



JUST CHATTING

CHATS Productions Inc

Jan / Feb 2021

Inside this issue:

What's New? 1

Annual General Meeting 1

Presidents Chat 2

Steel Magnolias 3

In Bed With The Bishops 4

The Importance Of Being Earnest 4

Upcoming Shows 5

What's New?

It has long been obvious that Coffs Harbour is blessed with a pool of quality acting and performing talent, and now six young performers have chosen to pursue careers in acting and drama to satisfy their passion for performing and to grow and feed their hungry minds in the world of entertainment.

The students are –
Matthew Dorahy, who will start his Diploma of Musical Theatre at the highly regarded Brent Street Theatre in Sydney.

Tayla Rankine, accepted in the Qld University of Technology (QUT) Bachelor of Fine Arts (Drama) program.

Tomas Pocilujko, also commencing at QUT in the Bachelor of Fine Arts (Acting) course.

Mitchell Hodges, Bachelor of Creative Arts at the Academy of Film Theatre and Television (AFTT) in Sydney.

Rashana Wilkinson, Bachelor of Creative Arts also at AFTT in Sydney.

Duke Cruikshank, Victorian College of The Arts (VCA), Bachelor of Fine Arts (Acting) in Melbourne.

Some of these students have appeared on stage in CHATS productions of "Heathers" and "Legally Blonde Jr", as well as appearing in other

productions including "Les Misérables" (CHMCC) and "Much Ado About Nothing" (YAS).

Coffs thespians are fortunate to have access to quality training through Belinda Lemair's Young Actors Studio, and Jade Naidu's Woolgoolga Performing Arts Studio, as well as being able to hone their skills in major productions with CHATS and CHMCC.

We wish these youngsters all the very best in their studies and their careers in performing arts, and look forward to seeing them on the big stage in the future.

David Tune.



Aspiring young actors (from back left) Tayla Rankine, Tomas Pocilujko, Mitchell Hodges, YAS Teacher Belinda Lemair, Rashana Wilkinson, Matthew Dorahy and McKinnon and Bryant Lawyers partner Ben Bryant (sponsors of YAS).

Annual General Meeting

Sunday 21st February 11am at the Jetty Theatre

All committee positions will be open, so please consider nominating yourself or someone else to play a role in running CHATS Productions!

To have items added to the agenda, please contact the secretary at info@chats.org.au.

Please note that you must be a current financial member to vote or stand for a position.

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President's Chat

Dear Members

2020 is finally over and what a disaster it was with CHATS not being able to bring a single show to the theatre. We started with Romeo and Juliet being just 2 weeks from going ahead, to nearly a year of postponements and sadly, in the end it just got too hard.

2021 is looking a lot more optimistic with at time of writing this report we can have a capacity of 75% audience members in the theatre. Coffs Harbour has still managed to avoid any reported cases of Covid.

CHATS and CHMCC has farewelled Frank Lilley (set designer and builder extraordinaire). Frank and his partner Terri have relocated to Geelong in Victoria.

Pat Slattery, a long time director for both companies has moved to Gosford to be closer to family.

We wish Frank and Pat all the best for the future. We also managed to finally scatter the ashes of our much loved wardrobe mistress Lou, onto the waters of the harbour. It was a wild, stormy night with lots of thunder and lightning. Our Lou decided to leave us with a bang.

Let us move on to 2021! Our first offering will be "Steel Magnolias" directed by Donna Fairall. Rehearsals started on January 11 and will be on stage in March.



This will be followed by Dave Tune directing a wonderful new comedy called "In Bed with the Bishops".

I will round out the year with Oscar Wilde's witty masterpiece, "The Importance of Being Earnest". Please keep an eye out for audition dates for these two plays.

CHATS also has its AGM coming up in February and I would like to see as many as possible attend this meeting. We always welcome new people with new ideas. If you would like a say in the future of CHATS, here is your chance.

I and the committee look forward to seeing you all in 2021, as the show must go on!

Regards,

Rex Madigan
President



Steel Magnolias

Thank you to everyone who auditioned for Steel Magnolias late last year. We had some incredibly talented ladies to choose from, and everyone who auditioned was worthy to be cast. Unfortunately there were only six roles on offer.

Congratulations to our all-female cast of six; Jenny, Emily C, Virginia, Emily B, Laura and Mel.

With only a couple of read throughs prior to Christmas, our ladies are already showing a great chemistry together.

Rehearsals officially started this week with the foremost priority being those Southern accents. Thank you to Beckley Vincent who is coaching in this area.

Tickets will be on sale very soon and I am excited to see this show hit the Jetty Theatre stage in March.

Hope to see you there!

Donna x



THE CAST

Jenny Garratt as Truvy

Emily Cooper as Annelle

Virginia Craze as Clairee

Emily Branster as Shelby

Laura Smith as M'Lynn

Mel Winkler as Ouiser

In Bed With The Bishops

Written by Rob Selzer (Professor of Psychiatry at Monash Uni) this fast-paced comedy features four players and switches from the present to the past and back again.

Betty and Barry Bishop are a power couple, he works as a senior broker in the family stock broking business, and she has a popular and influential lifestyle TV show called 'Betty Perfect' that has a huge following.

Everything in their life is 'perfect', and now Betty has decided they need a baby to make it all complete.

The problem is, they can't seem to conceive, and Betty's physician has referred them to Dr. Jack Glass, a Psychiatrist specialising in couples counselling.

The story unfolds as Jack talks to Zelda, his very experienced professional supervisor, about how his interactions with the Bishops over time have led to a very sticky situation. The play uses flashback scenes of Jack working with the Bishops to tell the tale, and as Jack relates the details to Zelda, we come to the present day, and then things get complicated.

The play has only been performed on a couple of occasions, generating extremely positive audience feedback, and offers a chance for CHATS to work with the playwright in polishing and presenting a cracking new Australian comedy.

**9th – 18th
July, 2021**

**Directed by
David Tune**



In Bed
with the
BISHOPS

A hilarious new play
by
Rob Selzer

The Importance Of Being Earnest

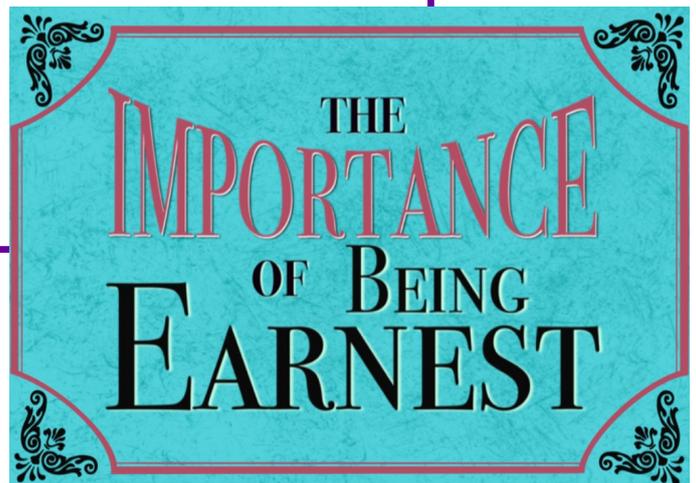
A trivial comedy for serious people, was first performed at The St James Theatre in London in 1895. It is a farcical comedy in which the protagonists maintain, fictitious personae to escape burdensome social obligations.

Earnest is probably the wittiest of Oscar Wilde's works. The audience will be amused by the snappy repartee from start to finish.

A cast of 8-9 required.

**15th – 24th
October, 2021**

**Directed by
Rex Madigan**



UPCOMING SHOWS!

Seacrest Productions Inc presents **jetty theatre**

THE 39 STEPS

Adapted by Patrick Barlow, from the novel by John Buchan.
Directed by Amanda Scott.

JAN 16-23

Jan 16, 18, 19, 20, 22 - 6pm	Adults \$32
Jan 16 (Preview), 17, 23 - 2pm	Conc. \$28
Jan 21 (ROOK Fundraiser) - 6:30pm	U 21 \$25
	Family (2A, 2C) \$95

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STEEL Magnolias

Directed by Donna Fairall

19th—28th March 2021

Written by Robert Harling



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