

BACKSTAGE

The Newsletter of Sunnybank Theatre Group Inc

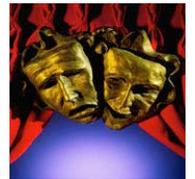
July / August 2019

“More Backstage News”

We're half way through the year already with 3 of our shows already done and dusted! In this edition we bring you our special August season with a chance to see two shows in one month! Some interesting things happening and you'll hear more from Paul with his “President's Pen” message below! Don't forget to let me know of anyone not getting a copy of *Backstage* and would like one. See my contact details at the end of the newsletter. *Editor, Chris Guyler*



From the President's Pen



Well. That is the first half of 2019 over and done with! Our production of Chapter Two came to a close after receiving wonderful reviews from both audiences and critics alike. Congratulations to everyone involved in bringing it to life. One audience member shared with me their reflections that the use of landline based telephones as a device within plays like Chapter Two is a real marker of change. For those of us who remember waiting by the phone for a love interest to call seeing them on stage provokes (hopefully) fond memories. For those who are younger have grown up in the age of the mobile phone perhaps bemusement or confusion.

Our next offering might just turn that all on its head as we present a split season – a “ye olde” radio play world premiere - *Tally Hall* written by one of our younger members Nathaniel Young, and a great collection of contemporary pieces presented by our Senior Theatre. I am pleased that one of those pieces, *It's Never too Late* was written by another local playwright Dianna Speed. Make sure you get along to both and show your support!

I am also very pleased to let you know that as part of the *Tally Hall* season the cast will be working with a group of professional Australian Sign Language interpreters as part of a development opportunity for both the interpreters and our cast and crew. The interpreters will attend rehearsals as part of a workshop program introducing them to the particular challenges associated with interpreting live theatre. While they are learning about what the production needs from them, on our side it will provide our actors and director with a unique opportunity to learn what interpreters need to be able to perform alongside them and deliver a quality experience to the audience. Our preview night will be a masterclass of sorts as it will be interpreted by the team delivering the workshop whose recent work includes interpreting *The Book of Mormon* at QPAC (the mind boggles at the things they had to sign ... “*hasa diga eebowai ... hasa diga eebowai...!*”). Then, all going well, the workshop participants will take part in an interpreted live performance at 7:30 pm on Friday 9 August. To provide the best opportunities for participants the interpreters will work in a “shadowing” format – which is not often seen in Australia. So please spread the word. Even if you cannot understand Auslan I would recommend you come along and expand your theatre horizons with us.

In other news we have had more visits from the BCC's Accessibility Team who are progressing the idea and possible designs for a new accessible toilet for the theatre. These things always take time and are never certain but the signs are definitely positive.

Finally, the members who undertook First Aid training earlier this year felt they would be confident using an automatic defibrillator if the need arose. At the committee meeting at the end of May approval was given for the purchase of one for the theatre. Many thanks to Annette and Pam who took the lead

More to come from Paul in our next edition of “Backstage”!

2019 Season in Review

Our third play for the season, what a fabulous show, Neil Simon's "*Chapter Two*". Some of you may not have realised whilst you were enjoying this typical Neil Simon style of comedy with some excellent throw away lines that the play was very much based on Neil's own life, the 'second chapter' of his own life's journey! Simon's first wife Joan Baim was a dancer but when she met him she was working at Camp Tamiment as a children's counselor and she gave up her dancing career to look after the family. Joan was a great support to Neil's early writing encouraging him to write comedy together with his brother. Simon went from strength to strength but his life was turned upside down when tragically Joan died of bone cancer in 1973 leaving Neil Simon with two daughters and he was devastated! Very similar to the circumstances as you saw in the play, Simon met actress Marsha Mason who was rehearsing another Simon comedy "*The Good Doctor*" and he became infatuated with her and they married three weeks later, only three months after his first wife Joan had died! Funnily enough when they made the film version of "*Chapter Two*" Marsha Mason played the part of "Jennie" virtually playing 'herself'!



We thank you for your positive feedback and as your editor I'd like to say the positive feedback was really well deserved with a wonderful Director Pam Cooper and her brilliant, talented and very professional cast, Brad, Nathaniel, Lesley and Melanie!



Pam's cast and crew worked so well together! Such wonderful performances throughout the season!

The Theatrical magazine "*Stage Whispers*" gave us *Brad Oliver had an earnest realness as George Schneider whilst Lesley Davis is admirable as Jennie, natural in her delivery and adept at comic timing. Nathaniel Young with a fun comedic performance as Leo and Mel Pennisi is charismatic, energetic and authentic as the sexually 'soapie' actress Faye!*

Reviews from 'Theatre Haus' include.....*Lesley Davis' portrayal of divorcee actress Jennie brought a beautiful and heartwarming honesty.....utterly believable and her interactions with cast were beautifully nuanced, setting the tone for the romantic comedy. Brad Oliver as George, awash in barely concealed grief hurtling headlong into a new romance, played a lovely balance of eager puppy love and grief-riddled uncertainty handling the role in a way many other performers would have struggled with and mixed with Davis's enduring charm and patience made the play something beautiful to watch. Melanie Pennisiwonderfully angsty as Faye.....her perpetual worries about her own relationship and the pros and cons to having an affair were much needed counterpoint to Davis' calming energy, and Melanie clearly reveled in the antics of 'Faye'! Nathaniel Young as Leo, George's brother brought a wonderful touch of comedy, riding the balance between grubby over-sexed PR rep, and genuinely caring sibling with ease, giving the production a real sense of being grounded in reality with a lot of laughter from our audiences.*

An all round thoroughly successful production, well done to all involved!

Two shows to enjoy in August “Tally Hall” and “Shining Lights”

Double your chances for great entertainment in August with our TWO seasons playing performances from 2nd through to 24th August. “**Tally Hall**” opens Friday 2 August 7.30pm with another five performances Friday 9 Aug, 7.30pm and Saturdays 3rd and 10th Aug two shows 2pm and 7.30pm. Less than a week later “**Shining Lights**” have a variety of performances opening Friday 16 Aug, 7.30pm with matinee performances Sat 17 at 2pm and a morning matinee on Wednesday 21 August at 11.30am. Three more performances Friday 23 Aug at 7.30pm and Saturday 24 Aug, two shows 2pm and 7.30pm. How’s that for plenty of choice and **get your tickets NOW!**



What will you see?



Let’s hear from the Directors of both productions.....

Chris O’Leary Directing the ‘Radio Play’ “*Tally Hall*” tells us..... *it’s a radio play, a comedy, written by two of our members Nathaniel Young and Richard Williams. I’m directing it and “Tally Hall” pays homage to the radio plays of the 1950s where listeners would ‘tune in’ each week to hear the next instalment of their favourite show, whisking them away in the stories and depictions they were listening to. The “Tally Hall” series focuses on the drama and comedy of Lord Nelson Carter the Third, his family, staff and local townspeople in the county of Prattshire, England!*

Joining Nate and Richard in the cast are some well known faces to STG patrons - Helen Ekundayo, Lesley Davis, Loretta Donnelly, Melanie Pennisi, Wendy Williams, Annette Page, Jason Lawson, Brad Oliver and Henry Jacobs.

*As you would have read in our ‘President’s Pen’ we have a wonderful opportunity, partnering with Australian Sign Language Interpreters Association QLD (ASLIAQ), to offer theatrical interpreter training to their members as well as having our **Friday 9th August performance AUSLAN interpreted for the hearing impaired**. I would encourage you to mention to any friends or family with a hearing impairment to come along and enjoy a professionally interpreted show of “Tally Hall”.*

And Nerida Day, Directing our Shining Lights says *our Shining Lights will be performing two one act plays during the season. The first is “It’s Never Too Late” written by a local playwright Dianna Speed and Dianna has been a member of Shining Lights since the workshops began at STG. The play initially emanated from a frustration that there was a sad lack of plays suitable for a group of older actors. Members of our weekly classes have spent some time workshopping the play to bring it to its current form. It is a heart-warming play that looks at universal issues of friendship, trust, exclusion, looking for love, and belonging, but from the perspective of older people. It is a testament to the fact that is never too late to try new things, whether that is changing behaviour, finding love and friendship, discovering an ability to write, or taking to the stage.*

Sounds good Nerida, looking forward to that and what about the second play?

The second one is called “House of Tomorrow”, by Susan Shear. Susan has been involved in theatre for over thirty years with experience in directing, producing, teaching and writing. “House of Tomorrow” takes a humorous look at the perils and pleasures of aging. The production gives all our members of Shining Lights a great opportunity to put into practice all they’ve learned along the way during their weekly acting classes. Some members are experienced and accomplished actors, some are becoming more proficient every week, and others have just started on their acting journey. But everyone is given an opportunity to shine.

Thanks Nerida & Chris, we’re looking forward to it! So what are you waiting for, **get your tickets NOW!**

A couple of reminders for the second half of the year!

Although there is a bit of a break between the August productions and our final show of the year we don't want you to miss out on a great social night of the year! It's the LAUNCH! Our Artistic committee are furiously working away on decided the program for 2020 and all will be revealed at the LAUNCH, to be held at 7pm on Friday 1st of November 2019. Many of you will know what a fun night this is and a chance to hear from our Directors of next years productions whilst they give us a brief synopsis of their individual shows. Don't forget there's a free supper after the presentation and a great time to socialise with fellow patrons who love our live theatre.

Grab yourself a favourite drink at the bar and munch on some 'free' goodies and enjoy an evening of mixing with like minded theatre goers and chat with many of those that you've seen on stage this year. Why not organise to become a subscriber and save some money on tickets!

And one other reminder, we have one more fabulous show for you in November soon after the 2020 Launch which is the very famous "Shirley Valentine" by Willy Russell and Directed by our very own talented Dierdre Robinson, yes the Dierdre that takes care of your subscriptions! **DON'T MISS IT!**



**S.T.G.
A.B.N**
12 040 875 864
www.stg.org.au

Location: Sunnybank Theatre Inc at
14 Mains Rd Sunnybank QLD 4109

Postal Address: STG Inc PO BOX 3068
Sunnybank South, QLD 4109.

Theatre Phone: (07) 3345 3964
(Leave a message if not staffed)

Email: boxoffice@stg.org.au

Mailing List: Call to register for email
news & audition notices.

Seat Bookings: On line or call on the
Theatre Phone above.

Editor: Chris Guyler 0414481506 or
email: gemnkr@gmail.com

A grid of eight performance posters for Sunnybank Theatre Group. The top row features "Marjorie Prime" (Feb-Mar) and "Done to Death" (Apr-May). The middle row features "Chapter Two" (June) and "Tally Hall" (August). The bottom row features "2020 LAUNCH NITE" (Nov 1) and "Shirley Valentine" (Nov 15-30). The grid also includes the text "in association with ORIGIN Theatrical" and "Showcasing New Talent".

SUNNYBANK THEATRE GROUP
cnr Mains & Beenleigh Rds, Sunnybank
2019 PERFORMANCE CALENDAR

in association with ORIGIN Theatrical
Marjorie Prime
by Jordan Harrison
director **Paul Marshall**
February 15 - March 2

in association with ORIGIN Theatrical
Done to Death
by Fred Cermichael
directors **Dierdre Robinson & John Mordacz**
April 26 - May 11

in association with ORIGIN Theatrical
Chapter Two
by Neil Simon
director **Pam Cooper**
June 14 - 29

Showcasing New Talent
Tally Hall Radio Plays
director **Chris O'Leary**
August 2 - 10

Shining Lights
director **Nerida Day**
August 16 - 24

2020 LAUNCH NITE
Nov 1 7pm

in association with ORIGIN Theatrical
Shirley Valentine
by Willy Russell
director **Dierdre Robinson**
November 15 - 30

performances evening matinee
to book ph: **3345 3964**
online at www.stg.org.au

Bye for now, see you
next time!