

UPSTAGED

COFFS HARBOUR MUSICAL COMEDY COMPANY

- Welcome.....p1
- From the President.....p2
- Diary Dates.....p3
- Pirates of Penzance.....p4-6



- Pirates of Penzance Poster.....p7
- Gala Arts Ball.....p8
- Mary Poppinsp9
- Contact Details.....p10

WELCOME!

Well here we are only four weeks out from opening our first show of the year - Gilbert & Sullivan's 'Pirates of Penzance'. This has been my first experience of G&S, and I have found it interesting to experience a different kind of music, and the joy of discovering the wit in the writing. There is a lot of laughter at rehearsals, which is always a good sign, especially now that the cast are adding movement to the music and you can 'see' the joke as well as 'hear' it!

The cast has been working very hard, and you are going to see some magnificent performances, from the principals especially, and I think you'll love the ensemble, who sound wonderful! Check out some of the photos on pages 4, 5 & 6. Feel free to print and display the poster on page 7 too!

Mary Poppins auditions will be following Pirates in June, with separate days for children and adults. You can read about this exciting production on page 8. Full audition information is on our website at www.coffsharbourmusicalcomedycompany.com/auditions.

In other news we're excited to announce this year's Gala Arts Event! This year's event will be a full dinner and dance on July 2nd at the Racecourse. A 2-course meal with a free welcome drink and a band, all for only \$50 per head! Read all about the Winter Ball on page 8, including details on how to buy tickets.

In committee news, we've been working on selling Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, planning for Pirates, and Mary Poppins auditions and planning for next year's season. We expect to have an announcement in the next month!

In the mean time I hope you will come along and support the tireless cast of Pirates - they really deserve it.

As always, keep an eye on our Facebook page and website for all the latest information, and get out there and pick up your tickets for Pirates and the Ball!

Di O'Ferrall - Secretary



BACKSTAGE VOLUNTEERS

If you'd like to help backstage for Pirates, please contact the Stage Manager, Pam Lane at pam.lane@ncahs.health.nsw.gov.au

USHERS

Please get in touch with Judi and Shalla if you'd like to volunteer to usher for Pirates. Email gwandalan54@gmail.com

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From the President

Greetings Members Great and Small, I hope this Newsletter finds you happy, healthy and wise (wishful thinking on that last one, we're Actors after all!).

First up, some sad news. Our former President, performer and set builder/designer/painter extraordinaire Bill Jacobs passed away a few weeks ago after a long illness. Bill was President of the company when I did my very first show, 2002's "Sweet Charity". He was that very rare man of his generation, both open minded and accepting; an old school gentleman with the biggest heart and the capacity to accept and adapt. Bill was someone you felt privileged to know. He is possibly the only person I know in the theatre world that I never heard a bad word said about.

The last time I spoke to Bill was at "Anything Goes" (one of his favourite shows, and as it turned out, the last show he saw) which he absolutely loved. He was so blown away by how far the company had come and I am so glad that he was there to accept the public acknowledgement of his contribution.

Following consultation with Judy, Bill's devoted wife, we have decided to name the construction shed "The Bill Jacobs Memorial Shed" in recognition of all the blood sweat and tears Bill put into the company. Once we have the plaque sorted we will organize a Grand Naming Ceremony, and I sincerely hope that everyone, whether you knew Bill or not, will attend to pay your respects to a truly wonderful man. Please stay tuned for further details.

In other theatre news, I hope you all went to see CHATS' production of "Noises Off", it was an exemplary example of community theatre at it's very best. In fact the only show I voluntarily saw more than once! Congratulations to everyone involved for an amazing, thoroughly entertaining piece of theatrical twaddle (the very best kind). If you missed it, big fat bummer, don't make the same mistake with "Pirates" which despite many more than its fair share of setbacks will be a wonderful production (hinging on the pivotal role of Cabin Boy played by yours truly). John Greene and Di O'Ferrall on debut as Directors as well as a wonderfully dedicated and talented cast, are doing an amazing job.



CHMCC President, Maureen Burgess

So much to look forward to! "Cosi" produced by CHATS and directed by our very own Judi Williams, and Rory Banfield, and of course "Grease" directed by Pat Slattery for the Arts Council, AND, last but by no means least, our November production of "Mary Poppins" directed by Donna Fairall. What a smorgasbord of treats!

Lucky we also have our annual Ball in the mix. Yes, we've decided to go back to our original plan of having an Arts Ball. This year we're trialling a Winter Wonderland Ball on July 2. We might also be able to call it the Double Dissolution Ball, though that doesn't quite have the same aesthetic. I have begun practicing my Pride of Erin and Canadian Three Step in preparation, so look out! These social events have proven to be a lot of fun over the years, so please put the date in your calendar, grab some friends, book a table and join us for a fabulous knees up!

Yours in Pursuits Theatrical,

Mauz

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Diary Dates

Upcoming events include:

Coffs Harbour Musical Comedy Company
presents
Gilbert & Sullivan's
THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE

MAY 6TH - 29TH, 2016

Jetty Memorial Theatre

6652 8088 Weds, Fri, Sat at 8pm
www.jettytheatre.com Sat & Sun at 2pm

Booking fees apply

Winter Ball

Hosted by
Coffs Harbour Musical Comedy Company

Saturday 2nd July
6.30pm
Coffs Harbour Racing Club

Tickets \$50—Dinner & Dance
2 Course Meal and
Free Glass of Champagne / Wine on arrival
Dress : Black Tie

Tickets available from the Racing Club
(Tables of 10 or individual seats)
Ph : 6652 1488

For more info visit: www.coffsharbourmusicalcomedycompany.com

Disney and CAMERON MACKINTOSH'S
MARY POPPINS
THE BROADWAY MUSICAL

AUDITIONS
Adults: Sat 18th June
Children: Sat 25th June

Venue: Bishop Druitt College,
North Boambee Road.
Time: 9.30 for registration,
10am start.

Port Macquarie Players
The Producers
6th-22nd May
Festival of One Act Plays
June Long Weekend
Grease
22nd July - 14th August
'Allo 'Allo
23rd September - 9th October
Sweet Charity
11th November - 4th December
2017
Puss in Boots
13th-22nd January

Bookings 6581 8888
www.playerstheatre.org.au/
bookonline

COSI
BY LOUIS NOWRA

Jetty Memorial Theatre
July 20-31
Bookings 6652 8088
www.jettytheatre.com

THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE

Hi Folks

Well here we are in April four weeks from 'Pirates' bump into the theatre on Sunday May 1st.

Our production is in a healthy state of preparation and I am really impressed with the enthusiasm of the cast, all fitting extra rehearsal calls to perfect both the ensemble singing and choreography – many thanks to Maureen, and David and Stephanie Bateman for making these possible.

They are really taking seriously on board theatre skills a little outside their personal comfort zones, successfully bringing fresh, ebullient, individual and ensemble performances to make this, our interpretation of 'Pirates of Penzance' into a great presentation.

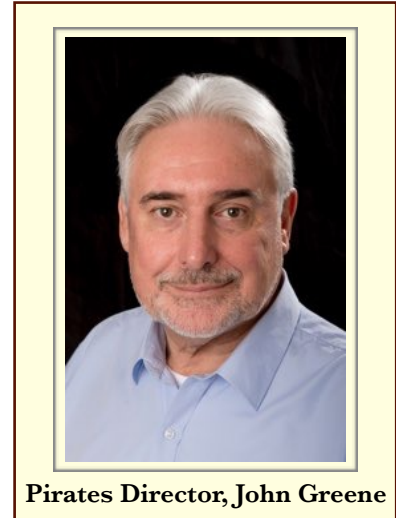
The principals are growing in their roles with a energetic keenness!

The Pirate King, Peter Hodges, oozes visual appeal (Jon English would be proud of him) performing and owning the role.

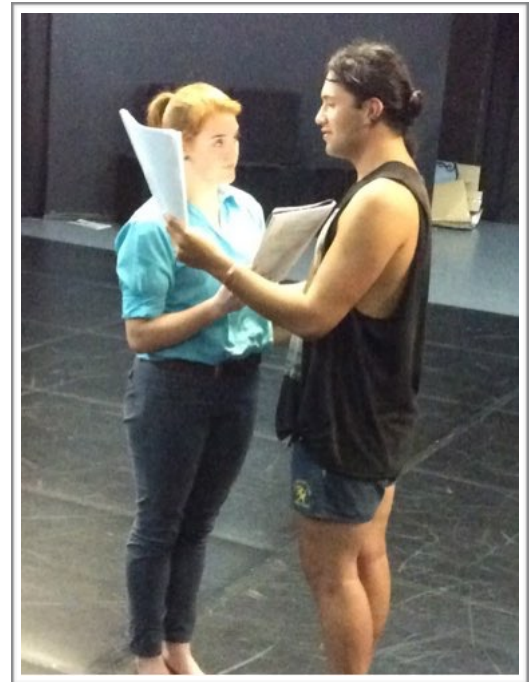


***Beattie Smith as Frederic, Peter Hodges as the Pirate King,
& Belinda Stanford-Thomas as Ruth***

First timers Belinda Stanford-Thomas as Ruth and Trevor Martyn as Samuel both bring their own refreshing natural singing and acting talents to their roles.



Pirates Director, John Greene



***Amber Aspinall as Mabel
& Beattie Smith as Frederic***

Our Mabel, Amber Aspinall is quite a star in the making with her beautiful soaring soprano and confident stage presence, complemented by Beattie Smith's mature well-prepared beautifully sung Frederic.

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The eccentric Major General, Michael Smith, is bringing his own unique comic talent to the role as well as clever delivery and understanding to a difficult patter song.

His two main wards (daughters), Billie-Jo Dukes as Edith, with her powerful vocals and stage presence, and Karlie Hackfath delighting as coquettish Kate lead their ensemble sisters on a fun 'Sullivan' musical journey.



Back L-R: Ree Higoe, Krystel Rivers-Lloyd, Michael Smith, Lisa McKeon
Front: Billie-Jo Dukes, Karlie Hackfath, Hanna Guppy

Ed: Since this photo article was written, Billie-Jo has had to withdraw on medical advice. We are sorry to see her go and wish her well in her recovery. The role of Edith will now be played by Sara Battery (not pictured).



Pirates Ren Holl and Fay Castle

All the above is complemented by Pirates and Police chaps (and a couple of non-chaps) who each delight in their individual and ensemble portrayals vocally, handling comic acting and great choreography by Kate Sevenoaks.

Unfortunately, our perfectly cast Sergeant of Police, Craig McTear has had to withdraw with personal health issues, leaving a huge gap to fill.

With trepidation – due to the huge workload now mounting before me as director and all that requires, it was suggested that I take on that Act 2 role – I have agreed to ... Phew !!

We look forward to settling in soon with Maestro Tim Egan's Orchestra.

I have a great production team, my Assistant Director Di leading them and an enthusiastic cast all focused on presenting a fun night at the theatre of this magnificent Gilbert and Sullivan's 'Pirates of Penzance'.

See you in the auditorium.

John



Company rehearsing the Act One Finale



With Director John Greene, and A.D. Di O'Ferrall (check out Jenny Beatson with the parrot!)



Coffs Harbour Musical Comedy Company

presents

Gilbert & Sullivan's

THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE



MAY 6TH - 29TH, 2016

Jetty Memorial Theatre

6652 8088

www.jettytheatre.com

Weds, Fri, Sat at 8pm

Sat & Sun at 2pm

Booking fees apply



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2016 Gala Arts Ball

We're excited to announce the annual Gala Arts Event!

This Year's event is a Winter Ball, a full-blown dinner and dance to be held at the Race Club.

Tables of 10 are available, but you can also just buy individual tickets and pairs - tickets are available from the Club on 6652 1488.

The club will be decked out as a beautiful winter wonderland, so please join us in your best tux or ballgown; dress is black tie.

There will be a free welcome drink on arrival, a 2-course meal, and a variety of music from the band 'Speakeazy' to entertain you.

Tickets are just \$50 per head and must be purchased in advance for catering purposes.

Drinks can be purchased from the bar.

So what are you waiting for? Give the club a call and get your table booked for the social event of the year!



Many thanks to Donna Fairall, John Greene and Colin Wilkes for organising this event.



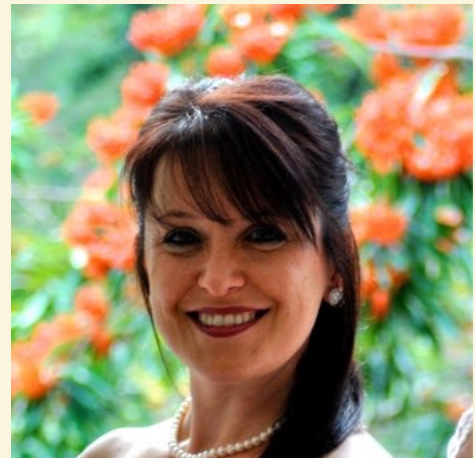
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Who can remember their favourite childhood movies? Well Mary Poppins was definitely one of mine. A magical, flying nanny who takes no nonsense and of course that crazy song Super-cali.....go on.... you can sing it!

Well I am thrilled to be given the opportunity to direct Mary this year for CHMCC. True we will have some challenges making Mary 'fly' but we love a challenge (that I have given over to set designer Dave Tune...lol) and the magic of theatre will be alive this November at the Jetty Memorial.

We need a cast of about 30 for this show, plus a double casting of only two children's roles. Be warned mums and dads! The children are actually on stage more than Mary herself so we will definitely need children who can go the distance, stay up late and be prepared to give up their social lives until after the show is over.



Donna Fairall, Director, Mary Poppins

There will be some serious choreography for 6 featured dancers and some fun movement/dancing for everyone else, particularly the well known song Super-cali....(you don't expect me type the whole word do you?) which has been re-vamped from the original movie and is now like a tongue twister both in singing and movement!

Auditions and performance dates are all available on the CHMCC website and so are some audition pages for the children so they can prepare at home and not have any trouble with reading new material on the day.

See www.coffsharbourmusicalcomedycompany.com/auditions.

I am excited and looking forward to another great show and working with some talented and amazing people.

Donna

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