



StageWrite

www.latrobetheatrecompany.org.au LATROBE THEATRE COMPANY INC.

April/May 2008

Simon Says...

Hello everyone, and welcome to our latest edition of *StageWrite*! Well winter is upon us and the chills are in the air! But it certainly is far from "chilly" in the world of theatre in Gippsland.

I had the opportunity to 'escape' our icy blast for a week and slipped up to the Gold Coast for a quick break. Whilst I was there I went to see *Dracula's Theatre Restaurant* and also caught the current headline act at *Jupiter's Casino Zangara* "Gypsy Queen". Both shows were in the theatre restaurant style and gave me a lot of great idea's for future shows! Could you imagine five motocross cyclists inside an iron sphere spinning around at breakneck speed with a beautiful woman standing in the middle! Totally amazing! And not to forget those fabulous Las Vegas show girls!! Speaking of which...

Our Best Bits has been in full swing during the months of April and May taking many of our past, present and future patrons down memory lane as we look back over the past forty-five years of **LTC** productions.

Everyone involved has had a wonderful time and all agree that *Our Best Bits* will certainly return in some shape or form in the very near future.

LTC has had a long term vision to establish a performing group that could meet regularly to rehearse various excerpts from shows and develop "theatre restaurant style" entertainment. It's been a long and sometimes very winding road but we've made it! Congratulations to all concerned for a job well done and keep an eye out for future dates and venues.

So have a wonderful June and keep that fire burning bright through winter! Over to you Ed!

Simon
(President)

Our Best Bits



Congratulations to everyone for what has turned out to be a successful production! After our one-day-only at the Latrobe Performing Arts Centre in Traralgon and the subsequent season at Turfside Function Centre in Moe, *Our Best Bits* has made well over \$5,000 for the company – well done guys!

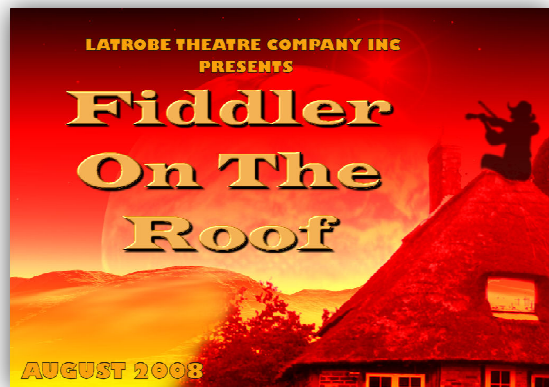


The cast and crew are still raving about the experience (not to mention most of the audiences!), and many are asking what's happening with *Our Best Bits* in future. Well, with a magnificent success as this, we couldn't

possibly let it retire, and we've already had calls from various venues around Gippsland to do the show for them as well! As always, stay tuned for where *Our Best Bits* is going to end up next...



Fiddler On The Roof



Rehearsals continue at a brisk pace for our major production for 2008, with Villagers, Russians, and everyone else involved in this show bottle dancing, wedding planning, matchmaking and traditioning all over the place! Reports from the cast and crew have been very positive thus far – and with the impending weekend cast camp coming up fast, things are going to get even better!

Ticket sales are going very well, with over 450 seats sold already. But you'd better get in quick, as while there are still seats available, once the TV ads and radio spots start coming, the theatre will fill up quicker than you can say "on the other hand".

Fiddler On The Roof will be performed in Warragul 22-30 August 2008. Tickets are on sale through the West Gippsland Arts Centre Box Office on (03) 5624 2456 or online at <http://www.wgac.org.au>. Adults are \$30, Concession \$28, Groups of 10 or more \$27 each and Friends of WGAC \$25

Social

Don't forget our 45th Anniversary Dinner Celebrations to be held at the Traralgon Golf Club on **Friday the 19th September**. Music will be provided by a well known local DJ. So mark this date in your diaries now and start thinking about who you'd like to invite on your table! Tickets, prices and invitations will be available very soon!

Is there a social event you'd like to see **LTC** do in the near future? Let the Social Sub-committee know at social@latrobetheatrecompany.org.au. We're always open to suggestions!

Love Letters

Dear StageWrite,

Are you there? Have you been getting my letters? I figured I would write to you to tell you about the wonderful performance at the Trafalgar East Hall last weekend – Love Letters, starring Christine Skicko and Ernie Rijs and directed by Barry Whitehead.

I'll admit, I had my initial reservations about the production. The Trafalgar East Hall is hardly your state of the art theatre – located down a dark long road miles into the middle of nowhere and resembles your common shearing shed from the outside, and inside, well, the Prince Edward it is not – but my reservations were soon shown to be completely unfounded. Both Christine and Ernie gave such a brilliant performance each, the likes of which I have very rarely seen on stage outside of London's West End. I cried – honestly, I did - and as you well remember StageWrite, I am not one for emotional outbursts at theatrical outings. I confess I wasn't able to catch Love Letters the last time Christine and Ernie performed it back in 2000, but had it the same power and emotion this recent revival had on that cold winter evening last weekend, well, it would have definitely been worthy of the Gippsland Associated Theatre awards it received.

The evening was clearly a success for the Trafalgar East Hall Committee as well, who were our hosts for the production. Profits raised from the show were put towards the restoration of the hall – and judging by the numbers in attendance, they were sure to have raised some significant funds. Whilst it was regrettable that more people from our own company couldn't attend, it's heart warming that such a charming play could appeal to a whole new audience, most of whom would never usually go to a play were it in Traralgon or Warragul. And judging by the tumultuous applause the two performers received at the end, the play certainly met with approval!

Oh StageWrite, I do so wish you could have been there, but sadly that time has passed and the play is over with. In the meantime, I have

included a picture of the show, so you may learn what the production would have been like had you been to see it.

Do write back soon,

With much love.

Your Editor.



Memberships

A big thank you to all those who have renewed their membership thus far. Small as our fees may be, our company depends on your support so we can continue to provide the social and theatrical services you all enjoy. Remember, it is a requirement that every performer with LTC is a financial member of the company, and only those who are up to date with their fees are permitted to audition for any future productions.

Annual subscription rates are:

Joining Fee: \$5.50

Full Membership: \$22.00

Student/Concession Membership: \$11.00

Family Membership \$44.00

Social Membership \$11.00

To renew your membership, get in touch with Membership Secretary **Annette O'Shea** at membership@latrobetheatrecompany.org.au.

Cinderella's Fairy Godmother!

A quick thank you to **Larissa Morey** for donating a vacuum cleaner to "The Wings". Thanks Larissa!

Birthdays

Happy birthday to everyone who got older in April, May and (what the heck) June!

Steven Burns	Corey O'Shea
Addy Close	John O'Shea
Sandy Jessup	Jan Pickburn
Hudson Kerr	Christine Skicko
Amy Leak	Rob Timmers
Matt Leak	Denise Twite
Ann Maloney	Dianne Whitehead
Emma O'Brien	Lisa Williams

Committee Meetings

Committee meetings are open to all members at any time. However, the Committee reserves the right to ask you to leave the room when decisions requiring confidentiality are made or discussed. We ask only that you contact our Secretary and inform her of your intention to attend, in order for us to cater effectively for the meeting.

The next meeting of the Committee will be held at 'The Wings' **on Monday, 16th June at 7:30 pm.**

Thanks to our
Corporate
Patron



StageWrite is published by Latrobe Theatre
Company

PO Box 832 Traralgon 3844

President: Simon Hemming – 5174 6619

Secretary: Kate Dougan - 5127 7036

Editor: Aron Toman - 5192 4386

E-mail:

stagewrite@latrobetheatrecompany.org.au

Gippsland Theatre Festival

It's coming again – the Gippsland Theatre Festival once again returns to the Valley, with its usual array of workshops and performances to excite anybody interested in theatre.

On July 4 there will be an official launch of the festival in a casual standing environment with two short ten minute performances, with complimentary drinks and nibbles, to which you are all invited.

On Saturday July 5, there will be a rehearsed play reading with **Liz Perry**, who ran some classes last year at the festival. Liz is working with **Jeannie Haughton** and team on the Gippsland History project over at Gippsland Heritage Park (old Gippstown). There are openings for actors to be a part of this exciting venture.

Then on July 26 there is another opportunity for actors wanting to have a go at something different. A workshop for playwrights is being run from Friday to Sunday that weekend. On the Sunday **Alex Broun**, writer and director from Melbourne will be workshopping and producing some of the plays that have been written over the weekend with the intention to have these plays on stage Sunday afternoon. Up for a challenge? Learn a ten minute play in a day and put it on stage while working with the writer on the freshly written piece.

If anyone is interested in getting involved in either the Gippsland History Project or the ten minute play productions, please contact the festival co-ordinator **Nicola Epps** on the email address festival@breakalegtheatre.com.au or on mobile 0408 037814.

To see what else is happening over the festival period, visit the website for details.

http://www.breakalegtheatre.com.au/gtf_program.php

Other Productions In 2008...

Cats (Warragul Theatre Company) – June 13 – 28, Warragul

A Chorus Line (Break A Leg Theatre Group) – July 10 – 19, Traralgon

'Allo, 'Allo (Sale Theatre Company) – July 31 – August 3, Sale

Oklahoma (Bairnsdale Production Line) – July 18 – August 2, Bairnsdale

Shout (Leongatha Lyric Theatre) – 5 – 20 September, Leongatha

Dimboola (MoARTZ) – October - November, Moe