

Official Newsletter of the
**SPOTLIGHT
THEATRICAL
COMPANY**



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Online Booking: www.spotlighttheatre.com.au
or Phone 5539 4255
www.spotlight-costume-hire.com

SPOTLIGHTCHIEF

**THE WEDDING
SINGER
FEB 13 - MAR 14**

**39th Annual
Entertainers Festival
28 Mar – 5 April**

**SHUT YOUR EYES AND
THINK OF ENGLAND
17 APR – 2 MAY**

**HALF-YEARLY
GENERAL
MEETING
16TH MARCH
2009**

February 2009

SPOTLIGHT COUNCILLORS 2008/9

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'a loving, laughing look at the '80s'

QLD PREMIERE

RIGHT: Julia (Kirby Lunn), and Robbie Hart (Marc Lyster)

BELOW: Greta Brinsley (Holly) with Kirby (Julia) and Jacqueline Albrecht (Angie, Julia's mother)



Based around the all time favourite movie, *The Wedding Singer*, this musical is sure to be a hit, and we want YOU to come and see it.

It's 1985 and rock star wannabe Robbie Hart is New Jersey's favourite wedding singer. He's the life of the party - until his own fiancée leaves him at the altar! Shot through the heart, Robbie makes every wedding as disastrous as his own.

Enter Julia, a winsome waitress who wins his affection. Only trouble is, Julia is about to be married to a Wall Street shark, and unless Robbie can pull off the performance of the decade, the girl of his dreams will be gone forever.

With a brand-new score that plays loving homage to the pop songs of the 1980's, *The Wedding Singer*



Bonny Hunter, (Linda), Kimberley Jane Nelson (Dancer) and Greta Brinsley (Holly) model some of the 80s dresses.

takes us back to a time when hair was big, greed was good, collars were up, and a wedding singer just might be the coolest guy in the room.

Director Priscilla Scott, **Musical Director** Stewart Kelly and **Choreographer** Bec Stanley bring this show to life with its string of pop classic styles, great songs and choreography, live band, delightfully tacky costuming and a feel-good storyline. It seems a natural progression for romantic comedy *The Wedding Singer* to make the leap into stage musical territory. The world fell in love with the film when it hit screens in 1998, and since its 2006 Broadway debut audiences have re-lived the music, the magic and the mullets time after time.

Although this is a new show, it is filled with some wonderful and well-known Spotlight talent.

Starring Marc Lyster as Robbie, who was last seen on the Spotlight stage as Mark Cohen in *Rent*, and Spotlight regular leading lady, Kirby Lunn as Julia, well known from her performances in *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *SHOUT!* and *Rent*.

You will also get to see our own Grande Dame of the stage Shirley King, like you have never seen her before, and just recently joining the cast is Stewart Reeve who wowed audiences as Leo Bloom in *The Producers* and Jacob the Butler/Maid in *La Cage aux Folles*.

So with a little something for everyone, be sure not to miss this step back in time.

To be part of the fun, get tickets early, as audiences will be packing out the theatre like A Flock of Seagulls.

Rhylee Nowell – Spotlight Publicity



Tom Howell (Set Construction) and Sebastian Petrat (Stage Manager) test the car after they man handled it into the theatre

**CHOOSE YOUR SEAT AND PAY ONLINE - www.spotlighttheatre.com.au
or PHONE 5539 4255**



Director of *The Wedding Singer*, Cilla Scott has worked as a drama teacher on the Gold Coast for the past ten years and is currently Head of Arts at St Andrews Lutheran College. She has also worked as a sessional tutor in the Theatre Department at Griffith University.

Cilla's directorial credits include: *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Still Standing* (Spotlight), *The Year Nick McGowan Came to Stay* (Javeenbah), *High School Musical*, *Kidsummer Night's Dream*, *Hoods*, *Grease*, *Secret Bridesmaid's Business* (Spotlight), *X-Stacy* (Javeenbah), *Away*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *West Side Story*. She also produced two Rock Eisteddfods – *The Curse of Kathmandu* and *Wild Swans* (both of which won the QLD Competition). Cilla is also a drummer who has performed recently in productions of *La Cage aux Folles* (Spotlight) *Annie Get Your Gun* (GCLT), *West Side Story* and *Rent* (Northshore) *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Cabaret* (Spotlight). She was last seen on stage as Katy in *Brilliant Lies* (Spotlight) and Susy in *Wait Until Dark* (Javeenbah)

Choreographer and Costume Co-ordinator, Bec Stanley has worked with Cilla as choreographer on several productions including *Grease*, *High School Musical*, *Kidsummer Night's Dream* and *Little Shop of Horrors* (where she also starred as the Audrey 2 Puppeteer).

Bec works as Performing Arts Assistant at St Andrews and

teaches dance for Animi Dance School. Her performance credits include *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Les Miserables*, *The Wiz*, and *The Merry Widow* (GCLT).

Bec and Cilla are most proud of the fact that they have managed to flat together, work together and create *The Wedding Singer* ... and still be friends.

Set Design, Set Construction and Stage Mechanics have all been done by Tom Howell.

His first real foray into these areas has been a real learning curve for him on the onstage side of things. Coupled with **Lighting and Sound Design**, this show has taken a significant amount of time to plan and execute.

Tom has been running a Sound and Lighting Company, **Design Tech AV** for two years now, and has also been doing professional productions from live theatre to live television.

He is extremely passionate about community theatre and growing the culture and expanding it more into the public eye. With the Artistic Director, Publicity Officer, Membership Secretary and President of Javeenbah Theatre all involved with this production, it's great to see all the community theatres on the coast banding together and working with each other. He hopes you enjoy *The Wedding Singer* as much as he has enjoyed being part of the team that created it!



Tom (left) Seb Petrat (Stage Manager) and Sam Jones unload the car in preparation for its conversion.



Spotlight Theatrical Company
proudly presents

**'... a loving,
laughing
look at the '80s'**



Music by **Matthew Sklar** Book by **Chad Beguelin** Lyrics by **Chad Beguelin**
and **Tim Herlihy**

Based upon the New Line Cinema film
Written by Tim Herlihy
By arrangement with Hal Leonard Australia Pty Ltd Exclusive agent for
Music Theatre International (NY)

Directed by **Priscilla Scott**
Musical Director **Stewart Kelly**
Choreographer **Bec Stanley**

Main Theatre
Feb 13,14,19,20,21,26,27,28 - 7:30pm
Mar 5,6,7,12,13,14 - 7:30pm
Feb 22 - 2:00pm Mar 1,8 - 2:00pm

BOOK & PAY

5539 4255

Online: www.spotlighttheatre.com.au
185-187 Ashmore Rd, Benowa

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

Queensland PREMIERE

The Wedding Singer
nominated for 16
different awards:

Tony Awards

- **Best Musical**
- **Best Book of a Musical**
- **Best Original Score**
- **Best Actor in a Musical**
- **Best Choreography**

Drama Desk Awards

- **Outstanding Musical**
- **Outstanding Actor in a Musical**
- **Outstanding Featured Actress in a Musical**
- **Outstanding Choreography**
- **Outstanding Lyrics**
- **Outstanding Set Design of a Musical**
- **Outstanding Music**
- **Outstanding Costume Design**

Drama League Award

- **Distinguished Production of a Musical**
- **Two Distinguished Performance Awards**

SPOTLIGHT THEATRE & WHS REQUIREMENTS

Whatever Happened to Common Sense ?

I'm not sure, but it now seems to be called Workplace Health and Safety (WHS)!

Like any other business in the country, Spotlight Theatre has to be compliant with WHS laws. Breach of these laws can result in very heavy fines and the theatre being closed down until the breaches are remedied.

But that's not going to happen to us. Every year we have to undergo a WHS audit, after which we receive an action report on what needs to be attended to and a time frame to do it... and that's what we have been doing. Over the holiday break the floor of the main stage has been sanded back and resealed (Thankyou George and Michael). Achieving this meant completely stripping all the drapery, fixtures and fittings to prevent dust getting in to them. Ever opportunistic, we took advantage of this to 'Test and Tag' the electrical equipment (basically, the electrical equipment is tested to meet electrical compliance and tagged that they do – Thanks Russell). By Law, we are required to do this every 6-12 months.

All the stage drapery has been cleaned (for the first time in 8 years), repaired, rehung (on chain, we are no longer allowed to use rope) and re-fireproofed. This needs to be done every 10 years, the fireproofing on all of the legs and borders expired 5 years ago! Many other repairs and compliance issues have been done and dealt with.

Why are we telling you this?

Well, as members, you need to know what we

are doing on your behalf. Also, it tends to be the sort of thing nobody really notices despite many hours of thankless work.

We are in the process of compiling Spotlight Theatre's Policies and Procedures. This is basically a list of common sense objectives, but it is a requirement of the WHS laws that we have them, So, next time you see a sign go up in the theatre, or get a request to do some training, that seems like it should be common sense- don't scoff, don't criticise, just smile – it is probably a WHS requirement.

Over the next few months we will be having 3 working bees to clean up areas that need attention and maximise our storage areas. This will also give us an opportunity to catalogue our scenery and props, a utility that Directors can refer to for their shows and other groups can hire from this catalogue.

Now, that is common sense!

**The working bees are scheduled for
Sunday 8th March – Store under
Costume Hire.**

**Saturday 18th April – Workshop
Sunday 17th May – Bio Box/ Props
store etc.**

We'd like to see you and would appreciate your help, and company, for a few hours.

Remember, this is your theatre. Don't just sit on your bums and complain, help us make it a safer, cleaner and happier environment for us all.

Cheers

Michael and Tony

ONLINE BOOKINGS NOW AVAILABLE

www.spotlighttheatre.com.au

CHOOSE YOUR SEATS

PRINT YOUR TICKETS

**AUDITION DAY AT
SHUT YOUR EYES
AND THINK OF ENGLAND
HAD EVERYONE “ROLLING IN THE
AISLES” WITH LAUGHTER**

Shut Your Eyes ... is a very funny play and those chasing roles obviously were having a lot of fun with it sending the onlookers into peals of laughter. Everyone chopped and changed their characters according to which role they were reading at the time and the final cast was eventually chosen.

CAST

- Robert Fallon – *Justin Holbrook*
- Amanda-Lee Weatherby – *Stella Richards*
- David Edwards – *Arthur Pullen*
- Gillian Crow – *Valerie Holbrook*
- Terry Callaghan – *Frederick Goudhurst*
- Alexander Gorshenin – *Sheik Marami*
- Janet Thwaites – *Mrs Pullen*
- Jay Ahrens – *Rubinstein*
- TBA – *Dr Cornish*.

Director Dorothy Henderson is setting a date in our theatre’s very busy calendar for the popular **On the Couch with Director and Cast** evening about two weeks prior to opening. Look out for this date in early April.

Pics by Frog Johnson



Synopsis:

When Mr Pullen goes to the office on Saturday to work on the accounts, he is shocked to discover his employer, Sir Justin Holbrook, in the executive flat with a call-girl.


The unexpected arrival of Lady Holbrook leads Sir Justin to pretend the girl is “the second Mrs Pullen”.

....and things get worse! A rich Arab sheik is expected to sign an agreement that is vital to Britain’s interests; alas, Sir Justin suddenly collapses, so Pullen has to impersonate him.

....and worse still! The real Mrs Pullen arrives and various others and the situation degenerates into a heady mixture of mistaken identities.

Eventually, as is usual in all good farces and after a riot of fun, everything works out to everyone’s satisfaction ... almost!


The title of the play presumably stems from the phrase *lie back and think of England*, an expression supposedly used in the United Kingdom during the Victorian Era. Traditionally, it was advice given to a woman – usually from a mother to her daughter about to be married. The phrase became popular some decades before the sexual revolution. The assumption was that women were not expected to view sex as pleasurable; instead, women were to view sex as a duty, performed essentially



Spotlight Theatrical Company
185-187 Ashmore Rd, Benowa

proudly presents

SHUT YOUR EYES & Think of England



Directed by
Dorothy Henderson

Written by John Chapman and Anthony Marriott

Basement Theatre 2009 Season
April 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, 30 - 7.30pm
May 1, 2 - 7.30pm April 19, 26 - 2.00pm

BOOK & PAY
ONLINE: www.spotlighttheatre.com.au
OR PHONE: 5539 4255

By Special Arrangement With Dominie Pty Ltd
Spotlight Theatre is a foundation Member of the Gold Coast Theatre Alliance.

through passive availability. *The duty is to country, to reproduce and make the country stronger* – therefore, sex was a patriotic duty that women should consider before their own happiness.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

What a great start to 2009! We are certainly having a *Ball* at Spotlight. That's right 2009 has had a phenomenal start to the year with the success of our first show of the year *The Monsters Ball* written and directed by the extremely talented Kate Tardy assisted by her equally talented daughter Ashley. This superb family show was watched by full houses every day and we even managed to put on another show to cater for the demand. *Congratulations* and *Well Done* to all the Cast and Crew for such a wonderful show!

Youth Theatre held its **Orientation Day** on Saturday 24th January and the Main Theatre was filled with excited children and parents keen to be part of the Spotlight family. It was pleasing to see so many students return.

The Classes filled fast but I understand there are still a few places left so if you still want to enrol give the office a call but do it NOW. If you were fortunate enough to see the Youth Theatre shows last year you will know that we have some very talented students that are destined for success.

Our teachers again this year will be Peter Morrissey and Ashley Tardy. Spotlight is very lucky to have such talented dedicated teachers to look after our students.

I wish the teachers and students another fabulous learning year and look forward to seeing their shows towards the end of the year. The Main Theatre has had a lot of work done behind the scenes to make it comply with the WH&S audit that we had done, as well as some spring cleaning.

Our first show in the Main theatre is *The Wedding Singer* directed by Priscilla Scott. This is Cilla's first production as Director in the Main theatre after recent successes in our Basement Theatre with *Secret Bridesmaids Business* and *Still Standing*. From the bits I have seen at rehearsals cast and crew have been working well to bring you another superb show. Ticket sales have been strong so I am confident that this show will again be a hit for Spotlight. Dorothy Henderson, director of the next show in the Basement Theatre *Shut Your Eyes and Think of England* held her auditions on 11th January and has assembled an experienced cast.

Online Booking: We have finally got this facility available to you for *The Wedding Singer*. Once everyone learns how it all works this will be a very easy way for you to purchase your tickets. For those of you that do not have computers you can still call the **Booking Office** or call in to **Costume Hire** to purchase your tickets. We are now just offering more options.

A big Thank You must go to our Costume Hire Manager, Donna Cosgrove who has tirelessly worked to get this system up in place as well as doing all her other Duties. Well done Donna you are a wonderful asset for the Company.

That's about it from me for this month. As always I look forward to catching up with you at the theatre so until then, look after yourself and each other.

Regards

Duncan



SPOTLIGHT JOINS TO WORLD OF FACEBOOK

Spotlight theatre has a new page on *Facebook*, so just search for Spotlight Theatre Complex and you will find our page. Keep an eye on this as it will help keep you informed of all the goings on at our Complex. If you have some pics from any shows you have been involved in at Spotlight, why not upload them to the page, so we can all reminisce, and no doubt have a good laugh. This new step into the world of the internet is working in line with our great website. Both are regularly updated so you will never miss a thing.

Rhylee

THE SPOTLIGHT THEATRICAL COMPANY
HALF-YEARLY GENERAL MEETING
7.00 PM - MONDAY,
16TH MARCH 2009



TO BE HELD AT 185-187 ASHMORE ROAD, BENOWA

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of General Meeting held on 17th March 2008
3. Business arising from minutes
4. President's report and overview (to be read)
5. Treasurer's report and overview (to be read)
6. Other reports:
 - Bar (Ken Cooper)
 - Alliance (Joel Beskin)
 - Publicity (Rhylee Nowell)
 - Library & Small Props (Ann Williams)
 - Building Manager/Security (Admin)
 - Theatre Hire & Usage/Key Distribution
& Registration. (Lorraine Sinclair)
 - Fire Warden/Safety/Insurance (Ken Rickard)
 - Membership/Youth Theatre (Lea Vosti)
 - Front Of House (Admin)
 - Production (Tony Alcock)
 - Costume Hire (Donna Cosgrove)
 - "Spotlighter"/Flyers/Programmes (Shirley King)
 - Golden Girls (Pauline Davies)
 - Lighting (Russell Williams)
 - Website (Michael Thomas)
 - Audio (Ian Peters)
 - Entertainers Festival (Christine Harris)

Please Note: These reports will not be read. Copies will be made available at the meeting.

7. Any other business:
8. Date for Annual General Meeting

Karen Sherriff
(Secretary)

PLEASE BRING A SMALL PLATE OF NIBBLIES AND ENJOY A DRINK AND NETWORK AFTER THE MEETING.

AUDITIONS for *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* will be held in the Main Theatre at the Spotlight Theatre Complex, 187 Ashmore Rd Benowa on SUNDAY 15TH FEBRUARY FROM 10AM

There will be an audition workshop in the Basement Theatre, Tuesday 3rd February from 7pm.

This delightful and challenging musical requires a small but uniquely talented adult cast of 9. The adults play the kids as well as the adults, in multiple roles. The show has a high element of improvisation among its ensemble cast.

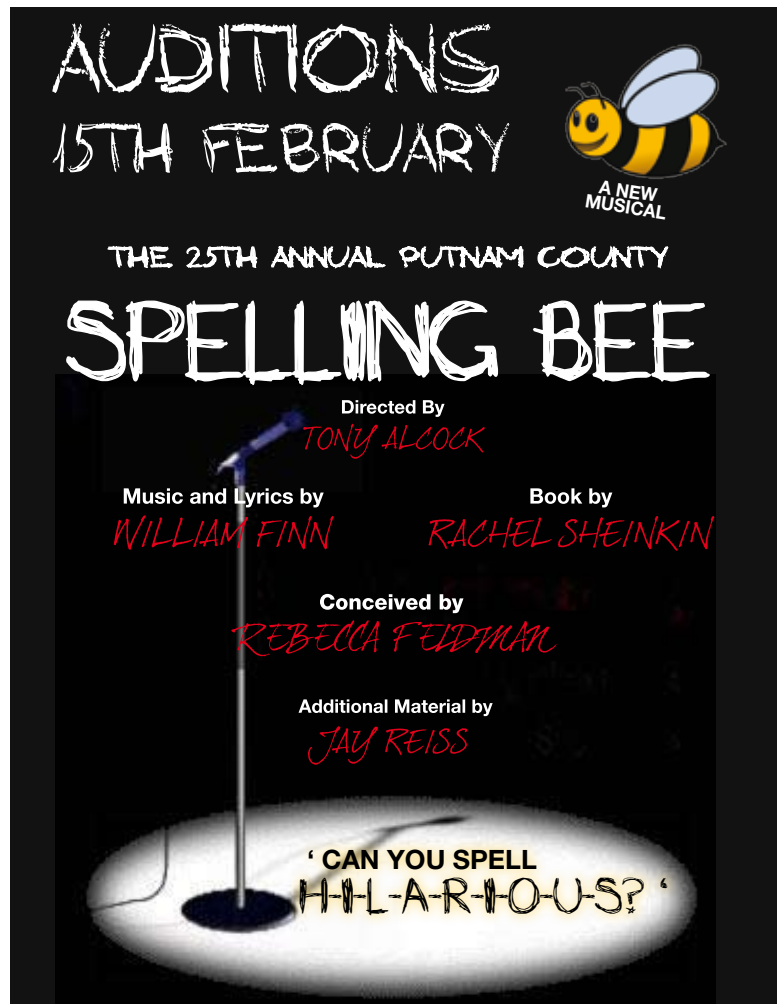
The Director will also be seeking understudies for many of the roles.

Auditions will comprise of vocal and music components as well as improvisation and cold read.

To register for an audition, or for further information, please contact the theatre auditions@spotlighttheatre.com.au or phone 5539 4255.

Characters :

- **Rona Lisa Peretti:** The #1 Realtor in Putnam County, a former Putnam County Spelling Bee Champ and returning moderator. She's a sweet woman who loves children but can be very stern when it comes to dealing with Principal Panch, who has feelings for her that she most likely doesn't return. Ms. Peretti herself won the 3rd spelling bee by spelling syzygy which she recounts at the very beginning of the opening number.
- **Vice Principal Douglas Panch:** After five years' absence from the Bee, Panch returns as judge. There was an "incident" at the 20th annual Bee, but he claims to be in "a better place" now, thanks to a high-fibre diet. He is infatuated with Rona Lisa Peretti, but she does not return his affections.



- **Mitch Mahoney:** The Official Comfort Counsellor. An ex-con, Mitch is performing his community service with the Bee, and hands out juice boxes to losing contestants.
- **Olive Ostrovsky:** A young newcomer to competitive spelling. Her mother is in an ashram in India, and her father is working late, as usual, but he is trying to come at some time during the Bee. She made friends with her dictionary at a very young age, helping her make it to the competition.
- **William Barfée:** A Putnam County Spelling Bee finalist last year, he was eliminated because of an allergic reaction to peanuts. His famous "Magic Foot" method of spelling has boosted him to spelling glory, even though he only has one working nostril and a touchy personality.
- **Logainne Schwartzandgrubenierre:** Logainne is the youngest and most politically aware speller, often making comments about current political figures, with two overbearing gay men as parents. She is a bit of a neat-freak, speaks

Spotlighter February 2009

with a lisp, and will be back next year.

• *Marcy Park*: A recent transfer from Virginia. Marcy placed 9th in last year's nationals. She speaks six languages, is a member of all-American hockey, a championship rugby player, plays Chopin and Mozart on multiple instruments, sleeps only three hours a night, hides in the bathroom cabinet, and is getting very tired of always winning. She is the poster child for the Over-Achieving Asian. She is also not allowed to cry.

• *Leaf Coneybear*: The second runner-up in his district, Leaf gets into the competition on a lark: the winner and first runner-up had to go to the first runner-up's Bar Mitzvah. Leaf comes from a large family of former hippies and makes his

own clothes. He spells words correctly while in a trance. In his song, "I'm Not That Smart", he sings that his family thinks he is "not that smart" but insinuates that he is merely easily distracted.

• *Chip Tolentino* ("Tripp Barrington" in the original workshop, "Isaac 'Chip' Berkowitz" in the Chicago production): A boy scout and champion of the 24th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, he returns to defend his title, but he finds puberty hitting at an inopportune moment.

SEASON

MAIN SPOTLIGHT THEATRE
FROM MAY 15 – JUNE 13 2009

**ALL VOLUNTEERS
– PLEASE READ –**

WEDDING SINGER BBQ AND SPOTLIGHT VOLUNTEERS MEETING

With the new ONLINE BOOKING arrangements, new Work Health and Safety Requirements and new Licencing Laws, it is necessary that all involved with each show (Directors, Cast, Crew and Volunteers are instructed in certain aspects while at the theatre. This is absolutely a MUST for all concerned but to make it more pleasurable, it has been decided to combine with the usual Sunday BBQ.

The BBQ for *The Wedding Singer* will be on Sunday 1/2/09 at 12.30pm. All Spotlight Volunteers for The Wedding Singer and anyone interested in becoming a volunteer MUST ATTEND.

This will be followed by a short talk from President Duncan on requirements by all involved in the show including staff and volunteers, on their part in case of emergencies such as fire etc. and other special instructions for Bar and Front of House.

SPOTLIGHT ADMINISTRATION IS STILL LOOKING FOR INTERESTED PARTIES TO BOOST RANKS IN FRONT OF HOUSE AND BAR DUTIES.

We now have 22 different persons involved in Bar Service for *The Wedding Singer* including our latest recruit Jess Sheppard, (Muffin in *The Monster's Ball*). Jess has done a Bar Course and also has an RSA (responsible serving of alcohol) certificate.

An RSA course is being arranged through Ashmore Tafe in the near future. We hope to have it in place, a date and time very soon – you will be advised. As many as possible are welcome to attend and do this course which runs for 4-1/2 hours. We also plan to run the course from 9.00am on a Sunday morning if possible and have a light luncheon on completion

Ken Cooper – Bar Manager

The Monster's Ball

2009
January 9 – 17
BASEMENT

WAS A HUGE SUCCESS, ARTISTICALLY
AND AT THE BOX OFFICE.

Kate Tardy's January Holiday Entertainment was extremely popular and an additional show had to be put on to cater for the crowds. How gratifying and exciting for Writer/Director Kate and Co-Director/Choreographer Ashley,

as well as the cast and crew who gave so much of their holiday break to work on *The Monster's Ball*. A worthwhile exercise, everyone, both on and off the stage, enjoyed themselves enormously. Congratulations to Kate, Ashley and all those people who were involved!

Pics - Sandy Wilcox





THE
AUDIENCES
LOVED
THE
MONSTER'S
BALL



AUDITION INFORMATION FOR SPOTLIGHT SHOWS 2009

THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE

Directed by Tony Alcock

AUDITIONS will be held in the Main Theatre at the Spotlight Theatre Complex,
187 Ashmore Rd Benowa on

Sunday 15th February from 10am.

There will be an audition workshop in the Basement Theatre,

Tuesday 3rd February from 7pm.

•••

Monty Python's SPAMALOT

Directed by Rhylee Nowell

Audition workshop Monday 23/3/09, 7pm – Main Theatre

AUDITIONS Sunday 05/04/09, 10am – Main Theatre

•••

EROGENOUS ZONES

Directed by Helen and Peter Maden

AUDITIONS Sunday 14/06/09 – Basement Theatre

•••

HMS PINAFORE

Directed by Eric James Summers

AUDITIONS Sunday 26/07/09 Main Theatre

To register for an audition, or for further information, please contact the theatre
email: auditions@spotlighttheatre.com.au or phone 5539 4255

PLAYBILL 2009 – SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Spotlight Theatre prides itself in presenting productions that offer entertainment for everyone and 2009 is no exception.

There is sure to be a show you want to see!!!

For over 50 years, Spotlight Theatre has not only provided great entertainment for audiences, but it has also been a hotpot of creating, developing, nurturing and challenging talent, whether it be directors, choreographers, actors, singers, dancers and technical personnel. Giving them a place to try new things and have a hand in revitalising and bringing to life the classics.

The Productions coming up in the next year prove that Spotlight are doing what they have always done best.

The 2009 calendar of shows gives performers the opportunity to try their hand at never before done pieces as well as having a hand in bringing to life some classics that we all know and love.

Why not try something new ... and Support your Company that has supported you?

The Qld premiere of *The Wedding Singer* – opens 13th February. If you come and see this show you will get to see not only some new up and coming talent, but you will also see some familiar faces. Remember the girl with the big voice who wowed you in *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Rent* and *Shout*? Well if you come and see *The Wedding Singer* you will get to see Kirby Lunn and hear her great voice again. You will also get to see the young man who looks as great in an apron as he does in a suit. Come and watch Stewart Reeve who made you laugh in *The Producers* and *La Cage aux Folles*? And for the best laugh of your life, if you come and see *The Wedding Singer* – you will get to see Gold Coast's very own Shirley King like you have never seen her before.

The Gold Coast Premiere of *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* – opens 15th May. You loved him *La Cage aux Folles*, he made you laugh in *The Producers*. He directed the classic *Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. Tony Alcock brings his enormous talent to the Spotlight stage again, once more as Director. *Putnam Spelling Bee* is a wonderful

show that deals with the ever competitive world of Spelling Bees and Competitions. The actors will be given the chance to portray some wonderful characters, including children and their parents. With some great music, and with Tony at the helm, this will be a great opportunity for the performers to learn and work with one of the best, and for the audience to savour a great new piece of musical theatre.

The second half of the year brings two more new productions to the Spotlight stage.

Monty Python's Spamalot – Opens July 24th. This may be a new show and another Gold Coast premiere for Spotlight, but its roots are held firmly in the classics. It is directed by Rhylee Nowell, who brought the hit shows *Shout*, *Rent* and *The Producers* to the Spotlight Stage. Based on the classic movie by Monty Python – *The Holy Grail*, *Spamalot* tells the story of King Arthur and his band of knights in their search of the Holy Grail. With all the well known and loved Monty Python characters including The Knights of Ni, Killer Rabbits, Tim the Enchanter and flying cows, coupled with the wonderful humour of Monty Python, this is sure to appeal to both the young and young at heart alike.

Erogenous Zones – Opens 11th September. A new play by Frank Vickery another Qld premiere for Spotlight Theatre, heralds the return of directors and Spotlight veterans Helen and Peter Madden who last brought you the great hit *Lend me a Tenor*. This production plays out amongst a tapestry of bittersweet comedy weaved amongst sexual intrigue. Why not come along and see these two great and well-known Spotlighters bring this fascinating new work to Queensland.

For those who like the classics and something a little more traditional, well Spotlight has something for you too.

Shut Your Eyes and Think of England – Opens 17th April. Director Dorothy Henderson another wonderful Spotlight stalwart, brings to Spotlight yet another engaging English comedy. Dorothy is the director of numerous hits including *Home is Where Your Clothes Are*,

staged at Spotlight in 2008. If you are looking for a great comedy play, which is bound to make you laugh harder than you ever have, come along and see English comedy at its best.

HMS Pinafore— Opens 23rd October. Spotlight is known for bringing grand classics to the Gold Coast and this is no exception. Brought to you by the director who staged such classics as *My Three Angels* and *The Mikado*, Eric James Summers brings yet another classic Gilbert and Sullivan to our stage. Set on the high seas this quintessential operetta is sure to please when

it sets sail at Spotlight. If you loved *Pirates of Penzance* and *The Mikado* then this is the show for you. If you have never experienced the classic Gilbert and Sullivan, then this is your perfect opportunity to see it at its best.

As you can see, we have a varied calendar for 2009. So if you enjoy a great night out, and want to see Gold Coast theatre at its best ... then head to Spotlight Theatre. A little something for everyone.

Rhylee Nowell
— *Spotlight Publicity*

A GREAT YEAR SET FOR SPOTLIGHT'S YOUTH THEATRE

The Youth Theatre's 2009 Orientation Day was held on Saturday 24th January, and if this is anything to go by, we are set for another great year with our stars of the future.

Boasting the largest crowd ever to the orientation, we are simply bursting at the seams with enrolments, proving that Spotlight is continuing its great reputation of developing and nurturing young talent.

If you want to learn from the best, make new friends and get the opportunity to work in a real working theatre, then this is the place to be.

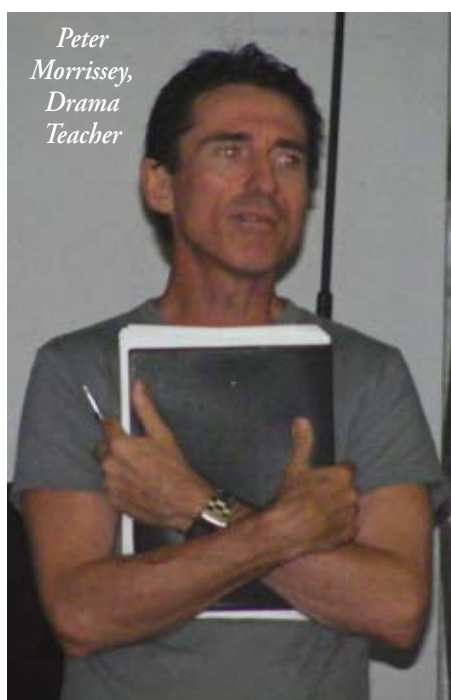
Teachers, Peter Morrissey (Drama) and Ashley

Tardy (Musical) spoke to the large crowd about what the year has in store for the students.

There are some exciting things planned for our young stars, so keep your eye out for all the happenings of Spotlight's Youth Theatre in 2009.

Youth Theatre Administrator, Lea Vosti would like to thank all the volunteers who gave time to help out at the the orientation. A big thank you to Michelle and Emily Lawand, Jan Mole, Rhylee Nowell, Wendy McKillips, Harry and Val Leftwich, Kate Tardy and Duncan Sims for assistance and hard work at the orientation.

Rhylee Nowell — *Spotlight Publicity*



*Peter
Morrissey,
Drama
Teacher*



*Youth Theatre Administrator
Lea Vosti*



*Ashley
Tardy,
Musical
Theatre
Teacher*

MUSICAL/PLAY SUBMISSIONS FOR 2010

Spotlight Theatre would like to hear from Directors who are interested in directing in 2010.

TENTATIVE DATES...

February-March 2009 (Musical – Main Theatre)

April 2009 (Play – Basement Theatre)

May - June 2009 (Musical – Main Theatre)

June - July 2009 (Play – Basement Theatre)

August - September (Musical – Main Theatre)

November - December (Musical – Main Theatre)

The written submission MUST include:

- *Letter of Proposal*
- *Sets and Props Design*
- *Synopsis of the Show*
- *Character Descriptions*
- *Costume Information*
- *Production Team (if known)*
- *Anything else you feel may assist your proposal*

MAIL TO:

Production Chair

Spotlight Theatrical Company

PO Box 8074

Gold Coast Mail Centre Q 9726

SUBMISSIONS CLOSE APRIL 30, 2009

SPOTLIGHT THEATRE HALF-YEARLY MEETING

16th March 2009,
7:00pm
at Spotlight Theatre
185-187 Ashmore
Road, Benowa



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The 39th Annual Spotlight Entertainers Festival



will be held from

Sat 28th March to 5th April, 2009

**with Winners Concert 6pm Sunday 5th April at the
Nerang Bi-Centennial Community Centre, Nerang
Shellharbour, NSW Adjudicator – Rosalynne Boothroyd**

**ALL PERFORMING ARTS CATEGORIES -
DANCE, VOCAL, INSTRUMENTAL, DRAMA OR
ENTERTAINING IN ANY WAY.**

***Schedules and Entry Forms will be available at Spotlight Costume Hire shop
(185-187 Ashmore Road Benowa)***

and the Spotlight Website: www.spotlighttheatre.com.au

Competitors from last year will receive their copy in the mail.

We would love members to be more involved with the *Annual Spotlight Entertainers Festival* as **COMPETITORS**. Do you have a backing of a favourite song? Then this is the place to “strut your stuff”.

GREAT CHOICE OF SECTIONS TO ENTER.

Maybe you are a Band member or in a Choral group and would like to perform your best pieces. Hundreds of trophies to be given away. Pick up your Schedule from Costume Hire or from our web page. Love to see you up there on stage.

CONTACT

Chris Harris 55344825 or

email – christineharris8@bigpond.com

HELPERS

Heaps of jobs to be done throughout the Festival - Front of House, Raffle Ticket Sellers, Canteen, Playing tapes/cds, Back Stage, Announcing, Scribing for Adjudicator.

If you can spare a few hours

Phone Lea Vosti 5630 8289 or Lorraine Sinclair 5594 9939

SPOTLIGHT GOLDEN GIRLS NEWS

RETIREMENT

Norma Rowland, a Golden Girl for eighteen years, gave her final performance on 12 December last year. This bright, fun-loving octogenarian said: "I have gained a lot of satisfaction from being a member of the *Golden Girls*. What gives me that satisfaction is the enjoyment I see on the faces of the people in the audience. When I see someone lying in a bed and I see just a finger moving in time to the music I know I have reached them. That's what it's all about!"

Norma certainly reached her audiences who loved her comic numbers. These included "*I'm a lonely little petunia in an onion patch*" with Norma dressed as a petunia; "*Sadie the cleaning lady*" complete with bucket and mop; and

"Itsy bitsy teenie weenie yellow polka dot bikini"



Normas in costume for "A lonely little petunia", "Itsy bitsy bikini" and "Cruising down the river" with Marilyn Hodge

with Norma dressed in a special padded 'fat' suit wearing a bikini and sporting a pink curly wig.

"I don't mind how outrageous I look" she said "as long as I make people laugh."

Retiring from the *Golden Girls* will leave a big gap in my life, but age has taken over at 83."

We wish both Norma and her husband, Harry, all the best.

OTHER NEWS

Rehearsals for 2009 have begun and the company is looking forward to a new season.

Sadly, we send our sympathy and condolences to the family of Brenda Linden, a previous *Golden Girl*, who lost her brave battle with cancer. We miss her warm and generous personality, and her smile which was always full of sunshine.

*Margaret deMestre
Golden Girls Liaison*

MEMBERSHIP NEWS - BY LEA VOSTI



Welcome to New and Renewing Members:

Beck Stanley, Philip Jackson, Maya Lummus and Emily Howell. Virginia Peace, Josh Morgan, David Ouch. Jacqueline Albrecht, Jason Hayden, Garry Wrathall, Vanessa Osborne, Jay Ahrens, and Michael Yeomans. Lisa, Craig, & Maddy Stevens. Jenny, Tudor, Hannah and TJ Munkley. Peter, Kylie, Sage and Lili Murtagh .

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP 894

The Monsters Ball which was written and directed our wonderfully talented Kate Tardy and assisted by her very talented daughter Ashley Tardy was a great success. How lucky are we to have these two very clever people in our Spotlight Family.

Orientation for this Year's Youth Theatre was held on Saturday 24th January. You will find more about that elsewhere in this issue.

A good way for Zoe to start her retirement was to fall over in the backyard. With two fractures in the one bone above her ankle, she spent a night in hospital and will be in plaster for 6 to 8 weeks. You should have seen me trying to pick her up. Ho! Hum! Hope you all had a great Holiday Season and are refreshed and ready for the coming years activities. *The Wedding Singer* is next for us so please come along and support this wonderful production.

Tickets are available ONLINE:

www.spotlighttheatre.com.au

or through the

BOOKING OFFICE 5539 4255

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STAGE WHISPERS MAGAZINE

Latest issue now available.

It includes a **special article** on

Spotlight Theatre written by Kate Peters,

plus other interesting stories on community and professional theatre, Audition notices and information on acting schools

– NIDA – WAAPA ... etc.

MEMBERSHIP FEES STRUCTURE

Single \$30

Family \$40

Youth / Junior \$17

SPOTLIGHT PRODUCTIONS in 2009

2009 Playbill – at Gold Coast’s busiest theatre.
 (Independent shows at these venues may have different curtain times – check below)

February
 13, 14, 19 20, 21
 26, 27 28 . March
 5 6 7 12 13 14 at 7.30pm
 Matinees : Feb 22,
 March 1, 8 at 2.00pm



Directed by PRISCILLA SCOTT

Music by Matthew Sklar.
 Book by Chad Beguelin and Tim Herlihy
 Lyrics by Chad Beguelin
 Based upon the New Line Cinema film
 Written by Tim Herlihy
 By arrangement with Hal Leonard Australia
 Pty Ltd Exclusive agent for Music Theatre
 International (NY)

March 27 to
 April 4 at
 Bi-Centennial
 Hall
 NERANG

**39th Annual Spotlight
 ENTERTAINERS’ FESTIVAL**
 Champions’ Variety Concert Sun. April 5th at 6.00pm

April 17 18 23 24 25 29
 30 May 1, 2 at 7.30pm
 Matinees Sundays
 April 19, 26 at 2.00pm

Queen of Farce, Dorothy Henderson, directs one of her funniest ...
“SHUT YOUR EYES and think of England”
 Written by John Chapman and Anthony Marriott By arrangement with Dominic Pty Ltd

May 15 16
 21 22 23
 28 29 30
 June 4 5 6
 11 12 13
 at 7.30pm:
 Sundays
 May 24 31
 June 7
 at 2.00pm



“The 25th Annual
 Putnam County
 SPELLING BEE”
 Music /Lyrics
 WILLIAM FINN
 Book ; RACHEL SHEINKIN
 Conception by
 REBECCA FELDMAN
 Additional material by Jay Reiss
 Originally produced on Broadway by
 David Stone, James L. Nederlander, Barbara
 Whitman, Patricia Catalo.
 by arrangement with Hal Leonard
 Australia P/L. Exclusive agent for
 Music Theatre International (NY)
 Direction: TONY ALCOCK

TOP HAT Productions
 Kate Peters Directs the
 most loved Pantomime
 of all ...
“Cinderella”
 Tues June 30 to Fri July 3
 at 10.30am and 1.00pm.
 Mon July 6 to Fri July 10
 at 10.30am and 1.00pm.
 - and Sat July 11 at
 11.00am and 1.30pm

July 24 25 30 31
 Aug 1 6 7 8
 13 14 15 20 21 22
 all at 7.30pm
 Aug 2 9 16 at 2pm



Directed by
 Rhylee
 Nowell

Book & Lyrics by ERIC IDLE
 Music by JOHN DU PREZ & ERIC IDLE
 From the original screenplay by
 Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Eric Idle,
 Terry Jones, Michael Palin
 BY ARRANGEMENT WITH ORIGIN THEATRICAL ON
 BEHALF OF THEATRICAL RIGHTS WORLDWIDE, NY.

Coming to Basement Theatre: September 11 – 26
 Directed by Helen & Peter Maden
**Erogenous
 Zones**

Coming to Main Theatre: October 23 – November 21
 Gilbert and Sullivan's
“HMS PINAFORE”
 Directed by Eric James Summers

SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE is the Gold Coast’s most regarded theatre and self development training facility.
 Throughout the year each of the groups will present public performance of their work

BOOK AND PAY by phone - (9 to 4pm weekdays, 9-3pm Sat)
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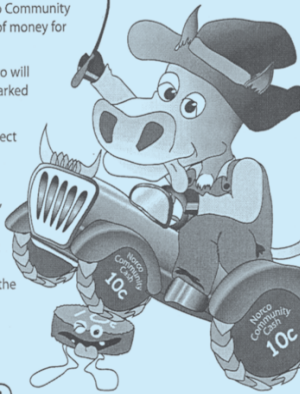
Keep collecting the caps at home and regularly empty the caps into our big collection box and start saving again. And, why not get your friends and family to collect for us too!

Norco Community Cash Caps is an on-going fundraiser that runs from now, right through until the end of next year. So, it would be great to get started right away and look for the specially marked Norco Community Cash Cap milk caps on Norco 2 and 3 litre range of products.

Let's make it a great effort. Remember every cap counts!

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Members – \$23

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Members – \$18

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Next to Benowa Gardens Shopping Centre
www.spotlight-costume-hire.com
www.spotlighttheatre.com.au

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

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