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Autumn News

April 2008

Melbourne's Oldest Community Theatre Company

President's Report

First up, congratulations to Ashwood College on the opening of the new Ashwood Performing Arts Centre. Yes, the time has come! You've no doubt seen the construction taking place over the last year and now the new "black box" performance space is ready for action.

It's exciting to explore the possibilities that this new space brings, and we're proud to present the inaugural play there: Blackrock by Nick Enright.



Blackrock is a powerful and challenging play that looks at a range of themes, from teen parties and underage drinking, to peer pressure and mateship. On the surface, it's a play about the rape and fatal bashing of a fifteen-year-old girl, but its core goes deeper. It shows the profound affect that such a tragedy has on a small community, and more importantly, on a close group of friends.

I'm really looking forward to the opening on the 2nd of May to see what Kellie and her cast and crew have prepared for us. We invite you to join us on opening night to celebrate the opening of both the play and the theatre. If you can't make it, further performances run through to May 17th - see flyer for details.

So far 2008 is off to a good start and there's more to come, with one-act plays, the all-female Julius Caesar, and some celebrations for our 70th birthday. No matter what your taste in plays or interest in theatre, there's something for everyone at The Hartwell Players.

Cheers,
Nathan

Hartwell Committee:

PRESIDENT	..	Nathan Jones
VICE-PRESIDENT	..	Mark Hodgson
TREASURER	..	Fiona Lilley
SECRETARY	..	Ian Tweeddale
GENERAL COMMITTEE	..	John Bayly Jenny Boadle Laura Bradley Kathryn Keeble Richard Pappas

Committee Email Address:

committee@hartwellplayers.org.au

HELP WANTED:

Hartwell regular Cam Van Steel is putting together a Set Building team and is calling for any interested persons to get involved.

You don't need to know anything about building, tools or design, just enthusiasm and a willingness to learn. Cam will provide the tools, but needs your help to make it all happen. All assistance will be gratefully received.

Please send expressions of interest to the Hartwell Committee.

SEASON 1, 2008:**SNOW WHITE & FRIENDS**

– A reflection on the first season for 2008 –

So 2008 commenced with our Family/Panto show “Snow White & Friends”, a story of triumph over an evil queen by a sweet natured girl (no typecasting there!). The cast was predominantly made up of under 19yr olds (approx 22 of them) and only 5 adults (or over 35 yr olds!). There were a couple of new faces but the cast was mainly made up of Hartwell regulars. There were lots of great roles to be played and everyone seemed to enjoy playing them. This may not have been our most profitable panto but the cast and audience appeared to enjoy themselves.



I personally had fun playing the Wicked Queen (some of my “friends” said it wasn’t much of a stretch!) and I managed to make 3 children cry over the three weekends...is that good or bad?!. Our Wolf (Si Preest) also threw himself into the role and was often caught stealing lollies from the poor audience members (either that or they would end up on the menu for the wolf and baddies later!). Our three Heroines (Phoebe, Aleisha & Deb) and Heroes (Emmett, Sam & Oliver) all worked well together and relished the chance to play such large parts.



And so on to the people who worked tirelessly behind the scenes in the cool weather (!). Firstly thanks to Cam for another great set (design and construction) and to his “happy helpers” who painted and also helped deconstruct the set at the end. Thanks to Kathy, Pat and Jonne for some wonderful costumes (either made or borrowed). Thanks to Mark for lights and sound (and to Nathan for jumping in a couple of times to run them) and to Leah for Stage Managing (and organising the kids). There were a few people that multi-tasked for Front of House/ Backstage and “Den Mothering” (Chantelle, Pat, Anne, Kathy & Lisa) – and if I’ve missed someone out I apologise!


Fiona Lilley

THE HARTWELL PLAYERS 2008 PLAYBILL:

Season 1 – Snow White & Friends
Season 2 – Blackrock

Season 3 – One Act Plays
Season 4 – Julius Caesar

HARTWELLIAN'S OUT & ABOUT:

- EXTRA EXTRA! Ian Tweeddale & Kellie Raymond recently announced their engagement! Wow! As Bob Tuttleby says, any relationship that survives directing a Hartwell Summer Show is destined for greatness! Congrats to you both!
 - Libby Brockman recently directed Katherine Payne's play "Disenchanted" for a school house competition, where it was awarded second place & best production design. Three of the actors also received honourable acting mentions. HERE'S A CAST PIC:
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- Lynette Williams & Janeen Sonsie have both been acting in plays at Dante's as part of the Melbourne Comedy Festival. Michael Olsen also had one of his short plays performed as part of the same gig.
 - Hartwell alumni Matt Delbridge is packing up the wife & kids and moving to the UK indefinitely. Matt is taking up a position as the Technical Director of the Drama Department at the University of London.
 - Dee Whittington is directing "Bugsy Malone" for the Players Theatre Company. In the cast of this production are Hartwell's very own Dominic and Oliver Watt! Their mother Joanne is choreographing the production.
 - Ben Evans (last seen at Hartwell in 2003's "Love & the Supernatural") has recently started his own production company - Shaolin Punk. Its first production was "A Record or an OBE", a half-hour comedy about The Goodies, which Ben (now credited as Ben McKenzie) wrote, produced & starred in. This production was part of the Melbourne Fringe Festival last year. Check out his website <http://shaolinpunk.net/> for more details on Ben's activities!
 - David O'Meara, whilst in the midst of completing a law degree, has become co-president of the Later Lawyers' Network. Not only that, but he also presents a weekly radio program on community radio station 3CR called "Beyond the quarter acre block", which focuses on social justice issues in rural areas. You'd never know David was retired... (well, retired from teaching anyway!).
 - Aleesha Carina is currently performing in her school's production of "The Wizard of Oz". Her proud mother Anna has also told your editor that Aleesha recently won some track & field awards at the Camberwell/Malvern Little Athletics for the Under 15 age group. Well done Aleesha!

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this column.

If you have anything you'd like to have included in future newsletter editions, please send it to committee@hartwellplayers.org.au.

MEET YOUR COMMITTEE:

How long have you been with Hartwell?

Since late 1998. I was on committee around 2000-2003 and have been Vice President & Secretary as well as General Committee.

What productions have you done at Hartwell?

Productions as an Actor: The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe (1999); Much Ado About Nothing (1999); *One Act: The Funeral* (1999); *One Act: The Hardy boys and the mystery of where babies come from* (1999); The Wizard of Oz (2000); The Comedy of Errors (2000); *One Act: Room 22* (2001); *One Act: Instruments of Darkness* (2001); The Winters Tale (2002); Romeo and Juliet (2004); Merchant of Venice (2007). **Productions (behind the scenes):** *Director* - Alice in Wonderland (2001); *Stage Manager* - Ali Baba (2002); *Assistant Director* - Taming of the Shrew (2003); *Director* - Arcadia (2004)



Jenny Boadle (General Committee)

What is your favourite memory of your time with Hartwell?

One of my fondest memories probably is staying at Stratfordsaye farm near Stratford during the Shakespeare Festival.

What do you do outside of Hartwell?

I currently work at the Australian Twin Registry (Melb Uni) as a Project Support Officer (which basically means I organise the recruitment of participants for the various studies we are involved in, as well as organising other special

projects ie. conferences). I am also completing my Bachelor of Social Work (with Honours). My honours thesis is looking at the new Family Law Act Amendments and their impact on separating parents' involvement in their children's schooling.



FRIDGE PAGE

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
02.05.08	8pm	Blackrock – Opening Night	Ashwood College – THEATRE
03.05.08	8pm	Blackrock Performance	Ashwood College – THEATRE
04.05.08	3pm	Blackrock Performance – MATINEE	Ashwood College – THEATRE
06.05.08	7.30pm	Snow White – Post Production Meeting	Ashwood College – Blue Room
07.05.08	8pm	Blackrock Performance	Ashwood College – THEATRE
08.05.08	8pm	Blackrock Performance	Ashwood College – THEATRE
09.05.08	8pm	Blackrock Performance	Ashwood College – THEATRE
10.05.08	8pm	Blackrock Performance	Ashwood College – THEATRE
11.05.08	5pm	Committee Meeting	Ashwood College – ROOM TBC
15.05.08	8pm	Blackrock Performance	Ashwood College – THEATRE
16.05.08	8pm	Blackrock Performance	Ashwood College – THEATRE
17.05.08	8pm	Blackrock Performance	Ashwood College – THEATRE
17.05.08	3pm	Blackrock Performance – MATINEE	Ashwood College – THEATRE
25.05.08	2pm	Auditions – One Act Plays	Ashwood College – Blue Room
08.06.08	5pm	Committee Meeting	Ashwood College – ROOM TBC
15.06.08	6pm	Play Reading – The Ordinary Princess (Summer Show 09)	Ashwood College – Theatre Foyer
Early July		Auditions – Julius Caesar	Ashwood College – Blue Room
06.07.08	5pm	Committee Meeting	TBC
01.08.08	TBC	One Act Plays – Performance	Ashwood College – Hall
02.08.08	TBC	One Act Plays – Performance – MATINEE	Ashwood College – Hall
02.08.08	TBC	One Act Plays – Performance	Ashwood College – Hall
08.08.08	TBC	One Act Plays – Performance	Ashwood College – Hall
09.08.08	TBC	One Act Plays – Performance	Ashwood College – Hall
16.08.08 & 17.08.08		One Act Play Festival – BALLARAT	Ballarat
30.08.08 & 31.08.08		One Act Play Festival – ANGLESEA	Anglesea
AUGUST		Committee Meeting	TBC
06.09.08	TBC	70th Anniversary Celebrations	Ashwood College – Theatre & Foyer
SEPTEMBER		Committee Meeting	TBC
OCTOBER		Committee Meeting	TBC
October / November		Julius Caesar – Performances	Ashwood College – Theatre (TBC)
NOVEMBER		Committee Meeting	TBC
DECEMBER		Committee Meeting	TBC

KEEP THIS ON YOUR FRIDGE – A HANDY REFERENCE FOR ALL IMPORTANT HARTWELL DATES!

SEASON 3, 2008:

ONE ACT PLAYS

Our 2008 One Act Play Season will feature three plays:

"The Hardy Boys & the mystery of where babies come from" WRITTEN by Christopher Durang, DIRECTED by Phoebe Taylor

"The Invitation" WRITTEN by Felicite Keeble, DIRECTED by Laura Bradley

"Room 22" WRITTEN by Pamela McManus, DIRECTED by Kate Deavin

The One Act Plays will be performed at Ashwood College on Aug 1, 2, 8 & 9 and will then tour to One Act Festivals in Ballarat on 16/17 August & Anglesea on 30/31st August.

STAGE MANAGER NEEDED! Plus we have opportunities in other technical areas – lighting, sound, stage crew, costumes – and welcome expressions of interest from anyone interested in crewing for the season. Please send us an email to register your interest.

AUDITIONS WILL BE HELD IN THE BLUE ROOM (formerly known as the Green Room) at 2pm on Sunday 25th May.

SEASON 4, 2008:

JULIUS CAESAR

Pre-Production continues for what is shaping up to be a fantastic production.

We welcome expressions of interest from anyone interesting in crewing for this season. Send an email to committee@hartwellplayers.org.au.

More details on auditions as they become available!

SEASON 1, 2009:

SUMMER SHOW

Our first show for 2009 will be an adaptation of M.M Kaye's "The Ordinary Princess" – a wonderful fairytale about Amy, a princess whose fairy godmother blesses her with ordinariness... come see what this blessing results in! A great show for the whole family.

INTERESTED IN DIRECTING? Send us an email!!