



Under the Spotlight

Arcadians Theatre Group Newsletter

March/April 2014

Greetings to all. The year is moving on incredibly quickly and we have already finished the first production for 2014! *Young Frankenstein* was a resounding success with audiences really cheering on the cast, crew and orchestra. Congratulations to Lisa Thrift, Lauren Thrift and Lindy Sharp on bringing together this production of fun and talent. Lisa had the vision and enthusiasm all those months ago when she submitted *Young Frankenstein* for committee's consideration and she has seen her dream come true – BIG TIME!! *Next To Normal* - another first for Wollongong has started rehearsals and promises to be a powerful show, get in early and book tickets now. Auditions are open for *Phantom of the Opera* see the website for all the details on that one.

Our new committee for 2014 has not changed greatly but here is the list of the board.

President – Liza Allen
Secretary – Patricia Green
Treasurer – Renato Compagnin
Business Manager – No one elected
Box Office Manager – Stephen Barnes
Liaison Officer – Samantha Brown
Publicity Media Officer – No one elected
Marketing Officer – Cilla Aslanidis
Lamplighters Rep – Ken McDougall
ACT Rep – Pauline Darrand
General Committee members – Diana Brown, Neryl East, Jack Dawson and Tony Mahar.
Vice President – Neryl East

As you can see we are still in need of a Business Manager and a Publicity Media Officer. If either of these jobs interest you please speak with someone ASAP and learn what is entailed to help you make your decision. There is always someone happy to help you undertake these roles and we need more and more people to understand the workings of the group.

The Arcadians Children's Theatre team are well into rehearsals for their next production, which is *Gladiators*. While *Young Frank* was playing at the Miner's Lamp, ACT moved their rehearsals to the Uniting Church hall in Corrimal, which is nice, and close and we thank the people at the Uniting Church for their hospitality.

Having just had our AGM for 2014 this is a reminder that 2014 fees are now due and payable. You can forward a cheque to PO Box 1135, Wollongong NSW 2500 for your \$20.00 annual fee or go online and transfer the money to Arcadians Theatre Group BSB 582 067 A/c # 2643 7540 but do make sure you put 141 and your name as a reference so we know who you are!!

As we all know we need to try and get along with our neighbours and there has been a complaint from the people in the house on the corner of Wyndham Street and the Princes Highway about noise from people going back to their cars after rehearsals etc. We would just ask that people be a little sensitive to our neighbours and keep the goodbyes to a lower tone!! Projection is just for the stage!!

We are excited to announce that we have a marketing team of UOW students working on *Phantom of the Opera*! This could not be possible without the fabulous Neryl East agreeing to manage and mentor these students – but what a great opportunity for all of us. They have some great ideas and we're very excited about it! A huge Thank you to Neryl and her students, it's going to be a wild ride.

Celebrations for our 50th Anniversary are well under way.

When: Saturday 30th August 2014

Where: Illawarra Master Builders

Time: 6pm till Midnight

Cost: \$40.00 pp for a 3 course meal (drinks not incl)

Why: Catch up with old friends, be proud and have fun!

We will have a recovery BBQ at the theatre the next day – this will be a BYO everything event.

We'll light the BBQ and catch up some more. Any time from 11.00am

Please spread the word to those who might be interested.

We would also love your pictures – if you would like to see your pics included then please get them to us in jpeg format either on a cd, usb or link to a dropbox folder. Email will be difficult as some files will be big.

You can buy your tickets online at our website: <http://www.arcadians.org.au>

Next to Normal is a contemporary musical about the suburban family in crisis. Wife & mother Diana Goodman struggles with her bipolar disorder and identity, as she desperately tries to keep her family together.

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize for drama and three 2010 Tony Awards, *Next to Normal's* provocative lyrics and electrifying score is heartbreaking in one breath and uplifting the next. Bold, beautiful & unforgivingly honest, this production is not to be missed.

We have started rehearsals with an incredibly talented cast that brings together a delightful mix of members and first time Arcadian performers.

Next To Normal will play for two weekends only - 6 performances. It is a powerful journey that will leave you needing to see it again!

Cast:

Bridget Keating – Diana Goodman

Pontus Aleryd – Dan Goodman

Kyle Nozza – Gabe Goodman

Stephanie Rodrigues – Natalie

Temujin Tera – Henry

Johnny Acosta – Dr Madden (psychologist)

Production Team:

Director – Kenney Ogilvie

Musical Directors: Vocal – Jess Soden – Music – Riley Gillen

Producers: Liza Allen, Samantha Brown & Diana Brown

The Arcadians Children's Theatre (ACT) has been a big part of The Arcadians and as we said in our last newsletter Geoff Markham is retiring as resident Director for ACT. This will leave a huge gap for the group. We are still seeking expressions of interest in taking on this role. Please contact Liza president@arcadians.org.au if you would like to discuss this position.

We will continue with our concerts series in 2014. For those people that mentioned they'd like to be included in the list of performers, please send me your contact details so I can update our list president@arcadians.org.au remember to include both phone and email contact.

Our AGM was held recently with really, a fairly poor attendance and President Liza Allen spoke of the difficulties facing the group now and in the months and years to come. Here is an extract from her Annual Report which is definitely food for thought.

2013 was an interesting and challenging year for The Arcadians with declines in both ticket sales and member participation. Performers and musicians, rehearsal pianists and in particular Musical Directors were hard to come by, as were Technical people – and this pattern is continuing into 2014. We expect this has to do with the increase in theatre activity in the local area, show selection and the full and busy lives of people in general which is reflected by the new transient nature of our membership. The challenge for the 2014 committee will be to address these issues and plan a strategy for Arcadians to survive another 50 years. The challenge for the membership is to decide what they want Arcadians to mean to the community for the next 50 years and rally to ensure that happens. It cannot be done alone and it cannot just be left to committee. We remain the only Theatre Group to own a theatre space and with that comes strong financial implications – there is a cost to the group whether the space is active or inactive, so with our declining revenue some shifts in our priorities will have to occur, for example we have increased ticket prices and costume hire.

Another result of lack of participation has meant that a lot of our committee member's time was spent this year trying to make sure shows found production team members etc. This took up a considerable amount of time on top of those members having to fulfil their 'committee' responsibilities. This certainly is not a sustainable practice and we would recommend the 2014 committee to seek alternative options.

It will be interesting to see if there is a changing of the guard and how we go getting a full committee for 2014 – the Treasurer has indicated he is prepared to stand for one more year only and there are several other committee members, myself included that have also indicated they will not accept nominations after 2014. If the group struggles to get a committee then I think the membership is saying quite loudly and clearly that there is no interest in ensuring the survival of this great group. It cannot and will not survive without active participation. It would be sad to think that in our 50th Anniversary year we were unable to fill every position on committee and more importantly fill it with young enthusiastic Arcadians.

As president I would like to thank the outgoing committee for their dedication and willingness to do what has to be done to ensure the group meets all its obligations. We have had some wonderful and stressful times and it truly is a team effort that keeps us going. I wish the incoming committee of 2014, our 50th year all the very best and I hope creatively it's very successful and I hope the community spirit is embraced.

Arcadians beyond 2014:

Planning for the future.....

What role will you be playing?

Committee will be calling a special general meeting in June to this discuss further.

Treasurer in training

Is this you? We will be without a treasurer from 2015 – is there one of our members who is interested in taking on this role? Our current Treasurer is more than happy to meet with anyone who's interested in this role to give an overview of what's involved. Email Renato treasurer@arcadians.org.au to find out more.

Arcadians Children's
Theatre
presents
Produced with permission from
Maverick Musicals




GLADIATORS!

by Jo Denver and Owen Grey

May 2 – 4 2014

Fri & Sat 7.00 pm
Sat & Sun 2.00 pm

Tickets are on sale now contact IPAC via www.arcadians.org.au or www.ipac.org.au or call them directly on 4224 5999



THE ARCADIAN THEATRE GROUP PRESENTS

The PHANTOM of the OPERA

AT THE IPAC - 15TH TO 24TH OF AUGUST, 2014

Life Members:

At our 50th AGM we were very proud and honoured to nominate and accept Steve and Joy Sanders as Life Members of the Arcadians Theatre Group. Steve and Joy's contribution to the group has been one of dedication, hard work and inspiration. Together they have played a pivotal role in making Arcadians what it is today! Congratulations Joy and Steve.

SPECIAL OFFER FOR MOTHER'S DAY

Our friends at Flower Bud in Wollongong have joined forces to offer 10% discount on a bunch of Mother's Day flowers with a *Phantom of the Opera* ticket.

Perfect gift idea for Mother's Day a *Phantom of the Opera* ticket and a lovely bunch of flowers!



A VERY POTTY REQUEST

If you have visited the rear of the Miner's Lamp Theatre in recent months you may have noticed, between the shed and the props room, a colourful wall of succulents. These plants were donated to the Arcadians by Rhoda Boyce in honour of her late son Bryan. The plants were Bryan's pride and joy and lived for many years on the balcony of his unit.

Those magnificent Monday Maintenance Men (as they always do) rose to the challenge and created a tasteful (we think) display of plants around the Yuccas that were already in place. The plants seem to like their location and that combined with the recent wet weather has presented us with a problem. Many of the succulents have outgrown their containers and require to be potted up (that's a gardening term we use) and with this in mind we were wondering if Arcadian Members had any large pots they are no longer using that they would be willing to donate. The pots should be 30cm and upwards, either plastic or other material. The pots can be either full or empty, preferably complete with saucer. Pots can be brought to the Theatre and left on the church side near the gate. If you are unable to deliver the pots to the Theatre pick up can be arranged by phoning Derek Corrin 4261 5128.



For your diary:

Phantom auditions 29, 30Apr 1 May

Gladiators – 2 – 4 May

Next to Normal – 13 Jun – 21 Jun

Phantom of the Opera – 15 Aug – 24 Aug