

SPOTLIGHT

NEWSLETTER OF PHOENIX PLAYERS

Vol.23 No.01 November 2011
Phoenix Players
PO Box 51
Belconnen ACT 2616

E-mail:
phoenix_players@yahoo.com.au

Website:
www.phoenixplayers.com.au

President:
Kelda McManus
Ph: 0407 411 102
Spotlight Editor: Gaby Schmid
gaby.schmid@finance.gov.au

Welcome to our November 2011 edition of Spotlight. This issue contains:



Contents

The Wizard of Oz – Wrap-Up	1
2011 Annual General Meeting (AGM) - Outcome	2
2010-11 Awards	3
Christmas Dinner.....	5
Fundraising	5
News	5
Membership Reminder	6

THE WIZARD OF OZ – WRAP-UP

Kelda: Jon, can you write a few paragraphs about Wizard of Oz for the Phoenix newsletter?

Jon: You know how much I like to write. What do you want me to say?

Kelda: Just that it was a great show and everybody worked really hard to produce a fantastic result.

Jon: Should I name anyone? Principals?

Kelda: No, they're actors. They'll get swelled heads. Besides, they were all great and it would be unfair to single anyone out.

Jon: Not even the dog? We should thank Emerald City Cairn Terriers.

Kelda: Yes, good. And don't forget to mention Netty and Nicole. Talented musical directors are hard to find, so praise her lots so she'll come back.

Jon: And Netty?

Kelda: She's on the committee now, so just say she painted the umbrellas.

Jon: The committee! We should thank them for providing us the opportunity to work with such a talented group.

Kelda: People like Ian and Craig on sets, and Jennie on costume, and Cerri as stage manager, and the orchestra...

Jon: Plus Sophie and her minions at front of house, Ann and Liza at the props table, Pam and Gaby in publicity...

Kelda: You should probably mention Eclipse Lighting and Sound as well.

Jon: The titans of thunder and lightning.

Kelda: Yeah, they are kinda like gods up there. But don't tell Chris that, he already thinks I have a crush on him.

Jon: All right, all right. Maybe I should write this down.

Kelda: Doesn't anyone have a list of all these people?

Kelda and Jon: David and Jennie!

Jon: How could we forget the people who kept the whole thing on track?

Kelda: Because they did it all without complaining or making a fuss, almost invisibly.

Jon: Thank goodness for them. And the parents who wrangled munchkins.

Kelda: Agreed. Can you get all that done?

Jon: No problem. How do you want it written out?

Kelda: Just do something creative. I can trust you to do that, can't I?

And the committee would like to express their thanks to the creative talents of Kelda and Jon and the wonderful show they produced... well done! But don't get a big head now...





2011 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) - OUTCOME

Phoenix Players held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Tuesday 11 October. Thank you to all those members who attended to support the company and the nominees and winners of our awards. We also have some new members of the Committee this time around.

The new committee for 2011-12 is:

- President – Kelda McManus
 - Vice President – Judy Satrapa
 - Treasurer – Cornelia Carson
 - Secretary – Jennie Norberry
 - Assistant Secretary – Gaby Schmid
 - Member – Peita Chappell
 - Member – Pam McManus
 - Member – Graham Bauerle
-

There were two vacancies on the committee not filled at the AGM, but since then we have co-opted a couple of enthusiastic members to join us, namely Annette Sharpe and Dim Ristevski.

The departing committee would like to thank Eileen Boydew for her effort as Treasurer for the last year and Melita Caulfield for her hard work in the role of Assistant Secretary. We would also like to thank Michael Heming, who began as Assistant Treasurer for all his help with getting Eileen set up, before he transferred to Sydney with work. Finally, we would like to thank Stefanie Thomas for her contribution and David Tricks, who joined us during the year, for all his efforts. We wish them all well in their new endeavours.

And of course, we would like to acknowledge the tremendous amount of work put in by our departing President, Pam McManus, and hope that she stays an active member of the committee and Phoenix Players in the years to come. We would also like to acknowledge the amazing work done by our Secretary Gaby Schmid. She has performed the role of secretary for many years and is now working as our assistant secretary passing all her great knowledge onto Jennie.

We would also like to welcome the new members to our committee, Judy Satrapa, who joins us as Vice President, and Peita Chappell, Netty Sharpe and Dim Ristevski who join us as new committee members.

2010-11 AWARDS

Phoenix Players is grateful for all the wonderful people we have had the pleasure of working with over the last year, and it is easy to see why there were so many nominations for the awards, and how difficult it was to choose the winners.

The Michael Thomas Award

This award recognises a member that contributes to a show in a manner that reflects the Quiet Achiever attitude of the late Michael Thomas. This member provides services beyond the role they play, or the production position they hold. They complete these additional tasks in a friendly manner and do so without expectation of reward. A true Quiet Achiever.

The director of each show performed in the year nominates a member of their company. Nominations for this award were:

The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas – Aliessa Stevens – Aliessa was new to Phoenix and Canberra Theatre generally so didn't really know anyone in the cast or team. Aliessa had to perform her role in the show under unusual circumstances and did so without complaint. Due to problems with casting she could not rehearse her scenes until we got the role filled. She then had to wait for the person to return from an overseas visit. She then lost another cast member from her scene who had to withdraw due to a motorcycle accident. She then had to relearn the scene with understudy. Rather than winge or complain about this situation she went on and did what she needed to do to make her role work. Then on top of all this, she then volunteered to assist Wyana by completing the vocal warmups for the cast each evening. She was happy to contribute for the betterment of the show overall. She was an asset to have backstage and a settling influence on the cast. At a point when most people would have complained or winged she shone. I think she would be a worthy recipient of the award.

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee – Judy Satrapa – As well as designing and making the complicated costumes for this show (which had to allow for almost instant character changes on stage) she was nominated for this award as she went beyond her role and provided invaluable help with set and make-up and excellent morale support for everyone involved in the production.

Judy Satrapa was awarded the Michael Thomas Award for 2010-11.

The Ashes Award

This award recognises a dedicated member who has committed their time and expertise beyond a particular show, in support of the company of Phoenix Players in their endeavours to provide theatrical opportunity and experience to the community. "The Ashes" award recognises the contribution of those hard working people behind the scenes, without which our shows would just not be possible. The winner of this award is determined by the Committee.

The Committee this year presented this award to **Pam McManus**, for all of the time and effort she put into negotiating our new rehearsal space at the Cook Community Hub, on behalf of Phoenix Players. This has been at least two years in the making... she attended many meetings with Supa and FreeRain and Mary Porter, and read through many versions of contracts. She put in a lot of extra work outside of her normal committee duties which were not related to a show. Pam has been instrumental in making this happen for Phoenix Players.

The Chris Boydew Memorial Award

This award acknowledges the contribution of one of our life members, the late Mr Chris Boydew. Chris was an inaugural member of Phoenix Players. He was our first president and directed our first show, *Salad Days*. Chris continued to support the company as a performer, set builder and avid fundraiser. His enthusiasm and passion for theatre was integral to the development of Phoenix Players as a company.

As Chris was so involved in musical theatre and supported new and up and coming members it is fitting that this award acknowledges youth achievement in musical theatre.

This year there were two nominations for this award:

Pierce Jackson – nominated by Kelda McManus: Pierce first performed with Phoenix back in Peter Pan as a 12 year old. Most recently he performed with Whorehouse as a 16 year old. He has developed his skills as a performer over this time, both as a dancer and singer but foremost as a talented actor. He was provided several character outlines to work with in this show and over the course of the rehearsal period developed those elements into a convincing comedy based role. To add to this Pierce is an asset to have in a cast. His seems mature beyond his age when it comes to discipline in stage. I believe he is a strong candidate for a youth encouragement award.

Kirsten Haussmann – nominated by Eileen Boydew: I first got to know Kirsten when she played Fern in Phoenix Player's *Charlotte's Web*, *Some Musical*, for which I was the Production Manager. She was cheerful, hard-working and clearly very talented. I saw her next in Phoenix's *A Chorus Line*, and most recently in *Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*. It was gratifying to see that early promise realized. I was further impressed when BLWIT's choreographer publicly thanked Kirsten for taking practice sessions with the dancers when she herself could not be present. I think the Award would recognize such initiative as well as Kirsten's talent and long association with Phoenix.

The winner of this award in 2010-11 was **Pierce Jackson**.

Congratulations to all the nominees and winners of our awards.



CHRISTMAS DINNER

Phoenix Players would like to invite members and friends to celebrate Christmas and the festive season with dinner at the Digress Restaurant and Lounge (see www.digress.com.au) on Thursday 1 December at 7:30pm. The restaurant is located at 11 Akuna Street, Canberra City.

Please **RSVP** to Gaby Schmid at gaby.schmid@finance.gov.au by **Tuesday 29 November** if you would like to come.

Hope to see you there 😊



FUNDRAISING

A reminder that there are Fundraising Chocolates available to help raise money for Phoenix Players, so we can keep doing what we are doing... if you are willing to take in a box (or two... or ten) to sell in your workplace, school or business, please contact the [editor](#).

And don't forget the great Tupperware offer from Jordan Kelly to help you get those much sought after Tupperware items whilst raising money for future Phoenix shows at the same time!

Go to www.tupperware.com.au to browse the catalogue and then place your orders for all your Tupperware needs with Jordan Kelly at marvinbs@hotmail.com or call him on 0410 243 368. Collect orders from your friends and work mates – the more the merrier! And you don't even have to have a party. But, if you would like to have a party, please contact Jordan and he will be most happy to help. Just mention that you're doing it for Phoenix Players 😊

NEWS

- We mentioned in the last newsletter that one of our long serving members, Nick Leon (now 80 years young) will be directing a one act play for Tempo's programme of One Act Plays in November. Originally he was going to direct *The Rehearsal*, but due to casting difficulties, this was replaced with *Stairway To Heaven* – an Australian Comedy. There are two phoenix members in the cast, Chris Donohue and Bob Morris. It is on at the Belconnen Theatre on November 10, 11, and 12 at 7.30pm and on Saturday November 12 at 2pm.

If you have any news you would like to include in a future edition of Spotlight, please email the [editor](#).



MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

Don't forget to renew your membership, or join if you are new to Phoenix Players!

You will also need to renew for 2011-12 following the AGM (if you haven't already done so in the last couple of months). Note that new members who have joined during The Wizard of Oz will be covered for 2011-12.

Everyone in a Phoenix show needs to be a member to be covered by insurance. And there are also some other great benefits:

- Regular updates via Spotlight
- Tickets to Phoenix shows at member prices
- **Southern Cross Health Club** – \$199 joining fee waived for Phoenix members
- **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>

