



SPOTLIGHT

NEWSLETTER OF PHOENIX PLAYERS

Vol.20 No. 03 December 2007
Phoenix Players
PO Box 51
Belconnen ACT 2616

E-mail:
phoenix_players@yahoo.com.au

Home Page:
www.phoenix.contact.com.au

President:
Pam McManus
Ph: 6258 5736 (H)

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Welcome to our December edition of Spotlight.

This edition provides information our 2008 season a final reminder about the PP Christmas dinner and seeks volunteers to work back stage for Tom Sawyer... Enjoy!



HATS OFF TO PHOENIX PLAYERS' 2008 SEASON

Phoenix Players launched our 2008 season at the City Labor Club on Wednesday 28 November. We had a great turn out and a wonderful atmosphere in which to launch our two shows for the 2008 season:

- 2008 Phoenix Rising – **It Was That Way When I Got Here** – A new full length musical comedy by Canberra's own Andrew Hackwill and Jonathan Flack, to be performed in early May 2008. Auditions for this show are scheduled on 15 and 16 December – see below for more information.
- **A Chorus Line** – a well known favourite with performances in July/August 2008.

See more on these shows on the following pages...

2007 CHRISTMAS DINNER

Final Reminder – **RSVP to Pam asap** if you would like to attend

The details of this year's Christmas dinner are below

VENUE: THE REGAL CHINESE RESTAURANT
 WHERE: 10 Purdue Street, Belconnen
 (behind the Belconnen Police Station).
 WHEN: WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 5
 TIME: 7.30PM
 DRINK: BYO - or from the Bar
 RSVP: To Pam as soon as possible
 by email: pamelamcmanus@bigpond.com or
 by phone: 6258 5736 or 0409 822 744



Seasons Greetings

Please bring a generic gift to the value of around \$5 to the Christmas party for Secret Santa.

IT WAS THAT WAY WHEN I GOT HERE

We consider ourselves lucky to have discovered this wonderful new musical comedy by Canberra's own Andrew Hackwill and Jonathan Flack...

It's okay to be fat, lazy and drunk, isn't it?

If you are a Brother at the once prestigious St Flavian's college for young gentlemen, there is little else to do.

Written in a burst of creative energy, this hilarious and light-hearted musical charts the rise of the "Worst Run School in Christendom" and the lives of its dysfunctional inhabitants.



Brother Don is no ordinary Brother. He is an alcoholic history master who has spent the last eighteen years hiding in the monastery from a past that is about to catch up with him. Plant fancying Headmaster, Brother Ferris has problems of his own. His job is on the line and the Government is threatening to slash his funding. The school's survival rests on the shoulders of its sometimes talented rugby team and the staging of a new play penned by Ferris' trouser-chasing assistant, Francha Hollenbrackenhoffa.

The scheming and manipulative deputy, Barnaby Tolfree, smelling a 'shot' at the top job has set himself the task of ensuring that the school continues its downward slide into hell. He not only reinstates an old school rule in an attempt to sideline the football team, but also orders the reluctant and inebriated Brother Don to direct Francha's epic tale.

For Deano, by far the oldest student at St. Flavian's, changes in the hierarchy could jeopardize his rather extensive and lucrative business interests. He convinces Brother Don to re-write the play and for the first time at Flavians, cast real girls from neighbouring St Brigitte's. In desperation, Don teams up with attractive foreign languages mistress Miss Juliet Givings. They soon find themselves struggling to control the newfound feelings they have for each other and the raging hormones of the Flavian's rugby team who have mysteriously arrived for auditions.

Happiness is not always that hard to find...

Audition dates: 15 and 16 December 2007

Performance dates: 8 -11 May 2008

Audition Bookings: Pam McManus on 6258 5736

Audition Information: <http://www.phoenix.contact.com.au/>

Production Team:

Director: Jonathan Flack

Musical Director: Ian McLean

Vocal Director: Andrew Hackwill

Choreographer: Lisa Buckley



A CHORUS LINE

Director: Kelda McManus

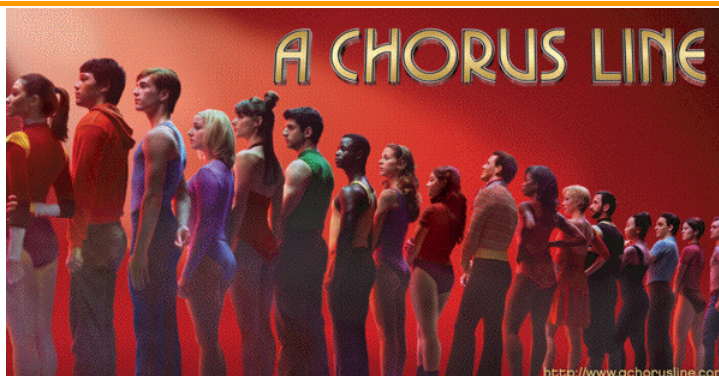
Musical Director: Andrea Clifford

Choreographer: Amy Fitzpatrick

Season: July-August 2008

Venue: ANU Arts Centre

Auditions: Keep watching The Canberra Times, Offprompt, Spotlight – Phoenix Players' newsletter, and the Phoenix website.



The Story

In an empty theatre, on a bare stage, dancers are in the final stages of an audition for a new Broadway show. To get the job is what it's all about, every drop of sweat and every hour of training comes down to this point—getting into the show.

Before the final cut is made, the director will ask each of them to talk about themselves. He wants more than just their resumes – he wants to know them as people, not just dancers. One by one, they come forward and talk about their families, friends, lovers, ambitions and careers. Some are shy or reluctant, while others are more than happy to reveal their innermost thoughts. From funny to heartbreaking, these dancers share with us the stories of their lives.

They put themselves on the line to get a job in The Chorus Line. And when they're done, so is the audition. And the final chorus line of eight dancers is chosen.

The show provides an opportunity for great dance numbers, and memorable musical numbers include *I Can Do That*, *At the Ballet*, *Dance: Ten*; *Looks: Three*, *The Music and the Mirror*, *What I Did for Love*, *One (Singular Sensation)* and *I Hope I Get It*.

Winner of nine Tony Awards, including “Best Musical” and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, this singular sensation is the longest-running American musical ever.

Want to be a part of this show?

So you think you can dance? That's great...but do not assume this is solely a dance show. Yes, you do need to dance but we will require **dancers at varying levels**.

We require **really good actors** who can maintain their characterisation for the extended period they are on stage. As this is an ensemble style show there is very little offstage time.

We require **solid singers** and exceptional soloists to bring the fantastic score to life.

We also require **cut dancers**. Those “auditionees” who commence the show and do not make the cut but will then pit sing and return to the stage for the finale. Be prepared to work hard as this show does not have any down time on stage.

At this stage **rehearsals** will be on Mondays, Wednesday and Sundays.

The **auditions** will comprise a series of group dance auditions followed by an individual singing/acting audition. You will be required to attend all aspects of the auditions even if you are auditioning for non dancing acting based role.

Any questions...please call Kelda McManus on 0407 411 102 after hours.

THE ADVENTURES OF TOM SAWYER

Don't forget to book your tickets to Tom Sawyer.
Tickets are on sale now from Canberra Rep on 6257 1950.
The season is 11 Jan – 26 Jan 2008
at Theatre 3, Ellery Crescent, Acton.

Performances

- Friday 11th Jan - 7.30pm (Evening)
- Saturday 12th Jan - 1.00pm (Matinee) 7.30pm (Evening)
- Tuesday 15th Jan - 11.00am (Matinee Only)
- Wednesday 16th Jan - 11.00am (Matinee Only)
- Thursday 17th Jan - 11.00am (Matinee Only)
- Friday 18th Jan - 7.30pm (Evening)
- Saturday 19th Jan - 1.00pm (Matinee) 7.30pm (Evening)
- Tuesday 22nd Jan - 11.00am (Matinee Only)
- Wednesday 23rd Jan - 11.00am (Matinee Only)
- Thursday 24th Jan - 11.00am (Matinee Only)
- Friday 25th Jan 7.30pm (Evening Show)
- Saturday 26th Jan 7.30pm (Evening Only)



Ticket Prices

- \$30 (Adults)
- \$28 (Member / groups ≥ 10)
- \$25 (Concession)
- \$20 (Child)
- \$80 (Family – 2 adults, 2 children)

Seeking back stage crew

Ever wondered what happens behind the scenes during a show, or you don't like to be in the spotlight but you're interested in theatre?

We are looking for experienced, and not-so-experienced volunteers to work back stage during Tom Sawyer – you don't need to do all shows (but it would be good if you are available).

If you are available, please contact Myles Leon on mysama1@iprimus.com.au or 0434 444 352.

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 is attached to this newsletter. Annual memberships expired at the AGM, so please renew now...

THEATRE AROUND CANBERRA

What's happening around town in December/January...

Canberra Repertory Society - *An Ideal Husband*. At Theatre 3, 16 November – 8 December.
Wed – Sat 8pm (except Wed 21 Nov), Matinees Saturdays 24 Nov & 1 Dec 2pm, Twilight Sunday 2 Dec 5pm, Preview 15 Nov 8pm. Bookings Canberra Rep 6257 1950.

UC Players – *The Vicar of Dibley*. At UCU Theatre, 9 November – 15 December. Dinner and show.
Bookings 6201 2645.

SUPA Productions – *f-ABBA-Ious*. At Teatro Vivaldi, 13 – 22 December

Phoenix Players – *The Adventures Of Tom Sawyer*. At Theatre 3, 11 – 26 January 2008.
Bookings Phone: 6257 1950



And finally, the Phoenix Players committee would like to wish all our members and friends a very happy and safe Christmas season



MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss _____
(full name)

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone no: Work: _____ Home: _____

Date of birth _____ / _____ / _____

Age range:	<input type="checkbox"/>	under 5	<input type="checkbox"/>	18-25	<input type="checkbox"/>	46-55
(please tick)	<input type="checkbox"/>	6-12	<input type="checkbox"/>	25-35	<input type="checkbox"/>	56-65
	<input type="checkbox"/>	13-17	<input type="checkbox"/>	36-45	<input type="checkbox"/>	Over 65

Areas of interest (please tick):

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> directing | <input type="checkbox"/> production management | <input type="checkbox"/> stage management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> acting | <input type="checkbox"/> front-of-house | <input type="checkbox"/> backstage crew |
| <input type="checkbox"/> costume design | <input type="checkbox"/> props | <input type="checkbox"/> lighting design/operation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> costume sewing | <input type="checkbox"/> orchestra/instrumental | <input type="checkbox"/> sound design/operation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> set design | <input type="checkbox"/> make-up | <input type="checkbox"/> arranging social activities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> set building/painting | <input type="checkbox"/> hairdressing | <input type="checkbox"/> poster distribution |
| <input type="checkbox"/> publicity | <input type="checkbox"/> participation in workshops | <input type="checkbox"/> advertising/poster design |

I also have the following skills and experience which I would like to offer to Phoenix Players:

Membership also entitles you to ticket price concessions and regular issues of the Spotlight Newsletter.

Membership fee enclosed:	<input type="checkbox"/> full membership	\$15
	<input type="checkbox"/> concession membership	\$10
	<input type="checkbox"/> family membership	\$25
I also enclose a donation of		\$
Total		<u>\$</u>

Please send to: Membership Secretary
Phoenix Players Inc.
PO Box 51
BELCONNEN ACT 2616