



WHAT E-NEWS

That's the spirit!



Editors Note...

Ho, Ho, Ho...Merry (*fill in chosen holiday observance here). Confession time - I'm a little blasé when it comes to Christmas. For many reasons over the years it's never quite been the picture perfect scenario for me anyway, even when I was a kid. To me, the holidays just signal the year's ending and beginning. As for it being the 'season of love' - I hug my friends and family and tell them I love them all the time - so the *Hallmark* part of the ritual has always felt redundant. Nowadays political correctness has thrown up a whole new set of rules - so there's an additional, pervading sense of indignation in the air. If I had my druthers - we'd go back to the season-focused pagan origins that preceded 'Christmas' and leave religion and Santa right out of it. After all, celebrating the birth of Christ alongside all the consumerist gluttony represented by the guy in the red suit has always confused little kids anyway - and Santa has pretty much had Jesus on the back foot for decades. I love the idea of a winter festival - and let's face it, so must we all. We Antipodeans have always suffered from an identity crisis at Christmas time. We put **fake snow** everywhere and many of us still have the typically English/European hot roast meal. Wouldn't it make more sense if we really did celebrate 'Christmas' in July? I mean, the other Northern Hemisphere traditions take place independently of ours - like Hallowe'en, Thanksgiving, Father's Day and the school holiday calendar. I vote we give Christmas the flick and opt for a winter festival instead and hold it IN WINTER - as they did before Jesus was born. The orgy of spending would stop - the stress associated with that spending would ease. The festival would revert back to finding a reason to have fun during the long, cold, dark months of winter - which is why all the feasting and revelry started in the first place. This would also highlight the needs of those less fortunate. Then maybe once a year, EVERYONE would give to charity and not just the lucky few who haven't maxed out their credit cards. I suspect I'm a lone voice in the wilderness here, but I'd be curious to know if anyone out there agrees with me. (End of Alan Jones-esque segment).

I was chuffed to receive a letter this week which was not giving kudos to a local production, but also singing the praises of one of my sponsors - **Booth's Motor Group**. This is the kind of feedback I love! I'd also like to give a pat on the back to another of my sponsors - **Graham Vale of the Entrance Printing**, whose sponsorship of V-Day and lightning fast turn around - has enabled us to coat the Coast with eye-catching posters and postcards. Thanks so much Graham.

Well, enjoy your break - heaven knows you won't have much time to rest. Coming up in January is **High School Musical** and then February goes nuts with music, comedy and drama. If you can't find a reason to call the Laycock St box office in the coming weeks, you must be impossible to please! Check the calendar and website for all the details. Now without further ado, skip to page two for my annual 'awards'. I received two nominations from readers, so there's still not enough interest from you to create any 'reader's choice' categories. So, if you don't like how I have voted - **TOUGH!**

Until next year...feel the love!

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HEADS



UP!

THE 2007, 4TH ANNUAL 'EDDIE' AWARDS

"The Eddies for the most memorable performances of 2007 go to..."

*In no particular order and to save space I didn't list who produced what – my readers should know!

Most thoroughly excellent production in all departments from acting to lighting – Peter Pan;

Comic performances: Richard Lovegrove and Karen Snook (*Singin in the Rain*); Howard Oxley

(Theatrefest); Duncan Mitchell & John Czerniecki (*Pass the Butler*);

←Dylan Clunes (*The New Jungle Book*); Peter Santangelo (*Soulmates*);

Carmel Mullen (*The Vagina Monologues*); Stuart Smith (*You're a Good*

Man Charlie Brown); Steve Hirst (*Oklahoma*); Bart Harrowell, *I Love*

You, You're Perfect, Now Change; "The Pirates" (PP); **Dramatic**

performances: Pollyanna Forshaw, Helen Schumann (Theatrefest);

Toni Williams (*Oliver*); Terry Collins (*Influence*); Joan Dalgleish (*The*

Vagina Monologues); Dylan Clunes (*King Henry IV*); Adam Young (*Mr*

Bailey's Minder); **Outstanding Debut in a Lead Role –** Kate Buckland (*Bailey's*) Geoff Hay (*Oliver*);

Most Promising Newcomers – Joshua Engstrom and Daniel Russell (*Oliver*); Caitlin Shaw

(*Second Childhood*); James Culbert (Theatresports/*Henry IV*); **Vocal:** Jessica Vickers (PP);

Josephine Gleeson (YAGMCB); **Musical:** Ros English (*Oliver*); Lee Hardisty (*Get Real* – original

compositions); **Ensembles:** *Soulmates*; *Influence*; *The Vagina Monologues*, *YAGM Charlie*

Brown; *I Love You YPNC*; **Sets:** Daryl Kirkness (take your pick); Margaret McGowan/Mary

Middleton (*Influence*); Nola McKeowen (*The Spirit of Annie Ross*); **Costumes:** Deb Hind/Cheryl

Annand (TNJB). **'I made the role my own':** Kim Kelly (*King Henry IV*); Jade McCudden (*Oklahoma*);

Most visionary directors: Darlene Cole/Francois Angeniueux (*Vagina Monologues*); Christopher J

Walker (TNJB); **Scene Stealers:** Riley Holt (TNJB); Ant George (*Oklahoma*); Sophie Menner

(TNJB); Tyrone McMaster (SiTR); **Choreography:** Marni Webb (PP/*Oklahoma*); **Janadine Hart/Caro**

McNamara (SiTR); **Best GMS entertainment night items:** Neree Lambert, Andrew Sampford

(SiTR); **Oldest programme photo:** Bryan Higgins (*Oklahoma*); **Scariest photo:** Jo Whitelaw (Victim

of too much airbrushing - *Oliver*); **Best striptease:** Alan Moore (SiTR presentation night); **Dodgiest**

Accent: Wil Coleman (SiTR); Graham Vale (*Soulmates*); **Best inadvertently comic performance:**

Andrew Sampford (Jud's Death Scene - *Oklahoma*); **The Dummy** (*Oliver*); **Best Villains:** Adam

Montgomery (O), Andrew Sampford (*Okly*); Rosemary Parsons (CDs); Graham Vale (*Soulmates*);

Dominic Sammut (TNJB); Zach Smith (PP); **Most Romantic Gesture:** Rob Zwart (proposed whilst

on stage, during a scene in *Oliver*); **Caldest SM:** Julie Young (TVMs), **Special Effects:** *The Spirit of*

Annie Ross, *Peter Pan*; **Hottest characters:** Scott Herdman ('Curly' *Oklahoma*); Leanna McNeil

("Phoebe the Dominatrix" in *Communicating Doors*); **Best Party:** GMS' 60th Ball.

THAT'S ALL FOLKS! If your production didn't get a gong then I either didn't see it or receive enough positive feedback about it. Basically, I do this every year to remind everyone from all groups to support the other groups. Some superb productions didn't sell hugely well this year. I've thrown a lot of kudos around during the year, so narrowing this down was difficult. If you feel someone missed out on a gong, **YOU SHOULD HAVE VOTED.**

Next issue, the **Electronic Eddies** for Film and TV.

FAMILY HOLIDAY FUN – 'LENNY'S LOST HIS MATES'

Gosford/Edogawa Commemorative Garden, Gosford Art Gallery, Jan 6 from 10am-3pm.

Families are invited to help Lenny find his mates in the garden, armed only with a garden guide, questionnaire and keen eyesight. to find Lenny's seven reptile friends who are hidden in various spots throughout the garden. Never fear, our expert guides will be wandering around to give assistance. **BBQ LUNCH AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE ON THE DAY.**

SPOTLIGHT ON....

...**CHERYL WELLS**



What is your day-job? Community Programs Coordinator for Burnside – which is a charity that looks after the welfare of children and families that are disadvantaged.

What did you want to be when you grew up? I wanted to own a cake shop – I thought I could eat as much as I wanted for free! *(I know a person who would be very excited by that idea too. – Ed)*

When did you become involved in theatre? In the early 80's when I first came onto the coast and joined GMS.

Where did you learn your craft? Pretty much on the job, like most things I do.

What was your first role? A dancer in *Do I Hear a Waltz* with GMS. Wow - a long time ago!

Favourite play/musical – in which you were involved? First choice would be *The Vagina Monologues 2007* and second choice would be *Fawlty Towers* with WDG – it was a hoot

Favourite play/musical that you have seen? I recently saw *Phantom of the Opera* in Melbourne for the third time – can't get that music out of my head now. I love it

What would be/has been your dream part? Obviously being in *The Vagina Monologues* has been a dream but I would like to be in the cast of any quality show be it drama or comedy.

Did a funny thing happen to you on the way to the theatre? Nothing comes to mind – way too organised for my own enjoyment

When did you first hear about V-Day/The Vagina Monologues? A few years ago I remember seeing an advert for it in a Sydney paper with female comedians in the cast so I thought it was just a comedy. It's so much more than that.

How has the experience affected you? More than I would have ever thought. It felt hugely liberating to get up on stage and talk about woman as sexual beings. It was great.

Describe the play in one sentence. An all-inspiring, life-changing experience.

Best/Worst movies you ever saw? Best: *The Shawshank Redemption*, *Close Encounters of the 3rd Kind* and *The Castle*. Worst: The sequel to *Speed*. It was bad. *(Yeah, like who cares about a boat?)*

Favourite TV show? *Sex and the City* – I can't wait for the movie. I also like *Medium* and *That 70s Show*. Hows that for a mixture?

Favourite actors? George Clooney for his looks, Goldie Hawn for her comedy, Harrison Ford (can't wait for the next *Raiders* movie) and Cate Blanchett.

Favourite singers? Paul Kelly – Australia's poet, Andrea Bocelli and Katie Noonan

Favourite quote? 'Never work with children and animals' *(And yet you choose to work with me!)*

As well as again starring in *The Vagina Monologues*, Cheryl is the Fundraising Co-ordinator for V-Day Gosford & Wyong 2007/8. For her, being part of V-Day is part art, part work – but 100% fulfilment. Making an audience cheer is one thing – making a difference in the lives of local women affected by domestic violence is another. Those dates again: Laycock St – Feb 4-5 (43 233233) and Wyong Memorial Hall – Feb 15-16 (43 511611). **Raffle prizes are being sought.** Contact ED today!

Kudos Korner...

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

Dear Ed

Thanks for another info-packed *WHAT E-NEWS* and congratulations to all the new *Vagina Monologues* cast members. I loved being part of such a wonderful event last year. This time I wanted to have the experience of being in the audience. Also a big wrap for your sponsor **Booth's Motor Group**. We traded in our two elderly cars for a newer second hand car. The deal was excellent and the car is amazing. Follow up service is exceptional. Thank you Booths. Have a Happy Christmas and a very thespian New Year! **Joan D.**

In lieu of further letters this week, here's another word from Eve Ensler...

"I have just returned from Congo. I only wish all of you could have been with me to witness this unfolding, to witness this change, to witness women taking back their lives, their rights. Their future. I am so proud of this (V-Day) movement. I see now what is possible in a whole new way. Rather than writing a full narrative as things are still gathering in me, I wanted to just send you some basic images, feelings, thoughts...Reunion with Dr. Mukwege of Panzi hospital....delight and joy beyond what I can articulate. The longer I know him, the more I witness his work, the more moved I am and the more I learn. His heart is intrinsic in the creation of his vision. The land for City of Joy-the land for our village of healing and empowerment is a walk from the Panzi hospital. It is gorgeous, lush green, in a valley surrounded by hills. There will be ten houses for a hundred women, and a central house for cooking and therapy and classes....." **If you need a reason to smile this Christmas, I suggest you read the rest of this inspiring letter:**

<http://www.vday.org/contents/drcongo/update>

A-LIST ENTERTAINMENT presents...**THE KRANSKY SISTERS:**

"HEARD IT ON THE WIRELESS"

After sell-out seasons in the U.K, and NZ (and as seen on *Spicks N Specks*) **The Kransky Sisters** are bringing their hit show, to Laycock St on **Feb 3 @ 7.30pm**. Venturing far from the dusty, curtained private world of their old family home in Esk, rural Queensland, Mourne, Eve, and their reclusive, almost forgotten sibling, Dawn, bring you their darkly funny stories from across the countryside, and uniquely homespun versions of popular tunes heard on the old wireless. The combination of strange behaviour, blinkered outlooks, superbly droll comic dialogue and downright hilarious stylising of well-known tunes make for a night of sheer delight. **BOOKINGS: 43 233 233**

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AUDITIONS/EOI

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.

'VIESTA' – STILL SEEKING YOUNG ACTRESSES!

Young women, 13-17 years are invited to write 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. For info, contact Darlene Cole: ph: 0419236566. Musicians, comedians – male or female are also invited to perform throughout the day in 30 minute or less blocks at different venues around Wyong. It is hoped that the day will be recognized all over Wyong and that people dining in the local area can be entertained, free, while being reminded of this day – the closer to the Central Coast's celebration of V-Day, which will culminate in the presentation of cheques to our beneficiaries. Please contact organiser Darlene Cole for more information.

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

WORKSHOPS

The Central Coast Conservatorium **Guitar Summer School...**

10am-3pm, Monday –Thursday, 14-17 January 2008 at Central Coast Conservatorium, Directed by enthusiastic, qualified and experienced tutors/performers. For bookings and information call 4324 7477 or Eric Cathan on 0424 028 053. Cost: \$150

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CALENDAR...

[CENTRAL COAST CONSERVATORIUM, MANN ST, GOSFORD - 4324 7477](#)

Updates shortly

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

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 9** – *late listing Jazz Nouveau and Zkye. Zkye is jazz diva who sings the classics. (Don Craig Room – 7pm); **Feb 15** – Supper Club returns with favourites Andrew Godbold and the Andrew Swan trio (book early); **Feb 29 – March 15** – GMS presents Annie Get Your Gun.

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

Theatresports returns Feb 23. Theme TBA. Drama and Theatresports classes will resume next year, call Mad Cow to enrol.

[THE PENINSULA THEATRE, Cnr McMasters & Ocean Beach Rds, Woy Woy.](#)

Feb 12-14 – Heath Franklin's 'Chopper' in *Make Deadshits History*, **Feb 15** – First Cultural Laboratory (a cornucopia of the arts) for 2008; **Feb 22-March 9**: Deathtrap

*****NOTE WOY WOY LITTLE THEATRE'S WEBSITE HAS CHANGED**

[WOY WOY LITTLE THEATRE: www.woywoylt.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 soon.

[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, featuring a full programme TBA.

[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 #47

"The Supreme Court has ruled that they cannot have a nativity scene in Washington, D.C. This wasn't for any religious reasons.

They couldn't find three wise men and a virgin." - Jay Leno



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