



The Backdrop

Publisher: Benalla Theatre Company
P.O. Box 2, Benalla 3671

Editor: Molly Craig

BTC Web Site & Email: www.benallatheatrecompany.org.au Benallatheatreco@yahoo.com.au

Find us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram

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SINGING WITH TODD MCKENNEY

At the beginning of October an excited group of performers from our 2015 *The Boy from Oz* production had the very, very great honour to perform with the original “boy” Todd McKenney. Todd was performing in Wangaratta and we were lucky enough that he invited us to come and perform *I Still Call Australia Home* with him! A big thank you to **Tim Jarred** for being the go between with Todd and his manager, to **Molly Craig** for organizing the tickets and rehearsals and to **Kathy Holmes** for organizing dinner. What an absolute thrill!! Though I think Molly

got the biggest thrill when Todd sat on her knee, wore her glasses (she’s not as blind as Todd claims!) and got a kiss! A night to remember.

WORKING BEE

A HUGE thank you to the 5 people who attended our working bee earlier in the month. It was a massive job to empty out the front room of the sets huts, but as you can see below it was accomplished!! It would have been great to have had just a few more people come and help on the day. We know people are busy but please next time we have a working bee see if you can make us a priority for a couple of hours. ☺





NIGHT OF ENTERTAINMENT

We are now less than a month away for the performance!! Friday November 25 is the date. Arrival is from 6.30pm with the evening getting underway at 7pm.

Ticket are \$45 per person and include a 2-course meal, with drinks at bar prices. **Please contact Deb Patterson to book your tickets on 0428322390.** You don't have to book at table (though if you do we can fit between 8-10 on one), you can come as a single, a couple, however many you like!

It's always great to see company members there on the night supporting the performers ☺ Please help spread the word that this is on. Always great to perform at Raffetys Reception Centre.

PLEASANT SUNDAY AFTERNOON

We are also currently rehearsing to be a part of a concert held at the Anglican Church in Arundel Street on **Sunday 20 November**. The cost of the concert is \$10, this includes the performance and an afternoon tea at the conclusion. The performance will start at 2pm. The company had a lot of fun last time, so it's sure to be great once again.

The church is thrilled that the company is to be involved in the project along with the church's choir, Jane Still and with the possibility of more performers coming onboard.

A great way to spend an afternoon, as it is also a part of the church's Flower Festival, which is in the church itself, so you'll get the opportunity to view that as well.



CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT – BENALLA

As part of our end of year performances, we have yearly performance as the choir for Benalla's Carols by Candlelight. **To be held on Sunday 18 December. Rehearsals will begin on Sunday 27 November.** This is a great way for new people to come and be involved. So if you know of anyone, please let them know. We will have 2 rehearsals with the Rose City Band prior to the evening. These will be on a Tuesday night – dates to be confirmed, but more than likely will be 29 November and 6 December.

SWANPOOL CAROLS

The company will also be performing as the choir for the **Swanpool Carols to be held on Sunday 11 December**. It's a fantastic night and great way for us to be apart and support the wider community. Rehearsals for this performance will be incorporated into our Benalla Carol's rehearsals. If you're not involved with the choir, please consider taking the trip out to Swanpool to be a part of the festivities.

SINGING WORKSHOPS

Amazing what happens in a month – you will have received an email about the workshop that is happening **tonight – Wednesday 26 October!** Please come along and have some fun – the workshop with Deborah Cheetham AO will run for an hour from 7.30pm. This is a coup for us to be able to have such a talented person come and work with us. It is open to the whole community, so if you have friends, family and neighbours who would like to come, bring them along! It is also free – so that's really the icing on the cake isn't it!

Molly Craig has now organized Vocal Dimensions from Wangaratta to come and run a workshop in February. Date and time still to be confirmed. This should be a lot of fun as well as gaining in skill and confidence.

OUR 2017 MUSICAL IS...



After a lot of hard work by our sub-committee, we are thrilled to announce that our musical for 2016 is the classic **Anything Goes**. With marvelous music by Cole Porter with a hilarious story that is set in the 1930s aboard the ocean liner S. S. American, where nightclub singer/evangelist Reno Sweeney is en route from New York to England. Her pal Billy Crocker has stowed away to be near his love, Hope Harcourt, but the problem is Hope is engaged to the wealthy Lord Evelyn Oakleigh. Joining this love triangle on board the luxury liner are Pubic Enemy #13 Moonface Martin and his sidekick-in-crime Erma. With the help of some elaborate disguises, dancing sailors and good old-fashioned blackmail, Reno and Martin join forces to help Billy in his quest to win Hope's heart.

There are lots of roles for both males and females with lots for the chorus to be involved with. The show features songs like Blow Gabriel Blow, It's De-Lovely, I Get a Kick out of You, You're the Top and of course the title song.

The show in an earlier form was performed by BTC back in 1992, but we will be doing the 1987 version which features a few different songs and a tighter script, but just as much fun.

The company had no applications for a director and so have asked **Molly Craig** to direct. Auditions will take place in the March, with 7 performances over 2 weekends at the end of July and beginning of August 2017. Dates are 28, 29, 30 July and 4, 5 August. So put them in your diary now! More information in the coming months on the exact dates for the Information Night and Auditions.

What a wonderful opportunity to be in one of the most loved musicals of all time. Now is the time to start thinking about who else you can ask to come and be in the show with you! Do you have other family members that would like to be involved? Friends? Neighbours? Workmates? Start talking it up and let's get a great group of people involved. As well as on stage, we are of course looking for people to help backstage. Do you know of someone who can build and would like to help with sets? Do you know someone who can sew and can help with costumes? If you do, have a chat with them and see if they would like to come aboard (pun intended) and help the show come together.

CHILD SAFE STANDARDS

The Victorian Government has brought out standards that are there to protect children and stop child abuse. All schools and organizations must comply by these and have procedures and process that they adhere to.

Molly Craig and **Emily Watt** have been putting in the hours, putting together policies and codes of conducts and procedures for our company. The first drafts were taken to our October committee meeting, where discussion was held and second (and hopefully final) drafts are completed and moved at our November meeting with things then in place for the beginning of 2017. We know you will all be supportive and adhere to these so we can keep children who are involved in our company safe.

THEATRE CRAFT WORKSHOP

Our fellow theatre company in town, L.U.E.Y. are holding a day of workshops focusing on Lighting, Make-Up, Voice Production and Movement. To be held on Sunday 13 November at the Town Hall and starting at 12.30pm. Cost is \$10. Tickets are limited and need to be booked by 28 October. Please call Rebecca on 0458468584 to secure your place. Another great opportunity to increase your skills and talents.



The company wishes a very happy day and year ahead to:

David Garrett

Tim Jarred

Jake Joyce (who got early wishes on Facebook ;))

Josh Lagstrom

Peter Pennington

Holly Walkaday

Rhonda Ward

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 26 October: Singing Workshop at the Hut – 7.30pm

Sunday 20 November: Pleasant Sunday Afternoon concert, 2pm at Anglican Church

Friday 25 November: Night of Entertainment at Raffety's Reception Centre

Sunday 27 November: Rehearsals for Carols by Candlelight begin, 7.30pm at the Hut

Sunday 11 December: Swanpool Carols

Sunday 18 December: Benalla's Carols by Candlelight