

SPOTLIGHT

NEWSLETTER OF PHOENIX PLAYERS

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Welcome to our August edition of Spotlight.
This edition includes:

- Our new show for 2009
- AGM on 23 September
- Auditions for The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe
- A wrap up of *A Chorus Line* with some great photos



THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE - AUDITIONS

Phoenix Players will be presenting The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe as our January Show from 9 – 24 January 2009.

Auditions are being held on **9 and 10 August 2008**.

Please contact Myles Leon on 6156 0977 after 5pm on weekdays and after 10am on weekends or via email on mysama965@optusnet.com.au, to make an appointment.

See the Phoenix Players website for more information (including roles/characters) at <http://www.phoenixplayers.com.au/shows/lionwitchwardrobe08.html>.



Production Team: Co-Directors – Myles Leon and Graham Bauerle; Musical Director - Max Gambale and Choreographer - Ylaria Rogers.

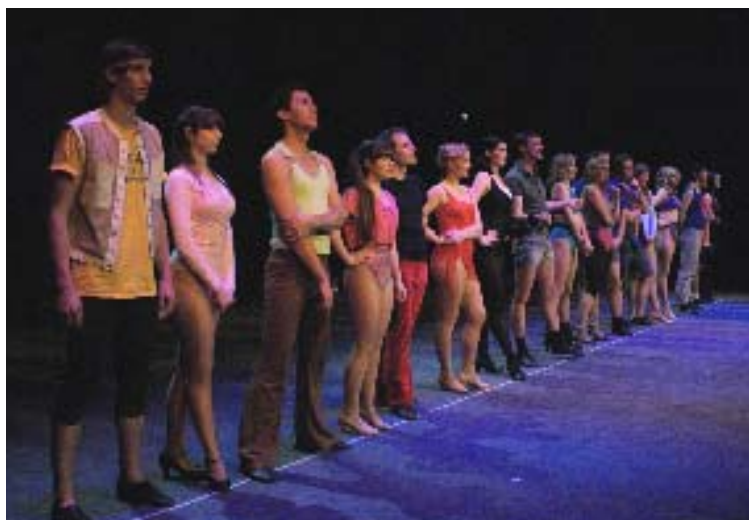
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

The Annual General Meeting of Phoenix Players Inc will be held on **Tuesday 23 September 2008 at 7:30pm** in Meeting Room 1 at the Belconnen Community Centre. The AGM agenda will be forwarded separately. A proxy form will be forwarded with the agenda, in case you are unable to attend the meeting and wish to nominate someone else to vote in your place. Note that you must be a current Phoenix Players member to vote.

The AGM is the opportunity for Phoenix Players members to vote for your committee, and support the winners of the Michael Thomas and The Ashes Awards for 2007-08.

A CHORUS LINE – IT'S A WRAP!

One singular sensation!! YES. "A Chorus Line" has closed. As I said to Chris Neal as he bumped out the theatre, "all the magic has gone back into the boxes now". It's a strange feeling to have something that seems to have its own life suddenly all be packed away out of existence. Maybe this feeling is post show blues! The show's season went well and responses from audiences were good.



We had one fabulous crit from Bill Stephens, "Phoenix raises a dazzling Chorus Line" (see City News website), a nice little "About Town" piece by Lynn Mills and a so-so crit from the Canberra Times writer. While the crit itself wasn't all bad, the heading made the crit generally seem worse. Suffice to say our normal peak on ticket sales following the crit didn't happen and therefore ticket sales were slower to pick up. Having said that the people who did come to see the show had a great time and word of mouth began to spread so sales in the final week were better. "A Chorus Line" bought many new faces to Phoenix in the Cast, Production team and Orchestra. The group generally seemed to enjoy each others company and I hope that this will become a nice memory for them.

I was so proud of them all and what they had achieved over the course of this show. The music for the show was outstanding; the vocals Andrea achieved with the cast were stunning. Much of the music contained quite difficult harmonies and they rose to the challenge. The vocal highlight for me was their rendition of "What I did for love". Special thanks to the pit singers who provided that extra oomph needed when the performers hit the 40 kick finale!. Amy's choreography provided some really special moments. I don't think I really appreciated the difficulty of double pirouettes until I saw the cast learning to do them repeatedly for the opening number! I have to say my favourite part was in the finale where they all lined up in, what is a traditional pose for Chorus Line, and the one they christened "The Kelda". Not often you have a step named after you!

As this was my first show at the ANU Arts Centre, I had to learn about a new space very quickly. Special thanks to the expertise of Chris Neal and the boys from Eclipse. Special thanks also to Mark and the crew at Teatro Vivaldi's for keeping us going with great food and drinks and teaching us how a dinner show package worked! A new venue was a huge learning curve for this team and we really appreciated their support. Also special thanks to Dance City and Canberra Labor Club for the rehearsal spaces and Instant Colour Press for their super fast printing. It would not be possible for us to do this show without their generosity and assistance. A personal thank you also to our Production Manager Jennie, who after my car blew up, made sure I actually got to the theatre.



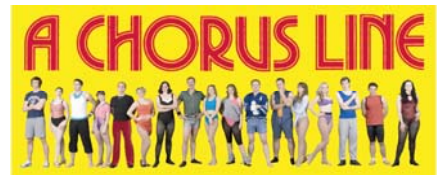
Well, it's all over now and the crowd went out with a bang at the cast party on closing night (morning!) I believe some of them are heading into The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe auditions this weekend and the other half are asking "So what's next??"

Thanks to Phoenix for the opportunity to direct this great classic. So, what is next? For me, SLEEP!

Cheers
Kelda McManus
Director



AND A FEW MORE PICS...



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU...

Congratulations and happy birthday to our members who celebrate their birthdays in August:



Gabrielle	ADAMS	3 rd
Daniel	ARQUERO	4 th
Sarah	SCHIRMER	4 th
Andrew	TOPPERWIEN	15 th
Sarah	BURNS	16 th
Tim	HALL	17 th
Claire	BOCKING	19 th
Aisling	DELAHUNT	20 th
Phil	PERMAN	24 th
Elizabeth	INGRAM	25 th
Andrew	BARROW	27 th
Nicola	FREW	27 th
Kelly	STEELE	27 th
David	MESSINA	28 th
James	HARLEY	29 th



Have a fantastic birthday!

MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

Don't forget to renew your membership, or join if you are new to Phoenix Players! Everyone in a Phoenix show needs to be a member to be covered by insurance. And there are also some other great benefits such as regular updates via Spotlight and tickets to Phoenix shows at member prices. So send in your membership form now! The membership application/renewal form can be found on our website at <http://www.phoenixplayers.com.au/images/membershipform.pdf>.

IN MEMORY

Chris Bolydew

It is with regret that we advise that Chris Boyldew, a life member of Phoenix Players, passed away in May. Chris was a founding member of Phoenix serving on the interim committee before being elected President of the first Phoenix Players Committee.

Chris, along with Eileen, worked very hard to get Phoenix up and running. Who can forget the many, many cake stalls in shopping centres – not to mention the "chook raffles" at the Labor Club. You may laugh! We actually made money from them. Seriously though, if there was help needed, Chris was always there.

His theatrical experiences range from acting (with both professional and amateur theatre companies) to directing several musicals and set designing for various productions in both Sydney and Canberra.

Some of the shows he has directed for Phoenix Players include "Calamity Jane" and more recently "The Fantasticks", a show that was very dear to his heart. Chris was thrilled to have Peter Smith as the Narrator as he had already directed him in the role of Wild Bill Hickock in Calamity Jane. He felt his voice would be perfect to sing that very memorable song from the show "Try to Remember".

Who would have thought that two years later Peter would be singing the same song once again at Chris's funeral. He would have approved I'm sure.

A number of Chris's Phoenix friends and Committee members were also there for his last "curtain call". Our thoughts and sympathies go to Eileen, Bill, Siobhan and her family.

Dave Mackin

The cast of "Charlottes Web" will no doubt be saddened to hear of the sudden passing of Dave Mackin on 18 July 2008. Dave Mackin was a retired Superintendent of the ACT Fire Brigade, and used his expert skills to assist in erecting the climbing equipment for the Spider (Robyn Page). We were very grateful to him for the assistance he gave to the production. Our thoughts are with his wife and family.

Jan Wawrzynczak

Members of Phoenix Players will be saddened at the news of the untimely death of Jan Wawrzynczak, who was a champion of theatre and the arts in Canberra. Jan's passion for the continued development of theatre arts and facilities was obvious to those of us who had attended meetings with him. He had a prodigious knowledge of the operation of theatres, the methods of enthusing people to work hard and ways of obtaining money from funding bodies and spending it to make conditions much better at Belconnen Theatre. He was a tireless, enthusiastic worker, who could articulate his ideas and vision with great clarity. His personal support in the development of theatre skills was greatly appreciated by many. Thank you, Jan, for sharing your many talents with us. You will be greatly missed.



THEATRE AROUND CANBERRA

What's happening around town in August...?

Canberra Dramatics – *Mrs Holt* – at the Street Theatre from 7 – 16 August.

Bookings phone 6247 1223, or book online at <http://www.thestreet.org.au/>.

Canberra Repertory – *It's my party and I'll die if I want to* – continues at Theatre 3 until 16 August. Season – 25 July – 16 August – Thursday to Saturday 8pm; Matinees – 2, 9 and 16 August 2pm; Twilight – 3 and 10 August 4pm. Bookings 6257 1950 between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday.

Free Rain – *Three Sisters* – at the Courtyard Theatre, Friday 15 August to Saturday 30 August 2008. Bookings 6275 2700.

Tempo – *Agatha Christie's The Unexpected Guest* – at the Belconnen Theatre from August 21 to August 30.