



The Backdrop

Publisher: Benalla Theatre Company
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Date: March 2016

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our AGM will be held this **Tuesday 1 March, at 7.30pm at the Hut**. Nominations have now closed. Thank you to those who have decided to run for election for this coming year. It means a lot to the company to have vibrant group of willing people on board to see us into the future.

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.

DECK CHAIR MOVIE NIGHT – THE PRODUCERS



THIS FRIDAY 26 FEBRUARY

Start-7pm for Pizza Dinner

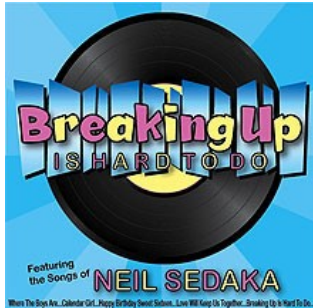
Cost \$10.00 per head (to pay for the pizza)

Bring along your own drinks and chair for outside viewing!!!

Come along and enjoy a fantastic, funny outdoor movie musical and yummy pizza with BTC friends.

For catering purposes please let Deb know if you are coming along on [0428322390](tel:0428322390) by 25/02/16

PLOT - New York, 1959. Max Bialystock was once the king of Broadway, but now all his shows close on opening night. Things turn around when he's visited by the neurotic accountant Leo Bloom, who proposes a scheme tailor-made for producers who can only make flops: raise far more money than you need, then make sure the show is despised. No one will be interested in it, so you can pocket the surplus. To this end, they produce a musical, hire a flamboyant director and begin rehearsals....as opening night draws near, what could possibly go wrong?????



BREAKING UP IS HARD TO DO

The time is nearly here to start!! Molly has been busily looking at set designs and researching the Catskills Resorts in the early 1960s. Known as the Borscht Belt, these were the holiday destinations for the Jewish people of New York each summer. It's really interesting reading and great to seek pictures of what these destinations were like!

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 7.00pm onwards. See the last page of this newsletter to see our Info Night and Audition poster.

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.

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE CONSIDER ONE OF THE BELOW JOBS!!

Production Manager

Production Secretary

Emily Watt

Production Treasurer

Jim Tullberg

Director

Molly Craig

Assistant to the Director

Musical Director **Elaine Heywood**

Stage Manager

Set Design **Molly Craig & Jamie Boatwood**

Set Construction **Jamie Boatwood**

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

HAVE YOU “LIKED” OUR FACEBOOK PAGE?

We now have a Benalla Theatre Company Page, in addition to our Group. Please like our page and spread the word to friends and family to like us too. This page is a great way to spread the news about what we are doing. We are already seeing results in having people wanting to be involved with our company, so the more people we can get to see us, the more we will have involved and to come and see our shows!

CONGRATULATIONS

Australia Day congratulations must go to **Jamie Boatwood** for the work he did at the Benalla celebrations at BPACC. He also sang I Still Call Australia Home, which went down a treat! It was great to see that fantastic shirt once again! The picture below was featured on the Benalla Ensign's Facebook page.

Congratulations also go to **Molly Craig** who was nominated as Benalla Citizen of the Year. Though not the winner on the day (congratulations go to Vaughan Cowan on his achievement), it was a humbling and thoroughly proud moment for her to be nominated.



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

Judy Craig
John Ellis
Emily Watt
Stephen Winkler

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

Friday 26 February: Deck Chair Movie Night – 7.00pm 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 7.00pm onwards.

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

BENALLA THEATRE COMPANY



INFORMATION NIGHT

Wednesday 16 March,
7.00pm

AUDITIONS

Sunday 20 March
2.00pm onwards &
Monday 21 March
7.00pm onwards.

Like to act? Like to dance? Like to sing?
Like to sew, paint or build? Then Benalla
Theatre Company is the group for you!

Come along and be involved in a funny
and romantic story set in a summer
resort in 1960 (think Dirty Dancing).

Two friends, Marge and Lois go in
search of good times and love when they
head to Esther's Paradise Resort over
one amazing weekend.

Featuring 18 of Sedaka's classic hits,
including Calendar Girl, Oh Carol, Love
Will Keep Us Together and of course the
title song.

To find out more or to book your
audition, contact Emily on
0400639536 or email
benallatheatreco@yahoo.com.au