

The BACKDROP

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White Christmas

With a bit over seven weeks to go we have finally blocked the entire show (great job Molly and all) and can settle down to refining and improving every song, scene and sneaky step.

The euphoria at completing the task on Sunday night was quickly dispelled with a very shaky revisit of Blue Skies ('lots of work to do' is somewhat of an understatement :) and the running of Act 2 with books down and starting off with 'I Love a Piano' is looming large - not to mention Act 1. Then we'll have the advent of the orchestra soon - who apparently have lots of different stuff to throw at us compared to just a piano accompaniment. On that note - **if anyone knows of a good rehearsal/performance pianist looking for a spare time filler** - please let a committee member know. Elaine's hands will only manage so much & the CD can be hard to get to a particular spot :) But despite the current 'shambles' of Blue Skies, the rest of the show is starting to come together nicely with the main characters starting to get into their parts and the ensemble providing great energy and enthusiasm (or non-distracting background :) as required.

The Production Team will now be meeting every fortnight to keep things on track. Hopefully we can get a better coverage in The Ensign but one of our best promotional methods is for cast members to talk to their friends and families to get them all along to see you. A little bit of self-promotion never hurt anyone in the theatre - especially the production Treasurer.

BTC 25 Years Celebration

Our celebration of 'shows gone by' continues with the following great photos from 4 productions in the 1991 to 93 period - being **Night Must Fall, On Our Selection, Anything Goes & George Washington Slept Here**



Night Must Fall was actually the play directed by Danni Edwards (not Bonaventure as I wrongly stated last time. I blame my poor memory on advancing years :) Four pillars of BTC or previous incarnations are pictured on a great set here; the redoubtable Shirley McFarland, a young and 'curly' Molly Craig, multi-talented Di Meyers (now in Queensland) and a very smooth and moustachioed John Ellis. A quartet for the ages whose contributions to BTC are immeasurable :)



Despite my presence (as Dave on left :) this is a great shot from a rehearsal of **'On Our Selection'** directed by Brian Clough. We have me, Debbie Patterson, Miranda Hocking, Wendy Hyland and Greg Ferrier; along with the wonderful dog (whose name escapes me but I think was Neil & Lois's??) who in one legendary live performance in the Town Hall fell off stage (his kennel and blanket were on the stage left thrust) and was left hanging by his chain and collar until rescued by a quick-thinking 'Dad' played by Geoff Rayner. Pete Symons' Mad Jack was also a memorable part.

Anything Goes was a great fun musical to do that like many of our shows had some great costumes and fantastic sets squeezed onto that Town Hall stage. Plenty of familiar faces visible including (from left) Kim Brach, Del Dube, Lois Smith, Marty Burke, Debbie Patterson, Laurel Watters, Trudy Ballintine, Andrew Ashton and Jim Tullberg. A cast party that like many in those days would have gone 'All Thru the Night' methinks :)



George Washington Slept Here was in fact (another boo boo from last time :) the wonderful Miranda Hocking's last show & was directed by Benita Berkholz (of 'younger program photo' legend :) This was also an occasion when a scene change (from run down to refurbished farm house) received deserved and rapturous applause – a credit to Neil Smith (pictured left) and the set boys at the time who did a fantastic job (on this and many other shows). We had great support on & off stage for our plays back then.

The actual preps for the **BTC 25th Anniversary** are still ongoing with a dedicated committee furiously trying to find the addresses of all old members and anyone involved with shows since '85. Invites will go out in Aug/Sept for a do at Raffetys in October. Watch this space.

Another 'Local Boy' Making Good

Had a chat with Brendan Storer the other night and he tells me that son **Brad** (of recent local BTC fame for the likes of State Fair and others) has continued his love of and participation in the theatre down in Melbourne. Brad is in the select ensemble cast of a production called 'The Arcadians' which is a joint initiative of the prestigious G&S Opera Co and the Malvern Theatre Co. The show is on at the Malvern Theatre over a period from June 25 to July 10. Great to see the obvious talent that Brad had being put to good use on the stages of the Big Smoke. Who knows – we may be able to add his 'famous name' to the after dinner bragging list of 'I was in a show with him once

(Those in 'South Pacific' can of course claim Ella Hooper of Killing Heidi fame :) Keep up the good work Brad – we'll hope to get down and cheer you on one day – and of course hope to see Mum Carmel back at BPACC some day. (Keep the home fires burning Brendan :)

Important Dates

June 25 to July 10	Brad Storer in 'The Arcadians' Malvern Theatre
Sat July 24	Goorambat 'White Christmas' Preview Night
Fri July 30 th	Opening Night

HUMOUR

A little boy went to school one day and while he was gone, his cat got run over by a truck. His mother is very concerned about how he will take the news. Upon his arrival home, she explains the tragedy and tries to console the boy saying, "But don't worry, the cat is in heaven with God now."

To which the boy replied, "What's God going to do with a dead cat?"