

WHAT E-NEWS

Focusing on what's in front of you

Editor's Note...



Look, up on the stage, it's SuperFran!

When I first started performing in plays and musicals on the Coast I was in awe of people who would be juggling more than one project at a time. I marvelled at how they could be rehearsing alongside me during the week, and also appearing on stage in a different production on the weekends. I remember thinking they must thrive on the stress or something. Besides, my family commitments didn't accommodate multiple projects at that time anyway. So for the first four years of my theatrical life I never 'overlapped' projects. I just cruised from one to the other, one at a time. How times change! My kids are older...and I currently find myself involved in two one-act plays for **Central Coast Theatrefest** in June, and then I will immediately dive into two teensy plays for **Short & Sweet** in July. Sure, they

aren't the same as full length productions, but there's still a lot of commitment in terms of time and focus. I figure I'm not getting any younger, so I really should make hay while the ol' memory cells are still pretty fresh. This brings me to the extraordinary Mrs Fran Kendall. Fran has been a creative force on the Central Coast for decades. A Life Member of GMS, she has starred in and directed umpteen musicals, and acted in and directed dozens of plays for WWLT and other local drama groups. This truly extraordinary lady is currently rehearsing the lead role in GMS' next production – **70 Girls 70**, (due to hit the Laycock St stage from August 1-16). Meanwhile, at the same time, she is the director of WWLT's next production **Lipstick Dreams**, which opens at the **Peninsula Theatre on June 27**. Incidentally, the character Fran portrays in 70 Girls – Ida (a huge role) is obviously one she was born to play. Fran played Ida about twenty years ago for GMS the last time they staged this hilarious show! Keep on keeping on, Fran. You are truly an inspiration!

Quick reminder - tonight and tomorrow night are the last chances to see **YiPA** (Youth in Performing Arts) at Laycock Street Theatre and **Educating Rita** at the Peninsula.

Two fantastic **subscriber season** shows are coming soon. The insightful comedy, **The Pitch** plays at the Peninsula Theatre on June 19-20 and a unique production, **The Arrival**, a story about how the experience of being an outsider resonates with us all. Produced by **Spare Parts Puppet Theatre** – it is presented with great pride, at Laycock Street Theatre on June 23-24. **I have a special offer for Subscribers who'd like to go and see The Pitch – call the box office now and receive two tickets for the price of one! Offer is exclusive to WHAT E-NEWS subscribers. Call now: 4323 3233. **SEE PAGE TWO FOR ANOTHER LAST MINUTE OFFER!**

Until next time, trust that things always work out in the end.

...Ed ☺

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What's Happening Around Town?

Lipstick, Hair-do's and Karaoke!

Lipstick Dreams is a quintessential Aussie play, centred around a small town hair salon. Four diverse friends have dreams of breaking out of their dreary day-to-day existences. First produced in 1988 by the New England Theatre Company, it had its first Sydney run in 1989 at Belvoir St Theatre, and a successful local run for the Central Coast Theatre Company in 1996 in which Fran Kendall played the role of 'Jan'.

Now Fran directs fabulous cast for Woy Woy Little Theatre, including Jen Francis (Quench Theatre's A Midsummer Night's Dream); Pam Campbell (V-Day Gosford's *The Vagina Monologues*); Kylie Legge (WWLT's *The Spirit of Annie Ross*) and Sam Dagasso (WWLT *Jake's Women*). This comedy with musical interludes is laugh-out-loud funny and an ideal girl's night out! **Opens June 27 at the Peninsula Theatre, Woy Woy, for a strictly limited season. Box office opens 10 – 2pm Mon to Fri from June 16. Tickets: \$20 adults \$17 concessions \$6 children 5-15yrs. Box office: 4344 4737**

ANYONE CAN HAVE RHYTHM: Thursday 12th June 7pm - Free Open Night at The Rhythm Hut - 1/179 The Entrance Rd Erina. Come and discover the home of drumming of the Coast. Free mini-class- play a drum on your first night! Listen to exotic instruments played by master instrumentalist, Rendra Freestone. A fun, informal night to explore a fantastic way to connect with community on the coast. Contact: 0418 259 224. gabbie@therhythmhunters.com

LAYCOCK STREET THEATRE PERFORMANCE SEASON 2008

Bell Shakespeare Presents... **AS YOU LIKE IT** by William Shakespeare, Directed by John Bell with Saskia Smith. This pastoral romp takes you to a place where running from loneliness, ageing and questioning loyalties gives way to friendship and a taste of love in a hostile, confusing world. (hey, if you can find a short, sharp, clear synopsis of this play that makes better sense, please get back to me, ok? There's only so much space...) **TICKETS \$40/\$35/\$25. RUSH HOUR - for patrons under 25yrs. Purchase your tickets up to one hour before the performance and pay just \$25**

SPECIAL DISCOUNT OFFER EXCLUSIVE TO SUBSCRIBERS!



Liza's little sister, Lorna Luft

Back in Australia for the first time in 30 years, International singing sensation, Lorna Luft appears at Newcastle's Civic Theatre for **ONE NIGHT ONLY!**

DON'T MISS LORNA LUFT as she presents...

'SONGS MY MOTHER TAUGHT ME'

Monday 16th June at 8pm!

Readers of WHAT E-NEWS will receive a \$5 discount by following the link: <http://premier.ticketek.com.au/shows/show.aspx?sh=LORNAL08>

Born to the legendary **Judy Garland** and producer **Sid Luft**, **Lorna Luft** is a dazzling talent whose career has stretched from Broadway, to London's West End and Hollywood. Lorna began her career, aged sixteen with her mum at the Palace Theatre in NYC and has flourished ever since.

She has headlined on Broadway in many musicals and appeared in many popular television shows. In 2007 she toured with **Rufus Wainwright** in tribute concerts to Judy Garland in New York, London, Paris and Hollywood. "Affectionate, amusing... a knock out" - **New York Post**; "Her full-throated performance is an incandescent revelation not to be missed" - **LA Times**; "A Voice bigger than Caesar's Palace" - **Sydney Morning Herald, June 2008.**

Meet the playwright / Actor / Director....



Spotlight on...Pauline Wright

How long have you been a Coastie? I moved to Avoca Beach nine years ago.

What is your day-job? I am a solicitor at P J Donnellan & Co in Gosford.

What did you want to be when you grew up? An artist – but my art school closed down three days before I was due to start! I then studied film-making, with law on the side. The law won.

When did you become involved in theatre? I won my first professional role when I was about 20 years old, while I was studying and did a number of stage and telly roles to help pay the bills.

Where did you learn your craft? I did as much stage work as I could - experience is the greatest teacher. The Pavilion Theatre in Castle Hill was my first training ground, complemented by training at NIDA summer school and private tuition in voice, movement and acting.

What was your first role? 'Johanna' in *Whose Son or Daughter is it Anyway?*

Favourite play/musical – in which you were involved? *Agnes of God*. I played Agnes at 21, the psychiatrist at 40something and, when I'm 60-something, I would love to play the mother superior.

Favourite play/musical that you have seen? A production of *Equus* that I saw at a tiny little theatre in Westleigh. It had the most brilliant performances I've seen in any live theatre.

What would be/has been your dream part? I would love to play Lady Macbeth. I've had some fabulous and diverse roles in all manner of productions, from Shakespeare to Musical Comedy.

Funniest moment in the Theatre? I was playing a nurse who has to feed the lead his dinner, as he's quadriplegic. His line is: "It's a bit salty". One night we forgot to bring the usual food all we had was a bit of stale, Christmas cake. I mushed it up with a bit of red wine and zapped it. When I fed him – oh, the look on his face – "It's a bit salty" – not! He really gave it to me off stage.

Best/Worst movies you ever saw? Best: *2001: A Space Odyssey*. The worst? A Bollywood movie. Almost three hours of awful singing, cloying schmaltz and bad acting! I lasted 45 minutes...

Favourite TV show? *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*. I've written a stage treatment of the musical episode, *Once More with Feeling*, which I'm itching to produce if only I had the money.

Favourite actors? Daniel Day Lewis, Rupert Everett and Miranda Richardson, Christopher Plummer and Helena Bonham-Carter. **Favourite book?** One is *A Woman of the Future* by David Ireland – and I've loved everything I've read by David Malouf. **Favourite singers?** Kate Bush, Sinead O'Connor, Billie Holliday, Ella Fitzgerald, Jeff Buckley and my step-daughter, Lenka.

Favourite quote? *I have forced myself to contradict myself in order to avoid conforming to my own taste* – Marcel Duchamp. **Finish the sentence "If only I could..."** "...find time to do everything!"



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This multi-skilled artist, defender of justice and all-round mover and shaker, scooped the 'best director' nod at last year's *Central Coast Theatrefest*. Next up, she will immortalise the extraordinary life of Frida Kahlo in a special production being presented at Avoca Beach Picture Theatre in honour of Five Lands Walk. *The Great Masquerade: Frida Kahlo, A streetcar and Desire* plays June 21-23. Written and directed by Pauline, it features a top-line cast of local actors. Bookings: 43821677

Your Say...

*Letters may be edited for space & clarity.

Dear Ed

I saw *Educating Rita* and will be going back for more tonight. What a fabulous production! The performances were as I would expect from two very polished actors. Their characters go through a gamut of emotions in many short scenes, giving a deep insight into the building of a relationship, made utterly believable by their great characterisations and very crisp direction. What was happening off stage was just as awe-inspiring. All technical, backstage and FOH roles were carried out by students of the BWSC. The superb lighting and quick scene changes were so professional I was surprised to find none of the regular theatre employees in charge. The young people did the lot. The future of local theatre looks to be in great hands. How fortunate for them have this kind of initiation under the guidance of experienced Director Brenda Logan and performers Kate Buckland and Paul Russell. If you get the chance, do see this! And keep your eyes out for future projects involving any of the abovementioned. **Bob Farmer.**



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

Now showing...

After Midnight. With its charming, cutting humour, this film reveals gift for storytelling that blends quirkiness with wry satire. Amanda is a tomboyish, unhappy, minimum wage burger flipper who is subjected to a tyrannical boss who won't let her catch the last bus home before midnight, even though the customers are long gone. Amanda's irresponsible boyfriend isn't much help. Fed up with the prison-like atmosphere at work, Amanda flings the hot cooking grease at the boss and bolts. With the cops in pursuit, Amanda ducks into Turin's palatial, Mole Antonelliana Museum of Cinema, where the night watchman Martino helps hide her. Unknown to Amanda, Martino (a regular customer) has long been obsessed with her – and he hates burgers. He is so immersed in silent movie dreamscapes that he can barely distinguish himself at this point from Buster Keaton and draws Amanda into the magical world of the movie museum, where art doesn't so much imitate, as perfect and replace life. Amanda is torn between two lovers and her choice is made more difficult with the enchantment of movies. *After Midnight* may very well be about the deepening impact of movie fantasy on people, as options in life diminish under weakening economic conditions, wherever that may be. At the same time, the film delicately casts its spell somewhere between grasping at movies to re-imagine a life, and life surprising itself by playing out as a movie. **3.5/5.** *Edited review by Prairie Miller obtained at rottentomatoes.com. *After Midnight* is this weekends **Italian Movie Special**. Tickets \$18.50 includes supper and wine. For a full programme and screening times, visit the website.

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AUDITIONS/EOI

GMS PRESENTS – WEST SIDE STORY OCT/NOV 2008

Directed by Daryl Kirkness. Open auditions for all will commence with registration at midday at the GMS shed – on **Sunday June 15**. Acting, singing and dancing sections will be carried out separately through the day. Cast members sought will be between the ages of 16 to mid 20s or at least appear this age. There are four male 'adult' roles (over 30's) which will be auditioned privately from 8.30pm. ***Private auditions for the leading roles** of Tony, Maria, Anita, Bernardo, Riff or Action will be held on Monday June 16 from 7pm. *NB...Monday night auditions to be held downstairs in the Anglican Church Hall, Jarrett St, Wyoming. Callbacks will be held on Tues and Thurs nights. Audition available from GMS Costumes in Henry Parry Drive behind Laycock St Theatre. For appointments or further information, please call Ken Hind on: 0434 155 797. Character list & schedule may be viewed at the GMS website: www.gosfordmusicalsociety.com.au

CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

AFRICAN DRUMMING WORKSHOPS

InRhythm drumming workshops allow you to know and 'feel' the rhythms through a variety of powerful techniques that support the many varied ways we all learn. You'll build confidence whilst exploring the fundamentals of: good groove, technique, etiquette, phrasing, listening & dynamics. There's also facilitated open jams for free expression so you can explore your unique sense of rhythm and enjoy the good vibes of jamming with a big crew of people! At the end of longer courses students can perform at Riddim' Fest and other great events! Africa is blessed with 100's of rhythms. We are always introducing new traditional rhythms to keep it fresh! When: **June 15, from 10am-1pm at Wyong Old Public School**. Free drum hire or BYO. REGISTRATION: \$55. To book phone Tuggerah Lakes community college on: **4388 4574**. InRhythm hold a variety of workshops, including drum-making workshops, team-building, health and wellness, junior workshops and more. Check their website for all the info: www.inrhythm.com.au

MISCELLANEOUS

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Calendar

Because we all need reminding

AVOCA BEACH PICTURE THEATRE. 4382 1677. www.avocabeachpicturetheatre.com.au

Coming Events Fri June 6 @ 7.30pm & Sun June 8 @ 1.30pm. Tickets \$18.50 includes wine & nibbles. For a full programme visit the website.

LAYCOCK STREET THEATRE: www.laycockstreet.com Box Office: 4323 3233.

June 3-7 – YiPA; **June 14** – Buddy's Back (inc Matinee); **June 22** – CC Symphony, The Kookaburra That Stole the Moon; **June 27** – Supper Club with Glenn Cardier; **June 30-July 1** – Bell Shakespeare's As You Like It. **July 2** – Stephen Fisher-King's Classique (mat); **July 8-12** – GMS Juniors presents Disney's Aladdin Junior; **July 16-19** – Scouts and Guides present the annual Gang Show; **July 18** – Supper Club – Janet Seidel – Australia's first lady of Jazz; **July 20** – Gosford City Brass Band (2pm); **July 22-23** – Possum Magic – The Musical; **July 26** – Toni Lamond, an extraordinary life (inc matinee); **Aug 1-23** – GMS presents 70 Girls 70.

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

June 27 – Youth Theatresports show ALL TICKETS ONLY \$5; **June 28** - THEATRESports tickets \$17/\$12

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

CLOSES SATURDAY – BWSC presents – Educating Rita; **June 19-20** – The Pitch; **June 23-24** – The Arrival; **June 27-July 6** – Lipstick Dreams; **July 23-26** - Central Coast Short & Sweet;

WOY WOY LITTLE THEATRE: 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 Ph: 4353 4353

August – Loot. Book a table. BYO nibbles and drink (Tea and Coffee available).

WYONG MEMORIAL HALL

30 May-June 7 – WMTC's Thoroughly Modern Millie. **June 13** – Brackets and Jam, Afro Jam night – fundraiser for Coast Fest. \$20 per head. Book a table for a feast of African food and music.

WYONG MUSICAL THEATRE CO: www.wmtc.com.au Bookings: 1300 366 470

CLOSES SATURDAY - 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 #60

CELEBRATING FAMOUS CELEBRITY INSULTS...

“She turned down the role of Helen Keller because she couldn't remember the lines.”

- - - Joan Rivers (about Bo Derek)

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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