



Official newsletter of St Jude's Players Inc
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Spotlight Spotlight

Ernest Thompson's
 beloved play

On Golden Pond

Directed by
 Rosemary Nursey-Bray

26th April to 5th May

On Golden Pond is the endearing love story of Ethel and Norman Thayer, an aging couple who return to their summer home on Golden Pond for the forty-fourth (and possibly last) year. Their stay is interrupted by the arrival of their daughter Chelsea, her new fiancé, and his thirteen-year-old son, Billy. As 79 year-old Norman struggles to come to terms with his mortality, Chelsea desperately tries to make contact with the inner loving side of her father that she has never known.

This well-loved favourite promises to bring laughter, tears and possibly more than a few moments of self-realisation.

Rosemary Nursey-Bray, well known to Adelaide theatre audiences, is our director. The experienced cast includes Graham Nerlich, Isabella Norton, Geoff Hastwell, Andrew Horwood, Sue Trussell and introduces Will Traeger as Billy.

Book your tickets early by returning the preferential booking slip enclosed. General bookings open on 3 April and can be made by phoning Fred and Helen Allen on 8270 4205

Season: Thursday 26th to Saturday 28th April
 Wednesday 2nd to Saturday 5th May
 Evening performances at 8pm,
 Saturday Matinees 2pm

Ticket Prices:	Party Booking 15+	\$10.00
	Adults	\$14.00
	Concession	\$10.00
	Children	\$7.00

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2007

Become a subscriber and save money!! Order a subscription book now and get a ticket for each play, and a bonus ticket for a friend. Subscription books are \$40 (normal cost 4 tickets \$56) and \$30 concession (normal cost 4 tickets \$40). An annual subscription to the Players makes a wonderful gift. Telephone 8296 2628 to have a form posted to you, or download a form from our web site.

MEMBERSHIP

Become a Member of St Jude's Players and take a "hands on" role in our activities. We always need members to work on set construction, help front-of-house, with costumes etc as well as onstage and backstage. Download a membership from our website or phone 8296 2628 and ask to have one mailed to you. The cost of membership is \$5.



SEASON 2006 ended in spectacular fashion with the glamorous *Jerry's Girls*. When it was decided to stage this musical extravaganza, director Robert McCarthy said from the start it would be a challenge. However the committee's faith in him was well placed, so much so that by season's end the show was becoming affectionately known as "Robert's Girls," plus it was a complete sell-out! The set, the millinery, the costumes, the quick changes, the lighting, the musicians and the performers all came together in wonderful St Jude's fashion to complete the extravaganza. Our thanks go out to all who were involved in the show.

The reviews were wonderful. In case you missed it, **Russell Starke** for the **Messenger Newspapers** wrote

"This collation of musical numbers from the great Jerry Herman was designed for the big stage as a glittering jewel box of a show for big stars to show off big talent in lavish costumes and settings. Director Robert McCarthy and a very capable and adaptable backstage team have made much of little in the confines of the small St Jude's stage.

Emma Knights, Dianne Davis, Jo Peoples and Jan Rice never flag in delivering their musical support to the tight-knit cast of eight very varied women.

There are plenty of group numbers including a show-stopping tap routine, not easy on that steep staircase, Tap Your Troubles Away, which gives us four curly Shirley Temple types in gingham, and Take it All Off, which has three slinky stripper burlesque sirens and the more voluptuously shaped comic Elizabeth Slee, whose tassels tangle to the pleas of the boys to "put it back on".

My pick of the night has to be the remarkable April Stuart, suited up as the self-centred Mack Sennett, for an absolutely perfect rendition of I Won't Send You Roses to Bryony Townsend's sweet voiced Mabel.

Susie Small, petite and poignant, takes centre front for the bittersweet If He Walked Into My Life Today, again from Mame, while Jenny Scarce-Tolley plays a warmly generous Golde from Fiddler on the Roof with Shalom. Cute in a coster cap, shorts and braces, Rhona Gaughan's Two-a-Day, from Parade, is a perky little soft shoe sand dance return to early vaudeville.

You can't have a show like this without a couple of belters and McCarthy has them in spades with Fiona Bailey and Brigitte Rennie. Bailey's powerful voice, whacking fiercely into Wherever He Ain't from Mack and Mabel, would guarantee a place in this lineup but toss in her long blonde hair and showgirl legs and you've got real eye candy.



"Brigitte Rennie's tall form strides out in a cascade of henna curls, floor-length fake leopard-print, feather-edged coat, scarlet lame gown, and eyelashes so long and thick she can barely lift them, let alone bat them. This is more "drag" than you could find at Feast and, when she belts into I Am What I Am, from La Cage Au Folles, I reckon even Shirley Bassey would give her best.

So Jerry had Ethel Merman, Carol Channing, Phyllis Diller, Mary Martin, Bernadette Peters, et al? Lucky him! But McCarthy's got this astonishing lineup! Lucky him!



Left: Director Robert McCarthy, with wife Brenda, receives his own 'Jerry's Girl.'

Below: The sensational band - Dianne Davis: Keyboard Emma Knights: Musical Director & Piano Jo Peoples: Bass Jan Rice: Percussion



LIGHT YEAR AWARDS FOR 2006

The dedication of all concerned with live theatre throughout South Australia is acknowledged each year by the Messenger Press with its local theatre awards. Last year St Jude's Players' productions and actors received the following accolades...

Best Actor In a Drama - Peter Smith as the Common Man in *A Man For All Seasons*

Best Musical - *Jerry's Girls*

Best Musical Director - Emma Knights for *Jerry's Girls*

Special Mentions

Best Actress - Elizabeth Slee as Lady Alice in *A Man For All Seasons*

Best Performance In A Musical - April Stuart as Mack Sennett in *Jerry's Girls*

In addition we would like to congratulate Julie Quick for her role in *I Hate Hamlet* with the Adelaide Rep, Barry Hill for his cameo role as the Delivery Man in *Barefoot In The Park* for the Adelaide Rep and Dave Simms (a special mention) as Spriggs in *Theft* for Therry Dramatic Society. All of these fine performers have been seen on stage with the Players in recent seasons.

St Jude's also received a special mention in *The Advertiser's* 'Oscart' Awards, for the lavish costumes in *Jerry's Girls*.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of St Jude's Players was held on February 15th. Richard Lane retired from the committee and Jan Rice was nominated and elected to the vacant position.



St Jude's is a fortunate group in that we have many devoted members committed to helping the group thrive. At the AGM, the Chairman took great pleasure in recommending two of those dedicated and hard working members for Life Membership. This honour was bestowed upon Rosemary Taylor and Peter Kopli, (pictured above) who have both been working with us since the early 1970's, in recognition of their outstanding service.



QUEEN OF THE BOX OFFICE RETIRES

Following the conclusion of official business at the AGM, the Players acknowledged the retirement of Tarlie Dack from the Box Office. Tarlie has been overseeing the ticketing since 1964, which in the early years included **making** the tickets, "It was heaven sent when we finally got them professionally printed" quipped Tarlie.

Committee Chairman Rosie Aust presented Tarlie with a brooch, a lifetime ticket to St Jude's Players, and a royal blue cushion for her favourite seat. We wish Tarlie all the best in her retirement but we do not want her to rest on her laurels. There are plenty of jobs to be done Tarlie Dack!!



"Raise your glasses please, a toast to Tarlie"



Tarlie proudly displaying her Lifetime Ticket

WELCOME HELEN AND FRED



Tarlie's 'Box', as it is referred to by Front of House staff, was handed over to Helen and Fred Allen, who over the last year have been working with Tarlie to learn the in's and out's of ticketing. Helen and Fred already have a good knowledge of how things work, as they ran Brighton Newsagency until their retirement in 2005, where they looked after our bookings for 18 years.

Remember that you can only make bookings for our productions by telephoning Helen and Fred on **8270 4205.**

The box office will open at 7.15 pm on performance nights for tickets to be collected.

Left: The 2007 Comittee: Helen and Fred Allen (Box Office), Harold Minear (with Roland Partis—absent from meeting-Publicity), Robert McCarthy (Treasurer), Susie Small, Rosie Aust (Chair), Jan Rice, Isabella Norton (Secretary), Rosemary

ANNUAL DINNER

The Annual St Jude's Members' Dinner was held again at the Marion Hotel in February, and it continues to grow! This year saw a record turn out with sixty-five people attending to catch up with old friends. A great beginning to what we know will be a busy 2007.



Enjoying dinner at the Marion Hotel
Below: The raffle prizes—Champers with Chockies!



SEASON LAUNCH

Also taking place in February was the Season Launch, held over two nights. A series of classic comedy sketches kept patrons in stitches - reliving the likes of Flanders & Swann, Monty Python, Abbott & Costello and Victoria Wood.



The Directors of our 2007 productions then gave a short description of their plays, and this was followed by a chicken and champagne supper. A record turn out of 180 each night made the event a fantastic success.

Right:
One of the comedy sketches from the season launch, 'Pee Bo Belly Bum Drawers'



Left: Vicky Wray, Les Zetlein and Rosemary Nurse-Bray; our directors for 2007

Season 2007

Alan Ayckbourn's brilliant
new comedy

ROLEPLAY

Directed by
Les Zetlein

1st to 11th
August 2007



Clifford Williams' adaptation of



Daphne
du
Maurier's

Rebecca

15th
to
24th

November 2007

Directed by Vicky Wray

