



play up!

castle hill players newsletter april 2013 #493
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dates for the diary

April 16 2013: Annual General Meeting 8pm

May 15 2013: Opening Night THE SERVANT OF TWO MASTERS 8.15pm

president's report

Hi Everyone

It is so good to get back from a holiday and find that everything around the theatre is happening as it should. Who needs a president anyway? I am sure there will be an iPhone app before long and the job will be redundant.

So, looking at the calendar, "Steaming" will have opened by the time you read this. I am looking forward to seeing it on opening night as it promises to be great theatre. (Certainly it is likely to be the cleanest production we have staged in quite a while.)

As of this week there are three productions in rehearsal! Busy place our theatre especially for the casts and crews of shows preparing and in production all at the same time. But that still leaves two more auditions to aim for in this season and more crews to gather so keep your options open.

Please find time to attend the Annual General Meeting this month. The offices of President, Secretary, Program Director and five Management committee members are up for election.

Some of you may not be aware that another of our dear members has passed away since our last newsletter. Cecilia Keifel will be missed by all who knew her; she was a friend and a great asset to our theatre. Please find time to read our tribute to Cecilia in this newsletter.

Going to press I have been notified of the passing of yet another member. Heather Schubach, avid supporter and Life Member of the Castle Hill Players passed away last week. Her family has advised that her funeral will be held on Monday 15 April at 11.00am Rookwood Memorial Gardens and anyone who remembers Heather is welcome to attend.

Stephen

from the vpp

So this really will be my last newsletter entry as VPP - PROMISE!

Two auditions in one month resulting in two plays being cast. Huzzah!

Congratulations to the cast of "Enemy of the People": Jeremy Johnson, Therese Bean, Hannah Bath, Todd Beilby, Richard Ifield, Stephen Snars, Fred Cameron, Dennis Channels and Ron Parnell. And hello to those cast members new to the Pavilion Theatre - nice to have you on board!

Congratulations as well, to the cast of “Moonlight & Magnolias”: Sean McDonald, Rickard Roach, Paul Sztelma and Annette van Roden.

It's going to be very busy around the theatre over the coming months.

Now by the time you are reading this, “Steaming” will have opened to undoubtedly wide acclaim. If you haven't seen it yet, please do so post haste!

I'd like to thank Jean and Fiona Churchward for Steaming's opening night food and also Karen Miller for assisting with the washing up of all those damned wine glasses! I love it when our member's roll their sleeves up and volunteer to help. (And sorry if I've left anyone's name out if you lent a hand as well.)

See you at the AGM.

Paul

bumping in and bumping out

Speaking of members putting up their hands and helping out... Sunday 28 April will see “Steaming” bumping out of the theatre, “The Servant of Two Masters” bumping into the foyer and (possibly - not quite sure yet) “Enemy of the People” bumping in on the main stage. That's a lot of bumping in anyone's book!

So if you'd like to lend a hand - the bumping out starts at 9am and the bumping in starts at 1pm - please come along. You don't have to be great with a power tool - there are plenty of jobs available that don't need a drill!

last call! **looking for directors and play rec. committee**

If you want to direct in 2014 or want to be on the Play Recommendation Committee for Season 2014, you now have until April 26 to let me (or the incoming Program Director after the AGM) know - in writing please. An email will be fine and this will be the last reminder.

What we would like to do is give the incoming Management Committee a list of names so they can choose directors at their very first meeting - which will be in May - and get the ball rolling on creating the 2014 season.

So have a think about it and if you'd like to direct in 2014, email me at paul.sztelma@uts.edu.au. I will pass your name on to the 2014 Program Director. Remember - we're not asking for your play choices at this time - just your interest (but hey, if you have the time, start thinking about plays as well!) One thing we would like to know is if you would consider doing a foyer show or not. This will have no bearing on whether or not you are considered, it just allows us to plan the 2014 season and see if these foyer shows can be an ongoing concern.

And whilst we're at it - if you would like to put your hand up for the Play Recommendation Committee, I'll be taking names for that as well.

If you have any questions about the process or what may or may not be required of you as a director or PRC member, give me a call (0403 592 025) or email.

Paul

one old piano, looking for a good home

Living in the wings for the past, oh I don't know, 40 years (?), untouched for a decade and currently used as the world's most elaborate bench, is the old behemoth of a piano. Full sized, out of tune, some keys not working. Considering we have a nice new electric piano in the foyer, it's time to say goodbye to the old girl. Does anyone want it?

We are willing to give it away to a new home if you can arrange (and pay for) the removal - which would not be until "Steaming" closes. If you're interested, let me know via paul.sztelma@uts.edu.au. We can even arrange an inspection.

like us on the internets

Did you now that the Castle Hill Players has it's own Facebook page?

If you are on Facebook, why not "like" us? The more people who like us, the more people who see our updates and the more people who know we exist! Help us market our theatre to your friends - be they real friends or those fake facebook friends everyone seems to have.



Just search for The Pavilion Theatre Castle Hill Players on facebook to find our page. Or go straight to www.facebook.com/paviliontheatrecastlehill.

There's been a great response to "Steaming" on our facebook page - why not join in the conversation?

front of house

Our current play "Steaming" had a great opening night and if you haven't seen it yet you are missing something really special with great performances all round.



As for our FOH crews there are many I wish to thank. Some are no longer with us but they will be forever remembered and dearly missed. Cecilia and Keith were the very fabric of our little Theatre and selflessly gave their precious time to something they really loved being a part of.

I also wish to thank all the usual suspects who almost always make themselves available for FOH duties, especially when I am in desperate need of someone to fill a spot on the Roster. Also, I wish to extend a big thank you and welcome to new member Rodger Wishart. The ink was still not even dry on his membership form when he volunteered to do his first stint on FOH. I wish all our members could be as eager. He has even volunteered to do the next one as well!

Our next production "The Servant of Two Masters" will be a Foyer Show and will require at least 14 members with an RSA certificate (Responsible Service of Alcohol) and 14 each for Box Office and Coffee/Ushering so please give me a call and let me know of your availability.

Maureen 0408-204 835

in other news...

I didn't know it at the time of writing last month's newsletter but member Margaret Olive will be joining Phil Lye in holy theatricality, both appearing at The Theatre On Chester in Stephen Sewell's "It Just Stopped". Opening April 12. Info at www.theatreonchester.com.au.

Do you have any news you would like to share with our members? Email the stand-in newsletter editor Paul on paul.sztelma@uts.edu.au with the details.

vale cecelia kiefel

Cecilia Kiefel. 21/5/1976 – 15/3/2013

Actor, crew member, prompt extraordinaire and much beloved friend.

Cecilia touched so many lives with her support and unconditional respect for everyone and her mutual passion for her theatre. She was one of a kind and really stood for what community theatre is all about. Her hugs enveloped you and her smile lit up the room. Cecilia joined The Pavilion in 2005 and she was always a very active member from the start, sharing her gifts in many ways. Over the last 3 years she found her niche becoming our expert and much sort after prompt. Cecilia was justifiably and immensely proud of this achievement.



Her first engagement was as Rehearsal Prompt in the “Odd Couple” (2005). Cecilia always sat 3 rows back from the stage and one seat off centre. Everyone on stage knew exactly where to look to visually prompt for a cue and Cecilia was always ready. She was a brilliant prompt because she understood exactly what vulnerable actors needed when they first came off the book and she made it her mission to know if they were pausing for effect, searching for a line or if they actually needed a prompt! She loved watching rehearsals unfold and she innately knew how to listen, observe and take thorough notes - which were always tactfully relayed to the actors after in the greenroom. Directors relied heavily on her knowing the script better than they did and to keep their cast honest. What a talent.

Cecilia took a hand in many other activities, assisting in set construction for “Mr Baileys Minder” (2008) and “Bell, Book and Candle” (2009), then as ASM on “Stella by Starlight” (2009). Cecilia once again took on the dual roll of ASM and Prompt for “Butterflies are Free” (2010), then Rehearsal Prompt for Subscriber nights in 2011, ASM and prompt for “Snake in the Grass” (2012), Rehearsal Prompt for “The 39 Steps” (2012), “A Christmas Carol” (2012) and also for “Steaming” this year. Cecilia was also one of the most diligent FOH members always offering help in any capacity.

Cecilia also loved performing. She participated in numerous Subscribers Nights at Castle Hill and productions at Dural Musical Society and she also loved singing and reciting poetry. I’ll always remember how gorgeous she looked in her black satin dress, matching beret and red lipstick as Michelle the French Underground Spy in “Allo Allo” at Dural. She was perfectly cast and her comic timing was a revelation. Her crowning glory at The Pavilion was being part of the team and cast of “Dinkum Assorted” playing Little Beat in 2008. She was never happier tap dancing in a gold sequined dress and wearing a biscuit hat and she shone in more ways than one!

Being a genuinely humble person, Cecilia would have been amazed at the number of people who attended the service to celebrate her life, which was held at Castle Hill Baptist Church on Friday 22nd March. Members from the Pavilion filled up at least 3 rows and it was a privilege to hear her beautiful eulogy and witness stories and photos of Cecilia the Daughter, Mum, Wife, Sister, Niece, Grand-daughter and friend.

It was very clear that although Cecilia was with us for a such a tragically short time, she made a huge and lasting impact in the way she reached out to people in her gentle and kind way and that she was very much loved and respected in return.

Cecilia’s parents, Roger and Marilyn Howson along with Ray, her husband, would love for anyone in the membership to write down and send their memories or thoughts about Cecilia. These will be collected for Cecilia and Ray’s children Evelyn, Wesley and Jacob, so they know a little more about their mum through other people’s eyes as they grow older and have questions. It doesn’t matter if you knew Cecilia very well or only meet her once. These impressions and stories will be precious in the years to come. All memories may be sent to 15 Crestview Drive Glenwood.

Cecilia loved roses. As she had reserved her tickets to all the opening night shows this year, a rose will be placed on her seat for each opening night performance as a dedication to her memory and special place at her theatre. Rest gently Cecilia and know that you are greatly missed.

Faith Jessel

hello ladies...



A look at "Steaming". See it while you have the chance because everyone will be talking about it!



Mary Clarke, Annette Emerton, Liz Houchin, Faith Jessel, Sandy Velini and Annette van Roden.

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