



CONVENOR'S CORNER

Welcome to the first Newsletter of the Gold Palm Theatre Awards for 2023!

Hopefully, many theatres are now back to pre-Covid programs and we are looking forward to seeing many high quality shows once again from our many participants.

We are delighted to welcome three new judges to the panel (see their pics and bios elsewhere in this Newsletter). All are experienced and multi-talented theatrical practitioners and will bring yet more variety to our current group. We are sorry to lose Judge **AMY MacDONALD** to a great new job which involves much travel, and pleased to welcome back Judge **KATRINA LARDNER** who has decided a job with Qantas doesn't fit with her busy lifestyle on the Coast!

Just anticipating our end-of-year busy period leading up to the Presentation Night, may I respectfully ask any of our participants who have lost members since last December to forward photos and a brief summary of their involvement with shows. We seem to have lost several well-loved actors, producers and directors on the Coast and surrounding areas already and we would like to acknowledge their contribution at year end.

The Awards continues to seek a major sponsor to assist with the many expenses associated with running. If anyone knows or can suggest a culturally-friendly or philanthropic millionaire we can talk to, we would be grateful! In the meantime, please continue to get your company show lists in so we have plenty of notice for judges.

We commend local producer **MATT WARD** on his forthcoming productions of **BEAUTIFUL - The Carole King Musical** and **BILLY ELLIOTT** at Star Casino. It's great to see opportunities for local performers to get some professional experience. Another local couple, **CLAY & LAURA ENGLISH** are producing **HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL** at Broadbeach Cultural Centre. Another terrific professional opportunity for locals,

From now on, our Newsletters will be published on Facebook as well as our website, to ensure as wide a readership as possible. Please free to use the Newsletter to promote your shows, announce auditions etc. I look forward to seeing many of you over the next few months!

Kate Peters Convenor and Founder - Gold Palm Theatre Awards

What we will see in 2023 (so far)

To find out more - Click on the company name to visit their website.

JANUARY

[Ballina Players](#)
MOANA Jnr.

FEBRUARY

[MATES Theatre Genesis](#)
THERE'S A WAR ON YOU KNOW
[Spotlight Theatrical Company](#)
CHICAGO

MARCH

[Bangalow Theatre Company](#)
HAIR

[Ballina Players](#)
PLAY ON

APRIL

[Redcliffe Musical Theatre](#)
WE WILL ROCK YOU

[Gold Coast Little Theatre](#)
GUYS & DOLLS

[Redcliffe Musical Theatre](#)
[Ghostlight Theatre Co.](#)
COSI

[Spotlight Theatrical Company](#)
EXIT

MAY

[Marymount College](#)
CHICAGO (Youth)

[Moreton Bay College &
Moreton Bay Boys College](#)
SCHOOL OF ROCK

[MATES Theatre Genesis](#)
SWINGERS

[Tugun Theatre Company](#)
GIRL'S NIGHT OUT

[Redcliffe Musical Theatre](#)
BONNIE & CLYDE

[Spotlight Theatrical Company](#)
GYPSY

[Queensland Musical Theatre
& Arts Inc.](#)
CATS

[St. Hilda's School](#)
FREAKY FRIDAY

JUNE

[Ballina Players](#)
PRISCILLA QUEEN OF THE DESERT

JULY

[Gold Coast Little Theatre](#)
BLACKROCK

[NAPA](#)
CATS

[Top Hat Productions](#)
LET YOURSELF GO!

[Shepherd's Purse Theatre Company](#)
SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE

AUGUST

[Tugun Theatre Company](#)
PROOF

[Ballina Players](#)
AVENUE Q

[Spotlight Theatrical Company](#)
SPAMALOT

SEPTEMBER

[Ghostlight Theatre Co.](#)
ONE FLEW OVER THE
CUCKOO'S NEST

[Gold Coast Little Theatre](#)
STILL STANDING

[Spotlight Theatrical Company](#)
DOGFIGHT

OCTOBER

[Redcliffe Musical Theatre](#)
THE SOUND OF MUSIC

[Queensland Musical Theatre
& Arts Inc.](#)
THE LITTLE MERMAID

NOVEMBER - up to final judging weekend

[Ghostlight Theatre Co.](#)
SWEENEY TODD
THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET

[Tugun Theatre Company](#)
SPOOKY DOG

[Ballina Players](#)
BEAUTIFUL
CAROL KING MUSICAL

[Spotlight Theatrical Company](#)
XANADO

New Judges for 2023.



Del Halpin

Del has been involved in Community theatre on the Gold Coast for over 50 years. She has played lead roles in over 100 productions, drama, comedy and musical theatre. Along with many awards on the drama festival circuit, she has been a multiple finalist for the Gold Palm Awards, and a triple winner of the best actress award. Working not only on stage, but as stage manager, director and stage crew on many productions has given her a unique understanding and appreciation of the demands and the capabilities of the onstage performers as well as those critical creatives behind the scenes.



Gai Byrne

Gai has been actively involved in Community Theatre for 50 years, commencing with the Regent Theatre Group in Melbourne in 1973. She was trained in voice production under Mr Jack White and contemporary jazz ballet with the Olive Wallace Dance Academy in Melbourne under Ms Jillian Fitzgerald culminating in appearances on Channel Nine's "New Faces", leading her down the musical theatre path.

She has played leading and supporting roles in over forty productions and many musicals including "My Fair Lady", "Hello! Dolly", "Camelot", "Peter Pan" and "Toast of the Town" and as choreographer and principal dancer for over 5 years with shows conceived by the wonderful Alan Grant. Gai has devised and directed musical reviews, including "Moonlight Serenade", "I Remember You", "Sentimental Journey" (a tribute to Doris Day) and "We Remember Them", an ANZAC day memorial show. She has also trained as a professional makeup artist, specializing in ageing makeup for theatre.

She has choreographed and costumed productions for many of the Gold Coast Theatre companies and has taught musical theatre and singing to young and adolescent children at the Johnny Young Talent School here on the Gold Coast. For over the last fifteen years, Gai has sat on various executive committees for several theatre companies.

Gai was the recipient of the Gold Palm Award for Best Actress in a Leading Role in 2020 for "Aurelia" and Best Actress in a Supporting Role in 2022 for "Crimes of the Heart". In her spare time, Gai has appeared on television and feature films including "Mystery Road", "Silent Predator", "Mental" and "Young Rock II" and various TVC's. She was trained in the Meisner method under Tom McSweeney. Her passion is nurturing the up-and-coming young talent on the Gold Coast.



Andrew Cockroft-Penman

Andrew (He/Him/They/Them) is a director, producer, actor, theatre maker and the Founder/Artistic Director of Technicolour Theatre Company. His directing credits include: Little Shop of Horrors (Players Theatre Company, Youth Australia Day Award Nom), Sweeney Todd (University of New England. Albert Bussell Cultural Award), Wizard of Oz (PTC), The Popular Mechanicals (UNE), Comedy of Errors (Centre Stage Theatre), A Midsummer Night's Dream (Inaugural Shakespeare in the Park at the GC

Botanic Gardens), Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat (Spotlight Theatrical Company), Oliver! (STC), Kiss Me, Kate! (Winner of 4 Dolphin Awards) and Peter Pan (Technicolour Theatre Company).

CP is proud to have held the position of 'Theatre Academic Mentor' for Earle Page College at the University of New England, resident senior drama teacher at Spotlight Theatrical Company (2016-18), resident Head Tutor for Technicolour Theatre Company (2019-present) and Senior Drama Tutor for 'Raise Your Voice Workshops' (2017-present). Regarded as "dedicated, creative, innovative and pioneering... [and] undoubtedly already leading the way in bringing youth and adults back to the heart and soul of theatre." (Dr Elizabeth Celi), TTC has produced immersive performance experiences and contemporary staging's of classical texts and concentrates on the facilitation of opportunities for engagement between emerging performance artists and industry professionals. Andrew is also an award winning designer and choreographer, has accepted a 'Special President's Award' for services to Gold Coast Theatre in 2019 alongside his curation of the Gold Coast Festival of One Act Plays, facilitating the creative development and premiere of three new Australian Plays.

THE COMMUNITY THEATRE PREMIERE OF 'SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE'

SEEKING ACTORS - AUDITIONS OPEN NOW.

Shepherd's Purse Theatre Company in Tyalgum, Northern NSW has secured the rights from Disney Theatrical to stage the NSW premiere production of '*Shakespeare In Love*'.

SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE just been announced as the company's offering for the annual Midwinter Shakespeare immersive dinner theatre event at the charming and iconic **Flutterbies Cottage Cafe**, in the Tweed Hinterland Village for a limited season this July.

The production will be a NSW premiere, as well as an Australian Community Theatre premiere. Adapted by Lee Hall from the Oscar winning screenplay by Marc Norman and Tom Stoppard, with a musical score by Paddy Cunneen. **Shakespeare in Love** brings all of the fun, adventure and romance of the hit 1998 movie vibrantly to life.

Over recent years Tyalgum has established itself as one of the leading Arts areas in the Tweed hinterland, with regular return performances from such artists as Broadway and West End leading man Hayden Tee, Australia's first lady of the musical stage Rachael Beck, as well as the annual Tyalgum Dance Spectacular which brings Australia's finest dancers to the Tweed region performing at the historic Tyalgum Hall.

Shepherd's Purse has been presenting annual Shakespeare plays in this unique and idyllic venue every year for almost 8 years. The most popular event on Tyalgum's annual calendar, these themed nights encourage guests to dress up and get in the spirit, in the Elizabethan / Medieval theme, with the evening's offerings including a long table banquet dinner, mulled wine in goblets and the play.

Shepherd's Purse Theatre Company was also the recent recipient of the Platinum Palm Award at the 2022 Gold Palm Theatre Awards for their production of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' last July.



'SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE' - THE STORY:

Penniless and indebted to two demanding producers, struggling young playwright William Shakespeare is tormented by writer's block until he meets the beautiful Viola de Lesseps, daughter of a wealthy merchant, whose fiery passion for poetry and drama leaves her secretly longing to be an actor. Both are despondent when they learn that Viola's father has promised her to the stuffy Lord Wessex in order to gain a title for their family. Under the veil of secrecy, Will and Viola's passionate love affair becomes the basis of the very play he is writing – **Romeo and Juliet**. With opening night – and the wedding day – fast approaching, the plots race toward a parallel conclusion. Will it all work out in the end or are the two star-crossed lovers destined for tragedy?

Shepherds Purse director Solar Chapel says that this is the perfect play to be presenting at this time, "Over the last 8 years of this event we have presented almost all of Shakespeare's best comedies, and the stage version of 'Shakespeare in Love' seemed the obvious next step'.

'Shakespeare in Love' features a large and predominantly male cast, we are seeking actors and performers to fill several roles" Said Mr.Chapel. "Experience in speaking Shakespeare is good, but not essential for all roles."

Auditions are by appointment and are open till April.

Head to www.shepherdspursetheatre.com.au or call 0488 713 241 to enquire.

OUR SPONSORS



DRACULA'S



GOLD PALM JUDGES



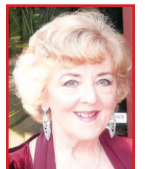
Mrs Kate Peters, Convenor and Founder



Ms Kirri Adams



Ms Gai Byrne



Mrs Judy Gadaloff



Mr Andrew Cockroft-Penman



Ms Steffanie Gowland



Ms Del Halpin



Mr Chris Hawkins



Mr David Huddy



Ms Katrina Lardner



Ms Tracey Kriz



Ms Laney McLean



Dr Patrick Mitchell



Mr Mark Turpin