

The BACKDROP

Publisher: Benalla Theatre Company
P.O. Box 2, Benalla 3672
Date: May 2009

Editor: Jim Tullberg
AH 5762 4383 W 57 611 830
jim.tullberg@roads.vic.gov.au



BTC Web Site & Email: <http://benallatheatrecompany.org/>
Benallatheatreco@yahoo.com.au

LEADER of the PACK

For a while there it seemed a long way off; then suddenly it was closing like a freight train in a tunnel; and now in a frantic 3 weekend flit it's finally all over red rover – and yet again we scored a winner with *Leader of the Pack* being greatly enjoyed by all who went along to see it.

Congratulations to Anne-Marie, Molly and Elaine for their vision and instruction; the cast, orchestra & backstage crew for delivering on-stage; Wayne's production crew and supporting families/friends who all contributed to the show being such a great success.



Arms raised in triumph?? Well at least it seems in unison (in joke there :) at the end of another performance.

There may have been a few tiny negatives about show information and the extra matinee; we know there were little boo-boos here and there; sometimes the orchestra couldn't hear the vocalists etc but overall the colour, enthusiasm, constant action and great songs/singing/music that were there for all to see and hear made this a fantastic show.

Notwithstanding whether we next do a traditional/block-buster/well known type show next time; surely this has proved to the wider Benalla public (our loyal fans need no convincing :) that whatever BTC does will be well worth coming to see.

Chloe did a fantastic job as 'Ellie' - with Rock of Rages being a personal favourite of mine as it just got better and better and more passionate; Steve had it 'all happening baby' as Jeff – never missed a beat or line and kept a straight face with that bit about being 24 (not that you look much older curse you :) – Deb was as always wonderful; raising the roof with River Deep and always bringing a lump to my throat with her bit in We're Gonna Make It; I wanted to 'be Molly's baby' every night and got tingles each time Act 1 closed with her title song; Paul made a great shield in Chapel of Love & lit up the stage – even when he was in darkness; Di, Sam, Emily and Mary-Ann stepped up to the plate each show and 'whacked one out of the park' with their songs; Carmel stuck her lines (and Ellie's leg) beautifully each time and David 'bow-bowed and dit-ditted' like Pee-wee Wilson on steroids. Add to that the wonderful orchestra (cool, smooth, rockin' & rhythmic), Ben's voice-overs and great performances from our opening dancers and chorus and we had a sure-fire recipe for non-stop entertainment.

The lighting & effects made the most of some fabulous colourful costumes; the sound effects were on cue and all was heard (even some additional unscripted dialogue at times :); Rhonda's props were wonderful; Front of House made everyone feel super welcome with seating and supper; great programme as always Janine– the lot! – I think we should all be proud. Thanks to all the family & friends (as Molly so aptly said from the Presidential podium after the last show) with special mention to Brad's mum for the cake and Chloe's mum for attendance at 5 shows and the bump-out. Plus a huge special mention & many thanks to Andrew from Wangaratta who came to our rescue on the lighting front – we appreciate your time and effort greatly as well as hoping fervently that Steve is on the improve. Emily & Kel for the photo-disc and the entire production crew are also worth mentioning again – let's face it – EVERY BODY was absolutely great.



We always got off to a flying start each performance - with 'the youngsters' (including you Pauly :) really getting stuck into their eighties dance sequence and then Molly, Sam and Di encouraging all and sundry to 'Be My Baby'.



The lads always gave Do Wah Diddy a 100% effort and we even got the words right most of the time.



Keeping it 'Confidential' was a great start to Act 2 with the luscious Mary-Ann & girls.





Chloe's 'Rock of Rages' was always a poignant moment in the show – she sang and emoted so well - and backstage we knew it heralded the onset of the big upbeat finale with 'Da Do Ron Ron'; the ever quirky 'What a Guy'; the toe-tapping 'Baby I Know'; Deb's magnificent belt-out of 'River Deep Mountain High' (show's high point) and then the near tear bringing harmony of 'We're Gonna Make It'

Apologies if I didn't get everybody in a photo; but the cast have their own disc (ta E & K) & this was just a taste for those unfortunate enough to miss what was a fantastic show.

NB Costume return for Leader of the Pack is on Sunday 21 June between 2 and 4 at the Hut. If you are unable to get to costume return, you need to contact Debbie or Molly and arrange to drop them off before the 21st.

Time to Play

After a hiatus of many years, BTC plans to get back to some theatrical roots and look at staging a show of short plays in late September under the direction of our evergreen mate from Kyneton in Alan Stone. Auditions for 'the play' (which will be a series of one act plays – giving people a great chance to taken on different characters etc) take place on Saturday 11 July and Sunday 12 July at the Hut. Contact Emily to book your audition (0400 639 536 or briteiz41@yahoo.com). Performances scheduled currently to be the last 2 weeks of September

Time to Work :)

A Working Bee to tidy up the hut & costume room, the shelves and move some filing cabinets from the compound to the hut and other general tidying – Saturday 27 June from 10am.

A Bit of Oklahoma in the Burbs

Jamie Boatwood –former Benalla resident; BTC star and lover of high-powered motor bikes; is appearing in the Mountain District Musical Society's production of Oklahoma! This will be at Ringwood over a two weekend run this month. A group of BTC regulars is planning on going to see it on Saturday 20 June for the 2pm matinee. Cost will be \$32 or if we can get a group of 10 or more discounts to \$28. You need to contact Molly ASAP if you are interested in going.

Carols Facelift?

No gossip or cosmetic advice here – just that there is a meeting to discuss arrangements for Carols by Candlelight on the 6th of July at 7pm - people can contact Molly for details. We are hoping that BTC will be taking a bigger part in organising the event this year and as this is the first meeting with the Lions club to discuss the event, it would be great to have a few people interested in helping out get along to the meeting.

Much as it has been a wonderful evening over the years (weather permitting) it is fair to say we think it needs a bit of re-invigoration and improved coordination on the entertainment side.

End of Year etc

Since we're suddenly in month 6 (did I mention a freight train before ??) then the 'end of year' is nearly closer than the start – which means, Carols, Legacy and Lodge among other things. I daresay we may be reprising some stuff from 'Leader' but contributions from members will still be needed to make up a decent and varied program for all of these. The Play(s) may impact a bit on singing rehearsal opportunities – so for them with a hankering to get something together – the sooner you start practising the sooner something can be good enough to entertain our loyal Legacy & Lodge troops. And here's hoping that despite the loss of our beloved Marg Brooke that The Prom Concerts are still firmly on the gallery agenda.

Trivia Night

Thales Aust in conjunction with Benalla-Euroa-Violet Town Legacy are staging a Trivia Night and Silent Auction at the Town Hall on June 27th.

\$10 a head will include supper but BYO drinks and nibbles. 7pm for a 7-30 start.

[If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact either Lisa Noonan 5760 3247 or David Soanes on 5760 3438 \(Thales – Benalla\).](#)

Theatre Alliance

I've been involved in discussion with reps from most of the North Eastern theatre groups recently; to sort out the introduction of concession prices for members of companies to other companies' shows. This will probably involve the issue of a simple membership card each year – and not necessarily create a huge number of extra bums on seats – but is at least a positive step toward better cooperation, scheduling and support between the groups. Watch this space and congrats Christine on the initiative.

Important Dates

June 20	Jamie B in Oklahoma	Ringwood Matinee at 2pm
June 21	Costume Return for LotP	The Hut between 2 and 4
		(or to Molly/Deb beforehand)
June 27	Working Bee at Hut	10am start
June 27	Thales/Legacy Trivia Night	7pm at Town Hall
July 6	Meeting re Carols	Venue TBA (Contact Molly)
July 11&12	Auditions for One Act Play series	At Hut (contact Emily)

HUMOUR

A Russian, a Cuban, an American and a Lawyer are in a train.

The Russian takes a bottle of the Best Vodka out of his pack; pours some into a glass, drinks it, and says: "In USSR, we have the best vodka in the world, nowhere in the world you can find Vodka as good as the one we produce. And we have so much of it, that we can just throw it away..." Saying that, he opens the window and throws the rest of the bottle through it. All the others are quite impressed. The Cuban takes out a pack of Havanas, takes one of them, lights it and begins to smoke it saying: "In Cuba, we have the best cigars in the world: Havanas. Nowhere in the world there is so many and so good cigars and we have so many of them, that we can just throw them away...". Saying that, he throws the pack of havanas thru the window. One more time, everybody is quite impressed.

At this time, the American just stands up, opens the window, and throws the Lawyer through it...