



Official newsletter of St Jude's Players Inc
September 2005 - Issue No. 127
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Hall: 444 Brighton Road
Brighton SA

Mail: PO Box 52
Brighton 5048 SA

Telephone:
(08) 8296 2628

Website: www.stjudesplayers.asn.au
Email: info@stjudesplayers.asn.au

Spotlight Spotlight

OUR LAST PRODUCTION FOR 2005

★ The Toe Tapping Premier Of

An "Oscar" For
Bludgers
Creek

**November 9 - 12
and 16 - 19, 2005**

★ Written by Harold Minear ★
Directed by Rosie Aust

This new Australian musical play written by Harold Minear is a lively show sure to put you in party mood as we head toward the Christmas break. Set in a typical outback Aussie town called Bludgers Creek the action is centred around the Bludgers Creek pub and its "regulars" and the flamboyant Pub owner Maggie MacLeod.

Their peaceful existence is disrupted with the arrival of Dreamtime Productions - a movie company complete with 'stars' arrives from Sydney to shoot a movie about an old murder supposed to have taken place in - Bludgers Creek! Most of the locals are agog over both the movie and the murder, although one or two don't seem too pleased about the past being 'dug up'.

The musical director for Harold's last show in 2003 *A Load of Bullamakanka* was David D'Angelo and we are thrilled that

David has joined up with Harold again for this production and has written all the music for *An "Oscar" For Bludgers Creek*. Director Rosie Aust has assembled a talented cast that includes Myra Waddell, Susie Small (making a welcome return after 12 years interstate), Kay Saunders, Paul Bock, Sue Maugher, John Oliver, Mary Thoday, Julie Quick, and Hadyn Madigan.



Paul
Bock

Kay
Saunders

Julie
Quick

Myra
Waddell

Hadyn
Madigan

Season: Wednesday 9th to Saturday 12th and
Wednesday 16th to Saturday 19th November 2005
Evening Performance 8 pm Saturday Matinees 2 pm

Tickets Prices: Adults \$12 Concession \$9 Children \$7
for **Group Bookings ONLY** please telephone Tarlee on
8294 1306 by no later than Monday 24th October
15 people or more \$9 per person

Meal Voucher for Fasta Pasta and Show \$19

OR **Charminar Indian Restaurant** - When ordering your meal, if it is the same night you are seeing "An Oscar" For Bludgers Creek, show your ticket and receive 20% discount off your meal.

Ordinary Bookings: Open Wednesday 26th October at
Brighton Stationers and Newsagency
Shop 8 Brighton Shopping Centre
525 Brighton Road Brighton
Telephone 8296 8902



Writer Harold
Minear



Musical by
David D'Angelo



Director
Rosie Aust

OUR PREVIOUS PRODUCTION

Groping For Words

Groping For Words had a profound effect on our audiences every night. It was an unusual sight to see patrons spellbound and not leaving their seats after the applause had subsided, but this occurred on several evenings as the impact of the final scene hit home, the powerful and striking performance by the cast gripping the audience with emotion.

Director Linda Davey can justly be proud of her production. Comedy and pathos were cleverly combined by Linda and the cast to create a memorable show. Especially pleasing was the play's authenticity, with accents and striking design taking the audience back to early '80s London. Many thanks to all involved in this satisfying production.

Rod Lewis from the Messenger Press wrote in his review: "There is a nice balance of humour and pathos in Sue Townsend's



Above: Director Linda Davey enjoying the adulations at the Opening Night Supper



A
★ C

Left: Literacy was the theme at our Opening Night Supper eating your way from A to Z

B ★

comedy about adult illiteracy..... As tutor Joyce, Julie Quick is a solid centrepiece for the play, bridging the gap between teacher and pupils as they all search for a better life. John Leigh Gray shows great depth as George, a homeless divorcee trying to turn his life around. He sets the scene beautifully in the opening Act, highlighting the difficulties and embarrassment of illiterate people when he enters the school and is unable to find the correct classroom.

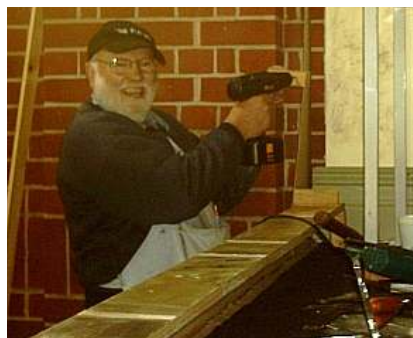
Overall, director Linda Davey has cast well and keeps the pace up..... The social and political commentary on Margaret Thatcher's Britain, and the pain and frustration of the characters are underplayed until the final scenes... Robert Aust's split set includes the classroom - a bright, cheerful creche complete with a Wendy House. It nicely contradicts the plight of the characters while highlighting the indignities that Joyce's pupils face each day."

ON THE SET.....

Set construction *Groping For Words*



Left: Scenic artist David Lawruck adds the final touches with graffiti ...and some more of his work below!



Left: What would we do without John Grant !! Every Saturday of set construction he is there to lend a hand.

Right: Sybil Woollard and Don Oakley get up to tricks! Don tries to pin Sybil down about those set faults



CLOSING NIGHT.....

After Show Party Celebrations



Left: Amy Hutchinson and Sarah Harkness enjoy the party. Linda Davey paid special tribute to Sarah's enormous effort as Stage Manager, going beyond the call of duty.



Right: Front of House favourites Rosie Aust and Tarlee Dack "We think it's time for the Champagne!"



RAFFLE WINNER - Congratulations

The winner of the magnificent raffle, conducted during the production of *Groping For Words* and drawn on the final night of the show, was Rhonda Grill.

WITH A SPRING IN THEIR STEP

St. Jude's recent spring season of One Act Plays proved to be successful in more ways than one. The idea evolved from requests from many young actors who had a passion for theatre and a commitment to prepare and present themselves to a paying audience over a two-night season.

Isabella Norton (our anointed one) tirelessly coordinated both productions from their inception. In the early stages she fielded many calls from young performers requesting stage work, presented the idea to the committee, and then set to and selected two very different and challenging pieces for presentation. Vicky Wray and I were offered *Taking Breath*, a provocative play about environmentalism, family relationships mixed with intrigue and mystery of an era passed. The other short piece, *World Without Men*, a tried and true one act play exploring the mythical idea of a world rid of men at the flick of a switch, was taken up by our long-time director Richard Lane. With both plays cast the directors embarked on a five week rehearsal period, meeting twice weekly for two hours a night, and slowly moulded the young hopefuls in to a tight, polished ensemble all eager to tread the boards and strut their stuff.

Their ages ranged between twelve and late teens to early twenties and beyond with many newcomers debuting their talents, and others adding to their theatrical repertoire by gaining valuable experience for their high school or university drama studies.

The result was a terrific triumph for all. The performers were able to work on characterisation, and hone other necessary stage skills including speech, movement and general stagecraft techniques to a performance level in front of encouraging and responsive audiences. The final night's post-show party epitomised the fun and exhilaration all cast members enjoyed, and their enthusiasm to continue to bring quality theatre to Brighton.

Many thanks to Isabella and her team of helpers including Sybil Woollard, Mark McIntosh, Meredith Harvey, Kathy Stevens, Robert Aust, Tarlee Dack, Rosemary Taylor, Roland Partis (super poster Roland), Charles Norton and Adam Faithow in making this theatrical celebration a wonderfully successful and worthwhile exercise for everyone.

Acknowledgements must also go to Vicky and Richard for their time and commitment throughout, and a word of thanks to Greg Barratt and Stuart Partis for providing trailers necessary to transport set pieces to and from the hall.

We also appreciate our loyal patrons who came along to support the cause.

Andrew Horwood

FETE

Annual St Jude's Church Fete will be held on Saturday 15th October 2005 from 10 am to 4 pm

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2006

A reminder to get your Subscriber Book and save money! Our book of four discount vouchers is available now for the 2006 Season. Cost \$36 and \$27 (Concession) Buying your tickets this way you get a ticket for **free**. Makes a great Christmas present. Telephone 8296 2628 or print a form from our website.

FINANCIAL MEMBERSHIP

To vote at the Annual General Meeting on the 16th February you must be a Member. You can pay your fee of \$5 by post or at the AGM.



World Without Men

Left to right back row:
Alison Rodgers,
Richard Lane (Director),
Luci Pow,
Isabella Norton,
Front row:
Anna Partis,
Kate McKenzie,
Sue Bromley,
Anna (Tiz) Golab



Taking Breath

Left to right back row: Vicky Wray (Director) Bevin Warren, Andrew Crate, Nadia Clancy, Tegan Matiyevic, Andrew Horwood (Director)
Second row: Emma Summers, Ainsley Hall, Jenna Golab, Roland Partis,
Front row: Bryony Townsend, Madeleine Matiyevic



Scene from *World Without Men*



Scene from *Taking Breath*

Book Your Table for the 8th October
phone Isabella on 8296 3366

Each year we have a fund-raising event for the Players & this year we are again having the popular

Quiz Night with Quiz Master

Bob Bardon

Time: 7.30 pm sharp
Where: St Jude's Hall
444 Brighton Road, Brighton
Cost: \$5.00 per person (includes coffee, tea and biscuits)
BYO: Drinks and nibbles

Lots of Fun Lots of Prizes

INAUGURAL ADELAIDE THEATRE GUIDE "CURTAIN CALL" AWARDS 2004 - 2005

Extract from press release by ATG:

The inaugural ATG "Curtain Call" Awards and Gala Dinner was held on Saturday 23 July at the Grainger Studio with great success. Approximately 260 of Adelaide theatre's enthusiastic community assembled to be entertained, celebrate and enjoy the great food and atmosphere. While all the nominees were of a high calibre and the competition was tight, however someone has to take home the trophies and we congratulate all our winners for the inaugural "Curtain Call" awards and wish everyone luck for next year's considerations...

It was a wonderful surprise and honour that St Jude's Players had two productions nominated in the amateur division. They were *Brilliant Lies* for Best Drama, directed by Richard Lane, and *Birds On The Wing* for Best Comedy, directed by Judy Menz. The Players were represented on the evening by both directors of the nominated productions, together with Narrah Luks, Richard Grieg and Vicky Wray from *Brilliant Lies*, and Andrew Horwood from *Birds On The Wing*. Rosie Aust (Chairperson of St Jude's Players and Robert Aust (Set Design), Sandra Preston (Publicity) and Greg Barratt joined the Players party.

It was an evening to reflect on the quality and quantity of theatre in South Australia, and the talent, devotion and enthusiasm generated by so many actors, theatre companies and their production crews. Our State can be immensely proud of its contribution to entertainment in this form, as it has done since the 1800's. Tim Ferguson was the host for the evening and entertainment was provided by "Night Train", Patrick Lim & Anthony Hunt from the State Opera Studio, Dianne K. Lang and Robyn Woolvett, and Twenty 21 Theatre Company.



Right: Narrah Luks and Richard Grieg at the awards night



MOVING DAY

As reported in our last newsletter, the development of the child day centre is now nearing completion. Our new storage shed has been finished, so recently it was moving day for all our goods and chattels! Thankyou to all our volunteers who did a splendid job with the relocation.



Above: The trolley was super for the flats and heave ho with barrow for bits and pieces!

Above right: Rosie and Myra get instructions from Sybil on how to move the planks.

Right: "Do we let him out?" asked John



An invitation to Seduction

You will just Love 2006

Love Letters

By A.A. Gurney

Directed by Mike Croome

Come and enjoy the unveiling of our season for 2006 with a Champagne and Chicken Supper as we proudly present this much loved play of lifelong friendship through letter

and cherished soul mates to the end

9th, 10th and 11th February 2006 at 8.00 pm
St Jude's Hall, 444 Brighton Road Brighton
\$15 (Conc. \$12) Bookings Essential Telephone
Bob 8277 1304, Sandra 0411 203 400

.... and look what we have in store for you in 2006

Firstly **A Man For All Seasons**

Drama by Robert Bolt
Directed by Richard Lane



Secondly **Breezblock Park**

Comedy by Willy Russell
Directed by Dave Simms



Thirdly **Jerry's Girls**

A Tribute to the Music and Lyrics of
Jerry Herman
Directed by Robert McCarthy



2005 CALENDAR

		Set construction currently in progress, come along and lend a hand
October	8	Quiz Night - tentative date
November	9	Opening Night <i>An Oscar for Bludgers Creek</i>
	19	Final Night of <i>An Oscar for Bludgers Creek</i>
December	10	Christmas Party

2006 CALENDAR

February	9, 10 11	Season Launch & Fundraiser <i>Love Letters</i>
	16	Annual General Meeting
	18	Members Dinner
April	26	Opening Night <i>A Man For All Seasons</i>
May	6	Closing Night <i>A Man For All Seasons</i>
July	19	Opening Night <i>Breezblock Park</i>
	29	Closing Night <i>Breezblock Park</i>
November	15	Opening Night <i>Jerry's Girls</i>
	25	Closing Night <i>Jerry's Girls</i>

Auditions and Volunteers for Set Construction

Ring 8296 2628 with enquiries regarding auditions for all productions in 2006. Set construction commences approx. 10 weeks prior to opening night.

THIS is our last newsletter for the year, thankyou for your continued patronage and support.

Best Wishes for a Very

Happy Christmas & New Year

