

The BACKDROP



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WELCOME

Welcome to the February edition. Apologies to those people who still receive the newsletter by post and haven't received a newsletter for a while. With the swap over from Jim to me, I hadn't gotten around to getting your addresses – so happy to be sending them to you again.

A reminder to everyone, if you are changing your contact details, can you please let us know so that you can continue to receive the newsletter, if you so wish.

THE PAJAMA GAME

In just over a month, auditions will be taking place and then we'll be on our way!

Here are some dates for your diary:

Information Night – Wednesday 12 March at 7.00pm at the Hut

Auditions – Sunday 16 and Monday 17 March.

Rehearsals begin – Sunday 23 March at 7.30pm

AUDITIONS

Please contact Emily to book your audition or get some more information on 0400 639 536. We are auditioning on Sunday 16 March from 2pm till 6pm and then from 7.30pm onwards. Then on Monday 17 March auditions will be from 6.30pm onwards.

As was noted last month, rehearsal nights will revert to being on Sundays and Wednesdays. If you want to be a part of the show, but one of those nights is a problem for you, please speak to Molly at your audition and she will see what she can do to accommodate you in the rehearsal schedule. The show is full of lots of dancing and singing, and numerous roles for both males and females. The **script** is available to read. Please contact Emily on 0400 639 536.

The show will run over 2 weekends.

Performance dates and times:

Friday 25 July 8pm

Saturday 26 July 8pm

Sunday 27 July 2pm

Friday 1 August 8pm

Saturday 2 August 2pm & 8pm



A **DVD Night** is being organised to watch the movie on **Friday 28 February at 7.30pm at the Hut**. The movie is a lot of fun, starring Doris Day in the lead role of Babe Williams and Carol Haney as Gladys. So bring along your drinks and nibbles and enjoy a fun evening.

SYNOPSIS

A strike is imminent at the Sleep-Tite Pajama Factory. The Union is seeking a wage rise of seven and a half cents an hour. Sid and Babe are in opposite camps yet a romance is born between them. A go-slow is staged by the Union, strongly supported by Babe. Sid, as factory superintendent, demands an 'honest day's work' and threatens to fire slackers. Babe is enraged by his attitude and kicks her foot into the machinery, causes a general breakdown and is immediately fired by Sid. Hines, the popular efficiency expert, is in love with Gladys the President's secretary. Becoming convinced that Babe's championship of the Union is justified; Sid simulates an interest in Gladys by taking her out for the evening to the night club, Hernando's Hideaway. Through her help he is eventually able to gain access to the firm's books and discovers that the boss has been adding to his price the pay increase demanded by the workers. Sid then brings about his boss, Hasler's, consent to a pay rise and is able to bring peace to the factory and to his love life. Everyone goes out to celebrate - at Hernando's Hideaway.

CHARACTER LIST

- **Sid Sorokin**, the handsome new factory superintendent who falls in love with Babe, despite their being on opposite sides of the labour dispute central to the plot.
- **Catherine "Babe" Williams**, the leader of the Union Grievance Committee, who in turn falls in love with Sid.
- **Myron "Old Man" Hasler**, the strict head of the pajama factory who keeps a secret.
- **Gladys Hotchkiss**, Hasler's attractive, quick-witted secretary, who dates Hines and is chased by Prez.
- **Vernon Hines**, the factory timekeeper, who thinks Gladys flirts too much and, as a result is always jealous.
- **Prez**, the head of the union and a skirt chaser, despite being a married man.
- **Mabel**, the mother hen of the factory and Sid's secretary.
- **Mae**, a loud-mouthed member of the Grievance Committee, who accepts Prez's advances, much to his surprise.
- **Pop**, Babe's kind and agreeable father.
- **Max**, A salesman.
- **Charley**, a worker in the factory and the handyman.
- **Joe**, a factory worker and Prez's right-hand man.
- **Brenda**, A member of the Grievance Committee.
- **Virginia**, a factory girl and union activist.
- **Poopsie**, a factory girl and union activist.
- **PLUS** a number of other smaller roles and chorus

PRODUCTION TEAM

We are really now starting to look for people to help us backstage with costumes, sets, Front of House, publicity team...the list goes on! With auditions and then rehearsals getting close, we'd love to get some more places filled. Please let us know if you can help in any way, or if you know others in the community who would like to be a part of our company, let them know we'd love to have to be involved. Come and be a part of a great team.

Needing a huge plea is for **Front of House Coordinator/s**. We are the last bastion of providing free tea and coffee, biscuits, afternoon tea and a champagne opening. However, last year was a huge struggle, and only for the last minute jumping in of Sam Towns and Jim Tullberg did this actually go ahead. At the post production meeting a LONG discussion was held as to whether we should/can continue to provide this and the answer was basically, no. We can't go through another year of people on stage having to do FOH, it's not fair on them and we were very lucky that Sam and Jim are both extremely capable people. So....unless we can get someone/s to put their hands up for this job, and I think by the end of April, FOH this year will just be ushering and the selling of programmes and raffle tickets and we'll let BPACC know that, and anything that goes ahead with the food and drink side of things will be for them to undertake.





PIANIST

We are in desperate need of a pianist for rehearsals and/or performances. Please, please, please, if you know of anyone that can assist us, please contact Elaine on 0427 945 652. Elaine has exhausted all of her known avenues for pianists, so we need your help.

Here's the **Production Team List** – thanks to those people who have already said yes to a job! We need to fill the gaps! Some areas need more than one person to do them...costumes, publicity, programme, sets...so even though they may have somebody listed, we can also use more help. Contact Emily on 0400 639 536 if you can help.

Production Manager	
Production Secretary	Emily Watt
Production Treasurer	
Director	Molly Craig
Assistant to the Director	Wendy Hyland
Musical Director	Elaine Heywood
Choreographer	
Stage Manager	Wendy Hyland
Set Designer	Jamie Boatwood
Set Construction & Painting	Jamie Boatwood
Backstage during performances	
Publicity Team	
Props	Rhonda Ward
Costume Designer / Organiser	
Costume Sewing	
Sound Designer / Operator	Travas Hope (Soundalive)
Lighting Designer	
Lighting Operator	BPACC
Follow Spot Operators	
Front of House Coordinator/s	
Programme	Emily Watt
Show Photography	Kelvin Watt
Sponsorship	David Garrett & Laurie Webber
Prompt	



ONE ACT PLAY FESTIVAL

Mount Beauty Community Theatre and Court House Theatre in Bright are holding a One Act Play competition at the end of June. Are you interested in being involved? Please contact Emily if you are. If there is enough interest, we'll enter the company. With it being on so close to the time The Pajama Game is on, the group will need to be pretty self-sufficient in terms of choosing the play, rehearsing and organising set and costumes. You will still receive the full support of the company in the undertaking of the play, in any way we can.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our AGM will be held on **Tuesday 4 March, at 7.30pm at the Hut**. The nomination form is on the next page. If you are interested in being a part of committee please fill the form out. Please note that nominations must be handed or posted to our Secretary, Emily Watt and will not be accepted after Tuesday 25 February, so make sure you get them in on time. Please also see that the nominator and nominee must both be financial members of the company.



BENALLA THEATRE COMPANY INC.
COMMITTEE NOMINATION FORM 2014

I,
hereby
nominate.....for the position of
..... on the Benalla
Theatre Company Committee.
By signing, I declare that I am a financial member of the company.
..... (Signed)

I,accept the
nomination.
By signing, I declare that I am a financial member of the company.
.....(Signed)

Nominations should be handed to the Secretary or posted to P.O. Box 2, Benalla,
and arrive no later than Tuesday 25 February 2014.