

# The BACKDROP

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## NUNSENSE Auditions !! et al

This year's sure to be hilarious and popular musical has suddenly crept up to **within a week and a bit of auditions** (where does the time go?) so it's time to snap out of that holiday lethargy and get yourselves and a heap of friends or family along to .....

**Auditions on Feb 5<sup>th</sup> & Feb 6<sup>th</sup> (Sunday afternoon/evening and Monday evening at the Hut)**

with a no doubt very informative & welcoming .....

**Information Night on Wednesday Feb 1<sup>st</sup> at 7pm. (At the Hut)**

There are fantastic roles for both men and women (particularly the latter of course but plenty of options for men too : ) as the Mega-musical version has expanded roles compared to the original. The show tells the story of the five surviving Little Sisters of Hoboken who need to raise funds to bury four of their deceased sisters (some of the many victims of the botulism-laced cooking of Sister Julia : ) who still lay peacefully on ice in the convent. A madcap benefit concert in the Mount Saint Helen's gym/auditorium is how they hope to achieve the fund-raising; and needless to say the behind-the-scenes goings-on and stage presentations with audience participation make for a most entertaining and comedy filled evening. Get the habit in 2012 and be part of the Nunsense !!

**Contact Emily ([briteiz41@yahoo.com](mailto:briteiz41@yahoo.com) - 0400 639 536) to book an audition **ASAP** or get a script.**

## SAD PASSING

Much as one doesn't like to put bad news up front, this is a loss deserving of mention. With great regret and sadness we note the passing on Jan 19<sup>th</sup> of one of our longest and most loyal supporters and patrons in the wonderful **Doreen Carswell**.

Though never gracing a BTC stage or production crew you could not find a more dedicated, positive and willing supporter/advocate for BTC than Doreen. She hardly missed a show we did and never had anything but glowing praise for them and the highest recommendations and exhortation to 'go see it' for her many friends and acquaintances. Always a pleasure to bump into her in the foyer or up the street where she inevitably had a kind/encouraging word and a smile. Just a beautiful lady in every respect; and her support was matched in kind by generosity in that nearly every year she would forward a cheque to us for full membership and similarly to our beloved Marg Brooke would more often than not include a donation 'just to help out'. Not only BTC but the Benalla community has lost a lovely lady who like many of her era; gave so much without fuss or fanfare and expected nothing in return. We will be eternally grateful for her support and patronage and extend our sympathies to all her family and friends. Rest in peace Doreen – you will be sadly missed by us all.

## Costume Return

Another reminder that we still have a fair few costumes either 'out on loan' or yet to be returned from the last 12 months or so. Can everyone please make an effort to have a check of your cupboards/wardrobes and if you still have any outstanding items back where they belong (in our costume room) as a lot of time and effort went into making or acquiring these valuable assets.

## Other Stuff

Our **old organ** (still in pretty good nick) **is still free to a good home** if anyone would like it. I shall resist manfully the temptation to make a few pithy lines in support of this extraordinarily generous offer; and I guess the old boy still makes a reasonable shelf for the piano player (and occasional non-OHS stool for poster stapling) but we'd rather see him go to a good home.

## GOTAFE COURSES

GOTAFE Benalla are offering both long and short courses in the performing arts area this year – for both onstage and backstage activities. Here are 4 that may interest you.

GRADA [www.grada.edu.au](http://www.grada.edu.au) will be offering a **FREE** weekly night time acting class in 2012: Monday nights 7pm-9:30pm at our Blackbox Theatre at Benalla. Taught by Matt Scholten (Head of Acting GRADA), a maximum of 18 students from age 16 upward will work on acting skills using scenes from classic and contemporary plays. At the end of the year, we will have a performance at BPACC. A great way to study part time at GRADA. Please contact [akerr@gotafe.vic.edu.au](mailto:akerr@gotafe.vic.edu.au) for more information or 1300 468 233 or [enquiry@gotafe.vic.edu.au](mailto:enquiry@gotafe.vic.edu.au)

GRADA is also investigating other part time options to study acting with us in 2012. Get in touch with Ainsley Kerr at [akerr@gotafe.vic.edu.au](mailto:akerr@gotafe.vic.edu.au) if you are interested in the part time options for study at GRADA. There are a few ways in which we can accommodate your desire to study part time! And if you are an experienced performer in amateur theatre, get in touch because they are offering a skills recognition programme that will earn you credits in their Advanced Diploma course.

### Front of House and Backstage Intensive Management

CODE	SCFOHBSTAGE		
COST	\$95 (No GST)		
CAMPUS	START	TIME/DURATION	
Benalla	Apr 13	9.00am – 4.00pm, 1 Friday	

This is a one day intensive course that will deliver units in basic backstage conduct and including etiquette, OH & S and the structure of management within a theatre company. The second half of the intensive will focus on Front of House management and ushering protocol. This course is designed for people currently working in or hoping to gain employment in a Theatre or Performing Arts centre. This is a beginner's course and no prior experience or knowledge is required.

### Drama Teacher PD – Audio Setup for School Productions

CODE	SCAUDSCHPROD		
COST	\$75 (No GST)		
CAMPUS	START	TIME/DURATION	
Benalla	Feb 19	1.00pm – 4.00pm, 1 Sunday	

Setting up a more advanced audio system for use in drama or musicals with a small band. This half day course includes microphone selection, technique and placement, fold back, and basic mixing techniques. This is a practical workshop, including both theory and hands on practice. Half day course

#### Topics include:

- Set up a more advanced PA used for a band
- Basic mixing
- Mic selection, handling and placement
- Operating a theatre coms system

### From Certificate IV in Live Production, Theatre and Events (Technical Operations)



CODE	SAINTROSEW		
COST	\$138 (No GST)		
CAMPUS	START	TIME/DURATION	
Benalla	Apr 17	5.00pm – 7.30pm, 10 Tuesdays	

This short course delivers training in Nationally Accredited Unit/s:

- CUECOS03A Modify, repair and maintain costumes

This 10 week program provides an introduction on how to safely and efficiently operate a sewing machine. The course will include fabric selection, sewing techniques, hand sewing, buttons and button holes as well as machine threading and operation. Particular emphasis will be placed on modifying and repairing existing pieces as well as care instructions and cleaning. Students will each leave having created at least one handmade sewn item.

Current Health Care Card (HCC) concessions available.

## SINGING TUITION

If you have a hankering to improve the old singing voice then I can recommend the current singing teacher at **TDA Performing Arts** that Vicki has recruited to the teaching staff.

Her name is **Caroline** and I saw her sing a showcase number at the TDA Christmas Concert in December and she was fantastic. Got a great voice and stage presence AND most importantly can impart technique/training to her students – already made a world of difference to a few of the TDA girls and boys including my own Kate. Almost tempted to have a few myself – but if you're interested in getting the most out of yourself vocally (and with most of us there is room for improvement *n'est ce pas?* : ) then **ring Vicki on 0418 616 987** or pop into TDA one night after work (next door to Hollywoods in Carrier St) to discuss/organise a lesson.

## Important Dates

<b>Wednesday Feb 1</b>	<b>Information Night For NUNSENSE</b>	<b>7pm at the Hut</b>
<b>Sunday Feb 5</b>	<b>NUNSENSE Auditions</b>	<b>Afternoon/evening at Hut</b>
<b>Monday Feb 6</b>	<b>” “ “ “</b>	<b>Evening at the Hut</b>

## HUMOUR

A quick few from the legendary Bob Hope (apols for any repeats)

You know you're getting old when the candles cost more than the cake.

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Middle Age is when your age starts to show around your middle.

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I'm so old they've cancelled my blood type.

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I thought 'Deep Throat' was a movie about a giraffe.

\*\*\*

I do benefits for all religions - I'd hate to blow the hereafter on a technicality.

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I love to go to Washington, if only to be nearer my money.

\*\*\*

If you watch a game, it's fun. If you play it, it's recreation. If you work at it, it's golf.

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Zsa Zsa Gabor got married as a one-off, and it was so successful she turned it into a series.

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When they asked Jack Benny to do something for the Actor's Orphanage - he shot both his parents and moved in.

\*\*\*

I grew up with six brothers. That's how I learned to dance -waiting for the bathroom.

\*\*\*

A James Cagney love scene is one where he lets the other guy live.