



The Backdrop

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Ah, the relative peace of January for the company has meant a time to recharge and continue planning for the year ahead. I hope you've all had a chance to think about how you'd like to be involved with the company, particularly with *Breaking Up Is Hard To Do*. If you want to be onstage that's fantastic and if you'd rather help out behind the scene that's wonderful too. Please look at the list further on in the newsletter and see how you can be a part of our company in 2016.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

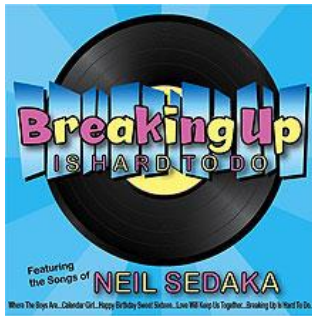
Our AGM will be held on **Tuesday 1 March, at 7.30pm at the Hut**. The nomination form is on the last page of this newsletter. If you are interested in being a part of the committee please fill out the form. Please note that nominations must be handed or posted to our Secretary, Emily Watt and will not be accepted after Tuesday 23 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.

A huge thank you to the current committee: **Molly Craig, David Garrett, Jim Tullberg, Emily Watt, Jamie Boatwood, Elaine Heywood, Kelvin Watt, Laurie Webber, Wayne Wilson and Stephen Winkler** for their contributions in the past year.

AUSTRALIA DAY CELEBRATION

Emily and Kelvin Watt are generously opening their home for an Australia Day party on **Tuesday 26 January** from 1pm. Please note the change in time due to some commitments earlier in the day. The address is **14 Edward Street**. BYO drinks, and a salad or dessert to share. Please RSVP by 21 January, to **Emily** on **0400 639 536** if you are going to attend, so they know how much meat to buy. Come along, enjoy each other's company and get excited about the coming year for our company.





BREAKING UP IS HARD TO DO

As we receive the proof for our section in the BPACC Theatre Season book for 2016, the excitement starts to build for what will be a fantastic show for our company.

Information Night: Wednesday 16 March at 7.00pm at the Hut

Auditions: Sunday 20 March and Monday 21 March. Please contact **Emily** on 0400 639 536 to book a time. The Sunday will be from 2pm -6pm and then 7.30pm onwards. Then on Monday from 6.45pm onwards.

Rehearsals: will be on Sunday and Wednesday nights and will begin on Wednesday 30 March.

Start spreading the word to those you think would be interested in being on stage and having a lot of fun!

The show will run over 2 weekends for 7 performances. Dates are: 22, 23, 24, 29 and 30 July 2016.

The production team is beginning to take shape. If you are happy to help out, to work as part of a great team, then contact **Emily** and you will be added on. A big thank you to those people who have already offered their time and talents. Often a job can be done more easily and effectively by more than one person, so if you'd like to team up with someone to do one of the jobs, then go for it!

Molly continues to research and plan. Looking at ways to make things an authentic early 60s experience for the audience, even down to the look of the programme and the cast photos. Should be great!

The script is available for people to read. Please talk to Emily about that as well. It's a very funny show set in 1960 in the Catskills at a resort, where best friends, Lois and Marge come to find love. Included is a suave singing star and an old time comedian, who both perform at Esther's Paradise. The casting is 3 male and 3 female with a chorus as big or as small as chosen. The ages and ranges are just indications, people will be cast on their suitability to perform the roles in the big picture of all those who audition.

We all know auditioning is not a fun process, but it is necessary. Every person is able to show the audition panel what they can do in terms on acting, singing and dancing. The panel will make their best efforts to make you feel as comfortable as possible. One thing that's important is that you need to sing with sheet music, as the panel needs to hear you sing with the piano, so if you're planning to audition, please start looking for your music. As fantastic a musician as **Stephen Winkler** is, he doesn't know every song in the world, so please don't expect him to just out of thin air be able to play your song. If you don't have access to sheet music, we will have some Christmas Carols available for you to choose from.

As the show is set in the US, people will need to use an American accent and the dancing will be in the 60s style – think The Twist, The Monkey, The Watusi! Lots of fun and not too difficult. We will talk further about the audition process, of course, at the Information Evening.

PRINCIPAL CHARACTERS:

MARGE GELMAN (mid to late 20's; mezzo soprano, comfortable to an E and possibly beyond, preferably a legit sound): Abandoned at the altar, Marge is an aspiring dentist from Brooklyn who finds herself in the Catskills on what would have been her honeymoon weekend. (Think Jennifer Grey in DIRTY DANCING) Duped into falling for the suave band leader, she ultimately finds self-esteem, learns the value of honesty and friendship and finds love where she least expected it.

LOIS WARNER (mid to late 20's; alto with some mezzo soprano ability, comfortable to a C and possibly beyond, preferably a pop sound): An aspiring nightclub singer, Lois lives her life as if in a Betty Grable movie. She brings her best friend Marge up from Brooklyn to the Catskills for Labor Day Weekend. In trying to help her friend Marge recover from heartbreak, she inadvertently puts her in the line of fire with Del, the hotel's suave but manipulative bandleader. With a Marilyn Monroe simplicity, Lois is a sweet young girl with more heart than brainpower.

DEL DELMONACO (late 20's to 30's; tenor, comfortable to an A—the higher the better): An Elvis wannabe, Del is not the brightest bulb on the tree. (Think Conrad Birdie or Joey from FRIENDS). Del will do anything to get ahead, including misleading Marge into thinking he loves her and stealing his Cousin Gabe's songs for his own use.

GABE (mid to late 20's; tenor, Bb-C range): The clumsy, brainy and terribly shy Guy Friday at the hotel, Gabe is on a fast track to joining his father's orthodontia practice. Lacking the self-confidence to perform his own music, Gabe he is secretly the song writing genius behind the music Del claims as his own. When Gabe meets Marge, he is compelled to take action to win her heart and, ultimately, to reveal himself as the true musician, performing his own songs in front of the whole resort.

ESTHER (50's to 60's; alto, comfortable to a C, or at least a Bb, but should really be rich in her low to mid register): The owner of the mid-size hotel named after her (Esther's Paradise), Esther is a survivor. Since the death of her husband, she has single-handedly kept the hotel afloat using crafty solutions, boundless energy and creativity to keep guests happy. She is fiercely independent, refusing help or support from anyone, and she's always there with a quip or smart remark.

HARVEY (50's to 60's; baritone, should have range to an F# or a G): The resident "tumbler" (comedian/social director) at Esther's Paradise, Harvey is old-school Catskills. He is all about the punch line (and the set-up). A confirmed bachelor, Harvey spends most of his life cracking wise and avoiding any show of genuine emotion or vulnerability. When he witnesses the extreme lengths to which Marge will go to make love work for her again, he is inspired to take a leap of faith with Esther, the one person who truly appreciates the man behind the jokes.

CHORUS lots of singing and dancing

THE BAND (Piano, Bass, Guitar and Drums): The band is visible onstage as the "House Band" at Esther's Paradise Resort, and also sings backup as needed.

Production Manager

Production Secretary **Emily Watt**

Production Treasurer **Jim Tullberg**

Director **Molly Craig**

Assistant to the Director

Musical Director **Elaine Heywood**

Stage Manager **Wendy Hyland**

Set Design

Set Construction

Backstage

Publicity Team

Props

Costumes

Sound Designer / Operator **Travas Hope (Sounds Alive)**

Lighting Designer and Operation **Jacqui Berry**

Follow Spot Operators

Front of House Coordinator/s

Programme **Emily Watt**

Show Photography **Kelvin Watt**

Sponsorship

Prompt

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Alan Stone**, who is over the moon having been presented with an Arts Award on Australia Day for his contributions and fundraising efforts all of which is directed toward the upkeep of the many theatre companies in the Kyneton area.

He held a one man show last year as a fund raiser and was on stage for 2 hours, pretty good for a man in his 80's, loved every minute of it and had standing ovations on both nights.

Alan is best known as a director for BTC for many years, spanning the 1980s thru to the 2000s. With a sly sense of humour and wonderful choreographic skills, his shows were always fantastic. Some of his shows for BTC included: Salad Days (1986), The Sentimental Bloke (1987), The Wizard of Oz (both times!), 200 Not Out (1988) and Murder at the Music Hall (1998).



The company wishes a very happy birthday and coming year to the following of its members:

Peta Clark
Adrian Daw
Kathy Holmes
Laurie Webber
Robyn Wilson

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 23 February: Closing date for nominations for the AGM

Tuesday 1 March: BTC Annual General Meeting at 7.30pm at the Hut

Wednesday 16 March: Information Night for Breaking Up Is Hard To Do at 7.00pm at the Hut

Sunday 20 March: Auditions for Breaking Up Is Hard To Do from 2pm -6pm and then 7.30pm onwards.

Monday 21 March: Auditions for Breaking Up Is Hard To Do from 6.45pm onwards.

Wednesday 30 March: Rehearsals begin for Breaking Up Is Hard To Do



BENALLA THEATRE COMPANY INC.

COMMITTEE NOMINATION FORM 2016

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 23 February 2016.