

April, 2009



Another successful season at STG. "The One Day of the Year"

'Alf Cook' talks to son, 'Hughie Cook' whilst Mum 'Dot' & girlfriend 'Jan' converse in the kitchen.



'Hughie' (Chris Howard) with his girlfriend 'Jan' (Samantha Colwell)



'Alf' (Peter Roberts) drinks with his mate 'Wacka Dawson' (Nick Neild)



Emotions explode between Father and Son



The ever-tolerant wife 'Dot' (Mandy McGregor) listens to 'Alf's' rants!

Director Colin Robison assembled a fabulous cast with a strong team around him to produce a very successful production of "The One Day of the Year". The show finished its season on the 14th March.

After an intense rehearsal period, this first full drama production for the year at STG wrapped up to rave reviews from patrons. Audiences responded very well with feedback overheard in the Green Room commenting on the professional performance, the fantastic acting, the great lighting, and how touched they were by the show.

Comments included:

"The show just blew me away".....

"It's what I expect from this theatre, top grade show as always".....

"Colin and his cast should be proud, it was brilliant".....

"I'm here from Melbourne and we don't have such wonderful little theatres like this".....

"A very professional show".....

This is what Colin Robison had to say about the show:

"I have wanted to direct this great play for a long time, and after an intense rehearsal period, it's a sad moment in my life to finish the show.

I wanted to include my heartfelt and sincere thanks to all who had put time and effort into this play. From the

Front of House and Box Office staff, to the person who made the tap for the sink (the president did that), to the people who built the set and painted it, MANY thanks! Everyone's remarks were that the set was very good, and easy on the eye from an audience perspective.

The cast were great and gave their all, no matter what Steph and I suggested. Thanks to Peter Roberts for his research and for making 'Alf' his own. That goes also to Mandy McGregor who played 'Dot' and many people said how good she was (a reference to Grace Sullivan and Kingswood Country was made frequently). Also to the rest of the cast, for two first-timers (Chris Howard and Sam Colwell (the young ones)), they responded so well to the challenge and gave it some life. Also thanks to Nick - you made 'Wacka' into a real character.

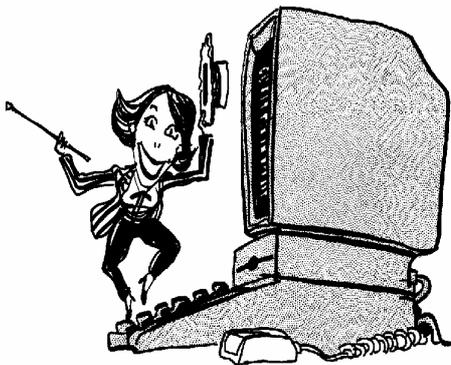
Thanks also to my fantastic AD, David on lighting and the backstage crew for all they did and more.

There were comments from people who had not been to an STG performance before and were impressed with the service and friendly attitude from all, and they all said they'd be back.

Anzac Day will never be the same again because of this experience, and as we pulled down the set during bump-out, a little bit of 1950s Colin Robison came with it."

I hope you enjoyed the show as much as I did."

From the President's Computer.



Welcome to our April edition of "Backstage" and a special thank you to those who gave us wonderful feedback for our first edition. Congratulations to our creative and hardworking Marketing Team.

I extend a warm welcome to all our new members.

Last month the Executive formed as a selection panel to choose the appropriate members for the Artistic Committee. These members have been selected and are already working on the Season for 2010. They will be introduced in the next edition.

To those who were able to see the play "The One Day of the Year", I am certain you had an enjoyable time. To Colin Robinson, Stephanie Ellis, Cast and Crew, congratulations on a play that saw the real life of post-war in the early 1950's.

I would like to say a very big thank you to the Brisbane City Council for providing us with a grant to install insulation in the ceiling of the auditorium. This job was completed at the end of January and has already made a marked difference.

Deirdre Robinson and Matthew Bass are currently hard at work with rehearsals while the crew is busily getting their sets finished for the upcoming musical "Best Little Whorehouse in Texas". Remember the box office opens and tickets go on sale for show on April 18, 2009 at 10am.

Don't want to go to the show on your own??? Why not organise a group. The new Committee strongly support Whole of House and Group Bookings and have appointed June Gemmell as the Coordinator. A Group Booking is 20 or more persons while Whole of House is 60 or more. Tickets for groups are provided at concession prices. For more information, contact June on 3345 3964.

Just a reminder that we have reverted back to the original 8.00pm start time for shows. Thank you to those patrons who gave feedback on this issue.

Until next time, Kay Halford

Audition Call for



"SILHOUETTE"

A murder/thriller by Simon Brett

Directed by Pam Cooper

AUDITION DATE – Sunday, May 10, 2009 at 3pm

WHERE: At Sunnybank Theatre Group,
cnr Mains and Beenleigh Roads Sunnybank, Brisbane.

SHOW SEASON: 3 - 18 July – Fridays (8pm), Saturdays
(2pm and 8pm) and one Wednesday performance (8pm)

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE: To be advised.

MALE CHARACTERS:

'Martin Powell' - 'Actor' - (40-50)

'Detective Bruton' - (40-50)

'Detective Fisher' - (25-35)

'Detective Wilkins' - (smaller role)

Neville Smallwood—'News Reporter' (25-45)

FEMALE CHARACTERS:

Celia Wallis - 'actress wife of Martin' (35-45)

WPC Leach - 'younger policewoman' (25-35)

WPC Carter - (smaller role policewoman)

More details at www.stg.org.au/stg/web/page/auditions

"Many hands make light work"

It's an oldie but a goodie!

Our Managers on the committee are still looking for helpers! Just think, if we had lots of volunteers who were willing to ALL give a little of their time to assist each of the vital areas of management, it would be a breeze!! Everyone could be assigned smaller tasks to get the job done and you'd be doing it for YOUR theatre. Come on down!

Here's a little reminder of where you could "jump on board" and lend a hand!

With Building Manager - Kevin Prout

With Production Manager - Vicky Devon

With Marketing Manager - Fiona Tainton

With Green Room Manager - Janet Noack

With Box Office Manager - Deon Spann. OR

With Andrew Herrmann, this could be your forte, in his area as Development Manager.

So please, why not give them a call and at least have a chat about what they do and see if the area sounds like it suits your interests.

They can ALL be contacted at 3345 3964...OR... on those individual email addresses in your last "Backstage"!



CALLING ALL LOVERS OF MUSICALS!! It's that time of the year!



Best Little Whorehouse in Texas

Season runs from 8 - 23 May, 2009

Bookings open this Saturday 18 Apr

Box Office lines will open at 10am

Tickets also available at the Theatre's Box Office

Whatever you're doing in May, you can't afford to miss our next production! This fabulous "Tony Award" winning Musical Comedy, Directed by Deidre Robinson with Musical Director Matthew Bass promises to be a 'humdinger' of a show with its colourful costuming and fabulous singing and dancing. Entertainment at its best !



A little bit of naughtiness has come to STG! (Well, naughty but nice of course).

STG's first musical for 2009, *Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* tells the story of a little brothel in Texas known as the Chicken Ranch - so named because, during the Depression, customers were allowed to pay with poultry!

The story revolves around the whorehouse that has been in existence in a small Texan town for several decades but has always been discrete and kept 'under the radar', until now of course, when an over-zealous reporter who doubles as an evangelical TV preacher decides the time has come to close it down. The local town identities including Miss Mona (the whorehouse madam), the girls, the sheriff, the local football team and a few politicians are all part of the fun and mayhem in this boisterous rollicking musical comedy.

Opening Friday, May 8, 2009, with the Box Office open this Saturday, April 18, it promises to be an entertaining night out. Remember to book early to avoid disappointment!

Kay mentioned in her President's notes that last month the Executive formed a selection panel to choose the appropriate members for the Artistic Committee. Having now been selected they are already working on the 2010 season and sent this email to many of our members:

Directors Required for 2010 !

Are you interested in directing a play or musical at Sunnybank Theatre Group in 2010?

Our Artistic Committee is now calling for submissions from prospective directors and musical directors for our 2010 season.

STG stages six productions each year:

- Trilogy of One Act Plays – January
- Play - March
- Musical – May
- Play - July
- Musical - September
- Play - November

If you are interested in applying, please download and complete the 'Expression of Interest' form (which can be found in the 'News' section of the website), and return it to STG's Secretary by email at secretary@stg.org.au as we're trying to finalise the 2010 season as soon as possible.

We look forward to receiving your submission. STG Artistic Committee - 2009 www.stg.org.au



STG PHOTOGRAPHY by Kayleen Gibson

The quality of our newsletter depends so much on the wonderful pictures that are included, which wouldn't be possible without our fabulous photographer, Kayleen! She supplies all the photos used in the theatre, on the website and here in the newsletter. Copies of the box office poster, green room collage and many other photographs are available for purchase.



Just call Kayleen or email her: Ph: 0411 867 377 kayleen_g@bigpond.com

"It's Showtime"!

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Some of you may have received an email from STG regarding a change of show start times !

Earlier this year, the previous STG Management Committee made a resolution to change the 'start time' of our evening shows from 8.00pm to 7.30pm. This was based on a number of factors, including feedback suggestions from an online survey which had been circulated.

The change of the start-time was to be trialled to allow our patrons and members alike to experience the earlier start and to enable the Management Committee to seek feedback to the preferred times.

For the first production this year (the Trilogy of One Act Plays), regrettably, many patrons either missed the first play or were indeed late, even though the Committee had made every effort to advertise the change.

The second show, The One Day of the Year, gave us an excellent opportunity through our Front of House and Box Office members to gather feedback. Based on the majority of responses, we considered that it was not justifiable to continue with the 7.30pm start, therefore all evening performances will again start at **8.00pm**.

We regret any confusion this change may have caused and apologise for any inconvenience.

Thinking of a new segment for future "Backstage" Newsletters!

Let us know what you think of an idea to have a.....



'SPOTLIGHT WAS ON...'

It would feature one of our members or patrons of STG. Our Marketing team would briefly interview that person in the Green Room as they enjoy a night of entertainment. They would be made aware, of course, that their interview would be featured in our "Spotlight was on...." segment to include such details as a little of their background and likes and dislikes of theatre and how they enjoyed the show. We may even suggest that we include a picture of them in the segment provided they're happy to do so!

It's a great way of hearing how we come to be a part of the friendly "Sunnybank Theatre Family" and share some interesting feedback when we throw the "spotlight" on someone with a question and answer session!



Let us know what you think and we'll work on some interesting questions to share with you in future issues of our "Backstage" newsletter.

Look to future issues for some interesting and useful articles about theatre



and stagecraft and technical aspects of what we create on stage for.....

The Arts



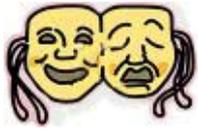
A Big Thank You !



A big thank you must be extended to the Brisbane City Council for Community Grants which allowed us to purchase new insulation for the roof of the theatre.

The insulation was installed at the beginning of the year and has made a huge difference to the temperature in the theatre.

We thank the Brisbane City Council for their generous support of Sunnybank Theatre Group!



An Artistic Committee announcement

An important change to our 2009 Season

The new Artistic Committee met for the first time in April and at their first meeting had a hard decision to make regarding STG's program for 2009.

Due to an inability to find a Musical Director for the musical comedy *Nunsensations* scheduled to be presented during September 2009, the Artistic Committee had to make the decision to find a substitute show.

Consequently, the Artistic Committee has decided instead to present the classic romantic mystery *Rebecca* by Daphne du Maurier.

Set in Cornwall in the 1930s, *Rebecca* tells the romantic and intriguing story of Maxim de Winter's second wife as she slowly pieces together her new husband's tragic and unhappy past when he was married to the beautiful but willfully treacherous Rebecca. The play is as moving and exciting as the book upon which it is based. Daphne du Maurier's strongly drawn characters, including the obsessed and malicious housekeeper Mrs Danvers, are still as powerful, engaging and true as when it was first written. It is a truly epic Gothic Romance.

The play will be directed by Anne Ross with shows on September 11th (8pm), 12th (2pm & 8pm), 18th (8pm), 19th (2pm & 8pm), 20th (2pm), 25th (8pm) and the 26th (2pm & 8pm).

"Did you know....."

Here's an invitation to all our members to help with yet another feature that we would like to include in coming issues of your "Backstage" newsletter!

We will dedicate a column to those anecdotes and happenings during the times that members come together for rehearsals and socialising outside that always bring a "smile to the dial"!

So, here's the challenge for all you actors, directors, stage managers, lighting and sound, costume and props designers, box office and front of house and anybody else we may have left off the list, when it "happens", jot it down, take note of all those funny remarks, outtakes, mistakes, anecdotes, boo boos or whatever and we can publish them in the column and all have a damn good chuckle!

Let's give you an example.....



"Did you know that" during rehearsals of "The One Day of the Year" a certain actor, who shall remain nameless, was

always leaning on the desk in the bedroom of the set whilst acting in the living room next door! If you remember, there was an imaginary wall between the two rooms on the set and that is something you have to really "focus on" when moving around a set that has imaginary walls!

The habitual problem was eliminated when the director moved in and took the actor out of his comfort zone and then REBLOCKED the scene to take the temptation away! Do you get the idea? Lots of chuckles, share them with us!

Some News from the Committee

Your STG Management Committee had their meeting on March 10, and some of the outcomes from the meeting included:

- The announcement of the new members of the STG Artistic Committee. Look out for their bios and photos in the next newsletter;
- Approval for a "new" second-hand oven and stove to be purchased for the kitchen;
- 18 new members have signed up with the theatre since the last meeting in February.

If you have any questions about membership or the committee, then feel free to send an email through the website www.stg.org.au and use the "Membership" tab and click on "email us".

If you remember in our March issue we promised to tell you a little more about the program coming up for the rest of 2009!



Not long to wait now for a little naughtiness to come to Sunnybank! The fabulous naughty but nice, **“Best Little Whorehouse in Texas”** playing in May is the story of a little brothel in Texas known as the Chicken Ranch which has been in existence for several decades. More detail on page 4 or you could read the synopsis on our website, www.stg.org.au Don't forget to book those tickets early!

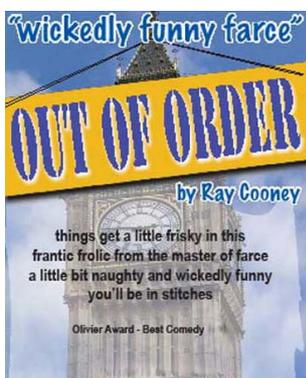
“Silhouette”, first presented at Guildford, England in 1997, is one of many works written by popular English Television and mystery writer Simon Brett. A middle aged actress Celia Wallis, estranged from her Shakespearian actor husband Martin, is questioned by Inspector Bruton about Martin's murder. Suspicion points in many directions, including a young drunken journalist who is asleep in Celia's bed and argued with Martin shortly before the murder. The solution to the initial puzzle seems simple. However, during Act 2, we're taken back *before* the murder and all our expectations, of the characters as well as the plot, are turned on their heads! A witty modern thriller with an unexpected twist, this play breathes new life into the murder mystery genre. Something to have you on the edge of your seat in July.



“Last night I dreamt I went to Manderley again”

her to forget her shortcomings and the new bride begins to doubt Maxim's love for her until Rebecca's body is found! **“Rebecca”** twists and twists again creating a haunting and memorable masterpiece of style and substance, an extended meditation on how the dead haunt the living.

We've mentioned the change to the 2009 program and in September you can look forward to the wonderful Daphne du Maurier 'classic', **“Rebecca”**, set late in the 1930's just prior to World War 2. It was made very famous in the Alfred Hitchcock, black and white movie version starring Sir Laurence Olivier and Joan Fontaine. As the lead, Maxim de Winter brings his new young bride to Manderley, his great house in Cornwall. She immediately senses the overpowering presence of Maxim's drowned wife Rebecca. The grim housekeeper, Mrs. Danvers, will not allow



To finish the year off, we have the brilliant Ray Cooney farce, **“Out of Order”** which is sure to have our audiences splitting their sides. As is the case with many successful Ray Cooney comedies, this is a sequel to his **“Two Into One”** and in 1991 **“Out of Order”** received the Olivier Award for Best Comedy of the Year! Audiences will delight in the usual English flair for quick fired antics set in a Ministerial setting. Richard Willey MP, a Government Junior Minister, is attempting to have an affair with Jane Worthington, a secretary to the leader of the Opposition, in a top London hotel near Parliament House but things go disastrously wrong, beginning with the discovery of a “body” trapped in the hotel's only unreliable sash window. Desperately trying to get out of a sticky situation, Richard sends for his Parliamentary Private

Secretary George Pigden who, through Richard's lies, sinks further and further into trouble and ends up going through an identity crisis! Things go from bad to worse as Ronnie arrives, Jane's distraught young husband and with the addition of a conniving waiter, a suspicious hotel manager, Mrs. Willey and Nurse Foster things really come to a head with nothing going according to plan!