

Who's your daddy?

Editor's note...

And so we begin again... Spring is the season of renewal and change. The warmer weather entices us outdoors and the ether becomes positively fecund with new ideas, projects, romance and rejuvenation. Spring is also happily the time to welcome a brand new sponsor – **REVERB** Street Press. What is Reverb? It is a free magazine full of the music, arts and youth culture of the Central Coast and Newcastle, delivered monthly to music stores, venues and clubs, theatres and galleries. Its aim is to deliver up-to-date news, quality writing, all with a personal local touch. So look out for the glossy cover next time you're out, take it home, pass it around, line the bird cage with it – whatever, it's free! Every month yours truly will contribute a small column on local happenings, while REVERB puts their stamp of approval on your local e-newsletter – it's a marriage made in media heaven – and yet another way in which WHAT E NEWS is doing it's darnedest to put more bums on seats!



In more 'new' news, Congratulations to new director **Christine Vale** and cast of WDG's **Communicating Doors**. They brought this tricky concept to vivid life as they held the audience in the palm of their hand, delivering brilliant suspense and honouring the witty dialogue. Great stuff!

On a personal note – I will experience my own first next week, when I perform in one of Wyong Drama Group's entries into **Central Coast Theatrefest** (*What's for Pudding?*). It will be the first time I've acted in front of a judge – for the purpose of competition! Exciting stuff. For more info, check the schedule, page two.

On a sad note, there's unavoidably been a big change to your WHAT E NEWS this week. You'll notice the omission of a movie review page, due to the fact that, after 10 years, the Wilkinson family made the tough decision to close the **Ritz Kincumber Theatre**. It is with much sadness that I report that the Ritz has loaded her last reel. As I only found out on Wednesday...I left the page out...something will replace it next issue.

Meanwhile, the prodigious **Manic Bunny** boys have entered another short film competition – but they need your help to win the \$5000 first prize. Visit: www.dietcokefilms.com.au **ON FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 7** and vote for the film the boys have posted entitled **LATE NIGHT SHOPPING**.

And while we're feeling helpful - superb local soprano, **Lucy Bailes** has been accepted to the prestigious Guildhall School of Music & Drama in London. She has organized some fundraisers to help with her tuition, so try and get along to any or all of the following. 1. A special recital on Sept 7 at St James Church in Bryon St Wyong. Tickets \$15. Ph: 4394 0777. 2. A Night of Opera at Café Sicilian on Sept 9 @ 5.30. Tickets \$65, includes three course meal. Ph: 4322 0434 and 3. Lucy's farewell concert in St. Andrew's Cathedral, Town Hall Square (Sydney). It will feature a programme of Lucy's favourite pieces. Friday, Sept 14 @ 7pm. Tickets \$20, bookings: 4394 0777. Or contact her at lucybailes@gmail.com Good luck and bon voyage Lucy!

Until next time...Keep voting for 'our' Ben, who made it into the Aussie Idol Top 12...yay!

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HEADS



UP!

IT'S FINALLY ON -CENTAL COAST THEATREFEST ONE FESTIVAL, ONE DAY, NINE ONE-ACT PLAYS!

NEXT SAT SEPT 8, WYONG MEMORIAL HALL.

TICKETS \$10 per session or \$25 for full day's events. Sold at the door.

Originally planned for June, but postponed because of storm damage to the venue, Wyong's annual festival of one act plays is set to be relaunched as **Central Coast Theatrefest** with a fabulous day of short plays (up to one hour's duration). A variety of dramas and comedies will be on display, including several original pieces and will feature some of the finest actors locally and around NSW! The day ends with a special awards presentation from the official judges. At \$10 per session or \$25 for a full day and night's entertainment, it's a great day out for lovers of community theatre. Come and be inspired – you may wish to enter next year!

FULL DAY'S PROGRAMME:



Joan Dalgleish
plays 'Dulcie'



Duncan Mitchell
wants 'Pudding'



Pollyanna Forshaw
Is 'Caged'

Session 1 9:30 am

1. "What's for Pudding?" Wyong Drama Group
2. "What's the Matter with Dulcie?" Multi Arts Confederation
3. "An Act of Flood" Another Floody Production

~Lunch Break~

Session 2 1:30 pm

4. "The Maelstrom" The Brook Community Theatre Group
5. "The Dumb Waiter" Wyong Drama Group
6. "A Dog's Life" Woy Woy Little Theatre

~Afternoon tea~

Session 3 4:30 pm

7. TBC Lane Cove Theatre Company
8. "The Cagebirds" Wyong Drama Group
9. "Colette's Feast" The Wild Party Inc

~Dinner Break~

Session 4 8:30 pm

A demonstration from Central Coast Theatresports
Official awards presentation and party. Official adjudicator is Lyn Piere – NIDA
tutor and author of *Theatresports Down Under*.

Baby baby baby...it's the one we've all been waiting for!

WHOLE LOTTA LOVE!

Following the success of **The Great Gig In The Sky** (Pink Floyd) and **Bring On The Night** (The Police/Sting), Contempree Calderazzo return to pay homage to **Led Zeppelin**. Led Zeppelin redefined rock and roll in the Seventies. They were as influential in that decade as the Beatles were in the Sixties. Their impact extended to classic and alternative rock fans alike. Then and now, Led Zeppelin looms larger than life on the rock landscape as a band for all ages with an almost mystical quality. This will be a concert featuring male and female vocalists along with one of the best house-bands in the country, including stringed instruments played by members of the Opera Australia.

ONE NIGHT ONLY, SEPT 29. BOOK NOW! 4323 3233

SPOTLIGHT ON....

...MERIN GRAHAM



How long have you been a Coastie? Since way before the F3 freeway

What is your day-job? Singing Teacher

What did you want to be when you grew up? As long as it was on a stage I didn't really care.

When did you become involved in theatre? The early seventies. I had performed before this but not in theatre. (*I'm guessing tantrums in shopping malls? Ed*)

Where did you learn your craft? On stage. Guidance came from wonderful people like Bonnie Bryant and Fran Kendall. I studied performing arts at the Q Theatre in my teens and then went on to the University of Wollongong where I majored in Music Theatre and Opera.

What was your first role? I was a RAT in *Dick Whittington* directed by Fran Kendall for WDG

Favourite play/musical – in which you were involved? *Zimmer* (by Dorothy Hewitt), *Leader of the Pack*, *Paris* and *The Vagina Monologues*.

Favourite play/musical that you have seen? *The Importance of Being Ernest* starring Dr Evadne Hinge and Dame Hilda Brackett at Sydney Opera House. I laughed so much I slid out of my chair!



THERE YA GO, MEZ!

Your dream part? Anything with Johnny Depp.

Did a funny thing happen to you on the way to the theatre? Funny you should ask. Actually no.

Best/Worst movies? Best: *Elizabeth*. Worst: I've blocked it out.

Favourite actors? Dame Judi Dench, Cate Blanchett, Toni Collette, Julie Walters, Johnny Depp, Robert DeNiro, Al Pacino, Harvey Keitel. **TV show?** *House*

Favourite singers? Tom Jones, Jimmy Barnes, Katie Noonan, David Campbell, Janis Joplin, Etta James, Coco Taylor, Big Mama Thornton.

Favourite quote? Ahhh...but you HAVE heard of me (Captain Jack Sparrow, *PotC*)

Your ideal Saturday night? Doing a show then having a quiet drink with friends. Going home, having a bubble bath and going to bed. Very boring really. (*Only if the last two options are done solo*)

MAGNIFICENT MERIN HAS HAD A COLOURFUL HISTORY IN LOCAL THEATRE. HER BIG BELTING VOICE HAS GRACED MANY PRODUCTIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ALL THE MORE MEMORABLE FOR HER PERFORMANCES. RECENTLY SHE PLAYED JOHNNY O'KEEFE'S MUM IN GMS' *SHOUT*, A WAILING REVOLUTIONARY IN *MARAT/SADE* AND SHE VENTED RELENTLESSLY AS 'MY ANGRY VAGINA' IN *THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES*. HER NEXT INCARNATION IS AS THE RAG-DOLL IN THE ORIGINALLY-DEvised MUSICAL *GET REAL*, BASED ON THE CHILDREN'S STORY THE VELVETEEN RABBIT. THIS COMBINED PROJECT BY ARAFMI AND AD HOC COMMUNITY THEATRE IS FUN AND INSPIRATIONAL FAMILY FARE. OPENS SEPT 27-OCT 2 AT THE PENINSULA THEATRE WITH A SECOND SEASON AT WYONG MEMORIAL HALL FROM OCT 8-11. (Evenings/ Matinees). **TICKETS ON SALE MONDAY! \$15/\$10. (Group discounts).**

PH: [Peninsula: 4323 3233](tel:43233233) or [Wyong: 4353 4353](tel:43534353)

Kudos Korner...

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

Dear Ed

What a lovely thing to say about 'Dora' and myself. You've made me laugh again this week - I love the extra bits you put in your newsletter, (for people who know you) they make it sound just like you're talking. I'm glad you reminded me about **Ben McKenzie** – in Australian Idol. I watched it on Sunday (or Monday) night, wracking my brain and trying to remember where I'd heard him talk and sing....*Trouble in Pantoland!* Of course! What a great line up of shows we have ahead - I have to alter my calendar to get there. Thanks for making sure you give us an early warning! **Kerrie R**

Dear Ed

Wyong Drama Group's *Communicating Doors* was absorbing and entertaining from start to finish. Kudos to debut director, Christine Vale who brought us a show that was gripping, hilariously funny and moving. Simple technical effects made the complicated premise transparent, and convincing performances from the tight ensemble are to be applauded. Wyong veterans, Pam Campbell and Laszlo Weidlich shone in their respective roles and promising newcomer, Leanna McNeill, gave a warm and sympathetic performance. Rosemary Parsons was delightful and Mike Jeffries' superb comic timing added sparkle. A hugely enjoyable show and an excellent start in Christine's directing career. I look forward to seeing more of her productions. **Karen R**

Dear Ed

Just wanted to say that we went to *Singing in the Rain* on Saturday night and it was absolutely fantastic. Wow, don't we have some wonderful talent around! **Cathie S**

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AUDITIONS/EOI

GMS PRESENTS 'ANNIE GET YOUR GUN' MARCH 2008

Director - Anne Hart, MD - Heidi Lambert, Choreographer – Karen Snook. INFORMATION NIGHT Monday October 22 at 7-30 pm in the GMS shed, behind Laycock Street Theatre. All information about the show, the characters and what is expected at auditions will be explained and audition material will be available. Auditions on Monday Nov 5 and Tuesday Nov 6, with Weds reserved for callbacks. Rehearsals commence: Monday November 12. For info on the show have a gander: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Annie_Get_Your_Gun_%28musical%29

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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

Sept 6 – Two Guitar Legends...George Golla and Don Andrews (8pm); **Sept 16** – Trio Accord presents: Spanish Impressions @ 2.30; **Oct 21** @ 2.30 – Blown Away II;

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.

TONIGHT Supper Club - Glenn Cardier; **Sept 1-2** – Newcastle Festival Opera: Cosi Fan Tutte; **Sept**

3 – NFO presents: Let's Make an Opera; **Sept 5** – Francine Bell, 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; **Sept 23** – CC Symphony presents original works; **Sept 26** – Post School

Options Variety Concert; **Sept 28** – Supper Club with Carol Ralph; **Sept 29** – Whole Lotta Love

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

Sept 14 – GRADUATION SHOW for the latest batch of Theatresports students...all tickets \$5; **Sept**

29 – Theatresports – Wildcard show to celebrate GMS' 60th anniversary – dress as your favourite

Broadway character! **Oct 4-13** - *King Henry IV Part I - The Don of England*. Youth production,

directed by Juz McGuire. Tickets: \$16/\$12

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 Box office: 4344 4737.

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

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

Nov 8-17 – Eric Idle's hilarious play, Pass the Butler.

WYONG MEMORIAL HALL

Sept 8 - Central Coast Theatrefest...a day long festival of one act plays. Tickets \$10 per session or \$25 for the full day – purchase at the door; **Oct 8-11** - Ad Hoc and ARAFMI presents - Get Real, @

2pm and Oct 10 @ 8pm

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

Sept 28-Oct 6: The Wizard of Oz

RANDOM QUOTES (FROM PEOPLE WHO ALSO TURNED 60 THIS YEAR) #39

"When I was 15-years-old, I took off my clothes and looked in the mirror. When I stared at myself naked, I realized that to be perfectly proportioned I would need twenty-inch arms to match the rest of me."

Arnold Schwarzenegger

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
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