

CONVENOR'S CORNER

Well, as we rock into the second half of the year, we find ourselves having to cancel attendances, reassign judges to shows and generally move things round quite a bit. We are very sorry for the theatre companies who have had to cancel or defer shows once again - it seems impossible to think this has been going on now for the best part of a year and a half, with no clear end in sight.



While the disruption for community theatre groups is incredibly hard, spare a thought for our professional friends doing shows like *FROZEN*, *HAMILTON*, *COME FROM AWAY* etc., having to give back millions of dollars in ticket sales etc. Who'd be John Frost or Michael Cassell at the moment? Still there's light at the end of the tunnel in some places; seems Broadway plans to open around September with *WICKED*, *HAMILTON* and *COMPANY* as some of the first back on the boards. Let's hope there's not another variant in the wind...

As you know, when we have two or more companies staging the same show in a particular year, we send the same judges to each production - we are presently waiting to see what will happen to Spotlight Theatre's *PRISCILLA* which opened a week before the current lockdown. Hopefully nothing will get in the way of the same show at Ballina and Toowoomba. Similarly, *A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM* had to be cancelled during its performance by Technicolour Theatre Company on the GC; we were able to get judges to a replacement show quickly - they will also attend at Trinity College, Lismore. Unfortunately Shepherd's Purse Theatre Company at Tyalgum have had to defer their season. Such is life for thespians at the moment!

Keep smiling - keep singing - keep dancing! Remember, the show must go on, Covid Virus notwithstanding!! It may be of interest to you all to know that even in this difficult year, our judges have attended 53 shows in 2021 - with more to emerge as the situation loosens up!

See you in a crowded foyer real soon!

Kate Peters, OAM, Convenor

IN THIS NEWSLETTER

In this and future newsletters, our Judges will share their thoughts on aspects of the theatre that speaks to them. This edition features **Patrick Mitchell** discussing the relevance of Shakespeare in the modern world and **Judy Gadloff** discusses *What Value - The Band*. Next time **David Huddy** will discuss *The Importance of a Good Program*.

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS, IDEAS, SUCCESSES AND STRESSES!

SHOWS

What we have seen...

May 2021

Moreton Bay Theatre Company

The Breakfast Club

Tugun Theatre Company

The Kidnap Game

St Hilda's School

Matilda

Redcliffe Musical Theatre

Next to Normal

Spotlight Theatre Company

Beautiful - The Carol King Musical

June 2021

Wild Dreamer Productions

VOID

Sunnybank Theatre Group

First Things First

Ballina Players

Smokey Joe's Cafe

July 2021

Mates Theatre Genesis

Kitchen Diva

Gold Coast Little Theatre

Metamorphoses

Redcliffe Musical Theatre

School of Rock

Lynch & Paterson

Jesus Christ Superstar

Toowoomba Choral Society

Just So

Top Hat Productions

Welcome Back, Broadway

Bangalow Theatre Company

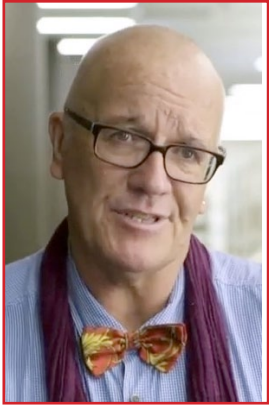
Rent

Technicolour Theatre Company

A Midsummer Night's Dream

JUDGES THOUGHTS

King Lear on the Gold Coast in 2021! The Storm Within.



Opening on August 5th will be Mercury's Wings Theatre Company production of Shakespeare's *King Lear*. This remarkable play will be presented in a rather special place, not used as a theatre performance space before. This will be the spectacular Oculus Fountain at the Smith Collective at Southport. The Smith Collective, once the site of the 2018 Commonwealth Games Athletes Village, is now a modern, urban village adjacent to the university and hospital. The Oculus Fountain is at the centre of it and provides a spectacular performance space for the company

and this production.

Amongst a collection of astonishing plays written by William Shakespeare, *King Lear* is surely one of the writers most extraordinary. Its themes of age, of generational change, of parents and their children, of the challenge to preserve oneself when circumstances change completely around one, of dealing with the imponderable realities of cause and effect, of the human challenge of dealing with the unintended and uncomfortable consequences of our actions. Shakespeare's plays and their productions continue to find a connection with the key events or concerns of the times in which they are performed. One very pertinent one is the journey to retirement and the wish to lighten one's burden without relinquishing the honour or the privileges that bearing it has won.

As we traverse our own difficult times, research tells us that we are not so far from London, July 1606, when a very different plague ravished the community and closed the theatres. *Volpone*, *The Revenger's Tragedy* and *King Lear* were among the plays you could hear echoing through the South Bank. The streets were deserted, shops closed, carers carrying three-foot staffs painted red, so everyone kept their distance, and church bells tolling endlessly for funerals. The script is saturated with words and images of death chaos, nihilism, and desperation. A time not too different today as we as a community, a country and a world confront the ever-changing challenges with which Covid 19 confronts us.

Mercury Wings Theatre Company, under the leadership of Claudine Anderson and James Anderson, has been producing substantial theatre on the Gold Coast for over 15 years. Recently bringing productions of *Waiting For Godot*, Shakespeare's *The Tempest* and *Thursdays Child* to stages around the Gold Coast. The company has focused on both Australian and International, contemporary and classical works that provide a diverse and challenging experience for local audiences and performers. This year the company presents what some would argue is the greatest play ever written. I certainly would.

For me, this play speaks to the continuing value that Shakespeare holds for us and our communities. He probably could not have foreseen how often his plays continue to be performed and the great deal they offer us to ponder. Please join us for this theatrical adventure with a great play and an exceptional venue.

Dr. Patrick Mitchell

What's coming up.....

August 2021

Spotlight Theatre Company
Priscilla, Queen of the Desert

Tugun Theatre Company
Cosi

September 2021

Gold Coast Little Theatre
Green Days American Idiot

Toowoomba Choral Society
Priscilla, Queen of the Desert

Spotlight Theatre Company
Puffs...or Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic

Sunnybank Theatre Group
Eventide

October 2021

Technicolour Theatre Company
Pinocchio

Lynch & Paterson
Les Mierables

OUR SPONSORS

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Dracula's Comedy Cabaret
Restaurant

Ramada Hotel Ballina

ADFAS - Australian Decorative & Fine Arts Society, Gold Coast



JUDGES THOUGHTS

WHAT VALUE - THE BAND?

In judging the various musicals performed by the companies in Gold Palm Theatre Awards, I have been most impressed with the excellent standard of many of the live bands/orchestras. These ensembles usually comprise of musicians who gather together to accompany a production. Accompany?

Yes, but they do much more. The music drives the energy of the production with the rhythm, develops much of the dynamic variation, creates various moods and emotions and shapes the climax of the show. After their own individual practice, these musicians work with the conductor for hours of “team” rehearsal to produce a well-balanced blend of harmonious sound that supports the entire production.

Their acknowledgement – names on the program and a hand-wave from the stage! Surely they deserve at least a team photo in the program to acknowledge not only their essential part of the performance, but also their artistic value. Without them, there would be no musical!

Judy Gadloff

GREAT NEWS! - Sophie’s Success

Sophie Salvesani starred as Cosette in Ipswich Musical Theatre Company’s *Les Miserables*. This was the first show that IMTC had registered with the Gold Palms Theatre Awards and resulted in five prizes including Best Production.

Sophie then won the role of Maria in Opera Australia & GWB Entertainment’s production of *West Side Story*. The show opened on 9 April 2019 at the Arts Centre, Melbourne and Sophie has continued to perform the role in Wellington, Berlin, Dresden, Cologne, Sydney, Canberra and Adelaide.

Then Covid happened.

Now having just finished the season in Perth we can finally see Sophie at the Lyric Theatre QPAC in Brisbane. How exciting and what a long road it has been.

Ipswich Musical Theatre Company and Gold Palm Theatre Awards are so very happy for her and wish her every success in the future.

Brenda Ryan, Artistic Director, IMTC



GOLD PALM JUDGES

Mrs Kate Peters, Convenor and Founder



Mrs Judy Gadloff



Ms Steffanie Gowland



Mr David Huddy



Mrs Katrina Lardner



Mr Mark Turpin



Mr Chris Hawkins



Ms Amy MacDonald



Dr Patrick Mitchell



Ms Kirri Adams



Ms Tracey Kriz

Click on the names of the member theatre groups to be taken directly to their websites for further details about shows.