

Annual Report for 2018 AGM

Shows for 2017:

2017 was a *Wicked* year but it was so much more than that! Our show season consisted of four premieres for the Illawarra, something the group has been committed to achieving. Our first production was *The Drowsy Chaperone* and what a delightful clever production this was and also brought a new Director, Kerrie Hartin and Musical Director Valerie Hull to the Arcadians Family and what a formidable addition these two turned out to be. The show was a fabulous success and set the benchmark for every show to follow. *First Date* was our second production and also featured a new Director, Daniel Stefanovski, Musical Director, David Wassink and Choreographer, Courtney Poulson – a fresh young creative team that delivered a contemporary show with a bit of cheekiness to endear our audiences. August saw *Wicked* come to life under the direction of Malcolm White, Musical Directors – Orchestra Adam Foster and Vocal Meryl Jackson-Kew, Choreographed by Natalie Bazun-Coates assisted by Rebecca Osborne and a production team bigger than Ben Hur itself. *Wicked* was the ultimate in community collaboration with close to 100 volunteers donating their time, expertise and creativity to the show and it was a roaring success with sell out shows and great accolades for the creative team and cast. Special mentions must go the technical team lead by David Greer which ensured that *Wicked* was the spectacular production it was. Then we finished the year with critically acclaimed *Dogfight* directed by Juran Jones, Co-directed and choreographed by Danielle Linegar and Musical Direction by Lisa Baraldi – a fabulous creative team and a stellar cast brought standing ovations to every performance. Congratulations to all of our production teams, you are the reason Arcadians continues to deliver outstanding theatre to the Illawarra.

As always ACT continue to show us that the future for Arcadians is bright with two wonderful sell out productions of Disney shows this year – congratulations to one and all. And to our Lamplighters and Minstrels thank you for continuing to represent the Arcadians to the broader community, we really are one big family.

Our Volunteers:

I realise that every year I wax lyrical about the contribution our volunteers make to Arcadians and this year will be no different. I am overwhelmed at the generosity and willingness of some many wonderful people to put their hands up and say “I can help with that”. From our Marvellous Magnificent Monday Maintenance Men, to our costume room ladies (not gender specific – men are welcome there too!). Our FOH Managers, Pauline Young (Darrand), Geoff Markham and Renato Compagnin and all the volunteers that work FOH, stage crew, hair and make up and all the other areas that I might not have mentioned. You are the spirit and definition of community and we are forever grateful for all that you do.

To committee:

This year has been an interesting one for committee, many challenges and I am proud of our team and the work that we have done together. It is a thankless job sometimes and I want

to publicly acknowledge the great work and achievements of you all. We are a team in every sense of the word and it has been an honour for me to serve with you as President. I hope that 2018 is a brilliant year for the committee and the group.

Highlights:

- Modernising our Social Media presence.
- Changing our online communication using Mailchimp to create more engaging content for our members and audiences, this also provides us with more analytics to see what works for future marketing opportunities.
- Policy and handbook updates.
- Watching our Lamplighters perform in Let All Men Sing was a lovely reminder of the tireless work of Doreen and David Bryars and the great vocal talent of our Lamplighters.
- Actively trying to reduce our carbon footprint with less printed material this has been realised by the purchase of an electronic sign (7 years in the waiting and it's operational for our 2018 season – a big thanks to Steve Sanders and Paul Greer for making that happen).
- The creating of our Next Generation project where our youth members (post ACT but open to everyone) can continue to create and learn about theatre. Keep an eye out for their production in 2018/19.
- Arcadians performing at various Christmas Carols was a lovely way to finish the year.
- Donating to Ryan Park's toy drive for the homeless hub in Wollongong (thanks to Pauline Young and Joy Sanders for the shopping trip) and to the Randwick Children's Hospital via Joy and Steve Sanders Christmas Lights appeal.
- Arcadians was well represented by our *Wicked* cast at 'A Conversation Worth Having' in support of Mental Health Awareness at Sutherland Entertainment Centre sharing the stage with the Southern Sydney Theatre Groups.

Below are the reports from our teams at Arcadians.

The Minstrels have had another successful year of entertaining Wollongong's elderly citizens. It has been very satisfying once again, not only in our singing but in our long time friendships as a group. We have received \$500 from Val and Bruce McDiarmid, IRT Links Seaside residents towards the purchase of new blouses and shirts, and the extra money needed was provided by the Arcadians Board. So 2018 will see us with a new look. We already have many bookings so it seems the Minstrels are as popular as ever in their 27th year.

Doreen Bryars

Costume custodians report:

In the last year the Costume Room resources and the Volunteers have served our theatre by supporting all productions, local schools, other theatre groups, our members and the general public. Eight volunteers assist me every Monday morning. They clean, sort, mend, label and box or hang the costumes. A special thanks to this quiet workforce. Also, every

Saturday there is a hardworking group of ACT parents who dress the children's shows using the Costume Room resources. Also, thanks to Geoff Markham for providing boxes so that the older, much mended ones can be replaced. The Monday Maintenance Men have built new shelves which are used to store boxes of material which are now easily accessible. Thank you for your work. Our costume collection has been used to dress every Arcadians show this year; some using more of our resources than others. Many new items have been made for the shows and added to the collection, building the variety available for the future. Several donations have been added to the collection during this year, coming from far and near: a deceased estate in Sydney, members, and friends. As the new items have been added to the collection, the team have culled any badly soiled or worn items. This is an ongoing task. Many of the Volunteers have assisted backstage for productions providing invaluable support to the actors. The coming year will be devoted to further culling of old worn items, replacing broken boxes, labelling and maintaining this collection.

Nyla Collis, Costume Custodian

ACT REPORT 2017

ACT began 2017 with *THE WIZARD OF OZ YPE*. This is a clever shortened version of this classic musical. The children enjoyed this production and being able to bring such loved characters to life onstage. Great costuming, sets and props by the parents made the whole show come to life.

ACT's second show was *HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL Jr*. The kids really enjoyed being part of this production. A more modern musical than *WIZARD* (with lots of red and white), the children worked very hard on some fantastic choreography and singing. The Graduating ACT kids really brought this one home with lots of great audience feedback.

Once again, ACT was very fortunate to have both shows selling out.

2017 was the end of the Musical Director and Producer's involvement in ACT. Both Robyn O'Dea and Christa Gray brought so much to ACT. Their time and commitment to helping get these shows onstage was appreciated and both these ladies will be missed.

ACT welcomes our new Musical Director Val Hull and Producer Tina Wallace.

In 2018, ACT will bring to the Miner's Lamp Theatre *MULAN Jr* in May and *HAIRSPRAY JR* in September.

Janne-Maree McNeice

ACT Director

The Arcadians Lamplighters Male Choir – 2017

The Lamplighters year was dominated and highlighted by being the hosts and leaders of the management team for the Male Choirs Association of Australia triennial Massed Male Choir Festival. "Let All Men Sing" was performed at the WSEC with 350 Singers supported by the NSW Police Concert Band and The String Family. It was rated by the local audience as a great concert and an MCAA survey voted it as their best massed concert. The Lamplighters thanks

the Arcadians Management team for their support especially Cilla who made sure everything ran as it should as Stage Manager. While preparing for the MCAA Concert, the choir performed for local community groups, many of whom are regular customers with some new ones to spread the word. 2018 will see the Lamplighters performing at least 2 big local concerts, a real special with The String Family in September, and probably June with a top local Band. The current 55 Lamplighters have an average age of 76 but 2 recent newbies are 50's babies!

Dave Bryars

Arcadians Monday Maintenance Team

2017 has been a very full year for the Monday Maintenance Team. While there is a regular core the team has swelled to 11 at times so much has been achieved. Major accomplishments have been the expansion of the wood/paint shed, additional shelving in the costume room, installation of a vanity unit and painting of cast dressing rooms, connection of hot /cold water to dressing room, constructing safety barriers to dressing room stairs, commenced repaint of the theatre interior, install of decorative panels to northern boundary fence, two team members have been trained and accredited to test and tag our electrical equipment, additional power and lighting has been put in the shed and emergency exit signage increased at the back of the theatre with sensor activated lights for cast using the stairs.

The team have also actively assisted with set and prop making for productions throughout the year. Who will forget the bi-plane from Drowsy!! All in all a very busy year with thanks to the team.

Paul Greer

Grants:

We have been successful in gaining grants via the Federal Volunteer Grant Program with \$4468 which is used to purchase additional construction items such as a compressor, High Pressure washer and storage/ladders.

The State Government Community Building Partnership program(CBPP) allocated \$15000 for our request to upgrade our lighting control desk, add more dimmer capacity and commence the upgrade of lighting fixtures to energy efficient lights replacing our 1970's vintage lamps. The Committee has supplemented the grant to achieve the desired outcomes.

An application for Clubs Grant Category 3 Regional Infrastructure Arts and Culture Grant has been applied for \$87951 this will expand the CBPP outcomes and include audio upgrades as well.

Paul Greer