

Official Newsletter of the  
**SPOTLIGHT  
THEATRICAL  
COMPANY**

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[www.spotlight-costume-hire.com](http://www.spotlight-costume-hire.com)



**SPOTLIGHT THEATRICAL**

HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL  
**FAÇADE**

DECEMBER 3-5, 7:30pm



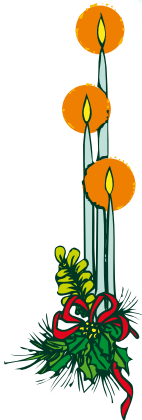
*Mr. Cellini's  
Secret*

**Jan 8 - 16**  
(2 sessions  
daily)

Australian Premiere of  
**KANDER & EBB'S**  
**FEB 12 - MAR 6 2010**  
**LIMITED SEASON**

THE MUSICAL  
COMEDY WHODUNIT  
**CURTAINS**  
From the creators of  
*Catwalk* & *Chicago*

*Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*



December 2009

## SKEWL DAZE: REVENGE OF THE EMO

Basement Theatre at 7.30pm Fri 27th & Sat 28th November and Sunday 29th November at 2pm

*Ed Note: Unfortunately this Youth Theatre production will be over by the time snail mail readers receive the December Spotlighter.*

### FROM PETE'S DESK

It is always a daunting process choosing material for, and casting, an end of year play for fifty or so young actors who meet for ninety minutes a week in the burgeoning senior primary youth theatre classes here at Spotlight. Numbers can vary considerably from class to class (generally the later classes on a Saturday are more popular on account of our students' "other commitments" to dance classes, sports competitions and the like). Then there's the problem of the gender balance, drama being very popular with girls who usually outnumber the boys two to one, with the vast majority of roles traditionally being written for males. Finding a play which appeals to contemporary youth is hard enough; finding one that also satisfies our casting requirements is close to impossible. *Skewl Daze: Revenge of the Emo* is my scripted response to such a challenge. The content was derived from a group devised work with high-school students developed earlier this year, drawing from comic scenes I had written some years earlier and 'given circumstances' for improvised sketches. Rather than going for the realm of fantasy and myth in exotic locations in other eras (standard fare for youth theatre), our kids will be dramatising that place outside the



home that they know best, the modern day school (last year's *Shopping Mauled* was set in that other place they know so well!).

The school is a-buzz with preparations for the annual end of year

8 formal. Returning to school after a family tragedy, Ashlee is in no mood to talk lip-gloss and hair-straighteners. Annalise, our resident 'emo', has had a gut-full of being bullied by Mikhail and his mate, Nic and has teamed up with the oh-so-nerdy Adam and Jasmine to plot her revenge. Nic takes a shine to Annalise while Danielle gets her tie caught in the photo-copier, a very novel approach is taken to the problem of littering, and to tell any more would be telling too much. *Revenge of the Emo* will be in the Basement Theatre at 7.30pm Fri 27th & Sat 28th November and Sunday 29th November at 2pm. The final classes for all primary aged students is Saturday 6th December.

Life goes on in the youth theatre high school classes as students are put through their paces in a range of 'method acting' exercises. A large influx of new blood, post *Deameo & Juliet*, has been a welcome addition to the course as we head into our last three classes of the year. High School Youth Theatre students will have their last classes for the year on Wednesday 9th December.

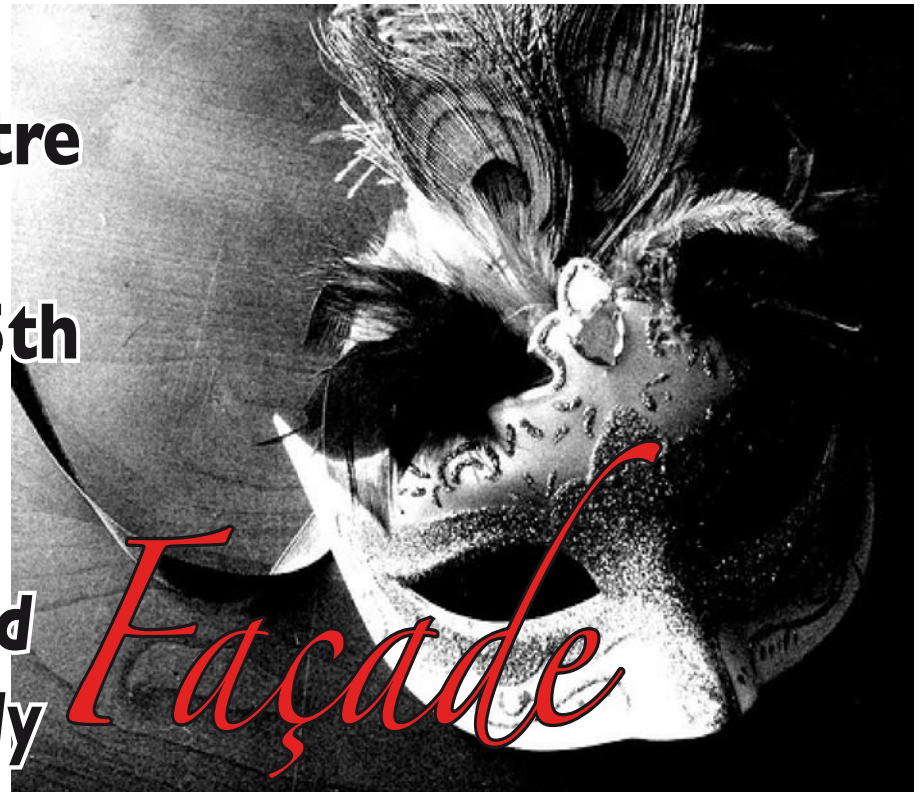
*Peter Morrissey*



# High School Musical Theatre DECEMBER

3rd, 4th and 5th  
at 7:30pm

Directed and  
Choreographed  
by Ashley Tardy



Set against the backdrop of an old 18th-century abandoned theatre, *Façade* takes the audience on a journey through the dark side of musical theatre. It features music from various productions, famous for their quirky, fanciful and quite often dark songs and performances that have moved us, made us laugh, made us cry, terrified us but always entertained.

*Sweeney Todd, Jekyll & Hyde, Wicked, Phantom of the Opera* and *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* are just some of the many musicals to which we pay tribute.

*Look behind the Façade ...* and you will find 32 very talented young women singing and dancing their way through our High School Musical class production. Accompanied by three just as talented young men who hold their own, though completely outnumbered. This dedicated group of students are working hard to showcase their many talents. Be prepared to be blown away by their dancing ability and

their incredible voices which I am sure will stay with you long after the show has ended.

I believe in supporting each student's determination, enthusiasm, passion and love of performing. I approach casting my youth shows a little differently, as opposed to holding auditions and casting the roles according to who is the best, I let the students themselves decide whether or not they would like to have a soloist, dancer or ensemble role. Every performer on stage is playing the role that they themselves chose to do. It is an amazing experience watching each and every one of my students up there having a go and discovering their own talents and abilities that, some of them never knew they had, because they never had the opportunity to do so.

*Façade*

opens Thursday 3rd December at 7:30pm

and runs until Saturday 6th December

*Ashley*

**2010 YOUTH THEATRE ORIENTATION DAY**  
**- 23 JANUARY ... SEE DETAILS PAGE 18**

November has seen our happy audiences leaving the auditorium singing away after watching our latest blockbuster show *HMS Pinafore* by Gilbert & Sullivan.

Congratulations to Director Eric James Summers for putting together an outstanding cast, colourful costumes, realistic set and a wonderful show. Well done and thank you to everyone involved in this show for giving the audiences so much entertainment.

As always the Spotlight Theatre Complex is extremely busy. November 27th sees both theatres being used for performance on the same day. In the Main Theatre we host the Theatre Alliance Launch from 5pm – 7.30pm with special guest Nancy Hayes. This will be a wonderful night as all the theatres get together to showcase their playbills for 2010 to an enthusiastic and appreciative audience.

While all this is happening upstairs our Senior Primary Youth students were getting ready to perform their end of year production *SKEWL DAZE* in the Basement Theatre. What a great show this is and again highlights the amazing talent that we have here at Spotlight. Well done teachers and students it looks like you have had another great year.

Sat 28th November we host the Theatre Alliance Workshop in the Main Theatre where Nancy Hayes will give the audiences an insight into her vast knowledge and experience. These workshops are really worth attending as we all learn so much from them. Thanks to the Alliance for this initiative, it shows what we can do if we all work together.

December still sees us as busy as ever. December 1st is the night of nights where all the stars come out and join in the fun as we celebrate the success of Community Theatre on the Coast. Spotlight has had 6 nominees for various awards and by the time you read this article we will have enjoyed a wonderful night. We will have all the highlights of this Awards night in our January edition.

Our High School Music Class are in their final rehearsal for the end of year show *FAÇADE* in the Main Theatre on the first weekend in December. I had a sneak preview the other day and this show is superb. The talent of these students is outstanding. Come along and support the future of our theatre and see this show. Tickets available on line [www.spotlighttheatre.com.au](http://www.spotlighttheatre.com.au) or phone the box office 5539 4255.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Basement Theatre through **Top Hat Productions** brings you *The Cat The Rat and Me* starring Sheila Bradley. Due to demand there is now two shows to see this wonderful actress Dec 11th at 11 am and Dec 12th at 8pm. Tickets on sale through our Box office or Online.



Our first shows of next year are already in rehearsals. We start off with our traditional children's show in the Basement Theatre on 8th to 16th January. This year the multi talented Kate Tardy has again Written and Directed the show called *Mr. Cellini's Secret*. This is great fun and entertainment for children of all ages and every year these shows sell out, so get in early and book your tickets now. Tickets for these shows make a great Christmas present. Our first show in the Main Theatre is a Kander and Ebb Musical Whodunnit *Curtains* directed by our very own Tony Alcock. This will be the Australian Premiere of this Murder Mystery and again Spotlight Theatre brings you a first. More about this show next month.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the unsung hero's of the Theatre – the Volunteers. There are so many of you to mention and without your commitment and loyalty to Spotlight we would not be able to function so THANK YOU ALL for everything you do for SPOTLIGHT.

I would also like to thank the hard working committee for continuing to go far and beyond the call of duty to make sure that the theatre maintains its high standards and for their support to make my job so much easier.

The COSTUME HIRE SHOP under the management of Donna Cosgrove continues to astound us all with the fantastic growth it shows. Well done and thank you Donna to you and your wonderful staff for the outstanding year you have had.

Finally I would like to thank all our members for the support and patronage over the year and to Wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

So until next year look after yourself and each other. Have a restful and enjoyable festive season.

Best Regards

Duncan





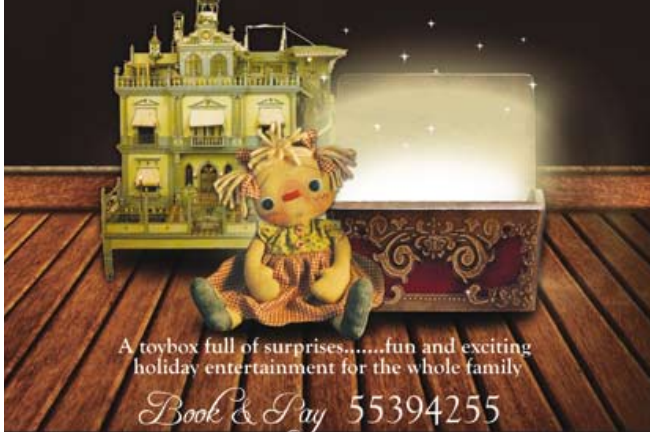
Written & Directed by  
*Kate Jardy*

Co-Directed & Choreographed by  
*Ashley Jardy*

# Mr. Cellini's Secret

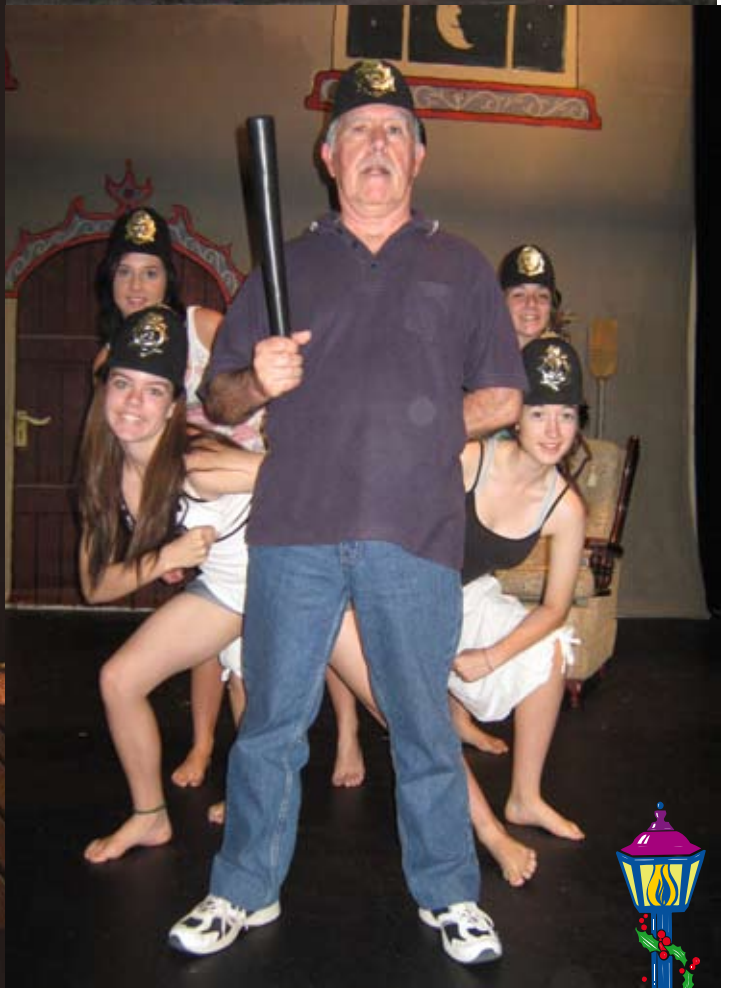
*Session Times*

8th Jan 10am & 2pm \* 9th Jan 10am & 2pm \* 11th 10am 12th 10am & 2pm  
\* 13th 10am & 2pm \* 14th 10am & 2pm \* 15th 10am & 2pm \* 16th 2pm & 6pm



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Rehearsals for *Mr. Cellini's Secret* are humming along ... everyone's putting in a great effort and having a lot of fun with it also. Things will start to get a bit more serious now however because opening day is looming, so with a couple of weeks off for the Christmas period it'll be our turn in the spotlight before we know it. So you better start thinking about booking your tickets now ... would make a great Xmas gift for the grandkids. *Story & Rehearsal Pics Sandy Wilcox*

Australian Premiere of  
KANDER & EBB'S  
*Curtains*

FEBRUARY 12 - MARCH 6, 2010

STRICTLY LIMITED SEASON

DIRECTOR - TONY ALCOCK

M.D - MARIE NICHOLSON

CHOREOGRAPHY - ALANA KETTLE



Most of you will never have seen Kander and Ebb's *CURTAINS*: not surprising as this is the Australian Premiere of the murder mystery musical! Many of you will never have even heard of *CURTAINS*: again not surprising since the murder mystery musical only opened on Broadway in 2006! How exciting to be the very first people in Australia to see this "bright and brassy" murder mystery musical.

By now you will have caught on that this is a murder mystery musical! So not only do you

get to hear the marvellous musical melding of Kander and Ebb (*Cabaret*, *Chicago*, *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, *New York New York*) you also get to work out **WHO DONE IT?**

Based on the original book and concept by Peter Stone, the musical is a send-up of all backstage murder mystery plots. Set in Boston's Colonial Theatre in 1959, the show opens with the murder of the supremely untalented faded film star Jessica Cranshaw (who can't act, can't sing, and can't dance!) And by show I mean "*Robbin' Hood of the Old West*".

Confused? Well you won't be when the curtain comes down on this funny, fast paced fantasy. Police detective Lieutenant Frank Cioffi is there to solve the case, and coincidentally save the show and maybe even find love, without getting killed himself!

The cast is star studded (not a Jessica Cranford amongst them!) and if the first rehearsals are anything to go by, you are in for a real treat. *Musical Director Marie Nicholson* is already delighted with the work of our talented vocalists. *Choreographer Alana Kettle (The Producers, Cats, A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum)* is pleased to have a solid core of dancers to whip into shape, and *Director Tony Alcock* has been seen gleefully rubbing his hands and smiling!!!

**Production and pre-production crew are still required, so whatever your skills, we will welcome all inquiries.**

You will recognise many of your favourite performers from Spotlight Theatre, and also from the professional theatre circuit.

**Matt Hadgraft** is *Lt. Frank Cioffi*, **Gael Ballentyne** is brassy Broadway producer *Carmen Bernstein*, **Marc James** (*Chicago, A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, The Best Little Whore House in Texas*) is English Director *Christopher Belling*, **Martina French** (*The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, Laugh Inn, Draculas Theatre Restaurant*) is songwriter *Georgia Hendricks*, **Stewart Reeve** (*La Cage aux Folles, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, The Wedding Singer, The Producers*) is composer *Aaron Fox* (will he win her back?), **Nathan Skaines** (*The Wedding Singer, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, The Producers, La Cage aux Folles*) is stage manager *Johnny Harmon*, **Karen Oliver** (*Gypsy, Cats, Gold Coast Leading Ladies*) is ingénue chorus girl *Niki Harris*, **Jim Price** (*Hello Dolly, Les Miserables, The Producers*) is manager *Oscar Shapiro*, **Clay English** (*A Chorus Line, Monty Python's Spamalot, The Boy From Oz*) is choreographer and lead dancer *Bobby Pepper* and **Greta Brinsley** (*Hair, The Wedding Singer, Cats*) is chorus girl (and daughter of *Carmen Bambi Bernét*).

The ensemble includes the multi talented *Anna Sofronio, Ashley Tardey, Cara Ellul, Gabe Williams, Isabella Laird, Jay Ahrens, Jessica Papst (Jessica Cranshaw), Jonathon Heeley, Jordan Brinsley, Kynan Francis, Lilli Newman, Lisa Michelle, Lucan Smout, Mark Kelly, Shae Westerveld* and *Stewart Ryan*.

The *CURTAINS* Fan Club (**on Facebook**) will be regularly updated with interesting info about the cast and the show. You are most welcome to join.

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=180520423547&ref=ts>

Rehearsing for the first show of the year is always a challenge, with end of year obligations, holidays, family Christmas commitments and New Year celebrations. Yet the enthusiasm, dedication and professionalism of this cast and production team promise an outstanding start for the 2010 Spotlight Theatre season.

The talented cast :



*Lt. Frank Cioffi* — **Matt Hadgraft**  
*Carmen Bernstein* — **Gael Ballentyne**  
*Georgia Hendricks* — **Martina French**  
*Aaron Fox* — **Stewart Reeve**  
*Bobby Pepper* — **Clay English**

*Niki Harris* — **Karen Oliver**  
*Christopher Belling* — **Marc James**  
*Bambi Bernét* — **Greta Brinsley**  
*Johnny Harmon* — **Nathan Skaines**  
*Oscar Shapiro* — **Jim Price**



**ENSEMBLE**  
**Anna Sofronio**  
**Cara Ellul**  
**Isabella Laird**  
**Jessica Papst**  
**Jordan Brinsley**  
**Lilli Newman**  
**Lucan Smout**  
**Shae Westerveld**

**Ashley Tardy**  
**Gabe Williams**  
**Jay Ahrens**  
**Jonathon Heeley**  
**Kynan Francis**  
**Lisa Brown**  
**Mark Kelly**  
**Stewart Ryan**

STORY & PICS *Brydie Hannabach*



# AUDITIONS

## **PLAY ON! - 17TH DECEMBER - 3pm BASEMENT THEATRE.**

THE FOLLOWING CAST ARE REQUIRED

3 to 7 females and 3 to 6 males:

AGGIE MANVILLE:	stage manager, prompter	about 35
GERALDINE "GERRY" DUNBAR:	community theatre director, pleasant-looking	middle-aged
HENRY BENISH:	"Lord Dudley" a character actor	mid 50's
POLLY BENISH	"Lady Margaret" a character actor	mid 50's
MARIA "SMITTY" SMITH:	"Doris the maid" supporting player	about 45
SAUL WATSON:	"Doctor Rex Forbes" a villain	about 35
BILLY CAREWE:	"Stephen Sellers" a juvenile	about 25
VIOLET IMBRY:	"Diana Lassiter" an Ingenue	about 22
LOUISE PEARY:	sound, lighting and scenic technician	about 35
PHYLLIS MONTAGUE:	a novice playwright in the community	between 42-57

**Directed by JIM DICKSON,**

## **Play On!**

**runs from APRIL 16 – MAY 1.**

A theatre group tries desperately to put on the play "Murder Most Foul", amid all kinds of maddening interference from its authoress, Phyllis, who keeps revising the script until almost opening night, and during the actual performance, anything that can go wrong does. At the curtain call Phyllis decides to give a speech on the state of the modern theatre and what befalls her is the madcap climax to this hilarious romp.

All of us remember our beginnings in Community Theatre. The missed lines, cues, entrances and non performing effects. They're all in *PLAY ON!* This is not quite Course Acting but it's close.

The age range listed is as preferred by the author. Casting may be dictated by who turns up and physicality. If there is a drought of female actors, some characters may be played by actors of the male persuasion.

The Hilarious Comedy  
WRITTEN BY  
RICK ABBOT  
DIRECTOR  
Jim Dickson

598495  
**Play On!**  
598495

APRIL 16, 17, 22, 23, 24, 28, 29, 30 &  
MAY 1 - 7.30PM  
MATINEE APRIL 18 - 2.00PM  
BASEMENT THEATRE

BOOK & PAY ONLINE  
**5539 4255**  
Online: [www.spotlighttheatre.com.au](http://www.spotlighttheatre.com.au)  
"By Special Arrangement with Dominic Pty Ltd"

Spotlight Theatre is a foundation Member of the Gold Coast Theatre Alliance.

**Further information**

**email: [auditions@spotlighttheatre.com.au](mailto:auditions@spotlighttheatre.com.au)**

**or phone 5539 4255**





After a very successful year, with critical and commercial success, Spotlight forges ahead with another powerhouse season in 2010

First up is *Mr. Cellini's Secret*, in the Basement Theatre. This is another show brought to you by the fertile mind of Kate Tardy. Opening on January 8th, this show is continuing a long tradition. Co-Directing and Choreographing again is Ashley Tardy. The Tardy team that brought us *Monsters Ball*, will no doubt present another entertaining adventure. All-singing, all-dancing musical dolls band together in an effort to outwit their creator, the evil Mr. Cellini, who has been using them to acquire his ill-gotten gains. The dolls create havoc in an effort to bring him to justice with a crazy romp through the real world where his creations come to life – with hilarious results

Next will be the Australian Premiere of *Curtains*, directed by Tony Alcock along with MD Marie Nicholson, the team that gave us *The 25th Annual Putnam Country Spelling Bee*. Opening February 12th in the Main Theatre, this is the last show to come from the famous partnership of Kander and Ebb (who wrote such classics as *Chicago* and *Cabaret*). This musical is a send-up of backstage murder mystery plots, set in 1959 Boston, Massachusetts and follows the fallout when the supremely untalented star of *Robbin' Hood of the Old West* is murdered during her opening night curtain call. Can a police detective who moonlights as a musical theatre fan save the show, solve the case, and maybe even find love before the show reopens, without getting killed himself? *Curtains* will open in February.

The third production for the year is *Play On* opening in the Basement Theatre in April. Directed by Jim Dickson, this production centres on a theatre group trying to put on a play, amid all kinds of interference from the Author. Anything that can go wrong does. Everyone who has ever been a part of community theatre will recognised the trials and tribulations, the missed lines, cues ... its all in *Play On!!*

May will see the Main Theatre open its doors

to a creature from out of space. The classic *Little Shop of Horrors*, directed by Priscilla Scott. *Little Shop of Horrors* is a rock musical by composer Alan Menken and writer Howard Ashman, about a hapless florist shop worker who raises a plant that feeds on human blood. The musical is based on the low-budget 1960 black comedy film *The Little Shop of Horrors*. From the same team that brought you *The Wedding Singer*, the show will no doubt be a favourite of young and old. A classic piece of musical theatre.

Spotlight's next Production will be *The Boy from Oz*, directed by Rhylee Nowell who brought you *Monty Python's Spamalot*. This famous Australian musical telling the life of Peter Allen, through his songs, will open in the Main Theatre in July. With such classics as *I Go to Rio*, *I Honestly Love You*, *The Boy Next Door*, *When Everything Old is New Again*, and of course with just a touch of sequins and glitter, this show is sure to bring back memories and have you singing along in no time.

To finish off the year, another musical classic, *Crazy For You*. From Director Doug Gehrke and the team that brought you *Chorus Line* and *Kiss Me, Kate*, this classic American Musical is an all-singing and all-dancing hot pot crammed with standards like *I Got Rhythm* and *Embraceable You*. This show tells the story of the adventures of a stage-struck playboy in a Nevada mining town – where romance, mistaken identities, and show-stopping musical numbers all add up to irresistible fun.

In the middle of all of this – **Spotlight Entertainers Festival** will also be on, celebrating its 40th Anniversary!!!!

Once again The Spotlight Theatrical Company has shown why it is the premiere theatre company on the Gold Coast. The 2010 season has a little something for everyone.

For more information on Spotlight and what is in store for 2010 or perhaps you want to get in early and book your tickets – you can do all this on the website [www.spotlighttheatre.com.au](http://www.spotlighttheatre.com.au)

*Rhylee Nowell, Spotlight Publicity*

**LOTS OF FUN, GREAT SINGING & ENJOYED IMMENSELY  
BY ALL GILBERT & SULLIVAN OPERETTA LOVERS AND  
OTHERS TOO YOUNG TO KNOW ABOUT G & S.**

The Cast had a ball performing *HMS Pinafore* for appreciative audiences. Congratulations to all involved, Director Eric James Summers, MDs John Rundle and David McNeven, Repetiteur, Maree Nicholson, Cast and Crew. Commiserations to talented Leading Lady (Josephine), Angela Smith who because of illness and hospitalisation found it necessary to step down for several performances near the end of the season. It must have been heartbreaking for her after the months of rehearsal and all the effort she put into the role. However, sincere thanks to Laura Mary Coall from Brisbane who



stepped into the role at a few hours notice, and did a wonderful job of portraying Josephine. Laura graduated from the Queensland Conservatorium, Griffith University in 2004 with a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance. She worked for Opera Queensland creating the title role in Sean O'Boyle's opera, *The Songbird* as well as numerous roles in various musicals and operettas including G&S. She is currently doing a Postgraduate Diploma of Vocal Studies in Classical Voice at QCGU and is the recent winner of the Elizabeth Muir Scholarship for Postgraduate Voice.

*PICS JEFF HUTCHISON  
AND DEBBIE HARRISON*

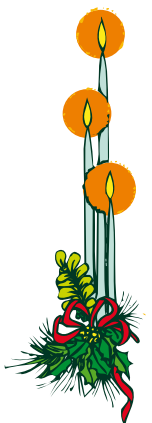




*HMS Pinafore - two leading ladies - Angela Smith (left pic) and Laura Mary Coall (right pic) as Josephine.*

*Costuming of the production was superb  
Left - Buttercup and "ladies" and "all the sisters, cousins and aunts".*

*Laura and Lesley - "Lesley Hampshire was an absolute dream keeping our hair and wigs ship shape - pardon the pun", said Debbie*





# **“THE CAT, THE RAT & ME”**

**Memoirs of a Character Actress...  
Starring  
SHEILA BRADLEY**

*Kismet  
Call Me Madam  
Brigadoon  
Kismet  
Grab Me a Gondola  
Oliver  
The King & I  
Finian’s Rainbow  
Mame  
Canterbury Tales  
Hello, Dolly!  
The Wizard of Oz  
Orpheus in the  
Underworld  
Nunsense 11  
Follies in Concert  
Me and My Girl  
Threepeny Opera  
My Fair Lady  
Blithe Spirit  
Crazy for You  
Jolson The Musical  
The Pirates of  
Penzance  
Dad’s Army  
Waiting in the  
Wings*



*Charlie’s Aunt  
Mistress Money  
And So to Bed  
Cat Among the  
Pigeons  
Signal Driver  
Pack of Lies’  
The Gin Game  
Quartet....*

**One of Australia’s best-loved stars of  
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Theatre Restaurant.....  
at SPOTLIGHT THEATRE,  
Benowa**

**FRIDAY 11th December at 11:00am  
SATURDAY 12th December at 8:00pm  
BOOK NOW ON 5539 4255**

**A fabulous new  
show brimming  
with showbiz  
tales and songs  
from some of the  
biggest shows  
ever staged in  
Australia - sung  
by their leading  
lady!**

**Show written by  
TONY  
SHELDON  
(currently  
starring in  
PRISCILLA -  
The Musical, in  
London’s West  
End**

**DON’T MISS THE AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE  
PERFORMANCES OF THIS BRAND NEW ONE-WOMAN  
SHOW!**



Recent electrical upgrade work was completed thanks to the kind support of the Queensland Government with funding from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund.



The Spotlight Theatrical Company would like to acknowledge the kind support of the Queensland Government with funding from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund for recent electrical upgrades to our theatre.



# GOLD COAST AREA THEATRE AWARDS



## INAUGURAL GOLD COAST THEATRE AWARDS PRESENTATION NIGHT

### The Gold Coast's own "Tony Awards"

The very first Gold Coast Area Theatre Awards (the Gold Palm Awards) will be presented at a Gala Presentation Night on Tuesday 1st December at the Paradise Room of the Gold Coast Arts Centre.

The Awards are an acknowledgement of the contribution made by community theatre companies and schools and colleges to the entertainment scene on the Gold Coast. For the past year a team of judges has attended dozens of shows presented by companies from Ballina to Beenleigh, and the results will be announced on this formal "Tony Award-style" evening.

Everyone associated with the entertainment scene on the Gold Coast is invited to attend - a total of 25 awards will be presented by a collection of A-list showbiz, entertainment and political personalities throughout the Coast, celebrating the very best of musical theatre, drama and comedy offerings from January to December 2009.

Details are available on the website [gcareatheatreawards.com.au](http://gcareatheatreawards.com.au), and bookings are now open through the Gold Coast Arts Centre box office on 5588 4000.

## 2009 NOMINATIONS

(excluding *HMS PINAFORE*, *STEPPING OUT*, *THE FEMALE OF THE SPECIES*, *THE BOY FROM OZ*, *THE LAST FIVE YEARS*

- any nominations for these shows will be added to the website on Monday 23rd November 2009)

### Best Set Design

**THE MONSTERS' BALL - BILL FOXOVER**

(Spotlight Theatrical Company)

ANNIE - PAUL BELSHAM

(The Ballina Players)

RUMOURS - ROBIN QUINLIVAN / PAUL

BELSHAM

(The Ballina Players)

SPAMALOT - DOUG McLEAN, TRACEY & LUKE  
HUTLEY

(Phoenix Ensemble)

RUNNING UP A DRESS - MICHAEL STANTON-  
COOK

(Lindisfarne Anglican Grammar School)

ANNIE - LEONIE ELLIOTT & THE CAST

(The Ballina Players)

SPAMALOT - GLYNIS AUBREY

(Phoenix Ensemble)

### Best Technical Achievement

(including Lighting & Sound)

**THE MONSTERS' BALL - KATE TARDY (Sound),**

**DENNIS FELTON / MARK ALLEN (Lights)**

(Spotlight Theatrical Company)

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING - TOM HOWELL

(Mercury's Wings)

### Best Costumes

**THE MONSTERS' BALL - KATE TARDY / HELEN**

**MADEN (Spotlight Theatrical Company)**

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING - BRYDIE

HANNABACH

(Mercury's Wings)

### The Jock and Beverly McIlwain Special

Encouragement Award

CARMEN TREVINO playing Hero, MUCH

ADO ABOUT NOTHING

(Mercury's Wings)

The Jock and Beverly McIlwain Special Encouragement  
Award

CARMEN TREVINO playing Hero, MUCH ADO  
ABOUT NOTHING  
(Mercury's Wings)

KATIE ROTHERHAM playing The Artful Dodger,  
OLIVER!  
(Gold Coast Production Company)

TIM CARROLL playing Ronnie Winslow, THE  
WINSLOW BOY  
(Javeenbah Theatre Company Inc.)

EMILY MONSMA playing Dinah Lord, HIGH  
SOCIETY  
(Gold Coast Little Theatre)

Magic Moment of Theatre  
(sponsored by Maria Grills in memory of Lucky)

JESS SHEPHERD -THE MONSTER'S BALL  
(Spotlight Theatrical Company)

JAIME WITTINHAM - RUMOURS  
(The Ballina Players)

LACHLAN McGEARY - ANNIE  
(The Ballina Players)

GRANT EBELING - SOUTH PACIFIC  
(Tweed Theatre Company)

Best Actor in a School / Youth Play  
No nominations at this time

Best Actress in a School / Youth Play  
JAE SCHAEFER - RUNNING UP A DRESS  
(Lindisfarne Anglican Grammar School)  
JENNIFER RADFOD playing Jack's Mum -  
FAIRYTALE HIGH  
(St Hilda's School)

Best Actor in a School / Youth Musical  
GREG PIERIS playing Jafar - ALADDIN  
(Tweed Theatre Company)

JANSEN POTGIETER playing Ren MacCormack  
- FOOTLOOSE  
(Benowa State High School)

Best Actress in a School / Youth Musical  
NATASHA LIPSHUS playing Jasmine - ALADDIN  
(Tweed Theatre Company)  
SARAH CLARKE playing Ariel Moore - FOOTLOOSE  
(Benowa State High School)

Best Production of a School / Youth Play  
RUNNING UP A DRESS - Directors Tracey Kriz  
& Jae Schaefer  
(Lindisfarne Anglican Grammar School)

Best Production of a School / Youth Musical  
ALADDIN - Producer CORAL KELLY  
(Tweed Theatre Company)  
FOOTLOOSE - Director FIONA BALLINGER  
(Benowa State High School)

Best Choreographer  
SCOTT HOLLINGSWORTH - SPAMALOT  
(Phoenix Ensemble)  
ANGELA TAYLOR - ALADDIN  
(Tweed Theatre Company)  
KYLIE DIVIAK & ANGELA WEBBER -  
FOOTLOOSE  
(Benowa State High School)  
KIM REYNOLDS - CATS  
(Javeenbah Theatre Company)

Best Actor in a Supporting Role in a Play  
BRIN PRITCHARD playing Leonarto - MUCH ADO  
ABOUT NOTHING  
(Mercury's Wings)  
MAX PHILIPSON playing Young Man - JURY ROOM  
(Gold Coast Little Theatre)  
RICK COLLINGS - ART  
(Byron Bay Theatre Company)

Best Actor in a Supporting Role in a Musical  
SHANNON D' COSTA playing Chuck Cranston -  
FOOTLOOSE  
(Benowa State High School)  
JACOB BARRY playing Rum Tum Tugger - CATS  
(Javeenbah Theatre Company)  
GRANT EBELING playing Luther Billis - SOUTH  
PACIFIC  
(Tweed Theatre Company)  
THIAN SYKES playing Captain Brackett - SOUTH  
PACIFIC  
(Tweed Theatre Company)  
ANDY FAHEY playing Bennie - THE DESERT SONG  
(Neptune Productions)

Best Actress in a Supporting Role in a Play  
CARMEN TREVINO playing Hero - MUCH ADO  
ABOUT NOTHING  
(Mercury's Wings)  
JAIME WHITTINGHAM playing Cookie - RUMOURS  
(The Ballina Players)  
GEORGIA MARTIN playing First Old Woman in The  
Black & White - A PINT OF PINTER  
(Drill Hall Theatre Co.)  
JO CASTLE playing Mum - ON OUR SELECTION  
(Phoenix Ensemble)

Best Actress in a Supporting Role in a Musical

JUDE SWEENEY playing Grace Farrell - ANNIE  
(The Ballina Players)  
EMILY MONSMA playing Dinah Lord - HIGH  
SOCIETY  
(Gold Coast Little Theatre)  
DI ENNEW playing Mrs Pearce - MY FAIR LADY  
(The Ballina Players)  
JESSICA KAPITEN playing Vi Moore - FOOTLOOSE  
(Benowa State High School)

Best Musical Director

PAUL BELSHAM - ANNIE  
(The Ballina Players)  
STEWART KELLY - OLIVER!  
(Gold Cast Production Company)  
CASEY CHADWICK & BEN MURRAY - SPAMALOT  
(Phoenix Ensemble)  
MATTHEW ARMSTRONG & JULIANNE  
DEVEREUX - FOOTLOOSE  
(Benowa State High School)

Best Director of a Play

CLAUDINE STEPHEN-SMITH - MUCH ADO  
ABOUT NOTHING  
(Mercury's Wings)  
ROBIN QUINLIVAN - RUMOURS  
(The Ballina Players)  
JENNIE HICKS - A PINT OF PINTER  
(Drill Hall Theatre Co.)  
SANDESH GIBNEY - ART  
(Byron Bay Theatre Company)

Best Director of a Musical or Musical Revue

GEOFF MARSH & PAUL BELSHAM - ANNIE  
(The Ballina Players)  
JULANNE SHEARER - HIGH SOCIETY  
(Gold Coast Little Theatre)  
TONY ALCOCK - THE 25th ANNUAL PUTNAM  
COUNTY SPELLING BEE  
(Spotlight Theatrical Company)  
FIONA BALLINGER - FOOTLOOSE  
(Benowa State High School)

Best Actor in a Leading Role In a Play

JAMES ANDERSON playing Benedick - MUCH ADO  
ABOUT NOTHING  
(Mercury's Wings)  
RUSSELL ELDRIDGE - PIECES OF PINTER  
(Drill Hall Theatre Co.)  
AVIKAL - ART  
(Byron Bay Theatre Company)

MAX PHILIPSON playing Michael Bennett -  
EROGENOUS ZONES  
(Spotlight Theatrical Company)

Best Actress in a Leading Role In a Play

LAUREN BRANT playing Beatrice - MUCH ADO  
ABOUT NOTHING  
(Mercury's Wings)  
BRENDA SHERO playing Woman in Request Stop - A  
PINT OF PINTER  
(Drill Hall Theatre Co.)  
GEORGIA MARTIN playing Mrs B in That's All - A  
PINT OF PINTER  
(Drill Hall Theatre Co.)  
TARA PAGE playing The Actress - JURY ROOM  
(Gold Coast Little Theatre)

Best Actor in a Leading Role In a Musical

PAUL FARRELL playing Oliver Warbucks - ANNIE  
(The Ballina Players)  
MARTIN JENNINGS playing Fagin - OLIVER!  
(Gold Coast Production Company)

RYAN WILSON playing Barfee - THE 25th ANNUAL  
PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE  
(Spotlight Theatrical company)

JIM PRICE playing Oliver Warbucks - ANNIE  
(Neptune Productions)

Best Actress in a Leading Role In a Musical

JACQUI McCALMAN playing Miss Hannigan - ANNIE  
(The Ballina Players)  
NATASHA McKOY playing The Lady of the Lake -  
SPAMALOT  
(Phoenix Ensemble)  
KATIE RUTLEDGE playing Eliza Doolittle - MY FAIR  
LADY  
(The Ballina Players)  
LISA BEAMISH playing Margot Bonvalet - THE  
DESERT SONG  
(Neptune Productions)

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To be announced on Presentation Night

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To be announced on Presentation Night

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**Classes for 2010 will be run at the following times:**

High School Musical: Monday 5.30-7.30pm beginning Jan. 25th, 2010  
Tuesday 5.30-7.30pm beginning Jan. 26th, 2010

High School Drama: Wednesday 4.30-6.00pm beginning Jan. 27th, 2010  
Wednesday 6.00-7.30pm beginning Jan. 27th, 2010

Senior Primary Drama: Saturday 9.00-10.30am beginning Jan. 30th, 2010  
Saturday 10.30-12.00pm beginning Jan. 30th, 2010  
Saturday 12.00-1.30pm beginning Jan. 30th, 2010

Junior Primary Drama: Saturday 1.30-3.00pm beginning Jan. 30th, 2010  
Saturday 3.00-4.30pm beginning Jan. 30th, 2010

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PARKING THAT IS AVAILABLE IN THE AREA. PLEASE COMPLY.**

**PLEASE NOTE: THE 9PM CLOSING TIME IS WAIVED AND IS 11PM  
WHEN THERE ARE PERFORMANCES AT SPOTLIGHT.**

## GOLDEN GIRLS NEWS

The **Golden Girls** gave a special *Remembrance Day* program on November 11 at Mudgeeraba Nursing Home. Many audience members had lost family and friends in wartime and they appreciated the opportunity to recall and honour not only the sacrifice made by their loved ones but also the unknown millions who died or suffered in those wars. On the lighter side the program included “*Rum and Coca Cola*”, “*The Purple People Eater*”, “*Singin’ in the Rain*”, and finished with the full group performing “*In the Navy*”.

The Christmas program proved very successful. Carols and other songs evoked the spirit of Christmas. A variety of costumes in combinations of green, red, and white, some with gold and silver highlights, helped create

a bright and festive air. The Girls sang “*Mary’s Boy Child*” and “*When a Child is Born*”; then sang and danced their way through “*The Little Drummer Boy*”, and “*The Christmas Song*” among other items. The well-known favourites, “*Mr. Santa*”, “*I want a Hippopotamus for Christmas*” (complete with said animal) and “*Six White Boomers*” (without the said animals), brought fun and smiles.

All the **Golden Girls** would like to wish fellow Spotlight members a Christmas season full of happiness that lasts throughout New Year.

The photo shows Margaret de Mestre and Marilyn Hodge performing “*The Purple People Eater*”.

*Photo courtesy of Frank Fisher.*

*Margaret de Mestre Golden Girls Liaison*





## SPOTLIGHT ON — WHY A ...

This is the second in an occasional series of articles which attempt to explain some of the quaint terminology in use in the wonderful world of theatre.

### Why a Bio-box?

In 1861 Coleman Sellers devised the Kinematoscope—a machine that flashed a series of still photographs producing the illusion of motion. About the same time, Thomas Edison patented a similar device; a Kinetoscope. These were forerunners for projected moving images, and thus cinema itself.

Cine, or cinema, is a contraction of the Anglo-French word 'cinematograph' (circa: 1895-1900, meaning moving picture, and attributed to the Lumiere brothers). Today it refers to movies and movie houses, collectively; and the movie industry, generally.

Nickelodeon film producer W.K.L Dickson was a disenchanted colleague of Thomas Edison. In 1895, he left Edison to form his own company. The new American Mutoscope and Biograph Company was established specifically to develop motion picture projection. Thus, it successfully became the fist cab off the rank in movie viewing. (Today, they still trade as 'Biograph'.)

The name Bio-box is a hang-over from the Biograph film projector.

As there were no purpose-built venues at the time, halls and theatres were converted to show films by erecting small (soundproof) rooms, or boxes, to house the noisy projector; thus the name 'Bio-box'. It could have just as easily become Kine-box or Cine-box (after the competitors to the Biograph film projector).

However, since the advent of rock'n'roll shows being produced at theatres, the lighting operators quickly took advantage of being able to clearly view the performance from the Bio-box; instead of doing so from the wings, where they traditionally were. The term 'Bio-box' sort of stuck to designate the control room.

The Bio-box is not suitable for mixing the sound. It is an enclosed environment — shut-off from the audience. For concerts and live theatre, there is no better place for the sound engineer to hear what the audience hears than to be in the auditorium with the audience.

*Russell Williams*

THE SPOTLIGHT THEATRICAL COMPANY  
COMMITTEE MEETING  
Tuesday December 15th 2009, 6:30pm at  
BENOWA TAVERN



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**PLEASE FORWARD ARTICLES/PICs TO**  
**[shirk@qld.chariot.net.au](mailto:shirk@qld.chariot.net.au)**

***Please note: photos need to be in correct format –  
high res jpgs for printing purposes.***

## SPOTLIGHT ON MEMBERS



**G**ael Ballantyne is back on the Coast to head the Acting arm of the new Musical Theatre Course QCPA. She has had a very successful professional career since she left for Sydney 1979. She worked on Cruise ships as a Cabaret Artist, had roles in musicals *La Cage aux Folles*, *Summer Rain* for QTC and original cast of *Mamma Mia*, many TV appearances *Home and Away*, *Neighbours*, *All Saints*, and many straight plays with QTC, La Boite and Belvoir St and Ensemble Theatre where she trained when she first went to Sydney. Of late she has been a Director for Grayboy Entertainment's Cruise Ship Shows, also she was Acting Coach for a new ABC TV series that will be on 2010 called Dance Academy, and has co written with Lorrae Desmond, and directed the award winning *Honey* a play with music for Parramatta Riverside. So she brings a lot of experience to pass onto her new students and is happy to be back working for Spotlight as 'Carmen' in the Australian Premiere production of *Curtains* directed by Tony Alcock.



**Gael together with her wellknown Gold Coast thespian friend Erica Whyte are looking forward to doing some house sitting. So if you are wanting a holiday and need some reliable ladies to care for your property, these are the girls to contact.**

**PHONE GAEL on 0404 838 630.**

**C**ongratulations to **Jono Heeley** who has been selected as a full-time student at the Raw Dancing Academy in Brisbane. Jono besides doing his Certificate IV Live Production Theatre and Events GCIT this year and spending endless hours helping at our Spotlight theatre complex has also been having a very successful year with his dancing, winning many prizes at eisteddfods both on the Coast and in Brisbane. He too is appearing in Spotlight's Australian Premiere production of *Curtains*.



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and  
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Hope all our "sickies" are  
on the mend.

Deborah & Elijah Crawford. Chris King.  
Andrea, John, Ethan & Azaria Barr-Hamilton.  
Drew, Spencer, & Chandler Davies.

**TOTAL MEMBERSHIP 917**

Our Youth Theatre Senior Primary production  
of *Skewl Daze* will be over by the time this goes  
to print. Thank you Peter for this production.  
Ashley and Kate are working hard on the High

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

School Music Theatre production of *Façade*  
opening on Thursday 3rd and running Friday  
4th & Saturday 5th December at 7.30 pm so  
please come along and support the wonder-  
ful talent we have in our Youth Theatre .Our  
thanks must go to Peter & Ashley for their  
wonderful tuition.

Please notify us of changes to your postal or  
email addresses as we need to keep our records  
updated.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all  
Members.

Cheers

Lea

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## Alliance News on the Radio

About 3.15pm on

Thursdays "*Talking community  
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91.7 ABC  
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## GOLD COAST THEATRE ALLIANCE

For an update on all current and scheduled plays and shows by Gold Coast and Tweed Shire member theatre groups visit the website: <http://www.goldcoasttheatre.com.au>  
Webmasters Wal and Annie Lotocki invite you to advertise community performance events by contacting Annie Lotocki, Theatre Alliance Secretary at: [lotocki@ozemail.com.au](mailto:lotocki@ozemail.com.au)

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