

JUST CHATTING



CHATS PRODUCTIONS INC.

December 2016

PO Box 111, Coffs Harbour, NSW 2450

Email: info@chats.org.au

Website: www.chats.org.au

Tel: 0421 756 618

Terry Pratchett's Wyrd Sisters

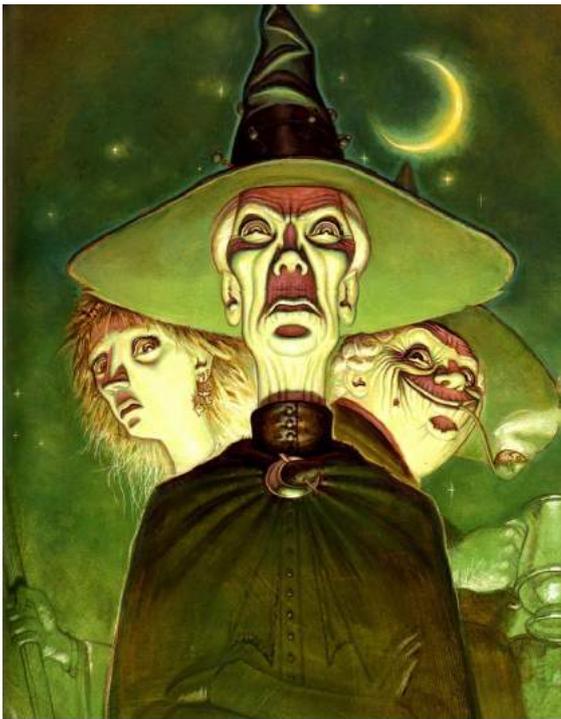


Illustration: Paul Kidby www.paulkidby.com

The King is dead, long live the King! Well actually no, because the New King, the evil Duke Felmet, murdered the previous King and will stop at nothing until the whole Kingdom is under his iron hand.

The only person who could take the throne would be the missing infant Prince. Hunted by the Duke's men the baby finds safety under the protection of three local witches, Granny Weatherwax, Nanny Ogg and Magrat Garlick.

The witches have a rule never to interfere but with the life of a child at stake and the fate of the Kingdom at hand, Granny has a saying about rules, if you're going to break them "Break them good and hard!"

"Terry Pratchett takes Shakespeare's Macbeth and then turns it up 'till the knob comes off."

It's all there – a wicked duke and duchess, the ghost of the murdered king, dim soldiers, strolling players, and a land in peril. And who stands between the Kingdom and destruction? Three witches. Granny Weatherwax (intolerant, self-opinionated, powerful), Nanny Ogg (down-to-earth, vulgar) and Magrat Garlick (naïve, fond of occult jewellery and bunnies).

Wyrd Sisters opens March 23 - April 1, 2017 at the Jetty Memorial Theatre.

CHATS & CHMCC CHRISTMAS PARTY

Come join us for brunch to break in the new BBQ and celebrate a great year of theatre and friendship.

**Sunday 18th December from 10am
at the Jetty Memorial Theatre Sheds.**

BYO chairs - sausages, bacon and egg rolls, champagne and orange juice provided!

Inside this issue:

TERRY PRATCHETT'S 'WYRD SISTERS'	1
TWELFTH NIGHT WRAP UP	2
PRESIDENT'S REPORT	3
PLAYREADING REPORT	3

FOR MORE... VISIT THE CHATS WEBSITE
OR CHECK OUT THE CHATS PRODUCTIONS
FACEBOOK PAGE

JUST CHATTING

TWELFTH NIGHT wrap up

Celebrations have been mounted around the world to mark the 400th anniversary of the death of William Shakespeare. CHATS elected to stage 'Twelfth Night, or What You Will' as our contribution.

This one of his most popular comedies, and one of the liveliest and most entertaining.

My production was planned to highlight the comedy, colour, and lively characters to engage the audience. This I believe we achieved.

Despite my lengthy hospital stay, the production continued under the guiding hand of Rex Madigan. We owe so much to Rex - the epitome of a perfect President. Of course there were problems; but I had

worked out the flow of the piece well in advance, and the cast worked very hard in the final two weeks, and the play hit the stage more or less as I had imagined it. Special thanks to my indefatigable PA, Arlene. Well done all!

I had an amazing cast- incredibly believable twins, (future stars both), excellent performances from Olivia and the Duke, a lively and accomplished comedy team, some truly beautiful singing (thank you Nadene) and a very disciplined supporting cast. Kudos to all.

I was proud that we had three of the young people from 'Mix It Up' on stage, thus achieving the purpose of the Fundability Grant. I believe this was a great benefit to CHATS and to the Mixers, who all got on so well together. We have all learnt to appreciate the abilities of these youngsters. I hope to see them on stage again soon.

Special Thanks to the Tech Team- Professionals all- Peter, Brett, Peggy, and our vital backstage support Rex, Marty, John, and Lynn; and all the CHATS members who helped with FOH. publicity, and in promoting the show. Great photos from Tom Caldwell will be our permanent record of the show.

It is worth remembering!

Love Shirley



December 2016

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear members and friends,

Well it's that time of year again, Christmas is upon us and our last play has been played for 2016.

CHATS once again has produced some wonderful shows enjoyed by many, starting with Dave Tune and myself directing "Noises Off" this side splitting comedy was enjoyed by many and the cast had a ball putting this extremely physical play on.

Next Judi Williams directed "Cosi", this Australian play is fast gathering classic status and was enjoyed by all that saw it and was also well attended by a high school audience that came to a special school's performance.

Finally Shirley Barnett directed Shakespeare's comedy "Twelfth Night" for those lovers of Shakespeare this was a memorable play proving that Shakespeare can be very funny. Shirley unfortunately was quite unwell for a lot of the rehearsal period, but in true Shirley fashion the show got there and was brilliant. Again we put on a special school performance that was a hit.

Shirley has said this was her last major play and is hanging up the director's kit. I personally would not have money on that. Shirley has been part of a writing team that has written a play called 'Frazzled' for kids, watch out for this either next year or 2018.

Whatever Shirley does we at CHATS will always love her and never forget the work she has done, she has been a wonderful mentor to many.

Next year CHATS opens with "Wyrd Sisters" by Terry Pratchett, directed by Beckley Vincent, this hilarious parody of Shakespeare's Macbeth featuring the three witches and many more weird characters. I attended a rehearsal recently and laughed and laughed. Please pencil this show in for March 2017 you will not be disappointed.

The second show for 2017 is "Legally Blonde" this is a bit of a sea change for CHATS with good reason. Dave Tune is directing this version especially written for teenagers, it is a shortened version of the Broadway musical purely aimed at the younger generation. The idea is to teach young aspiring actors the ways of theatre not only on stage but backstage and also the technical aspects. CHATS as always looking to the future and training people to continue bringing quality theatre to Coffs Harbour.

Our third offering is a play called "Curtain Up" directed by David Quinn, this is about five women that inherit a rundown abandoned theatre, will they sell it or do it up and use it for what it was designed, come and see this sometimes sad and sometimes funny play I am sure you will enjoy a night at the theatre about the theatre.

I am looking forward to cooking brunch for you all at our combined CHATS/Comedy Company party with Tim Egan. We hope you can attend the Champagne, Orange Juice, Sausages and Bacon and Egg Rolls are on us. So please join us for this end of year bash, down at the sheds next to the Jetty Memorial Theatre Sunday December 18th at 10.00 am. BYO chair, everything else provided.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Rex



Congratulations to Donna Fairall and all our friends at CHMCC for their fantastic production of Mary Poppins. The cast performed brilliantly, the sets were creative, and my children are still singing the songs and trying to work out how to spell supercalifragilisticexpialidocious!

PLAYREADING of 2017 Productions

Greetings you lot! On Saturday 29th October, at the home of Wendy Jeffery, a small but enthusiastic crowd gathered for our last play reading, which featured our second and third shows for production in 2017.

Firstly, Dave Tune gave us a presentation of his ideas for **Legally Blonde Jr** the Musical, which he will be directing next year. This is a true "Community Theatre" project which aims to give young (18 and unders only) aspiring actors a chance to explore the challenges of being in a live theatre environment. It is hoped that all of these young people will enjoy the experience and some of them will go on to audition for other shows with the Coffs Harbour theatre groups in the future.

We then broke for a very scrumptious afternoon tea and a social catch-up. Yours Truly then launched into a fast tracked version of **Curtain Up**, Act 1. We then cast and read Act 2, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all, with many laughs along the way. David Quinn will direct this as our 3rd play next year.

Marty Elliott, CHATS Play Reading Co-ordinator.