

The BACKDROP



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Editor: Jim Tullberg
AH 5762 4383 W 57 611 830

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jim.tullberg@roads.vic.gov.au

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

GUYS & DOLLS.

Just as they'll say in the control room at NASA if the solar cell batteries fail on their little contraption on Mars – 'It's All Over Red Rover'. At least as far as the performances go – still some post production and financial stuff to sort out :) And with all due modesty – what a fantastic show we put on for all who came to see it.

Under the wonderful direction/vision of Molly; the tireless Production leadership of Symo and the stick of power/magic wielded by Elaine – we formed a great team that delivered a thoroughly enjoyable three hours to every punter who braved the often dismal weather to attend. From the opening notes of the entre-act to the last note of the post-curtain play-off there was much for the audience to delight in and us to be proud of.

Our wonderful orchestra were at their best – probably the tightest and smoothest I can remember – and heaven knows they have set a high bench-mark in the past; but would match it with any bunch of musos anywhere. To a man/woman you were fantastic – with special mention to Genevieve for rehearsal keyboard (thanks Tubby :)

Our four leads were amazing (though what would you expect?). The Songbird, the Songboid, Mr Smooth and Mr Hyperactive were a great quartet who delivered their songs and dialogue like absolute pros. As Molly highlighted, the scenes b/w Adelaide and Nathan were some of my favourites – but I truly 'luv'd yazzall' :)

The support cast and chorus were also magnificent in character, singing, dancing and maintaining the look and feel and enthusiasm throughout every performance. We may have had the odd line or scenery glitch but we never had a bad show (in fact 8 great ones) and the team ethic was always upfront – both onstage and out back.

And lastly but not 'leastly' (sounds like a Nicely line?) our prompt and backstage and tech/sound/light crew under the stage management of the dedicated Mary-Ann (many thanks MT on a great job); the sets makers; costume makers and coordinators; props persons; FoH helpers; publicity, photography, program, sponsorship seekers etc etc etc – and anyone else I should have mentioned :) Such as Mike Larkin for our great backdrop.

The teams within our one big team certainly combined to pull together a fantastic production of which we can all be proud – and perhaps a little wistful that after 5 months is suddenly all over. The turn-ups at both bump-in and bump-out were indicative of a great company spirit and hopefully what was an overwhelmingly positive experience will bring back most of you for another crack (along with some 'fresh meat' maybe Big Jule? :).

The General is off again to the States at the end of the week – and flies out with our heartfelt thanks for another fantastic job at the helm and best wishes for resolution of family matters. Should be no excuse for not 'resting easy' on the long haul flight 'Glad' – at least in the knowledge that your 'baby' was delivered in spades.

There are a whole lot more on the CD (thanks Em/Kel) that everybody received – but the next few pages show just a glimpse of the scenes from the show; apologies if anyone doesn't get their 'mug' in one but there is at least the cast photo / memento and surely a heap of compliments from family, friends and others on 'what a great job you did'. I could find more superlatives but I think I've said enough – and it is the end of the page :)





OTHER STUFF

The Hut

The company/committee have a bit of an issue facing us with the state (non-existence? :) of the floor in the back half of our main storage hut. There are drainage problems plus white ant nests and slightly sunken stumps and an over-arching problem of significant estimates/quotes to half fix, fix or replace the buiding/floor. We'd like to keep the building and not spend all our hard accumulated financial reserves – so a bit of thinking; planning and a lot of discussion with potential support people/groups will be taking place.

End of Year Gigs

The usual selection of community and 'for the love of it' entertainment opportunities arise again in 2013. Singing rehearsals for same – as in the main choir bits/medleys etc – will begin on **Monday September 9th**. For those unfamiliar with 'the routine' we usually have four gigs over the November/December period; being our Night of Entertainment at Raffetys; Legacy Widows concert (at the Bowls Club usually); a concert for the combined Masonic Lodges (at the lodge on a Tuesday night) plus singing at Carols by Candlelight. If you fancy that as a soloist or part of a duo/trio/quartet or whatever you can perform something that will be appreciated by our loyal, if not ageing audiences – then by all means practise up same over the next 6 to 8 weeks and throw your hat in the ring (or name(s) on the list :) for potential inclusion on the programme.

Rehearsal Pianist

Much as we'd like to clone Elaine or Genevieve or Janet and keep them in a cupboard to haul out for singing rehearsals - of late we've needed to impose more and more on the suffering Elaine (hands/fingers not what they were) or Molly or Steve (cornerstones of the Altos and Tenors) to tinkle the ivories for us at practice. The halcyon days when we had the lovely Lorraine (now retired in Euroa) have long gone; but without burning out or under/over-utilising any of our current major assets we need to find a suitable pianist (or three? :) If anyone knows of a capable music reading '88 basher' with some spare evening time and a willingness to share the overwhelming love and thanks of a bunch of thespians and choir-boys – then please let us know.

Important Dates

Monday 9 September
In October (TBA)
In November (TBA)
Friday 15 November

First Night for End of Year Rehearsals
ZAPA (Zonta) Awards Night at Wangaratta
GEORGY Awards Night at Shepparton
Night of Entertainment @ Raffetys

HUMOUR

Had to come

What do you call a bunch of football players on drugs?

a hird.

A friend and I were standing in line at a fast-food restaurant, waiting to place our order. There was a big sign posted. "No bills larger than \$20 will be accepted." The woman in front of us, pointing to the sign, remarked, "Believe me, if I HAD a bill larger than \$20, I wouldn't be eating here."

When NASA first started sending up astronauts, they quickly discovered that ballpoint pens would not work in zero gravity. To combat the problem, NASA scientists spent a decade and \$12 billion to develop a pen that writes in zero gravity, upside down, underwater, on almost any surface including glass and at temperatures ranging from below zero to 300 C. The Russians used a pencil.