

UPSTAGED

COFFS HARBOUR MUSICAL COMEDY COMPANY

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WELCOME!

Welcome to the last newsletter of 2013, and what a busy season it has been!

We concluded 20 performances of 'The Secret Garden' at the Jetty Theatre with an emotionally charged rendition of 'Come to my garden', in an acapella encore specially arranged by Mauz. Such great way to conclude our run!

Thanks are due to to the many people who helped in some way - a veritable army without whom a show would never be possible. Just some of their work on sets, hair and costumes can be seen in the photos on page 5, and of course there are all those who helped behind the scenes, literally back stage, and in front of house.

We are now looking forward to the auditions for our first show of next year – the perennial family favourite, 'Annie', to be directed by Donna Fairall. Auditions will be held in the first weekend of January, and we will be looking for 8 girls (sorry, no boys), and there are lots of good roles for adults. See pages 6 &7 for more information.

And at last, we are thrilled to be able to announce our whole 2014 season: following on from Annie (on stage in May), we will be bringing you the larger-than-life technicolour musical comedy 'Hairspray'! Directed by Lisa Jonas, 'Hairspray' will be on stage in November 2014. Never seen it? Take a look at pages 8 & 9.

As it's getting into silly season now, and everyone is busy with end of year formals, Christmas shopping, holidays and Christmas parties, why not join us for the combined CHATS/CHMCC Christmas brunch/shed warming on Sunday December 15th?

Come on down to the sheds from 10am, marvel at the shed conversion, and fortify yourselves with coffee, bacon and eggs before launching into your busy weekend program!

We look forward to seeing you then, and in the mean time, I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the newsletter over the past year, and to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

Di O'Ferrall - Secretary



Take the rest of the year off folks!

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered during the year - we couldn't do it without you.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hi all, another year just flown by in a flurry of rehearsals/auditions/productions!

Firstly, I would like to offer up my heartfelt thanks to everyone who has supported CHMCC in 2013, either through their involvement with our productions or as a patron. No matter the size of the contribution, it all goes towards making our shows and our company such a success.

One of the highlights for me has been the pleasure derived from having so many new people join our "family", on the production side as well as on stage and in "The Pit". I hope it's all been a positive and happy time for all of you, and that you will join us again in 2014 and beyond!

This year has been a mixed one for the company. We produced two vastly different shows, "Young Frankenstein" (still proud to have been the first in Australia to take this on!) and "The Secret Garden". Both were extremely challenging musically and artistically, requiring a deal of "outside the square" thinking, and I believe we did justice to both of them in every area. Sadly, "Young Frankenstein", for whatever reasons (it was SO funny!), didn't receive the patronage it deserved, and the company made a loss for the first time in many years. Although the figures are not completely finalised for "The Secret Garden", it has held its own financially, and should deliver some profit back to the company, which, for a relatively unknown show, is a great result, and a testament to the dedicated team behind it!

I firmly believe that we need to follow our instincts, and produce shows that we feel have artistic merit, regardless of their popularity. We are in the fortunate financial position to be able to do this, and it is imperative that we continue to take these risks to enable the company to grow. If we can convince theatre goers to come along for the ride, so much the better.



So what next, you ask? 2014 promises to be a fun filled theatrical year, with "Annie" (Directed by Donna Fairall) up first, followed by "Hairspray" (Directed by Lisa Jonas) later in the year. Both shows are full of vim and vigour and big, fat musical numbers! It's very exciting! All the details are on our website, www.coffsharbourmusicalcomedycompany.com or on our Facebook page. Let the games begin! Meanwhile, our Christmas Party this year will be a Christmas Brunch, from 10am on Sunday 15th December at the theatre outdoor pavilion. Our good friend Rex Madigan (President of CHATS) has promised (threatened) to cook up a storm on the barbie, and I will be on hand to dispense the liquid refreshments with gay abandon and happy disposition. I know it's a very busy time for everyone, but I hope you can join us for gossip and giggles.

To Members near and far, I wish you and your families and friends all the very best for the festive season, and very much look forward to catching up with you in a goodly time!

Mauz

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Diary Dates



The Coffs Harbour Arts Council Inc
Presents
At The Jetty Memorial Theatre



SCROOGE!

The Musical The 55 minute adaptation

Book, Music and Lyrics by Leslie Bricusse
From a Christmas Carol By Charles Dickens


December 2013

Tickets \$16
Family \$55
+ Booking Fee

Sat 14th 3pm
Sun 15th 3pm 6pm
Mon 16th 6pm
Tues 17th 1pm 6pm
Wed 18th 6pm

Directed by David Quinn
By Arrangement with
ORIGIN™
Theatrical
On Behalf Of
Samuel French Ltd

Booking: www.jettytheatre.com
Phone 6652 8088 Box Office 12 to 4 Tues to Fri

CHMCC & CHATS



COMBINED CHRISTMAS BRUNCH
SUNDAY 15TH DECEMBER
AT THE CHATS/CHMCC SHEDS, JETTY
THEATRE FROM 10AM - BYO DRINKS

Carols by Candlelight
Coffs Harbour Racing Club
Saturday December 14th
from 5.30 pm



Members welcome at the Jetty Theatre's Christmas Party!



AUDITIONS FOR 'ANNIE'

Looking for 8 girls aged 8 - 13, and a minimum of 20 adults, with the role of Annie to be double cast.

Auditions for children: Sat Jan 4th, 10am start
Auditions for adults: Sunday Jan 5th, 10am start

Venue for both days: St John's Anglican Church Hall
McLean Street, Coffs Harbour

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THE SECRET GARDEN

Wow, it's now all over, what a ride! What a show! This was a challenging show to do justice to, and we did it proud!

Over 1850 tickets went through the box office window, and the feedback we have had has been extremely positive.

Two things stand out in the comments I have had: firstly, the singing was outstanding, with amazing harmonies and vocal work of an extremely high calibre. More than one person has said that it was the best singing they have ever heard on that stage.

Secondly, the show was captivating; people were captured by the story that flowed almost seamlessly across the stage.

We took a number of risks with this show, not the least of which was basing the entire set on our revolving platform. Many things could have gone awry with this, but I am very pleased to say that it worked like a charm, and contributed to the effectiveness of our story telling brilliantly. And now the company has the option of using this wonderful stage piece long into the future.

I am extremely grateful to everyone who contributed to this production, from front of house through to backstage, set builders, tech crew, production team, musicians, props makers, costume crew, promotions team and cast.

As the renowned chef Marco Pierre-White says, 'perfection is lots of little things done well', and that is why this show was so good, lots of people doing their little thing extremely well. Thank you everyone.

David Tune



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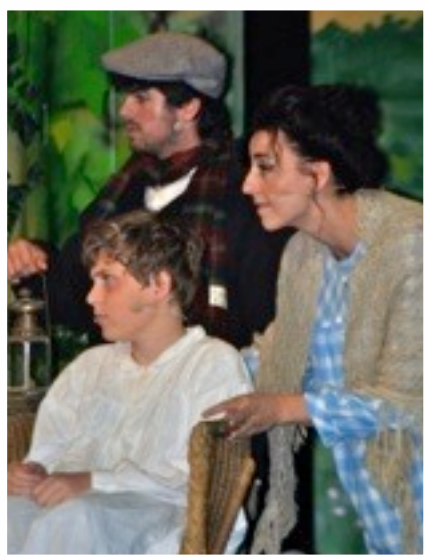
The Secret Garden - Finale



Mary Lennox with her uncle Archie & cousin, Colin
Lizzy Tune, Eli Pappas & Jack McCormack



Mary's daydream
with Samantha Lagettie as Mary



Colin with Dickon & Martha
Lincoln Elliott, James Tune & Fiona Stiles



The Fakir & the Ayah
Ren Holl & Jenny Garrett



Mrs Medlock
Jenny Beatson

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ANNIE

So I just finished reading through the Annie script (again) and have a prop list ready to go which includes a wheelchair, a Christmas tree, a ventriloquist dummy and the Mona Lisa! Oh the fun we are going to have!

Auditions are booked - please contact me if you are unable to make the weekend chosen and we will do our best to accommodate.

Sorry again to any young boys but the orphans are ALL GIRLS. Girls need to be roughly 8-13 yrs.

Once the "humans" have been cast, we will be holding what I think will be our very first "canine" auditions for the coveted role of Sandy!!

(Of course I will make sure the Advocate hears about that one!!)

Rehearsals:

Monday nights for Principals only

Wednesday nights and Sunday afternoons for full cast

Starting Sunday 19th January

Performances:

Friday 9th May – Sunday 1st June

Wednesday/Friday/Saturday nights @ 7pm – Saturday/Sunday @ 1pm

With one extra performance on Thursday 29th May @ 7pm.



*Donna Fairall,
Director, 'Annie'*

Looking forward to getting this show on the road!

Donna

AUDITIONS for 'ANNIE'

For Children: (Girls aged 8 - 13 yrs)

Saturday 4th January - 10am start

For Adults:

Sunday 5th January - 10am start

Venue: St John's Anglican Church Hall

McLean Street, Coffs Harbour

for more information visit:
coffsharbourmusicalcomedycompany.com



Featuring possibly the most well-known children's song ever, 'Tomorrow' (I love ya!), Annie is an adventure for all the family. And a dog. Maybe. More audition information is available on the following page and on our website:

www.coffsharbourmusicalcomedycompany.com

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'Annie' - Characters and Vocal Ranges

Character	Gender	Vocal Range	Age range	Character description
Annie (double cast)	female	Mezzo A—high F	10 -13	Feisty, big-voiced orphan
Oliver Warbucks	male	Baritone C—high F	40 - 65	Stiff but warm hearted billionaire, eventually adopts Annie
Miss Hannigan	female	Mezzo A—Ab	35 - 60	Mean, cantankerous orphanage mistress, hates children, but likes a drink
Rooster' Hannigan	male	Baritone B—high G	25 - 50	Miss Hannigan's no-good brother
Lily St Regis	female	Soprano D—high G	25 - 45	Rooster's floozy girlfriend, plays dumb but is smarter than she looks
Roosevelt	male	Baritone C#—Eb	40 - 65	President of the United States
Grace Farrell	Female	Soprano A - high G	25 -45	Mr Warbuck's personal assistant, loves Annie from the start
Molly	female	mezzo A—high F	8 - 10	The littlest orphan
Kate	female	mezzo A—high F	8 - 10	Next to littlest orphan
Tessie	female	mezzo A—high F	9 - 11	The cry-baby orphan
Pepper	female	mezzo A—high F	10 -13	The toughest orphan
July	female	mezzo A—high F	10 -13	the quietest orphan
Duffy	female	mezzo A—high F	10 -13	the biggest orphan
Drake	female	Ensemble vocals	30 - 60	The Butler at the Warbucks Mansion
Mrs Pugh	female	Ensemble vocals	30 - 60	The Head Chef at the Warbucks Mansion
Mrs Greer	female	Ensemble vocals	30 - 60	The Housekeeper at the Warbucks Mansion
Cecille & Annette	female	Mezzos	16 - 30	French Maids at the Warbucks Mansion
Star to be	female	Mezzo belter	18 - 25	Aspiring Broadway Actress
Bert Healy	male	Tenor	25 - 45	Radio personality
Wacky McCracken	male	Baritone	30 - 55	Radio personality
Officer Ward	male	Baritone	25 - 60	Police Officer
The Boylan Sisters	female	Mezzo x 3	18 - 30	Singers on the Bert Healy Show
Louis Howe	male	Spoken	30 - 60	Congressman
Ensemble	male & female	Various	Various	Various
Sandy	dog	no vocals required	fit & friendly	An abandoned dog rescued by Annie

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hairspray

• A BIG FAT MUSICAL COMEDY HIT •

Hi everyone,

I am glad and excited to join CHMCC next year to take on one of my favourite musicals of all time: HAIRSPRAY. Even way back when I was studying Directing for Performing Arts in Germany, I dreamed about working on this wonderful show, which possesses everything I love and appreciate about musical theatre: enthusiasm, witty insights and plenty of crazy dancing!

This production will be full of challenges, but also heaps of fun and rewards for everyone willing to jump on board. So if you love to sing and/or dance on stage, or are just very excited about the musical itself, you are most welcome to audition for the show!

We are hoping to get together a committed and high-spirited cast, and we will be looking especially for performers who stand out for their individuality. HAIRSPRAY is all about overcoming differences and looking beyond skin colour, body shape and moral restrictions. It might be a chance to shine for people who usually don't fit the standard lead roles and missed out in the past.

All in all, I am really looking forward to this great production, for which I am lucky to have the multi-talented Laura Smith as Assistant Director by my side. Donna Fairall also is eager and fired up to choreograph some fantastic dance routines for the show.

For me it will be a great experience to get to know the members of CHMCC a bit better and explore the talent that's in store. From watching the last three shows I must congratulate this volunteer organisation for having so many gifted and committed people, who are willing to share their passion and incredible singing voices with the Coffs Harbour audiences.



'Hairspray' Director, Lisa Jonas

Seeing you all having that much fun on stage gave me the idea to propose HAIRSPRAY in the first place. Thanks as well to the committee for sharing the love and passion for this show!

So everyone clear your diaries for the second half of 2014 and join us to go back in time, that is: Welcome to the Sixties!!!

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Lisa

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Set in Baltimore in 1962, 'Hairspray' grabs the audience right away with possibly one of the best opening numbers in musical theatre: "Good Morning Baltimore", in which we meet our heroine, Tracy Turnblad, a pleasantly plump teenager with big hair and a bigger voice, who loves to dance, and dreams of being a star.

Tracy and her best friend Penny are big fans of 'The Corny Collins Show', a teenage dance TV show, but it's only for white kids; we are still in the days of segregation and the coloured kids get their own 'Negro Day' once a month.

The story is not just one more teenage romance, but has a serious message, as the kids demand an end to racial segregation and try to drag Baltimore, and their parents into the 60's. It's also a story any kid who has ever thought their parents were hopelessly old-fashioned can identify with!

There are also some fabulous roles for people who don't normally fall into the leading man/leading lady formula: girls who don't have to be skinny, boys who don't have to be white, men who don't have to be handsome, and a young girl with the biggest voice of them all!

Tracy's mother Edna is a large, shy woman who takes in laundry for a living and hasn't been out of the house since the 50's, but Tracy's dad Wilbur, who runs the local joke shop, loves her anyway. One of the most heart warming numbers in the show comes when mother and daughter get the full 60's makeover in "Welcome to the 60's".

Other characters include Penny's uptight mother, Prudy, who berates Penny for listening to "coloured music" and the teen star of the show, Amber, and her ambitious mother Velma. All three girls argue with their mothers in another rousing number: "Mama I'm a Big Girl Now".

Tracy's love interest is Link, a teenage heart-throb, and Tracy is already daydreaming about marrying him in the next of her big numbers, "I Can Hear the Bells".

When Tracy auditions for 'The Corny Collins Show', Velma and the 'nice white kids' who make up the show's regular dancers make fun of Tracy due to her weight, and when Tracy states that she's in favour of racial integration, they are horrified.

There is also a chorus of non-white kids, led by a boy with the unlikely name of Seaweed, who ends up falling in love with Penny. Other non-white roles include Seaweed's mother, the larger than life Maybelle, and his sister, Lil Inez, who was rejected at the auditions, despite being the best singer and dancer there.

The second act opens with the entire female cast in jail after a protest in favour of racial integration goes wrong. When Edna is released, Wilbur and Edna comfort each other, in a cute little duet (made extremely comical by the fact that Edna is usually played by a man in drag), "You're Timeless to Me".

When the kids are variously released, rescued or escape, they determine to sneak their coloured friends onto the set of the Corny Collins Show. After various shenanigans, the story ends with the entire cast on the set, Edna popping out of a giant hairspray can, and Tracy being crowned Miss Teenage Hairspray 1962, and a big ensemble number, "You Can't Stop the Beat", in a huge feel-good ending. Shouldn't be too hard, right??

The movie poster above will give you some idea of the characters, and the movie is just wonderful! (Yes, that is John Travolta in the blue outfit!)

Hairspray is a big, bold, brightly coloured feel-good show, with some great 60's music and big dance numbers. However, it is more than just tinsel, as it will hopefully make the audience, and indeed, everyone involved, think twice about how we accept people who are just that little bit different.

We hope we can encourage members of different ethnic backgrounds in our community to get involved, and start with a little racial integration of our own! If you, or someone you know is Aboriginal, or comes from one of our refugee communities, perhaps you could start talking to them about this show, and spread the word.

We're pretty excited about Hairspray!

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