

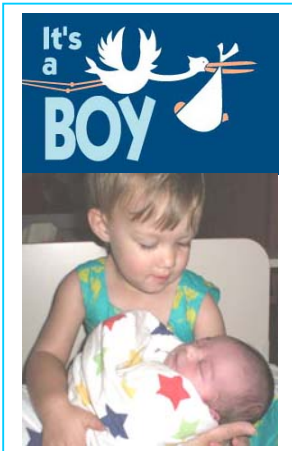
# WHAT E-NEWS

Blurring the distinction between credit and pass...and other subliminal uni references.

## EDITOR'S NOTE...

*It's a month of miracles...*

Firstly, welcome to the world - **Declan Elliot Collins**, the brand new baby son of Jane-Ann and Leigh Collins who arrived right in time for breakfast on Feb 6. Mother, father, son and siblings all doing well. The second miracle occurred around dinner time on February 13 when it was announced that all tickets to this weekend's benefit performances of **The Vagina Monologues** had SOLD OUT. (In fact, seating had to be increased by almost 20% in order to squeeze more people in than were originally planned). Tonight is opening night of the most controversial yet compelling piece of theatre to hit the coast. By Sunday it will all be over...and 540 people will have been made more aware of VDay and filled with new perspective about a range of issues. Best of all, a nice chunk of change will have been raised for some local women's support groups. If you're in the audience, please be sure to send in your feedback. We want VDay to become an annual event on the Coast.



The third miracle – three Central Coast premieres happening in one month, The 'VM's being one, **I Love You, You're Perfect...** being another and

**Influence** the other. I'm hearing great things about *I Love You...* which isn't surprising considering the cast. I haven't been able to see it due to rehearsals so please send in your feedback. Fourth Miracle: Wyong Drama Group has a new website [www.wyongdramagroup.com.au](http://www.wyongdramagroup.com.au). Ok, so it's not that miraculous, but it's still cool. Miracle five – there are **six** audition notices and two EOI ads on the classifieds page this week! That's definitely a record. Number six – my subscriber base keeps steadily climbing. According to my formula, based on the survey I took last year this means that WHAT E-NEWS definitely being read by over 1000 pairs of eyes each week.

So it's been a good WHAT E-NEWS month. The only way it could have been even better, is if another community-minded business owner decided to jump on board as a sponsor - but then how much excitement can one woman take? (*Quite a lot – as TVM's audiences will discover this weekend* ☺).

March has a hard act to follow. Luckily GMS has **Oklahoma!** waiting in the wings. This evergreen show has a fabulous cast, a string of unforgettable hit tunes and some energetic choreography to kickstart Autumn. It opens at Laycock St on March 2 for a strictly limited three week season so get your tickets early before they too sell out (and mark my words, they will).

**Until next time... let yourself go!**

*...Ed*

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HEADS



UP!

## AMANDA MUGGLETON HITS TOWN TO PLAY MUM

'LOVE CHILD', PENINSULA THEATRE, MARCH 15-\*17 (\*Inc matinee)

This is a compelling drama about a reunion between a mother and the daughter she gave away at birth. Anna is a successful film editor in her 40's who lives alone in a cold, stylish apartment, until a young woman called Billie arrives at her door. Billie acts in soap operas and is searching for her birth mother. Together these two fractured women confront the implications of distance; between then and now, between generations and between the one who gave away and the one who was let go. The play takes the characters on an emotional journey through anger and remorse to excitement and joy. **Bookings 4323 3233**

## CC MULTI ARTS CONFEDERATION PRESENTS: INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

DON CRAIG ROOM, LST, MARCH 11th at 2:30pm

Highlight of the day's activities will be a new short play by Central Coast Playwright Jill Mather called **WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH DULCIE?** Dulcie (Joan Dalgleish) is the hard done by wife of Vietnam Veteran Jim Frugle (Alf Taylor). Each has their own demons to deal with but, love conquers all - or does it? Other activities include guest speaker - human rights activist Faith Bandler, the launch of the second volume of the book *Significant Women of the Coast*, foyer exhibitions of works by invited artists. Afternoon tea will be served. Entry is **free**, but please phone to book: 4323 3233

## "EXPORT" - A CULTURAL LABORATORY

Sunday, Feb 18 at 7:30pm - Gosford/Edogawa Japanese Gardens  
Gosford Regional Gallery, 36 Webb St, East Gosford

**Programme:** As the sun sets over the Koi Pavilion, a roving audience will enjoy a diverse range of presentations including Central Dance Company's "Shifting Sands"; Indigenous singing by Kyla Williams with Kevin Duncan on didgeridoo; Japanese Tanka Poetry performed by Amelia Feilden; CC Symphony Orchestra discuss the process of composition to presentation; a guided tour of the Gallery by Charlie Trivers; trailer of a new film by Gavin Critchley and traditional folk singing from Linda Campbell. The Caroline Bay Brasserie will be open for dinner bookings from 6pm to 7:30pm only - Ph: 4324 8099 (dinner only). Cultural Laboratory Tickets are \$10, Conc/Students \$7. For tickets call Laycock St Theatre Box Office on 43 23 3233. Show goes on rain, hail or shine!

## BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE...

**Tonight and Sat night: THE FRUIT FLY CIRCUS PRESENTS: CIRCUS GIRL** at Laycock St.

**Next week: THE MESSIAH:** Laycock St, Feb 20-21. First performed in the UK in 1986 and now a favourite with British audiences, *The Messiah*, written by Patrick Barlow, is a beautiful, whimsical play within a play that is a gentle and sympathetic send-up of the British amateur theatrical tradition. "Ridiculously funny yet gloriously exhilarating" \*The Guardian

**WWLT PRESENTS:** The non-professional premiere of David Williamson's **INFLUENCE** at the Peninsula Theatre, Feb 23-March 11 (See spotlight Page 3)

## CENTRAL COAST THEATRESPORTS RETURNS TO MAD COW THEATRE

FEB 24. Theme: *THE FUTURE*

Throw a bit of tinfoil on your head and come on down for the spontaneous mayhem. Bookings: 43284432

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## SPOTLIGHT ON....

## ...PAUL RUSSELL



**How long have you lived on the Coast?** 20 years, on and off – allowing for gaol, rehab, ‘nip and tuck holidays’ and avoiding water restrictions. *(Insert disparaging remark about plastic surgeon here – Ed)*

**What is your day-job?** Mental Health Social Worker, but my night-job is much more interesting, shame you didn’t ask. *(D’OH!)*

**What did you want to be when you grew up?** Cardinal Paul Russell – costumes, rituals, all the incense you could need, being one step away from being Pope.

**When did you become involved in theatre?** 18 years old – Easter *Passion Play*

**Where did you learn your craft?** Drama Studio, Sydney – Two year course, plus amateur groups in Brisbane, Perth, Sydney; professional gigs in Sydney and touring.

**What was your first role?** Blind Man, *Passion Play* – my line was “I see!” *(Hmm, I see)*

**Favourite play/musical – in which you were involved?** *The Glass Menagerie*, Tennessee Williams...poetry for the stage. When you hear me sing its obvious why I don’t do musicals.

**Favourite play/musical that you have seen?** Anything that the five year olds are creating in the sandpit – character, story, emotion – the rest of the time we are trying to re-create that! *(And here’s me thinking buckets, spades and tonka trucks would look silly on stage.)*

**What would be/has been your dream part?** The one I am doing at the moment (thespians are so shallow) - Ziggi Blasko (*Influence*). Otherwise I would love to perform the Marquis de Sade in an adaptation of his writings, but I don’t think anyone has had the nerve to write it yet! *(Is that a dare?)*

**Did a funny thing happen to you on the way to the theatre?** I had a (very small) part in the touring production of *The Dresser* (Warren Mitchell/Gordon Chater). One line, spoken into a microphone, offstage. Got to enter stage for the last few minutes of Act One – great experience (four month tour) as a make-up exercise, never the same way twice!

**Best/Worst movies?** Best: *The Rope* (Hitchcock), *Apocalypse Now*, *Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter...and Spring* (Korean Buddhism); Worst: Any that have *Matrix* in the title, and include characters called Neo. *(Awww, come on, the first one was AWESOME)*

**TV show?** *The Simpsons*, *Cheers*, *Will & Grace*, *Shameless*. **Favourite actors?** Jack Black, Kevin Klein, Helen Mirren and our own Terry Collins. **Favourite singers?** Cat Stevens (BC: Before Conversion), Bee Gees (Bee Dee: before disco), Mick Jagger (anytime). **Radio station?** 2CCC. **Favourite spot?** Looking out my back door (trees, trees, trees, and some birds).

**Favourite food?** The way they do yoghurt now so that it tastes like you are eating cream – please don’t tell me I am. **Your ideal Saturday night?** Performing in David Williamson’s most recent (and probably last) play, *Influence*, in the first amateur production, for Woy Woy Little Theatre.

**LAST YEAR PAUL HELD AUDIENCES SPELLBOUND AS THE AFORMENTIONED ‘MARQUIS’ IN THE AMAZING *MARAT/SADE* ...HE RETURNS TO THE PENINSULA IN ANOTHER POWERFUL, BUT QUINTESSENTIALLY AUSTRALIAN ROLE. DON’T MISS THE NON-PROFESSIONAL PREMIERE OF DAVID WILLIAMSON’S *INFLUENCE*, PRESENTED BY WWLT AND DIRECTED BY FRAN KENDALL.**

**SEASON: FEB 23-MAR 11, AT THE PENINSULA THEATRE. BOOKINGS: 4344 4737**

## YOUR SAY...

Have Your Say by reply email. \*Letters may be edited for space & clarity.

### Dear Ed

I went to see "Second childhood" at Woy Woy Little Theatre. What a credit to WWLT for facilitating this play, and helping the kids from Brisbane Waters Secondary College in their course. Brenda Logan has directed a great play, which is a lot of fun. There's lots of scene changes, character changes, costume changes, but it all works out. There's some great acting there, and some interesting directorial ideas in the production. A big thumbs ups all round! **Richard G**

### Dear Ed

Loved your editorial last issue spruiking the latest new things on the coast - all of these ventures MUST happen for all of the great bonuses you note. Love ya work baby – make 'em listen! **Ross S**

### Dear Ed

It was well worth updating my computer for \$200, so that I can bring in your very interesting, informative and inspiring WHAT-E NEWS. Thanks for all the work you put into producing it. **Joan D**



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#### **THE PURSUIT OF 'HAPPYNESS' (M)** Will Smith, Jaden Smith, Thandie Newton Directed by Gabriele Muccino (*Ricordati Di Me*)

**\*OPENS FEB 22.** There's an undeniable integrity about Will Smith that comes through in everything he does. The roles he chooses – even his action heroes, are never callous in their quest for glory. If it were not based on fact, one would think this role had been written expressly for him. His portrayal of a man whose hideous run of luck results in his wife abandoning him and his young son; then finding himself rendered homeless is as good as anything he's ever done and indeed cements him in my mind as a modern day African American version of James Stewart. That this is a true story, it's not only inspiring, it's also truly shocking. The pithy circumstances under which he finds himself homeless and the depiction of the unchecked rampant homelessness in the US is a jolting indictment of their appalling welfare system and abhorrently invasive tax laws. No wonder many US citizens fear their own government. Eleanor Roosevelt said 'The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams'. This film encapsulates that sentiment without going over the top. Smith's believability ensures the inevitable happy ending still brings palpable relief. **4/5**

**ALSO SHOWING: THE QUEEN (M)** Ten years later, the world still greives the loss of The People's Princess; still searches for answers. It could have been tacky and politically driven, but this is an even-handed, non-judgemental view of what probably transpired in the week between Diana's accident and her funeral; a week which nearly destroyed the Royals' image for good as they outwardly displayed their apathy. Archive footage blends seamlessly with Helen Mirren's impeccable portrayal of a stubborn, proud monarch, torn between duty, tradition and remaining 'popular' in the modern, tabloid reading world. **4/5**

**AS IT IS IN HEAVEN (M)** A successful international conductor returns to his childhood village in Sweden. Soon he's asked to listen to the local church choir and give advice. From then on the village is never the same. The choir grows, he wins friends and enemies and he finds love. Quirky feel-good fun.

**MUSIC AND LYRICS (PG)** Hugh Grant is a washed-up 80s pop star who's been reduced to working county fairs. He gets a chance at a comeback when a big popstar invites him to write and record a duet with her. He hasn't written a song in years and he has to come up with an instant hit. Enter Drew Barrymore, his quirky plant lady, (on the rebound from a bad relationship) whose flair for words strikes a chord with the struggling songwriter. You can write the rest of the script - but it's Drew and Hugh so it has to be good!

**MISS POTTER (M)** From the Director of *Babe* and being touted as "this year's Finding Neverland", this is the biopic of the beloved children's author, whose works were so cherished, that bone-china trinkets bearing their illustrations have become cherished family heirlooms. Follows her life and romance with said illustrator, it is a story of their class struggles, with Renee Zellweger as Beatrix, Ewan McGregor and Emily Watson.

**DÉJÀ VU (M)** A ferry explodes with 500 dead. A woman's body washes up on shore nearby, her injuries suggest murder, but FBI agent (Denzel Washington) suspects a link. He soon learns of a secret technology that allows them to track by computer the victim's every movement in her last days. He's soon convinced that he can use the technology to go back in time to save them all.

**FLY BOYS (M)** The War film genre has been littered with miles of footage depicting the battles on land and by sea, but some of the most bold and brazen battles happened in the air. Combining extraordinary footage with amazing special effects, this film pays due homage to those brave, fledgling fighter pilots of WWI.

**HAPPY FEET (G) Weekends Only.** The favourite for Best Animated feature Oscar is still going strong at the box office thanks to some snappy tunes and fun voicework by Robin Williams and co.

**FROM FEB 22: NORBIT (M)** Eddie Murphy must save movie producers some money, because he keeps playing multiple parts in his movies. As versatile and convincing as the man is in drag, he still had the good sense to cast at least one good looking woman (Thandie Newton).

**FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION (M)** The excruciatingly funny Christopher Guest ensemble (*Waiting for Guffman, Best in Show, A Mighty Wind*) take extraordinary delight in parodying the egos, excess and insanity of the Oscars season.

#### It's never easy, but here are Ed's Oscar Tips for the 'Big Ones'

**Best Actors:** Forest Whittaker, Helen Mirren; **Best Supporting:** Eddie Murphy, Jennifer Hudson; **Best Screenplays:** Babel, The Departed; **Best Animated Feature:** Happy Feet; **Best Director:** Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu (Babel) ; **Best Film:** Babel

**Seniors:** \$7-50 all sessions. **Bargain days:** Tue & Wed \$8-00 All sessions **Sun** \$8-50  
All sessions (\*Except Public Hols) **Other days** \$9-00 before 6pm. After 6pm \$10-00  
Adults, \$9-00 Child (2-15) **\*LIVE ORGANIST Tue and Wed from 10:00am & 1:00pm**

## YOUR FREE COMMUNITY CLASSIFIEDS

### AUDITIONS/E.O.I.

#### LAST CHANCE: YIPA AUDITIONS SUNDAY FEB 25 from 9AM AT LAYCOCK ST THEATRE

Singers, dancers, soloists, bands, between 12-21. For more info call: 4323 3233

#### WOY WOY LITTLE THEATRE PRESENTS: THE SPIRIT OF ANNIE ROSS

Directed by Barbara Hickey. Auditions will be held at the Woy Woy Primary School at 7.30pm Tuesday Feb 27 & Thursday March 1. Characters required: three Males (age guide each role - 30-40, 40-55 and one 65+) two females (19-22 and 40-50).

#### GMS PRESENTS: 'SINGIN' IN THE RAIN'

July/Aug production. INFO NIGHT, at the GMS shed, behind Laycock St Theatre, 7.30pm, Tues March 6 (Description of main characters, audition songs and dialogue given out); AUDITIONS at the shed – Principals: 10am - 6pm, Sun March 25; Ensemble: 7pm Tues, March 27 and Thurs March 29 (and Call backs). Rehearsals begin Mon April 2. Very strong actor/singer/dancers (including tap) required, age 16+. Total cast size 30 - 35

#### WYONG MUSICAL THEATRE CO PRESENTS: 'ANYTHING GOES'

July production. Info Night; Mon, 7pm, Feb 19 at Wyong Memorial Hall, Anzac Ave, Wyong on Monday.

**Auditions** 7pm, Thurs Feb 22 at The Church Of Jesus Christ Of the Latter Day Saints, Pearce Road Kanwal. For info contact Kathy: 4352 1119. Audition material available on line at [www.wmtc.com.au](http://www.wmtc.com.au).

**CHOREOGRAPHER** also sought, contact Kathy or John: 0421250068

#### ATTENTION PERFORMERS BETWEEN 14-30...SHOW US YOUR FORTE!

'Forte' is a non profit cabaret-style show running on May 4-5 at Laycock St Theatre. It is aimed at young performers who want a chance to display their talents in a fun, high-quality production. Auditions at Lisarow High School Hall, March 4 from 9AM. For further info contact Jennifer on 0438 631 772 or email [jennifer\\_kaye35@hotmail.com](mailto:jennifer_kaye35@hotmail.com)

#### GMS JUNIORS NEXT PRODUCTION 'THE JUNGLE BOOK

To be directed by Christopher J Walker (*Guys and Dolls* seasons 1&2). Production will hit the Laycock Stage in July School holidays. Rehearsals will be on all Saturdays and some Sundays as production draws near. Auditions on Sat and Sunday March 3&4. Ensemble - from 8am-1pm. Principals - 1.30pm-5pm, (from 1.45pm on the Sunday). Open to kids between the ages of 8-18, some on stage singing and dancing experience preferred. For information ring production Manager Geoff Buckland: 0425 249781 or 43284872.

#### BOTTOM LINE PRODUCTIONS – PRODUCTION TEAM EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Bottom Line are seeking production team members for its next two projects. 'Spike Heels' is an edgy play with a cast of four. Req'd: director, stage manager and set designer. 'You're A Good Man Charlie Brown' – The musical based on the comic strip – cast of six. Req'd: choreographer, stage manager, musical director and set designer. For further inquiries, call Erin: 0422527715

### PUBLIC NOTICES

#### PERFORMANCE/REHEARSAL SPACE FOR HIRE

Mad Cow Theatre, Brooks Ave Wyoming. Ideal smaller venue for intimate, cabaret style performances, comedy performances, revues, corporate functions etc. Seating raked for up to 85 patrons and can be removed to reveal a carpeted workshop space of 130m square. HSC Performance space for examinations & private interview room. For more info call 4328 4432.

### MISC. NOTICEBOARD

#### MERIN GRAHAM THEATRICAL COACHING

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**News of all upcoming Jazz gigs on the Coast:** [www.jazzleague.net](http://www.jazzleague.net)

All ads are free. Maximum two lines only - approx 30 Words or less

## HERE'S YOUR CUE - THIS SPACE FOR RENT!

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## CALENDAR...

### AVOCA BEACH THEATRE

**Feb 14-17** - Bottom Line productions presents the Central Coast premiere of *I love you, you're perfect, now change*. Four shows only. Tickets \$25. Contact: [enquiries@blppl.com](mailto:enquiries@blppl.com) or purchase at the theatre.

**GOSFORD MUSICAL SOCIETY:** [www.gosfordmusicalsociety.com](http://www.gosfordmusicalsociety.com) ph: **4323 2300**

July/Aug - *Singin' in the Rain*, director Darryl Davis (see Page 6); Oct/Nov – *Oliver!* Director Chris King

**GOSFORD REGIONAL GALLERY East Gosford Ph: 4325 0056**

Art and Literature talks are held at 2pm on the last two Saturdays of each month (except school holidays) Cost: \$7.50 & \$5 members. Jill Mather will speak on **Feb 24** about Roald Dahl.

**LAYCOCK STREET THEATRE:** [www.laycockstreet.com](http://www.laycockstreet.com) **Box Office: 4323 3233.**

**Feb 16-17** – The Flying Fruit Fly Circus presents: Circus Girl. **Feb 20-21** - The Messiah; **Feb 23** –

Supper Club with Carol Ralph (sold out!); **Mar 2-19** – GMS presents: Oklahoma!; **Mar 7** – Marion

Martin is The Flower of Scotland (matinee); **Mar 11** – International Women's day celebration in the

Donnie, featuring the play *What's the Matter with Dulcie* (free, but bookings essential); **Mar 15-17** –

Amanda Muggleton in Love Child; **Mar 23** – Supper Club: Jiri's Red Hot Papas

**MAD COW THEATRE:** [www.madcowtheatre.net](http://www.madcowtheatre.net) **Brooks Ave, Wyoming. 4328 4432**

Next Theatresports Feb 24 @ 8pm. Theme: 'The Future' dress up and win a prize!

**THE PENINSULA THEATRE, Cnr McMasters & Ocean Beach Rds, Woy Woy.**

**Feb 23-March 11:** David Williamson's *Influence* **Mar 24** – Messages from Beyond, with psychic Michael Wheeler

**V-DAY WYONG, WYONG MEMORIAL HALL**

**Feb 16-17** - *The Vagina Monologues*. **SOLD OUT!**

**WOY WOY LITTLE THEATRE: Venue - Peninsula Theatre. Box office: 4344 4737.**

**Feb 23-March 11:** David Williamson's *Influence* Directed by Fran Kendall.

**WYONG DRAMA GROUP:** [www.wyongdramagroup.com.au](http://www.wyongdramagroup.com.au) **Ph: 4353 4353**

**April 19-28** - David Williamson's *Soulmates*. Table seating, BYO nibbles and drink.

**WYONG MUSICAL THEATRE CO:** [www.wmtc.com.au](http://www.wmtc.com.au) **Bookings: 1300 366470**

**July** production "Anything Goes" (Check Auditions page 6)

## TOTALLY RANDOM QUOTES #25

"IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW MANY TIMES YOU SAY THE WORD, IT NEVER SOUNDS LIKE A WORD YOU WANT TO SAY."

...EVE ENSLER, *THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES*

**WHAT E-NEWS** is a networking resource for the Coast's theatrical community, distributed by e-mail every second **FRIDAY**. © ROSE COOPER  
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**Next issue: Friday March 2.**  
**Opening night of Oklahoma!**

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