

WHAT E-NEWS

This one's for the Goddess - Meryl.

Editor's Note.

It was quite an enjoyable night at the Oscars on Monday night as Award shows go – but the credibility of the whole concept becomes more and more dubious every year. So many worthy productions and performances go unheralded as only a handful of films garner most of the nominations – and even with a list of ten contenders for Best Picture, it was still a very ho-hum year. With all the strategic timing, campaigning and politics that go into the event, even the most shiny film buff has become cynical about what used to be the most prestigious award in the cinematic arts. I still enjoy watching the show and trying to predict the winners. I find it amusing that – while hosts and award presenters have become shamelessly irreverent in recent years – it's counter-weighted by the mawkish sentiment of the 'peer testimonials' that now accompany the Best Actor and Actress categories. I like that it's trying to make people feel better about losing – but what it mainly does is highlight the reasons why this kind of 'competition' is faintly ridiculous. When you're talking about this calibre of actors - how can any single performance be rated as 'better' than another – when the emotional output is so diverse? These testimonials finally give voice what has always been the tacit assumption. By highlighting what 'wonderful people' some of these actors are – we're being told that their performances as human beings matter just as much as their work in front of the camera. So one has to wonder - while Sandra Bullock beat all comers this year, was it really because she put in the most powerful performance – or because she's really just a heck of a wonderful human being? And while we're asking questions – how is it that someone with 13 nominations in this category to their credit – can still only have one award when one other actress has won two from two? It defies commonsense as well as 'Oscars Logic'.

Speaking of great acting – HUGE congratulations to John Hickey, Cait Shaw, Lyndsay Doyle, Adam Young on their stellar performances in ***Wrong Turn at Lungfish***. Director Barbara Hickey must be justifiably proud of this production. How very satisfying to watch a tight and engaging script brought to vivid life with mature, sensitive performances – and on a very authentic set. If you didn't get to see it – you really missed out (shame on you). Best wishes to ***The Mikado*** for their closing weekend and cheers to the talented **Dorian Mode** who will be regaling punters at **The Supper Club** with his smooth jazz stylings and witty repartee in the Don Craig Room at Laycock St Theatre TONIGHT - bookings 43233233.

Ed ☺

BOOTH'S
Motor Group

KEVIN BOOTH
SALES: 444 Pacific Hwy Nth Gosford
SERVICE: 433 Pacific Hwy
Ph: 4321 7777/Fax: 4321 7771
www.booths.com.au

 **Landscapeland**
John Humphries
Managing Director

14 Dyer Crescent, West Gosford 2250
Ph 4324 3711 Fax 4323 3837
Email: jhumphries@landscapeland.com.au
www.landscapeland.com.au



 **The Mad Cow Theatre Company**
PROVIDING DRAMA AND MUSICAL
THEATRE CLASSES FOR SCHOOL-AGED
STUDENTS. PH: 4328 4432
Head office: Brooks Ave, Wyoming.
www.madcowtheatre.net

WHAT OP

THE MESSIAH IS COMING TO KINCUMBER

Sunday March 21 at 2p.m.

Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Kincumber Street, Kincumber

The Central Coast Philharmonia Choir, accompanied by a Chamber Orchestra is presenting Handel's Sacred Oratorio, *Messiah*. Composed in 1742 it remains a well loved and familiar masterpiece and is not to be missed in this wonderful venue.

Tickets can be bought from the Conservatorium of Music: **43247477**. Alternatively they may be obtained from choir members or at the door. Adult \$30, Concession \$25 and children under 15 years are free. A family ticket of 2 adults & 2 or more children over 15 is \$70. For further details about the choir and to find details on future concerts visit: www.ccpilharmonia.com.au.

One-off - One-act - Encore!

If you missed last year's Central Coast Theatrefest, treat yourself to an afternoon of superb drama with two one-act plays!

SATURDAY MARCH 27 @ 1.30PM

TOUKLEY SENIOR CITIZENS AUDITORIUM.

1. **STOP OVER** by Rod Milgate, directed by Dinah Shearing. Featuring David Kerslake and Pollyanna Forshaw who play a married couple stranded in a Parisian Hotel. What could possibly go wrong? 2. **SIMPLY DIVINE** written by Jill Mather co-produced by Jill Mather and Joan Dalglish. Joan Dalglish portrays a former professional good time girl who reflects on her heyday working for the infamous Tilly Devine – Queen of The Cross. Also features Karen Ractliffe.

Two entertaining, original plays for **\$6** - includes afternoon tea!

Tickets on sale at the door!

Central Coast Symphony Orchestra Subscription Concert 1:



The Central Coast Symphony Orchestra welcomes piano soloist **Simon Tedeschi** who will perform Gershwin's classic

“RHAPSODY IN BLUE”

2.30 pm Sun March 28 @ Laycock St

The program also includes *New World Symphony* by Dvořák. Tickets: \$30 Adults, \$25 Conc. \$10 Child 16 & under, 70 Family Bookings: 4323 3233 or online:

www.laycockstreettheatre.com

WW
LT

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

Woy Woy
Little Theatre Inc.
Entertaining since 1962

email: linda@woywoyft.com.au
or visit our website
www.woywoyft.com.au

WYONG
DRAMA
GROUP

Box office: 4353 4353
www.wyongdramagroup.com.au

Spotlight On...



Dan Thompson

How long have you been a Coastie? 13 Years. **What is your day-job?** Entertainer

What did you want to be when you grew up? Architect

When did you start out? I became involved in running my family's Karaoke business as a 16 year old. My first professional gig was at age 20.

Where did you learn your stuff? My Mum and Dad were working musicians. I learnt a lot about my craft as an entertainer from watching them work and the rest I have learned on stage. I also had five years of singing lessons in Sydney.

Where was your first gig? The first gig I did as a full fledged singer was in a duo on New Years Eve in the Entrance Memorial park in front of 4000 people. It's a long story but suffice to say it was horrific and I was pretty bad. Those poor people. *(Meh, it was New Year's in the park they were probably wasted anyway - Ed)*

Favourite play/musical – in which you were involved? I actually played in the band in a few musicals at School (*The Wiz, Annie*). I loved doing *Chicago!* The music is fantastic.

Favourite play/musical that you have seen? *Buddy, The Boy From Oz* (Todd McKenny was amazing!) Oh and GMS's *Shout!* was great!

What would be your career highlight? Winning Male Vocalist of the Year at the Australian Independent Country Music Awards. *(Woo – go you!)*

Funniest moment on stage? Too many to mention. *(Popular but annoying answer. I should just make one up. Ok, about that time you impersonated Dolly Parton and one of your boobs exploded!)*

Most/Least Favourite movies? Worst - *Vanilla Sky* - I just can't cope with the "It was all a dream" thing and Best – Too hard to pick a favourite. *(Sigh!)* **Favourite actors?** Edward Norton, Robert Downey Jr. **Singers:** Merle Haggard, Frank Sinatra, Bobby Darin, Trisha Yearwood. **TV show** *Arrested Development*. **Book?** *Tunesmith* by Jimmy Webb. *(‘Ten Easy Pieces’ by the same songwriter is one of Ed’s favourite CD’s)*

Favourite quote? "You shoulda been there!" - Winston O'Boogey. *(Profound and original)*

Who do you think should play you in a movie about your life? Hugh Jackman. Seriously! *(I believe you. I just think Joaquin Phoenix would be a bit pissed.)*

Finish the sentence "If only I could..." Tap dance! If only I could dance like Gene Kelly. It's the one thing know I'll never be able to do! *(It would certainly justify casting Hugh!)*

DAPPER DAN IS A FAMILIAR FACE AND VOICE AROUND TOWN – HOSTING PUB TRIVIA NIGHTS AND KARAOKE, SINGING WITH HIS BAND 'THE LONG LUNCH' AND PERFORMING A JOHNNY CASH TRIBUTE SHOW. DAN ALSO HAS HIS OWN RADIO PROGRAM ON 94.1FM. YOU CAN CATCH DAN'S DEEP DULCET TONES AT THE **CENTRAL COAST COUNTRY MUSIC FESTIVAL** AT THE ENTRANCE THIS WEEKEND. IF YOU LIKE BOTH KINDS OF MUSIC (COUNTRY & WESTERN) CHECK OUT THIS GROOVY GIG GUIDE: <http://www.centralcoastcountrymusic.com.au/>

FEEDBACK

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

Dear Ed

It is a shame that not enough people are going to theatre across the coast. It is also a shame that the shows seem to overlap. Maybe there should be a peak body for theatre groups across the coast that co-ordinates dates etc. **John H**

John you are so right. Too often there are several productions on at the same time – which stretches the audience dollar. I've long noted for instance that WWLT and GMS seasons always intersect in March, July and October. This would definitely affect box office. WDG seems to avoid this by starting their season later in the year and finishing later. It would only take a sideways step of a week or so for our three major community theatre companies to produce their shows consecutively without any overlaps. I also think it is something worth a bit of creative and co-operative organization. Who else would like to weigh in on this topic? Ed.

Dear Ed

I'm seeking the services of an aspiring documentary film-maker for a very worthwhile project in the field of corrective services rehabilitation. It would be unpaid but the potential is that if it's good, there will be plenty more movies to make in this genre. The Law Foundation and Corrective Services often fund these things if an application is submitted but obviously need a proven track record in such a field - well here is the track! I need someone RELIABLE and contactable. If they could call me or sms me my number is 0407 438 177 **Lyn MD**

AUDITIONS/WORKSHOPS

WYONG DRAMA GROUP PRESENTS 'HARP ON THE WILLOW' BY JOHN MISTO

Written by John (*Shoehorn Sonata*) Misto, *Harp on the Willow* is an entertaining bio-play which maps the real life trials and tribulations of popular Irish Folk Singer and Harpist, *Mary O'Hara*. Mary was a celebrity at 18 with the world at her feet, happily married at 21 years of age and sadly widowed only 15 months into her perfect marriage to a poet, soon followed by twelve very stoic years in a convent. Marina Prior played Mary in the Ensemble Theatre production in 2007. Director Ron Baker will hold an information night on Wednesday March 31 @ 7.30pm in the Green Room at the rear of Wyong Memorial Hall, Anzac Ave, Wyong. All audition dates and information will be given then.

YOUTH IN PERFORMING ARTS (YIPA) AUDITIONS AT LAYCOCK STREET THEATRE

All auditions at Laycock Street Theatre. Dates: *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 COASTIE PREMIERE OF BOY FROM OZ IN JULY/AUGUST

ALL Principal Characters, Dancers & all ensemble will need to attend the movement and singing auditions on Sunday 21st March at 8.30am at GMS Shed – adjacent to Laycock Street Theatre. People wishing to audition for a principal role then have a choice making an appointment on either Sunday March 21 from 1.pm or Monday March 22 from 7.00pm. Audition material is available on the GMS website. Everyone auditioning for any roles must complete a movement & singing audition. Please contact Greg Quoy for bookings or any enquiry. Ph: 041 2448555 email info2me@optusnet.com.au

COMING ATTRACTIONS**

PLEASE CHECK THE FOLLOWING WEBSITES FOR THE LATEST SHOWTIMES

GOSFORD MUSICAL SOCIETY

CLOSING WEEKEND: *THE MIKADO*. **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 IN MAY: *LEADER of the PACK* @ MINGARA May 19-29. BOOK NOW: 43497888

WOY WOY LITTLE THEATRE INC

COMING IN MAY: – SEASON OF ONE-ACT PLAYS (May 7-16); **NEXT OPERATOR** by David Williamson (July 23-Aug 8) Website: www.woywoyft.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>



*** PROFESSIONAL * LIVE * LOCAL ***
For information contact:
0424 763 552



Lisa Kelly
{t} 4329 2817
{m} 0422 437 227
{e} lmtkelly@bigpond.net.au
For all your graphic design needs

WHAT E-NEWS SURVIVES WITH THE SUPPORT OF SPONSORS.
ANYONE CAN SPONSOR WHAT E-NEWS
EITHER AS A BUSINESS PROMOTION OR AS A PRIVATE SUPPORTER.
GOODS & SERVICES 'IN KIND' ARE ALSO CONSIDERED IN RETURN FOR
SPONSORSHIP. CONTACT ED FOR INFO.

WHAT E-NEWS is created by © ROSE COOPER (ABN: 37 325 543 554) and distributed free to subscribers every second Friday. **Next issue: Friday March 26.**

*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 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>

PRIVACY POLICY

All addresses are kept confidential. To unsubscribe, send reply e-mail with unsubscribe as the subject.