

WHAT E-NEWS

Edging ever closer to a century – not out!

Editors Note...



Yes – it's another picture of me. Becoming quite the narcissist, aren't I? The thing I do like about this picture is it actually *looks like* me. So this is my new agency 'headshot'. When it comes to casting, there's no point in false advertising. As a struggling artist – I'm a fan of the barter system – swapping sponsorship of this newsletter in return for services – so it gives me great pleasure to announce that WHAT E-NEWS has a new sponsor! Michael and Karen Larsen – well known to members of GMS for their antics both on stage and back stage have gone into the photography business with their company **MYSHOTS**. They specialise in special events, weddings, performance and now portfolio shots. Peruse their website - www.myshots.com.au. Thanks Michael

and Karen and welcome aboard.

You may also notice another 'new' sponsor. It is, in fact, an existing sponsor – Paul McCudden, of Getnow Computers at West Gosford. He has branched off into another business - **Club Runners** – so I will be giving his alternate business an airing for a while. Club Runners are an I.T. software specialist – their slogan “as good as I.T. gets”. Basically, if your business needs to be technologically streamlined for maximum efficiency – Paul is the guy for you. He's been quite busy lately gearing up football club websites for online ticket purchasing. Hmm, excuse me while I pass on a big hint to the local theatre companies and Laycock Street Theatre in particular. On line bookings are the way to go. Calling the box office and being placed on hold is so 20th Century.

Okay folks – it's that time of year again. At the end of every year, I've given my own special “awards”. I call them **Eddies** – for obvious reasons. I like to give kudos to people who have stood out throughout the year – debut performances, unique performances...etc. No set rhyme or reason. Every year I also ask readers to cast their own votes and in three years so far there hasn't been enough interest for any people's choice awards. Regardless, I will ask again - please if you have any vote you wish to cast in any area, please do. **Eligible shows for 2007 are** – GMS – *Peter Pan, Oklahoma, Jungle Book, Singin in the Rain, Oliver*, WWLT – *Influence, Second Childhood, The Spirit of Annie Ross, Mr Bailey's Minder, Ad Hoc – Get Real*; WDG – *Soulmates, Communicating Doors, Pass the Butler, Mad Cow – King Henry IV, Don of England*; V-Day Wyong – *The Vagina Monologues*; Bottom Line – *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now change, You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*. Contact me to cast your vote for these or any productions I've neglected to mention.

Until next time – **don't spend it all in one place.**



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HEADS



UP!

'IDOL' HANDS WRITE SONGS AND MAKE MOVIES 'N' STUFF...

Just before he launches himself into Christmas Carols events on the Coast, Newcastle and Sydney, 'our' Idol, **Ben McKenzie** has a gig at 1pm on Sunday Dec 9 at The Metro (624 George St Sydney). The concert entitled "Black Filament" is named after one of Ben's original songs. He's supported by *Falling of One*. Tickets \$18. To keep track of Ben's gigs, log on to his myspace: www.myspace.com/benjaminmckenziemusic and to have a sneak peak at past/future film projects, check out www.dreamsunleashed.com.au

AUDITION NOTICE: GREEK CHORUS (AND LEADS) SOUGHT!

PARIS—the rock odyssey by Jon English and David Mackay — which had its critically-acclaimed world premiere at Laycock St Theatre 2003 — is set to a return next **April 11-19**. Brand new pro/am theatre co, led by executive producer **David Spicer** – Southern Cross Musicals, with director **Stuart Smith**, and MD **Andrew Swan** will produce this revised revival. The story centres on the fateful love affair between Paris and Helen of Troy, which sparks a ten year war between Troy and Ancient Greece. New songs and dialogue have been added and Jon English and David Mackay are bursting at the seams to showcase the new edition with a top local cast. A special celebrity guest will feature in a main role. **Open Auditions are being held at Mad Cow Theatre, Brooks Ave Wyoming on SAT DEC 15 at 2pm and MONDAY DEC 17 at 7pm.** Performers should



prepare a song that demonstrates their vocal range and ability. Powerful voices will be required in the leads with a strong harmony ability required in the chorus. Rehearsals will be Tues/Thurs nights and some weekends. To book an appointment or arrange an alternative time, call Sandra: 0448 293 081 or Email paristhemusical@gmail.com For a full character list and synopsis visit: www.davidspicer.com/paris.htm. (MORE NOTICES PAGE FIVE)

MAD COW THEATRE presents...SHORT CHOPS

Laycock St Theatre, Nth Gosford
7.30pm DECEMBER 17-18

Mad Cow Theatre Company's 'herd' of students from the ages of Kindergarten through to Year 12 present their end of year works in a cornucopia of short plays, skits and a song and dance or two courtesy of 'moosical' theatre. All of Mad Cow tutors are professionally trained drama teachers and working actors so the evening's performances will be of an extremely high standard. **TICKETS** Adults \$24, Conc \$20, Child \$14, Family (2 adults/2 children) \$16.50 each



*Kate Hardy photography

CONTEMPREE CALDERAZZO presents...BEGGARS BANQUET

...paying homage to the music of the Rolling Stones

Laycock St Theatre, 8pm, FEB 1

After sell-out concerts for Pink Floyd and Led Zeppelin, Contempree Calderazzo return 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, relive the music of The Stones. **TICKETS:** \$32/\$28



SPOTLIGHT ON....

...**KAREN RACTLIFF**



What is your day-job? Post-grad student

What did you want to be when you grew up? A writer or an actress or both!

When did you become involved in theatre? The early 80s.

Where did you learn your craft? In a very small drama group in Surrey, England.

What was your first role? Fernando in *Fernando and Frascquita* when I was 10. (*Could you hear the drums, Fernando?* - Ed)

Favourite play/musical – in which you were involved? *The Vagina Monologues* – by far.

Favourite play/musical that you have seen? *Gasping* by Ben Elton

What would be/has been your dream part? Predictable – but Lady Macbeth.

Did a funny thing happen to you on the way to the theatre? In a play I was in my leading man fell off the stage and finished the performance while suffering concussion – no one noticed! (*Which nursing home did you perform this one for?*)

When did you first hear about V-Day/The Vagina Monologues? In 2006 when Darlene Cole talked about producing it and I knew Darlene through WDG.

How has the experience affected you? Let me count the ways! It gave me the opportunity to be part of a production that expressed issues I feel strongly about, I became part of a community of women in a way I'd never experienced and I made so many new friends. It also made me appreciate what a rich cultural community we have. My self-confidence increased - I've since tried things I would never have considered before such as Theatresports and open mike impro-poetry.

Describe the play in one sentence. A genuinely life-changing phenomenon. (*Amen to that, sista!*)

Best/Worst movies? *The Creeping Terror* was so bad it was great. Worse than *Plan 9 from Outer Space!* **Favourite quote?** If it's worth doing, it's worth doing badly. (*As noted in your previous answer*)

Favourite TV show? Buffy the Vampire Slayer. **Favourite actors?** James Spader, Genevieve Bujold. **Favourite singers?** Claire Tory, Peter Gabriel, Merrill Osmond (yes, a brother!)

V-Day Gosford and
Wyong present...

THE VAGINA
MONOLOGUES

FEB 4-5

LAYCOCK ST
Ph: 43 233 233

FEB 15-16

WYONG
MEMORIAL HALL
Ph: 43 511 611

Karen's tickled pink to be returning to the cast of *The Vagina Monologues* – and in the process bring awareness to the global movement V-Day – an anti-violence initiative which has raised over \$40million world wide. Last February, \$12,000 was raised locally, which helped secure the employment of an additional case worker through CC Court Assistance Scheme; furnished an exit house for Toukley Refuge and sent some deserving kids on a week-long camp. Several anti violence initiatives, programs and last year's International Women's Day Forum have also been funded. With all profits going to local women's aid organisations in the Gosford and Wyong shires, tickets to *The Vagina Monologues* are the ideal Christmas gift!

Kudos Korner...

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

Dear Ed

I love reading the 'random quotes' at the end of the newsletter, but last issue's quote from Eve Ensler (about good v great gave me goose bumps) - especially the bit about having a belly!

Sierra P

The Cast has been announced for **V-DAY GOSFORD AND WYONG 2008** productions of **THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES.**



Margaret McGowan



Pollyanna Forshaw

Nine of last February's original cast return, including: **Merin Graham, Carmel Mullin, Jo Stanley, Rose Cooper, Rosemary Parsons, Kate Buckland, Leanna McNeil, Cheryl Wells** and **Karen Ractliffe**. The 'newbies' who will take to the stage include local 'legends' **Margaret McGowan, Pollyanna Forshaw** and **Ruth Jordon**. Up and comer **Renee Campbell** will join **Sue Cable** (manager of Woy Woy Women and Children's service - one of the beneficiaries of V-Day) and **Melody Morgan**, who are both making their stage debut. Margaret McGowan admits she had limited knowledge of the play, before seeing a sneak preview at the Cultural Laboratory in November. "It was the most inspiring 15 minutes I'd ever witnessed at The Lab," Margaret says, "I had to be part of it this year". Pollyanna Forshaw had seen a production of *The Vagina Monologues* a few years prior to the V-Day Wyong 2007 presentation. Polly admits that while she enjoyed that first production - it paled in comparison to the profoundly moving, all-round entertaining theatrical vision that Darlene Cole was able to realise. "I've seen first hand what kind of treatment women receive in conflict zones, having spent time in East Timor. It's my honour and privilege to be part of something that sets about raising awareness of these global atrocities." Other original Wyong crew returning in 2008 will be Central Coast acoustic trio '**The Housework Can Wait**' who add extra aural

stimulation with their glorious harmonies. Don't miss this inspiring, hilarious, moving, enthralling, thought-provoking and downright revelatory theatrical event!

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AUDITIONS/EOI

GOSFORD MUSICAL SOCIETY MEMBERS INVITED TO PERFORM CAROLS

GMS will be rehearsing for this year's Christmas Carol performances on Tuesday Dec 11 between 6.30 – 7.30 in the Mirror Room. Performances will be at Erina Fair on Thurs Dec 13 (call time 7pm) and Mingara on Thurs Dec 20 (call time 6pm). There are cd's available for rehearsal in your own time. For more information contact Ros English: 0428691010

'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 to be performed on Feb 23 at Wyong Memorial Hall as an additional fundraiser for V-Day. For info, contact Darlene Cole: ph: 0419236566

WWLT PRESENTS – LIPSTICK DREAMS

WWLT's second play for 2008 will be directed by Fran Kendall for the June/July season). Plot takes place in a hair salon and features a cast of four women. A talent quest is part of the story, so a singing audition will be a fundamental part of the process. Characters: Jo - salon owner - 40's - single, feels that life has passed her by; Jenny - apprentice - late teens to twenties - shy, naive, in an abusive relationship; Jess - thirties, forties - brash, loud, looking after an invalid father, jilted by her boyfriend. Very strong funny role; Jan - client - 50's, 60's - in a rut, husband tells her she's boring, a bit of a gossip. Auditions - 7.30, Jan 15 and 17 at Woy Woy Public School.

YIPA – YOUTH IN PERFORMING ARTS

Open to all youth from 12-21. 3rd February, auditorium – all acts; 17th February - Don Craig Room - soloists & comedy acts only; 23rd February - auditorium - all acts. **All Auditions By APPOINTMENT ONLY** Phone the Box Office for more info or to book your audition: 4323 3233

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CALENDAR...

CENTRAL COAST CONSERVATORIUM, MANN ST, GOSFORD - 4324 7477

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 Box Office: 4323 3233.

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 the smash hit Disney phenomenon: High School Musical; **Feb 1** – Beggars Banquet – a Rolling Stones tribute; **Feb 2** – The Dusty Springfield Show; **Feb 3** – Kransky Sisters 'Heard it on the Wireless' ; **Feb 4-5**, 2008 – V-Day Gosford presents the Gosford premiere of Eve Ensler's award winning *The Vagina Monologues*; **Feb 6** – Carol Ralph (11am Matinee); **Feb 15** – Supper Club returns with favourites Andrew Godbold and the Andrew Swan trio (book early as the two Andys always sell out)

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

Dec 17-18 - Performance herd 'short chops' end of year presentations are at **Laycock St.** Stay tuned for **Theatresports** dates for 2008. Theatresports classes will resume in the first term of next year, call Mad Cow to enrol.

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

Feb 15 – First Cultural Laboratory (a cornucopia of the arts) for 2008; **Feb 22-March 9**: Deathtrap

WOY WOY LITTLE THEATRE: 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 Ph: 4353 4353

Next production – late April. Auditions announced next issue

WYONG MEMORIAL HALL

Feb 15-16 – Due to popular demand, V-Day Wyong returns with the *The Vagina Monologues* www.vday.org; **Feb 23** – Viesta – a festival for women.

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 #46

"You should see that (vagina) diagram in a fundamentalist school board-approved Texas biology handbook. I think the phrase "chasm of evil" gets banded about."

"E.G." – Random discussion board post. To read more responses to the banning of the publicising of *The Vagina Monologues*: <http://feministing.com/archives/006495.html>

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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