A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

WOW! What a busy few months it’s been!

A Play in a Day was a huge success with everyone involved having a ball! Audience responses were extremely positive and all cast and crew are keen to repeat the experience. See pages 4 and 5 for all the news and highlights.

Toppers was a great night - congratulations to all our winners (See inside the newsletter for the list of winners and photos from the night).

Play it again Sam opened in early March and was a big hit! Well done to Karen and her cast and crew for a fabulous effort!

Until next edition,
Laura ☺

WHAT’S COMING??

Toppers 2002
BEST DIRECTOR

Toppers 2002
BEST ACTOR - MALE
(TIED)
Jon has been a member of HATS for twelve years and has contributed to numerous productions in that time. A former HATS Chairman, Jon is married to Kirstin and has two young sons – Sam and Alex.

1. How long have you been with HATS? Since October 1991
2. What other committee positions have you held? Secretary for 2 years, Chairman for 3 years, Resource Officer for 1 year.
3. What HATS shows have you been involved in? Almost all of them (since 1991) in one way or another through set construction, front of house, tickets, acting, lighting and sound.
4. What do you envision for the year ahead at HATS? This year will be a year of celebration – looking back at all of the great things we have done over the last 20 years. It will be interesting to see where we go when we start looking forwards next year.
5. What do you do (professionally) outside of HATS? I’m a technical officer – building equipment for TV and radio broadcast sites.
6. What or who brought you to HATS? Having moved to Melbourne earlier that year, I came to HATS to meet new people and spend time with my brother Peter.
7. Your proudest HATS achievement? The production of Kaleidoscope in November 1999. It was new and fresh quality theatre involving 3 directors, 11 plays, 13 actors in 27 roles and it was produced on a budget of $150. I’m proudest of that.

Narelle has been a part of HATS since 1996 and has added to the success of a multitude of shows. A familiar HATS face, Narelle is married to Michael Olsen and has a one-year-old son Liam.

1. How long have you been with HATS? I've been involved with HATS since 1996, although my first audience experience of HATS was in 1996.
2. What other committee positions have you held and when were they? Ticket Secretary (Dec '99 – July '01) Co Publicity (July '00 – July '01) Newsletter (July '00 – July '01)
4. What do you envision for the year ahead at HATS? What do I envision… oh, you know, the usual theatre stuff, lots of choccies, plenty of partying, more than sufficient alcohol, okay, okay, I partially jest. I really envision a fantastical, celebratory year, where we attempt to squeeze in 20 years of memories, the good, the bad, the ugly & the outrageous!
5. What do you do (professionally) outside of HATS? I work two days a week as a piano teacher at Overnewton College in Keilor, the rest of the time I'm a Mummy to Liam.
6. What or who brought you to HATS in the first place? I came to HATS via Michael Olsen, my then boyfriend (now husband), who was a HATS adjudicator for a few years around 1995. My first introduction to HATS was the 1995 Toppers Awards, which included seeing Peter & Jon Lyons in drag, but I still came back!
7. Your proudest HATS achievement? My proudest HATS achievement is a personal one, it was being asked to step into the role of Madge during the run of Philadelphia, Here I Come! in 2000. I was given less than 24 hours notice, and it was expected I would do it with a script in my hand, but somehow I managed to learn the lines, complete with accent, and perform the role for the last week of the show.

Narelle says, “Actually, one of the things I’ve really appreciated and enjoyed about HATS has been the opportunity to try my hand at a lot of different theatrical areas.”
Nick has been a part of HATS for a couple of years and has become a regular at our One-Act Play seasons. Nick is also a talented musician, and plays drums in his band "Dow Jones and the All Ordinaries".

1. **How long have you been with HATS?**
   2 years

2. **What other committee positions have you held and when were they?**
   This is my first time on the HATS Committee, but I was treasurer, as well as other various bits & pieces for St. Michael's Players.

3. **What HATS shows have you been involved in?**
   - 2001-Summer of the 17th Doll (Sound)
   - 2001-Smoke & Mirrors (Stage Manager)
   - 2002-Garden of Granddaughters (Stage Manager)
   - 2002-Laughter & Tears (Lighting Operator)
   - 2003-Play it again Sam (Stage Manager)

4. **What do you envision for the year ahead at HATS?**
   A year of reminiscing & re-living the productions of past years, as well as an opportunity to revive them with a fresh outlook and perspective.

5. **What do you do (professionally) outside of HATS?**
   Pretend I’m a rock star in a few different bands! Really just working for the weekend at Primus, but I’m studying Sound Engineering 2 nights a week to see if I can really make a living in the music biz.

6. **What or who brought you to HATS?**
   The Swann’s are the party to blame! I remember seeing David in the first HATS production of "Play it again Sam" and after St. Michaels Players went down the gurgler I saw HATS as the logical place to go to get my theatre “fix”!

7. **Your proudest HATS achievement?**
   I was very proud of our achievements as a company as we did the one-act play festivals last year. The success that our plays had was a tribute to our hard work as a team. It was good fun too!

Nick says, “My aim is to ensure our productions are fun to do as well as entertaining….perhaps I’ll get back on stage one day…maybe……”

---

**NEW COMMITTEE LISTING (2002/2003).**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>position</th>
<th>name</th>
<th>phone</th>
<th>email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chairman/Public Officer</td>
<td>Michelle Swann</td>
<td>9898 3954/0402 354 651</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary/Newsletter</td>
<td>Laura Bradley</td>
<td>9818 5989/0414 849 028</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Andrew Newman</td>
<td>9699 2715/0427 769 969</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creative Director/Fundraising/Lyrebirds</td>
<td>Sheona Paxman</td>
<td>9873 8487/0401 141 136</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publicity/Venue Liaison</td>
<td>Jill Fisher</td>
<td>9459 8656</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAPS Youth Theatre</td>
<td>Karen Fisher</td>
<td>9459 8656/0402 075 574</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resource Officer</td>
<td>Jon Lyons</td>
<td>9439 8054/0402 330 389</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ticket Secretary/Front of House</td>
<td>Narelle Olsen</td>
<td>9435 0443</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nick Beaton</td>
<td>9878 1545</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Feel free to contact committee members with any concerns or questions you may have.

---

STOP PRESS! STOP PRESS! STOP PRESS!

Toni-Anne Deane has resigned from the HATS Committee, effective February 2003. Toni was responsible for the portfolio of Creative Director.

The position of Creative Director has been filled by Sheona Paxman. We also have had two new committee members join – Narelle Olsen and Nick Beaton – in the roles of General Committee. Welcome guys!

TOPPERS 2002 – BEST PRODUCTION!
A Play in a Day is exactly what it was all about: a show written, cast, rehearsed and produced in just 24 hours. To the best of our knowledge it had never been done before in Australia!

The 24 hour production began at 10.00pm on Friday, February 14 when six writers, six directors and fourteen actors arrived at Vermont Secondary College. After a brief address, teams were chosen by pulling coloured balls from a hat (seems appropriate for a HATS production). To ensure originality, two themes were randomly drawn by the writers, one of which was to be the subject of their play. The teams then assembled so that the writers could gain an understanding of the actors’ individual skills.

Soon after 11.00pm, only the writers remained to write their plays throughout the night.

At 6.00am (now Saturday), the directors returned to discuss the plays; whilst we battled with a reluctant printer. At 7.00am the actors arrived as the weary writers turned home for a most deserved sleep. Throughout the day the plays were discussed, learnt and rehearsed. After lunch each play performed a technical rehearsal; which took far longer than was originally planned.

By 8.00pm all the plays were ready, and shortly after that the last of the audience arrived. At approximately 8.15pm the tech crew grabbed a well-earned drink of water and the performance got underway.

The order of the show was the same as the pictures over the page, with an interval between 'Down Among The Dead Men' and 'Intolerance'. Incredibly, the final play finished within a minute of 10.00pm - exactly 24 hours since the whole process started!

The audience reaction was fantastic and I would not be the only one to be astonished by the quality of the shows. So much of this success must be given to the writers who not only produced wonderful plays but in so doing inspired us all to produce our very best efforts.

Congratulations to the directors and actors who were able to fully realise the potential of these scripts and to breathe the first breaths of life into them.

A tribute to the efforts of the technical crew who worked tirelessly, and without a break, for eight or more hours.

Thanks also to the vision of the producers who made this all possible, and to the audience who willingly came along (and paid their money) for a completely unknown show - thanks for your faith in us.

After this, we might even do it again next year!

David Swann - Stage Manager

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CREW LIST….</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Producers</td>
<td>.... Michelle Swann</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>.... Michael Olsen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>.... Sheona Paxman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage Manager</td>
<td>.... David Swann</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asst Stage Mgr</td>
<td>.... Laura Bradley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lighting</td>
<td>.... Andrew Toomath</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sound</td>
<td>.... Chris Collins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage Hand</td>
<td>.... Michael McBain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOH/Tickets</td>
<td>.... Narelle Olsen</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
KNUCKLE
Written by Simon Hall
Directed by Vicki Smith
Starring Amy Huva and Tanya Herbert

THE BANK
Written by Aaron Smith
Directed by Meg Courtney
Starring Daryl Scobie and Jenni Dyson

INTOLERANCE
Written by Warwick Holt
Directed by Erin Prater
Starring Sheona Paxman, Nicole Blyth & Tanya Weiler

DOWN AMONG THE DEAD MEN
Written by Alan Keaughran & Michelle Napolitano
Directed by Mark Edwards
Starring Rebecca Martin and Laura Paulsen

OCCUPATION AS AN OCCUPATION
Written by Adam Jones
Directed by Frank Otis
Starring Janine Meadley & Belinda Stoppar

A DOG’S LIFE
Written by Michael Olsen
Directed by Kim Edwards
Starring Karen Fisher, Kim Hamilton & Damian Vuleta
WANT TO KNOW WHO WON?
THEN LOOK NO FURTHER...........

ADJUDICATOR’S AWARDS...
- Bethany Fisher – Most Promising Young Actor
- Jenni Dyson – Props & Costumes for Rumpelstiltskin

BEST SET DESIGN...
- Edgar John Wegner for The Garden of Granddaughters

BEST TECHNICAL ACHIEVEMENT...
- Andrew Toomath – Lighting Design for Joyrider

BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR (FEMALE)...
- Kelly Windle – for “Lisa” in The Garden of Granddaughters

BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR (MALE)...
- Adrian Mackay – for “Don” in Joyrider

BEST ACTOR (FEMALE)...
- Marcia Perry – for “Moriley” in The Garden of Granddaughters

BEST ACTOR (MALE)...
- Sean Hand – for “Arnold” in Clutterbuck
- Nils Fisher – for “Miles” in Clutterbuck

BEST ORIGINAL SCRIPT...
- Michael Olsen – Footsteps in the River

BEST DIRECTOR...
- John Jennings – Clutterbuck

BEST PRODUCTION...
- Clutterbuck

CHAIRMAN’S AWARD...
- Laura Bradley – for services above and beyond the call of duty

AUDIENCE APPRECIATION AWARD...
- Louise Steele – for “Sarah” in Footsteps in the River
**HATSGALA NIGHT**

Just what is a “gala night”?

Well, for HATS, it's a chance to get together and celebrate 20 years of theatre. A chance for us all to dress up and get together to reminisce and catch up with long lost HATS family.

The Gala Night is open to all HATS members, past and present, and we encourage anyone who is interested in performing a skit, singing a song or has a “number” they wish to present to get in touch with the Gala Night Co-Ordinator – Sheona Paxman on 9873 8487

ALSO WANTED: do you have old HATS memorabilia - old show programs, photos or publicity? We want all these! Please call Sheona!

---

**GREENDOOR PRODUCTION**

Greendoor?

“Greendoor Productions are an exciting innovation by HATS, in which writers, actors and directors work together to present new theatrical pieces. In this respect, audience feedback is vital, offering everyone involved in the piece the chance to engage in a dialogue with the audience, gaining new perspective.

They are an inexpensive, low risk way of offering audiences something outside of mainstream theatre. In addition they offer actors the opportunity to perform without the commitment and stress necessary for a full-length production. They also offer people interested in developing their skills within any aspect of theatre the chance to have a go.”


This year’s Greendoor is featuring four brand new productions, hot off the presses. We have two new Michael Olsen plays, a return by Bruce Foot (author of award winning “Clutterbuck”) and a piece by Stella Glorie.

Interested in joining in? We still need directors and actors for a couple of the plays. For any enquiries or expressions of interest, please contact HATS Creative Director, Sheona Paxman on 9873 8487. Don’t be shy!
PLAY IT AGAIN, SAM

HATS, although a company of many years standing has a complete change over and now is a new company in terms of players and offstage staff. This gives a chance for newcomers to the acting scene and a fresh, vital outlook. The standard is not always as high as other companies around the suburbs but this is countered by the enthusiasm and the opportunity for more beginners to try out. This was evident by Play it again, Sam.

The story is about neurotic New York film critic Allan Felix who has just broken up from his wife and his friends trying to get him out of his depression and introducing him to a new circle of girls. The result is not quite what one expects.

The play could have been a little tighter in the direction, some actors were a little slow and missed a little, but the audience did not let that bother their appreciation. Tyson White was Allan Felix. Tyson has a future and caught the feel of Allan with touches of Woody Allen coming through on occasion. Kate Baker was his ex wife Nancy, who appeared in several dream sequences. Kate handled the part competently and has a fair stage projection. The ghost of Humphrey Bogart was played by Heath Thomas. Heath caught the stance and feel of Bogie, but his trenchcoat did appear a little short as Heath is perhaps a little tall for the role.

Allan’s friends, Dick and Linda Christie, were played by Andrew Newman and Vanessa Alpins. Andrew was good as the businessman Dick, always ringing his office and leaving the phone number of the next appointment. (This was written before mobile phones which does tend to date the play). An on the go rushed businessman who didn’t see what was happening under his own eyes.

Vanessa Alpins as his wife Linda gave a good performance with a good rapport with Tyson White.

Other girls made cameo entrances as Allan is caught up with the plans of his friends and meets these different types.

A fair production; could be polished a little but nevertheless very enjoyable. This was evidenced by the appreciation of the audience. One of the best audience reactions one has seen for a while around theatre.