

# Just Chatting



Bringing the best of community theatre to the Coffs Coast and Region

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## OUR NEXT PRODUCTION... coming to the Jetty Memorial Theatre this October

### Birthrights David Williamson

After two wonderful auditions, director David Quinn has found his cast and he couldn't be more pleased.

"The standard of acting at the auditions was extremely high, which made our task more than a little difficult," he said. "But I am confident that we have a wonderful group of talented players who will give amazing performances." The cast is:

Claudia.....Rory Banwell  
Helen.....Becky Cole  
Margaret.....Alice Cooper  
Kelly.....Rebecca Sutherland  
Mark.....Michael Sutherland  
Martin.....John Miller

We welcome two newcomers- Michael and John- and an ex-CHATTER (Rory) . David is very happy with his cast, who

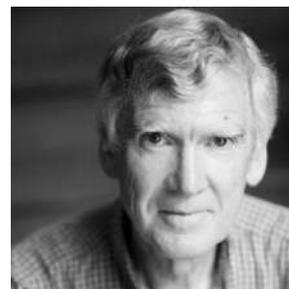
have made a great start on this demanding play.

We also have our first ever father-daughter acting team in Michael and Rebecca Sutherland. Audiences may remember Rebecca as the 'Fee' in *Autumn Song* last year and she was in the delightful chorus line of *Anything Goes*.

Tickets go on sale soon and the Box Office is open Tues-Fri, 12-4pm.

Jetty Memorial Theatre: 6652 8088 or online at [www.jettytheatre.com](http://www.jettytheatre.com)

**See you at the theatre!**



## !! MIX-IT-UP Workshops and Performance !!

Shirley Barnett and her talented daughter, Sue Broadway, in conjunction with dancers Karolyn Gibson and Julie Ross invite you to a wonderful presentation on

**Sunday 6th September at 2pm at the CWA building in Dalley Street,**

to enjoy the creative efforts of some of our fantastic young disabled performers. These wonderful young people have participated in physical theatre skills workshops and want to show off what they have learned.

Please contact Shirley for all details: [shirlbarnett@me.com](mailto:shirlbarnett@me.com) or call 0434 402960

**Please come along to witness their efforts and cheer them on! Entry is FREE.**

## President's Report

Dear Members and Friends,

Well, *Death of a Salesman* has been and gone. It was a huge body of work for all that took part and it was the biggest and most complex play that I have ever directed. Having said that, I would not have had it any other way.

My cast were brilliant and worked very hard. The 'green room' atmosphere was wonderful with cast and crew all united with one objective – to give the audience a memorable experience.

As usual, it would not happen if not for the volunteers: Penny, David, Helen and all the ushers on Box Office and Front-of-House; the set builders, Bec on lights, Laura on sound, Louwanna and Judi on costumes and Sharon with props. Thanks also to David, Natalie, Hilary and Michelle at JMT – you guys are awesome. Special thanks to Tom for the publicity photos and program pics – as always, well done.

I will end with the fact that I am extremely proud of what I and the cast achieved for CHATS and I am sure the audience members will remember *Death of a Salesman* for a long time to come.



Next up, we have David Williamson's *Birthrights* directed by David Quinn. This is a great play and very topical given its core subject – surrogacy. It is David Williamson to a tee. I am looking forward to seeing DQ directing for CHATS again as it has been a while.

Then we have Christmas. The committee are trying to come up with a different idea this year for our combined CHMCC/CHATS party. If you have any suggestions you should contact us on [info@chats.org.au](mailto:info@chats.org.au) and have your say.

That's it from me, till next time.

**Rex Madigan**



Thanks to Tom Caldwell for the photographs - The Cast and Crew of *Death of a Salesman*, July 2015

## Your CHATS needs you!

Volunteers needed for behind-the-scenes roles in Birthrights - on stage October 15-25. Roles needed are:

- \* Stage Manager
- \* 2 x Stagehands
- \* Prompt
- \* Lighting operator
- \* Props manager
- \* Front-of-House ushers

If you are interested to undertake any of these duties, please call or text David Quinn on 0405 763 939

## CHRISTMAS IS COMING, THE GOOSE IS GETTING FAT. BUT WHERE WILL THE CHATS CHRISTMAS PARTY BE AT?

Ok, so the 'English' is a bit off, but the sentiment is true. In the last couple of years, we have held our Christmas celebration at the JMT shed and it has been a smashing fry-up BBQ breakfast with Rex and Marty doing the 'cheffing' honours.

But 'Is it time for a change?' I hear you ask. Well, is it? Would you like your Christmas fun to be somewhere else - or do something completely different?

All ideas welcome!

Send to:

[info@chats.org.au](mailto:info@chats.org.au) or call Rex on 0421 756618

## Directors wanted

Yes, it's a call to arms. We really want to hear from members and friends who would like to direct next year.

As you may know, it is part of CHATS' brief to provide opportunities for aspiring directors, writers, actors and crew in community theatre.

We have some outstanding plays that could be performed next year - but we need directors for them.

The plays under consideration for next year are:

- *Matchbox Theatre* by Michael Frayn (compilation of sketches, duologues)
- *Noises Off* also by Michael Frayn (farce)
- *Black Rock* by Nick Enright (Australian drama)
- *Companion Planting* by Penny Dennis (comedy)
- and Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*

Call me or Rex, our president, and let us know if there is a particular play that you would like to know more about or if you have a suggestion of your own! The committee has a wealth of experience to assist you and we can offer intensive Director Workshops to take you through everything you'll need to know from the audition process, play analysis, the 'admin' side of things, staging requirements, rehearsal scheduling, publicity, through to bumping in and out.

We are looking for at least two directors for works coming up in 2016 and beyond.

Call Rex on 0421 756618 or me (Penny) on 0407 396038

Don't Forget...

### CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG

by Ian Fleming

coming to the Jetty Memorial Theatre  
in November 2016 thanks to:

Coffs Harbour Musical Comedy Company

## Other events and happenings

### Living Well Expo 2015 – Get Linked Into Life

It is with great excitement & enthusiasm we invite you to come along and get involved in this year's Living Well Expo on **Wednesday 19 August** 10am – 3pm at CeX in Coffs.

The expo is in its 10<sup>th</sup> year and attracts well over 2000 punters from across the region each year. This year the focus is again on disability and the expo will provide an opportunity for people with disability and their carers to find out more about the vast array of services, opportunities, programs and supports in our local region.

This year's theme is '*Get Linked Into Life*' and it's a perfect opportunity for community groups to showcase what they do and promote themselves to a broad disability focused audience.

The expo is spread across 3 huge spaces at Coffs CEX Club featuring a massive pavilion of stallholders, a room for guest speakers and panel discussions and the third room is the one I'm helping coordinate - the interactive *Leisure & Pleasure Room* - full of hands-on fun and entertainment.

**CHATS will be in the Leisure and Pleasure room encouraging people to put on silly hats and take a selfie. We'd love to see you there.**

**love Shirley**

### COMMITTEE NEWS

In the last couple of months, we have said a fond farewell to some treasured Committee Members. Emilia Guthrie, our long-standing Treasurer and the lovely Lehanne Whittaker due to ill-health, and Paul Hutchison, who has been our website stalwart. As a consequence, we would like to encourage a few more people to come on board the Committee. But, in order that you know what are the expectations, we thought it might be helpful to know what's involved and what we all do. So, here goes...

Meetings are on the first Tuesday of every month at 7pm and usually last for about 1 ½ - 2 hours. Everyone on the Committee has specific roles: Rex Madigan is the 'communications' and 'go-to' man who handles much of the interactions with the theatre, suppliers and our volunteers. Penny Dennis takes the Minutes at meetings, does the Newsletter and (temporarily) is looking after the accounts. Shirley Barnett undertakes special pro-

jects and has directing and coaching duties, Wendy Jeffery manages the Facebook page, Marty Elliott organises play-readings and Arlene takes care of publicity with the radio stations in particular. As you can imagine, with a current committee of only six people, there is room for more - especially if they would like to offer a special skill or interest, such as looking after the website, membership secretary, social events, advertising or treasurer.

So, please we urge you to get involved and help lighten the load that some of these hard-working committee members are currently bearing.

Please contact Rex or myself if you would like to know more about what the committee does. We really hope that you will want to become involved in YOUR community theatre company.

Cheers! Penny Dennis

[info@chats.org.au](mailto:info@chats.org.au) 0407 396 038

# Play-readings galore!

CHATS is hosting a play-reading of selected plays for 2016. Featured plays will be: *Noises Off* and *Matchbox Theatre*, both written by Michael Frayn, and *Twelfth Night* by William Shakespeare.

*Noises Off* is a 1982 play by the English playwright Michael Frayn. The idea for it came in 1970, when Frayn was watching from the wings a performance of *The Two of Us*, a farce that he had written for Lynn Redgrave. He said, "It was funnier from behind than in front, and I thought that one day I must write a farce from behind." And the final result is a theatre experience you will never forget.

*Matchbox Theatre* presents a sketch show in miniature: thirty short entertainments by Michael Frayn, author of *Skios* and *Noises Off*, 'the funniest farce ever written' (*New York Times*).

Thirty snatches of people talking. To each other, to the world at large, to themselves, to no one. Heard, unheard. Overheard, half-heard. On telephones, into microphones. In a crypt, an airport, an orchestra pit.

These tiny plays are perfect for an ensemble cast of actors and directors who might participate in only one or two of the pieces, or be involved in many of them, either as a director, or as an actor... It's up to you.

*Twelfth Night* is one of Shakespeare's finest comedies. It centres on the twins Viola and Sebastian, who are separated in a shipwreck. Viola (who is disguised as a boy) falls in love with Duke Orsino, who in turn is in love with the Countess Olivia. Upon meeting Viola, Countess Olivia falls in love with her thinking she is a man. A love triangle that only The Bard can unravel!

**Come along - everyone welcome at The Mud Hut, Duke Street, Coffs at 2pm on Sunday 13th September.**

A full reading of the first draft of

## Companion Planting

by Penny Dennis

**to be held at 55 Brodie Drive, Coffs on Wednesday 26th August at 7pm.**

Wine and nibbles provided.

The story: *The Swift Valley Retirement Village wins a garden makeover from the popular TV show, Perfect Plots, led by its charismatic and ageless host, Perry Potts. But even before filming starts, the show faces disaster and the residents are forced to save the day, despite their differences.*

*Companion Planting* is a magical romantic comedy filled with rich and unforgettable characters and calls for a cast of 5 women and 4 men of all ages from c.25 years upwards.

Please come and read for me - **everyone welcome!** Penny D. Call/text: 0407 396038 or email to [pendennis@iinet.net.au](mailto:pendennis@iinet.net.au)



## MACBETH

Congratulations to Beckley Vincent and the cast and crew of *Macbeth*, on stage at the Jetty Memorial Theatre in early August. This was a terrific piece of theatre with innovative use of the stage, the auditorium, lighting and sound - as well as some really fine acting from a versatile cast.

**Great work everyone!**