

\*Not Actual Size

## Editor's note...

### Soap box time!

You may notice over the next few weeks there will be a greater than usual smattering of the letter **V** everywhere on the newsletter. That's because I'll be on a mission. Everyone knows how passionate I am about our local theatre scene – encouraging people to go to auditions; to see locally produced shows etc. I'm also a big supporter of Laycock Street and the Peninsula theatres – the more we support professional touring productions – the more quality productions will come our way (saving us loads in petrol money and a nice chunk of the usual Sydney ticket prices).

So that's my usual mandate. But for the past year, I've also been about V-Day. There's a lot more going on in the world that is not reported on the daily news. Television and print media is so geared toward the vested interests of their owners, that theatre seems to be the only outlet for any real 'truths'. Those of us that fell about laughing this week at the biting satire of The Wharf Revue's **Beware of the Dogma** were certainly reminded of this. While ostensibly a witty send-up of all things political – the undercurrent was deadly serious. They are mad as hell and don't want to take it anymore. Live theatre is harder to ignore because it's real. We've come to think of television as make believe...and newspapers hide the real stories somewhere in the middle of the paper while celebrity trivia takes up the front page. There's a lot going on in the world and there's a lot going on in the minds of women – much of which is not discussed in 'polite' company – yet all of it is compelling and relevant – and because of the relative freedom of the theatre, these gripping truths are incrementally working their way into the collective consciousness via the powerful and inspiring words of *The Vagina Monologues*. Next February, the Central Coast will join around 3000 worldwide communities to stage fundraising productions of this play for V-Day. There's really not much time to get the word out there, so I will be giving the cause some extra ink over the next ten weeks. For those of you who wish to know more about the play and the cause, Darlene Cole and some of the cast of this year's production are presenting a special 'overview' at tonight's **Cultural Laboratory** at the Peninsula Theatre. There also will be a variety of artistic and cultural presentations on offer tonight, including dance, short film, fashion, a talk on a fantastic youth arts project and much more. Tickets are only \$10 which includes a free supper! Book now by phoning 4323 3233 or purchase tickets at the door.

And... best wishes to the fantastic Wyong Drama Group cast who are now starring in Eric Idle's very first stage play **PASS THE BUTLER**. Get a table together, bring some drinks and nibbles and have a fantastic night! Strictly limited two-week run at Wyong Memorial hall. Bookings 4353 4353.

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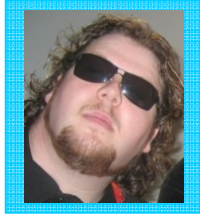
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**HEADS**



**UP!**

## LOOKY LOOKY, HERE COME DA ROOKIES!

There's a big, brand new bouncing bag of baby rookies just itching to get their minds wrapped around some crazy spontaneity! So, just for ships and giggles **CENTRAL COAST THEATRESPORTS** are staging an **extra show** this Saturday night, **Nov 10** at Mad Cow Theatre!

Come and see the newbies put their freshly-learned improvisational techniques to the test. As audience – you will be asked to help them shape their scenes, give them their characters, their locations, their occupations – they are putty in your hands - only not quite as sticky.

**SPECIAL EXTRA IMPRO SHOW DEAL – ALL TICKETS ARE \$10.**

Cheaper than a night at the movies and not nearly as predictable. Kick off at 8pm, your co-pilots for the evening's flight into madness and mayhem will be Kate Buckland and Andrew Sampford.

**BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL: 43284432.**

### *Dreaming about the old days...*

## NAISDA End of Year Concert

Laycock St Theatre, Nth Gosford

**NOVEMBER 16 & 17**

The end of year concert for our local indigenous dance group is set in 1967. There is a party going on with balloons and streamers. Everyone is dressed to the nines and the music is LOUD! The lights are dim enough for people to think they are cleverly concealing their emotions. 'Ref' has just graduated and it promises to be a big night. Watch the emotions fly!

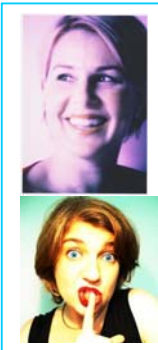
**TICKETS** Adults \$15, Conc \$10, Children \$5

## A GREAT GATSBY TAKE ON THE BARD?

**A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM** - Shakespeare's classic, set in Hollywood in the late 1930's when glamour, glitz and gangsters were part of the scene. Theo and the lovely Hippie are due to wed during the 12th Academy Awards ceremony, but Gus' daughter, Hermia has other plans with her man, Andy. To escape a contract on her life, they high tail it to the Hollywood Hills where fairies abound and magic is in the air.

**Presented by Green Point Christian College, November 22-24. Matinees at 11.30 (Thurs/Fri) & 2pm (Sat) Evenings 7.30pm. Adults: \$15/Concession \$12/Family \$40.**

**Tickets available at school office 43631266 or at the door**



## WELCOME BACK MORRIS!

Star 100 presents - Julia Morris and Jackie Loeb *LIVE*

**Don Craig Room, LST, NOVEMBER 23rd at 7pm**

Neither Julia Morris nor Jackie Loeb are strangers to the Coast. Morris – who made her name on TV's *FULL FRONTAL* is a former Coastie and performer with GMS. She's spent the last few years in England playing Mum – now she's back in the land of Oz on *The Singing Office*. Meanwhile the coast can't get enough of the hilarious musical versatility of Jackie Loeb, who has already put in a star turn at the Supper Club this year plus appearing around the local traps - as well as the world-wide stand up circuit.

Two very funny ladies for the price of one!

**DON'T MISS IT. TICKETS Adults \$30, Conc. \$26**

## SPOTLIGHT ON....

... **VIRGINIA WALSHAW**



**How long have you been a Coastie?** Since January this year. I'm the new kid on the block! (Originally from England).

**What is your day - job?** Art Start Coordinator for the Central Coast, employed through Regional Youth Support Services Inc. Gosford. I organise a Skills and Arts Workshop program for youth aged 12-24, culminating in a two week Festival showcasing the results of their labours.

**What did you want to be when you grew up?** An Actor.

**When did you become involved in theatre?** When I fulfilled my dream of becoming an actor.

**Where did you learn your craft?** Webber Douglas Academy of Dramatic Art, London – and 13 years pacing the boards as an equity card-carrying thesp!

**What was your first role?** Narrator in *Virgin* at the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith. (*Wow, talk about aptly titled debuts! Ed*)

**Favourite play/musical – in which you were involved?** Loved the tour and West End run of the musical *A Slice of Saturday Night*. I played 'Frigid Bridget'! My proudest moment was taking to the New Globe Stage in *Alarum for London* – Husband killed in Act 1. Children killed in Act 2. Ravaged in Act 3. Killed in Act 4. All told, a pretty jovial piece!



AND DON'T FORGET  
THEATRESPORTS  
@ MAD COW  
LAST SAT EVERY MONTH –  
THIS MONTH'S THEME  
'MOVEMBER'! Nov 24.

**Favourite play/musical?** Kneehigh Theatre's *Cry Wolf*.

**What would be/has been your dream part?** I played Amanda in Coward's *Private Lives* - all snappy dialogue with a bit of snogging...ace! (*Obviously the snog-ee was hot*)

**Did a funny thing happen to you on the way to the theatre?** I wish!

**Best/Worst movies you ever saw?** The best includes the complete *Lord of the Rings* Trilogy with 15 hrs of DVD extras! And *Strictly Ballroom* and the worst is every James Bond Movie made before Daniel Craig was employed!

**Favourite TV show?** *Boston Legal*. **Favourite actors?** Brad Pitt's pecs!

**Favourite singers?** Too many to mention!

**Favourite quote?** "If at first you don't succeed...maybe failure's your style".

**Your ideal Saturday night?** Red wine and scrabble. (*Are the pieces poached, braised or roasted?*)

Since arriving on our fair shores, the qualified and bubbly Virginia has taken up residence as a drama tutor at **Mad Cow Theatre Company**. See the results of Virginia's and Mad Cow's other expert tutors' guidance on display at the upcoming **SHORT CHOPS**, Laycock Street Theatre on Dec 17-18 from 7.30pm. See the stars of tomorrow performing today! (Well ...on Dec 17-18 anyway). Phone: **4323 3233**

## Kudos Korner...

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

### Dear Ed

It's that time again! **YIPA AUDITIONS** will be held on **JAN 20, FEB 3 and 17**. YIPA (Youth in Performing Arts) 2008 will follow a slightly different format for auditions - we will be booking spots over these three dates with Jan 20 for dancers, Feb 3 being solos and small groups, and the remainder on Feb 17. More information will be available soon. In 2008, we will have over \$15,000 available in Scholarship funds and training scholarships. *Laycock St Marketing Dept.*

### Dear Ed

Last Sunday some friends and I went to the matinee performance of *Mr Bailey's Minder* at the Peninsular Theatre. We all thought the play very interesting - the dialogue was good and the story held our interest from beginning to end. The acting was strong and spirited (although maybe Mr Bailey sometimes did not look as fierce and nasty as the lines he delivered) and the actors had obviously given a lot of intelligent thought to the characters they were portraying. *Lynne O*

### Dear Ed

I thought your readers should have an early heads up about a new concert on Feb 1. After sell-out tribute concerts to Pink Floyd, The Police and Led Zeppelin, Contempree Calderazzo returns with a fantastic rock show featuring the songs and the music of the **Rolling Stones**. Featuring an ensemble of professional singers with a rockin' backing band, re-live the music of Mick, Keef and co with *Beggars Banquet*. And while you're feeling nostalgic, there's a **Dusty Springfield** Show on Feb 2! Book early or both will sell out for sure. *Lisa K*

Tickets are now on sale for the **Gosford Premiere** of

## *The Vagina Monologues*

**TWO SHOWS ONLY @ LAYCOCK - FEB 4&5. BOOK NOW: 4323 3233**

*Last Feb's production at Wyong sold out a week before opening night - don't wait till the last minute.*

**\*Due to popular demand, *The Vagina Monologues* returns to Wyong Memorial Hall, TWO SHOWS ONLY, FEB 15-16. Bookings from Nov 26 on: 4351 1611.**

Ticket prices: Adult - \$30. Concession - \$20; Groups 10+ \$28; Groups 20+ \$25.

*\*10% of all proceeds are donated to V-Day 2008 worldwide, with the rest going to local women's aid organisations.*

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### AUDITIONS/EOI

#### THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES

**V-Day Wyong 2008 and V-Day Gosford 2008**, will stage two fundraising performances each of *The Vagina Monologues* at Laycock Street Theatre and Wyong Memorial Hall. Information Sunday Nov 11 from 2pm at the Grand Hotel, Wyong. It is highly recommended that you attend this information day if you wish to audition. **Auditions by appt only:** 7.30 Nov 20, 21 and 22 at Wyong Memorial Hall. **Performance dates: Feb 4-5 LST and Feb 15-16 WMH.** The information day is of interest to female actors (scripts available for perusal) as well as potential sponsors, beneficiaries, crew members, volunteers, visual artists, comedians and musicians for proposed **VIESTA**. For info, contact Darlene Cole: [darlene\\_cole@aapt.net.au](mailto:darlene_cole@aapt.net.au) or ph: 0419236566 and visit: [www.vday.org](http://www.vday.org) **'VIESTA' – SEEKING YOUNG ACTRESSES!**

Young women, 13-17 years are invited to write, devise and perform a monologue of up to 5 mins exploring the issues facing young women today. For further info, come to the above Info Day or contact Darlene. Also, seeking one female actor 25-30 for the internationally acclaimed monodrama - *What Is the Matter with Mary Jane?* by Wendy Harmer. It is a touching, hilarious and at times shocking play dealing with anorexia nervosa and bulimia.

### MISCELLANEOUS

#### CINEMA SEATING FOR SALE – CHEAP!

The former owners of The Kincumber Ritz Cinema have 280 high back cinema seats for sale, some of which need recovering. There are 160 red cloth ones from cinema 2 and 120 grey vinyl from cinema 1 (with also some spares). They are only \$1 a seat. Contact Peter for more details 0407 905 014,

#### WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP CHANGE THE STORY OF WOMEN?

**Become a V-Day sponsor! No donation is too small and any donations of goods or services are welcomed. We will be selling raffle tickets at each venue as well as various locations for White Ribbon Day on Nov 25 and at our own *Viesta* on Feb 23 at Wyong. Your level of donation is a flexible choice. If you wish to become a major sponsor you will receive mention on all publicity materials as well as VIP tickets to *The Vagina Monologues!* If you missed out last February, you do not want to miss it again. Find out how you can do your bit to change the story of women - send a return email today!**

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Water, meat, Fruit & Vegies vendors, restaurants, cinemas, and blind retailers (window coverings, not visually impaired). Every little bit helps! **E-mail Ed today!**

# CALENDAR...

## CENTRAL COAST CONSERVATORIUM, MANN ST, GOSFORD - 4324 7477

**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; **Dec 8** - End of Year Ensembles Concert @ Gosford High 2pm; **Dec 10** – Youth Across the Tasman – combined schools from here and NZ; (GHS@7pm); **Dec 15** – Vocal Dept annual recital (4.30pm)

## LAYCOCK STREET THEATRE: [www.laycockstreet.com](http://www.laycockstreet.com) Box Office: 4323 3233.

**Nov 9** – Ding Dong Downe – 1<sup>st</sup> show sold out – new show added; **Nov 18** – Gosford City Brass Band; **Nov 22-23** – Mr McGee and the Biting Flea; **Nov 23** – Julia Morris and Jackie Loeb; **Dec 9** – CC Symphony presents Colours of Past Present and Future (2.30pm); **Dec 17-18** – Mad Cow Theatre Students present Short Chops; **Jan 11-19** – GMS Juniors present: High School Musical; **Feb 1** – Beggars Banquet – a Rolling Stones tribute; **Feb 2** – The Dusty Springfield Show; **Feb 4-5, 2008** – *The Vagina Monologues*.

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

**NOV 24** - Next Theatresports. Theme: MOVEMBER!

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

**Nov 9** – The Cultural Laboratory – a variety of performance art presentations and community talks,

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

**Feb 22-March 9:** *Deathtrap*, directed by Brendon Flynn. Tickets on sale early Feb. Subscription season tickets on sale now.

## WYONG DRAMA GROUP: [www.wyongdramagroup.com.au](http://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. Next production TBA (auditions last week of November).

## 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](http://www.wmtc.com.au) Bookings: 1300 366 470

**NEXT PRODUCTION TBA**

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

## RANDOM QUOTES #44

"I would like to be called an inspiration to people, not a role model - because I make mistakes like everybody else. When I'm offstage, I'm just like everybody else."

*Britney Spears*



**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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