SPOTLIGHT

NEWSLETTER OF PHOENIX PLAYERS

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Welcome to our January edition of Spotlight. This issue contains:

Contents

21 years in the Canberra Theatre Scene! 1
Phoenix shows for 2010 1
Miss Saigon, a moving experience 2
Procedures for access to committee minutes 2
Happy Birthday To You…. 2
Goodbye to the "Dancing Man" Mark Pitkin. 3
New Year's resolution to get fit? 3
Where are YOU now? 3
Theatre Around Canberra 4
2009 ActewAGL CAT Awards 4

21 YEARS IN THE CANBERRA THEATRE SCENE!

Yes, that's right, 2010 is the year that Phoenix Players turns 21 years old!

And to celebrate our coming of age, we are going to have a party!!

Officially, we turn 21 in September 2010. We would, of course, love to hear from our members on ways that we can celebrate our 21st Birthday. We have a sub-committee (drawn from the committee) planning our celebrations, so please send your ideas to them (please put "21st Birthday Celebrations" in the subject line of the email) at phoenix_players@yahoo.com.au and stay tuned…

PHOENIX SHOWS FOR 2010

Well, it has been an interesting time negotiating theatre space for 2010, but we are pleased to finally confirm dates for our 2010 productions:

The Disney Kids shows – Aristocats and Cinderella

These shows will be presented in the July 2010 school holidays at the Tim Murray Theatre at the Canberra Grammar School. Auditions will be held in February/March. More information will be available on our website and Offprompt in due course, and of course, via this newsletter.

The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas

This show will be presented at The Q theatre in Queanbeyan in November 2010. Auditions are expected to be held around July… stay tuned for more information.

MISS SAIGON, A MOVING EXPERIENCE

Everyone involved in Miss Saigon had such a wonderful experience that one of the cast members was moved to make a $500 donation to the H.O.P.E. Foundation in the name of Phoenix Players. The H.O.P.E. (Helping Other People's Efforts) Foundation supports orphaned children in Vietnam.

Phoenix is very grateful for this gesture... if you feel similarly moved, you can contact the Executive Trustee, Judith Orr, on 02 6286 3337 or at jorr2607@hotmail.com or donate at the ANZ Bank (account name is The Hope Foundation, BSB 012-997 Account Number 4962-44681).

We'd also like to draw to your attention two other charities supported by our Miss Saigon sponsor Goddard & Howse, KOTO (Know One Teach One) and the Inle Orphanage, Shan State in Burma. Contact Goddard & Howse if you would like more information on these.

PROCEDURES FOR ACCESS TO COMMITTEE MINUTES

The document "Procedure for access to Committee Minutes", which was discussed at a Special General meeting on 1 December 2009 has been circulated to members for feedback and comment.

If you would like to provide comments or changes to the document, please send them to the Secretary, Phoenix Players (Gaby Schmid) at gaby.schmid@finance.gov.au by no later than 28 February 2010. If you have not received a copy of the procedures document, please contact Gaby Schmid at the above email address.

Once all comments and changes have been received, a final draft of the procedures document will be sent to members for consideration. Another Special General meeting will then be scheduled to vote on the final procedures document.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU…

Congratulations and happy birthday to our members (and special guests) who celebrated their birthdays in January:

Megan Field	2	January
Brittany Scrivner	4	January
Jessica Holmick	5	January
Kirsten Duncan	7	January
Rodwell Faulkner	9	January
Chris Donohue	12	January
(Lady) Fleur Wimborne	13	January
Christina Philipp	15	January
Matthew Hardy	17	January
Claire Bailey	18	January
Ylaria Rogers	21	January
Nola Russell	25	January
Jordan Kelly	27	January

Capricorn (December 22 – January 19)

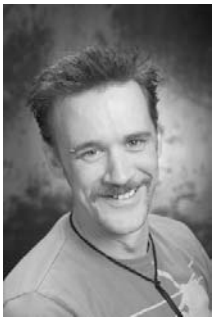
Your element: Earth
Your ruling planets: Saturn
Symbol: The Goat
Your stone: Garnet
Life Pursuit: To be proud of their achievements
Vibration: Powerful resilient energy
Capricorn Secret Desire: to be admired by their family and friends and the world at large

Aquarius (January 20 – February 18)

Your element: Air
Your ruling planets: Uranus
Symbol: The Water Bearer
Your stone: Amethyst
Life Pursuit: To understand life's mysteries
Vibration: High frequency
Aquarian's Secret Desire: To be unique and original

Note: If you have any objections to having your birthday published in the newsletter, please email the editor a few months before your birthday on gaby.schmid@finance.gov.au

GOODBYE TO THE "DANCING MAN" MARK PITKIN.



The Phoenix community may be saddened to learn of the passing of one of our members, Mark Pitkin late last year.

Mark was a cast member in Phoenix's production of *A Chorus Line*, where he performed the role of Bobby. He thoroughly enjoyed performing in the show and was an asset to the cast. He was dedicated to his performance and spent many rehearsals going over and over his material. When it came to dancing Mark 'had it down pat' including all the tap dancing!

Mark was a comedian on and off stage and I know the cast and crew of *A Chorus Line* enjoyed his company immensely.

Mark had been a performer in Canberra for some time having also been in the cast of Canberra Philharmonic's *Grease* and *CATS*. Many years earlier he had also performed in Philo's *West Side Story*. Like many, Mark grew up in the Canberra Theatre community, travelling along to countless rehearsals with his Mum, Linda Tregonning. Recently he joined his mother and sister on stage during the premiere production of *Baby Boomers*.

Mark had many friends in the theatre community and he will be really missed. On behalf of the members of Phoenix Players, cast, crew and orchestra of *A Chorus Line* I would like to offer our condolences to his family.

With fond memories of the Dancing Man...

Kelda McManus
Director- *A Chorus Line*

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION TO GET FIT?

Remember that as a member of Phoenix Players you do not have to pay the joining fee when you join the Southern Cross Health Club – that's a saving of $199. No more excuses ☺. Call them now on 6283 7340 to find out more or visit www.schc.com.au .

There are other benefits of being a Phoenix Players member:

- You will be covered by insurance in any of the shows you are involved in.
- You will receive regular updates via Spotlight newsletter
- You can purchase tickets to Phoenix shows at member prices.
- **Belconnen Stationery** –15% discount on all personal purchases and a 15% discount on the first trade purchase (i.e. business) made by Phoenix members
- **Instant Colour Press** – 15% off all personal purchases and a 15% discount of the first trade purchase for all new clients.

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

WHERE ARE YOU NOW?

Let us know what is happening with you – it's always fun to know what our friends in theatre are up to around town. Just send your information to the Phoenix Players email address or direct to the editor (info on front page).

THEATRE AROUND CANBERRA

canberralocaltheatre.info
theatre in Canberra – information for local theatre goers

Click on this link to get all the info:
http://www.canberralocaltheatre.info/

Some Highlights…

The Musical of Musicals (the Musical) returns! For one night only – Friday 5 February (8pm), at the Playhouse. Bookings 6275 2700.

The Department Of Heaven – A new musical by Andrew Hackwill, part of the team who brought you *It Was That Way When I Got Here* in 2008. An A-List of historical figures find themselves in a crazy scheme to save the Human Race. From 10 - 13 February 2010 at the Tuggeranong Arts Centre. Bookings 6293 1443. Tickets $25.

Free Rain Theatre presents ***Singin' in the Rain*** from 12 - 27 February 2010 at The Q in Queanbeyan. Ticket Prices: Adult-$38; Concession-$32; Children-$32; Matinee and Twilight Performances-All tickets $25. Bookings: 62980290 or at http://www.theq.net.au/pages/eventdetail.asp?id=110

2009 ACTEWAGL CAT AWARDS

The 2009 ACTEW*AGL* CAT Awards will be on Saturday 20 February 2010 at the Canberra Theatre.

Phoenix Players are very happy that we have been nominated for the following awards:

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

- Best Actress in a Featured Role in a Musical — Natalie Whalley as Lucy Pevensie

Miss Saigon (in conjunction with Supa Productions)

- Best Production of a Musical
- Best Director of a Musical or Variety Show — Kelda McManus
- Best Musical Director — Andrea Clifford
- Best Actress in a Leading Role in a Musical — Jacinta Le as Kim
- Best Actor in a Leading Role in a Musical — Dean Salonga as The Engineer
- Technical Achievement — James McPherson for sound design
- Best Lighting Designer — Chris Neal
- Best Set Designer for a Musical — Brian Sudding and Kelda McManus

Congratulations to everyone involved in these shows and nominated for the awards. Well done!

If you are interested in attending the CAT Awards (www.catawards.com.au) we are organising a group booking. Ticket prices are $49 for adults or $33 for students/children/nominees/performers/ concessions.

Please contact Jennie at Jennie.Norberry@awm.gov.au by **Friday 29 January** if you would like to be part of the group booking. Please include in your email which ticket price you are eligible for.