

UPSTAGED

COFFS HARBOUR MUSICAL COMEDY COMPANY

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WELCOME!

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2014! A big welcome to all our new ‘Annie’ members, and I hope you are enjoying rehearsals! It’s rather strange for me to have no rehearsals on a Sunday, but I must admit it’s nice to have all the extra time!

Without wishing to take anything away from the terrific Annie cast that has been assembled, I would like to start with an apology on behalf of the committee.

The Committee wishes to apologise if anyone feels that they were denied the opportunity to audition on the day, or to read for a part they were interested in.

We would also like to scotch any rumours that any parts were pre-cast. We do not, and will never indulge in pre-casting.

We do sincerely apologise for any perceived failings, and whilst acknowledging that mistakes were made, if there was an error on the day then it was in the lack of clear process and specific guidelines and was purely unintentional.

The committee is working hard to put together clear policies and guidelines to ensure such mistakes are eliminated from the audition process in the future.

You can see what the committee is working on each month in a new ‘Committee Business’ column on the final page of this newsletter.

So, our theatre year is well underway, with Annie in rehearsal, and doggie auditions to come! See page 4 for details!

Our second show of the year, Hairspray, is also well into the planning stages, thanks to the super-organised Lisa Jonas and Laura Smith, and you can expect auditions to follow hard on the heels of Annie closing. Full details will be available in the June newsletter and of course, on our website.

On that note, I do encourage you to visit our website regularly to keep up to date with what’s happening. It does change quite frequently you know! While we do try to keep you updated with Facebook posts, we are able to provide much more extensive material on the website, and particularly when we are preparing for auditions, we make a lot of character and vocal range material available to help you, including links to other material or You Tube videos to assist you in your preparation. Please, do make use of the information that’s available. Closer to audition times there is always an audition FAQ page where you can find the answers to any questions you may have.

Finally, I’d like to remind you that your membership runs per calendar year, and it is therefore time to renew. Thanks to the entire cast of Annie, who all signed up in record time, and to all those who have renewed by mail.

You can download a membership form from the website, www.coffsharbourmusicalcomedycompany.com and mail it in to us. Membership remains at a very low \$10 and covers you for the whole year. Thank you for your support.

Di O’Ferrall, Secretary

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome all from the Presidential Vacation Suite, aka the Long St Hut.

As some of you might be aware, I'm taking a few months off from Presidential duties. It is no secret that I feel the Annie auditions were very poorly conducted, and that several big mistakes were made.

Primarily, I don't believe that every auditionee was given a fair and equal opportunity on the day, which as the head of a community group which has always taken pride in being all inclusive, is a huge lapse. I understand that the Committee is currently working on some guidelines on the running of future auditions, and whilst I think it a shame that we have come to this, it is possibly the only way to ensure the same mistakes are not made again.

I sincerely hope so.

Irrespective of this, I have been actively involved in EVERY CHMCC production for just over 11 years, so I wouldn't think anyone would begrudge me the break.

On my return, I will be eagerly getting my fingers into the music for our end of year production of "Hairspray". Both Lisa Jonas (Director) and Laura Smith (Assistant Director) have already put in many hours of work on pre production, and I believe this will be a fantastic show. There are great roles for a variety of ages, and the music is spectacular! If you are unfamiliar with the show, I urge you to get hold of the movie version (with John Travolta), which, although slightly different to the stage version, will give you a fair feel for the show.



**CHMCC President,
Maureen Burgess**

And finally... I would like to extend a huge thank you to those in my theatre family who have given me so much love and support through the past month. I hope you know who you are.

Meanwhile, see you in Baltimore!

Mauz

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Diary Dates

CHATS PRODUCTIONS INC.

PRESENTS

Quartet

Directed by
Shirley Barnett

At the Jetty Memorial Theatre

Bookings: 6652 8088

Box Office Open 12 - 4pm Tues - Fri

Website - www.jettytheatre.com.au

Dates - March 26, 27, 28, 29 ,

April 2, 4, 5 at 8pm

March 30, April 6 at 2pm

Adults - \$25 - \$30 Conc. - \$22 + Booking Fee

Sunday Mar 30, Sunday Apr, 6 - all tickets \$20

Quartet is the play on which the very popular 2012 film was based. Cecily, Reggie and Wilfred are in a home for retired opera singers. Every year, on October 10, there is a concert to celebrate Verdi's birthday in which they take part. But they're in for a special shock when a much anticipated new arrival at the home turns out to be none other than their former singing partner and Reggie's ex-wife, Jean.

Can the passage of time heal old wounds? And will the famous quartet be able to patch up their differences in time for Beecham House's gala concert?

*Presented by Curtain Up Productions
Directed by Pat Slattery*

*"A lively, 'nun-stop' musical."
—N.Y. Times*

*a musical comedy
by Dan Goggin*

Session Times
8pm February 14th, 15th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd
2pm February 15th, 16th, 22nd, 23rd

Bookings: 66528088 or www.jettytheatre.com

By arrangement with ORIGIN™ Theatrical on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.origintheatrical.com.au

Coffs Harbour Musical Comedy Company presents

Annie

© Tribune Media Services, Inc.

May 9th - June 1st, 2014, Jetty Memorial Theatre

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ANNIE

Annie rehearsals are moving along full steam ahead with the excitement level of the orphans reaching a new high!

They say never work with children or animals. Well the cast of Annie are ready for the challenge!

After only two weeks of rehearsals, we were running the first three scenes of Act One and sounding pretty great.

The sets are currently being designed by Frank Lilley and our ever faithful Sharon Tomlinson has a prop list ready to go.

Lyneah Boom has stepped up as Musical Director for the first time and Lincoln Elliott, who played Dickon last year in The Secret Garden is our rehearsal pianist.

Colin Wilkes is in his element co-ordinating and sewing costumes and thank you to Robyn Brown who is already making lots of ratty orphan clothes (not quite the challenge she had with Belle's golden ball gown in Beauty and the Beast).

All the pieces of the puzzle are coming together nicely...but now for the big one. We need a dog.

Obviously we are looking for a dog who is sandy in colour (no we don't want to spray paint any puppies please) and is trained enough to sit on command, very friendly and likes children.

The dog needs to be available to come to rehearsals from about April onwards (once a week) and needs to be available for all 20 shows.

The owner/handler needs to accompany the dog at all times and be responsible for any "cleanups".

Our "Doggy Audition Day" is **Saturday 1st March** and we will have both our Annie's available to meet the dogs.

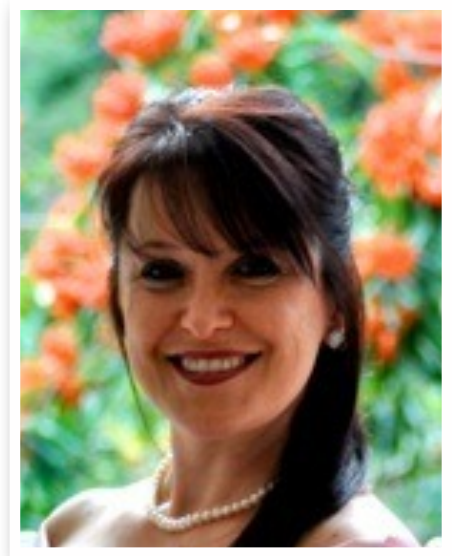
Please make an appointment for this day by ringing me on 0411 116 471.

This way we will see each dog one at a time in a casual and relaxed environment.

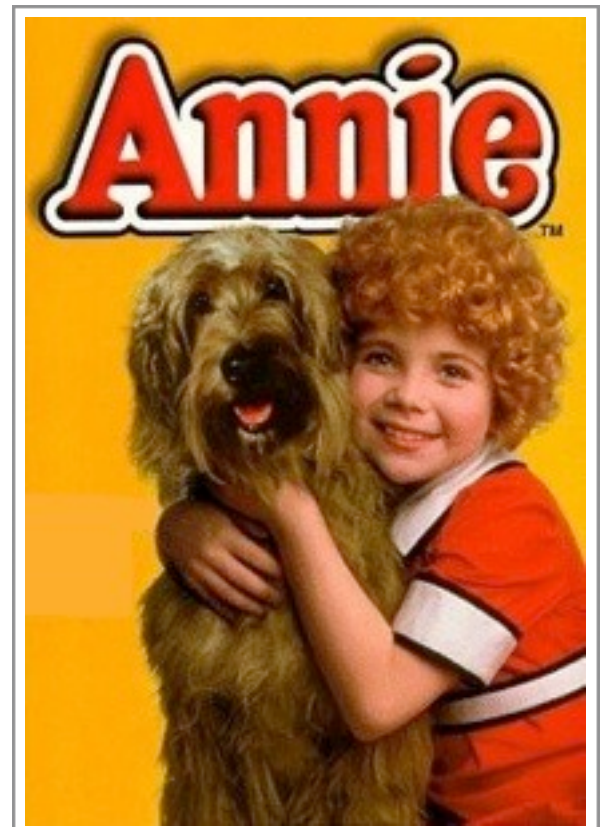
Thanks again to everyone involved in putting this show together.

It really is a team effort.

Donna



**Donna Fairall,
Director, 'Annie'**



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‘ANNIE’ - CAST LIST

AnnieAmy Hancock and Ginger Freudenstein
 Oliver WarbucksBeckley Vincent
 Grace FarrellEmma Goddard
 Miss HanniganJennie Touzel
 RoosterPeter Hodges
 Lily St RegisFiona Stiles
 President Roosevelt.....David Tune

Orphans

DuffyIsla Telford
 JulyEllie Waters
 Pepper.....Molly McKinnon
 TessieGrace Snowball
 Kate.....Emily Hodges
 MollyGrace McCormack

Ensemble and Cameo Roles

Natalya Byrt
 Fay Castle
 Robyn Coulton
 Kerry Freudenstein
 Ree Higoe
 Ashleigh McCabe
 Liz O’Sullivan
 Leah Tidey
 Dee Tune
 Lizzy Tune
 Brian Carter
 Brad Dillon
 Josh Lamberth
 Eli Pappas
 Tom Strickland
 Colin Wilkes



Some of the orphans:
L_R: Ginger, Amy, Emily, Isla & Ellie

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Hi everyone! It's all very exciting starting my first stint as assistant director!

We have started planning for HAIRSPRAY already with some very wonderful people agreeing to be on board and many plans are afoot to make sure we hit the ground running once the show has been cast. When are auditions you say?? Watch this space!!

I have started to really appreciate all the work that goes into preparing for a show and now have an even higher regard than ever for our current and past directors – especially people like Mauz & Donna who have wonderfully fronted up a number of times!

We are so lucky to have Lisa Jonas as our director. I have worked with Lisa on several projects recently and know that she is more than qualified (and not just because she has studied Directing for Performing Arts!!)

As Lisa said in the last newsletter, this production will be full of challenges, but also heaps of fun! It's going to be an awesome ride from start to finish.

Although not being blessed with the dance myself, I am happy to leak the news that there will be non-singing roles for people who can actually dance. Mind you there are some great roles for those who are the double-threat of moves and music. I myself am hoping to be cast as a principal in the bio box (behind the sound desk)...

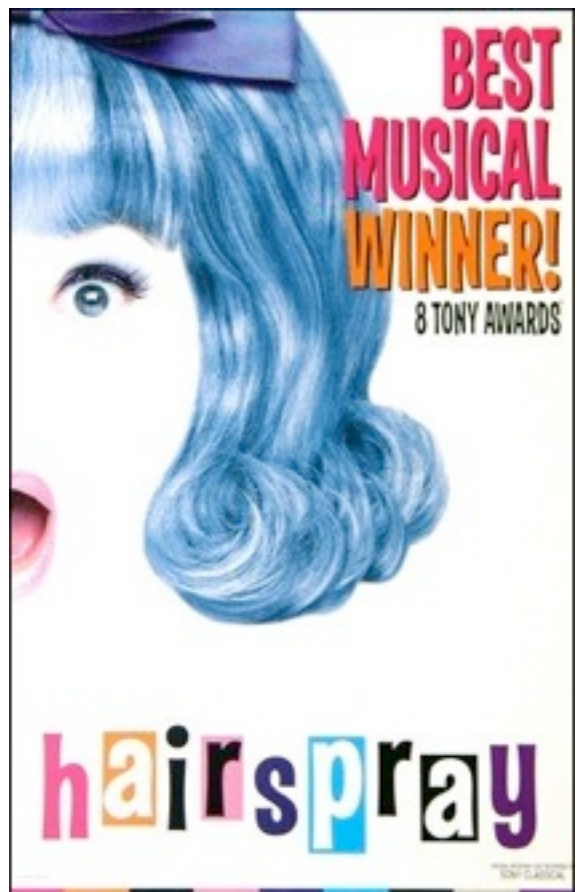
We will have more information for everyone interested in auditioning within the April newsletter so please be sure to keep an eye out and in the meantime, spread the word!

I love that HAIRSPRAY is all about integration and as a society, moving past all the stupid racism, moralistic judgment and stereotypical beauty ideals that otherwise alienate and hurt. I'm looking forward to seeing people from all cultures and backgrounds audition and then having fun with a cast that proves everything that HAIRSPRAY stands for!

Laura



**'Hairspray' Assistant Director,
Laura Smith**



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OUT OF THE CLOSET

Anyone who has been down to the sheds lately will appreciate the huge improvement now that CHATS and CHMCC have consolidated their costumes into the one shed. A huge thank you to CHATS for their co-operation in this venture and in particular to Louwanna Kaur, who has put in outstanding work to assist in the organization. She is one hard working and delightful lady and we now have access to a far greater variety of costumes for both companies.

Lou and I have been working together recently to attempt to sort them all into categories but this will take quiet a bit of work, realistically I am guessing about 6-12 months. Ideally once we have them sorted we will begin a huge cull to remove some of the duplications and anything we can readily access from second hand shops etc. At that point we hope to be able to form a catalogue which will make it so much easier when costuming a show and possibly give us the opportunity to assist other companies by hiring out from our stock.

As everyone will appreciate our costumes are a valuable resource for both companies and save us considerable funds when producing a show. With this in mind we have instituted a policy that no costume will leave the shed unless it has been approved by Lou or me and listed and signed for in the large red book which is located at the shed.

Please make sure you contact us if there is anything you wish to borrow. For individual loans it is important to stress that the costumes must be returned in a cleaned state and in the condition it was received in. All costumes must be signed off in the book on return. There are no exceptions to this rule.

This policy will also apply to company shows, however whilst CHMCC have undertaken the cleaning of costumes, each individual involved in shows is responsible to ensure that every piece of costume issued to them is returned in good order.



Wardrobe Manager
Judi Williams

A big thank you should also go to Anne Poidevin who has been assisting with repairs and alterations to costumes. Anne has also created guidelines for borrowers to advise of any alterations or additions that will be permitted to borrowers. Once again another very hard working lady.

Good news from Colin Wilkes (who is doing costumes for Annie) to say that he has virtually costumed the whole show so now cast can concentrate on that awful job of getting lines down. Well done Colin!

Well that is all from the Closet; I wish all participants in our production of Annie the best of luck for a spectacular show.

Judi

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Committee Business



We thought it would be a good idea to write a little piece each month to let you know what's been happening in committee.

Currently, CHMCC President Maureen Burgess has taken a sabbatical, and Vice President Jenny Beatson is Acting President. I'm sure you'll agree that Maureen has worked tirelessly for the Company for many years, and fully deserves a break. Committee member Donna Fairall has stepped down to concentrate her energies on directing 'Annie', a not unreasonable request!

In the last two months, the committee has been receiving the final financials for 'The Secret Garden', and it looks like the show came in under budget, and has made a small profit. David Tune, the show's director, proposed donating a small percentage of the profits to the Can Do Cancer Trust, and this proposal was accepted.

We have also been working on putting together a handbook which will eventually contain the up-to-date constitution, updated by-laws, and various policies and procedures in one place, such as codes of conduct, audition guidelines and policies, working with children policies, etc etc. We hope this will provide a valuable resource to any future committee members, as well as enabling us to be clear and consistent on what our policies are.

Some committee members are working on the production side of 'Annie', and others are also starting to plan for 'Hairspray'. Still others are starting to think about a program for 2015! Soon we will also start planning for a bush dance in midwinter and the AGM in August. Plenty to be getting on with!

Di O'Ferrall, Secretary