

Off on a tangent, back in five minutes.

Editor's note...

I'm not the kind of person to go nuts with PMT!

No, I don't refer to 'that time' of the month, although this brand of PMT is also a reserve of the fairer sex. I refer to the **Proud Mother Thing**. Tonight is the opening of Gosford Musical Society's **Oliver** at Laycock St Theatre. There are two sets of kids' casts, which will alternate each show ('East Enders' and 'West Enders') and tonight's opening night will feature East Enders, **Joshua Engstrom** as Oliver and my son **Riley Holt** as



'Dodger' and Mum, Xmas 1995

The Artful Dodger. If you happen to be in the opening night audience and you see one chorus member looking a bit more delirious than the others, it's probably me. Mind you this could apply to several of the parents in the cast. With 30 different relatives either on stage or behind the scenes, this show must set some sort of record for family involvement. Notably, Fagin, played by **Geoff Hay**, is finally stepping on stage along side his kids Andrew and Maddy. Geoff's worked backstage for the juniors for years. Talk about hiding your light under a bushel! Meanwhile, the other two brilliant youngsters who will shine in the lead roles in the West End camp will be **Daniel Russell** as Oliver and **Tyson Almand** as Dodger. I was in *Oliver* in sixth grade (chorus, again, naturally) and I remember being really jealous of the girl who got to play Dodger. No, I didn't attend a girl's school, it's just that the best person for the role at the time was female. Little did I know then that one day history would repeat itself in such a cool way. Break a leg *Oliver!* cast and

have a fantastic season. The show has already virtually sold out, so a second extra show has gone on sale. (Check the box office also for late returns).

It's really been a week for getting in touch with my inner child. Last weekend I was fortunate to catch the vibrant **You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown**. Seriously, do yourself a favour and catch this show tonight or tomorrow before it closes. This very slick production is most definitely a treat for all ages. My good mate Alan Moore ('Dexter' in *Singin in the Rain*) loved it so much on the Friday night, he came back again the very next night! Congratulations to Bottom Line Productions for snaring this first rate cast for such a tight ensemble performance. Kudos too, to Mad Cow's Performance Herd on their chilling rendition of **Henry IV – Part One**. The bright young cast did the Bard – and director Juz McGuire proud. Our spotlight girl from last issue – **Kim Kelly**, certainly made the notion of 'typecasting' obsolete, with her jolly rendition of Falstaff. This play also winds up this weekend, so try and get down to Mad Cow Theatre for a bit o' culcha! Unfortunately, if you missed out on Ad Hoc's **Get real** (or as I came to think of it – **Existentialist Street**) then you missed a truly heart-warming and colourful production. Some of the original songs really did make the hairs on the back of your neck stand on end, and you can't quite beat powerhouse Merin Graham when she belts out a bluesy number! All in all a fantastic week to be a Coastie Theatre junkie – with kids. With only a few weeks left till the silly season commences, there's still much more to come for 2007 and you'll hear about it all – HERE.

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HEADS



UP!

WHEN LIFE HANDS YOU A LEMON, MAKE A MUSICAL COMEDY

Life's a Lemon is the life story of Maggie Scott's alter ego **Raylene Starr**, who was raised in Sydney's Western suburbs. Raylene's personality has many facets: the party animal, the wife, the mother, the daughter, the friend, the crazy auntie, the artist and in later life, the Feng Shui expert. She has a sensational singing voice and tells her life story through music. Raylene's never say die attitude is fun and inspiring. Drum Media described the show as: "*Uproariously funny...impeccable timing...utterly brilliant!*" Laycock St Theatre box office: 4323 3233

PERFORMANCE TIMES: 8.30pm FRIDAY OCT 19, and at 5PM & 8.30PM SAT OCT 20

CC CONSERVATORIUM PRESENTS: 'MAD MAD MUSIC DAY'.

Sunday Nov 4 at 4pm at Narara Valley High. Central Coast Schools' bands, string ensembles, recorder groups, guitar groups and many more perform for 5-15 minutes. The concert rapidly changes to form one "massively mad matinee of music making mayhem." Non-stop music and fun for everyone! There will be a BBQ for dinner and raffles throughout the concert. So, bring your ears ready to enjoy a Mad Mad Concert! **Entry by Donation**

The last CULTURAL LABORATORY for 2007 is HUGE!

YAW the first crop - **Liz Carter** from Regional Youth Support Services (RYSS) with vocalist will discuss RYSS initiatives including a new sound recording studio for Gosford. **Fashion show** - **Deborah Grayson**, a nurse turned fashion designer continues her vocation of care for ladies in need of EXTRA attention. **Drama** - **Darlene Cole** and members of V-Day 2007 will review this year's fundraising performances of *The Vagina Monologues*, preview what is in store for next February and present a unique performance piece in tribute to this remarkable, controversial, groundbreaking play. **Music** - Bouddi Choir will bring to the Lab some rarely performed songs from their large repertoire. Director and composer Chris Sainsbury. **Dance** - **Ruby Moon**, a company of contemporary dance for the youth presents the dance *Albatross*, created by choreographer Pamille Williams. **FILM** - Local filmmaker **Jason van Genderen** will present a short film called *Carrion*. Shot entirely on a digital stills camera, it won Best Film and Best Cinematography awards at the recent Geelong '24 Hour Shoot Out' Film Festival. More items to be confirmed! The evening will conclude with an **Open Forum** and **Supper** in the foyer.

Adults \$10, Concessions \$7 (includes light supper and free program).

7:30pm, Fri Nov 9 .Tickets: 4323 3233

LAST 'SUPPER' FOR '07 - GRANT GALEA - KING OF SWING - OCT 26

With his individual sense of style, charm, wit, and with his velvet voice, versatility and unmistakable charisma, Grant Galea is a unique performer. Inspired by cool American singers of the 1950's and 60's, such as Dean Martin, Frank Sinatra, Bobby Darin, Tom Jones and Elvis Presley. Grant Galea is reminiscent of the days when entertainers had style, class and true talent. Supper patrons are encouraged to dress up in classic swing era garb to add to that ring-a-ding-ding Vegas atmosphere. **SUPPER CLUB TIX: \$25 (includes cheese plate). LST DON CRAIG ROOM BOOKINGS:4323 3233**

You're invited to...**GMS' GALA 60TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER**

CC LEAGUES CLUB, SAT NOV 17 AT 6.30.

**Tickets: \$45 (financial members) or \$50. Includes drinks, nibbles on arrival, three course meal and beer/wine/soft drink. RVSP: Purchase tickets at GMS
Costumes by Nov 3. Dress: Black Tie. Entertainment provided.**

SPOTLIGHT ON....

...**BRENDA LOGAN**



How long have you been a Coastie? Six years

What is your day-job? Nothing that I get paid for.

What did you want to be when you grew up? A gypsy. (*It's never too late – Ed*)

When did you become involved in theatre? I was selected from the audience to go up on stage and sing with the pantomime Dame when I was a child. I looked out and saw about 500 faces staring back at me and fell in love. With the stage not the Dame.

Where did you learn your craft? Age 14 I started Saturday morning drama classes with a very old English actress. Not well known, just old. When I was 40 something, I went to Australian Academy of Dramatic Art full time for two years. Thirteen pantomime seasons, numerous musicals and over 50 plays you would hope I picked up some stage-craft wouldn't you?

What was your first role? I sang & danced in the chorus of *Cinderella* and a year later got my first speaking part as a Salvation Army Officer in *Devil May Care*.

Favourite play in which you took part? *Educating Rita* **Favourite musical?** *Blood Brothers*

What would be/has been your dream part? *Shirley Valentine*

Did a funny thing happen to you on the way to the theatre? Loads of times. I'm outside, naked and unable to find the entrance. (*Surely those were dreams?*)

Best/Worst movies you ever saw? Best – *Secrets & Lies* Worst - *Charlie's Angels*

Favourite TV show? *M*A*S*H* **Favourite actors?** Judi Dench, Brenda Blethyn

Favourite singers? Dionne Warwick, Nina Simone, Tracey Chapman, Eric Clapton

Favourite quote? I have two: 'Make love, not war' and 'Before you meet the handsome prince you have to kiss a lot of toads'. (*Well, I generally try to steer clear of the uggo's*)

Your ideal Saturday night? Dinner & Theatre with friends and going home to cuddle up with my husband in bed (which as some people know isn't often).

Brenda is director of *MR BAILEY'S MINDER*. This fine Australian play by Debra Oswald tells the story of a cantankerous, burned out alcoholic who is also one of Australia's national treasures – a gifted artist. He has become too feeble to care for himself. His resentful daughter has been through a succession of minders, until Therese comes along, fresh out of jail & determined to make a go of her limited options. This is a tough, funny and big-hearted play which looks at how people exploit each other and where they find the qualities of transcendence, letting go and forgiveness. Featuring Kate Buckland, Darlene Cole, Adam Young and Peter Santangelo as Leo Bailey. RUNS OCT 19-NOV 5 AT THE PENINSULA THEATRE, WOY WOY. WWLT BOX OFFICE: 4344 4737

NEXT SPOTLIGHT: PETER DEANE, DIRECTOR OF WDG'S *PASS THE BUTLER*

Kudos Korner...

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

Dear Ed – Idol update!



Many of you may have noticed Ben was not his usual self on Sunday/Monday night - last week Ben was out with some young people in the city (unsupervised) and was attacked by another group of young people. He received a punch to the mouth and his jaw, lip and tongue where injured. The following day was all the 'Hillsong' nonsense which upset him as well. He also has been sitting exams and just wasn't at his best. He spent most of the weekend at home with some close friends. On Saturday afternoon I took him up to the Newcastle entertainment Centre where we watched *High School Musical* - (also being done by GMS at Laycock next January school holidays.) Most of the cast were from Ben's school - so he was thrilled to be there and see them perform. (I organised back stage passes as a surprise for him) he had a ball with all the cast after the show. They invited us to stay and have dinner with them, so luckily by the time we left there were no people around. I forgot to mention on the way in he got mobbed by little girls (and their mothers) wanting photos with him and then at the break - he had loads of kids coming up to him for autographs - an amazing experience for me - I think he is used to it by now. He is in a better place in his head this week and is looking forward to performing next week - its the year of birth this week - 1990 for Ben (and Matt) he is singing *Higher Ground* (the cover version) by The Red Hot Chilli Peppers and says it is coming along great. Tonight the Idols go to the Nickelodeon awards - so they will have loads of fun there. Next week there is an extra fundraising show on Friday night. Lots of love and thanks for your emails, texts and support - keep voting - I don't want him home just yet!

Lyn McKenzie

Dear Ed

Just a brief note to let you know that the Central Dance Company's recent annual concert (featuring part of *Sleeping Beauty*, as well as other dances) was a great night out. The local dancers in the company were of the usual high standard that we expect, and the guest dancers were extraordinary. There were plenty of male dancers, which bodes well for the future. The audience was very warm and receptive, and appreciated the efforts of Miss Patti and her group in presenting a mixture of styles. Above all, the night was fun!

Richard G

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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

THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES

The organisation that brought you V-Day Wyong 2007 are pleased to announce that they have been granted organiser status for **V-Day Wyong 2008 and V-Day Gosford 2008**, which will stage two performances of this ground-breaking play at Laycock Street Theatre and Wyong Memorial Hall, raising awareness and money for local women's shelters on the Coast. **Information day** Sunday Nov 11 from 2pm at The Grand Hotel, Wyong. **It is highly recommended that you attend this information day before auditions!** Auditions: 7.30 Nov 20, 21 and 22 at Wyong Memorial Hall. **Performance dates: Feb 4-5 LST and Feb 15-16 WMH.** For more information, contact Darlene Cole: darlene_cole@aapt.net.au

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

After a brief hiatus, Quench Theatre announces auditions for William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* to be produced at the Avoca Beach Theatre in March 2008. Proceeds from the performance will go to New Hope International which is a charity providing training for teachers in developing countries. Auditions on Mon 22 and Mon 29 of Oct from 4.30 pm. For more information and to book a time for your audition please contact Rouba Elhage on 0413480458.

WWLT PRESENTS THE AWARD-WINNING PLAY - 'DEATHTRAP'

Deathtrap is one of the most successful plays ever on Broadway, which was made into a film starring Michael Caine and Christopher Reeve. Deathtrap is a twisting, suspense filled mystery – laced with ascerbic wit. It is directed by Brendon Flynn. Auditions are on Tues Oct 23 and Wed Oct 24 at the Woy Woy Public School Hall at 8pm. The production is going on 22/2/08 to 9/3/08. Cast required – three males 25 to 55 years and two females 40 to 55 yrs. For information about audition material, call Brendon at 4382 4402.



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CALENDAR...

BOTTOM LINE PRODUCTIONS @ AVOCA BEACH THEATRE: 4382 1677

CLOSES THIS WEEKEND! You're a Good Man Charlie Brown!

CENTRAL COAST CONSERVATORIUM, MANN ST, GOSFORD - 4324 7477

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); **Dec 1** @ 3pm – The Trevor Haines and Frank Streather Scholarship, finalists. Followed by the Senior String Orchestra @ 5pm.

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

Oct 12-Nov 3 – GMS' presents Oliver!; **Oct 17** – Arj Barker; **Oct 19-20** – Maggie Scott in Life's a Lemon – the Musical; **Oct 26** - Grant Galea – King of Swing; **Nov 4** – Central Coast Concert Band; **Nov 6-7** – Sydney Theatre Co. Wharf Revue; **Nov 7** – A Merry Mega-star's Christmas (mat); **Nov 9** – Ding Dong Downe – Denise Drysdale and Bob Downe; **Nov 18** – Gosford City Brass Band. **Feb 4-5, 2008** – *The Vagina Monologues*. **Tickets on sale in November.**

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

CLOSES THIS WEEKEND - *King Henry IV Part I - The Don of England*. Youth production, directed by Juz McGuire. Tickets: \$16/\$12. **Oct 27** -Next Theatresports. Theme: Best o' British!

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

Nov 9 – The Cultural Laboratory – a variety of artistic presentations and community; **Oct 19-Nov 4** – WWLT presents: Mr Bailey's Minder, directed by Brenda Logan. **TICKETS ON SALE NOW.**

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. Table and tiered seating. BYO nibbles/drink.

WYONG MEMORIAL HALL

Nov 8-17 – WDG presents Pass the Butler; **Feb 15-16 2008** – *The Vagina Monologues*.

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

NEXT PRODUCTION TBA

DON'T FORGET TO CHECK THE INDIVIDUAL WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION

RANDOM QUOTES #42

"I've had a perfectly wonderful evening. But this wasn't it."

Groucho Marx.

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