



Official newsletter of St Jude's Players Inc
 March 2009 - Issue No. 137
 Print Post Publication

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

John Misto's



23rd to 25th
 April
 and
 28th April
 to
 2nd May
 2009

Evening
 Performances
8 pm
 Saturday
 Matinees
2 pm

Director
 Linda Davey

**"I do not have the power to build a Memorial so
 I wrote a play instead." John Misto**

This was playwright John Misto's reply when asked why he had written *The Shoe-Horn Sonata*. His beautiful play is a tribute to the faith and courage of the Australian army nurses trapped by the invasion of Singapore in 1942.

They were the first Australian women to serve in battle and the first to die.

In 1945 Sheila and Bridie were freed from a POW camp in the jungles of Sumatra where thousands of women had been imprisoned.

The play begins when these two characters are reunited fifty years later for the filming of a television documentary forcing them to come to terms with the past.

Woven into their story are music, a shoe-horn and the threads of loyalty and love which formed their unlikely friendship.

The play will be directed by Linda Davey (patrons will remember her production of *Groping For Words* in 2003), and will star Myfanwy May and Rhonda Grill in the two central roles.

Preferential bookings (form enclosed) will close 30th March. Ordinary bookings will open 2nd April and can be made by telephoning our box office team Helen and Fred Allen.

Contact them Monday to Friday between 9 am and 6 pm on:



8270 4205



Tickets: Adult \$15 Concession \$12 Child \$7

PLAYWRIGHTS' CORNER JOHN MISTO



John Misto

John Misto has been writing for the stage and television for twenty-five years. His play *Harp On The Willow* won the Seaborn Award for Best New Australian Play. *The Shoe-Horn Sonata* won the NSW Premier's Literary Award for Best Play and the Australia Remembers National Play Competition.

His television credits include *Heroes' Mountain*, *The Rescue Of Stuart Diver* and the mini-series *The Day Of The Roses* about the Granville Train disaster. He has won three AFI Awards and three Writers' Guild Awards.

He says that the "one purpose of *The Shoe-Horn Sonata* is to show the injustices that have been done to the memory of the nurses and thousands of other women and children who suffered with them. Their compensation afterwards was inadequate and for fifty years no memorial was organized for them."

Misto was born in Sydney in 1952 – a decade after the fall of Singapore.

VALE JOYCE HECKER O.A.M.



Joyce Hecker

Joyce was a Life Member and great supporter of St Jude's Players. Her particular expertise was working with the wardrobe team – but was always willing to help in any way to enhance the work of The Players.

She studied arts at the University of Adelaide graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in 1955. She traveled extensively with her parents and, returning to Australia, applied for a teaching position at Walford Church Of England Girls' School where she rose to the position of senior mistress of history studies.

She was born with a lower body deformity from Spina Bifida but was eventually able to walk with the aid of crutches.

In 1998 she was awarded a Medal in the Order Of Australia in the Year Of The Disabled in recognition of her many achievements.

Joyce died on the 7th November 2008, we will remember her with love and affection.

PLAYERS "GO ON THE ROAD"

For different reasons, five of our Players are "on the road" and we wish them excitement and success.



RIC and DIANA MEPSTEAD: These two long-time St Jude's members have decided on a "sea change" with a difference. They have said goodbye to Adelaide and their Adelaide Hills home and bought a coffee plantation!

It is in an area in Eltham (New South Wales) and has the rather theatrical name of "Misty Hamlet". We wish them every happiness and success in their venture and thank them for their great support and work for The Players.

Next time you order a Short Black – give a thought to Ric and Diana – it could have started its journey in "Misty Hamlet".

ROLAND PARTIS: Roland, an ex-committee member, has been working with Slingsby as production manager and show operator on their very successful production of *The Tragic Life Of Cheeseboy*. The play is aimed at the 8-14 age group and tells the story of Cheeseboy, whose home and planet is hit by a meteorite, stranding him on earth with no home and family.

After a successful season at The Space and in country regions of SA, the production went on to the Sydney Festival and then to performances in Cleveland USA. The next tour will take the show (and Roland) to festivals in Singapore, Madrid, Bath and Edinburgh before returning to a season at the Sydney Opera House.

That is called "going on the road" in style. Good luck Roland – but don't forget to find your way back to Brighton and St Jude's Players!



GEOFF BRITTAIN and DEBORAH WALSH : We haven't seen these two members on our stage for quite a while. The reason? They are living and working in China! They left late last year and according to recent emails, are enjoying their time in the ancient land very much.

Deborah writes; "Overall impressions are of wonderful hospitality, happy friendly people, eating, Chinese television, lots of laughter ... and freezing cold houses."

We are hoping that besides the experience and some great stories to tell, Deb and Geoff will bring back a new Chinese play – perhaps a musical!

" and the Award goes to"

DRAMA CRITICS CIRCLE AWARDS

These awards are presented annually for professional and amateur productions.

The award for best performance in a drama for 2008 was awarded to no other than our very own Isabella Norton for her excellent and most moving performance in *Driving Miss Daisy*. We were not surprised.

DramatiCAL AWARD 2008

Awarded by the Theatre Association of South Australia for the best production of a play in 2008. This was won by Matt Byrne Media for *Driving Miss Daisy*. Well done Matt – it was well deserved.

THE 'SYB'

This award was established in 2007 by St Jude's Players and is named in the honour of Sybil Woollard – our leading contributor to stage management and backstage work. It is awarded each year to "a member of the set construction team for excellence and creative innovation."

The Syb 2008 was awarded to John Grant. John was not able to attend the Members Luncheon, so the award was presented, appropriately, at a recent Saturday morning set construction.



Sybil presents John with the award.

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF COMMUNITY THEATRE



Left: Rosie Aust (Chairman) welcomed everyone to the 60th Anniversary Year Luncheon and the table decorations looked fabulous as did the menu !



Rev Chris McLeod, rector of St Jude's Church and president of the St Jude's Players said the Grace at the 60th Anniversary Luncheon on 22nd February. Before the Grace he said the following prayer for the Players:

Almighty God, creator and sustainer of all things, who are pleased to receive the creative gifts of your children.

Assist the dramatic art of the St Jude's Players, we ask you, that by your grace we may offer our best to you.

Grant that with our audience we may rejoice in your goodness and manifest your praise – through Jesus Christ Our Lord.



Founding Member Trena Hewitt (right) with Rachele Glynn



Eileen and Laurie Crooks



Above: Julie Quick and Matt Byrne



Left to right Rosie Giles, Doug Giles, Jan Houlthby and Maxine Bowles



No escape Peter! Peter Goers with Judy Menz and seated Mary-Jane Minear.



Above: Fred Allen and Rob Aust ham it up in their St Jude's Players Set Construction Shirts



Left: The musical group "Wind In The Willows" were joined by the "Three Spooners" - Mary-Jane, Rosie and Charles Attard who had come from Melbourne for the occasion.



Myfanwy May left and below Rhonda Grill are well into rehearsals for The Shoe-Horn Sonata.



Presented at the Annual General Meeting, Life Membership of St Jude's Players, recipients Myra and Peter Waddell and Sandra Preston.



The Players set construction team are also busy every Saturday and are well ahead of schedule.



"DUMMIES" – WANTED URGENTLY !

Isabella Norton has started preparations for our "Costume Cavalcade" to be held in September as part of our 60th Anniversary celebrations. But she needs help – in the form of Dressmaker Dummies!

The "Cavalcade" is a big undertaking and the months ahead will be busy with selecting, storing and making sure the costumes look their very best for the exhibition.

So, please, if you have a spare "dummy" in your attic, cellar or shed call Isabella on **8296 3366**. She will arrange for pick-up and return delivery after the exhibition is over. However, if you wish to rid yourself of the "dummy" we'll be only too happy to accept it.

PREFERENTIAL BOOKINGS AND

Extra Performance

FOR THE SHOE-HORN SONATA

Your preferential booking form is enclosed in this newsletter. Please complete and return it as soon as possible. This will mean you can have your personal selection of performance date and seating in, or close to, the area you prefer.

REMEMBER – THIS YEAR YOU HAVE THE CHOICE OF AN EXTRA PERFORMANCE NIGHT – on the Tuesday of the second week of the season. For The Shoe-Horn Sonata this extra Performance falls on TUESDAY 28th APRIL.

Helen and Fred Allen, who manage our bookings and box-office, are only too willing to help you. However, as it gets closer to the season opening, seating becomes limited.

HELP US TO HELP YOU. PREFERENTIAL BOOKINGS CLOSE MONDAY 30TH MARCH – RETURN YOUR FORM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 60th Annual General Meeting of St Jude's Players was held on Thursday 12th February.

Chairman Rosie Aust delivered her annual report for 2008 and Treasurer Robert McCarthy gave us a "non-recession" financial report.

Three members were awarded with Life Membership - Sandra Preston, Myra and Peter Waddell. In presenting the Memberships, Rosie said that each one had contributed greatly to the work and the development of the Players.

Sandra in the field of design, general promotion and tireless support of all our activities - Myra and Peter in acting, directing and generating the true spirit of The Players for nearly 30 years.

Committee members for 2009 are Rosie Aust (Chairman), Robert McCarthy (Treasurer), Isabella Norton (Secretary), Harold Minear (Publicity), Rosemary Taylor (Membership Officer), Andrew Horwood, Fred Allen, Vicky Horwood, Jan Rice and Evan Pearce.

"...and the Show goes on"

Patron Dr Ken Rollond (Mayor of the City of Holdfast Bay) launched our special 60th Anniversary program at a Civic Reception in October 2008.

This was a great occasion and the highlight was the launch of a special booklet to celebrate sixty years of providing community theatre. The booklet was written as an addendum to "The First Fifty Years" which was published to celebrate our fiftieth anniversary. "... and the Show goes on" tells the story of all the productions of the last decade, the progress and development of St Jude's Players during that time.

It was written by Harold Minear with Sandra Preston's technical assistance in the publishing of what is an attractive "must-have" for all St Jude's Players members and patrons.

It will be on sale at all our productions and events throughout this special year at the low price of \$5. Ask our front-of-house staff.

If you prefer we will send you a copy (postage free) – just complete the form below and return to St Jude's Players Inc PO Box 52 Brighton SA 5048

A GRAND START TO OUR CELEBRATIONS

A special luncheon to celebrate our 60th Anniversary was held at the Glenelg Golf Club on Sunday 22nd February, attended by 110 of our members and friends.

The theme of the day was *Celebrating 60 Years Of Community Theatre And Friendship* - and friendship was in abundance. Non-stop chatter, excellent cuisine and the lovely surroundings of the Golf Club made this a most memorable occasion.

The musical trio "Wind In The Willows" provided enjoyable background music throughout the afternoon – even encouraging some patrons to do a little "tea-dancing" – except we were not drinking tea !

Our thanks go to Mary-Jane Minear for her expert organization of the luncheon and to Judy Menz for the attractive theme-style table decorations – all adding to the "glitter" of the occasion.

and the celebrations go on and on and !

The Luncheon was just the start. Listed below are some of the major events that will highlight this 60th Anniversary year - mark dates n your diary now.

23rd April – 2nd May
John Misto's *The Shoe-Horn Sonata*
Directed by Linda Davey
Starring Myfawny May and Rhonda Grill

23rd July – 1st August
Two great comedies on the one bill!
"ART" and "Bed Among The Lentils".
Both directed by Robert McCarthy

10th – 13th and 16th – 18th September
"Costume Cavalcade"
An exhibition of costumes and accessories used in
St Jude's Players productions from 1949 - 2009.
This will be held in St Jude's Church
10 am – 3 pm on each of the above dates.

10th October: The Players Quiz Night
St Jude's Hall at 7.30 pm

12th – 21st November
"Pygmalion"
By George Bernard Shaw and Directed by Rosie Aust
Classic and well-loved comedy for nearly a century

12th December: A special Evensong of Thanksgiving
at St Jude's Church and followed by a
Special Revue in Grundy Hall
written and directed by Harold Minear
celebrating our six decades of community theatre

"... and the Show goes on"

Number of copies () Price per copy \$5 (post-free)

Cheque / Money Order Enclosed: \$

Address:

Phone Number:

