

Performing to the usual standard

Editor's note...

Theatrefest proves a winning 'Feast'.

Well, despite another big downpour last week, Wyong Memorial Hall kept her powder dry – and the Central Coast Theatrefest went ahead without incident on Saturday. A great (big) day was had by all. Adjudicator



Lyn Pierse (Actor, NIDA tutor) was extremely gracious with her comments and constructive criticism and rose brilliantly to the task of not just adjudicating, but also judging and presenting the awards later in the evening. Big winners on the day were The Wild Party Inc for the play *Colette's Feast*, an original play by local playwright, Jill Mather – who was also awarded best unpublished play for *What's the Matter With Dulcie?* Also walking off with a swag of 'Woscars' was 'host nation' Wyong Drama Group. Pictured are most of the cast of *The Cagebirds*

which was awarded Best Production overall, directed by Millie Sampson – foreground).

In two short weeks, it will be school holiday time and time for four productions to all open in quick succession, starting with **GET REAL**, then **THE WIZARD OF OZ**, followed by **YOU'RE A GOOD MAN CHARLIE BROWN** and **KING HENRY IV – DON OF ENGLAND**. Check the calendar for times, venues and information. There really is something there for everyone, of all ages! Of course, **Oliver!** opens at the end of the holidays – tickets are at a premium now, so get a move on!



I think I speak for most when I say **CONGRATULATIONS BEN MCKENZIE!** Of course all Coasties are proud of him, but GMS members maybe just that little bit more. It's a talented family – his sister Kate, another GMS regular, also has a knock out voice and looks to match. Go Ben – keep making those awesome, earthy song choices matey and you'll keep on winning votes. I'm not personally acquainted with Marty, but best of luck to him too. It's so nice to see the Coast over-represented. There's definitely something in the water. No wonder we're on restrictions.



Time to toot my own horn. This month a new bi-monthly national publication will hit the stands. Called **ELEVATOR**, it's an edgy, original, humorous, informative, nostalgic read, specifically aimed at the unisex baby-boomer market (anyone born between 1946-64). Well, guess who has been retained as a regular contributor? I have a (satirical) advice column for starters – and I will also have features in future issues. If you happen to be around that vintage and you are sick of crappy tabloids full celebrity gossip – please have a gander. It is the brainchild of Greg Hunter, the same editor who originally helmed *Inside Sport Magazine* (and published my first article in 1992). **Until next time...if you're a baby boomer and you are facing a dilemma – please write and let me know...I need all the advice column inspiration I can get!**

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HEADS



UP!
 ← Paul
 supporting his
 supporting
 actor award!

AND THE WINNERS ARE...

Wyong Drama Group weathered the storm to waltz off with several of the awards on Saturday, but there should have been another award for 'Commitment to the Festival' given jointly to the festival organisers and all the volunteers. When it was decided to hold the festival all in one day – this meant that FOH, tech crew, raffle and refreshment stalls, stage manager, MC etc worked tirelessly from well before the first play was staged at 9.30am, until the last award was handed out at around 10.30pm – then the seating had to be put away, so several members didn't sit down for their first beer till after 11pm. On behalf of everyone who took part in the festival I'd like to thank all those people for their amazing dedication. It was a wonderful day's entertainment which ran very smoothly. It will all happen again next June, check out WDG's website for information on how to enter: http://www.wyongdramagroup.com.au:80/TheatreFest_2007.htm



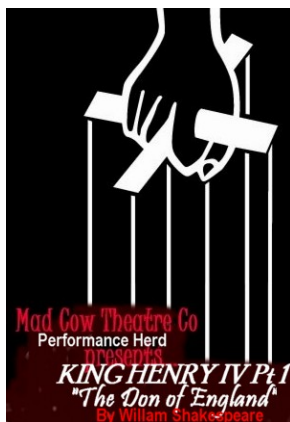
Adjudicator Lyn Pierse and organiser Ruth Jordon.



Howard Oxley & Laszlo Weidlich played "Dumb"

Category	Winner	Production
Best Costumes	The Wild Party Inc	<i>Collette's Feast</i>
Best Set	The Wild Party Inc	<i>Collette's Feast</i>
Best Director	Pauline Wright	<i>Collette's Feast</i>
Best Production	Wyong Drama Group	<i>The Cagebirds</i>
Best Production Runner-up	Wyong Drama Group	<i>The Dumb Waiter</i>
Best Ensemble performance	WWLT	<i>A Dog's Life</i>
Best Actor	Duncan Mitchell (WDG)	<i>What's For Pudding?</i>
Best Actress	Pollyanna Forshaw (TWPI)	<i>Collette's Feast</i>
Best Supporting Actor	Paul Ractliffe (WDG)	<i>What's For Pudding?</i>
Best Supporting Actress	Sierra Miller	<i>An Act of Flood</i>
Best Unpublished play	Jill Mather	<i>What's the matter with Dulcie?</i>
Adjudicator's Special Award	Max Paul & Simone Dighton	(Encouragement)
John Axford Memorial Award	Joan Dalglish	(Versatility in three plays)
Apex 40 Award	Julie Young (WWLT)	<i>A Dog's Life</i>

What happens in The Family stays in The Family...

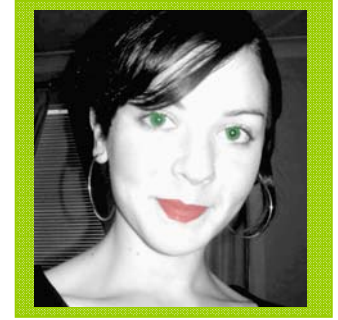


There is rebellion in the Families of Britain. A story unfolds full of intrigue, plotting and deceit between Henry, Don of England and the other Dons of Britain. Who shall claim power and restore the honour within the families? Amongst these powerful men we are shown the foot soldiers of the Mafia. The common thugs who create the back bone of organised crime. What difference is there between good and evil when honour and loyalty exist? This Shakespearean classic has been reworked with Mafia stylising, putting a modern twist on some very timeless values...after all, its just one big happy family. **KING HENRY IV – THE DON OF ENGLAND** is directed by Juz McGuire (*The Chrysalids*) with a youth cast featuring: Emily Arkell, Kirsty Black, Matthew Clark, Dylan Clunes, Raif Colbert-Smith, James Culbert, Cooper Drabsch, Jessica Durnford, Kim Kelly, Travis Kesek, Cameron McGinley, Jack Power, Megan Reid, Andrew Toyer and Kieran Turner. **SEASON: Oct 4 - 13 @ 8pm. Mad Cow Theatre, Brooks Ave, Wyoming. Tickets- \$16/\$12. BOOKINGS: 4328 4432**

STOP PRESS: TONIGHT – SEPT 14 - IS GRADUATION NIGHT FOR CENTRAL COAST THEATRESPORTS LATEST BATCH OF RECRUITS. COME AND SEE THE ROOKIES PLAY AT MAD COW FOR THE SPECIAL PRICE OF \$10. BOOKINGS: 43284432

SPOTLIGHT ON....

...**JOSEPHINE GLEESON**



How long have you been a Coastie? I moved down here from Brisbane in 1999...and I'm gradually becoming a true Coastie. (*Scary thought...quick, get thee to NYC! – Ed*)

Your day-job? In a pharmacy, but mainly while away the hours with my head stuck in a book.

What did you want to be when you grew up? Grown up. I still wish I could grow a couple more centimetres at least. But seriously, all I've ever wanted to do was sing well. (*Mission accomplished!*)

When did you become involved in theatre? My solo debut was at age four singing the National Anthem at school. My first show was in high school. I joined GMS Juniors in 2003.

Where did you learn your craft? I have no clue. I know that it's something inherent, not learnt or taught...but I've been fine-tuning it with my awesome singing teacher Cheryl Lea

What was your first role? Princess Jasmine in my school's production of *Sheik Rattle N Roll*



Favourite play/musical – in which you were involved? To date it has to be the current one – *Charlie Brown*. Playing a six year old is challenging but so much fun, and the music kicks ass!

Favourite play/musical that you have seen? *Rent* - without a doubt.

What would be/has been your dream part? Can't go past Eponine in *Les Miserables* and Jo March in *Little Women*. (OMG, you were born to play Jo March – and Belle in *Beauty and the Beast*. Am I gushing? Oops...sorry. I'll stop now)

Did a funny thing happen to you on the way to the theatre? So many! Most included Cheezels, Ruthie Tiffen and a lot of Pepsi Max. **Best/Worst movies you ever saw?** Best: *The Matrix* and worst: *Home Alone III*. (*Hmm...you think you would have learned from numbers 1&2 not to go there*)

Favourite TV show? *Seinfeld*. **Favourite actors?** Anthony Hopkins, Al Pacino, Dustin Hoffman, George Clooney, Gary Oldman, Ian McKellan and Audrey Hepburn.

Favourite singers? Rufus Wainwright, Jason Robert Brown, Jason Mraz and Ella

Favourite quote? "Keep the change ya filthy animal." (*I looked it up – it's from 'Home Alone'. Sad*)

Your ideal Saturday night? Icecream, pizza, old movies, friends and a piano for wine-time!

STAR QUALITY – IT'S AN INDEFINABLE THING. WE HAVE MANY IMPRESSIVE PERFORMERS ON THE COAST...BUT A FEW HAVE THAT EXTRA SOMETHING. YOUR ED IS AN UNABASHED FAN OF THIS WONDERFUL YOUNG PERFORMER. SHE HAD ME AT 'FOLLOW THE FOLD' PLAYING SARAH BROWN IN GMS JUNIORS, GUYS AND DOLLS IN 2004/5 AND THEN CHARMED THE BIRDS FROM THE TREES AS GERTRUDE McFUZZ IN SEUSSICAL THE MUSICAL. HER PERFORMANCES OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS AT YIPA HAVE BEEN WORTH THE PRICE OF ADMISSION ALONE. DO NOT MISS THIS LOVELY YOUNG LADY INHABIT THE ROLE OF SALLY BROWN ALONGSIDE SOME OF THE MOST ACCOMPLISHED PERFORMERS ON THE COAST, IN BOTTOM LINE PRODUCTIONS YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, CHARLIE BROWN, FROM OCT 3-13 AT THE AVOCA BEACH THEATRE. THEN, WHEN SHE BECOMES A BIG STAR, YOU CAN SAY YOU KNEW HER WHEN.

Kudos Korner...

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

Dear Ed

Just a quick note to let you know Central Dance Company (Australia) will celebrate their **18th Birthday** this October with a programme of exciting ballet and contemporary dance showcasing dancers from Gosford, Wyong and Newcastle areas. This season of four performances celebrates 18 years of successfully promoting talented young dancers from the region. A Milestone achievement, it highlights the performance and career opportunities enjoyed by countless dancers since 1990. The programme includes classical favourites "Sleeping Beauty Act III, Aurora's Wedding" including guest dancers from the Australian Ballet Dancers Company - Sarah Thompson & Chengwa Guo. Exciting contemporary works "Synthesis" and "In the Mangroves" and a wonderful all-male dance choreographed by guest choreographer Aleeta Blackburn. **Donna B** *It sounds spectacular Donna – the dates and times are listed on the Calendar under Laycock St Theatre - Ed*

Dear Ed

Reading Merin Graham's "Spotlight On" in the 31 August issue, she mentioned she was a Rat in the "Dick Whittington" Panto for Wyong Drama Group. The show must have been in 1970 or 1971. I actually saw the production, and vaguely remember the rat. I can also remember "Jack and the Beanstalk" with the characters Bubble and Squeak and the two-headed giant, I think this was the year before? I think I am becoming senile with the reminiscing. **Peter D** *Nostalgia...it's not what it used to be. You sound to me like the right age for Elevator! Ed.*

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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

MISC. NOTICEBOARD

LIGHTING DESIGN WORKSHOP WEEKEND AT THE PENINSULA

WWLT have organised a workshop weekend for people interested in learning basic lighting design and how lighting can be used in a theatre set design process. The workshop will take place on the weekend of 22 & 23 September, at the Peninsula Theatre, Woy Woy, from 10am - 4pm. Cost: \$40 adults* \$10 students (*20 WWLT members). Call Brenda Logan on: 4343 1027 OR EMAIL ablogan@cirruscomms.com.au to book your place.

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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 **NOW!**

CENTRAL COAST CONSERVATORIUM, MANN ST, GOSFORD - 4324 7477

Sept 16 – Trio Accord presents: Spanish Impressions @ 2.30; **Oct 21** - @ 2.30 – Blown Away II; **Oct 28** – Happy Hands piano recital (2.30pm); **Nov 14** - Un Dia de Noviembre, guitar recital by Eric Cathan (7.30); **Nov 18** – Best Sax of My Life (2.30pm)

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

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 Led Zeppelin tribute; **Oct 3** – Adam Scicluna (Mat); **Oct 4-6** – Central Dance Co. 18th birthday; **Oct 12-Nov 3** – GMS' presents Oliver!; **Oct 17** – Arj Barker.

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

Sept 14 – GRADUATION SHOW for the latest batch of Theatresports students...all tickets \$10; **Sept 29** – Theatresports – Theme – Eurovision! Break out your bell-bottoms and sequins and win a great prize. **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 5-6** – Bangers and Mash; **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. Tickets on sale Mon Oct 2

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

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

WYONG MEMORIAL HALL

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 #40

“Society exists only as a mental concept; in the real world there are only individuals.”.

Oscar Wilde

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