

UPSTAGED

COFFS HARBOUR MUSICAL COMEDY COMPANY

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WELCOME!

Another show bites the dust, and I have to say that I think I enjoyed Chitty more than any other. From the wonderful cast and crew to the children and their parents, to the audiences who gave us such support - it was just so enjoyable. We had great audience numbers for the whole run, so congratulations to Maureen, Lewis, Tim and the whole cast!

As usual we really thank all those who volunteered their time with lighting, sound, backstage, hair, props, costumes, set building, publicity, and ushering, etc. Thanks to the Bunker Gallery who lent the frames and framed all the foyer art. Thanks also to Vanessa Crossley, who despite having broken her leg two weeks before opening night and having to pull out of the show, still volunteered her house for the after party!

If you missed the show, (where were you??), take a look at the photos on pages 5 & 6. There are more on the website too.

Its that time of year again when we start thinking about Christmas! We will be joining our friends at CHATS again for a combined Christmas party. Come and join us down at the sheds on Sunday December 20th from 9am for a sausage sizzle, bacon & eggs, and champagne & orange juice. BYO chair, and pop in before or after your last minute Christmas shopping!

We went straight into auditions for Pirates in early December, and are thrilled to be able to announce our fabulous cast on page 8. Thank you to all those who came and auditioned, we had a really good turn out - so many men!

In further good news we're very happy to announce that we have secured a regular rehearsal venue and thank Bishop Druitt College for their help and support in making that happen.

And so it's time to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year. I'm taking a bit of a break too before getting stuck in as Assistant Director on Pirates!

So I will see the Pirates cast after the holidays, and hopefully more of you at the Theatre Fundraiser on February 7th - details on page 9.

Di O'Ferrall - Secretary



Theatre Fundraiser

If you would like to get involved in CHMCC's contribution to the Jetty Theatre Fundraiser currently being planned for February, please email the committee at coffsharbourmcc@gmail.com Particularly if you're willing to sing a solo or a duet on the day.

Details on page 9.

UPSTAGED

From the President

Greetings Members near and far! Another theatrical year, almost over! They are definitely slipping by faster, and I refuse to believe that it's because we're moving slower!

For us at CHMCC, our year went something like this: "Anything Goes" auditions (feels like ancient history now), then Theatre Open Day/ACCTS Fundraiser, staging of "Anything Goes" (artistically, a great show, sadly not embraced by the theatre going public), the Swing Dance, auditions for Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, staging of CCBB. In between we've had various Working Bees for ourselves and for the theatre, held our AGM, enjoyed other theatrical productions both here and away ("Matilda" in Sydney for me was awe inspiring), attended various meetings on behalf of CHMCC and Community Theatre, and generally kept ourselves tidy... and busy.

To refer back to our AGM, one of our longest serving and most respected Committee Members (and former Treasurer), Pam Lane, is no longer on the Committee, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank her copiously for the enormous amount of work she has done for this company over many years. Fortunately, Pam is still taking an active role in CHMCC activities (Stage Manager of Chitty for one), so she is not lost to us entirely! In farewelling Pam, I would like to welcome Tim Egan to The Madhouse (AKA Committee). Tim has been the Musical Director of our last three productions, and I'm sure that everyone would agree that the high standard of music has been one of the highlights of those productions.

Another 2015 highlight for me has been the number of people we have had turn up for auditions. As you know, we always hold open auditions, which we publicize widely through the local media, our newsletters and programs, and extensively on social media, but that does not always equate to great turn outs when the crunch comes. This year has seen a bit of a turnaround in that regard, and it has yielded some amazing new talent into our "family". I would like to thank and acknowledge everyone who was brave enough to audition. It doesn't matter how long you've been around, or how experienced you are, or how many auditions you've attended, it is just totally panic inducing, nerve wrackingly terrifying, and congratulations are due to everyone who broke through that terror, irrespective of whether you were cast or not.

**CHMCC President
Maureen Burgess**



I would also urge you to audition for future shows. It takes some people many let downs before they are cast, and most often it's not because they don't have the talent, there just may not be a suitable role for them. Don't give up! And never turn down an Ensemble role- without a strong Ensemble, you don't have a show, no matter the calibre of the leads. Which brings me back to: Next year's Theatre Open Day (February, 2016) will, amongst many other interesting bits, feature an auditioning Masterclass led by Tim Egan, which will be invaluable for anyone with even the vaguest interest in performing. Keep your eyes open for further information. I am very much looking forward to it!

Well that's about it from me. Love and best wishes to all of you, your families, friends and love ones.

Mauz

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Diary Dates

Upcoming events include:

**'Allo
'Allo**
a comedy
**Jeremy Lloyd
and David Croft**

Coffs Harbour Arts Council
until Sunday 20th Dec
Jetty Memorial Theatre


CHMCC & CHATS
COMBINED



SUNDAY 20TH DECEMBER
from 9am
at the theatre sheds

Take a break from the Christmas shopping and join us for a sausage sizzle and a bucks fizz!

COFFS HARBOUR MUSICAL COMEDY COMPANY PRESENTS
GARDY & SULLIVAN'S
THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE



MAY 6TH - 29TH, 2016

ACCTS

**Jetty Theatre Fundraiser
Sunday 7th February
from 10am.**

**Auditions Masterclass 10 am
CHMCC Recital 11am
Vocal Masterclass 3pm
Pirates of Penzance
public vocal rehearsal 4pm**



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Chitty Chitty Bang Bang

Well, the Chitty Juggernaut has been and gone, leaving us all a little weary, but overwhelmingly delighted!

It was always going to be a huge challenge to do justice to this show within the limitations of our performance space (beloved as it is, there are some major logistical obstacles in the theatre!), but I believe, and judging by the hundreds of happy patrons, they also believed that we did a remarkable job.

I guess every Director feels very attached to their Cast, but for me, this was definitely one of the strongest overall casts I have worked with. Oldies and Newbies alike were just wonderful throughout, on and off the stage.

As for not working with children, I say bah! The positives far outweigh the negatives:- they dutifully laughed at all my jokes, no matter how unfunny, they unflinchingly did everything that was asked of them, they put in a hundred percent every performance, they looked out for their fellow actors, they brought tasty snacks, and they remained unfailingly, shorter than me! What more could any Director possibly want? Thank you, each and every Banger, brilliant to the last!

Obviously there were stresses and tensions throughout the rehearsal period and the run, but they have long since faded into insignificance. My only real disappointment was that I never had the entire cast to a rehearsal right up until Production Week, and technically not even then, as poor Vanessa Crossley broke her leg just a couple of weeks before opening night, and had to pull out of the show.

Considering the number of times I mentioned the level of commitment required throughout the audition process, this became extremely frustrating, as you can well imagine (I'm not referring to people with holidays etc booked prior to auditions, or those with work commitments or illness). I would never want to discourage anyone from participating in a production, but I would urge everyone to give serious consideration to the amount of work involved before auditioning for a role, because it really is a team project that requires everyone to put in the same amount of effort. Anyway, I don't want to linger over anything negative after such a successful and happy production, but would rather thank with all my heart, the small army of amazing people who helped to get it together:



Di O'Ferrall - Production Manager Extraordinaire (and a not too shabby Baroness either!)

Lewis M. Hackfath- Assistant Director (no way of listing the innumerable ways in which Lewis helped, both on and off the stage)

Laura Smith- Sound Engineer and sound of mind!

Shalla Thomas- Cast Coordinator, Spreadsheet Queen, Membership Monitor, Front of House Person, Costumier to Mr Melittas (and others) and all manner of sundries large and small.

Tim Egan- MD and King of the Wind Chimes.

The Chitty All Stars Orchestra.

The Boys- Frank Lilley, Neville Triplett, Kerry Melittas (a not too shabby Baron either!), Merv Allport, Russell Lane (also featuring on debut in the bio box on lights!), Rex Madigan and Pat Floyd for the sets and all the amazing "extras". You really outdid yourselves.

Joel Blythe- Designer and Builder of Chitty. What a guy. Took on this project with so much devotion.

Sharon Tomlinson- for props over and above my wildest expectations! (The trees, the trees!)

Colin Wilkes for the stunning costumes. (The not so stunning ones were NOT Colin's doing!)

To the other Sewers- Brooke Oakley, Virginia Craze, Madi Corbett, Loretta Williamson, Anne Poidevin, Sara Smith.

Pam Lane- Stage Manager Par Excellence.

Fay Castle- Assistant Stage Manager, Dresser and Personal Assistant to Many.

All the other Stage Crew, in particular Jessica Young, Billie-Jo Dukes, Jo Uttley, Lisa Triplett, Craig McTear and Beattie Smith.

Judi Williams and all the Front of House crew.

And of course, to The Cast, their partners and families. You will always have a special place in my heart. From an ecstatic and extremely grateful Director.

Mauz

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IAN FLEMING'S CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG



John Greene as Grandpa Potts, Lincoln Elliott as Caractacus, Grace Jones as Jemima, Harley Hayes as Jeremy

Back: Jarad Beaven, Ellie Waters, Jasmine Shiels, Amy Hancock
Middle: Jye Pursch, Hunter Metcalf, Charlie Egan, Mia Lemair
Front: Grace McCormack, Courtney Martin, Imogen Grebert.



Above:
Lincoln Elliott,
Jamie Waqa,
Steph Bateman,
Brooke Gibbons,
Kaiyai Doenau,
Hanna Jay &
Lewis Hackfath
in Me Ol Bamboo



Above:
Lincoln Elliott &
Eli Pappas in the
Fairground scene.
Left:
Colin Wilkes & Emma
Goddard with
Brooke Gibbons,
Kaiyai Doenau,
Hanna Jay,
Eli Pappas,
Steph Bateman,
Pauline Stephens,
Lisa McKeon &
Ree Higoe
in Toot Sweets

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Lincoln Elliott & Emma Goddard with Chitty



Di O'Ferrall & Kerry Melittas as Baron & Baroness Bomburst



Geoffrey Scottford as the Childcatcher



Ainsley Corbett & Cate Walsh as Boris & Goran, Superspies



Left:
Chitty Chitty Bang
Bang Company

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Pirates of Penzance

After my introduction to the wonderful Coffs Harbour Musical Comedy Company in the role of Grandpa Potts in the huge recent success of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, I am really looking forward to this journey continuing, as the director of the May 2016 production of Pirates of Penzance.

I am so grateful for the supportive production team around me with Assistant Director - Company Secretary - Production Manager Di O'Ferrall - I've never met such a hands on worker in an Amateur Theatre Company like this lady - she is so capable - so blessed for her to be on the team.

Also the fabulous talents of Musical Director Tim Egan (look out for some surprises here) - Assistant Production Manager Jenny Beatson, Stage Manager Pam Lane with husband Russell operating lighting - and President Maureen just ready to support our team everywhere & anywhere.

The audition process and people presenting themselves for Pirates were all of a great standard - I was thrilled with you all who came forward; but, as you know it is one of the most difficult functions of a director to not be able to include the many as "the piece" dictates the casting requirements - so thank you to all those talented folk who auditioned - and congratulations to those cast in principal roles and the ensemble. I think we have assembled a fine cast, and I am very much looking forward to getting started!

Basically my vision for this production of Pirates, is of commitment to our audience, for the rehearsal process of the selected cast, to mount and present a great night of talented entertainment, of Gilbert & Sullivan's Pirates of Penzance to an audience who will leave our performance after the final curtain humming/singing many of the tunes and maybe as well returning & telling others to get along to see it.



'Pirates' Director, John Greene



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Pirates of Penzance - Cast List

Frederic.....Not yet cast
Pirate King.....Peter Hodges
MabelAmber Aspinall
Major General Stanley.....Michael Smith
Ruth.....Belinda Stanford-Thomas
Samuel.....Trevor Martyn
Sergeant of Police.....Craig McTear
Edith.....Billie-Jo Dukes
Kate.....Karlie Hackfath
Isabel.....Lisa McKeon
Daughters.....Sara Battery
 Pauline Stephens
 EJ Ford
 Hanna Jay
 Janelle Robb
 Leah Tidey
 Ashleigh McCabe
 Ree Higoe
Chaperone.....Laraine Crossland

Pirates.....Ren Holl
 Eli Pappas
 Andy Wagstaff
 Bruce McDougall
 David Bateman
 Russ Richardson
 Lewis Hackfath
 Beattie Smith
 Brian Carter
 Robert Simpson
 Hugh Goddard
 Kaiyai Doenau
 Jenny Beatson
 Vanessa Crossley
 Fay Castle
Cabin Boy.....Maureen Burgess

The role of Frederic has not been cast. We will be re-advertising and re-auditioning for this role in January.

If you would like to book an audition slot, please let us know. If you know of anyone you think might be suitable for this role (Male, 16-35, high tenor), please encourage them to get in touch.

You can send us an email to coffsharbourmcc@gmail.com, or call the director, John Greene, on 0409 282292.

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Jetty Theatre Fundraiser

If you came along to the theatre fundraiser last year (and a surprising number of people did), you'll recall what a fun day it was, with lots of activities introducing the public to the theatre and what goes on there.

CHMCC contributed a home made/home grown produce stall which was very popular, and overall something in the region of \$3000 was contributed into the theatre trust fund by the event.

The theatre trust fund is jointly administered by JMT and ACCTS, and the monies used for improvements to the theatre facilities.

This year we thought we'd show the public a little more about what we do. So to that end, our contribution to the day will be some theatrical masterclasses and a vocal recital.

We will headline the day's program with an audition masterclass starting at 10am, led by Tim Egan. Since nearly all of us audition at one time or another, this is a really useful learning opportunity!

Next up will be a recital by CHMCC members. It is to be a program of duets and trios, and if you would like to take part, please do let us know as soon as possible!

Later in the day Maureen Burgess will hold a musical masterclass, teaching what she does best - breaking a song down into its individual parts and then putting it back together again. If you've ever wondered how those big chorus numbers are learnt, this is the class for you.

We will wrap up the day with a musical rehearsal for Pirates, which will be open to the public, and hopefully demonstrate how well the cast is doing with the Act 1 finale at that stage!

Of course CHMCC is not the only group contributing to the days events.

CHATS will be showing off something from their March production of 'Noise Off', and the Eisteddfod Society will be presenting a program of vocal and dance numbers.

There will be theatre tours, shed tours, dress ups, face painting, photography and various stalls, so it will be a really fun day for all the family.

You may have notice people selling raffle tickets at the theatre during the last couple of months. So far they have sold over \$1500 worth of tickets!

And no wonder, given that the gold prize is a pair to every show in the 2016 season, both Council-run and community theatre shows - a prize worth over \$1000.

Tickets are available from the Arts Council pop-up gallery at Toormina, as well as from the theatre.

We encourage you to come along on the day, register for our master classes, buy a raffle ticket and help support the theatre and its community user groups.

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