

WHAT E-NEWS

RIP JD Salinger 1919-2010

Editor's Note

Greetings from Planet Newtown - I spent all of last week traipsing up and down the F3, while presenting my play **Double Take** as part of the Sydney Short & Sweet Festival. While I did have a crack at this event last year – I was only entered as a wildcard, which meant I only had one day to experience being part of the Sydney festival and only one chance to perform. Having been lucky enough to participate in the last two Central Coast festivals, I was wondering if the Sydney experience could compare in regards to the unpretentiousness and camaraderie that makes our festival so joyful (and addictive). The answer is a resounding - yes. The hundreds of writers, actors and directors whom 'compete' have a vast range of experience and expertise – but Short & Sweet is a level and very supportive playing field. The one thing we all have in common is the drive to participate in this inspiring, exciting and challenging form of live theatre. Everyone was so gosh-darn nice and the feedback we received was very positive. Now I'm even more eager to return in a couple of weeks – I've signed up to act in another writer's play during Week 7. If only petrol (and train fares) were cheaper! Oh well – it's an investment in my further education. By the way – home town girl **Beverly Callow** (the director of *Bangers* which won Central Coast S+S and as such will be competing in Sydney next week) also directed last week's winning play - with two weeks notice! She did an amazing job. That play (*Lifetime*) will now proceed to the grand final at NIDA in March. Congrats Bev!

Meanwhile, back at the ranch...to help you prepare for your next challenge, page two contains synopses of two of the great shows that are auditioning soon and don't forget to check all the notices on page 4. There's something for everyone, starting with auditions next week for WMTC's *The Music Man*.

I'm hugely excited to extend a very big welcome this week to my brand-new sponsor *MIPA Entertainment*. Gary Keys, Ken Hind, Sam Strada and Scott Dalton have banded together with the common desire to bring smaller-scale, professional-standard musical productions to the Coast. Their inaugural production will be the rollicking 1960s tribute to the life and compositions of Ellie Greenwich - **Leader of the Pack**. Featuring an outstanding local cast, it will be staged at Mingara in May. More info on that in coming weeks. Meanwhile – have you got your tickets to GMS' **THE MIKADO** or WWLT's **WRONG TURN AT LUNGFISH** yet?

Ed ☺

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WHAT'S UP

'Carmen' is Comin'!

Avoca Beach Picture Theatre, Saturday 6th & Sunday 7th Feb.

As mentioned previously - Avoca Beach Picture Theatre screens live video-casts of operas direct from the **New York Metropolitan Opera Company**. Carmen is possibly one of the most well known operas – and for only \$25 you can experience cream of international vocal talent and incredible staging, via high-definition video that almost puts you on the stage. The lyrics are subtitled in English on screen, and a host personality introduces the plot and takes the viewer backstage for interviews with the singers and production crew. Call 4382 1677 to book (reserve seating) and visit www.avocabeachpicturetheatre.com.au for more info.

Hugh was the Boy from Oz!

GMS will be holding auditions in March for *The Boy From Oz*. In case you've been living under a rock...the show is the story of one of Australia's most successful songwriters and best loved showmen – Peter Allen who died in 1992 of AIDS at the age of 48.

Synopsis: The show takes us back to his childhood in 1950s Tenterfield, where as a young boy name Peter Woolnough, he sang in local pubs. Tragically, his father – a violent alcoholic, took his own life when Peter was small. As a teen in the 60s, Peter performed as one of The Allen Brothers, who performed regularly on TV's Australian Bandstand. While in Hong Kong – Peter meets Judy Garland. They become friends and she invites the Allen Brothers to open for her in New York. Here he meets Judy's daughter, Liza Minnelli, and they fall in love and get married. Liza's world comes crumbling down when her mother passes away. Peter and Liza's marriage ends. Peter returns home to visit his mother, but discovers you really can't go home again. Back in the U.S., Peter performs solo. He also has a new love in his life - Greg Connell. The highlights in Peter's career keep coming as he wins an Oscar for song-writing (Co-writing 'Arthurs Theme' – aka 'The Best that You Can Do') and he fulfils a lifelong dream by performing at Radio City Music Hall with the Rockettes. He discovers his mother is also in love, but along with her happiness comes tragedy for Peter. Greg becomes ill and Peter takes care of him. Peter then takes ill himself. Peter returns to Australia for a triumphant concert in Sydney and tries to tell his mother about his illness, but can't find the words. Eventually, he succumbs to the disease, but not before going out in true Broadway style with a big production number. The show features some of his greatest compositions including: *I Honestly Love You, Don't Wish Too Hard, Everything Old is New Again, Don't Cry Out Loud, I Go to Rio and Quiet Please, there's a Lady on Stage.*

Hello...Operator?

WWLT will be holding auditions in March for their next production – *OPERATOR* by David Williamson. Synopsis: Young, charming and a go-getter, Jake is the ideal candidate for an executive position with a thriving local company. Melissa, Jake's co-worker, has all the intelligence, industry and integrity Jake lacks. But Jake has a secret weapon: his skills at exploiting, manipulating and maneuvering would put Machiavelli in the shade. He's the Operator.

This is a biting, contemporary Australian drama with a satirical edge.

Six cast members required: 3M (aged 20s-50s) and 3F (20s-40s) See p5 for details.



General enquiries: 4341 2931
Box Office: 4344 4737
(Open 2 weeks prior to opening date)

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Spotlight On...



Pic courtesy Patrice Horne, WWLT

Steve Killeen

How long have you been a Coastie? About 15 years

What is your day-job? Full Time Fireman with the NSW Fire Brigades

What did you want to be when you grew up? A jet pilot, a race car driver, a rock star. Oh yes, and a fireman!

When did you become involved in theatre? I started when I was about 15 years old, prior to that I'd only done school plays and that sort of thing, nothing major as my main involvement was singing.

Where did you learn your craft? "SUDS" (Sydney University) and every production since (and I'm still learning!)

What was your first role? As 'Young Elvis' in *Elvis the Musical*. (I prefer 'skinny' Elvis. After all he was only 42 – therefore still young when he died – Ed)

Favourite play/musical – in which you were involved? Probably Smoky Joe's Café, but *Key for Two* at WWLT was a lot of fun, and seeing as I hadn't acted in such a long time, it felt good to get back into it again and working with such a great cast of people.

Favourite play/musical that you have seen? *Chicago*, *The Phantom of the Opera* and *A Delicate Balance*.

What would be/has been your dream part? As 'Valmont' in *Dangerous Liaisons* or as 'Jesse Lujack' in *Breathless* (sigh...Richard Gere really nailed the latter. Cue: reverie!)

Funniest moment in the Theatre? When a very polished well spoken Actress (name withheld for reasons to follow) broke wind on stage, and to make matters worse (and funnier) was asking all the other cast in succession ... "Was that You?" the more actors she asked the funnier it became. (Now there's a class act!)

Best/Worst movies you ever saw? The best movie I've ever seen...hmm there are so many but probably *Braveheart* or *Dances with Wolves* or *Shawshank Redemption*. The worst movie has to be any of that *Ernest Goes* series crap or *Fools Gold*. (Who's 'Ernest'? And yes, 'Fool's Gold' is near the top of my bottom too – I could tell going in, and yet I watched it anyway. Still not sure what possessed me).

Favourite TV show? The Original *Twilight Zone*. **Actors?** Humphrey Bogart, James Cagney, Peter Sellers and Harrison Ford. **Singers?** Dusty Springfield, Nina Simone, Elvis and Sinatra. **Book?** *The Stand* by Stephen King.

Favourite quote? "Never be afraid to try something new. Remember that a lone amateur built the Ark. A large group of professionals built the Titanic." - Dave Barry. (He has a point)

Who should play you in a movie about your life? Michael Madsen (I can totally see it!)

Finish the sentence "If only I could..." turn the world upside down, so it is the right way round again. (?)

STEVE IS ENJOYING A BIT OF A BREAK AFTER FEATURING PROMINENTLY IN RECENT COMEDIES WITH WWLT. MEANWHILE, WWLT'S NEXT PRODUCTION is **WRONG TURN AT LUNGFISH directed by BARBARA HICKEY featuring JOHN HICKEY, CAIT SHAW, ADAM YOUNG and LYNDSAY DOYLE. CO-WRITTEN BY US SITCOM WRITING ROYALTY, GARRY MARSHALL and LOWELL GANZ, LUNGFISH IS A SHARP, WITTY, POINANT PLAY, SHOWING FOR THREE WEEKS ONLY at the PENINSULA THEATRE, WOY WOY, FROM FEB 12. **BOOKINGS: 43 444737****

FEEDBACK

**Letters may be edited for space & clarity.*

Dear Readers

Many long time readers of this newsletter may recall a few years back, I wrote an appeal on behalf of **Brenda Logan** – whose baby granddaughter Ava was suffering daily seizures as a sufferer of **Tuberous Sclerosis**. At the time they needed money to get her to the US for specialist surgeries. Since then, Ava's condition has improved, but she is by no means out of the woods. As the family face the challenge of yet more surgeries they also wish to make the public aware of Ava's next challenge. A symptom her condition is a disfiguring facial rash that starts to develop around two years of age and gets progressively worse over time. Currently the only course of action is regular laser treatment that slows the growths. It by no means stops them and after two years of treatment Ava's skin continues to get worse. But there is hope...recent research has discovered a topical cream that has shown to slow down and, in some cases, reverse the facial lesions. In conjunction with the Sydney Children's Hospital and the Australasian Tuberous Sclerosis Society Ava's parents are trying to raise \$200,000 to get a formal medical trial of the cream underway. They request that folks perhaps host a morning tea or utilise any other fundraising idea to help them raise this money. This is something that could make such a difference to how Ava is perceived in society and also to her self image and self confidence. To read more and to donate, visit:

http://www.atss.org.au/component/option.com_facileforms/Itemid,60/

Ed

AUDITIONS/WORKSHOPS

WOY WOY LITTLE THEATRE PRESENTS DAVID WILLIAMSON'S 'OPERATOR'

Christine Vale will direct David Williamson's *Operator* for production at the Peninsula Theatre in July. Auditions will be held at the Peninsula Theatre from 7.30pm, Tuesday/Thursday March 2/4.

Woy Woy are also holding open auditions for their season of One Act Plays

The one-act plays are: 1 *Sauce Béarnaise* directed by Panos Carrangis; 2 *Joining the Club* directed by Marie Sellers and 3 *War Letters* directed by Linda Williams. Auditions for all plays will be held on one night only 9th March 2010 from 7:30pm at Woy Woy School. Audition information will be available at the box office during the run of 'Wrong Turn at Lungfish'.

YOUTH IN PERFORMING ARTS (YIPA) AUDITIONS FOR SECONDARY STUDENTS

Audition dates are: Feb 28 (Don Craig Room); March 14 (DCR). Vocalists are requested to fill these two days. Dancers, instrumentalists and group performances are asked to audition from March 21 and March 27 – in the main auditorium. Performers can contact Chris Cox on 43244109 or 0408704053 for further information.

WYONG MUSICAL THEATRE COMPANY presents THE MUSIC MAN

Auditions on February 1-3 at Wyong Memorial Hall from 7pm. Audition material will be available at information night. There is no age limit, all auditions will be considered. For information call the Director: Kathy Veale: 4352 1119.

UNITING PRODUCTIONS INFORMATION NIGHT TONIGHT!

Come and meet the principals of U.P. and discuss their programme for next year. Seeking to feature the works of local playwrights (one and two act plays). Bring your scripts along. Venue: Gosford Uniting Church, Donnison St Gosford, from 7.30pm. Tea, Coffee and bickies provided.

GMS PRESENTS THE BOY FROM OZ (THE PETER ALLEN STORY) JULY/AUGUST

Information night Tuesday March 2 in the GMS shed. More info as it comes to hand ☺

COMPANY DIRECTORY

PLEASE CHECK THE FOLLOWING WEBSITES FOR THE LATEST SHOWTIMES

CENTRAL DANCE COMPANY: www.centraldancecompany.org

GOSFORD MUSICAL SOCIETY

Web: www.gosfordmusicalsociety.com.au Box Office: 4323 3233. Venue: Laycock Street Theatre, Laycock Street, North Gosford. Next: 'The Mikado' Feb 26-March 13

LAYCOCK STREET NORTH GOSFORD and THE PENINSULA THEATRE WOY WOY

Web: www.laycockstreettheatre.com Box Office: 4323 3233.

WOY WOY LITTLE THEATRE INC

Web: www.woywoylt.com.au Venue: The Peninsula Theatre, Cnr MacMasters Rd, Woy Woy. Box office: 4344 4737. Next production: 'Wrong Turn at Lungfish' (Feb 12-28)

WYONG DRAMA GROUP:

Web: www.wyongdramagroup.com.au Box office: 4353 4353 Venue: Wyong Memorial Hall, Anzac Ave, Wyong. Next Production 'Cosi' April 15-24

WYONG MUSICAL THEATRE CO

Web: www.wmtc.com.au Venue: Wyong Memorial Hall. Box office: 1300 366 470


Next production – 'The Music Man' – see audition notices

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