* in April of this year and debuted on stage in *No Sex Please, We're British* in 2009. Sally last trod the boards for WDG as Jane in *The Boat* for the 2010 Central Coast Theatrefest.



Bobbi Michele and Jeanette Fisher – Ruth Jordan

Ruth has been a member of Wyong Drama Group for more than 25 years and has performed in WDG productions including *Soulmates*, *The Donohoe Sisters*, *Stepping Out*, *Maggie's Getting Married* and *Two Into One*. Ruth is also the coordinator of the Central Coast Theatrefest, a festival of one act plays held in June each year at the Wyong Memorial Hall. Ruth's most recent performance was as Ruby in *Ruby of Elsinore* at this year's Theatrefest. As a true thespian Ruth put up her hand to take on two roles in this play.



If Broadway ever erects a monument to the patron saint of laughter, Neil Simon would have to be it.

- Time Magazine



Neil Simon was born in 1927. After he was discharged from the army in 1946 he spent two years as a mailroom clerk in the Warner Brothers offices in Manhattan.

He quit to write radio and television scripts with his brother Danny. His sketches for Phil Silvers, Gary Moore, Jerry Lewis etc. contributed to his wide acclaim.

He and his brother separated and Neil began writing for the New York theatre scene.

In 1961 his first Broadway play, *Come Blow Your Horn*, opened at the Brooks Atkinson Theatre and played for 678 performances.

Six weeks later his second production, the musical *Little Me* opened to mixed reviews. It failed to attract a large audience but it earned Simon his first Tony Award nomination.

He has since had seventeen Tony nominations and won three. He also won the 1991 Pulitzer Prize for Drama for *Lost In Yonkers*.

During 1966 Simon had four shows playing in Broadway theatres at the same time: *Sweet Charity*, *The Star-Spangled Girl*, *The Odd Couple* and *Barefoot in the Park*.

His professional association with producer Emanuel Azenberg began with *The Sunshine Boys* in 1972 and continued with *The Good Doctor*, *God's Favorite*, *Chapter Two*, *They're Playing Our Song*, *I Ought to Be in Pictures*, *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, *Biloxi Blues*, *Broadway Bound*, *Jake's Women*, *The Goodbye Girl*, and *Laughter on the 23rd Floor* among others.

Simon also has written screenplays for more than twenty films. These include adaptations of his own plays and also original work, including *The Out-of-Towners*, *Murder by Death* and *The Goodbye Girl*. He has received four Academy Award nominations for his screenplays.

Sweet Succulent Savoury Swordfish Steak

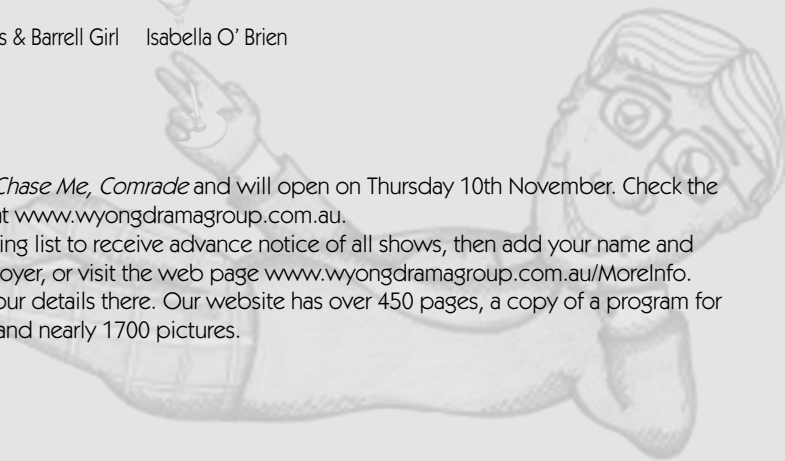
Production Team

Designer and Director	Brian Fitzsimmons
Assistant to Director	Howard Oxley
Set Construction	Barry Sampson, Charles Styles, Ian Abbott
Artwork and Painting	Nikki De Vries, Robert Cottam, Kahli Meredith, Maxine Johnston and Isabella O'Brien
Sound & Lighting	Kahli Meredith and Cameron Oxley
Production Manager	Jenny Newman
Stage Manager	Sharon Deane
Costumes, Props & Furnishings	Wendy Potter
Rehearsal Prompt	Jenny Newman
Publicity	Jenny Newman
Front of House	Jenny Newman and WDG members
Bookings & Box Office	Robyn Weidlich
Program and Flyers Design	Graham Vale
Kitchen	Ros Ellis, Julie Bailey, Ron Baker and WDG members
A Girl For Three Seasons & Barrell Girl	Isabella O' Brien

Our Next Production

The next WDG show is *Chase Me, Comrade* and will open on Thursday 10th November. Check the website for the details at www.wyongdramagroup.com.au.

If you're not on our mailing list to receive advance notice of all shows, then add your name and details to the list in the foyer, or visit the web page www.wyongdramagroup.com.au/MoreInfo.htm and you can add your details there. Our website has over 450 pages, a copy of a program for every show since 1952 and nearly 1700 pictures.





Wyong Drama Group turns 60 in 2012!!

And we're getting ready to party all year long!

So check our website for updates on the plans
for our 60th Birthday Celebrations

www.wyongdramagroup.com.au

A special Thanks to:

W.D.G. Member and local artist Maxine Johnston for the donation of a painting for the raffle.
Albert's Cafe, Carpet Choice Tuggerah, Graham Vale, Snap Printing, ABC Central Coast, The Village Grapevine,
Karen Ractliffe@About The Central Coast, June Roberts@Radio 50 Plus, Central Coast Express Advocate, Marg-
aret Hardy@MACS, Neil Litchfield Stage Whispers, Debbie@What's On Central Coast, Mountain Community
News, Local Coffee Chat, CClmag, Wyong Regional Chamber of Commerce, WSC – Shirewide.

Would you like to join our group?

Wyong Drama Group holds meetings on the first Tuesday of each month (except Jan) at 7.30pm
in the Green Room at the rear of this hall. New members are always welcome to join our dynamic
team of actors, directors, technicians and willing workers. See the website or phone 4353-4353 to
find out more.

www.wyongdramagroup.com.au

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You can pay for pre-booked tickets to
Wyong Drama Group plays here.