

# WHAT E-NEWS

O-Lafala Darlings!

## Editor's Note

For several weeks I've been wrestling with what to write in this final editorial. Then, this morning as I was just about to put the final touches to what I had started writing, I received the very sad news that the lovely **Jo Stanley** had passed away overnight. To my knowledge, Jo had been battling cancer for about four years (apologies if that time frame is off the mark). I was overwhelmingly grateful that I hadn't already put this final issue to bed and pressed 'send', because now I have the



2007  
Pix courtesy Katie Hardy

2008

unique privilege of being able to say a few words about a very special woman. I was fortunate enough to have performed alongside Jo in two phenomenally inspiring V-Day productions of **The Vagina Monologues**. Jo, Merin Graham, Carmel Mullin and I felt so attached to our monologues, that we performed the same ones for both back-to-back seasons. In 2007 Jo had just finished a course of Chemotherapy...she wore wigs and scarves all through the rehearsal period, but by the time the performances rolled around she had an attractive coverage of short hair on her fabulously majestic head. She was so passionate about the V-Day cause and her particular monologue **"I was there in the Room"** which was told from the point of view of Eve Ensler seeing her

grandchild being born. Jo's day job was midwife, so she had 'been in the room' literally hundreds of times when shrieking, brand new life entered it. To say she imbued this monologue with wonder and reverence is an understatement. I was struck by her gentle, supportive nature and her kindness. She always had a ready smile and something positive to say. My heart goes out to her husband Nigel, her family and her friends – especially her very close friends at WWLT.

As for my last editorial, I would like to leave my readers with one final plea to **SUPPORT LOCAL THEATRE**. When I first started this newsletter, no one updated their websites regularly, the advertising of auditions was hit and miss, and there seemed to be little to no knowledge within each of the groups about what the other groups were getting up to. I'm happy to say this has changed, *a lot* – but we still have a long way to go. We're all part of the same dysfunctional theatrical family; we should be more supportive of each other's efforts, because from what I can see, everyone involved in amateur theatre on the Coast, works every bit as hard as everyone else does. You're all salt of the earth people and I love each and every one of you! This is not goodbye, because I'm not going anywhere. You'll always find me in some theatre or other, either on stage, behind the scenes or in the foyer. And when you do, don't forget to come over, say hello and...ah, what the hell, I'll let you buy me a drink!

Ed ☺

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# HEADS UP 2011

The following is a broad overview of the shows coming up in our community theatres 2011. To stay informed closer to the dates mentioned, become a member of these groups or keep a constant check on their websites, or take the easy way out and subscribe to 'About the Central Coast'! Oh and don't forget to keep regular checks on the LST website for news of the latest touring productions - there's some great stuff coming our way!

**JANUARY:** **GMS JUNIORS** – *BEAUTY AND THE BEAST* @ LAYCOCK. AUDITIONS WDG 'LITTLE WOMEN' AND WMTC – 'JC SUPERSTAR.'

**FEBRUARY:** **HURLYBURLY** – *LOVE, GLOVES AND A GUIDEBOOK* @ AVOCA BEACH PICTURE THEATRE. **WWLT** – *THE UNDERPANTS*.

**MARCH:** **GMS THOROUGHLY MODERN MILLIE** @ LAYCOCK. **AUDITIONS** – *SPAMALOT!* **WWLT AUDITIONS:** A SEASON OF ONE ACT PLAYS AND JULY PROD, 'BOY GETS GIRL'

**APRIL:** **WDG** – *LITTLE WOMEN* @ WYONG MEMORIAL HALL. **AUDITIONS** FOR NEXT PROD TBA. **UNITING PRODUCTIONS** – *THE TALES OF BEATRIX POTTER* @ THE UNITING CHURCH HALL, GOSFORD. **CALL FOR ENTRIES – CENTRAL COAST THEATREFEST**

**MAY:** **WMTC JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR** @ WYONG MEMORIAL HALL

**WWLT SEASON** OF ONE ACT PLAYS @ THE PENINSULA

**JUNE:** **WDG HOSTS** CENTRAL COAST THEATREFEST – A FESTIVAL OF ONE ACT PLAYS OPEN TO ALL AMATUER THEATRE COMPANIES @ WYONG MEMORIAL HALL

**JULY:** **WWLT** *BOY GETS GIRL* @ THE PENINSULA THEATRE. **AUDITIONS** – *THE MOUSETRAP* **GMS JUNIORS** – *BUGSY MALONE* @ LAYCOCK.

**AUGUST:** **GMS SPAMALOT** @ LAYCOCK. **AUDITIONS** – *FIDDLER ON THE ROOF*

**WDG** – production TBA + AUDITIONS FOR NOV PROD

**SEPTEMBER:** **WMTC** PRODUCTION TBA

**OCTOBER/NOVEMBER:** **GMS FIDDLER ON THE ROOF** @ LAYCOCK; **AUDITIONS** – FIRST PRODUCTION OF 2012. **WWLT** – *THE MOUSETRAP*; **AUDITIONS** – FIRST PROD OF 2012

**NOVEMBER:** **WDG** – production TBA

## NEXT AUDITIONS

### WMTC PRESENTS 'JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR'

An info night will be held at Wyong Memorial Hall, Anzac Ave, Wyong from 7.30 on January 24. The auditions will be held on the following weekend. If you cannot make the information night, you can contact Polly for info: [pollyannamurphy@hotmail.com](mailto:pollyannamurphy@hotmail.com)

### WDG PRESENTS 'LITTLE WOMEN'

Audition nights will be on Tuesday January 25 and Thursday January 27 at 7.30pm in the Green Room. Rehearsals will start the following week. Performance dates are 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16 April. Cast required; 4 females 12-20yrs; 2 females 40-50yrs (mother & maid); 1 female 60+yrs, 2 males 20-30yrs, 2 males 55+yrs. For more information contact director, Ron Baker on:0401592095

### UNITING PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS 'THE TALES OF BEATRIX POTTER'

Uniting Productions presents *The Tales of Beatrix Potter*, for the April School Holidays. A fun show for the littlies with audience interaction. Information afternoon at the Uniting Church Hall, Donnison Street, Gosford, from 1pm, Saturday Jan 29. For more information, contact Margaret McGowan - [mcgowan\\_1@bigpond.com](mailto:mcgowan_1@bigpond.com)

# FAREWELL ED!

*\*Letters have been edited for space & clarity.*

**Dear Ed**

For a few years now many people have asked me how to get involved in community theatre on the coast. It was so easy to send them a link to subscribe to What E News and tell them that will keep them up to the minute with what's happening. The feedback from those people proved to me the value of what you created to those people as well as community theatre on the coast. So congratulations not just for the idea but also the perseverance to keep the editions rolling. Good luck and take care.

**Graham Vale**

**Dear Ed**

This is a personal thanks for all of your work over the years. The arts are a community building boon and you have certainly contributed hugely to your community - it's impossible to put a price on this! Much fun and many more roles (both on and off the stage) to you!

**Ross S**

**Dear Ed**

On behalf of Central Coast Barbershop Chorus "Soundwaves" we wish you every success in your new venture. Your newsletter has been printed and circulated to our members for a long period of time and many of our men have attended performances advertised in WHAT E NEWS. Thanks for all the effort for little financial rewards.

**Ray B**

**Dear Ed**

Best wishes for your future success and endeavours. We have thoroughly enjoyed your fortnightly news, interviews, reviews, etc. and will subscribe to Karen's newsletters. Your skills of great reporting with that extra colour and flair for describing shows have not only kept us in touch with theatre on the Coast but given us so many great reads and insights into what is coming up, what is on and who is where which we have absolutely loved. May 2011 bring you excitement, health and happiness and a super journey ahead.

**Sue and Bob W**

**Dear Ed**

"**A rose by any other name could never be so sweet**" on the odd occasion that the journalist in you broke free it just about matched your shamelessly parochial faith in Theatre on the Central Coast; a fantastic effort on your behalf. I can't believe it is that long since you kicked it off and I have no doubt that Karen will hit a jackpot when her newsletter hits your mailing list. I know I will be on board. I was touched by the note from Peter D (no relation) a couple of *Whats* back re WDG and Wyong Hall. The reality is the talent and production up here IS first class but the Hall definitely is tired and does not do them justice. Yes, the NSW Govt may have given the Central Coast "Region" status but it is still the "City" of Gosford and the "District" of Wyong and sadly there is a divide. Wyong must keep up the pressure on Council for the Cultural Centre or it will get pushed aside. Best wishes Ed, good luck and thanks for a job well done.

**Warren D**

**Dear Ed**

So sad to hear of the closure of What-E News, it has been a great source of information, enjoyment and laughter as I've eagerly read your many little asides, reviews and articles by members of the coastal theatrical society. You certainly are a busy little beaver, so while I'll look forward to Karen's offerings each month, know that your contributions will be missed although I won't be missing your part in GMS 'Thoroughly Modern Millie'!

**Kerrie R**

**Dear Ed**

Just wanted to say thanks for all the time, effort and dedication you've put into WHAT E NEWS over the years. I never missed an issue - much appreciated. Good luck with new ventures, I'll look forward to the Karen Ractliffe version.

**Ros E**

**Dear Ed**

Big bouquets for delivering such a personable & informative e-rag for so long. I know what a big part of your life it has been. Onward & upward!

**David K**

**Letters continued next page...**

## 'FAREWELL' – continued.

**Dear Ed**

Your decision to leave your newsletter to someone else is a good one from your point of view I'm sure, but disastrous from ours and, after your kindness to Rod and I over the years, this is a belated but heartfelt thankyou. On several occasions I have wanted to write to say thank you for your brilliant editorial articles on events that affect our planet and I can't imagine else managing to, so succinctly, "martial the troops" behind any cause that you espouse. In fact I saved a few on my computer for future reference...only to lose everything in an 'outage'. I only hope that you have saved them; a tiny booklet of the more general and less parochial ones would be splendid. Rose I did not see your starring role at Wyong which I am told was marvellous, ill-health and family commitments limited extra-curricular events at that time. However this comes with my warmest and best wishes for whatever you take on in the future. **Dinah and Rod M**

**Dear Ed**

Huge sadness fills me now that you are not sending this out. It's been my way over the last 6 years (since leaving the Central Coast) to keep up with what has been going on 7 up there. The newsletter will be sorely missed. **Jonno S**

**Dear Ed**

This is just a note to say I am sorry you are giving up What E-News. It's great you are moving on to other things, though! The newsletter has kept us all in touch with what is going on, provided food for thought, and entertainment. It has really fostered a sense of community. Thanks for your dedication and all your hard work. I have done lesser newsletters than yours at various times, and know how tricky they can be. Thanks, you did a great job and you will be missed! **Richard G**

**Dear Ed**

Thank you so much for the glowing introduction you gave me in the latest issue. You'll be pleased to know that subscriptions are already rolling in to the new magazine in response to your recommendation. It means a lot to me that you've placed your confidence in me and given me your support and encouragement. Gaining the support of your readership is also important to me because I know they're accustomed to a very high standard. I'm looking forward to my new venture with a mixture of excitement and trepidation. I know I have very big shoes to fill, but you could not have set me a finer example to follow, and having you and your magazine as role models gives me greater confidence. But however "About the Central Coast" develops, I'm always going to miss "What-E News" the way you made it, with your humour, your vivacity and your dedication. Thanks for the last seven years, Rose; and good luck with all your future endeavours. **Karen R**

**Thanks to EVERYONE for their lovely words of appreciation, it means the world to me. For those of you who have expressed a fondness for my particular brand of self-expression, you may be interested to learn that I am launching my own blog- style website in a few weeks. Karen will inform everyone when the time comes. It will contain my (hopefully) humorous, excruciatingly-candid and occasionally thought-provoking ramblings on a regular basis. It will also house come cool links and a 'best of' archive of selected articles from my 18 year journalistic career. WARNING: This site will not be about local theatre and it will be MA rated. A girl's gotta do, what a girl's gotta do. – Ed.**



*Oh, by the way...I may have finished with this newsletter, but you'll still find my regular reviews in Stage Whispers!*

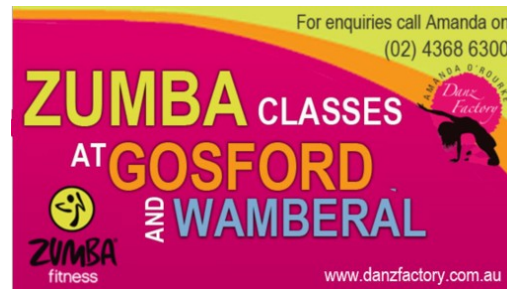
## **STAGE WHISPERS MAGAZINE: JAN / FEB - OUT NOW!**

**Free with this issue:** *Dr Zhivago* CD Sampler featuring 2 songs from the new musical, sung by Anthony Warlow and Lucy Maunder.

**THIS ISSUE:** Anthony Warlow on *Dr Zhivago The Musical*/ David Williamson on his sequel to *Don's Party*/ Q & A with the composer of *Parade* and *Songs for a New World*/New Australian Musicals in the Raw - Initiatives in Sydney and Melbourne/ Hottest regional touring productions for 2011/ Book Reviews including Q & A about a new coffee table book - Noël Coward Down Under/Teatro Vivaldi - Canberra's great themed venue/Adelaide Fringe 2011 preview/Community Theatre in Focus/Anthony Warlow's amateur days/ Broadway and West End News/Showbiz Crossword plus the usual Reviews and MUCH MORE.

**Subscribe** to Stage Whispers now at <http://www.stagewhispers.com.au/subscribe>  
And be in line to win one of these great prizes.

A copy of *The Empire Actors* by Patricia Kelly (drawn Feb 10); Two copies of *The Hammersteins – A Musical Theatre*; Two double passes *Breast Wishes – An Uplifting Musical* at Riverside Theatres for 3 February (drawn Jan 20); Three double passes to see Reg Livermore and Nancye Hayes in *Turns* at the Seymour Centre, Sydney for 23 February at 8pm (drawn Feb 10); One Double Pass to *Don Parties On* by David Williamson - MTC Melbourne season (drawn Jan 15).



**WHAT E-NEWS** was created, researched, written and edited by © ROSE COOPER (ABN: 37 325 543 554) and distributed FREE to subscribers every second Friday for almost seven years. \*All opinions were the responsibility of the editor, except where otherwise stated. All events were correct at the time of publication. The editor takes no responsibility for late changes and probably should take responsibility for typos but hey, no one's perfect! Proof-reading one's own copy week in week out, is a really tricky job, you should try it!

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### **PRIVACY POLICY**

I will be distributing the first issue of **ABOUT THE CENTRAL COAST** on the last weekend of January – and after that, all of my subscribers email addresses will be deleted from my system. Thank you for subscribing!