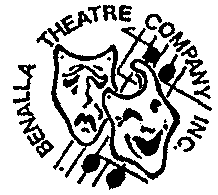


The BACKDROP



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White Christmas

After the excellent information night and all the auditions we are up and firing with the start of singing rehearsals – and nothing like being thrown in the deep end for some with a few of the White Christmas harmony parts being fairly challenging to say the least :)

Be that as it may, we have a fantastic bunch of enthusiastic participants with a fair few new (and young :) faces that I'm sure will enjoy the show rehearsals far more when we get into some blocking and movement.

A full cast list is appended to this newsletter and hopefully all our newcomers receive this (their first copy of Backdrop) either electronically or via 'snail mail' as the case may be. Welcome to you all and we hope you enjoy the experience of being part of 'White Christmas'.

Of necessity however (and has been said by Molly a couple of times at practice) **everyone on stage will need to become a formal member of the company** – for insurance let alone 'solidarity' purposes :)

Our fees as predicted remained the same (ratified at the AGM) and for this year are;

Adults \$30 Concession/Students \$25 Associate (Non performing) \$15

If these can be paid to Treasurer Jim ASAP that would be appreciated. To help with our records it would also be appreciated if the **attached membership application/info form could be completed and forwarded.**

Our first **Production Meeting** also happens this Sunday prior to rehearsal. Funnily enough, the singing, dancing and dialogue practice is not the only necessary thing that has to occur before the curtain opens at the end of July :) Sets, Props, Costumes, Publicity, Sponsorship, Front of House, Sound, Lighting, Make-Up etc are just a handful of words that roll easy off the tongue but which all require the dedication and effort of a coordinator and assistants to help make sure that everyone and everything is as it should be.

We already have a wonderful group of volunteers making up the core of the Production Team but anybody else with some skill or desire to contribute in any of the above areas – please contact Molly, Emily or myself to throw your hat in the ring. All help is greatly appreciated and believe me; if the thought of performing in front of the lights is a bit daunting for you; the satisfaction of working behind the scenes can be just as great.

Without an effective Production Team; the best cast in the world can only do so much for however many :)
(Have also appended FYI a current list of the Production Team – why not add your name to list??)

AGM



Laurie proudly accepts the Presidents Award

Our Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday 23 February at the Hut. Molly delivered a summary of BTC's activities for the previous year and presented the annual **President's Award** to **Laurie Webber** for his excellent work on the committee; sponsorship work for Leader of the Pack and the redrafting of the company's constitution – but to mention a few. The Office Bearers and Committee stayed pretty much the same with some minor changes. Those elected being: President: Molly Craig, Vice President: David Garrett; Secretary: Emily Watt; Treasurer: Jim Tullberg; Committee Members: Paul Altmann, Elaine Heywood, Mary-Ann Jolly, Kath O'Hara and Wayne Wilson. Thanks, congratulations and good luck to the 'new' crew.

BTC 25 Years Celebration

Continuing with our series of pictures from 'shows gone by' to celebrate/remember 25 years of BTC; the following are from 3 productions in 1986 and 1987 – being Salad Days (1986); plus Ladies in Retirement and (my first show) The Sentimental Bloke (1987).



Some interesting characters and costumes in amongst this lot; and sadly several people who are no longer with us such as Leigh, Steve, Malcolm and Margaret. All of these were of course done in the old Town Hall Where to say the least conditions for the cast, crew and audience were a little more primitive than at BPACC. Especially for some of the shows in winter time. If they were lucky, the orchestra had a few old bits of carpet to sit on at the front of the stage (and hope of course no-one joined them from above by falling off the front or one of our often in-situ thrust stages). And before we got three-phase power to the hall, many was the time we'd blow a fuse and darken the whole place when the lighting board and orchestra assembly of double adaptors kicked in.



Apart from some of the abovementioned, we also have pictured the likes of Lois Smith and Shirley MacFarland who are/were 'institutions' as such in both the Theatre Co and their earlier drama and light opera manifestations. Only a couple of current BTC people visible in the big 'Bloke' cast photo at right – looks like the finale of 'Backed the Winner of the Cup' I think?? – with the redoubtable Rhonda (Ward) at far left and the straw hat forming the halo above her head being held by yours truly (when I had hair) One of Alan Stone's many masterpieces was Sentimental Bloke #1



Watch this space for advice in the future on what sort of 'special occasion we will organise later in the year to celebrate our quarter of a century :)

Other Stuff

Another working bee will probably be organised soon to further 'rationalise' and tidy up all our stuff in both huts and the compound plus look at options for installing a larger door in the second hut to facilitate better access & removal/shifting of stuff. Please keep an eye out for a 'cheap large (roller?) door' :)

The BPACC Season Launch was held on Feb 28th and we were well presented/represented by Molly. And needless to say at \$25 we're looking like pretty good value compared to some of the other offerings :)

BTC is supporting an initiative from our theatre brethren (or 'sistern' perhaps more aptly as it is the brain-child of Christine Duff :) in the **North East Community Theatre Alliance (NECTA)** – whereby card-carrying (see note below) members of local theatre companies who have signed up can buy tickets at Concession prices to other shows. This only applies to the one member's ticket – not bulk bookings – but will hopefully see a few more bums on seats at our respective shows. Watch this space for more details on how you can benefit.

To facilitate the above initiative; but also do something we've been thinking of for ages; each member of BTC this year will receive a **membership card** (of the business card size laminated variety) that can be used to demonstrate your membership (for NECTA purposes); adorn your coffee table or simply fatten your wallet :)

Important Dates

March 3 **Photo Night**
March 7 **Production Meeting #1**
March 26 **White Christmas DVD Night**

HUMOUR

The Titanic was beginning to sink after striking the iceberg. People on the ship were crying, running and praying to God - just then a passenger had the following conversation with the captain.

Passenger: How far is land, from here?
Captain: Around two miles...
Passenger: Only two miles, then why are these people making such noise. I can swim that far easily.
 Just tell me in which direction?
Captain: Downward ...

And a quick Irish one or two

Two farmers were driving their tractor down the middle of a country road. A car comes around the corner and brakes hard to avoid them, skids, rolls over twice and then lands in a field. Paddy says to Mick "It's just as well we got out of that field."

O'Connell was staggering home with a small Paddy in his back pocket when he slipped and fell heavily. Struggling to his feet, he felt something wet running down his leg.
"Please, God," he implored, "let it be blood!"

Production Team for White Christmas

Production Manager – Jim Tullberg
Production Secretary – Emily Watt
Production Treasurer – Jim Tullberg
Director – Molly Craig
Musical Director – Elaine Heywood
Set Design and Construction – Pete Symons and Marty Burke
Publicity/Programme – Janine Fusea + ??? (need some help here)
Sponsorship – David Garrett + ??? (need someone else here to assist in place of Laurie)
Props – Rhonda Ward
Costumes – Molly Craig and Deb Patterson – Rose Woodstock to be main sewer + ??? (others to help?)
Make-up – Belinda Altmann
FOH – Wayne Wilson
Lighting - ??? Sound - ??? Stage Manager - ???

All offers of assistance welcome :)

CASTING FOR WHITE CHRISTMAS

BOB WALLACE
PHIL DAVIS
BETTY HAYNES
JUDY HAYNES
GENERAL HENRY WAVERLY
MARTHA WATSON
SUSAN WAVERLY
RALPH SHELDRAKE
RITA
RHODA
EZEKIEL FOSTER
MIKE
TESSIE
JIMMY
CIGARETTE GIRL
SNORING MAN
MRS SNORING MAN
TRAIN CONDUCTOR
SHELDRAKE'S SECRETARY
DANCE CAPTAIN
SEAMSTRESS
ASSISTANT SEAMSTRESS
ED SULLIVAN ANNOUNCER
REGENCY ROOM ANNOUNCER
QUINTET

PASSENGER ONE
PASSENGER TWO
PASSENGER THREE
PASSENGER FOUR
PASSENGER FIVE
SCOOTER
JIM
GLORIA
MARTY
MALE DANCER
CHORUS

STEPHEN WINKLER
PAUL ALTMANN
DIANNE FELDTMANN
DEBBIE PATTERSON
DAVID GARRETT
MARY-ANN JOLLY
ROSIE BASSETT
JIM TULLBERG
CHARMAINE BRODIE
JAY EVANS
BEN VAN DEN AKKER
BENJAMIN BRODIE
TRACEY MATKOVICH
DEL DUBE
RACHAEL FELDTMANN
DEL DUBE
EMILY WATT
NICHOLAS BRODIE
SKYE MORRISON
ANGELA HURD
ANGELA HURD
SUE-ANNE MATKOVICH-ALLAN
TODD WERNER
BEN VAN DEN AKKER
EMILY WATT
MARY-ANN JOLLY
JIM TULLBERG
BENJAMIN BRODIE
DEL DUBE
TODD WERNER
KITTY COOKE
GRACE GARRETT
JENNY SMITH
JADE LITTLER
TODD WERNER
NICHOLAS BRODIE
BROOKELYN TUCKETT
GRACE THOMPSON
NICHOLAS BRODIE
STEVIE LAUBE
DINA JONES
RACHAEL FELDTMANN
KITTY COOKE
BROOKELYN TUCKETT
SUE-ANNE MATKOVICH- ALLAN
TRACEY MATKOVICH
GRACE GARRETT
GRACE THOMPSON
JADE LITTLER
EMILY WATT
DEL DUBE
TODD WERNER
BEN VAN DEN AKKER
JENNY SMITH
BENJAMIN BRODIE
NICHOLAS BRODIE
ANGELA HURD
CHARMAINE BRODIE
JAY EVANS
SKYE MORRISON



BTC Membership Application 2010

Please note that only a Name & Postal Address are necessary for us to comply with Incorporation requirements as far as our membership records go. All other information is voluntary.

Name: -----

Address: -----

Phones: Home -----

Work -----

Mobile -----

Email: -----

Birthday: ----- (Month and day sufficient :)

Membership Category (please circle one)

Adult (\$30)

Student or Concession (\$25)

Associate (\$15)

Please complete the above (with at least a name and address); circle the appropriate membership category and return with cheque/money to either:

TREASURER – Jim Tullberg (in person) OR

*Post to BTC
PO Box 2
BENALLA VIC 3671*

Thank you for your membership and support of Benalla Theatre Company.