APRIL: 2007

THE Artful DODGER

1.n. loveable young pickpocket from Lionel Bart's "Oliver!" 2.n. printed handbill full of tidings from the W.M.I.&A.A.. with a closing date for contributions of 17th of every month to Alan Cornell on 9844 4995 or alan@commercialventure.com.au

Farewell Follies for another year. An innovative format this year with a central storyline which I thought worked well, thanks in large part to Keryn Wood's great writing talents. Any feedback through these pages or in person is always very welcome, with plans for next year's show already under way.

Also farewell to Adrian Rice who stepped down from the Theatre Company's presidency at the recent AGM. Of course he'll still be active somewhere in the background there but the energy required to drive the whole thing is substantial and Adrian rest is well deserved. He's been a fabulous leader, as affable as he has been capable, and deserves our warmest praise and sincere appreciation!

Another very special occasion took place on the Sunday after the last show when a big crowd gathered to express their support and love for Dugi Esson as he takes another step in his fight for health. Hysterical sketch re-enactments, a wonderful DVD compilation by Ian Craig, a special Dugi song and priceless reminiscences made for a joyous afternoon. Keep punching Dugi!

And good news for music lovers! The first music night is scheduled for 5 May. See Pat's Music Notes for full details.

DATES TO REMEMBER

8pm 26 April and 2pm 29 April
One Act Play Auditions @ the Hall

8pm 5 May
Music Night @ the Andersons

2pm 6 May
Painters' Bargain Sale @ the Hall

What a thriller!

The start was a scream. Well the whole show was a scream, but the start was of the blood-curdling variety as Jack Stringer (in a rare appearance without a frock) discovered the first murder and the stage was set. Ready and set to go, as the entire cast (collective noun a 'murder'?) of forensic folliers slipped on their rubber gloves and faces for a bit of all-singing almost-dancing "Medical Stuff."

The famous five forensics got down to business, following like blood-hounds wherever Keryn Wood lead them, being tooled around by the not-so-Virtueous Devon Ransford

...continued page 3

Group reports.

Pottery

With term one behind us we are looking forward to an interesting 2nd term with the return of several 'old Girls' and two new potters.iDuring term ome we celebrated two big 6 0's. This term we have a big 4 0. My aren't we all growing old?

I was happy to learn that Faye has returned to good health and Val has completed her treatment and is feeling very well.

Looking forward to a great Term 2.

Marj Beecham 9844 3206

Painting

We had a perfect day painting today over in the Yarra Valley. The reds and golds are just appearing around the old Yarra Glen Hotel - it made a great subject.

The day at the Festival went really well, chatting to old friends, basking in the sun, promoting and selling a few paintings. Four members participated, disappointing others couldn't make it.

Bargain sale day looming - 6th May, 10-4pm. Paintings to be delivered between 9-10am for set up. Hope all members are able to exhibit.

Betty Johnson is not well at the moment, our thoughts are with you Betty.

Pauline Cross 9439 1775 Gill Beddington 98441203

Music

Easter is over. The "Follies" are over. The nights are getting cooler. Time to get the music nights happening again. SO, how about Saturday, 5th May at the Andersons? I've pulled this date out of mid air, without checking its suitability for regular attendees, because I'm dashing this off on the newsletter deadline day. To make sure, please give us a ring on 9844 3442, but all being well, we'll start at 8pm at 98, Bradleys Lane (Right hand side, about 1 km down, parking among the trees). Bring you instrument and/or voice and something to eat or drink for supper. Please bring your friends too. We got off to a good start at the beginning of last year but we need to find more musicians to join in.

For anyone who has never attended one of these nights before, the emphasis is on informality. You can come and listen, but it's not a concert, just people singing and playing to each other – like "Open Mic" without a microphone! So pull out your music, ring up your friends and don't forget to ring us to confirm that you are coming and to double check the date.

Pat Anderson 9844 3442

Theatre

Follies is almost over and reflecting on another year of mayhem, fun and last minute changes we feel we can sit and look back on a successful show. There have been some special contributions.

From Keryn for her Murder script, from the committee for their support, from Liz and the crew backstage and Russell for electrical and wheel work. From Bill and Ken in set building and host of painters too. From other writers – Alan, David, Dugi, Jonathan. From the bio-box personnel all thirty of them – I lost count, from Brian aka BL Sound for recording and compiling the Radio Phone-in, from Jack for MD and Roaxnne and John the players, and of course co-director and chief choreographer Lynne. Thanks too to all the performers for their sterling work and dedication - those late rehearsals were tough at the time but necessary and you did a wonderful job –Thanks.

Special thanks to David Ranson for the Forensic gear.

Looking ahead

26th – 8 pm and 29th April 2 pm at the hall.

We have auditions for the One Act plays. 6 male and 6 female parts going in three plays. Remember when auditioning you are up for 4 performances at Warrandyte 22, 23, 29, 30 June and two more at Festivals in July/early August. The OAPs are a great way to further your acting skills in a shorter play rather than committing to a full length show. The rehearsal period is shorter but still intense of course.

Adrian 9844 1528

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS from the AGM

I wanted to speak about a few things buzzing around in my head. It's traditional and appropriate at this AGM to look back on achievements extending form last year's Follies to this year's show.

We have had the usual group of people involved in staging productions and contributing large amounts of time and energy to brings shows to fruition. We have been joined by a number of new people both on stage and as musicians, welcome additions all: Roxanne on piano, John on bass, RowD- Rowan Dawson-RowE, Rowan Ellery and Louise Phelan, all making debuts during Follies. And Kate and Rebecca who joined us for the production of Honour last September.

We have only managed to produce two shows in the period mentioned and might reflect why we haven't done more.

Following last year's Follies, which were quite late in April we intended staging One Act Plays but though plenty of notice was given, maybe Follies was responsible for using all the creative juices and in the event we only had two auditionees and insufficient hands in the air from potential directors.. In the past our philosophy of utilising OAPs to blood new directors proved useful but maybe we need to move on. Either way we perhaps need to approach directors sooner.

In 06 September Honour was performed. I missed the performance unfortunately but I did read the review. This was a disappointing read and of course did not reflect the time, energy sweat and tears of the actors and directors involved. If we jump to Follies 07 and focus the spotlight more sharply on our achievements we might be tempted to only notice the tributes ringing in our ears and forget that if we had been reviewed on either the first or sixth nights we would have received somewhat negative comments.

Late breaking news. Apparently the reviewer did turn up on the first night but was persuaded to return!! This explains the lack of review in the last Diary but maybe it has spared a few blushes.

We do tend to do a bit of back slapping post Follies and it is great to be able to keep producing this show as well as others. It has been good to have involved so

many people, get so many on stage and also turn a profit that makes us the envy of other small theatre groups. However I wouldn't want us to get carried away with the good tings and ignore those that we should be doing better. In fact things that we must do better if we are to consider ourselves quality community theatre offering value for money and a good night out as opposed to a group of individuals engaged in a somewhat narcissistic hobby.

I am not dissing members, this is not my intention. I fully understand the commitment of all involved and I cannot speak too highly of the contribution of those who consistently dedicate their time to the company: directors, stage managers, crew, bio box wallahs, actors and the committee. This is particularly so for those who live elsewhere other than Warrandyte and travel to rehearse. I won't single out many but Nick Anning's journey form the other side of the Dandeongs has to be mentioned as special. However, I am not ignoring those who come over the hill from Eltham or from down Ringwood way. Late, after a long rehearsal 10km can seem a long way.

Looking ahead we need to aim higher identify ways to improve and achieve greater consistency in our productions.

WTC is seen as a friendly Co, somewhat lacking internal politics, at least this is how it appears to me and this is worth preserving. The reverse of this scenario is that perhaps there is still a little too much that is ad hoc. Though a degree of ad hockity can be positive and enable us to be open to new ideas we need to establish more consistency.

To this end ...

I don't think we should over commit – obviously. 3 productions annually might be the right number but 2 seems too few. 4 might generally be beyond reach but if a committed motivated team with director in tow materilaises then anything is possible.

We need to find and keep new people. This is always a challenge and though we have had success through open auditions the challenge is both keeping them interested and getting people involved in more than just acting. That said the Melbourne "shamateur" scene is full of wannabe pros and it is inevitable that we find people wishing to gain experience on stage but not generally remaining to build the Co.

We need to promote and offer other activities not just full productions. These will include:

Workshops on directing, acting, improvisation, playback, back stage skills and some targeted at young people.

I am resigning as president and from the committee. Not to disappear but to be involved in some of the above (with the committee's blessing of course, I hope.) The committee is busy but we need other members to be involved.

We discussed at our last committee meeting the difficulties in getting the Follies organised more quickly each year and so I shall take on the role of Follies Coordinator; specifically assisting the directors and writers in sketch completion.

To finish. I love being involved in this community via the theatre and with terrific people in the Co. I would love to be able to say that we are really good at what we do and while we have significant moments of goodness there is considerable room for improvement. I'll say a huge thankyou to the committee members – current: Noelene, David, Simone, Raine, Craig, Darren, Lynne and to past committee members with whom I've worked: Jack, Lea, Melanie, Joy & Keryn, for their support and assistance. Another huge thankyou to those who routinely take on the unglamorous roles back stage and in the box, without youse there'd be no shows. To all actors and aspiring actors, lets have a tink about what we need to do to be better at our craft and to all members, let's have a tink about directions, activities and future involvement.

Thanks, Adrian

What a Thriller *(continued)*

while Noelene meddled with Joy and finally made a meal of it to bite the dust like a true snuff-muffin.

Progress was frequently interrupted by flashes of Dugi Essence, laughable larvae, Claire Voyants, talking post-nasal depressives, bony dancers and autopsy turvy.

My personal favourites were David T's Big Shot and those flashy dancers. And standout performances from Nick the Dick and Jan Nance's* Venus de Myob. In fact I actually thought the standard of acting was excellent and probably more even than I can remember. No doubt the co-directors deserve much of the credit for this, as well as the miraculous leap from final rehearsal to first performance. Well, perhaps second performance - we really do fly too close to the flame for comfort.

The new accom-pianist and her base companion were another great acquisition, both for their musical mastery and boundless encouragement.

All in all a thriller of a show - only the criminally insane would not have enjoyed it. And who dunnit? I haven't got a cluedo!

**For this month's competition, send in your suggestion for Jan's new surname. Marriage proposals considered.*

Joy to the World

(by Louise Joy)

Paradoxically

Its cream
to the non logical mind
causation shattered
PARADOXICALLY
consultants who ripped off
are now in charge
de Tocqueville and democracy
in a slave owning republic
Russian human rights receding
with more wealth and less democracy
global warming a growth economics
not to mention prehistoric HWLL
cut off by flood and seeking warmth
imagined by Edward Rutherford
leading us to our paradoxical
prehistoric beginnings
Alain de Botton leading us to the paradoxes of friendship

Paradoxes in Warrandyte abound
we laid down our lives against a supermarket
only to frequent daily
Warrandyte's own alternative community centre.

Guardian Weekly 23-02-2007 p.2 "after the Enron collapse in which professional services were heavily implicated, 2002's SARBANNES-OXLEY Act banned auditors from offering consultancy, but compelled boards to bring in outsiders to do stringent management checks. The paradoxical result is that having failed to prevent (some would say having actively contributed to) the corporate governance crisis, the consultancy elite has been put in charge of monitoring it.

Guardian Weekly Feb 16 – 22, 2007 de Tocqueville and p. 30 Larry Elliott: Untangling the global warming paradox

Guardian Weekly Feb 9-5. 2007 p.11 Russian wealth paradox

Edward Rutherford (1997) SARUM Ballantine published to fund the spire of Salisbury Cathedral prehistoric paradox

Alain de Botton (1997) *How Proust can change your Life* Picador p. 139 *"How are we to respond to the two conflicting projects carried on under the single banner of friendship, a project to secure affection and a project to express ourselves honestly.*

Ironically

IRONICALLY
It's all over the place
IRONICALLY
I've been collecting for months

in Zimbabwe, ironically,
Black Market's biggest customer is
The Government
Ironically, Moses' anger
on behalf of his enslaved relatives
ended him in trouble

Rich in irony
reviews "The Notorious Betti Page"
Irony of poverty in the midst of plenty
mocks Garrison Keilor of TV presenters
Hogarth filled with ambivalence and contradiction
had no irony whatsoever painting
The Archbishop of Canterbury
Irony of teenagers destroyed
they were the least aggressive of their peers.

"boredom with long acquaintance
breeds a sense of knowing too well
the problem may ironically be that we
do not know them well enough"
Well said, but do we need "irony" and "ironically"
putting on a show I suspect

no banal references in
Warrandyte's own "Artful Dodger" to
IRONY or IRONICALLY

Age Saturday March 24, 2007 p.16 Zimbabwe Irony Moses, His Anger and what it cost him Discovery Series RBC

The Weekend Australian March 10-11, 2007 FILM p.22 Review by Evan Williams "The Notorious Betti Page"

Love Me Garrison Keilor (2003) faber & faber p. 194

Guardian Weekly March 2-8 , 2007 p.23 Hogarth no irony

Age 24 March 2007 News 3 teenagers irony

Alain de Botton (1997) How Proust can Change Your Life Picador p.179

Enthusiasm

Irony and paradox my be everywhere
but none more so than
ENTHUSIASM

Misguided enthusiasm
Enthusiastically hailed
Enthusiastic foodie
Spanish artists enthused Tom Roberts

particular enthusiasm
for a close shave in a man
made cleverness count for nothing
in rural churches
enthusiasm is only the half of it
the second most enthusiastic Capitalist Party
cricket enthusiast and Prime Minister
Robert Menzies

An essential ingredient
I conclude
where would we be in Warrandyte without
ENTHUSIASM

Alain de Botton (1997) How Proust Can Change Your Life Picador p. 151,108

In Memoriam Rachel Corrie 1997 – 2003 Women for Palestine P.O. Box 2099 Hawthorn 3122 p. 4

Age March 24, 2007 Good Weekend p.29 Fish Out of Water - Ian Thorpe Interview with Janet Hurley

Age march 24, 2007 A2 p. 14 Southern Lights NGV's Australian Impressionism

Terence Lane reviews CROSSLIGHT from the Uniting Church in Victoria and Tasmania No.164 March 2007 p.4

Rural Ministries: A Glass half full
World Socialist Web Site www.wsws.org. The International Socialist Organisation: a profile of Middle Class

Radicalism by Jerry White 22 December 2006
Age Saturday March 17, 2007 Sport 5

Thanks Evie!

Every month, Evie Eitle folds, labels and posts The Dodger to you. Save her the trouble. Get yours by email, via alan@commercialventure.com.au.