

WHAT E-NEWS

What you don't know, can't hurt you.

Editors Note...



So...how are we all? Have a nice Easter? When last we spoke I was about to spring a surprise visit on my sister Wendy on the Far North Coast – this is how it went down. The photo (left) was taken approximately two seconds after the realisation dawned on her, that the person walking in the door behind our other sister, Diana, was another sister, whom she hadn't been expecting, i.e.: *yours truly*. Don't you just love it when a surprise actually works! We set it up, so that Diana arrived first, and after a couple of minutes she pulled out her phone and said "I told Rose I'd call her to let her know I arrived". But instead of pressing buttons on her phone, she walked to the front door and called out to me. Then I called back "Yeah? What do you want?" The look on Wendy's face was priceless. It was a lovely, much laid back few days and so nice to switch off the brain and just relax.

But...back to the here and now – putting the switch back to the 'on' position...**Devising Theatre** makes its debut this weekend with two originally-devised productions presented side by side at the Peninsula Theatre on Saturday night and Sunday afternoon. Utilising the talents of Paul Karton, Rosemary Parsons, Sierra Phillips and some of the best young actors on the coast, the first offering - **The I.T. Girl** (a nifty technological spin on the 'it' girl.) looks at how the internet (specifically Google) has changed the way we view our social status, and how the lure of fame or infamy has become equally seductive in today's celebrity-obsessed world. This is followed by **Panopticon** – the unusual name is derived from an idea for a prison promoted by 18th Century philosopher, Jeremy Bentham. He proposed that inmates should be monitored at all times – the theory being that prisoners would modify their behaviour under constant surveillance. Superimposing this notion on modern culture (the world is watching every move celebrities make) this play is thought provoking and amusing. It's a brave thing to break away from the tried and true traditions in theatre...especially on the Central Coast. At only \$12 a ticket, it would be great if our local arts community got behind it. **Book now on 4323 3233**. Or purchase tickets at the door.

Well, GMS' **Annie Get Your Gun** was certainly a hoot (and a holler). Leading from the front, **Toni Williams** provided a powerhouse performance as the feisty Annie Oakley, which must have been a nice change of pace from her previous role as the downtrodden Nancy in *Oliver!* The set, costumes, energetic choreography and vibrant cast provided a colourful and entertaining night at the theatre. Their next show, **70 Girls 70** is auditioning this Sunday (see classifieds page). Another treat for me last week was to be in the audience for the touring production of **Heroes**, the first of the Laycock Street Theatre subscriber season. What a delightful, classy and very funny piece of work. Tonight I'll see another piece of work in the form of the flamboyant **Jeff Duff** who will be paying tribute to Sinatra and Bowie before a sold-out crowd in the Donnie. **The Supper Clubs** are proving very popular indeed, so make sure you get in early for the next one (details below).

Until next time...go and see something completely new – I dare ya!

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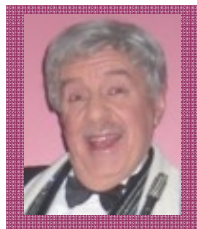
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HEADS



UP!

IS YOUR LITTLE DARLING DESTINED TO BE A STAR?

Ourimbah-Lisarow RSL will be holding their fourth annual Junior Talent Search from April 5. There are two Divisions, 12 years and under and 13 to 17 years. There are cash and other prizes on offer and they are seeking all types of performers, singers, dancers, magicians, musicians, bands, drama students. All must perform two items and if they need music backings, they need to provide own CD. There are eight heats, two semi finals and the Grand Final is on Saturday August 9. Contestants can enter as many times as they wish in order to go through to the finals. They can also enter as solo, duo, trio, band, etc. **To enter call Powerplay Promotions on 4389 4422.**

NO LIGHTS - NO CAMERAS – PLENTY OF ACTION!



Last year Central Coast **Theatresports** at Mad Cow Theatre declared it's allegiance to Earth Hour – a global mission to reduce carbon emissions by the synchronised switching off of electricity for one hour on the last Saturday of March every year. The show featured an hour long session of hilarious spontaneity with nothing more than some gas lamps and flashlights to illuminate the stage. Something about the 'no frills' approach worked a treat – and so it's back again this year. Who knows how long it will be before the lights go back on? It's **IMPRO BY LAMPLIGHT** at Mad Cow Theatre, Brooks Ave, Wyoming.

Saturday March 29 @ 8pm. Doors open at 7.30. Bookings: 43284432

LIZOTTE'S LOVES LIVE LOCAL LEGENDS!

BRIAN'S FAMOUS JAZZ & CHILLI CRAB NIGHTS - A HOT NIGHT OF COOL MUSIC!

Generous Feed of chilli crab or your choice of main course \$45.00 pp. Ala carte menu also available \$45.00 pp. These nights have just gone off and will feature the cool sounds of the **Simon Heffernan Jazz Quartet**, featuring: **David Smith** – Guitar, **Gavin Ahearn** - Keys,

Ronnie Papps - Drums and **Simon Heffernan** - Bass. **Saturday April 5 @ 7.30.**

Bookings: 43682017 or for on line bookings, visit: www.lizottes.com.au

APRIL SUPPER CLUB: EARLWOOD GREG and THREE LEFT FEET

APRIL 25 at 8pm

Local Blues legend Earlwood Greg reunites with the good old boys from Three Left Feet. Featuring folk/blues legends Jim 'Fingers' Jarvis (Bass/Guitar), Alan Meadows (harmonica/mandolin) and Johnny 'Tom Tom' Jacobs (drums/backing vocals). It will be a great night of blues in the popular Supper Club, seated at tables with bar and supper. Book early: 43 233 233

TICKETS All \$29 (includes supper provided by our catering affiliates TAFE Ourimbah Hospitality)

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SPOTLIGHT ON....

...David Spicer



Your day-job? By day I'm a reporter with ABC TV News. At night I am an agent for musicals and plays. Recently I've become the producer of *Paris* while I am on long service leave

What did you want to be when you grew up? An actor or a journalist.

When did you become involved in theatre? I started in primary school and have not stopped.

Where did you learn your craft? Cumberland Gang Show and amateur theatre in Sydney

What was your first role? 'Sneezy' in *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*.

Favourite play/musical – in which you were involved? I enjoyed most playing 'Motel the Tailor' in *Fiddler on the Roof*. It was the year I got married. (*You probably stayed in a motel. Spooky. – Ed*)

Favourite play/musical that you have seen? As I represent many wonderful musicals – this is like asking which one is your favourite child. I will pass on that. The production of the highest standard of a musical that I licensed was *Hot Shoe Shuffle* by Brisbane's Harvest Rain Theatre. I think Stuart Smith's inspired presentation of *Paris* just might top it.

What would be/has been your dream part? 'Rudolfo' in *La Boheme*.



Vintage Jon English circa 1975. Ed had such a crush!

Funniest moment in the Theatre? When I played Sneezy, I decided to sneeze as a gag in the bows – but fell over on my face. I have never had a laugh like it. (*Schadenfreude! I mean...gezundheit!*)

Best/Worst movies you ever saw? Movies tend to blur into one. (*Not on my watch*)

Favourite TV show? At the moment it's *Underbelly*

Favourite actors? Again...a blur. (*Note to the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, and other cinematic judging panels – Mr Spicer is not a good candidate to join your ranks.*)

Favourite book? *Midnight's Children* by Salman Rushdie.

Favourite singers? I enjoy listening to all wonderful tenors.

Finish the sentence – "If only I could..." Get some sleep.

SYDNEY-BASED DAVID'S A BUSY GUY! AS A THEATRICAL AGENT HE LOOKS AFTER A RANGE OF POPULAR MUSICALS, OPERETTAS, THEATRE RESTAURANT SHOWS AND YOUTH MUSICALS. JUST ABOUT EVERY FAMOUS AUSTRALIAN SHOW IS IN HIS CATALOGUE, AND NOW WITH HIS BRAND NEW PRODUCTION COMPANY SOUTHERN CROSS MUSICALS, HE'S ABOUT TO PRESENT THE DYNAMIC ROCK OPERA ABOUT PARIS AND HELEN OF TROY. LAYCOCK STREET THEATRE PRESENTS **PARIS FROM APRIL 11-19. THE CAST INCLUDES THE CREAM OF CENTRAL COAST TALENT – AND FEATURES THE SHOW'S CO-AUTHOR – OLD BLACK EYES HIMSELF – **JON ENGLISH**. TICKETS SELLING FAST, BOOK NOW TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT: 43 233 233.**

Kudos Korner...

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

Dear Ed

A quick note of congratulations to Brenda Logan and her talented bunch for the inspired and witty presentation of ***Ophelia Thinks Harder***. Unique staging, thoughtful direction and clever performances made for an entertaining afternoon, especially within the context of celebrations of International Women's Day and the 100th anniversary of ending Women's Suffrage. **Darlene C**



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MOVIE OF THE WEEK

THE BLACK BALLOON (M) directed co-written by Elissa Down (Debut)

Starring Rhys Wakefield, Gemma Ward, Luke Ford, Erik Thomson, Toni Collette. A lot of buzz preceded the Australian release of this film – and with good reason. It's an extremely well-crafted and unflinching account of how an average Australian family struggles with the extreme highs and lows that come with dealing with autism. The family (consisting of pregnant mum, dad, and two teenaged sons) aren't super-human either. Courtesy of another earthy performance from Collette, we are immediately drawn into the chaotic, humble world of the Mollison family. The father is in the army, so the family have moved a lot. This fact makes it hard enough for their younger son, at the vulnerable age of 16. Think how cruel teenagers can be to the 'new kid' and then multiply that by 100 when that boy has an extremely handicapped older brother. Director/co-screenwriter Down knows the subject matter first hand, having grown up with two autistic brothers – one of whom, like the boy in this film, also suffers ADHD. With the benefit of hindsight and maturity, Down has bared her soul here. This is no romanticised, sanitized Hollywood version of autism (think *Rainman*, *The Boy Who Could Fly*, *Little Man Tate* et al) this is gritty, at times excruciating viewing. Happily it is softened by a love interest – played with disarming naturalism by former model Gemma Ward. The tangible frisson between these two young actors is beautifully enhanced by the thoughtful cinematography. Ironically there is one scene near the end that feels a bit staged, but this is unavoidably highlighted by the fact that rest of the film feels so palpably real. Luke Ford gives a brilliant performance of as the autistic son. The soundtrack is reminiscent of *American Beauty*, but with a distinct Aussie flavour. It's a rare, eye-opening, absorbing film with a conscience. **4/5**

YOUR FREE COMMUNITY CLASSIFIEDS

AUDITIONS/EOI

GMS PRESENTS – 70 GIRLS 70

Directed by Chris King, Choreography by Lauren Miller, MD Simone Williams. All information on characters and audition material available at GMS costumes. Auditions will be held from 9am on March 30 (ensemble) principals by appt after 1pm. ALL AUDITIONEES MUST REGISTER AT 9AM. Call-backs 1st and 3rd April. For an appt, contact Gary Keys: 0414656748

WWLT PRESENTS - DOUBT

This popular play is currently being made into a movie starring Meryl Streep and Phillip Seymour Hoffman! Auditions will be held on Monday 28 and Wednesday 30 April from 7.30pm at Woy Woy Public School Hall, Park Rd. Woy Woy. Required are one male – 30s to 40s age group – to play Catholic Priest. Three females – 20s, 30s, and 50/60s. As the plot is set in the US in the 1960s and specifically depicts the racial unrest of those times, actors of indigenous or African descent are encouraged audition for the part of the young mother. Production season at Peninsula Theatre, Oct 17-Nov 2. Rehearsals to commence in June/July. Further enquiries: 4341 2931 (John Hickey -Director)

SHORT + SWEET SHORT PLAY FESTIVAL – INFO NIGHT.

Information night 6pm-9pm on Tuesday, April 8, in the Don Craig Room, Laycock St Theatre, for actors, writers and directors interesting in taking part. This is your opportunity to pick up an info package, have a drink of wine or coffee and ask questions. The festival is open to current or past residents of the Central Coast. Scripts must be submitted by April 30. Application forms can be downloaded from the official Short & Sweet site: www.shortandsweet.org/node/189

CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

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



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You're Invited...

"MAGGIE'S GETTING MARRIED"

Tom, Maggie's father, doesn't like his daughter's choice of groom. Maggie's older sister arrives and meets the groom – but realises she *knows* him a little better than Maggie would have liked... Meanwhile, Maggie's sister's husband - an actor, is keeping the family entertained with his interpretation of Peter Pan – all the while, Maggie's future husband is trying to rekindle the flame with his future sister in law. Will it be happy ever after for Maggie? *

Wyong Drama Group presents a farce with class, written by Norm Foster. Directed by Ron Baker and featuring a top line cast including: Debbi Clarke, Ruth Jordon, Duncan Mitchell, John Czerniecki, Howard Oxley and Julie Bailey.

Wyong Memorial Hall, April 17-26.

BOOKINGS: 4353 4353

CALENDAR...

[AVOCA BEACH PICTURE THEATRE. 4382 1677.www.avocabeachpicturetheatre.com.au](http://www.avocabeachpicturetheatre.com.au)

Upcoming special presentations include: **French Friday** - *Read My Lips*, **April 4** @ 7.30pm. Tickets \$18.50 includes a glass of wine and nibbles. **Italian Friday** - *Rosa and Cornelia*, **April 18** at 7.30pm. Same ticket deal applies. The wine bar will be open on both evenings for the purchase of additional wine. For full weekly programme visit the website.

[CENTRAL COAST CONSERVATORIUM, MANN ST, GOSFORD - 4324 7477](http://www.centralcoastconservatorium.com.au)

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.

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 25** – Earlwood Greg (Supper Club in the Donnie); **April 26** – The Fab Four – The Australian Beatles Show (2pm & 8pm). Tickets selling fast!

[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.](http://www.woywoylt.com.au)

March 29-30 – The IT Girl and Panopticon – brand new, original theatre!

[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. Book a table or reserve raked seating. BYO nibbles and drink (Tea and Coffee available).

[WYONG MEMORIAL HALL](http://www.wyongmemorialhall.com.au)

April 17-26 – Maggie’s Getting Married.

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

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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 #54

“Do not regret growing older. It is a privilege denied to many.”

Author Unknown

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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