

# WHAT E-NEWS

It's my way or the information superhighway

## Editors Note...

As you read this, I am taking a well-earned four-day break in the laid back, new-age, fast food-phobic haven that is Mullumbimby. I'm visiting my sister – who is unable to travel at present - and am joined by two other sisters. I'll even go so far as to say I probably have a piece of chocolate in one hand and a glass of red wine in the other and am lounging in my PJ's. That's the way we roll when we get together, my beautiful big sisters and I. The best thing about all this is - the sister whom we're visiting had no idea I would be joining them. I told her I couldn't afford it – which is true, but sometimes an Ed's gotta do, what an Ed's gotta do, and as this was to be our first sisterly re-union for over two and a half years – there was no case for the negative. Busy lives and non-conducive circumstances have a way of preventing vital life experiences from taking place far too often and sometimes we just have to say "bugger it, I'm doing it." I filed this issue some time on Tuesday morning and instructed my son to press 'send' on Friday morning. I'm feeling pretty clever right about now. Be it rain, hail, sleet or the soul-reviving sustenance of sisterly hugs – **nothing** stands in the way of your fabulous, free, fortnightly WHAT E-NEWS from reaching it's appointed destination at the appointed time! Feel free to mention this fact the next time you're spruiking for sponsors on my behalf.

### EXCLUSIVE FREEBIE!

#### \*GADGETS\*

Peninsula Theatre, March 18-19  
**WHAT E-NEWS subscribers**  
 receive **FREE** tickets for the  
**March 19 Matinee!**  
**1.30pm (Usually \$25).**  
**BOOKINGS; 43 233 233**

"A manic display of juggling that brings together digital technology, live jazz-metal from Jim Dunlop and Marko Simec and the musing of Erik, a potty mouthed, remotely controlled metal dog." Sun Herald

Congratulations to the cast and crew of WWLT's **Deathtrap** who entertained and spooked audiences with a great production of this delightfully devious, deadly play and kudos to Tyrone McMaster on such an impressive debut (or comeback) to 'straight' theatre after a string of musicals. Also, more pats

on the back must go to the amazing cast of **Ophelia Thinks Harder** – who brought The Bard's (and Jean Betts') words to vivid life. Special mention must go to Caitlin Shaw, who at only 15, demonstrated amazing poise in the demanding lead role.

**Southern Cross Musicals** rolled out the red carpet this week for the media launch of **Paris**, where guests were given a sneak peek at the new songs. This revised version has been several years in development. I'm told it will 'knock your socks off', but with performers of the calibre of Jon English, Christopher Hamilton, Todd Keys, Kasey McKenzie et al, I'd advise everyone to hold on to the rest of your apparel too – just in case.

I'll finally be seeing **Annie Get Your Gun** on closing night. From all reports it's a bouncy, sweet homage to the genre, so I'm really looking forward to it. But for now – I must get back to all the family gossip and reminiscing...

**Until next time...don't put off what you really need to do.**

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**HEADS**



**UP!**

***RARE CHANCE TO SEE VISITING RUSSIAN GUITAR PRODIGY!***

Vladimir Gorbach, born in the city of Novosibirsk/Russia, started guitar lessons at the age of 11 with Professor Yuri Kuzin at the state music school in Novosibirsk and is now considered one of the most proficient guitarists under the age of 25 in the world. Don't miss this unique opportunity to see this gifted young man in concert. **Sat March 15 @ 4.30**, Robert Knox Hall, CC Conservatorium. Tickets: \$20/\$15. To book ph Eric Cathan: 0424 028 053.

**SHORT+SWEET REGIONAL FESTIVAL RETURNS TO THE COAST**

Short + Sweet's festival of short plays returns to the Peninsula Theatre, Woy Woy, **July 23-26** for its 2nd year. Calling all would-be Williamsons - send your scripts now. The festival is open current or past residents of the Central Coast. Plays must run no longer than 10 minutes. Last year's festival was a huge success with sell-out audiences. There is no entry fee, but plenty of prizes are on offer and the best play of the season wins a spot in the Short+Sweet Sydney festival in 2009. Script entries and expressions of interest for directors and actors close - 30 April with auditions mid May. Writers can download entry forms at [www.shortandsweet.org/node/189](http://www.shortandsweet.org/node/189) or contact festival director Brenda Logan on 0419 256 530 or email [Brenda@shortandsweet.org](mailto:Brenda@shortandsweet.org)

**BRUNIE BRINGS BASSEY TO LAYCOCK STREET**

*Laycock St presents the next of their popular Musical Matinees on APRIL 2nd at 11am*

Back by popular demand - songstress Brunie Riley returns with her outstanding tribute to the music of Shirley Bassey. Critics call her show "the ultimate tribute to Shirley Bassey". She is accompanied by Musical Director William Riley who has replicated the full Bassey backing sound on multiple keyboards. Don't miss Brunie Riley as she presents those immortal power ballads including: 'Goldfinger'; 'Diamonds Are Forever', 'Never, Never, Never', 'As Long As He Needs Me' and many more. TICKETS: \$15 (includes morning tea provided Ourimbah TAFE Hospitality)

**THE EMPEROR'S NEW CONCERT – APRIL 12**

CC Symphony Orchestra opens its 2008 concert season with 'The Emperor Concerto'. Beethoven's great piano Concerto No. 5, will be played by guest artist Phillip Shovk. Phillip is considered to be one of Australia's foremost concert pianists, chamber musicians, accompanists and teachers. Laureate at the Vianna de Motta Competition in Lisbon, he has performed to great acclaim worldwide. Also featuring Mozart's Symphony No.25 and Mendelssohn's Symphony No.25. 'The Reformation'. Two great Symphonies and a Piano Concerto!

**Saturday, April 12 at 8pm, Gosford High School Auditorium. Bookings at the CC Conservatorium, Phone: 4324 7477. Tickets \$30/\$25/\$10.**

**Announcing the Central Coast Mental Health Theatre Project - Act III.**

Since 2006, the Mental Health Theatre Project has – through the Ad Hoc Community Theatre Co. provided an opportunity for people who have experienced mental illness, staff of local mental health service, and local actors/directors, to work together to create memorable theatrical moments, notably the successful seasons of *Marat/Sade* and *Get Real*. This year's project has commenced, through a core group who have begun work-shopping scripts for performances throughout the year. Three or four shorter pieces of group-devised material are to be performed at various community events. People can participate in 10 - 12 week blocks or terms. Each term will involve play-building, skills development, rehearsal and performances. There will be four 'terms', and people can join for as many terms as they wish. **Would you like to join the project?** Please contact Paul Russell on: 0438 222 802

## SPOTLIGHT ON....

### ...Andrew Sampford



**How long have you been a Coastie?** Almost all my life...about 17 yrs.

**Your day-job?** Composer by trade, but when that work's not blooming I go for any work that comes my way (a hint for prospective employers).

**What did you want to be when you grew up?** I wanted to write music...so I suppose I'm doing pretty well on that front.

**When did you become involved in theatre?** I started with school theatre and in Wyong Musical Theatre Company shows playing Clarinet/Keyboard. Then I thought, "Why not have a crack at this acting stuff?" (*Must...fight...urge...to...make...joke...about...Andy's crack. – Ed*)

**Where did you learn your craft?** I am often compared in appearance to Hagrid from the *Harry Potter* series, so I'll throw Hogwarts out there. (*No, no...not 'Hagrid'. You look like you need more sleep.*)

**What was your first role?** Wilson in *Annie Get Your Gun*... I stood, I made noises, I conquered.

**Favourite play/musical – in which you were involved?** Probably the first *Paris*.

**Favourite play/musical that you have seen?** *The Hatpin* (music by Peter Rutherford). If you get a chance go and see it in its closing week.

**What would be/has been your dream part?** I enjoyed being Judd Fry in *Oklahoma* (the first time my direction wasn't just 'point at things and make obnoxious noises'.) (*Yet you continue to do it.*)

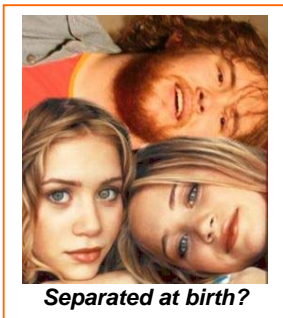
**Funniest moment in Theatre?** The theatre is full of hilarity and mirth, and to single out a funniest moment is difficult... However, anything involving either Rose Cooper or the Ben Ross All Stars usually tops it for me. (*Oh, now, don't go sucking up. People will suspect that we're good friends.*)

**Best/Worst movies?** Best: *The Lord of the Rings* Trilogy, and *Children of Men*, or anything starring the Olsen Twins; Worst: *Transformers*, *Happy Feet*, and anything not starring the Olsen Twins.

**Favourite TV show?** It's a tie between *Lost* and *Pushing Daisies*. **Favourite actors?** The Olsen Twins, hands down.

**Favourite book?** *The Lord of the Rings* (does that make me nerdy?) (*No, just your general nerdiness does.*) **Favourite singers?** That's a tough one, but I could listen to Ben Folds for hours. I'll also throw Caroline O'Connor's name out there. (*Stuff is beginning to pile up 'out there'*)

**Favourite quote?** "Behind every great man is a woman. And behind her is his wife." - Groucho Marx. **Finish the sentence** "If only I could..." Turn back time?



Separated at birth?

**ANDY HAS BEEN WAITING** (*Rather impatiently, I might add*) **FOR HIS MOMENT IN THE SPOTLIGHT, BUT REGULAR WHAT E-NEWS READERS WOULD BE APPRISED OF THE LAD'S EXPLOITS. WHEN HE'S NOT COMPOSING ORIGINAL FILM SCORES, HE'S ONE THIRD OF THE SUBLIMELY FUNNY BEN ROSS ALL STARS AS WELL AS AN INTREGAL PART OF THE AWARD-WINNING MANIC BUNNY FILMS PRODUCTION TEAM (CHECK THEM OUT ON YOUTUBE). HE'S ABOUT TO MD HIS SECOND JUNIORS SHOW FOR GMS IN JULY (ALADDIN JNR). BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE! HE'S APPEARED ON STAGE IN MANY GMS SHOWS, MOST RECENTLY PORTRAYING THE AFORMENTIONED, REDNECK 'JUD'. HE'S ALSO A REGULAR THEATRESPORTS PERFORMER AT MAD COW THEATRE AND CURRENTLY TEACHES SINGING AT 3STYLE STUDIOS – BUT WAIT, THERE'S EVEN MORE...ANDY IS RETURNING TO PARIS (HE WAS IN THE ENSEMBLE AT ONLY 15) – THIS TIME TO PLAY 'THE FISHERMAN'. AFTER ALL THAT I BET YOU'RE EXPECTING A FREE SET OF STEAK KNIVES. PARIS TICKETS ARE SELLING FAST, BOOK NOW: 43 233 233.**

## Kudos Korner...

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

### Dear Ed

I trust you have caught up with some rest following the spectacular V-Day epic. I was very happy to have been able to contribute in a small way. 'Top shelf' congratulations to you, and all who sailed with you, on contributing such a fantastic amount of money and positive energy, to local services for women. Those services and the Central Coast community in general, are better off because of the efforts of you all. Well done!

**Paul Russell**

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\*\*\***MOVIE OF THE WEEK**\*\*\*

### **Charlie Wilson's War (M)** directed by Mike Nichols. (*Closer; Primary Colors*)

**Starring Tom Hanks, Julia Roberts, Phillip Seymour Hoffman.** Cricketer Mark Waugh, younger brother of Steve, waited several years before wearing the Baggy Green, garnering him the nickname 'Afghanistan' (The forgotten 'Waugh'). Indeed, the plight of the Afghani's had been forgotten in the '80s, until a boozing, womanising congressman named Charlie Wilson, joined forces with a wealthy socialite and a CIA operative to put things right. It's an intricate, highly amusing story and the three Oscar winners work brilliantly together. All are playing against type, but perhaps none more-so than Hoffman who bludgeons his Capote personae to death with the gruff, downright hilarity of this role. I noted that the delicious, intelligent, dialogue-driven script smacked of *The West Wing* – before noting Aaron Sorkin's name in the closing credits. Naturally any war film, historical or otherwise, brings to mind the horror of conflicts currently raging on the other side of the world. It's a history lesson that reminds us that (because of Charlie and his cohorts) the US Government provided the arms in order for the 'good' guys, to defeat the 'bad' guys, but this is no chest-beating exercise. As Hoffman's character reminds us, the aftermath of this 'triumph' sowed the seeds of the current terrorist crisis. A spoonful of sugar helps the medicine go down – the witty banter throughout is a joy to behold, but the horrific images from the Afghan refugee camps linger in the mind long after the laughter subsides, making this the ideal 'war movie'. **4/5**

## YOUR FREE COMMUNITY CLASSIFIEDS

### AUDITIONS/EOI

#### GMS PRESENTS – 70 GIRLS 70

Directed by Chris King, Choreography by Lauren Miller. MD TBA. Information evening next Tuesday, March 18 at 7.30 in the GMS shed (adjacent to Laycock St Theatre). All information on characters will be given and audition material handed out. Auditions will be held from 7.30pm on March 30 with call-backs 1st and 2nd April.

### CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

LADIES TAP CLASSES Monday nights, 6.30pm. All ages (beginners welcome) at Wamboral Memorial Hall, Ocean View Drive. Two left feet optional. For further info phone Jan: 4367 0988



#### The Mad Cow Theatre Company

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**DUE TO 2007's SUCCESSFUL 'EARTH HOUR' THEATRESPORTS, IMPRO-BY-LAMPLIGHT RETURNS MARCH 29. COME AND SEE HOW MUCH HOTTER WE LOOK IN THE DARK!**

**New Company, Devising Theatre creates entertaining, thought-provoking works. A double-bill of one act plays which lampoon celebrity culture, are next up on the bill...**

**The IT Girl...** Follows two ambitious young women – both named Kimberley Clark who are competing for the top of the *Google* rankings. Their plans are thwarted, when a bad-girl celebrity named Kimberley Clark snags the number one spot, accidentally smearing both of their reputations in the process.

**Panopticon...** is a visual, frenetic work which turns the lens of celebrity culture back on the young people who consume it, asking how the constant barrage of celebrity news in the media affects our self-perception.

**FEATURING A SUPERB YOUNG CAST!**

**Saturday 29 March – 8pm**

**Sunday 30 March – 2pm**

**Tickets: \$12.50/\$10**

**Peninsula Theatre Box Office: 4323 3233**



**Opera at the Theatre!**

## Otello



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# CALENDAR...

## AVOCA BEACH PICTURE THEATRE. 4382 1677.

For full programme visit: [www.avocabeachpicturetheatre.com.au](http://www.avocabeachpicturetheatre.com.au)

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

**April 23** – Central Coast symphony presents the Emperor Concerto – Gosford High School.

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

**Closes Mar 15** – GMS Annie Get Your Gun; **March 18-19** – Heroes; **March 28** – Jeff Duff in the Supper Club (sold out); **March 29** – Puppetry of the Penis; **March 30** – Central Coast Concert Band; **April 11-19** – Southern Cross Musicals presents Paris starring Jon English; **April 24** – Ross Noble (SOLD OUT!); **April 26** – The Fab Four – The Australian Beatles Show (2pm and 8pm)

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

**MARCH 29 - THEATRESPORTS** Theme: Earth Hour - Impro by lamplight!.

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

**March 18-19** – Gadgets; **March 29-30** – The IT Girl and Panopticon;

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

**June 27-July 6** – Lipstick Dreams, Director Fran Kendall (“Kath and Kim meets Steel Magnolias”)

## WYONG DRAMA GROUP: [www.wyongdramagroup.com.au](http://www.wyongdramagroup.com.au) Ph: 4353 4353

**April 17-26** – Maggie’s Getting Married, director Ron Baker, with Debbi Clarke, Duncan Mitchell, John Czerniecki and Ruth Jordon. Book a table, BYO nibbles and drink (Tea and Coffee available).

## WYONG MEMORIAL HALL

**April 17-26** – Maggie’s Getting Married.

## WYONG MUSICAL THEATRE CO: [www.wmtc.com.au](http://www.wmtc.com.au) Bookings: 1300 366 470

**MAY** – Thoroughly Modern Millie

**CHECK THE INDIVIDUAL WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION**

**Links to all can be found at WHAT E NEWS official site: <http://ccenews.tripod.com>**

## RANDOM QUOTES #53

*“I think it’s important for girls to be confident. Believe in yourself and ... everybody’s hot.”*

**Paris Hilton**

**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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