

Up Staged



Coffs Harbour Musical Comedy Company, Inc.

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Welcome!

I'm sure you all came along to support our most recent production, the King and I, and enjoyed the show. It's always wonderful to see the end product of months of hard work and preparation pay off in great performances and beautiful sets.

Thanks to everyone who helped to bump in and out, to the front of house and back stage crews and everyone who makes a production possible, and congratulations to director Judi Williams for another successful show.

No sooner was the show finished, than we were advertising auditions for RENT, and planning the AGM.

Thanks to all who came out on a stormy State of Origin night to attend the AGM, and vote in the new committee. See the last page of this newsletter for a full list of committee members. A special resolution was passed to adopt the New Model Constitution, bringing our constitution up to date with the most current legislation for Incorporated Associations.

Auditions for RENT took place on June 18th, and were attended by Rentheads of all ages, and both new and familiar faces. The singalong of 'Seasons of Love' was a great idea to settle everyone's nerves and warm up our voices!

The full cast list is published on page 5, and you can check out pictures of the cast in an album on 'CHMCC's RENT' Facebook page.

Congratulations to those who were cast; and to those who weren't, we hope very much to see you at an audition next year. In the mean time, there are plenty of opportunities to get involved behind the scenes, so give the director, Maureen Burgess, or the Production Manager, Jenny Beatson a call to see how you can get involved. Phone numbers are on the last page.

RENT is a contemporary rock opera, and many of you will be unfamiliar with it. If you don't already know and love the music, I encourage you to listen to the original Broadway cast recording, or the Motion Picture Soundtrack, both of which are readily available on CD and DVD, or on iTunes and YouTube. Have a look at page 6 for a synopsis of the musical and a brief introduction to its composer, Jonathan Larson.

Now is the time of year when we start to think about what shows we will do next year. If you have a show that you would like to direct, or would like someone else to consider directing, start thinking about how you would do it, and please get a submission to the committee as soon as possible.

Look forward to seeing many of you at some of the coming events on the Diary Pages!

Dí O'Ferrall

(Secretary)



*Grahame
Williams*

*Outgoing
President,
CHMCC*

President's Report

First off I must say this has been the most fulfilling year as president of the CHMCC for a number of reasons.

The start of any season with a new committee is usually a learning process with requirements, systems and personalities to be melded into a working entity to produce successful productions. This committee, or more correctly, team, was up and running from day one.

With JC Superstar auditions and rehearsals right on the doorstep, they took all on board and started running.

JCS, our first rock opera is arguably our most successful show in respect of people on seats. Congratulations to our director Pat Slattery and Musical Director Peter K for an awesome production. Continuing the flow and momentum, our production of *The King and I* was the equal of JC with standout lavish sets designed by Frank Lilley who, with his two merry men Kerry and Neville built a set that almost stole the show.

But not quite! Our director Judith Williams structured a production that rivaled a professional one working with both children and adults to create a real family on stage. We received rave reviews not only from patrons but equally importantly from the cast and crew who all had a fabulous time. Those tears on stage for the final show were genuine, and an indication that everyone would miss the camaraderie and Costuming was

fabulous thanks to the team headed by Colin and Baz.

Not only but also our wonderful front of house teams, our ushers, and the teams in black back stage of all productions.

Well done one and all - I am truly proud of you.

Finally I would like to thank each and every one who has supported the company this year in so many ways. I know how busy life can be and the extra mile that everyone went was truly appreciated.

In particular I want to thank my wonderful committee and especially my wonderful wife for so ably assisting me in what has proved to be yet another very successful year.

I have decided not to run for President this year, not through any lack of interest but because I feel it is important to have fresh ideas and fresh faces to keep the company vibrant and successful.

I thank you all for your support and look forward to another wonderful year of involvement.

Grahame Williams.



Diary Dates



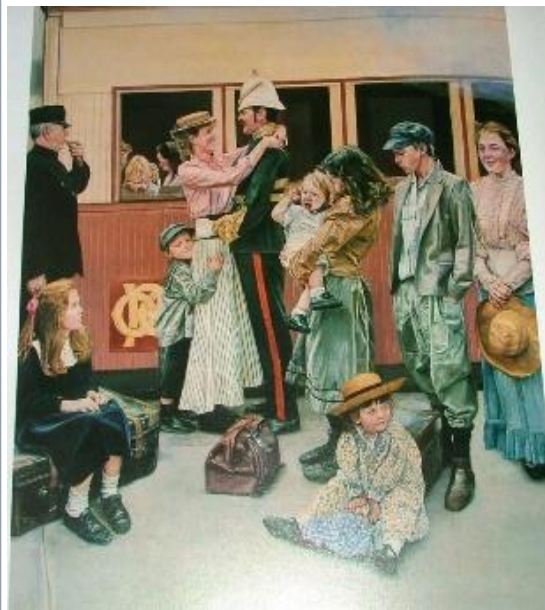
'Seven Little Australians'

By Ethel Turner

Directed by Anne Joyce

22nd – 31st July
Jetty Memorial Theatre

August 7th-8th
Bowraville Theatre



'The Captain Sees Them Off'
By John Lennox

Seven Little Australians Art Exhibition

This perennial favourite is brought to life with the visually stunning illustrations of John Lennox. Produced for Ethel Turner's classic novel, '*Seven Little Australians*, these oil paintings meticulously and faithfully portray the period of 1894.

The rich and fine detail of the individual characters, settings, and period clothing will captivate viewers.

On show at the **Bunker Cartoon Gallery, Coffs Harbour.**

24th June to 16th July 2011

Mon to Sat: 10am-4pm

Ph: (02) 6651 7343

This Exhibition has been made available through the generous sponsorship of Estuary @ Moonee Beach, Nolan and Partners Estate Agents and Brian Hopwood Homes.

More Diary Dates



Auditions

For 'The Invisible Woman'

Sunday June 26th, 11am

18 Kalang Circuit.

Call Shirley Barnett for more
information on 6651 9098



Harbour Arts Winter Workshop 4th – 8th July

Contact Donna Fairall for more
information

0411 116 471

donna@harbourchurch.com.au



By Jonathan Larson

November 7 – 29

Weds, Fri, Sat 8 pm

Sat, Sun 2 pm

Directed by

Maureen Burgess

Musical Direction

Peter Kaukiainen



RENT Cast List**Principals**

Mark: Billy White

Roger: Paul Smith

Angel: Beattie Smith

Collins: Jamie Waqa

Maureen: Jessa Eggeling

Joanne: Billie-Jean
Campbell

Mimi: Gemita Burgess

Benny: James Hall

Ensemble

Sarah O'Loughlin

Chris Clouten

Katie Goddard

Di O'Ferrall

Russ Richardson

Rebecca Riches

Krystal Rivers-Lloyd

Kaiyai Doenau

Liam Breton

Sally Taylor

Josh Kelly

Alyssa Spriggs

Chris Gooley

Sam Dyball



RENT by Jonathan Larson

Jonathan Larson was born to Jewish parents in White Plains, an affluent area of upstate New York, in 1960. His early influences were rock musicians such as Elton John, The Beatles, The Doors, The Who, and Billy Joel, as well as the classic composers of musical theatre, especially Stephen Sondheim. He began composing music while studying acting at Adelphi University in Garden City, New York, and after graduation, moved into a loft apartment in Lower Manhattan, where he wrote a number of early musicals, auditioned his casts and met some of the people who were to be the inspiration for his characters in 'Rent'.

The original idea for 'Rent' came from playwright Billy Aronson, who wanted to write a musical inspired by Puccini's *La Bohème*, in which the richness of Puccini's world would be replaced with the coarseness and noise of modern New York. After reaching a profit sharing agreement with Aronson, Larson set about making the show his own, coming up with the title, and setting the story in Alphabet City in the East Village, and exploring the themes he saw around him in the late 80's and early 90s, such as homophobia, HIV/Aids and drug addiction.

He wrote the characters based on his experiences and those of his friends, including a dancer he dated for years who sometimes left him for other men and eventually left him for a woman, and who was the inspiration for the character, Maureen. His experiences of living as a struggling artist in an unheated building in New York, where he kept an illegal wood-burning stove, are also mirrored in the setting for Mark & Roger's apartment.

'Rent' started in 1993 as a staged reading at the New York Theatre Workshop, followed by a three-week studio production a year later. The Off-Broadway premiere of the final version was scheduled for January 1996.

However, Jonathan Larson died of an aortic dissection, believed to have been caused by Marfan syndrome, in the early morning of January 25, the day before opening night.

The close-knit cast and crew were devastated, but were given the full blessing and support of Larson's parents, Allan and Nanette, to open the show anyway.

Due to Larson's death the day before, the cast agreed that they would simply sing the show through, while sitting at tables on the stage. However, by the time the show got to the big ensemble number, the cast could no longer contain their emotion, and performed a highly-charged rendition of "La Vie Bohème", dancing on stage and on the tables.

'Rent' played an extended season to sell-out crowds, and transferred to Broadway in 1996, where it played continuously to a full house until its run ended in 2008, in an emotional final performance attended by Allan & Nanette Larson, where many members of the original cast joined the final cast for the closing reprise of 'Seasons of Love'.

'Rent' is now the 9th longest-running show in Broadway history, and has won numerous Tony awards. Jonathan Larson was also posthumously awarded a Pulitzer Prize for drama. CHMCC is thrilled and excited to be bringing this modern cult hit to the stage in Coffs Harbour, and I hope you'll all come to know and love it as much as its many world-wide fans do.

Dí O'Ferrall

The Cooking Corner

Di's veggie garden recipes:

Now that winter is upon us, it's time to start thinking about preserves.

I have several huge chilli plants laden with fruit, and was wondering what to do with them, when Harlan Cooper suggested I give him a sackful to make harissa paste. This is his recipe.

Harlan's Harissa

250 g fresh chillies
 1 whole head of garlic
 1 tbsp ground coriander
 1 tbsp ground Caraway seed
 1 tbsp ground mint
 ¼ Cup fresh coriander leaves
 1 tbsp salt
 Olive oil

Blend all the ingredients, then add olive oil until you have a stiff paste.

That's it!

If you remove the seeds, you will have a milder paste, but why bother?!

I also have a dwarf lemon in a huge pot which is groaning with beautiful lemons.

Time to make lemon curd!

Lemon Curd

4 lemons
 300 g Castor sugar
 150 g butter, in chunks
 6 eggs

Wash & dry lemons, and grate the peel.

Squeeze the lemons, and add the juice and peel to the sugar in a heatproof bowl set over a pan of simmering water.

Stir occasionally until the sugar has dissolved, then remove from the heat & add the butter. Leave to cool.

Beat the eggs lightly in a bowl. Add the cooled lemon mixture, mix well, then strain back in to the pan.

Stir frequently over a gentle heat until the mixture thickens.

Pour into clean, warm jars, cover with discs of greaseproof paper before you put the lids on.

Store in the fridge, and enjoy on your toast in the morning.



Coffs Harbour Musical Comedy Company

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