

WHAT E-NEWS

Back to good old 'what's its name'.

EDITOR'S NOTE...

Big news about little plays!



This is the kind of news I'm always hanging out to deliver. The world's biggest short play festival – **Short & Sweet** is coming to town. Short & Sweet was conceived by Mark Cleary of the Newtown Theatre in Sydney. In just six years it has grown to be the world's biggest event of its kind. The irresistible formula of small, tasty 'bites' of theatre is a huge hit with audiences...as well as a chance for upcoming artists to strut their stuff. Gosford City Council will host its own week-long festival of short plays at the Peninsula Theatre from **24-28 July**. Artistic director of the season will be local actor, writer & director **Steven Hopley**, himself a Short & Sweet. Award-winner (Best Director). Steven is well known

locally for his comedy and Shakespearean productions and has had his own short plays performed at the Sydney Opera House and internationally including *Paradise*, *Carpe Decaf* and *The Aussie Pride BBQ*. Unfortunately, the deadline for scripts is a mere three weeks away. **Entries close on 18 May**. They can be submitted by any current or former resident of the Central Coast. There is no restriction on cast size, theme or style – but the play's duration must be no longer than ten minutes. To submit scripts or seek further information about Short & Sweet at: www.shortandsweet.org. You can download the Script Entry Form from the Central Coast page of this site. **GOOD LUCK!**

Something else has become irresistible lately and that is tickets to **Gosford Musical Society** productions. In her 60th year, the old girl seems to be hitting her prime. Following the sell-out seasons of *Oklahoma* and (juniors' production) *Peter Pan* earlier this year, tickets to the next productions ***Singin' in the Rain*** and ***The New Jungle Book*** started selling before auditions were even completed! It has become an imperative – if you want to see these shows you can't wait around for the last minute to buy your tickets. GMS isn't getting any younger you know! *Singin'*'s lead cast consists of Wil Coleman (*Shout*) as Don Lockwood, Richard Lovegrove (*Bugsy Malone*, CC Theatresports) as Cosmo Brown, Karen Snook (choreographer of *Shout*) as the hilarious Lina Lamont and gorgeous GMS newcomer Monique Donath, who will dazzle Laycock St Theatre audiences as Kathy.

Congratulations to Wyong Drama Group on ***Soulmates***. This slick production of the acerbic David Williamson play is getting raves (see letters page four). It closes this weekend. There are still a few seats left at Wyong Memorial Hall, but be quick, call 4353 4353.

And for those of you who delight in the occasional foreign tongue, the **original French Friday** is back – at **The Ritz**, Kincumber. Tonight's feature is ***The Singer***, with Gerard Depardieu. For the teensy ticket price of \$16 you can mingle in the foyer and have drinks and nibbles from 7.30pm. This disarming feature then commences at 8.30pm.

Until next time...plan ahead!

...Ed

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UP!

COME WHAT...MAY?

(What's happening next month that hasn't been plugged yet?)

AT LAYCOCK STREET THEATRE:

APEX'S **'FORTE'** ...A SHOWCASE OF YOUTH TALENT IN A CABARET FORMAT ON **MAY 5**

Brilliant young performers from the ages of 12-30 are set to strut their stuff next Saturday as part of a new initiative from APEX. Following in the tradition of YIPA, *Forte* will showcase brilliant singers, actors, musicians etc. Tickets are only \$15/\$10 conc. and available at the Theatre: 4323 3233

* * *

NEXT SUPPER CLUB: THE BLUE MARTINI'S MAY 18...The Blue Martinis are led by Elizabeth Geyson whose vocal style is inspired by Astrid Gilberto, Peggy Lee, and June Christy. Sleek and sophisticated with just the right amount of swing, The Blue Martinis also feature pianist Sam Boyd, James Waples on drums and John Maddox on double bass. Expect this one to sell out the Don Craig Room, so book early: 4323 3233.

AUSTRALIAN THEATRE OF THE DEAF presents *ALIENS* - MAY 18...Gosford City Council presents this one hour performance for hearing and non-hearing persons. It is the story of a Chinese acrobat and an Afghani nurse fleeing their homelands and subsequently held in an Australian detention centre. This is a story about war, journeys and hope and addresses some of the thorny issues of Australia's refugees. **All Tickets: \$2** (Community Grant funding applies)

* * *

AT THE PENINSULA THEATRE, WOY WOY:

This month's **CULTURAL LABORATORY** is another mixed bag of music, images, stories and information! **FRIDAY MAY 4.**

Steven Hopley will launch the drama initiative **SHORT & SWEET** - Central Coast style. NSW Woman of the year Nominee **Ruth Ross** has a fascinating life story to impart; Two young stars of the upcoming **YIPA** festival will perform – singer Jade McCudden and dancer, Brianna Hatter, both local HSC students; **Christopher Sainsbury**, will discuss the art of classical music composition; **Garry Sleeman** is a reclusive artist who will debut his stunning drawings of Woy Woy life, and A film preview of a hot international tour by the virtuoso duo instrumentalists Izhar Elias and Eric Bosgraaf. Izahr and Eric perform contemporary classical compositions while featuring contemporary short film creations inspired by the theme "BIG EYE". Each presentation is of less than ten minutes duration and tickets are a mere \$10. Bookings: **4323 3233**

* * *

Troubadour Central Coast Inc. presents **"COLLECTOR"** MAY 19 @ 7.30

Steeped in traditional music while retaining a sense of fun for the audience at the same time, the band COLLECTOR breathes new life into the old songs and dance tunes of our native culture. Delivering lively tunes, heartfelt ballads, a Capella singing and tasteful arrangements, Collector wins all plaudits for playing and recreating the grand old music of the Australian Bush. Phone bookings: 4323 3233 or from Peninsula Music, 38 George St, Woy Woy. Ph 4342 9099.

SPOTLIGHT ON....

...JUZ MCGUIRE



How long have you been a Coastie? For as long as I could cradle a shotgun on my knee & sit lazily on the ol' rocker on the front porch...so, all of my natural life.

What is your day-job? By day I'm a mild-mannered, conservative lawyer, but by night I become part of the super-hero, crime-fighting duo....Stills & Nash. *(Co-incidentally I'm part of evil duo 'Crosby and Young' – Ed)*

What did you want to be when you grew up? Palaeontologist, brain surgeon, astronomer, astrophysicist, lawyer, politician, chemical engineer...when all of those failed I decided to try the whole arts thing out. *(So, what's the next thing on standby? Kidding!)*



Talented in the art of impro, Juz is (left).

When did you become involved in theatre? When dad became interested in it. It was just a big coincidence...really. *(Spooky)*

Where did you learn your craft? Anywhere I can. I've been in & out of various institutions but the best lessons come on the job. *(You underestimate the method of our Mental Health industry)*

What was your first role? 'Blind Man Pew' in Yr 3. The school musical was *Treasure Island*, the role stank, but the acting was good. *(I hear you bumped into things like a professional).*

Favourite play/musical – in which you were involved? *Moby Dick*, STC or *The Chrysalids*, Mad Cow Theatre Co. **Favourite play/musical that you have seen?** *Play*, *King Lear* (Bell Shakespeare) Musical, *The Producers*

What would be/has been your dream part? *MacBeth* or *Prince Hal (King Henry IV Part 1, 2 & Henry V)*. **Did a funny thing happen to you on the way to the theatre?** Yes. It was a ripping good yarn, ripping good. *(I'll say, it was one of the funniest stories ever!)*

Best/Worst movies you ever saw? Tough question. Top 3: *The Godfather*, *Clockwork Orange*, *Apocalypse Now*. Worst: *Napoleon Dynamite* (90 min of my life I'll never have back)

Favourite TV show? *Boston Legal*, *Family Guy*, *Stargate SG-1*. **Favourite actors?** Peter O'Toole, Geoffrey Rush, Diane Keaton, Ewan MacGregor, David Wenham

Favourite singers? The Who, The Rolling Stones, Cat Empire, David Bowie, Jamie Cullum

Favourite local radio station? Prefer the CD player. But I'll usually tune into ABC 702.

Your favourite area on the Coast? Either Hardy's Bay; comfort of my own home or in the wings at Mad Cow Theatre. **Favourite food?** Nothing beats a good beef casserole or Lamb shanks on a nice winter's evening. **Your ideal Saturday night?** Quaffing an expensive bottle of red with even richer company doing whatever takes the moment. *(You impetuous thing, you)*

JUZ IS THE SECOND GENERATION OF YET ANOTHER LOCAL ACTING DYNASTY. HIS DAD IAIN (AKA MOUSE), DIRECTOR OF MAD COW THEATRE CO. IS A FAMILIAR FACE TO LOCAL THEATREGOERS, WHO ALSO MAKES REGULAR APPEARANCES ON THE SMALL SCREEN. WHILE HIS ACTING HAS TAKEN A BACK SEAT TO HIS STUDIES IN RECENT YEARS, JUZ KEEPS VERY BUSY AS A TUTOR AT MAD COW, AND YOU'LL ALSO CATCH HIM EVERY MONTH PERFORMING HILARIOUS IMPRO WITH CCTHEATRESPOITS. LAST YEAR HE MADE HIS DIRECTING DEBUT WITH THE CHRYSALIDS. NEXT HE'LL DIRECT HENRY IV (OCTOBER SCHOOL HOLIDAYS). Mad Cow Bookings: 43284432

YOUR SAY...

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

Dear Ed

I've just seen David Williamson's **Soulmates** by Wyong Drama Group. Having attended its professional premiere by the Sydney Theatre Co. a few years ago, I was keen to go again. As usual, WDG put on a classy performance, with a slick set and fine actors portraying the complex characters of Williamson's literary world. Great, witty modern Australian drama at its best, and while the venue isn't flash, this production certainly is! Well worth the trip from Newcastle.

Maria K.

Dear Ed

We saw **Soulmates** last Thurs and it was fantastic. We had friends with us from America and they thought it was excellent. We can't wait for the next production. Thanks for all the effort and thanks to everyone associated with Wyong Drama Group. We have loved every production we have seen.

Anne and Tony G

Dear Ed

I would like to congratulate the cast & crew of *The Truth About Heaven*. They put on a great production & should be very proud of themselves. Though youth may not have the experience, they more than make up for it with their creativity & an exuberant, bountiful energy. Those of us in the established theatrical community would do well to absorb some of this enthusiasm.

Juz M

VALLEY ARTISTS PRESENT:

The Summer of the 17th Doll



Laguna Hall, Wollombi, May 18-27. Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm, Wednesdays and Sundays at 6.30pm. Bookings: 4998 3419.

QUICK REMINDERS... Saturday night - *Theatresports goes 'Down Under' at Mad Cow... May 3, Bruce Mathiske brings his sizzling strings to Laycock St... where Belinda Giblin stars in the poignant drama Shoehorn Sonata, May 10-12*

***See calendar for times and booking details.

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***THE SINGER (or 'Quand j'étais chanteur')* (PG) Starring: Gerard Depardieu, Cecille deFrance. Directed by Xavier Giannoli (*Une Aventure*)**

Alain Moreau, (Depardieu), is an entertainer in the old style. In his 50s, overweight and not in the best of health after a lifetime of smoking and debauchery, he's a popular figure in Clermont Ferrand, in the centre of France, where he has a loyal following for the familiar songs he sings at weddings and other functions. His ex-wife is now his manager and looks after him; they sleep together occasionally. But then Alain becomes smitten by a newcomer in town, the much younger Marion, (CECILE de FRANCE), a single mother who isn't at all sure about their relationship. The lovely thing about this film, which is written and directed by Xavier Giannoli, is the deftness with which it avoids all the obvious clichés. There've been umpteen films made about middle-aged men involved with women half their age and at first you assume this will be another of them. But things are kept fresh thanks not only to the effortlessly good performances of Gerard Depardieu - his best in quite a while - and the lovely Cecile de France, but also the graceful way Giannoli explores this small-town world filled with lonely, unfulfilled people. This is a truthful and touching exploration of an inherently unexpected relationship. (Review Margaret Pomeranz of ABC's *At the Movies*. 4/5)

ALSO SHOWING: *BECOMING JANE* (PG)

Anne Hathaway (*The Devil Wears Prada*), is absolutely radiant as she effortlessly assumes the part of driven, passionate, yet innocent writer Jane Austen, without showy affectations. McAvoy's cocky 'Lefroy' is the perfect foil and his crystal blue eyes provide the means by which every female audience member will melt. Acting aside, I fell madly in-love with the quirky direction and lush cinematography. If the Devil is in the detail, then Beelzebub was well sated here. Four two, rather brisk hours, one is steeped in 18th Century England. Reality comes as a jolt after the final credits. You feel like you were there. I loved every romantic, erotic, bucolic, character-filled frame. If this movie was a man, I was putty in its hands. 4.5/5

***SCOOP* (PG)** First it was Diane Keaton, then Mia Farrow and Judy Davis; now Scarlett Johansson joins the list of muses to the genius of Woody Allen. First featured in his juicy thriller *Matchpoint*, Johansson exercises her comedic muscles here, whilst Allen maintains his love affair with both London and the suspense genre. Here she plays opposite Hugh Jackman and Allen himself.

***MEET THE ROBINSONS* (G)** Disney's latest is about a youngster who invents a Memory Scanner. He tries to retrieve his own memories of his mother to discover why she put him up for adoption. But before he can, his invention is stolen. Lewis has all but given up hope when he meets Wilbur Robinson - who takes him in his time machine forward in time to spend a day with Wilbur's eccentric family. In a world of flying cars they uncover the amazing secret of Lewis' future family.

***MR BEAN'S HOLIDAY* (PG)** Mr. Bean travels to the South of France on holiday, causing the usual mayhem and ending with an unscheduled screening of his video diary at the Cannes Film Festival.

***THE LAST KING OF SCOTLAND* (M)** Based on the novel by Giles Foden, the film views Amin through a fictional character, the young Scottish doctor Nicholas Garrigan, who signs on in 1971 as Amin's personal MD. Nicholas is seduced by Amin's charisma and awakens too late to his evil. The plot stretches the boundaries of realism when the doc has an affair with one of Amin's wives but Oscar winner, Forrest Whitaker completely and utterly amazing as the devilishly charming madman.

COMING SOON MAY 3: *SPIDERMAN III* (M) Spiderman is back, and pursued by several nemeses including the dark side of himself. The stunning trailers hint that this one could be the best yet.

***DISTURBIA* (M)** Yet another teen horror flick, but this one gathers together elements of *Rear Window*, *The Girl Next Door* and the *Blair Witch Project* all together. If you have been wondering what Carrie-Ann Moss and David Morse have been doing lately - wonder no more. ***BECAUSE I SAID SO* (PG)**. Legendary Diane Keaton plays the meddlesome mother of three daughters; all of whom have had erratic love lives. She steps in with her youngest, Mandy Moore, and places a personal ad on her behalf, vetting all the applicants.

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

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AUDITIONS/EOI

WDG PRESENTS: COMMUNICATING DOORS BY ALAN AYCKBOURN

Auditions Monday April 30 and Weds May 2. Cast required, three males (35-55) and three females (20s-40s). Rehearsals commence Mon and Thurs from May 14. Production dates August 11-25.

Expressions of interest sought for people interested in helping with: sound and lighting design, costumes, props, publicity, set construction, lighting and sound during the show, stage management, back-stage crew, front-of-house, Canteen and so on. Call Christine: 0417 388 251

GMS PRESENTS OLIVER – ADULT ACTORS STILL REQUIRED

Junior leads and ensemble have been cast, but performers aged 16+ are now required to fill lead roles such as Bill Sykes, Nancy, Fagin, Mr Bumble, The Widow Corney and The Sowerberries, as well as a various other characters and ensemble. Info night June 15 @ 7.30 at the GMS Shed behind Laycock Street theatre. Auditions: July 1, 3 and 5 (principals by appt.) Audition material available from GMS Costumes, Henry Parry Drive. Four week season commences Oct 12. For further info call production mgr, Gary Keys: 0414 656748 or visit: www.gosfordmusicalsociety.com

WORKSHOPS

SET DESIGN WORKSHOP THIS WEEKEND AT THE PENINSULA THEATRE!

Following the success of last year's Stage Management workshop, Woy Woy Little Theatre Inc. will be hosting a Set Design workshop at the Peninsula Theatre on April 28 & 29. This is a rare opportunity to receive advice from a qualified industry professional. For further information or to reserve your place, contact Brenda Logan on 4343 1027 or email ablogan@cirruscomms.com.au
Cost: \$10 Students, \$20 WWLT members, \$40 non-WWLT members. Age Limit: 16+

MISC. NOTICEBOARD

GMS CELEBRATES 60 YEARS WITH A BIG PARTY/PRODUCTION IN NOVEMBER

Head of the celebration committee Darryl Davis is looking for contributors to this wonderful event which takes place in November. He's looking for suggestions and volunteers to perform in this walk down memory lane. If you're a past or present member of GMS and you'd like some input, contact Darryl at: lamancha2000@yahoo.com

MERIN GRAHAM THEATRICAL COACHING

This popular and talented local performer is now a performance coach. For groups or private tuition, audition prep and all aspects of acting and musical performance. For info ph: 0400 395390

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CALENDAR...

BOTTOM LINE PRODUCTIONS

For more info about upcoming shows, visit: www.blppl.com

GOSFORD MUSICAL SOCIETY: www.gosfordmusicalsociety.com ph: 4323 2300

July holidays the juniors present The New Jungle Book. July/Aug - *Singin' in the Rain*, director Darryl Davis; Oct/Nov – *Oliver!* Director Chris King. Jan 08 Juniors show: *High School Musical*.

GOSFORD REGIONAL GALLERY East Gosford Ph: 4325 0056

Art and Literature talks held 2pm, the last two Saturdays each month (except school holidays) Cost: \$7.50 & \$5 members.

LAYCOCK STREET THEATRE: www.laycockstreet.com Box Office: 4323 3233.

May 2 – Four Decades of Neil Sedaka (Mat); **May 3** – Bruce Mathiske's Sizzling Strings; **May 5** – CC Apex "Forte" Youth talent; **May 10-12** – Shoe Horn Sonata; **May 18** – Supper Club: The Blue Martinis; **May 18** – Australian Theatre of the Deaf presents, Aliens; **May 19**

MAD COW THEATRE: www.madcowtheatre.net Brooks Ave, Wyoming. 4328 4432

April 28 @ 8pm. Theme "Impro Down Under". Dress as your favourite Australian and win a bonza prize!

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

May 4 – Cultural Laboratory - a feast of artistic delights in an open atmosphere. **May 23** – Mikelangelo and the Black Sea Gentlemen, back by popular demand.

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

June: The Spirit of Annie Ross, directed by Barbara Hickey.

WYONG DRAMA GROUP: www.wyongdramagroup.com.au Ph: 4353 4353

LAST WEEKEND! David Williamson's *Soulmates*. Table seating, BYO nibbles and drink. August Production – *Communicating Doors*, directed by Christine Vale. See auditions.

WYONG MUSICAL THEATRE CO: www.wmtc.com.au Bookings: 1300 366 470

July 13- 21: Anything Goes. (Tickets also available from Mingara Ticketek).

TOTALLY RANDOM QUOTES #30

"I didn't like the play, but then I saw it under adverse conditions - the curtain was up..."

...The one and only Groucho Marx

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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