

The BACKDROP

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

Date: September 2010

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White Christmas etc

The memory is fading slightly already (just ask those trying to remember without books some of the songs for Raffetys :) but the glow of a great show lingers – if only in the heated anticipation as to whether we finish in the black or red :) We are still yet to receive the final bill from BPACC which will determine our financial fate (though if we had kept the second/identical cheque for ticket proceeds from GOTAFE we'd have had our best result ever :) So while we'll happily(?) reprise a few numbers at Raffetys and Zonta, the focus in our typical well planned fashion is already shifting to Oklahoma in 2011 – where the dates are already set as July 22,23,24,29,30,31 & August 5,6. Pencil them in.

Two important items need to be looked at however.

1. If you have not returned your White Christmas costumes to Deb or the Hut please arrange to do so ASAP as we'd like to know exactly what we have prior to starting an inventory/booking system.
2. If you are interested (or know of anyone else) in directing our musical next year ('Oklahoma') then please contact Molly or Emily to express that interest.

25th Anniversary Celebration

We ended up sending out nearly 400 invitations for the weekend of the 16th/17th October and though the response has yet to be 'immense' we're confident of getting a good number of past participants along to enjoy a meal, drink and nostalgia with other past and existing members.

If you are planning on attending (Sat 16th Oct at Raffetys \$32 a head OR brunch at the Hut 17th) please reply to Emily (or Jim/Molly) ASAP and/or by the 8th October at the absolute latest so we can sort out catering, programme etc etc. The sub committee have been working very hard to put this together and we're sure that those who attend will have an enjoyable trip down memory lane. We'll have a wonderful PowerPoint display of old photos; a bit of trivia and a bit of a sing-a-long to pass the night away (as well as noting how much older everyone looks – or doesn't!! – curse those lucky few :)

For the old timers – just to see the 'new' clubrooms (complete with mirrors now) will be an eye-opener; as battling the ghosts of the old hospital or the possums of the BARC Theatre is not required. And we have running water; hot water and heating. As they say ... *Look-shury*:)
Anyway – hope to see a lot of you there to share a laugh and some nostalgia.

And continuing the latter we have some photos from four more old productions – this time circa 1998 - Murder at the Music Hall; 1998 - The Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society's Murder Mystery; 1999 - The Wizard of Oz and 1999 – Jigsaws

The year of '99 was just about the last time we managed to get together what was once our 'normal fare' of a musical and a play per year. As with many things/organisations the time and effort of the core membership can only stretch so far – especially on the Production side – so the 'noughties' ushered in a new era for BTC where we tended to do one musical and added more to the end of year programme.



Murder at the Music Hall was a slightly irreverent but old fashioned piece of fun for all who either saw or were in it. A cavalcade of old time songs and skits done with the typical flair and quirkiness expected by 'the maestro' of the double entendre & comedic timing himself Alan Stone. Among many memorable items/events was the dress for Cinderella plummeting down from the Town Hall rafters atop our 'spunky' VicRoads lass Miss Jocelyn (summoned by an equally spunky Hairy Godmother); the lovely 'Cat' duet with Sue Izard & Kay Lawley; the late John Hearn's memorable number in

revealing bathing attire; Sue, Kay & Wendy as the 3 little maids; the Galloping Major with his riding crop (seen in mouth above) and bevy of pliable beauties; plus many others with Kim, Wayne, Rhonda, Mary-Ann etc BUT without doubt the most lingering memory – Will You Love Me in December – where our buxom Molly serenades and nearly suffocates a hapless Danny Claridge upon the garden bench. Reprised at Zonta to great acclaim this would have to be one of the funniest items we ever did. Danny deserved a gold medal for stoicism (and it probably ruined him for Pat :) and Molly the Miranda Hocking Mammorial Award for cleavage donated to the cause.

The Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society's Murder Mystery (yes – all of that !!) was a wonderful little comedy play that had some hilarious lines and situations in it that were beautifully portrayed by a small but select cast (pictured above with a few of 'the crew' including Margie, Joy, Derek and Debbie) This was a different production for us in that (if memory serves me correctly – which it often doesn't these days :) some of it was presented 'in the round' on a part set/stage on the floor of the Town Hall before moving for the majority up on to the main stage. Stalwarts of the play era in Kath & Di (also Director – but was very much a collaborative effort :), plus Molly, Anne, Colin and (alas the late) Maureen were a great little ensemble cast that had audiences chortling all night. Col & Molly's 'tap dance' and the rogue escaping tennis balls added to the mayhem



Important Dates

Sat/Sun Oct 16th/17th
Thurs Oct 21st
November 5th & 6th
Sat Nov 20th
Friday Dec 3rd

BTC 25 Year Get Together (Raffetys and Hut)
Zonta Awards Night
'Benallalujah' Mural Opening Gig(s)
Georgy Awards Night
Raffetys Night of Entertainment



The Wizard of Oz second incarnation saw a few hands from the original show 10 years earlier take on different roles and true to form help make another great show under the direction of Alan Stone. This photo is from rehearsals in the old BARC Theatre with Rod (Lion) Jim (Scarecrow) Sue (Dorothy) and Wayne (Tinman) doing a bit of practice with various substitute implements. Don't know what on earth Rod is using for

his tail there (nor come to think of it whatever happened to my South Pacific top?? – not to mention hair) but Wayne's axe is certainly a bit innocuous. My right middle finger is still not straight from a dislocation while rehearsing this one; but such are the sacrifices we must make. Sue was a great loss when she shifted to Bendigo as was Rod on his move to Wang – but we'll always have Oz :)

Jigsaws was just about our last 'serious' play (apart from a few pantos) and also the most contemporary of those we staged – set in 'modern Australia' and with a theme of family conflict. Directed by Lorraine Monshing it had a small but talented cast including Di Meyers, Kim Brach, Christine Duff, Victoria Phelan, Sue George & Anna Smith. Everyone had a great time not having to worry about accents but just get into some meaty character stuff – which was certainly achieved. For a play (and anything else?) it's hard to get by without a good couch and the one pictured served us well – though not sure if it is 'old faithful' that had more airings than I've had hot dinners.



HUMOUR ??

An alcoholic is someone you don't like who drinks as much as you do.

Don't drink and drive, you might hit a bump and spill your drink.

Stay busy, get plenty of exercise, and don't drink too much. Then again, don't drink too little.

PS I also forgot to print a poem that Ben wrote just near the end of White Christmas (remiss of me) so it's on the next page :)

WHITE CHRISTMAS

It all begun last Feb
With all the hopefuls
Auditioning with Deb
Molly in charge
Elaine on piano
We weren't really sure
What we were in for

Rehearsals began
Roles were given
Steve become Bob
Philly-dillio was Paul
But that wasn't all
Judy and Betty aka Di and Deb
Didn't make anyone see red

Martha and Suzie
Were needed to be filled
So Mary-Anne became Martha
And Rosie was definitely thrilled
The General was a puzzle
Who would it be
Davie was champing at the bit
And the role he did get

There were many more roles
Not really so big
Sheldrake was one
And it went to Jim
The Bobsey Twins would be hard
Who could play the two dipsy blondes
But in the end
We didn't need to look far
Charmaine and Jay
Were ready to star

The part of Mike
Needed someone to act fruity
Not to be camp
But defiantly loopy
Not one was surprised
When Benjamin was named
He took to the role
With all arms and legs

Another good role
Was Ezekiel
Who came with the barn
He was a bit slow
So Ben did it with charm

Husband and Wife (Del & Em)

Who would be on the train
Knitting and snoozing
To make Bob's trip a real pain
Other small scenes
Tod was the cream
Angela and Jenny
Showed they were ready
Skye was a natural
On the phone playing the secretary

As well in the cast were Nicolas and Ethan
Jade, Tracey, Kittie & Grace
And not to forget Dina, Brooklyn & Rach
Who all are so great.

When we first started
Would we have thought
That we would've remembered
All that was taught
The show is now over
And it's really a big shame
Not to have to come out in the cold and the rain

We will miss the smiles
The calls to do it again
But what I will miss more
Is the Team we have become
The family that has grown
And treasure the memories that will always remain.

Ben Van den Akker