

Official Newsletter
of
THE SPOTLIGHT THEATRICAL COMPANY



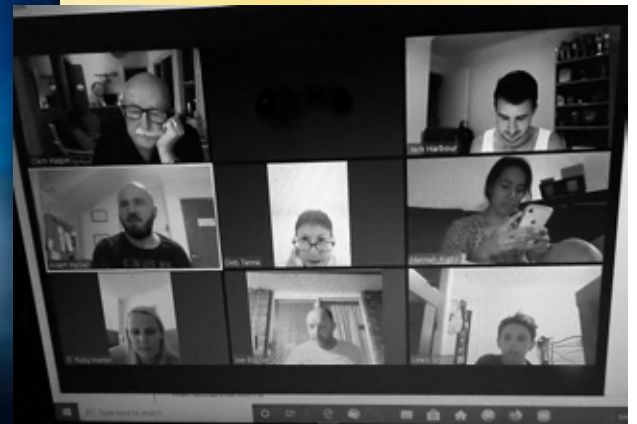
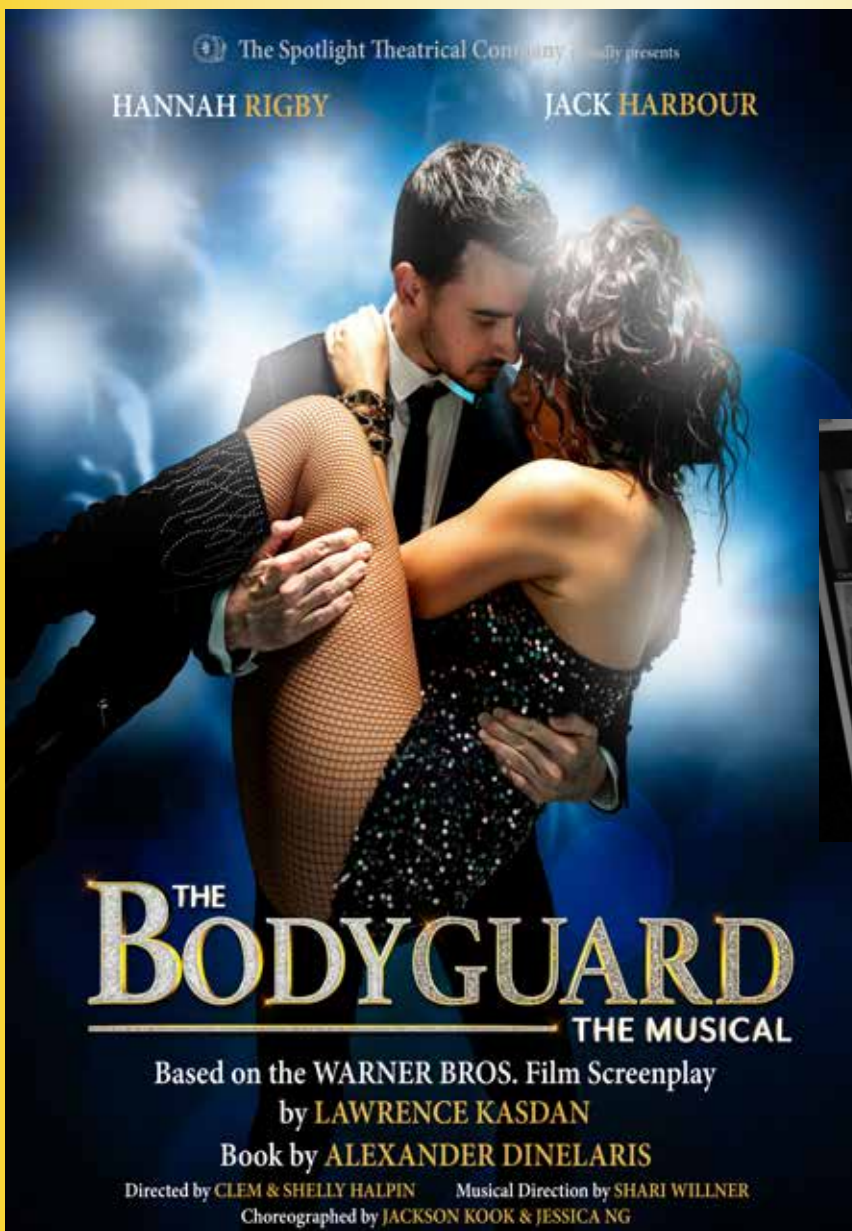
Fostering an outlet for creative youth and community, while seeking to produce vibrant, quality entertainment that enriches, engages and educates.

The SPOTLIGHTER

MAY 2020

THE SHOW must go on ... Virtual Rehearsals

**JULY 31
(we hope!)**



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

**Our Theatre may be in darkness
but we commemorate our Anzacs**



COVID-19 UPDATE – 20 April

The Health and Safety of all staff, cast, crew, members, Life members, patrons, volunteers and visitors remains paramount to the decisions announced previously regarding the temporary suspension of Spotlight Theatre performances and limited access to Spotlight Costume Hire. In accordance with the Qld Government's Legislative measures currently in force, our arrangements are as follows, subject to daily monitoring:

Both theatres, the Halpin and the Basement, are closed until further notice.

The 2020 Playbill is suspended and subject to revision.

Youth Classes: Youth Theatre Term 2 commenced 20/04/2020 as an online course using Zoom. All Teachers are ready to go!

Costume Hire - PHONE ORDERS & DELIVERY ONLY: Mon - Fri 10.30am - 4.30pm (Closed Sat & Sun). See website for details.

Administration remains open on 5539 4255. If you have already purchased a ticket to a show please phone for a full refund or transfer to a show when we open again.

Auditions for "The Psychic 'A Murder Mystery ... of Sorts' " have been provisionally set for June 21 (in anticipation of forthcoming relaxation of Social Distancing rules).

PRESIDENTS REPORT



The Theatre may have been in the dark due to COVID - 19 but the staff has still been working hard.

The **PROPS ROOM** has been completely sorted. The **GREEN ROOM** has been cleaned out. A new wall has been erected to create a **WIG ROOM** and the **SEWING ROOM** has all been colour coordinated and tidied.

There are still lots of areas that will be worked on over the next few weeks and I thank the staff for the enthusiasm they have given to fulfil tasks that they normally wouldn't do.

After discussion with the teachers we have been able to keep the Youth Theatre functioning for term 2 by offering the lessons on line. A Big Thank You to all the teachers for working through this and finding positive solutions to keep our students engaged. Although the restrictions will not allow us to run the Showcases in the scheduled time slots, the end of the year productions should still go ahead.

When we had to make the difficult decision to close the theatre, stop and cancel performances of a show mid-season, postpone a show that was deep into rehearsal and set building and postpone a show that had just held it's auditions we knew we had to have a plan of how to move forward and determine a restart date in line with the changing restrictions imposed upon us all. Every decision impacted so many people so we wanted to make sure that there was a goal for everybody to focus on and keep the work already done on the shows relevant and keep everybody motivated.

OUR GOAL is to open the season of **BODYGUARD** on Friday 31st July. Then run everything as per the calendar with the addition of the Young Adults Production which will be slotted in. This means that the Season for **Beautiful: The Carole King Musical** has been postponed until 2021.

Clem and Shelly Halpin have been very proactive keeping their cast on track and in rehearsal which they have reported on in another page.

Tickets are not available yet as we are currently working on the set up of the theatre to comply with the current restrictions. We MAY have to remove the tables so that we can accommodate as many patrons whilst still abiding by the social distancing requirements. The audience number MAY have to be reduced so that we use every second table. The auditorium MAY have to open early so that we can get everybody seated on time. The foyer MAY only be a walk through and not a place to congregate. There MAY have to be ONE WAY IN and ONE WAY OUT. The Bar area will have to make consideration for social distancing. We have to work out all the logistics before we can sell tickets so that we can continue to keep all volunteers, patrons, cast and crew safe.

We will keep you all informed as the logistics are worked out and restrictions imposed on us are reduced. We ask for your patience as we work through these challenges.

COSTUME HIRE is still open for telephone orders, so as the restrictions are lifted please continue to support your theatre.

So until next month, take care of yourselves and each other and **STAY SAFE.**

Best regards

Duncan Sims,
President of The Spotlight Theatrical Company

 The Spotlight Theatrical Company proudly presents

HANNAH RIGBY

JACK HARBOUR



THE BODYGUARD

THE MUSICAL

Based on the WARNER BROS. Film Screenplay
by LAWRENCE KASDAN

Book by ALEXANDER DINELARIS

Directed by CLEM & SHELLY HALPIN Musical Direction by SHARI WILLNER
Choreographed by JACKSON KOOK & JESSICA NG

POSTPONED UNTIL JULY 31, 2020
(depending on future isolation regulations)

Just an update on how *The Bodyguard* rehearsals are going.

Everything was going really well until the dreaded virus.

After casting 2nd February, I kept saying God has been good to us. Not sure what we have done wrong now.

Government regulations forced our rehearsals to cease 18th March with only two staff members still working at the theatre. Our next rehearsal was going to be running the first act.

After a couple of weeks off, we had our first Zoom rehearsal 6th April and it went surprisingly well considering I'm not technical at all.

After some complications Shelly got us set up as a Zoom host. The cast have been really enthusiastic to keep the dialogue rehearsals going. The vote was, that it was an easier way to keep the dialogue in your memory bank than reading your script everyday.

I think Zoom has brought us together even more with everyone sitting in their own lounge rooms and bedrooms, eating chocolate bars with a glass in their hand. It was like watching a person texting while driving, the eyes sneaking down to the scripts without anyone noticing.

My hope is that we can start rehearsals again by the end of May, which gives us plenty of time for cast, set construction, lighting and costumes. Even mid-June we can scrape it in for opening 31st July.

Shelly and I would like to thank our cast for staying loyal even though we don't have a definite return date.

Regards to all,

Clem and Shelly Halpin

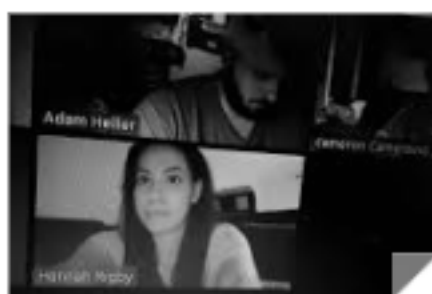
Co-Directors *The Bodyguard*



HOW REHEARSALS LOOK ON ZOOM

Another week – another online rehearsal for *Bodyguard* ticked off the roster. Great to have these resources to draw on, but there's nothing like a real theatre to ground the process, so the cast is mad keen to get back to their 'norm' on the Spotlight stage. Hopefully we'll be getting the go ahead for this soon – in the meantime though, they're giving it in spades on Zoom.

– **Sandy Wilcox (Zoom rehearsal photographer)**





THE SPOTLIGHT THEATRICAL COMPANY PROUDLY PRESENTS

The PSYCHIC

"A Murder Mystery
OF SORTS!"

Winner!
Mystery Writers
Edgar Award
for Best Play

Satisfyingly
Unpredictable

A comedy by Sam Bobrick

Psychic
Readings
\$25

Auditions
21st JUNE 2020

BASEMENT
11 - 27 SEPTEMBER
2020

DIRECTED BY
HELEN MADEN

BOOK & PAY
07 5539 4255
www.spotlighttheatre.com.au

By arrangement with ORIGIN™ Theatrical on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.

AUDITIONS 21ST JUNE, 2020
THE PSYCHIC – A MURDER MYSTERY OF SORTS

A Comedy in two acts – 4M, 2F

The Psychic follows the life of Adam Webster, a down-on-his-luck writer. In desperation to make the rent, Adam puts a sign in his apartment window, "Psychic Readings \$25". The sign soon draws the interest of the lovely and conflicted Laura, her husband Roy, Roy's mistress Rita, Rita's lover-Johnny Bubbles and Ace Detective Norris Coslow. In the surprising twists that follow, Adam gets entangled in an hilarious murder mystery (of sorts). The play's clever twists make for a pleasant diversion from the norm, making it satisfyingly unpredictable. It'll keep you guessing 'til the end!! With its surprise plot twists and all-around laughability, Stage Scene LA describes it as one of the best original comedies they've seen. Winner of the 2011 Mystery Writers of America 'Edgar Allan Poe Award' for Best Play.

Notes about the play

- **The Psychic** is set in a New York basement apartment in the present time.
- Convincing New York/American accents required
- Adam Webster is a large, fun role, requiring his presence in every scene
- Laura is second lead – appearing in Act 1: Sc 1, 4 & 5 + All scenes in Act II
- Other roles each have their own scene with Adam in Act 1
- Detective Coslow appears at the end of Act 1 and is on and off throughout Act II
- Johnny features more in Act II, while Rita and Roy return for the final scene.

**For more information please visit spotlighttheatre.com.au
Or email spotlight.psychic@gmail.com**

CAST LIST

Adam Webster: A mystery writer in his early 30's

Adam is a down-on-his-luck writer, who puts a sign in his window hoping to make a fast buck telling fortunes. He lives in a poorly but quirky, furnished basement apartment. He's trying to write a best seller, but first, he needs to find the perfect plot for a murder and is open to any ideas.

Laura Benson: An attractive woman in her early 30's

Lovely Laura, conflicted, attractive, smartly dressed, sweet and savvy.

Roy Benson: Laura's husband – mid 30's

Good looking guy in a slimy way. Wears a suit and loosened tie. Roy's not a very nice guy! What sorta guy plans to kill his wife?? Of course, it's all hypothetical.....isn't it ???

Rita Malone: Roy's very sexy girlfriend in her 20's

Bombshell Rita is a stereotypical American broad, wearing a killer, tight fitting dress.

Johnny Bubbles: A gangster type, late 30's

Johnny is your stereotypical 1940's gangster, complete with suit, hat and gun. Although he looks tough, there's something very likeable about him.

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Detective Norris Coslow: NYPD – late 40's

Detective Norris is well dressed and well read, (he prefers a Jane Austen to suspense and excitement any day). He could have an interesting/quirky personality. He's not your crumpled NYPD Detective! In the script, he refers to the fact that he gets a lot of compliments because he's not afraid to get in touch with his feminine side!

REQUEST FROM HELEN MADEN OUR FRAMED PROGRAMMES CO-ORDINATOR AND HISTORIC RECORDS KEEPER

Dear Spotlighters,

I need the following programs to complete the entire set of programs since the beginning of time.

- 1962 Brigadoon (1)
- 1965 Black 'n White Spectacular
High Jinks
- 1966 Lilac Time
- 1970 Reviewing the South Pacific
- 1980 Toad of Toad Hall
- 1982 HMS Pinafore
Mame
Kismet
- 1990 Top Gear
The Variety Five
- 1991 Dames at Sea
Tarantara! Tarantara!
- 1992 The New Fabulous Rhythm Boys
A Flea in Her Ear
Somethings Afoot
- 1993 The Odd Couple (The Female Version)
Middle Aged Spread
Happy End
- 1994 I'm Sorry the Bridge is out , You'll have
to Stay the Night
A Funny Thing Happened on the Way
to the Forum

Many thanks,

Helen – email hpmaden2@gmail.com



**CAN YOU HELP?
DO YOU HAVE A COPY OF ANY OF THE
PROGRAMMES LISTED AT THE LEFT OF
THIS PAGE?
Please email hpmaden2@gmail.com**

Ed Note:

Please check out our Facebook page for a wonderful COVID-19 poem written and narrated by Helen Maden. A truly extraordinary and talented lady in so many ways. Spotlight Theatre is so lucky. Thanks Helen.

Jamie Watt is seeking stories, pics, memories etc. to engage our Facebook friends. If you can help please contact Jamie on j_j_watt@hotmail.com

TEACHING FRATERNITY & ADMINISTRATORS:

HANNAH CROWTHER (*Int. Drama & Snr. Music Theatre Teacher*)

MATT PEARSON (*Music Director*)

SHELLEY GRACE (*Head Teacher Senior Drama*)

TAYLOR HOLMES (*Assistant Teacher Senior & Intermediate Drama*)

KIRSTY SLEEMAN (*Head Teacher Junior Drama*)

VAL LEFTWICH (*YT Administrator*)

KAY HAWKER (*YT Accountant*)

Dear Students

As you know, due to the current COVID-19 pandemic we are not able to offer our Term 2 Youth Theatre Classes in their usual way at the Theatre. I do understand how you all feel being unable to freely walk into Spotlight and take your place in the classes which you so look forward to.

Our teachers have decided that you can still learn a lot about the theatre without actually being there, so now with COVID-19 lockdown in place, we have classes that are on line. Many of you have already had a lesson and I really hope that you enjoyed your new experience.

Parents: Matt downloads the information to every parent before the class and we are using the email address that you have given us on your registration form. If there is a problem you need to contact me valleftwich41@gmail.com.

Fees: We can only download if you have paid or contacted me regarding your payment. We do understand that it is difficult right now with some parents not having work. As always we will discuss a plan for you to enable your student to log on and enjoy the virtual classes.

Production Dates: End of year productions list is covered on page 9 and we look forward to that, although it does seem like a long time to wait. Hopefully we will be able to offer class based Showcases, which will enable us to feature more students in each performance. Of course all of this does depend on the time frame that we have, once we are given the go ahead to get back into the theatre.

If any parent is unsure how to log in, then please give me a call. Also if there are any concerns please contact me as I am here to help. Kay and I are in constant touch. If you have a price query Kay will do her best to solve it, or if you need to discuss a payment plan then I am happy to do that.

A big thank you to parents who have placed their trust in our teaching staff and signed up for term 2, not knowing exactly how it will work. Your registration is very much appreciated by Spotlight Theatre and the teaching staff.

Kind regards,

Valerie Leftwich – Administrator Spotlight Youth Theatre

Joel Beskin's 'Theatre Roundup'

is currently **Off Air** due to theatre closures
because of COVID-19 virus.

WATCH THIS SPACE.

SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE SHOW TIMES 2020

Unfortunately, due to current restrictions, we have had to make the difficult decision to cancel our Mid-Year showcase in its current format. We are hoping that later in the year, we will be able to offer smaller, class-based showcases, allowing us to feature more students in each performance.

At this point in time, all of our end of year productions will go ahead as listed below:

CLASS	PERFORMANCE DATE/TIME
Intermediate Drama 9am class	Friday October 16, 7pm, Basement Theatre
Intermediate Drama 10:30am class	Saturday October 17, 7pm, Basement Theatre
Intermediate Drama 12pm class	Sunday October 18, 2pm, Basement Theatre
Senior Drama	Wednesday November 18, 7:30pm Thursday November 19, 7:30pm Halpin Auditorium
Junior Drama 1:30pm class	Friday November 20, 7pm, Basement Theatre
Junior Drama 3pm class	Saturday November 21, 7pm, Basement Theatre
Intermediate Music Theatre	Friday November 27, 7pm Saturday November 28, 7pm Halpin Auditorium
Middle School Music Theatre	Thursday December 3, 7:30pm Friday December 4, 7:30pm Saturday December 5, 2pm Halpin Auditorium
Senior Music Theatre	Thursday December 10, 7:30pm Friday December 11, 7:30pm Saturday December 12, 2pm Halpin Auditorium
Young Adults	Tuesday December 15, 7:30pm Wednesday December 16, 7:30pm Halpin Auditorium



THANK YOU to all our wonderful members, volunteers, patrons and supporters. We miss you and look forward to seeing you when **ISOLATION RESTRICTIONS ARE LIFTED.**

YOUTH THEATRE CLASSES FOR TERM 2.

With the current Covid-19 pandemic, we have had to adapt to the new world of online learning. This will certainly be a very interesting and challenging time for all of us. Please see below amended timetable for this term.

CLASS	TIME	PRICE
Senior Drama 1	Monday 4:30 – 5:30pm	PLEASE CONTACT
Senior Drama 2	Monday 6:00 – 7:00pm	YOUTH THEATRE
Young Adults	Tuesday 1:00 – 4:00pm	ADMINISTRATOR
Senior Music Theatre	Tuesday 5:00 – 8:00pm	VAL LEFTWICH
Middle School Music Theatre (Combined Class)	Wednesday 5:00 – 7:00pm	FOR FEE STRUCTURE FOR TERM 2 - 2020
Intermediate Music Theatre (Combined Class)	Thursday 4:30 – 5:30pm	CLASSES CONDUCTED ONLINE THROUGH ZOOM.
Intermediate Drama 1	Saturday 9:00 – 10:00am	ADMIN: valleftwich41@gmail.com
Intermediate Drama 2	Saturday 10:00 – 11:00am	PLEASE ADVISE MATT
Intermediate Drama 3	Saturday 11:00 – 12:00pm	IF YOU HAVE ISSUES
Junior Drama 1	Saturday 1:30 – 2:30pm	CONNECTING THROUGH
Junior Drama 2	Saturday 2:30 – 3:30pm	ZOOM AND HE OR YOUR TEACHER WILL BE ABLE TO HELP.
Combined Intermediate Music Theatre & Drama	Thursday & Saturday	Snr YT Teacher MATT: spotlight.teachers@outlook.com
Combined Middle School Music Theatre & Senior Drama	Monday & Wednesday	
Combined Senior Music Theatre & Drama	Monday & Tuesday	

Miss Hannah, Miss Shelley, Miss Kirsty, Miss Taylor and myself have been busy working out how best to run classes for this term. In some cases, we will be able to do activities that we don't have the ability to do in our normal classes. We appreciate everyone's patience as we adapt to our current circumstances.

All of us look forward to seeing you in person as soon as physically possible. Until then, stay safe, and we'll have a heap of theatrical fun on Zoom!

Matt Pearson

Senior Youth Theatre Teacher

PLAYBILL SUBMISSIONS REQUIRED FOR 2021

Directors please present your submissions for

MUSICALS, PANTOMIMES and PLAYS

or other exciting suggestions

outlining your ideas for presentation during 2021.

The Halpin Auditorium

- **Musicals**

Mid February/March

Latter part of May/June

Late July/August

Late October/November

Basement Theatre

- **Pantos/Plays etc.**

Early January

Early April

Late June/July

Mid September/October

Submissions close 30th June 2020

Please present to: Production Committee

The Spotlight Theatrical Company

185-187 Ashmore Road, Benowa

or mail to: Production Committee

The Spotlight Theatrical Company,

PO Box 8074 Gold Coast Mail Centre Q 9726

CONTACT INFORMATION – SPOTLIGHT COUNCILLORS 2019-2020

President: Duncan Sims e: dunlo@ozemail.com.au

Vice President: Erica Graham e: admin@aquashop.com.au

Secretary: Shirley King e: shirley@spotlighttheatre.com.au

Treasurer: Michelle Edwards e: michelle@spotlighttheatre.com.au

Councillors

Jonathan Allwood e: helibear56@me.com

Leeanne Schultz e: sewroo@bigpond.com

Ross Smith e: rss7@bigpond.com

Jamie Watt e: j_j_watt@hotmail.com

Production Committee

Duncan Sims (Chairperson), Matt Pearson, Jamie Watt, Clay English, Aiden Ossovani, Shari Willner

Theatre Technical Consultant

Michael Sutton

Stage Mechanist/Workshop Supervisor

Butch Bernet

Sound Co-ordinator

Nick Willner

Lighting Co-ordinator

Leonie (LJ) Jones

Library

Matt Pearson

Small Props

TBA

Insurance

Leanne Binns

Insurance matters e: leanne@leaib.com.au

Fire & Security Contacts

Matt Pearson (1) Duncan Sims (2)

Administration Liaison/Group Bookings/Membership Coordinator/ Royalties/Theatre Hire & Usage/Key Dist. & Registration/Gift Coordinator/Volunteer FoH Roster Coordinator/Liaison

Administration W 07 5539 4255

Publicity e: dunlo@ozemail.com.au

Social Media Jamie Watt e: j_j_watt@hotmail.com

Costume Hire Michelle May W 5539 4700

Youth Theatre Teachers e: youth@spotlighttheatre.com.au

Hannah Crowther (Music Theatre Teacher & Head Intermediate Drama Teacher),

Matt Pearson (Music Director),

Shelley Grace (Senior Drama Teacher), Taylor Holmes (Assistant Teacher Senior & Intermediate Drama),

Kirsty Sleeman (Head Junior Drama Teacher)

Youth Theatre Administrator Val Leftwich e: valleftwich41@gmail.com

Assistant to Youth Theatre Administrator/Accounts Kay Hawker e: dkhawker@westnet.com.au

Sponsorships Erica Graham e: admin@aquashop.com.au

Bar Manager - Duncan Sims e: dunlo@ozemail.com.au

Co-ordinator for Charity Nights/VIP invitations/Framed Programmes/Life Members Board and Memberships Helen Maden e: hpmaden2@gmail.com

G.C. Theatre Alliance Representative Joel Beskin / Shirley King

Webmaster Michael Thomas e: stc_webmaster@showbizaustralia.com

Programmes Chris Dickinson e: chris@spotlighttheatre.com.au

Spotlighter Editor Shirley King e: shirley@spotlighttheatre.com.au

185-187 Ashmore Road Benowa PO Box 8074 GC Mail Centre Q 9726 P: 07 5539 4700

e: mailbox@spotlighttheatre.com.au youth@spotlighttheatre.com.au

Online Booking: www.spotlighttheatre.com.au or Phone 5539 4255

www.spotlight-costume-hire.com