

News at a glance...

- ◆ **Gala Opening Night**
for *Rumors* Wed 8
October
- ◆ **Synopses** for plays to
be read in this issue
- ◆ **Over to you** - call for
submissions to CHATS
newsletter

Diary Dates

◆ October

8 - 19: *Rumors* - see
dates in this issue

◆ November

**Sat 1st at 2pm *Play-
reading*** 3 *NEW* plays at
the Mud Hut.

8 - 29: *Hairspray* Coffs
Harbour Musical Comedy
Company at the JMT

9th : at 1pm - *Auditions*
for *Mum's the Word*
Teenagers (5f) - at 18 Ka-
lang Circuit, 1.30pm. Call
Shirley Barnett 6651 9098

◆ December

Sunday 7th, 9am Christ-
mas Brekkie at the JMT
Sheds. BYO drinks. Cham-
pagne and orange juice
provided!

Monthly Newsletter for CHATS Productions Inc., PO BOX 111 Coffs Harbour NSW 2450.

www.chats.org.au

info@chats.org.au

~ Rex's Round-up ~

Presidents Report October 2014

Dear Members,

Here we go with *Rumors* opening night this Wednesday the 8th. Director, Emilia and the cast and crew have been working hard to bring this hilarious production to the stage. Please tell all your friends to come and see this side splitting play – I guarantee they won't be disappointed.

As usual if you can help FOH please contact Helen for ushering duty and don't forget the trade-off is you get to see the show.

Thanks to Frank, Kerry, Neville, Merv and Pat for the wonderful set and not complaining about the last minute adjustments. You blokes are priceless.

Thanks also to David, Natalie and Hilary for fitting us in for a bit of extra rehearsal time between other commitments.

We must also thank Coffs Harbour High School for the use of their halls for rehearsal space; it has been fantastic to be able to work in an environment closer to the real stage at JMT.

I would like to send the best wishes of the Committee and Members to Frank Lilley (set designer maestro) who has just had a stint in hospital, Frank is home and on the mend but it will be a while before we see him down at the shed.

Lastly don't forget our play reading at the Mud Hut in Duke Street (opposite Centrelink offices) on Saturday 1st November at 2pm. There's also the Xmas breakfast BBQ with champagne and orange juice at 9am on December 7th at the theatre.

I will see you all at *Rumors*.

Bye for now

Rex Madigan

Some of you may have heard that Frank Lilley, one of our wonderful men down at the shed, was in hospital recently. Please join us in wishing Frank a speedy recovery and we hope to see his happy smile again *very* soon!

Vanessa
Crossley &
Dee Tune
busy re-
hearsing for
RUMORS.



Current Production

Curtain Up! Light the lights!

Yes, all the rehearsing is done and the cast and crew are all set to give you a crackingly good show. Laughs!?!... You bet there are. This rollicking farce has laughs to spare - (you might need to bring spare undies!).

Watch the madness unfold and have a great night of fun. Book now, if you haven't already done so, and remember that on the Sunday 12th matinee and the Wednesday 15th evening performances, all tickets are only \$20.

There are still tickets available for the Gala Opening Night on Weds 8th - look out for the delicious sandwiches and nibbles

Do stick around after the opening night show and meet the cast, too!

RUMORS



RUMORS

PERFORMANCE DATES, TIMES and PRICES

- ◆ Wednesday 8 Oct 8pm
- ◆ Friday 10 Oct 8pm
- ◆ Saturday 11 Oct 8pm
- ◆ Sunday 12 Oct 2pm
- ◆ Wednesday 15 Oct 8pm
- ◆ Friday 17 Oct 8pm
- ◆ Saturday 18 Oct 8pm
- ◆ Sunday 19 Oct 2pm

Adult : \$25

Concession/Student : \$22

Groups 10+ : \$22

All tix only \$20 on Sun 12 and Wed 15 performances only

JMT Pre-booking fee applies

No booking fee on-door sales

Box Office: **6652 8088**

www.jettytheatre.com.au

“Rumors” was written by Neil Simon in 1988. Simon wrote the play after a particularly difficult time in his life, and thought it would be good to write a comedy. “Rumors” was the first farce he ever wrote, and the play has enjoyed much success in the US, England and Australia.

The play is set in the house of the Deputy Mayor, Charley Brock. He and his wife Myra are celebrating their 10th anniversary and have invited their good friends. Chris and Ken Gorman, a legal couple, are the first to arrive. They show up only to find that Myra is missing, and Charlie has ‘accidentally’ shot himself in the ear. Charley is unconscious and so unable to tell them what has happened. Charley is the deputy mayor of the city, and, hoping to avoid a scandal, Ken and Chris go about covering up what they assume to be the truth of the situation. As the rest of the guests arrive – Len and Claire Ganz, Ernie and Cookie Cusack, and Glenn and Cassie Cooper – the story of Charley and Myra’s anniversary evening gone awry grows and develops.

In the end all the guests are complicit in a cover-up that no-one even really understands, but the fantastical events are hilarious and give a rich basis for what Neil Simon does best – making the mundane... insane!

The wonderful cast comprises: Dee and David Tune, Jennifer White, Marty Elliott, Vanessa Crossley, Allan Green, Elliot Kinsela, Nathan Burton and Wendy Hardes.

THE PLAY-READING... What are the plays all about?

We have selected three plays for the Play-reading on Saturday November 1st, all of which could be our third play for next year. That's where you come in. Your participation and opinions are crucial to the selection of a good play, but it helps to know what they are about. So, with thought in mind, here are synopses of all three.

CHARLIE'S SHOP by Mark Kumara is a comedy in two Acts for 3 males/5 females. It is story of the Pitt-Sapwell siblings (George, Peter, Jane and Charlie) and their attempt to get hold of their mother's inheritance. The old Mrs Pitt-Sapwell has left them \$8million to share between them but only on the condition that they successfully run for one year any retail enterprise of youngest (hippy) son, Charlie's choosing. Before hiking off to an Indian ashram and 'disappearing', Charlie buys a sex shop and George (Deputy Leader of the Senate), Peter (a leading doctor) and Jane (a private girls' school principal) are left to do their best without news of their little side-line getting out. Charlie's Shop is a saucy, modern-day farce filled with political incorrectness and some challenging props!

LAST OF THE SUMMER WINE by Roy Clarke

(5m, 2f) is also a comedy, based on the characters in the popular BBC TV series of the same name. Foggy, Clegg and Compo are reunited on stage for a romantic adventure. Foggy has designs on winning the affections of Nora Batty's niece, Constance, the long-suffering fiancée of Special Constable Gifford Bewmont.



Foggy invites the ladies round for an evening's entertainment, little knowing that there is a flasher on the loose in the village. The evening looks even more precarious when Compo turns up unannounced (and un-washed) and proceeds to wreak havoc on Foggy's careful preparations. Filled with typical farcical fun, mistaken identities and some disappearing after dinner mints, this is a play for just about everyone... and if you fancy a crack at a Yorkshire accent, so much the better.

BIRTHRIGHTS by David Williamson is a bittersweet play about motherhood, (2m, 4f). At twenty-nine,



Helen has a vital operation that stops her from having what she desperately wants: a child. Her younger sister Claudia gives her a wonderful gift when she agrees to be a surrogate mother. But what happens when, years later, Claudia discovers that she and her husband Martin cannot conceive and that Kelly, the child she gave to her sister, is the only baby she will ever bear? With so much in the news about surrogacy these days, this play delves into ethical issues that touch the heart in the way only David Williamson can do.

About MUM'S THE WORD - TEENAGERS

Info Session + Auditions: **18 Kalang Circuit, Coffs. 1.30pm on Sun 9th November.** Preparation? None needed for this early read through. I'll be calling people back during the week after they have had time to look at the script.

The Play? Very similar to *Mum's the Word*- only more difficult! This play is written for 5 women only, but I may add another for insurance. My plan is to begin work on individual monologues immediately, and work through Christmas. We open on March 15th. All welcome, but the cast consists of women old enough to have experienced the joys of bringing up a teenager. No male roles, sadly; but male members are invited to attend the reading if they are interested. I'm really excited and can't wait to get started. Love Shirley

We Care Day

will be held at the Jetty Foreshore on Saturday 1 November from 9-2pm.

Community Care Options launched We Care Day as an inclusive, accessible community event for the first time in 2013 and this year's event is shaping up to be even bigger and better. As well as providing an opportunity for a diverse range of local performers, stallholders, services and food purveyors to connect with their community, this year **We Care Day** will have an inclusive and accessible sports and activities zone. The idea is for people of all abilities to learn about different activities and sports that are available in our region and maybe even have a go at something new. For more details visit: www.wecareday.com.au or call Kate Warner on 6650 2000.

OVER TO YOU...

We are always looking for contributions to the CHATS newsletter. Please send us news of upcoming events that our members and friends would be interested in. Or how about writing a review of a play or show that you have been to recently? Tell us about your favourite play - what you loved, what you loathed and why you would (or wouldn't) recommend it. Perhaps you have feedback on a CHATS play that you want to share.

Please send or email to Penny Dennis, Newsletter Editor

info@chats.org.au

or post to P O Box 111 Coffs Harbour 2450

News from Dorrigo...

In the next week there are two different activities at the Old Gazette Theatre for your participation if you so desire.

1. Play Reading, Pasta and Plonk on Thursday 9th October

Pasta courtesy of Dina; BYO plonk!

Please let us know if you intend to come so Dina makes enough pasta!

Pasta from 5.30pm, Play Reading at 6pm

The play is *The Madwoman of Chaillot* (French title: La Folle de Chaillot), a poetic satire, by French dramatist Jean Giraudoux, written in 1943 and first performed in 1945. The story concerns an eccentric woman who lives in Paris and her struggles against the strait-laced authority figures in her life.

A short plot summary: The play is set in the Cafe de l'Alma in the Chaillot district of Paris. A group of corrupt corporate executives are meeting. They include the Prospector, the President, and the Baron, and they are planning to dig up Paris to get at the oil which they believe lies beneath its streets. Their nefarious plans come to the attention of Countess Aurelia, the benignly eccentric madwoman of the title. She is an aging idealist who sees the world as happy and beautiful. But, advised by her associate, the Raggpicker, who is a bit more worldly than the Countess, she soon comes to realize that the world might well be ruined by these evil men—men who seek only wealth and power. These people have taken over Paris. Already things have gotten so bad that the pigeons do not bother to fly any more. One of the businessmen says in all seriousness, "What would you rather have in your backyard: an almond tree or an oil well?" Aurelia resolves to fight back and rescue humanity from the scheming and corrupt developers.

2. Working Bee - Friday October 10th from 1-3pm

The focus of this gathering is sorting and culling the men's costumes. We have way too many!! Discards will be donated to the needy.

Hope to see you at one or both of these activities.

Julie Ward, Secretary, Dorrigo Dramatic Club Inc