

WHAT E-NEWS

I've a feeling we're not in Kansas anymore

Editor's Note

Ok Coastie thespians, it's time to gird your loins. The Coast's only drama festival for 2010 kicks off at 10am tomorrow morning. **Central Coast Theatrefest** (hosted by Wyong Drama Group) is a festival of one-act plays, usually from all over NSW (and sometimes out of state) however, strangely yet delightfully, this time around every one of the nine plays hails from our own local production companies. Furthermore, three of the plays are original, unpublished works written by local playwrights! The full programme is on page four. Come along, have a fun day supporting your local performers, while enjoying delicious home made soup and hot food, refreshments, (tea, coffee, soft drink, wine and beer) for sale throughout the day and peruse the art display and various stalls and raffles. There's also a social evening at the memorial hall tonight, which features a presentation by Xtract Drama Academy's talented junior actors commencing at 7.30pm.

Some of you may have been wondering – whatever happened to the talented ladies from the band **The Housework Can Wait** since they band broke up a few months back. I thought I'd pass on the information that **Wendy Walker** has joined funky covers band 'Night Groove' and **Kerrie Garside** is involved in a few different projects at the moment, including her own eponymous band, as well joining in as a guest with a couple other bands. She's also a singing teacher. For further info check out her very cool website: www.kerriegarside.com.au/

A brilliant touring production of the critically acclaimed **A Day in the Death of Joe Egg** is headed to Laycock Street Theatre at the end of the month. Fans of quality theatre really shouldn't miss it. Full details are on Page 2. Dedicated buffs may notice there aren't as many 'straight' plays (as opposed to musicals) on offer at LST this year – the simple reason being, audience numbers have been down. We could blame the economic downturn, but the 'tribute acts' that now seem to be the Theatre's staple are attracting decent houses. I'm sorry folks but we can't have it both ways. The best way to indicate to the theatre that we actually prefer quality theatre to the 'RSL club fare' they are currently dishing up (in order to replenish the coffers) is to put your bums on the seats when there is a good play on offer. Go on, I dare you. While you're at it, don't miss WWLT's production of David Williamson's **Operator** which will be having a strictly limited three week season at the Peninsula Theatre from July 23.

Till next time, snuggle up with someone you love ☺

Ed ☺

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The Mad Cow Theatre Company
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www.madcowtheatre.net

WHAT OP

Catch a Shooting Star Talent Quest

July 12- 17, Imperial Shopping Centre, Gosford

Prizes include \$1000 Imperial Cr Vouchers, John Roy Studio recording Session (High School-Age Vocal), Imagine Images Photographic Sessions, 3Style Studios Tuition, Music Centre, Gosford, A&K Actor/Model Management, McDonalds, Coast Kids Horse riding and more. 1st, 2nd & 3rd Prizes awarded in both age categories Every contestant receives prizes and certificates.

The Quest is viewed by Producers for other local youth talent showcases. Two sections - Primary+Under 5's and High School. Contact Robyn for entry forms @ shine_on@tpg.com.au

Script Inc Productions presents...

JULY 16 & 17 @ 7.30pm @ YOUTH ARTS WAREHOUSE.

The Script Inc project presents its first two productions. 1. 'Charlie and Daisy' by Dane Illfield and, 2. 'The Game' by Lyndsey Maguire. These totally ORIGINAL youth scripted, crewed and performed pieces are being presented for the first time. Tickets are only \$5.00 (no concessions) and doors open at 7.15pm. For further information or to book your place, please call Virginia at

Regional Youth Support Services Inc on 43232374 or email via artstart@ryss.com.au

Laycock Street Theatre presents a Critical Stages and WHITE BOX production of

'A DAY IN THE DEATH OF JOE EGG' by Peter Nichols

A Day in the Death of Joe Egg is part vaudeville, part tragedy and part comedy... but always courageous and heartfelt. It holds a justified place in London's National Theatre's list of the Most Significant Plays of the 20th Century. Synopsis: Bri could have been a writer, a stand up comedian, a star! Sharp-witted and able to turn the toughest situation into a comedy routine, life with Bri is never dull. However Bri isn't living the dream. He and his wife Shelia, though a young and fun loving couple, are struggling not to give way to the pressures of caring for their disabled daughter, Joe, nicknamed "Joe Egg". One night it all comes to a head with the unwanted visit of friends, with their unwanted advice. Bri's clever lounge room antics becoming more and more revealing. Peter Nichols' reminds us that it takes bravery and courage to face life's adversities and that if you don't laugh, you'll cry. ***"Without doubt it's a beautifully crafted work, wonderfully staged and directed."*** - Sydney Stage Online.

Laycock Street Theatre, 27/28 July 8pm. Bookings 4323 3233

GMS PRESENTS THE CENTRAL COAST PREMIERE OF

BOY FROM OZ 6-28 August, Laycock St Theatre.

This wonderful tribute to the life and music of Peter Allen is directed by Chris King and features Wil Coleman, Toni Williams, Kate Leslie, Greg Gould, Matthew Johnston and Helen Herridge.

TICKETS SELLING FAST! DON'T MISS OUT: 4323 3233



ENTRIES NOW OPEN FOR THE 2ND ANNUAL COASTIES FILM FESTIVAL!

Margaret Pomeranz and Don McAlpine have happily agreed to be Festival patrons again this year. Last year's winners went on to make more great films and one was even nominated for an Oscar. Another entrant has gone on to become a major film release - to be screened at the Avoca Beach Picture Theatre in August. All information on entry conditions and categories can be found at: <http://avocabeachpicturetheatre.com.au/coasties/index.html>

Spotlight On...



Lane Pitcher

How long have you been a Coastie? The Coast is the only home I've had.

What is your day-job? I am a devoted student at Gosford High School - where I lose much sleep from continuous assignments and study.

What did you want to be when you grew up? I wanted to be a vet but now I would love to pursue Musical Theatre as a professional career.

When did you become involved in theatre? I have always been a drama queen. At four I had a *Titanic* obsession, I ran around playgroup screaming, "Help! Somebody help! JACK!" and breaking down in the imaginary freezing waters of the Atlantic Ocean outside the Koala Room. It was very disruptive to nap time. (*Seeing as you lived to tell the tale, I can safely assume you weren't also continually singing "My Heart Will Go On"- Ed*)

Where did you learn your craft? I began at 3Style Studios at 11 with the inspiring Carley Edmonds and now I dance with GCS Dance, sing with Gail Beaman and receive dramatic tuition from Ruth Tiffen – who passed her musical theatre obsession on to me. (*It's a pandemic*)

What was your first role? Ensemble in GMS' 2007 production of *The New Jungle Book*. I played a butterfly and got the coolest costume in the show! (*Definitely better than the cocoon*)

Favourite play/musical – in which you were involved? *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* in January. It was just such a light hearted and fun show.

Favourite play/musical that you have seen? Well, I've seen *Wicked* three times now. I also loved *Chicago* and *Priscilla Queen of the Desert*.

Your dream part? Anything in *Spring Awakening* and of course playing 'Dorothy' is the fulfilment of a dream! Who doesn't want to wear the shoes, right? (*That depends on the heel*)

Funniest moment in the Theatre? In '*Joseph*' when we were doing the Hoedown, my skirt came undone in the middle of our biggest dance number! My partner had to hold the skirt up.

Favourite Movies? *The Wizard of Oz*, Baz Lurhmann's *Romeo and Juliet*, *Bridget Jones' Diary*, *Bella*, *August Rush*, *Moulin Rouge*, *She's the Man*, *The Boat that Rocked*, *Razzle Dazzle* and *Shutter Island*.

Favourite TV show? *Any Dream Will Do*/'How do you solve a problem like Maria', *Project Runway*, *The Ultimate School Musical*! It's sad- I know. (*Mainly 'Project Runway'*)

Favourite actors? Leonardo DiCaprio, Renee Zellweger, Angelina Jolie, John Gallagher Jr., Meryl Streep, Glenn Close, Tina Fey and Ellen Page.

Favourite book? *On the Jellicoe Road*, *Tomorrow when the War began*, anything by Shaun Tan and the '*Harry Potter*' series!

Favourite singers? Kristen Chenoweth, Lea Michelle, Lady Gaga, Paramore, Muse, Elisa and The Vitamin String Quartet.

Favourite quote? "You aint' nothin' but a black nurse-maid" – Winona Ryder in *Girl Interrupted*.

Who do you think should play you in a movie about your life? Reese Witherspoon

Finish the sentence "if only I could..." receive my Tony Award today!" (*Atta girl - dream big!*)

THIS FABULOUSLY TALENTED FOURTEEN YEAR OLD GETS TO LIVE EVERY GIRL'S DREAM BY DONNING THE RUBY SLIPPERS – AND UTTERING THE IMMORTAL WORDS 'THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME' NEXT WEEK IN GMS JUNIOR'S *THE WIZARD OF OZ*. THE SEASON SOLD OUT LAST WEEK BUT THEY DID ADD AN EXTRA SHOW – SO IT'S POSSIBLE THERE MAY BE ONE OR TWO TICKETS LEFT BUT DON'T DELAY, CALL THE LAYCOCK STREET THEATRE BOX OFFICE RIGHT NOW: 43233233

FEEDBACK

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

Dear Ed

Seeing as no one wrote in this week, I think this is would be a great spot for the 'Theatrefest' Programme. What do you think, am I genius or what?

Ed Dear

Hmm, that's just crazy enough to work. Ed

CENTRAL COAST THEATREFEST, JULY 3, WYONG MEMORIAL HALL

(OPPOSITE RSL).

Session 1 – Saturday 10:00am

1. **'You Can Pick Your Friends'** written by Josh Aspinall and Duncan Mitchell (unpublished) produced by Jopuka Productions. Director: Nikki DeVries and Duncan Mitchell. Cast: Duncan Mitchell, Nikki De Vries, Bec Burt and Toni McCarthey
2. **'For Ever and Ever'** by Jill Mather (unpublished) produced by Uniting Productions Director: Alf Taylor. Cast: Rhonda McCormack, Matthew Yeh and Daniella Hoffman
3. **'Murder at Church Hill'** by Tony Spinks. Produced by Xtract Drama Academy. Directed by Pam Campbell. Cast: Rhonda Gordon, Shane Blackman, Vanessa Dawson, Laszlo Weidlich, Cherie Rhind, Elizabeth Dilley and Leeanne Makepeace

Session 2 – Saturday 2:00pm

1. **'The Boat'** produced by Wyong Drama Group. Director: Howard Oxley. Cast: Laszlo Weidlich, Denise Pastor, Marc Calwell and Sally Bartley.
2. **'The Sex Life of Snails'** by John Mulligan (by special arrangement with the estate of John Mulligan and Currency Press) Director: Robyn Weidlich. Produced by XtrAct. Cast: John Czerniecki, Pam Campbell and Pollyanna Forshaw.
3. **'War Letters'** by J. Robert Wilkins. Director: Linda Williams. Produced by Phoenix Productions. Cast: Marie Sellers, Amanda Benson and Kirstie McGlone.

Session 3 – Saturday 6:00pm

1. **'Three Chairs!'** By Roger Gimblet. Director: Julie Bailey. Produced by WDG. Cast: Sara Brown, Stephen McDonald and Ruth Jordon, Millie Sampson and Howard Oxley
2. **'Karma Street Kitchen'** by Suzanne Beaver (unpublished). Director: Margaret McGowan. Produced by Uniting Productions. Cast: Suzanne Beaver and Kylie Gibb
3. **'Joining the Club'** by David Tristram. Director: Marie Sellers. Produced by WWLT. Cast: Steve Killeen and Jen Francis.

\$10 per session or \$25 for the full event, for sale at the door. Stick around after the last play for drinks, nibbles, mingling and the handing out of awards.

AUDITIONS/WORKSHOPS

WYONG DRAMA GROUP PRESENTS 'CAUGHT IN THE NET' BY RAY COONEY (NOV)

Tuesday 27 & Thursday 29 July at 7pm in the Green Room.

GMS JUNIORS PRESENTS – BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

Information night – Friday July 23 @ 5.30 in the GMS shed, beside Laycock St Theatre. Auditions will be held on August 8. Ensemble/Dancers: from 9am-12pm. Principals from 1pm BY APPOINTMENT. More auditions on August 9 from 6pm for those who cannot make it on the 8th. Callbacks on Aug 10. Audition material will be available at the information night and on the website later this month. All enquiries should be directed to the Production Manager: Chris Cox on 43244109 or 0408 704 053

COMING ATTRACTIONS**

PLEASE CHECK THE FOLLOWING WEBSITES FOR THE LATEST SHOWTIMES

CENTRAL COAST CONSERVATORIUM

Check full programme at: <http://centralcoastconservatorium.com.au/>

CENTRAL DANCE COMPANY: www.centradancecompany.org

GOSFORD MUSICAL SOCIETY

WIZARD OF OZ Junior July 6-10; **BOY FROM OZ**, AUG 6-28; **ANYTHING GOES** OCT/NOV.
Web: www.gosfordmusicalsociety.com.au Box Office: 4323 3233. Venue: Laycock Street Theatre, Laycock Street, North Gosford.

KANTARA HOUSE www.kantarahouse.com.au

A CHRISTMAS IN JULY CAROL – Friday and Saturday evenings throughout July.

WOY WOY LITTLE THEATRE INC

OPERATOR by David Williamson (July 23-Aug 8) Website: www.woywoyit.com.au Venue: The Peninsula Theatre, Cnr MacMasters Rd, Woy Woy. Box office opens July: 4344 4737.

WYONG DRAMA GROUP:

HOSTING THEATREFEST, SATURDAY JULY 3 – THREE SESSIONS COMMENCING AT 10AM. Next - HARP ON THE WILLOW – August 12-21

Web: www.wyongdramagroup.com.au Venue: Wyong Memorial Hall, Anzac Ave, Wyong. Box office opens July: 4353 4353

WYONG MUSICAL THEATRE CO

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

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

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*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.

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