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BACKSTAGE

The Newsletter of Sunnybank Theatre Group Inc

December, 2007



Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat – September 2007

From the President's Pen



One of the most pleasant pastimes helping us to forget our everyday blues is coming to the theatre to see a play that has not been seen before. Sue gave us a chance to see something different with her production of *Pillow Talk*. I found it a very enjoyable evening with a different view to the movie version and I trust those of you who attended the play will remember it as fondly as those who acted in it. Thanks Sue, cast and crew once again. The feedback from the patrons was positive.

Who would have thought that two years ago – when the idea of *Joseph* was first mentioned at STG – this high-paced and timeless show would burst onto our stage and be such a wonderful hit. Thanks to Brad, Lesley, a very energetic cast and crew, some of the best costumes seen on stage and a wonderful set. Everyone involved has worked hard. We can say with great pride that Sunnybank Theatre Group has again lived up to the high standards we have set and our patrons have come to enjoy.

President, Jim Cliff

Jim's Thought for the Month

"If it is true that we are here to help others, then what exactly are the others here for? ~ Source Unknown

The *Joseph Journey: From the Directors*



Pictured: The full children's choir with Joseph (Matthew Backer) and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat (coat designed and manufactured by Lesley)

Well here we are, at the pointy end of our production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, and boy, what a ride. It's been extraordinary!

It has been a long trip and after a lot of hard work, blood, sweat and tears (and we mean that literally) we're finally at the end of the run.

We are extremely proud of our cast and crew and all those who worked behind the scenes prior to opening night. We would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to you all.

We had an exceptional cast, both in terms of how easy they were to work with and, I'm sure you'll agree, their amazing talent. We're sure many great friendships have emerged as a result of this experience.

The feedback from our audiences has been fantastic, and many enthusiastic comments were heard around the green room. All audiences seem to enjoy the show immensely.

It was evident that our cast and crew were particularly proud of their production and wanted to be involved more than just on stage. Quite a few gave up their time outside rehearsal to spend tireless hours building, painting, gluing, cutting, moulding, shopping, and sewing, all in the name of *Joseph*. I'm sure you'll agree that

the set, props and costumes looked incredible.

So, until next time, thanks for the absolutely fabulous experience. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did.

Brad Rush and Lesley Davis
Co-Directors

Joseph's Amazing Experience

What a truly amazing and colourful journey *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* has been at Sunnybank Theatre.

As a newcomer to STG, the first thing that struck me was how much the theatre group was like a family. The cast and crew really do feel like part of this crazy, loving and eclectic bunch of family members, friends and confidants. It wasn't a stretch for me to act onstage as if more than half the cast were my brothers because that's what it actually felt like backstage.



Playing Joseph has been such an honour and learning curve and the support from each and every member of the cast and crew has been nothing short of inspiring. Not only that, but to finish each show, walk down to the green room and have audience members take the time to congratulate me and the cast and crew on a show that "blew them away" and "brought happiness back to their day" truly shows what respect and admiration the community has for our little theatre: a little theatre with a huge heart.

Joseph (Matthew Backer)

AUDITION NOTICES

ON GOLDEN POND: Sunday, December 9

With *Joseph* nearly at an end, as is the year, time to think of our first play for next year and start the planning regime all over again.

Auditions for *On Golden Pond* by Ernest Thompson will be held on Sunday 9 December at 2.00 p.m. until 5.00 p.m. We require:

Norman and Ethel Thayer – a retired couple in whose Summer home the play takes place;

Charlie Martin – the local postman;

Chelsea Thayer Wayne – daughter to Norman and Ethel;

Bill Ray – Fiancé to Chelsea; and

Billy Ray – Bill's 13 year old son.

The play takes place in the Summer home on Golden Pond of Norman and Ethel Thayer where they are returning for the forty-fourth year. Norman is a retired professor, nearing eighty, with heart palpitations and a failing memory – but still as tart-tongued, observant and eager for life as ever. Ethel, ten years younger and the perfect foil for Norman, delights in all the small things that have enriched and continue to enrich their long life together.

Chelsea is divorced, middle aged and is visiting her parents with her fiancé Bill and Bill's son Billy. The boy quickly becomes the "grandchild" the elderly couple has longed for. Charlie is jovial, and a real local, probably aged mid 50s.

American (Maine) accents are required and we will be using the script for audition purposes.

Season: February 15 – March 1, 2008

If you require any further information, or if you would like to register your name for audition, please ring **Pam** on **3892 5187** or **0402 145 158**.

Look forward to hearing from you.

Pam Cooper
Director

CALL ME MADAM: Sunday, January 20 and Monday, January 21, 2008

Irving Berlin's
CALL ME MADAM

Director: Anne Ross

Musical Director: June Gemmell

Assistant Musical Director: Robyn Ryan

Season: May 9 – 24, 2008

Irving Berlin's bright, happy family musical tells of the hysterical exploits of Mrs Sally Adams, a Washington Society hostess who is sent to the tiny European Duchy of Lichtenberg as its Ambassador. It is a show rich in laughs and hit songs such as: *It's a Lovely Day To-day, You're Just in Love, The Hostess with the Mostes' on the Ball, Something to Dance About, The Ocarina* and *The Washington Square Dance*, to name just a few.

A large cast of all ages for principal roles – as well as chorus – is needed to bring this happy family show to life.

An orientation night will be held on Sunday, January 13 from 7.00 p.m.

All auditions are by appointment, so please ring **JUNE** on **3273 6946** for details of audition requirements and to book a time.

TICKET SALES: New Procedures

Bookings will open for each season on the weekend four weeks before opening night. The box office will be open from 10:00 a.m. on both Saturday and Sunday of that weekend.

Following that, our box office will be open on Saturdays from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Remember, you can always book your tickets online at www.stg.org.au or call us on 3345 3964.

Don't want to wait until the bookings open to grab great seats? Check out our new subscription and gift certificate offers.

PILLOW TALK: Director's Wrap



All that's left of *Pillow Talk* is the talk. We had a great time as a team putting together the telling of a story. That's what theatre is all about; telling a story.



The cast worked at telling the story while having fun. That too is what theatre is all about; having fun. The support given and received during the rehearsals and run of the show by each and everyone involved was wonderful to see. Let's all look forward to even more rewarding theatre at STG In 2008.



Director, Sue Willingham

News from Paul: The STG Secretary

Well the amendments of the rules of the Association have now been registered with the Office of Fair Trading. If you would like a copy to have for your very own please do not hesitate to contact any member of the Committee. As what I hope will be the final step in the long journey they have suggested that all our members be made aware of the following points. As a sometime actor it has been suggested to me that you should never mess with a script. Despite that warning I tried to spice this one up a bit, but try as I might I just couldn't make it interesting so here they are just as they suggested:

- The Office of Fair Trading does not "approve" the rules of an association. The amended rules are simply registered with the Office of Fair Trading to allow public access to the rules of the associations;
- The Office of Fair Trading will not interpret the rules or resolve disputes under the rules;
- A breach of the rules of an association is NOT (*their emphasis not mine!*) a breach of the Act or Regulations but a breach of the "civil contract" and must be remedied by the members or the courts;
- If the rules contradict the Act or Regulation in any way, the provisions of the Act or Regulation will override the rules;
- If the Association's rules do not provide for a particular matter and the Model Rules contain provisions for that matter, the Association's rules are deemed to contain the provision of the Model Rules unless specifically excluded; and
- Amended rules do not come into effect until they are registered with the Office of Fair Trading.

So, consider yourself informed!

At recent Committee meetings we covered a fair bit of material - here are some edited highlights:

- All shows this year have improved the financial position of the theatre;
- The numbers have not been finalised from *Joseph* but those of you who have been to see the show will know that some new infrastructure has been put in place that will provide directors with additional choices when they are putting together set designs for future shows;
- We agreed on the basis for a new structure for subscriptions for 2008 - but you will have found that out when you came to the subscribers' information night! Details are now available on the website;
- Our wardrobe department continues to do a stunning job in getting our wardrobe assets under control and protected - thanks Linda; and
- Our props department has finished a major clean up of our props store and is working on procedures to ensure that our props assets are properly managed into the future - thanks Kay and Jan.

It was great to see members supporting the STG community at the family and friends night. I found it to be a great opportunity to sit and chat over a drink and nibbles. It was nice to be challenged by some members and to get a chance to hear what was important to them.

We plan to continue these nights but don't forget that as members of STG Inc. you are always welcome to come along to the committee meetings. We have an agenda item at the beginning of each meeting for matters that members wish to bring to the Committee. I would encourage you all to get involved and help in whatever way you can - even if it is just coming along to our next members night.



Paul - in his other great role this year - The Cranky Stage Manager for Joseph

Have a safe holiday season and I look forward to seeing you at the theatre in the new year.

Secretary, Paul Marshall

SPECIAL: 3 YEAR MEMBERSHIP AT A NEVER TO BE REPEATED PRICE!

The Committee has been forced to consider all our operating costs, including insurance cover for our members, and must advise that the membership subscription from 2008 will be \$25 per person (up from \$21).

But we have a special offer of a 3-year membership for \$60 - a saving of \$15 over three years - but only if your membership is paid by the evening of our AGM.

STG PHOTOGRAPHY by Kayleen Gibson

Photography supplied by Kayleen Gibson. Copies of the box office poster, green room collage and many other photographs are available for purchase.

Phone: 0411 867 377

Email: [kayleen_g\(at\)bigpond.com](mailto:kayleen_g(at)bigpond.com)

Date Claimers What's Coming Soon to STG?

Sunday, **December 9** @ 2:00 p.m.
Auditions for *On Golden Pond*

Friday, **January 18** from 7:00 p.m.
Members, Friends and Family Evening
in the green room at STG

Saturday, **January 19** @ 10:00 a.m.
Ticket sales open for *On Golden Pond*

Sunday, **January 13** @ 7:00 p.m.
Orientation evening for *Call Me Madam*

Tuesday, **February 5** @ 7:00 p.m.
Annual General Meeting
in the auditorium at STG

STG 2008 SEASON LAUNCH

A small but very enthusiastic group of patrons joined us on Friday, November 2 to hear about the upcoming shows from STG for 2008.

Pam presented an interesting précis of the various seasons on offer and Deirdre explained to our guests the choices they would have as 2008 subscribers.

Drinks and nibbles were enjoyed by all and patrons were able to mix with some of our directors and members and place their orders for priority seating as subscribers in the new year.

SUBSCRIPTION PACKAGES

After the very successful launch of our subscriptions offer in 2007, STG has put together a choice of subscription packages for 2008.

Patrons are offered the choice of two levels of subscription: **P**-subscribers (**P**remium) may pre-book for any seat at each of our 5 major seasons during the year. They will also enjoy a complimentary program for each season and are invited to enjoy a drink from the bar during interval. **M**-subscribers may pre-book any seat at any of our **M**atinee or **M**id-week performances for each of our 5 major seasons. **P**-subscriptions are priced at \$95 and **M**-subscriptions at \$70.

In addition, subscribers have the option to purchase seats at our inaugural season of one-act plays in May for the cost of \$15 per seat.

Subscriptions may be purchased up until February 29 and are presently attracting very good support. Contact Deirdre by on 3345 8756 (home) or 0411 277 157 or [canterburytours\(at\)optusnet.com.au](mailto:canterburytours(at)optusnet.com.au) for more information.

GIFT CERTIFICATES

For the first time STG has made it possible for our patrons to purchase gift certificates to the value of their choice. These certificates may be exchanged for a ticket for any of our seasons during 2008,

but are of course subject to availability. Patrons may purchase a certificate for any dollar value they choose - a fantastic Christmas or birthday present for friends and family.

TICKET PRICES for 2008

After many years of maintaining our ticket prices at a very affordable level, it has become necessary for us to raise our entry prices from the start of 2008.

Ticket prices for all shows will rise unfortunately. The new price structure is as follows:

Evening performances (non-musicals)

Adult \$18
Concession/Children \$15
Members \$12

Evening performances (musicals)

Adult \$21
Concession/Children \$18
Members \$14

Matinees (non-musicals) - All seats \$15

Matinees (musicals) - All seats \$18

Subscriptions

P (Premium) \$95 for 5 seasons
M (Midweek/ Matinee) \$70 for 5 seasons

With the rise in seat prices, patrons will find our new subscription offers a great bargain.

2008: SPECTACULAR SEASONS at STG

Just to whet your appetite for our wonderful shows in 2008, we plan to present:

On Golden Pond – February;

A season of one-act plays - early March;

Call Me Madam - our annual musical in May;

Butterflies Are Free - a delightful comedy in July;

Come Blow Your Horn - more comedy in September; and

our final offering - a pantomime for all the family in November.

Green Room Gossip

After speaking with patrons following a *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* performance, Pam Cooper recalled some saying:

"I paid top dollar to see this in Melbourne and enjoyed this production much more. I think it is because the audience is so up close and personal with the cast, makes you feel like you are on the stage with them."

"Great show, great music, great lighting, great costumes and scenery. Are you extending the season?"

"I can't believe I have never been here before and I live so close! I shall definitely be back. If I don't come back there has to be something radically wrong with me!"

"Are you selling the DVD and T-shirt for this production?"

"Are we allowed to ask the cast for their autographs?"

Members Night: Friday, January 18



Our September social night was a big hit with more than 30 members, family and friends attending.



Our next members, family and friends evening will be held on Friday, January 18 from 7:00 p.m. Remember, supper is provided and the bar will be open. All you have to do is get yourself there!

SEE OUR VESTS!



Our Front of House volunteers have reason to smile! They are looking very uniform in their new vests by courtesy of Lesley Davis. We thank Lesley for this professional touch!

BACKSTAGE by Email

Want to receive your copy of *BACKSTAGE* by email? You can read it right at your computer, and view your photographs in colour! Contact Dierdre at [canterburytours\(at\)optusnet.com.au](mailto:canterburytours(at)optusnet.com.au) to opt out of our physical mailing list and receive your copy by email!

Comments and Contributions

Caroline welcomes all comments and contributions for the next issue of *BACKSTAGE* before Sunday, January 20 by email at [news\(at\)stg.org.au](mailto:news(at)stg.org.au) Have a funny story about something that happened to you at – or away from – the theatre? We'd love to share it!