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BACKSTAGE

The Newsletter of Sunnybank Theatre Group Inc

March, 2008



On Golden Pond – Cast and Crew – February 2007

On Golden Pond: Director's Wrap

It seems as though we have only just got over Christmas and the first show is now well and truly behind us. And what a beautiful piece of theatre it was.

To the six truly wonderful actors I say a very big thank you for a wonderful interpretation of your characters, each and every one of you. We had some excellent feedback from our patrons and, even though on occasions their numbers were small, their praise was very big indeed. It's the best thing about being a director, seeing the smiles on peoples faces as they leave the theatre and listening to their comments in the green room. I didn't hear one bad word.

Thanks also to David and John A for their untiring efforts in the lighting box, to Jane and Paul for sharing the task of Stage Manager, to Maurice for the endless hours he spends building the set, to Terry for his beautiful artwork and to John M who was there to assist in every aspect of the production.

To those of you who came, thank you so much for your support, our theatre needs members like you. For those of you who didn't, you missed a delightful story beautifully portrayed.

Director
Pam Cooper

From the President's Pen



Thank you all for a successful AGM. It was great to see such a huge turnout. This year we saw the retirement of Jim Cliff (10 years President) and Bob Gow (8 years Treasurer), and stepping down from the management committee for a rest were Deirdre Robinson and Brad Wyeth after many years of blood, sweat and tears.

Thank you to the new and familiar faces joining the committee for 2008.

Discussion has already begun as to the future direction of STG and I am looking forward to working through these with the committee and members to further improve what is already a fun entertainment venue and a wonderful environment for members and patrons alike.

We are off to a great start this year. Hopefully you have all had the opportunity to sit and enjoy our much improved courtyard. Thank you to Trevor Nunn and the "The Leading Edge Garden Services" for the excellent job in the courtyard and gardens.



The first show of the year *On Golden Pond*, once again showcased the wonderful talents of our members. Unfortunately, the time of year and competition saw smaller houses than we would have liked. This is by no way a reflection of what was an excellent show and this was reinforced through the very positive comments of our patrons. My thanks go to Pam Cooper and her wonderfully talented team.

It certainly looks to be a fun filled and busy year ahead. 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.

The next big challenge we are about to undertake is the strengthening and floor replacement of the stage. This work is currently planned to be carried out between *Call Me Madam* and *Butterflies Are Free*. There is still a lot to be sorted out but we do know that the kitchen, green room and wardrobe will need to be completely emptied. Volunteers will be required closer to the date and we will communicate this to you all when more information becomes available.



*Together
we
make it
happen.*

John
Mordacz
President

John receiving a gift from the cast of OGP

John's Thought for the Month:

One cannot teach ready-made methods. You should not try to find out how to play a particular role, how to pitch your voice, how to speak or walk. These are merely clichés and therefore you do not need to bother with them. Do not seek methods ready-made for each occasion because this will only lead to stereotypes. Learn for yourselves your own personal limitations, your own obstacles and how to get round them. After that, whatever you do, do it whole-heartedly.

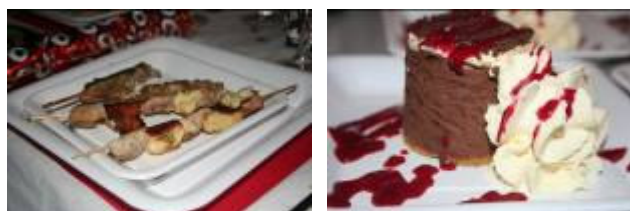
Grotowski, Jerzy (1933-1999), Polish experimental theatre director, notable for his theory of a "poor theatre", which emphasizes the essence of performance without the distraction of elaborate staging or spectacle.

2007 STG Committee Christmas Dinner

The members of the 2007 STG committee would like to thank Lesley and John for hosting the Christmas party last year.



Lesley showing her Christmas cheer



Some of the amazing food



And some of the delightful company

2008 Management Committee Members

John Mordacz	<i>President</i>
Colin Robinson	<i>Vice President</i>
David Gemmell	<i>Treasurer</i>
Paul Marshall	<i>Secretary</i>

Other Committee Members:

Pam Cooper	Jane Anderson
Caroline de Hennin	Marshall Allen
Lesley Davis	Ben Van Trier

Lesley's Trivia Tidbits

Did you know?

The original fifty cent piece in Australian decimal currency had around \$2.00 worth of silver in it before it was replaced with a less expensive twelve sided coin.

This month's trivia question:

What actor played Romeo to his own mother's Juliet?

The first person to email Caroline at news@stg.org.au with the correct answer will receive a free ice-cream (redeemable during any performance of *Short Stories*). Look out for the next issue of *BACKSTAGE* to discover for the answer.

A Former President's Parting Piece

Looking back can be a bitter sweet experience in both STG and personal terms. One normally tends to do it through those proverbial rose-coloured glasses so that the good times are remembered most and best, and even the bad times often don't seem quite so unpleasant in retrospect. There is always something to be recalled. When I look back to when I first joined STG I was blissfully ignorant and unaware of the later responsibilities that lay before me.

After settling in as president - following one year as vice-president - I did not think I would spend 10 years as president. I found it both satisfactory and rewarding to see the way STG was growing and I thank the many members who have served on the committees over those years and who have helped to build STG to what it is today.

Former
President
J Cliff



Short Stories - A Trio of Plays

Like a good meal, the first course served is *The New Quixote*, an interesting piece about a one-night-stand. It examines the problem of getting what you want in this world, and then discovering that you really don't want what you've got.



Toby (Kenneth) and Bernadette (Gina) get comfortable under the guidance of our newest director (and theatre secretary), Paul Marshall

The second course is the delicious *Roses are Red, My Love*". When a woman with a mysterious past moves into a country town, her neighbour introduces her to the local gardening club. Here they share their interest in rose growing. The growing competition between them becomes... dangerous!

After refreshments in the bar, the final dessert is served. This is a well-mannered period piece *Careful Rapture*. In this, a man falls in love with a much younger girl. On meeting her mother, he realizes he is much too old for the daughter, and mother becomes very interesting... What then happens?

These three *Short Stories* combine like three courses of a banquet. Each – with its own flavours – is guaranteed to leave you deliciously satisfied.

Performances (ON SALE NOW):

Friday, March 28 and April 4 @ 8:00 pm
Saturday, March 29 and April 5 @ 2:00 pm
Saturday, March 29 and April 5 @ 8:00 pm

TICKET SALES: Procedures

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

(Note: Tickets for Short Stories are available now and tickets for Call Me Madam will be available from 10:00 am on Saturday, April 12.)

Following that, our box office will be open on Saturdays from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

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 gift certificate offers.

Audition Notice: Butterflies Are Free

Auditions will be held on
Sunday, May 11 @ 2:00 pm
for the July 11 – July 26 Production

of

Leonard Gershe's
BUTTERFLIES ARE FREE

Directed by John Arbery

John is looking to double-cast this show in alternating performances with one cast performing while the other works backstage.

He requires two young males and females (18 to 35) and two more mature males and females (40 and up).

Auditions will be by appointment. For more information or to reserve your audition slot, please phone John Arbery on 0403 331 546.

Call Me Madam. On Sale April 12

Our talented cast of actors, singers, musicians, dancers and behind-the-scenes workers are enthusiastically learning their lines, singing up a storm, polishing their dancing shoes and building sets in preparation for the arrival of Mrs. Sally Adams in May. Irving Berlin's great musical comedy tells of the hilarious exploits of our warm hearted heroine when she is sent off to be the American ambassador to the tiny European country of Lichtenberg.



Vicky Devon (Princess Maria) and Joel Turner (Kenneth Gibson)

We can promise you a colorful, funny, family show full of laughs and delightful songs such as:- ***It's a Lovely Day Today, You're Just in Love, The Hostess with the Mostes' on the Ball, Something to Dance About and The Ocarina.***

We guarantee you will go home humming the tunes. So don't forget to gather your friends and families so you'll be ready to book your tickets when the box office opens at 10:00 am on Saturday, April 12.



Kevin Doyle (Cosmo Constantine) and Kay Halford (Sally Adams)

Anne Ross
Director

GIFT CERTIFICATES

For the first time STG has made it available for our patrons to purchase gift certificates for 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. Contact David Gemmell at david.gemmell@optusnet.com.au for more information.

Your theatre needs YOU!

CANTEEN: Colin Robinson has taken on the role of filling Bob's shoes managing our canteen. While Bob worked tirelessly in this area, it is certainly too much work for one person. If you have thought about helping out behind the bar or selling programs, then give Colin a call on 3273 6728. Colin is not asking that you be available for EVERY show. The more people we have on our list, the less work everyone has to do.

We have included some snaps of members and patrons enjoying the feast supplied by Colin and his crew on the closing night of *On Golden Pond*:



Pam Cooper (Director)



BOX OFFICE: Most of you have had the pleasure of booking tickets using our new automated system. We have a very small team of people who give up their time to make sure that our box office runs smoothly. We would like more volunteers to help in our box office – particularly on Saturdays from 11:00 am until 1:00 pm. Deon or David would be happy to provide the brief training needed for our VERY user-friendly system. Email David at david.gemmell@optusnet.com.au to express your interest.

Letterbox Drop: Sunday, April 13

Our president is coordinating a letterbox drop to inform the locals about the great things that happen at STG. What a fantastic way to get some exercise while catching up with other members. If you can offer an hour of your time, be at the theatre from 10:00 am on Sunday, April 13.

News from the STG Secretary

Well I cannot believe that, as I write, it is the end of March! The new committee of Pam Cooper, David Gemmell, Caroline de Hennin, John Mordacz, Colin Robinson, Ben Van Trier, Marshall Allen, Lesley Davis, Jane Anderson and I have already met and got things underway for 2008. One of the first things we did was to approve the artistic committee for 2008: Pam Cooper, Ben Van Trier, Anne Ross, Deirdre Robinson, Elizabeth Hood. Their main task in the coming months is to set the program for 2009. If you would like direct in 2009, or even just propose a show for the program please get in touch with Pam ASAP.

But don't forget there are so many other opportunities for you to contribute to the life of the theatre! Colin is always looking for help with front of house, David is keen to see some new faces involved in the technical side of things, Linda and Kay would love to hear from people who would like to help out with wardrobe and props, we have opportunities in the box office and on the marketing side of things as well. If you would like to be involved why not buy a ticket for the three one act plays or Call Me Madam and find one of the people who are helping out and talk to them about how you can become a part of our next production.

Paul Marshall (Secretary)

Members Night: Friday, April 18



Our last members, friends and family night (held on Friday, January 18) saw a large crowd gather in the theatre's green room. Here is some of what you missed out on.



Don't want to miss out again? Our next social evening will be held on Friday, April 18 from 7:00 pm. Remember, supper is provided and the bar will be open. All you have to do is get yourself there! See you then.

Green Room Gossip

Some delighted patrons recently sent this email to our box office:

To all at Sunnybank Theatre Group,

My husband and I went to a recent performance of "Joseph" and we just wanted to tell you that it was a fabulous performance and we really enjoyed it. We thought the whole show was just great, the actors, singers, costumes, scenery.... everything... was amazing, so we just wanted to say congratulations to all concerned.

We have been going to your shows over several years and they are all good, but this one was truly "Amazing" and we were sorry it was sold out as we would have loved to have taken other friends and family.

Keep up the good work!

We have included a few memories from *Joseph* for you.



PHOTOGRAPHY by Kayleen Gibson

Theatre Show Photography supplied by Kayleen Gibson.

Phone: 0411 867 377

Email: kayleen_g@bigpond.com



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 David at david.gemmell@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, April 30 by email at news@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!

