



Welcome to 2008 – this brief newsletter will provide you with all the important Players dates to pop into your diary and some general information about the coming season. You will also find a 2008 subscription form

The Players Committee is already working on a very busy 2008 and we are looking forward to an exciting season full of hard work and fun. In fact, because this year is busy and Easter is very early (this affects our program dates) we have decided **not to hold a “season launch”** as we have done in the previous two years. We will be introducing the 2008 directors to tell us a little about their production at the Player’s AGM on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> February.

2007 was a wonderful year for the Players. We had three very successful productions which you, our audience, enjoyed and we had very positive feedback about our comfortable new seating. We have been fundraising over several years and every raffle ticket purchased contributed to the new shed and to the chairs. The biggest supporter of our fundraising drive has been John Sands who has donated every fabulous basket since we started the raffle. His generosity has contributed some thousands of dollars to the fundraising efforts.

At present we have no specific projects on the horizon that require fundraising and, because we have increased our ticket prices marginally, the committee has decided not to continue the raffles in 2008. We will give you, and John, a rest from fundraising until we have a need to ask for your support in the future. Thank you all and we extend a special thanks to John Sands.

## **SEASON 2008**

### **SECRET BRIDESMAIDS’ BUSINESS** 10<sup>TH</sup> – 19<sup>TH</sup> April

Written by Elizabeth Coleman

A funny Australian play about serious issues like truth, loyalty, sex, love, the meaning of marriage and the plight of the Modern Woman!

This play is about to begin rehearsal and is being directed by Dave Simms who is well known to St Jude’s audiences as both a performer and a well respected director.

### **CALIFORNIA SUITE** 24<sup>th</sup> July – 2<sup>nd</sup> August

Written by Neil Simon

One of America’s most popular and prolific playwrights, Simon has crafted a delightful play that will make you want to laugh and cry. The play is based on the capacity of human beings to love, laugh, and generally make themselves appear ridiculous.

Director Jude Menz, a life member of St Jude’s Players, has a great love of Neil Simon’s work and is acknowledged as a fine interpreter of his plays.

### **THE VISIT** 13<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> November

Written by Friedrich Durrenmatt

A beautiful, famous and wealthy woman returns to her European home town after an absence of many years. Her ‘visit’ sets up an intriguing parable of greed and evil.

Don Oakley will make his directorial debut with a play that he has loved for 20 years. He has some fascinating plans for staging this production and, because it is a very big production, he has invited Rosie Aust to be an assistant director.

## **SUBSCRIBE NOW AND SAVE MONEY**

St Jude's Players are proud to offer quality community theatre at an affordable price.

A subscription for 2008 is only \$45 and \$36 for concession card holders. Each subscriber is entitled to four (4) tickets to use over our three major productions, a free mailing of our newsletter *Spotlight*, and an open invitation to all of our social functions.

Ordinary ticket prices are \$15 (adult), \$12 (concession), and \$7 (child). It is obvious that if you become a subscriber for 2008 you will certainly be saving money.

***We have included a 2008 subscription form – please complete this and return it as soon as possible. Your subscription booklet(s) will be posted to you at no extra charge.***

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> February at 7.30pm St Jude's Hall (Grundy Hall)

You are all welcome to attend the AGM but only financial members are entitled to vote. Membership costs only \$5.00. You can renew your membership at the AGM or you can become a new member on that night.

New members are very welcome and have some special privileges – members are the people who have the fun of working on productions. Whether you sell programs, usher patrons to their new, comfortable seats, build sets or act on stage you, as a member, are a very special and intrinsic part of a production.

*Please note that, for insurance purposes, all of our volunteers are required to become financial members.*

## **MEMBERS DINNER**

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> February at 7.00pm

All members (non members are welcome) of the Players are invited to attend our annual dinner. This is always a night of fun and feasting. The dinner provides an opportunity to relax together before we begin the big task of producing three major plays.

This year the dinner will be held at Club Marion Function Centre, 262 Sturt Rd, Marion.

The meal is a 3 course dinner with a main course choice – **cost is \$25 Members and \$30 for others.** Drinks will be available for purchase from the bar. Make cheques payable to St Jude's Players and post to PO Box 52, Brighton 5048. **Payment must be received by Mon 18<sup>th</sup> of February.**

## **EXTRA DIARY DATES**

*Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October– Quiz Night and Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> Dec - Christmas Party*

## **CONGRATULATIONS**

Finally we extend our congratulations to Isabella Norton and Graham Nerlich for winning the "Best Actors" award for their performances in "On Golden Pond". This accolade is awarded each year by The Sunday Mail theatre critic Matt Byrne.

Congratulations also to Geoff Kemp. His set design for "Rebecca" and the set construction team (under Robert Aust) certainly deserved the "Oscart" from The Advertiser awarded for the most outstanding amateur theatre stage set in 2007.

We are very proud of our achievements and of the productions we present. We thank you for your support in 07 and we look forward to seeing you all again for our 08 season. Remember we welcome your feedback and we really appreciate it when you take the time to make a comment in our book as you leave the theatre.

Rosie Aust  
Chairman