

# **SPECTRUM THEATRE AUGUST 2020 NEWSLETTER**

## **GREETINGS MEMBERS & FRIENDS**

### **LITTLE MERMAID JUNIOR (LMJ) POSTPONEMENT**

Spectrum Theatre Group Committee have had to further postpone our production of LMJ. A large cast of 45 plus crew had already auditioned and began rehearsals at various stages during the COVID-19 crisis. Current and possibly ongoing restrictions have left little room for the Committee to manoeuvre the myriad of planning outcomes needed to produce such a large production, while also considering our patrons.

Spectrum ultimately want to stage the best possible production to hopefully a substantial audience and at this stage we are planning for May 2021 or thereabouts; depending on the choice of venue, its hire, and of course, the COVID-19 situation.

### **“AUSTRALIA DAY” THE PLAY**

Spectrum were also well into the planning process for the play “Australia Day” when COVID-19 restrictions had given the Committee cause to cancel the recently announced auditions. It was decided, after much discussion, to defer staging the play, hoping to perform “Australia Day” at a later date.

We, the Committee, acknowledge that the decisions we have had to make are disappointing and difficult, especially for keen actors, crew and our loyal patrons, but the current situation around COVID-19 demand these deferrals.

### **CANBERRA AREA THEATRE (CAT) AWARDS**

The CAT Awards this year marked the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the awards but was not the usual gala occasion because COVID-19 forced the awards to be announced via a digital medium on the 18<sup>th</sup> April this year. It was a pity really, because Spectrum Theatre were acknowledged and received awards for our production “Ladies in Black” brilliantly directed by our own local Frankie J. Holden. His wife Michelle Pettigrove and their daughter Georgia both received coveted blue-ribbon CAT awards for performances of which we in the region are justifiably proud.

Unfortunately, the CAT Awards are seriously in danger of being disbanded. Founded by publicist Coralie Wood and performer-entrepreneur Kate Peters in 1994, the then “Canberra Area Theatre Awards” for amateur theatre quickly became a part of the theatre, dance, school, cabaret and musical theatre scene in Canberra and surrounding districts as distant as Dubbo and also here in Merimbula. Busloads of fans descended on Canberra each year for the glitzy mini-Oscars ceremony at venues including the Playhouse, Llewellyn Hall, the Canberra Theatre and once only in 2017, Dubbo Regional Theatre and Convention Centre.

A rotating panel of judges roamed the regions, an expensive enterprise eventually supported by the NSW Government through the then Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, Industry and Trade, Member for Monaro John Barilaro, who in 2017 announced that the government would grant the Canberra Area Theatre Awards \$100,000 over four years.

However, the complexities of running a state-wide enterprise with equity for groups both in and out of Canberra, complaints about the cost of entry and controversy over the suitability of judges saw a dramatic drop in membership and corporate support, with many questioning the feasibility of having the CAT Awards at all.

On a brighter note, Coralie Wood was recognised by the CAT Board with a unique “CAT Diamond Award” for her outstanding, tireless and selfless dedication to the CAT fraternity over the last 25 years.

Thank you, Coralie.

## FARWELL TONY MUNDY

By Elaine Waddell

Long-time Spectrum members will fondly remember the Mundy family – Beryl & Tony, daughter Allison and son Ian. We regret to report that Tony passed away in le Mas Meilhards, France on March 14<sup>th</sup> from cardiac arrest after a period of ill-health.

Tony and Beryl arrived in Australia from England in late 1968. They travelled the Outback before moving to the Sapphire Coast, where Tony joined Fisheries in 1972. Their children came along and as time went by the Mundy family became involved with Elaine Waddell's School of Dance, where Beryl, Allison and Ian were part of classes and performances, while Tony helped out on the technical side. They also became interested in the Spectrum Theatre Group and soon became valuable members. Beryl worked tirelessly on costuming and other backstage needs, Allison performed onstage and Tony worked on lighting, sound and sets. Although Tony said he would never be seen onstage, he was convinced to join the cast of Spectrum's 1988 production of "Dimboola", in which Alison was the bride and Beryl was planning costumes. He must have enjoyed it because the following year he was also cast in the very successful play "Pack of Lies". Tony was always there to help Spectrum in any way and was a great asset to the group.

In 1990 family ties took Beryl and Tony back to England and we were very sorry to see them go. They then ran a pub in Kent for ten years, where a few Spectrum members caught up with them on visits in later years. In 2000 they fulfilled a dream and moved to a farm in France, with family members joining them soon after.

Our condolences go to Beryl and all the family. Farewell Tony - thanks for the memories.



"Dimboola" 1988 – Tony - 5<sup>th</sup> from R – Back Row



"A Pack of Lies" - Tony - Centre Back

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Production  
of

Disney

# THE LITTLE MERMAID



Come and be part of our world under the sea



## POSTPONED til May 2021

Due to COVID19 restrictions we have decided to  
postpone this production until May 2021

We look forward to seeing you all again soon and  
thank all those who have supported this show so far