

# SPOTLIGHT

## NEWSLETTER OF PHOENIX PLAYERS

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Welcome to our first newsletter for 2007... a little late we know, but we thought we would wait until we had something exciting to tell you before we sent it out... and now we do... drum roll please...

### ANNOUNCING PHOENIX PLAYERS 2007 SEASON



Stop holding your breath!

Last night, Phoenix Players held their 2007 Season Launch in the Street Theatre foyer for members, guests and theatre friends. Thank you to all who attended.

We are proud to announce our season of shows for 2007. Our musical extravaganza of 2007 will be

#### **Eurobeat, Almost Eurovision**

in August/September at the Street Two, directed by Gordon Nicholson. See more on this show below.

We will also be presenting a series of one act plays in June to launch our **Phoenix Rising** program for fledging artists. See more on the Phoenix Rising program below.

### EUROBEAT, ALMOST EUROVISION

Eurobeat, Almost Eurovision is a glorious tribute to the Eurovision song contest, involving plenty of audience participation.

Just think mini Eurovision Song Contest, but set in sunny safe secure Sarajevo. Competitors from 12 Countries compete with one another. The audience adopts one of 12 countries. It doesn't matter if you were born in Canberra or if your parents are from Trieste, tonight you're from Liechtenstein!

After the twelve songs, the audience votes for their favourite country and there could be a different winner every night. All voting is genuine so bring lots of your friends and cousins. Not that we want to encourage vote stacking.

*Warning: Some competitors will do anything to get your vote*

After interval (while the votes are being tallied) marvel at the glorious half time Bosnian spectacular, featuring Bronya singing "I'm Sarajevo, taste me" (described by one reviewer as a masterpiece, so there you go!).

We cross to Athens, Budapest, Paris, London and the other countries for the voting results. Huge voting screen descends and we tally the scores. 25 minutes later we have a winner! The crowd cheers, waves their flags (you can bring your own or buy one at the venue) as the victors take to the stage to sing the winning number once again.

Auditions will be held on Sunday 27 May. Please mark this date in your diaries. Further information will be provided in the April Spotlight.

## **PHOENIX RISING**

*Get your wings with Phoenix*

Phoenix Rising gives first time directors, musical directors, choreographers and local playwrights the opportunity to 'get their wings' with Phoenix.

The Phoenix Players' committee will fairly consider all expressions of interest and select successful projects based on the ability to present a creative and enticing program.

Once productions have been selected, the role of the committee will depend heavily on how well planned the applicant's proposal is. The committee will:

- provide or help find a production team
- provide or help find a director's mentor
- coordinate venue bookings
- provide contact details for other assistance

### **2007 Phoenix Rising program**

For the inaugural Phoenix Rising program we will showcase two one-act plays from June 26 – 30 at the Street Two.

**Albert** – Directed by Dim Ristevski

Synopsis: A one act play by Richard Harris - When three strangers come together, none of whom speak each other's language, chaos reigns. Two of the three characters speak only their native tongue, Italian and Finnish, but what we hear is straightforward English. Occasionally they attempt a few words in an alien tongue but this serves only to hurtle them faster towards an unexpected resolution of the challenges of the European Union.

Characters: 2 Males, 1 Female, adult roles, any age.

**Fairytales Ending** – Written and Directed by Jonathan Garland. Winner of the New Playwrights' Encouragement Award at the 2005 Canberra Festival of One Act Plays.

Synopsis: Five young people are spending three days on an island in search of a rare spider. But each also has a more personal motive. When a group of young adults, all with issues of romance and relationships to sort out, are forced into such close proximity, there are bound to be fireworks. Is it going to end happily ever after for any of them?

### Fairytale Ending Characters:

- David David is in his mid-twenties. He's a former soldier and is introspective, quietly capable and slow to anger. While he is a capable woodsman, his social skills are poor and he has difficulty relating to people. He shares journalism classes with Jenny
- Jenny Jenny is in her early twenties. From a deeply religious family, she has a tendency to let guilt, obligation and other people dictate her choices. She has a way with people and is usually fairly perceptive. With her wedding imminent, she's worried that she and Josh have started arguing so frequently
- Josh Josh is in his early twenties. A fairly typical bloke, he had a history of parties and girls but Jenny has settled him down a lot. Wedding preparations are driving him crazy, as is the attitude he's been getting from his mate Michael.
- Libby Libby is in her early twenties. She is a scientist by profession and an environmentalist by inclination. She finds comfort in the certainty of systems, scientific or social. She just doesn't understand how to deal with people.
- Michael Michael is in his early twenties. He is the stereotypical guy after one thing and is loud, self-centred and shallow. There is no filter between what he thinks and what he says. He has very little actual knowledge of anything, but offers advice on everything.

Auditions for both these plays will be on **29 and 30 April**. Please contact Amy Moon on 0401 920 161 or email to [Amy.Moon@nrm.gov.au](mailto:Amy.Moon@nrm.gov.au) to arrange an audition time.

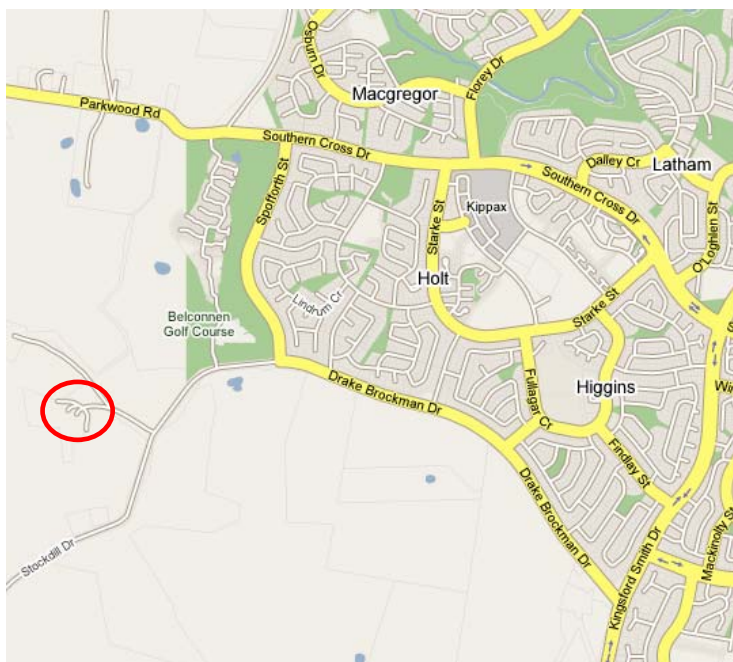
### SPRING INTO THE AUTUMN CLEAN-UP OF THE SHED 14-15 APRIL

The Phoenix Players shed at Strathnairn is in dire need of a clean-up. So we are planning a big Spring (I mean Autumn!) clean on the weekend of 14-15 April.



We would really appreciate any time you can spare on either day to assist us in doing this necessary job. If you have some time to help out please call Myles Leon on 62943686 or 0434 444 352 or email him at [mysama1@iprimus.com.au](mailto:mysama1@iprimus.com.au).

The shed is located at Strathnairn (see red circle on map below)



From Kingsford Smith Drive, turn west down Drake Brockman Drive until the roundabout - go through the roundabout, the name of the road changes to Stockdill Drive – continue past Golf Course on right – you will come to a sign on the right hand side a little further on with the name "Strathnairn" - turn right onto this dirt road - follow it for a couple of minutes until you come to the Strathnairn Homestead - drive right around behind the house until you come to a wide metal gate - go through the gate - remember to shut the gate properly - and continue up the hill until you come to an old Woolshed. And you're there!!

## Phoenix Players

presents



January 2007

Peter Pan showed at Theatre 3 from January 12 to 27. As well as being very entertaining, the show was financially successful, with good audiences and lots of wide-eyed children keen to meet the cast after the show.

Congratulations to the director, choreographer, all the cast and everyone else behind the scenes for making this show a splendid production.

Well done!

## CAT AWARDS...

Congratulations to the cast and crew for **Alice's Adventures in Wonderland** who were nominated for 8 CAT awards. We had one very deserving winner:

**BEST ACTRESS IN ANY ROLE IN A SCHOOL OR YOUTH PLAY**

**Chelsea Needham** as Alice

*Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, Phoenix Players Child Play Group, Canberra



Congratulations Chelsea!

And congratulations also to the other nominees:

- 🌸 Best Original Work – Belinda Anyos
- 🌸 Best Costume Designer (Musical) – Lyndelle Ramsay
- 🌸 Best Actress in any role in a school or youth play – Justine Ramsay
- 🌸 Best Actress in any role in a school or youth play – Ali Van Der Zwan
- 🌸 Best Actor in Any Role in a School or youth play – Brandon Girvan
- 🌸 Best Actor in Any Role in a School or youth play – Nyasha Nyakuengama
- 🌸 Best Production of a School or youth play

And remember, we are looking at boosting our records of CAT awards won for Phoenix Players shows. So if you've won an award, we'd love you to send a copy of your CAT award (if possible) to:

The Secretary  
Phoenix Players Committee  
PO Box 51  
Belconnen ACT 2616

## COMMITTEE MATTERS

We wish to advise our members that both Kathy Thomas and Paul Tremble have resigned from Committee in the last couple of months. The Committee is considering what to do about these vacancies.

## THEATRE AROUND CANBERRA

What's happening around town in April and May...

**Tempo Theatre - *Jackeroo and the Beanstalk*** – April School Holidays at Belconnen Theatre.

**Ickle Pickle Productions – *The Wizard of Oz*** – Performing 13th to 28th April at the Street Theatre. Bookings on 6247 1223. Standard price is \$26, concession \$24, family (2A + 2C) \$90. Tickets are now on sale.

**Free Rain – *Hedda Gabler*** – opening 27 April at The Courtyard Theatre Canberra Playhouse until 12 May.

**Canberra Dramatics – *No Island is a Man*** – performances are scheduled for 8pm Thursday to Saturday from the 12th to the 21st of April. Tickets can be booked by contacting the Tuggeranong Arts Centre on (02) 6293 1443.

**Canberra Rep – *Elizabeth Rex*** – 13 April – 5 May. Wednesday – Saturday 8pm (except Anzac Day); Matinees Saturdays 21 & 28 April 2pm; Twilight Sunday 22 April 5pm  
Preview 12 April 8pm. Prices: Full price - \$33; Concession - \$25; Matinee - \$22; Groups 10+ - \$2 off each ticket. Bookings 6257 1950.

**Supa Productions – *Buddy – The Buddy Holly Story*** – 11 - 26 May 2007 at the ANU Arts Centre

**Queanbeyan Players – *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*** – 18 May to 2 June, Queanbeyan Cultural Centre.