

WHAT E-NEWS

Keep it Gay, Keep it Gay, Keep it Gayyyyy

Editor's Note.

Welcome to the sixth anniversary issue of WHAT E-NEWS. Yes folks, I've been slaving over a hot keyboard for you all since my youngest was in kindergarten. He's now in Year 6. For over five of those years I've also been profiling local performers. In fact, this week is my 125th 'Spotlight On' interview. If I haven't profiled YOU yet, please tell me. Sometimes I don't have time to chase people and (as you'll see this week) I simply have to grab the first person I see!

I'm looking forward to seeing **Wrong Turn at Lungfish** tonight. I've been hearing great things (not surprising, given the terrific cast) but I've also been told that attendance could be better. People have been asking why. Why, when there's such a terrific young cast, aren't more *young* people coming to see local theatre? It's a conundrum. GMS has no trouble finding audiences and it seems every man and his little dog has forked out big bucks to see **Wicked**. What do readers think? What is it about 'straight plays' that don't attract the same support from younger audiences as do musicals? I'd appreciate your feedback on this subject.

Speaking of youngin's, **Throwing Stones** – a Gosford City Council funded anti-bullying campaign, delivered through Regional Youth Support Services Inc. is seeking committed, pro-active young performers to become part of their Stage 2, Devising Team. Stage 1 proved an outstanding success. This project is focused on the victim's 'voice' and aims to create an educational drama tool to empower young people to confront bullying. RYSS are looking for young people whose areas of interest include strong improvisational skills; preferably a good sense of stagecraft (not just performing) the ability to work in a group, punctuality and a strong imagination. A commitment to the subject matter is as important as a commitment to the theatrical side. For more info contact Virginia on 43232374 or at artstart@ryss.com.au

Last night I saw the preview of **The Mikado**. It's an astounding visual spectacle, as we've come to expect from GMS with superb set design and stunning costumes. **Judy Marshall-Shutte** is clearly enjoying her role as the hideously adorable 'Katisha' after her heart-rending performance in **Cats**, fab newcomer **Mat Waugh** (WMTC's *Pirates of Penzance*) is charming as Nanki-Poo, while GMS Juniors 'graduates' **Danita Weatherstone** and **Raif Colbert-Smith** hold their own brilliantly alongside veterans Daryl Kirkness and Darryl Davis. This is one of the funniest turns I've seen from the versatile Mr Davis (and it takes work not to be upstaged by that hat! Kudos to the wardrobe ladies on that master stroke). A big Chookas to the cast and crew for tonight's opening and also to **Mike Jeffries** who is starring in his self-penned mono-drama, **Cross Words** (wonderfully directed by Terry Collins) which is battling it out in tomorrow's **Short + Sweet Wildcard Final** from 3pm at NIDA.

Ed ☺

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WHAT OP

Stop Press: Special Audition Notice

NEWCASTLE FESTIVAL OPERA presents the Weill & Brecht masterpiece -

'THE THREEPENNY OPERA'

Attention singer-actors and actor-singers! Do you like tough, grungy Music Theatre with a message? Director, Carl Caulfield will hold auditions THIS WEEKEND Feb 27-28 in Newcastle. Performance dates: 4/5 June @ Cessnock; & 18/19/20 June @ Newcastle Civic Playhouse. Call Ghillian on 0412 681 568 for audition address and appointment time.

If all the world's a stage, who's in charge of props?

CREW NEEDED! Have you thought of joining Wyong Drama Group? Here's the perfect chance to learn more about what happens behind the scenes by joining the crew of the next production, Louis Nowra's **Cosi** in mid April. Production manager Josh Aspinall is looking for a full crew comprising: publicity officer, set construction manager and builders, stage manager, lighting designer & operator, F.O.H. manager, makeup applicator, costume co-ordinator, prompt and ticketing co-ordinator. Closer to the show we will also need ushers, programme and ticket sellers, caterers and others. For more info, contact Josh on 0431-985-391 or you can email jablack@aapt.net.au For more details about the show itself, you can visit: <http://www.wyongdramagroup.com.au/cosi.htm>

SO YOU THINK YOU CAN BE FUNNY? REGISTER NOW FOR CENTRAL COAST LEAGUES' OPEN MIC STAND-UP COMEDY NIGHT!



This is a call out to aspiring stand up comics to register for **Comedy Cage Match Open Mic** on March 19 at the Central Coast Leagues Club. Your routine should be around 5-8 minutes. The audience chooses the winner by accolade, and the winner goes on to the next show for a PAID 15 minute spot as the Local Support Act. You can register as many times as you like - if you don't win and keep trying. Contact Richard Waters at comedysideshow@gmail.com or visit <http://www.comedysideshow.com> for more details. The first **Comedy Sideshow** is Friday the 19th of March @ 7:30pm.



General enquiries: 4341 2931
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(Open 2 weeks prior to opening date)

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Spotlight On...

Simon Heffernan



How long have you been a Coastie? 11 years.
(Wow, that's a co-incidence, me too! Ed)

What is your day-job? Bus driver with STA

What did you want to be when you grew up? It changed every week...everything from fighter pilot to mad scientist.

When did you become involved in theatre? In my 20's I decided to broaden my horizons. I took drama at Darlinghurst ('Darlo') Theatre and also started playing electric bass. I figured both might provide a good way to meet chicks but music took over my life.

Where did you learn your craft? A bass teacher called "John" at 'The Bass Player' music shop in Sydney. He switched me on to Jaco Pastorius and other great players. Once I fell in love with jazz I practiced and jammed and 'sat in' where-ever they'd let me.

What was your first role? As I'd been playing occasionally in the orchestra at Gosford Musical Society I tried out for a role in Johnny O'Keefe's band (The Dee Jays) in GMS' *Shout* (2006). I even had a line of dialogue. It was fun, but my heart belongs to live gigs.

Favourite play/musical – in which you were involved? I played in the band behind *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown* (Bottom Line Productions @ Avoca Beach Theatre, 2008). Geoff Preece is a wonderful MD – infinitely patient kind – and I had the privilege of watching Stuart Smith, Josephine Gleeson, Erin Cook and Co performing this fun show every night.

Favourite play/musical that you have seen? I can honestly say GMS' *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* (2004) was my fave – so quirky! Favourite play - *Death of a Salesman*. **What would be your dream part?** Kylie Minogue's MD (just kidding) I'd kill to be the Bass Player with the Pat Metheny Trio.

Funniest moment on stage? Any gig playing alongside good mate David Smith. He's not just one of this country's finest jazz guitarists; he's one of the funniest people I know. You never know what iconic song, nursery rhyme or TV commercial he'll quote out of the blue in one of his solos. **Best/Worst movies you ever saw?** *Synecdoche New York* and *It's Complicated*. I saw both recently and they instantly jumped to the top of my best and worst lists respectively. **TV show?** Three way tie: *Mad Men*, *Dexter* and *Californication*.

Favourite actors? Jeff Bridges and Charlize Theron. (What! No suck-up?) **Book?** *Straight Life* (A biography of Art Pepper). **Singers** Diana Reeves, Anita O'Day, Ella Fitzgerald, Billie Holliday, Carmen McRae, Lambert, Hendricks and Ross. (Ahem? Hello? Do you want your shirts ironed this week or not?) **Musicians?** Charlie Parker, John Coltrane, Miles Davis, Joe Henderson, Woody Shaw, Charles Mingus, Wes Montgomery the list is very long.

Favourite quote? "It'll take you an hour to get through the bloody batter". It's actually David Smith quoting his late father-in-law (in a cockney accent). (Yes folks - you do have to be there!)

Who do you think should play you in a movie about your life? Sean Penn. (I bet Robyn was HIS favourite actress...and Madonna was HIS favourite singer...when he was still married to them.)

Finish the sentence "If only I could..." find the motivation to be more disciplined.

ASIDE FROM NOT KNOWING WHAT'S GOOD FOR HIM, SIMON IS ACTUALLY QUITE A NIFTY BASS PLAYER. HIS NEXT LOCAL GIG IS WITH 'THE RODERICK WHITE TRIO',

AT LIZOTTE'S ON APRIL 10. WITH ACCESS TO A GREAT VARIETY OF TOP NOTCH SINGERS AND MUSICIANS SIMON CAN ORGANISE THE PERFECT JAZZ ENSEMBLE FOR YOUR PARTY, WEDDING OR FUNCTION. CALL SIMON: 0432 565 888.

HAVE YOU APPEARED ON THIS PAGE YET? IF NOT, CONTACT ED TODAY (PLEASE!)

FEEDBACK

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

Dear Ed

We saw ***Wrong Turn at Lungfish*** on Saturday night with a small but appreciative audience. I don't know what is happening with local theatre, as audiences are getting smaller and smaller. This is particularly sad when we know the amount of work that goes into a production notwithstanding the cost in real dollars. The big worry is that it will soon become too expensive to produce plays, and this would be a sad day for all of us. ***Wrong Turn at Lungfish*** is an excellent script which is always a good base for a director. I really enjoyed Barbara Hickey's direction. The relationship developed between Peter (John Hickey) and Anita (Cait Shaw) made these two characters totally believable and created empathy for the audience. John has always said that 'to play comedy you have to play it straight' and he certainly demonstrated this with aplomb. The first time I worked with Caitlyn in 'Ophelia Thinks Harder' I felt she had something special and her ability is clearly on display here. John and Cait were well supported by Lindsay Doyle and Adam Young in their roles as Nurse and Dominic. The set was authentic and helped to complete the picture. This play now ranks alongside my other favourite WWLT productions. Congratulations to all involved. If you haven't already seen the play this weekend is your last chance. **Mary M**

Dear Ed

I might be a bit biased as I am an active member of WWLT, but ***Wrong Turn at Lungfish*** would be a shame to miss. It's a real "actors' play" and the young cast were exceptional. The director Barbara Hickey grew a few more grey hairs with this play. Barbara originally cast the two females in the opposite roles. Then about five weeks out from the opening night, Lindsay found she could not manage the larger part due to a family crisis, so 17 year old Caitlin picked it up and ran with it. What a great job! Adam Young plays a convincing bad guy and John Hickey was at his best as the grumpy old blind professor. Go see it! **Penny D**

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. Six cast members required: 3M (aged 20s-50s) and 3F 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 ph: 4342 6459; 2 *Joining the Club* directed by Marie Sellers ph: 4381 1135 and 3 *War Letters* directed by Linda Williams ph: 4344 1800 4. **Who's on the Couch*, Directed by John Hickey 43412931 (*one male only required). Auditions for all plays will be held on one night only 9th March 2010 from 7:30pm at. Audition information can be obtained by calling the directors involved.

YOUTH IN PERFORMING ARTS (YIPA) AUDITIONS FOR SECONDARY STUDENTS AT LST

All auditions at Laycock Street Theatre. Dates: *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 organiser, Chris Cox on 43244109 or 0408704053 for more information.

GMS PRESENTS THE CENTRAL COAST PREMIERE OF BOY FROM OZ IN JULY/AUGUST

Gosford Musical Society is proud to present *Boy From Oz* as their second show for 2010. To be directed by Chris King. An information night will be held on Tuesday March 2 @ 7.30 in the GMS shed (Adjacent to Laycock Street Theatre. Information about the show, including a Character breakdown, Audition information, dates and audition pieces will be available.

COMING ATTRACTIONS**

PLEASE CHECK THE FOLLOWING WEBSITES FOR THE LATEST SHOWTIMES

GOSFORD MUSICAL SOCIETY

NOW PLAYING: *THE MIKADO*. (TILL MARCH 13) **NEXT:** *BOY FROM OZ*, JULY/AUG;
ANYTHING GOES OCT/NOV. Web: www.gosfordmusicalsociety.com.au Box Office: 4323
3233. Venue: Laycock Street Theatre, Laycock Street, North Gosford.

MIPA ENTERTAINMENT

COMING SOON: *LEADER OF THE PACK* @ MINGARA BOOKINGS: 43497888

WOY WOY LITTLE THEATRE INC

NOW PLAYING: *WRONG TURN AT LUNGFISH* (CLOSING WEEKEND) Website:
www.woywoylt.com.au Venue: The Peninsula Theatre, Cnr MacMasters Rd, Woy Woy. Box
office: 4344 4737.

WYONG DRAMA GROUP:

COMING SOON: *COSI* April 15-24. Web: www.wyongdramagroup.com.au Box office: 4353
4353 Venue: Wyong Memorial Hall, Anzac Ave, Wyong.

WYONG MUSICAL THEATRE CO

NEXT- *THE MUSIC MAN* (MAY/JUNE)


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

CENTRAL DANCE COMPANY: www.centraldancecompany.org

More info about Ed at: <http://ccenews.tripod.com>



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WHAT E-NEWS is a networking resource for Central Coast's performing arts community, distributed free to subscribers every second FRIDAY. © ROSE COOPER: ABN: 37 325 543 554. **Next issue: Friday March 12.**

*All opinions are the responsibility of the editor, except where otherwise stated. All events are correct at the time of publication. The editor takes no responsibility for late changes. All notices re: upcoming events are welcome but preference is given to community theatre and charitable organisations. Enquiries: seabird2000@optusnet.com.au.

For more info visit: <http://ccenews.tripod.com>

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