

Neither rain, nor sleet, nor snow, nor flu, nor hangover will stop WHAT getting through

## Editor's note...

### Access all areas...

As *Singin' in the Rain* winds up from its sell-out season at Laycock Street Theatre this weekend I just wanted to share a little snippet of what's been going on backstage. As with most GMS shows, this cast is quite big and diverse. This being the case, it's usually not until a show goes into



Kerrie Rochford pictured with Alan Moore

production that everyone really gets to know each other – during the downtime between chorus numbers. In this show, the backstage bonding has been further enhanced by **Kerrie Rochford** – who has taken her role of 'radio reporter to the stars, Dora Bailey' to the next level, by writing her very own little tabloid gossip column, complete with pictures, and posting it in the dressing rooms. This is probably the first show I've been involved with, where I reckon everyone in the cast could actually name everyone else – due to the fact that **Dora's Daily** has united us in this nightly ritual of reading juicy rumours and hilarious innuendo. Bravo Dora – I hope you make random reappearances back stage in future shows. Every big cast needs its own gossip columnist...it's a Hollywood law!

While we're backtracking just a wee bit, I thought I'd give a shout out to **Ross Stagg**, who now knows how Bruce Beresford must have felt when *Driving Miss*

*Daisy* won the Oscar (and Beresford was an odd omission in the best director category that year). Every wrap-up (including my own) of the recent **Short n Sweet** play festival at the Peninsula made mention of all of the winners and the responsible directors, except for Mr Stagg, who directed *Black Dog*, *Pink Panther*, which tied for the People's Choice award and also bagged Best Actor for his son Randall. Well done Ross! (Better late than never, eh?)

Last night Wyong Drama Group's latest production – **Communicating Doors**, had its grand opening for debut director Christine Vale. WDG's productions are always of a very high standard – so do yourself a favour and check out this time-travelling murder mystery/comedy by Alan Ayckbourn. The play runs until August 25. Due to the intricate nature of the plot, Wyong Hall is decked out with tiered seating, but the usual party atmosphere prevails so BYO drink and nibbles for before, after and at interval. Book now on: **4353 4353**

**Until next time...get some sleep for heaven's sake!**

...Ed

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HEADS



UP!

**ITS ALL GOOD, CLEAN FAMILY FUN NEXT SCHOOL HOLIDAYS!**

This Sept/Oct school holidays there's more family entertainment than you can poke a stick at. Each project will have their own moment in the **spotlight** in coming weeks – but as these are all **local** productions I wanted to start the publicity ball rolling! Sneaking in first on Sept 27, the team who brought us *Marat/Sade* (Ad Hoc/ARAFMI) will present **GET REAL**. This is an **original** musical adaptation of the popular story of *The Velveteen Rabbit*. The production (co-written and directed by Terry Collins) features **Merin Graham** and **Gareth Davis** (GMS *SHOUT!*) and **Anthony George** (GMS *The King and I*). It's a funny, heart-warming play with a great message. The show will do two brief seasons, one at the Peninsula Theatre and one at Wyong Memorial Hall the following week. Following hot on its heels will be WMTC's production of the **Wizard of Oz**, directed by Kathy Veale, which opens Sept 28 at Wyong Memorial Hall. This evergreen classic is a favourite with audiences of all ages. Then from Oct 3, Bottom Line Productions presents another Broadway hit: **You're a Good Man Charlie Brown** – this joyful musical (based on the Charles M Schultz comic strip) features the top-line local cast of **Brett Perkins** (Charlie Brown), **Erin Cook** (pictured, as Lucy), **Josephine Gleeson** (Sally), **Scott Herdman** (Linus), **Murrie Harris** (Schroeder) and **Stuart Smith** (Snoopy). Tickets go on sale Sept 1. As the holidays draw to a close, GMS' **Oliver!** opens, Oct 12! Ticket sales are up to 80% (new shows TBA). With all these family-friendly shows on during the holidays, not one 'little angel' on the Coast will have the right to whine about being bored – but book early!



This spring, *LST* tries on a new 'Cosi', as Newcastle Festival Opera presents: **COSI FAN TUTTE**

*This spring, LST tries on a new 'Cosi',*

**as Newcastle Festival Opera presents: COSI FAN TUTTE**

It's Schoolies' Week on the Gold Coast! Two bored schoolgirls try to resist temptation. Two boys bet that their girls will never be unfaithful. Will the innocent girls fall for two hunky new fellows who show them the high life of Surfers Paradise? Mozart's sublime music describes the sincere emotions, tears and joy which the couples go through in this, their moment of decision. Laugh or weep, you will be charmed by these four young lovers. An alternative, heart-warming comedic opera from Newcastle Festival Opera! **Bookings: 4323 3233**

**ENCORE! ENCORE! FREEBIES! FREEBIES! FREEBIES!**

**ENCORE - the One Night Only Tour** stars four of Australia's best Opera/Broadway Musical performers Clarissa Spata (Opera Australia); Javier Vilarino (Sydney Opera); Nate Butler (WA Performing Arts) and Eva Spata (Channel 10 Young Achiever). Also featuring The Spirit of the Coast Harmony & Central Coast Philharmonia. Experience the magic of some of the greatest songs ever composed, sung by Australia's finest **ONE NIGHT ONLY - Weds Aug 22 at 7:30pm** at Laycock St Theatre. Tickets normally \$34 (\$30 conc, \$22 child), but **MENTION WHAT E-NEWS** and you can **BUY ONE ticket - get the 2ND TICKET FREE! BOOKINGS: 4323 3233**

Laycock St/Whoosh/Critical Stages present **THE MEMORY OF WATER**

Trapped by a snowstorm in the hours before their mother's funeral, three highly dysfunctional Sisters endure a humorous but unsettling reunion, as their grieving process brings the past into dispute, and each sibling's memories compete for authenticity. Reminiscent *Hannah and Her Sisters*, *The Memory of Water* unerringly, and ultimately inspiringly, reveals the many ways in which a death in the family uncovers the absurdity of life. **BOOKINGS: 4323 3233**



2006 GOLD LOGIE WINNER, JOHN WOOD *STARS IN*  
**THE CLUB**...By David Williamson  
LAYCOCK ST THEATRE, SEPT 14-15. Book now: 4323 3233

## SPOTLIGHT ON....

...**SIERRA PHILLIPS**



**How long have you been a Coastie?** 18 months

**What is your day – job?** Legal Secretary

**What did you want to be when you grew up?** Besides taller? A lawyer or a dance teacher.  
(Either way you have to keep on your toes – Ed)

**When did you become involved in theatre?** About 21 years ago.

**Where did you learn your craft?** Edith Cowan Uni, though I'm constantly learning! Life is the best teacher. (Indeed, but man...is she strict!)

**What was your first role?** I was a snowflake at age three - white leotard covered in cotton wool balls, very stylish! (Which is disillusioning, cos I saw another person dressed exactly the same way once – I thought that wasn't supposed to happen)

**Favourite play/musical – in which you were involved?** *Oliver!* With Johnny Young Talent School or *Shout!* with Rockdale Musical Society

**Favourite play/musical that you have seen?** *Phantom of the Opera* and *Priscilla*

**What would be/has been your dream part?** Desdemona (*Othello*)

**Did a funny thing happen to you on the way to the theatre?** Yes, but then Will Smith erased my memory of it with a flash-stick-thingy.

**Best/Worst movies you ever saw?** Best: *Amelie*, *Somersault* Worst: *Men in Black* and *Grease 2*

**Favourite TV show?** The Simpsons.

**Favourite actors?** Audrey Hepburn, Nicole Kidman, Janeane Garofalo

**Favourite singers?** Grace Knight, Diana Krall,

**Favourite quote?** When you're skating on thin ice, you may as well tap dance. (I sourced this one to Bryce Courtney, but I'm sure he paraphrased it – can't find the original author).

**Your ideal Saturday night?** Seeing a show with good company, good food and a glass of merlot.

**SIERRA'S FOUND A NICE NICHE HERE IN THE CENTRAL COAST THEATRE COMMUNITY. YOU MAY HAVE SEEN HER PERFORMING IN NO LESS THAN THREE SEPARATE PLAYS AT THE RECENT 'SHORT N SWEET'. HER NEXT PART WILL BE IN AN INDEPENDENT ENTRY INTO CENTRAL COAST THEATREFEST, WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY ANDREW THOMPSON. THIS ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF ONE-ACT PLAYS (WHICH WAS POSPONED FROM JUNE), IS RESCHEDULED FOR THE WEEKEND OF SEPT 8 AT WYONG MEMORIAL HALL. FEATURED ARE PLAYS FROM ALL THE FAR FLUNG CORNERS OF NSW, AS WELL AS LOCAL OFFERINGS FROM WWLT AND WDG. A FULL SCHEDULE OF PLAYS, AWARD PRESENTATIONS AND TICKETING INFO WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF WHAT E-NEWS. FOR FURTHER ENQUIRIES 4353 4353.**

## Kudos Korner...

Seen something you like? Write to Ed. \*Letters may be edited for space & clarity.

### Dear Readers



As mentioned here a few weeks ago, local boy ← **Benjamin McKenzie** has made it through to the top 100 of **Australian Idol**, 2007. GMS fans will recall Ben as Prince Charming in **Trouble in Pantoland** as well as playing Prince Louis in **The King and I**. Ben's had a very successful career so far, winning eisteddfods and talent quests, and now, at the tender age of 16, he finds himself staring down the barrel of National stardom on Idol. After his audition (which screened last Monday night) we hope this talented lad retains a thick skin – as this kind of test is not for the faint hearted. Kyle was none too complimentary about his first impression of Ben before he started to sing! Good luck Ben, keep the faith – something tells me you will go far (but of course, I can't say just how far, cos it's a badly kept secret). To see how Ben fairs, don't forget to tune in on Sunday and Monday nights at 7.30 on Channel Ten. If you missed his audition, have another squizz at [http://www.australianidol.com.au/video.html?sitename=primary&channel=NSW+&+ACT&clipid=1933\\_487TT130807](http://www.australianidol.com.au/video.html?sitename=primary&channel=NSW+&+ACT&clipid=1933_487TT130807)

**B**ut wait there's more amazing news! Many readers would know a local lad by the name of **Luke Heywood** (former GMS junior and son of popular local musician, Jim). Well, he and his associate, Tim Pass have been short-listed at the annual **New York Television festival** in the independent pilot category. As you read this – Luke will be jetting off on his first overseas holiday to schmooze among the suits of NBC, CBS, HBO and the like. Way to go Luke! Their pilot is a workplace comedy entitled: *Chance Your Hand*. And indeed they are! Inspirational stuff indeed. **Ed**

### Dear Ed

I've long been a big fan of GMS, but some shows have really stuck out for me. Two have been *Les Miserables* (2001) and *The Scarlet Pimpernel*. So, when I discovered that *Singing in the Rain* was directed by the same man - Darryl Davis, I knew this would be another fantastic production. I was not wrong. Between stellar performances from all of the leads (my two favorites being Richard Lovegrove and Terry Lay) with one of the most amazing sets I've seen on the GMS stage and one of the strongest ensembles I've seen, I found myself clapping and singing along. Congratulations to the production team, cast, and crew on a fantastic production. I'm looking forward to seeing what Chris King does with *Oliver* in about eight weeks time. **Andrew S.**

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### **SNOW CAKE (M)** Starring Alan Rickman, Sigourney Weaver, Carrie-Ann Moss Directed by Marc Evans (*Dal: Yma/Nawr* - a Welsh Documentary)

A lonely, middle-aged English traveller (Rickman) meets a quirky young girl at a diner while traversing the great plains of Western Canada. She scams a lift, they form an unlikely bond and then she is killed when his car is hit by a wayward semi-trailer. To assail his grief he visits her mother (Weaver) who turns out to be a highly functioning autistic. He also meets and woos her hot neighbour (Moss) and finds the entire bizarre experience to be a beautiful rite of passage. This much of the story was readily apparent in the preview I saw a couple of weeks ago, so I don't feel like I've issued a spoiler. Right off the bat we know this will be poignant, bittersweet, romantic and funny. The icing on the cake is just how biting the humour is – mostly issued from Weaver's character as her affliction mercilessly bypasses the usual social niceties. I'm a sucker for this kind of flick, but there was an added drawcard – seeing how Rickman would fare as the romantic hero. Major Kudos to the director for casting the actor against type. He miraculously shrugs his *Harry Potter* personae very early on, after revealing his first smile (a startling phenomenon that hits the viewer like a UFO sighting). Rickman's performance soon reminds us of his pedigree, as Professor Snape dissolves into flesh, blood, heart...and dare I say it – loins! Yep, Severus 'gets his end in' here, a plot point which stretches the bounds of reality just a smidge (Moss *is* a fox – perhaps Rickman whipped out a magic wand after all?) but in this beautifully constructed story any teensy doubts are dispelled as the story seeps through you. Yes, the film is a chilling reminder of the fragility of life but it's also life-affirming. Watching it feels akin to curling up on a winter's day, by the fire with a page turner, a glass of red and a bar of Cadbury's. The Hollywood ending is avoided, but one feels satisfied, if slightly bereft at its open-ended conclusion – just like a great book. **4/5**

### **ALSO SHOWING:**

**THE SIMPSONS MOVIE (PG)** It seems like this movie has been in the works for at least 13 of the record-breaking 18 seasons this show has dominated the airwaves. The fans have been gagging for this yellow, four-fingered family to make their way onto the big screen and it doesn't disappoint.

**LA VIE EN ROSE (M)** Iconic French songbird, Edith Piaf is further immortalised by this splendid biopic in a performance which has the film-world buzzing.

**I DO... HOW TO GET MARRIED AND STAY SINGLE (M)** This French rom-com was the highest grossing film in its homeland for 2006. A confirmed bachelor is harassed by his family to wed, so he finds a girl who he is sure will stand him up at the altar – and get his family off his back forever.

**LUCKY FOR YOU, GREAT FILMS RETURN FOR ONE WEEK ONLY FROM AUG23**

**ROMULUS MY FATHER (M)** This one's a pearler. It's a raw, brutal, rags-to-dirtier-rags autobiographical story that breaks your heart – and if it's lost anything in the retelling as a screenplay I'd be surprised. It's a tangible slice of lower class Australian family life in the 50s, the acting is breath-taking, the cinematography sublime and vice versa. **A must-see. 4.5/5**

**AS IT IS IN HEAVEN (M)** This Swedish charmer has become a phenomenon. Made in Sweden, the movie has beaten *Titanic* in box office takings at Sydney's Hayden Orpheum Picture Palace where it is still showing, nine weeks after its release!

**SHREK THE THIRD (PG)** Cartoon-dom's most loveable ogre is back with his new bride and best mate Donkey and new sidekick, Puss N Boots. With new characters and the usual Pop culture references, the laughs keep coming, while sticking to the tried and true fairytale formula which delivers a valuable moral with each installment.

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### AUDITIONS/EOI

#### **NO AUDITIONS AGAIN THIS WEEK...BUT THERE'S A SHORT FILM FESTIVAL!**

Valley Artists Inc is proud to announce they are now receiving entries for the **Wollombi Valley Short Film Festival**. Entries are up to 10 minutes duration – any genre and entry forms can be downloaded from [www.valleyartists.org](http://www.valleyartists.org) or pick one up at the Laguna Wine Bar. **HURRY!** Entries close on August 24. Send entries to the Old Northern Trading Post, Laguna, 2325. The presentation will be held at the Laguna Hall on Friday September 21 at 7pm. For enquiries phone: 4998 3419 or send an e-mail to: [filmfestival@valleyartists.org](mailto:filmfestival@valleyartists.org)

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**WANTED!**

*E-mail Ed for details*

Don't miss... *Glenn Cardier...and Earlwood Greg*

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# CALENDAR...

## BOTTOM LINE PRODUCTIONS @ AVOCA BEACH THEATRE: 4382 1677

**October 3-13** - You're A Good Man Charlie Brown! Tickets on sale **from September 1st**

CENTRAL COAST CONSERVATORIUM, MANN ST, GOSFORD - 4324 7477

**Aug 18** – Tim Kain guitar recital (7pm); **Sept 6** – Two Guitar Legends...George Golla and Don Andrews (8pm); **Sept 16** – Trio Accord presents: Spanish Impressions @ 2.30.

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](http://www.laycockstreet.com) Box Office: 4323 3233.

**SOLD OUT till Aug 18** – GMS - Singin in the Rain; **Aug 22** – Encore, for one night only (7.30); **Aug 26** – Sydney Male Choir (2pm); **Aug 29-30** – King Lear; **Aug 31** – Supper Club – Glen Cardier; **Sept 1-2** – Newcastle Festival Opera presents: Cosi Fan Tutte; **Sept 3** – NFO presents: Let's Make an Opera; **Sept 5** – Francine Bell sings songs from the heart (11am); **Sept 7-8** – Memory of Water; **Sept 10-11** – Central Coast Schools' Showcase; **Sept 14-15** – John Wood stars in The Club.

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

**Aug 26** – Theatresports – James Bond Theme – dress up and win a prize!

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

**Sept 27-Oct 2** – Ad Hoc Community Theatre and ARAFMI presents Get Real (an original musical adaptation of the story of The Velveteen Rabbit); **Oct 19-Nov 4** – Mr Bailey's Minder

WOY WOY LITTLE THEATRE: [www.wwlt.com.au](http://www.wwlt.com.au) Box office: 4344 4737.

**Oct 19-Nov 4: Mr Bailey's Minder**, directed by Brenda Logan

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

**August 16-25-** Alan Ayckbourn's *Communicating Doors*. Raked seating, BYO nibbles & drink for consumption before show and during interval. Free tea and coffee; **Sept 7-9** Central Coast Theatrefest, festival of one-act plays.

WYONG MEMORIAL HALL

Ad Hoc and ARAFMI presents - Get Real, October 8-11 @ 2pm and Oct 10 @ 8pm

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**Sept 28-Oct 6: The Wizard of Oz**

## **RANDOM QUOTES** (FROM PEOPLE WHO ALSO TURNED 60 THIS YEAR) **#38**

"To be or.....*LINE?*"

**BILLY CRYSTAL**

*Do you have a favourite quote? Send it in and I'll publish it here with your name.*

**WHAT E-NEWS** is a networking resource for the Coast's theatrical community, distributed by e-mail every second **FRIDAY**. © ROSE COOPER  
ABN: 37 325 543 554  
**Next issue: Friday August 31**

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