

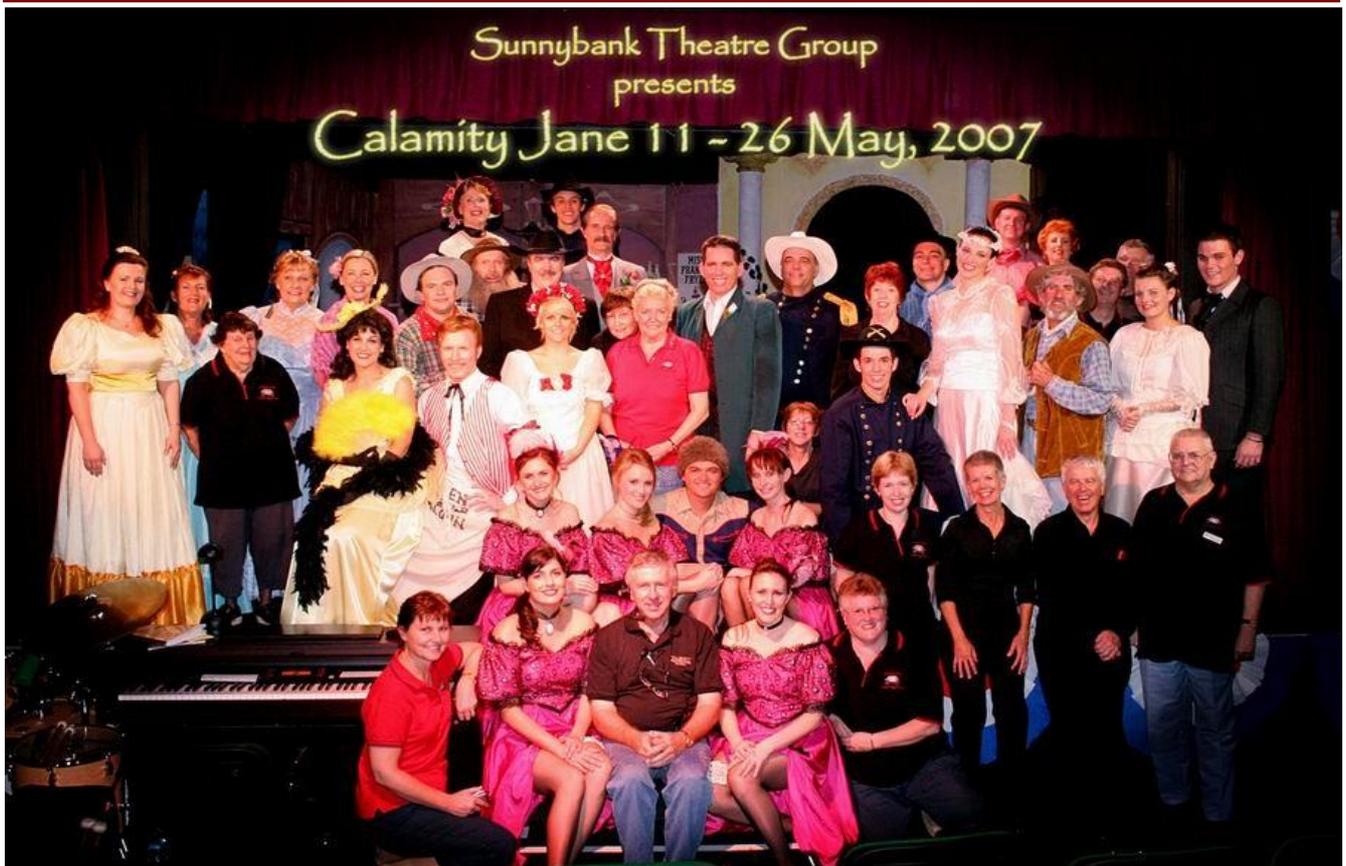


www.stg.org.au

BACKSTAGE

The Newsletter of Sunnybank Theatre Group Inc

June, 2007



CALAMITY JANE: It's a Wrap!

The cowboys have hung up their guns, the dance hall girls have put away their dancing shoes, the Indians have returned to the reservation and Wild Bill and Calamity have ridden off into the sunset on the Deadwood Stage, thus closing a record breaking season for another successful musical.

Many thanks to everyone – cast, musicians, crew and support people who gave of their time and talents to make *Calamity Jane* happen. Judging from audience reaction, you brought a lot of entertainment and enjoyment to everyone who came to see our show. I am so proud. It was a pleasure to work with you all. Special thanks go to Kayleen Gibson for a lovely pictorial record of Calam which I am sure everyone will treasure. I do hope you will all look back with fond memories of *Calamity Jane* and be able to say with pride, "I was part of a great show."

Anne Ross (Director)

Comments and Contributions

Caroline welcomes your comments and contributions for the next issue of *BACKSTAGE* before July 31 at [cjdehennin\(AT\)hotmail.com](mailto:cjdehennin(AT)hotmail.com). Have a funny story about something that happened to you at – or away from – the theatre? We'd love to share it!

Ever heard a line in a play and thought you could do better? Here's your chance to have a go. The best lines for this picture of Lesley Davis and Brad Rush will be published in the August edition of *BACKSTAGE*! Send your ideas to Caroline now!



From the President's Pen



Stepping out from last year's misty highlands of *Brigadoon* to the wild west of the world of *Calamity Jane* has been a challenge. The transition was helped by directors Anne Ross and June Gemmell and the wealth of talent both on and behind the stage keen to be involved in *Calamity Jane* and the results were evident in the performances. They were a brilliant and hard working team who deserved the success that it was. It was a success also at the box office with every performance sold out weeks before the opening of the show. Thanks to everyone who was involved in this production.

Since the closing of *Calamity Jane* a group of members has been very busy with working bees around the theatre over two weekends. It is good to see members who are willing to roll up and help out where they can. My thanks to those who gave up their time to help.

Jim Cliff
President

A Working Bee to End All Working Bees

A nice thought – and we certainly went a long way. I don't think John realised when he set the date for the working bee on the wardrobe, office and perhaps library (mainly to clear the areas so that the carpet could be lifted and new linoleum laid), that there would be such a fantastic response. So much so that when all the people started to turn up – each one with a mission - he knew we had too many for those jobs. As Kay and Jan wanted to have a go at the props area, he said, "Go for it!"

There was, however, a hitch in this. Kay and Jan couldn't get into the props bay because of all the "stuff" in front of it. With all those willing hands it wasn't a problem. So, the "stuff" was cleared (and much of it dumped) to allow Kay and Jan to crawl into the tiny props bay and start their mission.

So, we had people in the props bay, people in the storage area, people in the wardrobe, people in the library, people on stage (thanks Maurice, you have done a wonderful job of the *House Guest* set), people in the dressing rooms, people in the lighting box, people in the side stage props room and Lesley in the kitchen - for most of the morning.

The skip was soon full and another had to be ordered to take all the left overs. Then lunch

was on for one and all. John fired up the barbie and he and Colin provided the hard-working team with well-deserved bangers, burgers and onions.

We all went home tired but felt we had accomplished an enormous amount. A big thank you - and a pat on the back - to everyone who participated!



The skip FULL of old props, costumes and general rubbish!

Out of the Closet: Wardrobe Report



Yes, that's what's been happening in the wardrobe. The working bee removed all of the costumes to allow for the replacement of the carpet with vinyl flooring.

We've had a good old tidy-up. Now we're calling for donations of suitable attire for our up and coming shows which are set in the 1950s. If you have anything you wish to donate, please contact Linda at [domlin\(AT\)ihug.com.au](mailto:domlin(AT)ihug.com.au) or Pam on 3892 5187.

"Go, Go, Go, Joseph!": Date Claimers

Brad and Lesley would like you to take note of following *important dates* and keep them safe in your DREAMCOAT pocket...

<i>Date and Time</i>	<i>Event</i>
Tuesday, August 14 @ 7.30pm	INFORMATION EVENING
Friday, August 17 from 7.00pm	AUDITIONS
Sunday, August 19 from 1.00pm	AUDITIONS
Tuesday, August 21	REHEARSALS COMMENCE
Saturday, September 21 & Sunday, September 22	CAMP 'COAT'
Wednesday, November 21 - Saturday, December 8	THE SHOW SEASON
Sunday, December 9	BUMP OUT

Jim's Thought for the Month

"Those who stand for nothing fall for anything." ~ Alexander Hamilton

Member Corresponds with Author: Hotel Sorrento's Hannie Rayson

In *Hotel Sorrento*, Marge told an author's sister how much she loved the new book. So after STG's production, Jeanette (Marge) thought it only fair to write to *Hotel Sorrento* author, Hannie Rayson, to tell her how much she loved being in the play.

Hannie was also asked if she had met Jeanette's Aunt Lillian who lived in Glen Waverley and couldn't go to the Melbourne Cup because she had to clean the Venetians. Jeanette also told Hannie of the hilarious chain of events during the performance on the night of the full moon. These included: the china pear rolling out of a bowl, over the table and thumping on the floor; the flat keys getting caught in Meg's most expensive outfit requiring the actors to adlib for quite some time while disentangling; and Dick's chair slowly collapsing under him while he tried to prop it up with his foot to finish the scene.

Jeanette had forgotten about writing the letter and was thrilled to receive Hannie's response in the mailbox. Hannie told Jeanette how she had written the play while pregnant with her son - now nearly 21 - and recounted it as one of the sweetest times of her life. She thought STG's production sounded wonderful and loved hearing about the mishaps. She also thinks her sister-in-law is moonlighting as Jeanette's Aunt Lillian.



Jeanette Campbell
as Marge
in *Hotel Sorrento*

HOUSE GUEST: On Sale Now

Our next production, *House Guest* by Francis Durbridge, is well under way. We are finding more ways to capture the imagination of the audience with every rehearsal and everyone is becoming their character with every move on stage.

A difficult play, challenging to the actors, is coming together with lots of energy and enthusiasm. Apart from the "old" faces you have seen around the theatre we have a few new ones. Kim Travers joins us in the role of Jane, very efficiently! Matt Page has never been on stage before but is proving himself worthy as Mr Burford. Sara Forgione, also first time on stage, is making her debut as the character Dorothy.

For those of you who don't know the play, it's 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.

It is an intriguing plot with twists and turns to keep you guessing and hold you in suspense right to the final curtain.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Pam Cooper (Director)

Colin Robinson (Assistant Director)

To purchase tickets for *House Guest* visit www.stg.org.au or call 3345 3964. Members can receive their special discount by entering a promotional code. Want to become a member? Download a membership form online!

Pillow Talk: Auditioning Soon

Pillow Talk is a comedy in three acts.

Auditions will be held in the green room of the Sunnybank Theatre, Mains and Beenleigh Roads on Sunday, June 24 at 2:00 p.m.

For six men, fifteen women, and extras.

Characters required are:

Jan Morrow - *an interior decorator.*

Jonathan Forbes - *a client.*

Brad Allen - *a songwriter.*

Alma - *Jan's maid.*

Pierot - *Jan's partner.*

Mrs Walters - *another client.*

Tony Walters - *her son.*

Marie, Eileen, Yvette, Miss Conrad and Supervisor - *Brad's friends*

Miss Dickenson - *of the telephone company.*

Bessie - *Brad's maid.*

Mrs Frost, Mrs Ames - *prospective clients.*

Graham - *a private detective.*

Girl in Club - *a singer.*

Tilda and Ann - *Jan's assistants.*

Telephone Operator (*voice only*).

Man (*voice only*).

Guests at the club and stagehands will also be required.

Information about the play can be found at www.stg.org.au. However, should you require anything further, please contact Sue Willingham on 3348 2369.

Members Night: Friday, September 7



STG MEMBERS (L to R): Lesley Davis, Gary McEwen, Jane Andersen and Deon Spann

The green room opened to more than 20 members and their friends and family on Friday, June 1.

It was a relaxed, enjoyable evening with the expected occasional outbursts of spontaneous dramatics and song – and the unexpected entertainment provided by the Marshall girls and their matching Nintendo DS systems.

Special thanks go to Lesley Davis for preparing the delicious snacks and to John Mordacz for manning the bar. Thanks also go to those who helped make it a memorable evening for all.



STG MEMBERS (L to R): Colin Robinson, Dierdre Robinson and Colin Robinson



STG MEMBERS (L to R): June Gemmell, David Gemmell, Pam Cooper and Brad Rush

Some pictures have been included to show you just what you missed out on. Don't want to miss the next members, friends and family evening? Add this date to your calendar now: Friday, September 7 from 7:30 p.m.

Remember, supper is provided and the bar will be open. All you have to do is get yourself there!



STG MEMBERS (L to R): Caroline de Hennin, Mark Zoethout and Kayleen Gibson

PHOTOGRAPHY by Kayleen Gibson

Photography supplied by Kayleen Gibson.
Phone: 0411 867 377

Email: [kayleen_g\(AT\)bigpond.com](mailto:kayleen_g(AT)bigpond.com)
(Working bee photography by Ashley Worsman)

Appeal for Email Addresses

We need your email address! To help improve efficiency and keep costs down, we would like to communicate with our members and friends by email whenever possible. If you are currently receiving *BACKSTAGE* by mail, and you have an email address, please consider changing over to email for delivery:

- ✓ *BACKSTAGE* by email has FULL-COLOUR photos!
- ✓ It's free for us to send!
- ✓ It saves paper!
- ✓ It will fill up Wivenhoe Dam! (Maybe the dam promise is a bit of a stretch...)

Please email your request to [robinsons\(AT\)smartchat.net.au](mailto:robinsons(AT)smartchat.net.au)

Why the (AT)? You may have noticed the use of (AT) in email addresses listed in *BACKSTAGE* instead of "@". *BACKSTAGE* back-issues are posted on our website. Spammers use programs to search for email addresses in web pages and files attached to web pages. The code searches for valid format email addresses, so using this disguised format reduces SPAM being sent to the listed email addresses.