



BACKSTAGE

The Newsletter of Sunnybank Theatre Group Inc

May, 2007

www.stg.org.au

Backstage by Email

Would you prefer to have your copy of Backstage delivered directly to your inbox? Would you like to see promotional pictures and rehearsal photographs in colour?

Opt out of our physical mailing list and into our new email list by sending an email request to David at [david.gemmell\(AT\)optusnet.com.au](mailto:david.gemmell(AT)optusnet.com.au)

From the President's Pen



This year, 2007, is off to an extremely successful start with *Hotel Sorrento* directed by Colin Robinson playing to very appreciative audiences. Thanks to all who helped in our first production.

Work has been finished on the new side steps this month and painting has been done.

I would like to thank the members who have put in the time to set up and start our new ticket booking system.

It certainly looks like being a good year financially, and a fun filled busy one. If members want to get involved with any of the many activities within the theatre, do not hesitate to contact me or a committee member. The success of the theatre is not only gained by putting on good performances, but is also reliant on members being involved and sharing the workload.

Jim Cliff
President

Jim's Thought for the Month

"Start by doing what's necessary, then what's possible and suddenly you are doing the impossible." ~ St. Francis of Assisi

Show Bookings

All show bookings (Internet, phone, and bookings made in person at the theatre) will now be opening from 10:00 AM on the first Sunday immediately after the previous show finishes. This is to provide fair and equal access to tickets for ALL of our customers. Sales for *House Guest* open on Sunday, May 27 at 10:00 a.m. – online or at the box office!

WORKING BEE: BEE there!

Date: Sunday, June 3

Time: 10:00 a.m. start

Work: Front foyer – including wardrobe room. This involves removing all the costumes, pulling up the carpet and restocking the wardrobe.

Lunch: A sausage sizzle will be provided.

RSVP: We need to know just who is coming along and just how they can help. Please contact John Mordacz on 0419 764 415 or by email at [johnmordacz\(AT\)energex.com.au](mailto:johnmordacz(AT)energex.com.au) by Sunday, May 27.

MEMBERS' NIGHT: Friday, June 1

Let's catch up. We so often spend intense amounts of time together without the opportunity to relax and get to chat. So, we're planning a casual night for members to get together and enjoy a few drinks and some great conversation.

Join us on Friday, June 1 from 7:30 p.m. Supper will be provided and the bar will be staffed by STG's friendliest!

RSVP to Lesley on 0416 141 620, or to Caroline by email at [cjdehennin\(AT\)hotmail.com](mailto:cjdehennin(AT)hotmail.com) by Wednesday, May 30.

Comments and Contributions

Caroline welcomes your comments and contributions for the next issue of *BACKSTAGE* at [cjdehennin\(AT\)hotmail.com](mailto:cjdehennin(AT)hotmail.com) before May 31.

STG Ticketing: Up and Running

A combined team effort by many STG members has ensured the establishment of our new internet-based ticketing procedures. This group of volunteers, both answering our phone, and attending to our patrons during box office opening hours on the weekend, has successfully handled the transition to electronic ticketing. A great effort! The initial response from our patrons, who are now able to choose their own seats and performances via our online facility, has been very pleasing, and the result is a sold-out season for *Calamity Jane*.



We have learned a lot over the past weeks and we are very confident that we can now offer theatre goers an efficient and easy booking process. There are a few new rules that we shall have to implement, for the sake of fairness to all our patrons, but put simply, this means that our yearly subscribers will have first choice of seats, followed by those who make their bookings early.

We have therefore decided that general show bookings will open, via phone and online, from 10:00 AM on the Sunday immediately following the closure of the previous show to enable early bookers to have their pick of seats. We will not be able to 'HOLD' tickets in future. We have found that having tickets on 'HOLD' has prevented other patrons from confirming their seats, and in some cases we have been left 'holding the baby' – well, the tickets actually. For those patrons who do not have a credit card, they will need to call at the theatre box office during opening hours in order to pay and have their tickets issued. Of course the most efficient method for those with internet access will be to book and pay online, and print the tickets out at home.

Sometimes we have groups who plan a fun night out and in the process raise funds for their pet charity. These groups have in the past booked out the whole theatre for a particular performance, and then have set about trying to on-sell these tickets to their club/charity members. Unfortunately, sometimes the response from their members has not been very enthusiastic and the organiser has been left with many unsold tickets. In the meantime, STG has been advising other patrons that that particular

performance is sold out. So that nobody will be disappointed in the future, we will still be able to offer our groups the opportunity to book large numbers, and even the whole theatre, but they will need to do so before general ticket sales have opened, and we will require full payment to confirm the booking.

We are planning a whole range of incentives for the future – great concessions on prices for groups, extended seasons for 2008, great value subscription offers and wonderful program variety. Thank you to all, patrons and members, who have made our transition to electronic ticketing a very successful process. We hope you will enjoy the convenience this now offers, and that you will also enjoy all the forthcoming great shows at your theatre.



The first of the new tickets are printed!

DIRECTORS WANTED: One Act Plays

At its recent meeting, the STG Artistic Committee agreed to trial 3 one act plays to be produced in March/April 2008. The idea behind this decision is to encourage members who would like to consider directing and to give actors, new or experienced, another opportunity to tread the boards.

We often hear, through the grapevine, that there are just not enough prospects for up and coming directors so here is an opening for such an opportunity. We encourage anyone reading this who feels they would like to have a go at directing a play of their very own to do just that.

Please call Jim on 3345 3582 or Pam on 3892 5187 or Deirdre on 3345 8756 to give your expression of interest.

PHOTOGRAPHY by Kayleen Gibson

All photography supplied by Kayleen Gibson.
Phone: 0411 867 377
Email: [kayleen_g\(AT\)bigpond.com](mailto:kayleen_g(AT)bigpond.com)

Director's Report: *HOTEL SORRENTO*

I just wanted to say that being part of *Hotel Sorrento* was one of the most satisfying experiences of my life.

A great thank you to all involved from Pam and her crew in the box office to Bob and his crew for the great service offered to all. Thanks to the cast and crew – not only for a job well done, but also for the chance to fulfil a dream – and to STG for giving me this opportunity. Finally, to the patrons who made the show a success.

I am looking forward to assisting Pam Cooper in the upcoming House Guest.

Colin Robinson (Director)



Hotel Sorrento cast and crew

Update from CALAMITY JANE: Deadwood City, Dakota Territory

Well things are going along normally (normal for Deadwood) and the citizens are getting ready for your visit in May. The Golden Garter Saloon has a coat of fresh paint and is all spruced up awaiting your arrival.

The lights are sparkling and the musicians have tuned up their instruments.

Miss Flo & the Dancehall girls are kicking up a storm, much to the delight of the cowboys and the disapproval of the town's Temperance Ladies. The proprietor, Henry Millar, has put off his nervous breakdown for another day and Doc – who also doubles as the Undertaker – is engaged in an ongoing poker game with his gambling buddy, our hero Wild Bill Hickok.

Dear ole Rattlesnake is still driving the Deadwood stagecoach and saving the frightened passengers from attacking Indians. And we mustn't forget Danny, Katie, Francis and Susan who are busy falling in love with each other whilst our intrepid heroine Calamity Jane is living up to her

name, much to the bemusement of Wild Bill Hickok.

Calamity and her pals are looking forward to bringing the Wild West to life for an evening of great fun, lovely music, loads of laughs and enjoyment for the whole family.

Anne Ross (Director)



Calamity Jane rehearsal. *Calamity Jane* opens May 11. Visit www.stg.org.au for details.

Coming Soon to STG

Q: What do you get when you mix...

- a dozen brothers;
- a troupe of singing/dancing songstresses;
- a truck load of sequins, feathers, and beads;
- a camel;
- belly dancers;
- a girl who sings like a goddess;
- a boy in a lap-lap; and
- a shiny coat?

A: You'll find out soon at STG!

STG Member Makes a Difference

Which infamous STG member was recently seen sporting a new do? No, it wasn't for his next great character. Instead, it was a show of great character. Chris Guyler recently removed his lovely locks in the World's Greatest Shave. He proudly donated \$3716 to the Leukaemia Foundation. Well done, Chris!



Chris *BEFORE*



Chris *AFTER*

HOUSE GUEST: Auditioning Soon

The Sunnybank Theatre will present "House Guest", a murder mystery by the master thriller writer, Francis Durbridge, commencing Friday 20 July 2007.

The play is the story of a well known film star's only child, Mike, who is kidnapped but not for ransom. The kidnapper is demanding a place to stay for 48 hours. Some of the characters are not who they appear to be and just when it seems Mike's parents Robert and Stella Drury will get their son back; someone is murdered and everything changes direction.

This intriguing plot, with its twists and turns, will keep you guessing and hold you in suspense right to the final curtain - beware the faint hearted!

Auditions will be held in the Green Room of the theatre on Sunday 13 May at 2:00 p.m.

Four females aged between 25 and 40 and four males aged between 30 and 45/50 are required.

Brief character descriptions are as follows:

Vivien: A smart 25-30 year old who is very confident and purportedly interviewing Stella Drury, wife of the famous actor Robert Drury.

Jane: Also smart but older than Vivien - Secretary to Robert Drury.

Stella Drury: 30-35 years - wife of Robert and mother to the kidnapped Mike.

Robert Drury: 30-40 years - well spoken and naturally in command.

Crozier: A man from 40-50 years - the house guest.

Inspector Burford: A burly gentleman in his early 50s.

Sergeant Clayton: Police officer in his mid-30s.

Dorothy Medway: Younger cousin to Robert - a bit dizzy.

Information about the play can be found at www.stg.org.au. However, should you require anything further, please contact Pam Cooper on 38925187 or 0402145158.

Your Theatre Needs YOU!

The roles have been learnt, the singers rehearsed, the set has been built, the tickets sold and now it's opening night. But none of this can be brought to our audiences without the dedication of the front of house staff. Each performance of each show requires

somebody to sell programs, operate the box office, show our patrons to their seats, and serve them tea and coffee at interval, and this is where the theatre needs help.

We are trying to compile a list of names of those members who would be willing to offer their services from time to time to undertake all these front of house jobs. If you are able to be there for an evening or a matinee performance (or two or three) please let us know. We will keep a list of names of all those who are able to give even an hour to seat our patrons, or those who are able to give the whole evening to help with the first night supper. Whatever time you are able to offer, even if it is not for every show, then we would love to hear from you.

If we have a looooooong list of names of front of house helpers, the chances are that we won't need to call on you too often. Please make contact and let us know you're willing. Send contact details to [drobinsom\(AT\)somerville.qld.edu.au](mailto:drobinsom(AT)somerville.qld.edu.au) or [dierdre\(AT\)canterburytours.net](mailto:dierdre(AT)canterburytours.net) telling us in which areas you would like to help. The Front of House Manager will then contact you before a show opens to check if you might be available - there is no commitment required, just a willingness to help when you are able.

Hey, and it's fun to chat to our patrons!

BUILDING UPDATE

Have you noticed some changes to the outside of the theatre lately?

STG is grateful for the support it has received from the Queensland Government's Gambling Community Benefit Fund. This fund provided \$7999 for the installation of exterior blinds on the dressing room windows and the painting of the roof with insulating paint. Both measures should help to improve the comfort of everyone involved in our future productions whether it is as a member of a show or a member of the audience.



Funded by



Gambling

Community Benefit Fund

Queensland Government

