



Seaborn Broughton & Walford Foundation Newsletter

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For bookings please call Carol Martin -on 9697 7654 Monday to Friday - 10am - 4pm

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Date

14th August 2008

Nan's Letter Space

Dear Friend

Friends of the SBW Foundation will be aware that the Foundation, in a collaborative partnership with the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA) since 2001, has established the *SBW/NIDA Archives and Performing Arts Collection*, which is located at Unit 2, Century Estate, corner of Gardeners Road and O'Riordan Street, Alexandria. What the 'Friends' may not be aware of is that the SBW Foundation is the custodian of one of the richest collections of theatre programmes and press clippings about theatre in Australia, and that there is practically no research enquiry on the history of theatre in Australia which cannot, in some significant measure, be answered by a search of the source material of the SBW Foundation Collection.

Many of the collections in the custody of the SBW Foundation were donated by 'Friends' of the Foundation, as may be illustrated by reference to the sources held relating to the history of *The Australian Theatre* at Newtown in Sydney. On the occasion of its official opening on Sunday 5th November 1972, theatre critic Norman Kessell wrote that *The Australian Theatre* was founded by a recently-formed non-profit-making company known as the Australian Playwrights' Theatre Co.Ltd. as the first permanent national home for Australian playwrights. The theatre was officially opened by Mrs Margaret Whitlam, then wife of the Federal Opposition Leader, who was elected to office as Prime Minister of Australia on the 2nd December 1972.

The Coronation Hall, a former church hall at the corner of Lennox and Probert Streets, Newtown, was fitted with a thrust stage and tiered seating for 275 patrons. Foundation costs were raised in the main by \$10 donations from people in the profession and from theatre lovers' generally. Prime movers in the creation of this theatre, which was to be devoted to presentation of works by Australia playwrights, included poetess and playwright Amy McGrath, wife of Judge Frank McGrath, a director of the Mews Theatre; Sydney drama critic Katherine Brisbane, a director of Currency Press which publishes Australian play texts, and actress Jacqueline Kott.

At the endowment night on the 5th November, 1972, a prologue written by Amy McGrath, was spoken by actor Brian James. This was followed by dramatized readings of Australian works directed by Jacqueline Kott with players including Gordon Chater, Ron Haddrick, Neil Fitzpatrick, Ruth Cracknell, Martin Harris, and Julie Collis.

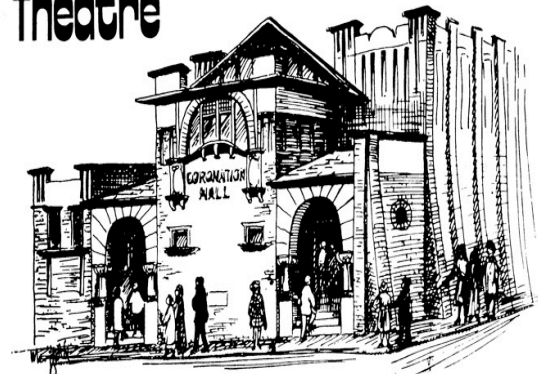
Doreen Warburton, director of the Independent Theatre, directed a short play, *A Settlement*, by Australian writer Richard Raper. Special guests included Doris Fitton, director of the Independent Theatre, and Robin Lovejoy, director of the Old Tote Theatre Company. The first production at the newly established theatre was Newcastle playwright Ron Harrison's *Father Dear, Come Over Here*, directed by Ron Ferrier. (1)

Amongst the Dennis Wolanski Library collection of press clippings and theatre programmes acquired by the SBW Foundation in January 2006 from the University of NSW Library, is a valuable, though incomplete collection of newsletters and press clippings relating to *The Australian Theatre*.

Should any 'Friends' of the SBW Foundation be in possession of theatre programmes, publicity brochures or press releases of *The Australian Theatre* which they no longer require, they would be most gratefully accepted by the SBW/NIDA Archives at Alexandria by contacting Dr. Peter Orlovich, Director of Archives, on **8372 0205**

(1) Norman Kessell's "On Stage" column from the *Sunday Telegraph*, 22.10.1972, in Norman Kessell Papers, Theatre Review Scrapbook, 03.09.1972 - 26.05.1974, and from Norman Kessell's review column in the *Daily Telegraph*, 07.11.1972

The Australian Theatre





FROM BUSTLES to BRIDEZILLA

An exhibition of bridal wear from 1880 - 1980
NIDA 215 Anzac Parade Kensington

The 2008 students from NIDA's Costume Course and the SBW/NIDA Archive and Performing Arts Collection are presenting "From Brides to Bridezilla" an exhibition of stunning bridal wear, to be presented in the NIDA Foyers.

A collection of over 40 bridal gowns, veils and accessories that tell the story of the way we were on our special day.

8th - 30th August - Monday - Friday 9am - 6pm
FREE ENTRY



THE NOËL COWARD LETTERS

Devised by **Barry Day** from his best selling book
Starring - **Barrie Ingham** with **Katrina Retallick**,
Peter Cousens and at the Keyboard **Luke Byrne**
Everest Theatre Seymour Centre
Cnr City Rd/Cleveland St Chippendale

Don't miss this rare chance to see one of England's most versatile actors as he takes us through the 'private lives' of Noël Coward and his contemporaries.

With a career spanning 5 decades Barrie Ingham has played leading roles with such companies as London's Old Vic Theatre, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, and the National Theatre .

Inspired by Barry Day's newly published book, The Letters of Noël Coward, and full of the wit and charm of Coward's songs, drama and musings, this special evening will take you on an enticing journey through a remarkable life.

Monday - 25th August 2008 - 7.30pm

Tickets - \$57.00
Bookings- Carol Martin - 9697 7654



TELL ME ON A SUNDAY

Music by **Andrew Lloyd-Webber**
Lyrics by **Don Black**
by arrangement with **The Really Useful Group**
Starring - **Jolene Anderson**
Everest Theatre / Seymour Centre
City Rd/Cleveland St Chippendale

Tell Me on a Sunday charts the course of a newly single girl arriving in New York. Brimming with optimism of 'starting over', she sets out to seek success, companionship and, of course, love. But as she weaves her way through the maze of the city and her own anxieties, frustrations and heartaches she begins to wonder whether - in fact- she's been looking for love in the wrong places. With some of Webber's very best songs, 'Come Back with the Same Look in Your Eyes' & 'Unexpected Song'

Saturday - 30th August 2008 - 2pm
Tickets - \$73.00

Bookings- Carol Martin - 9697 7654



A special piano recital dedicated to the memory of
the late Dr. **RODNEY SEABORN AO OBE**
Independent Theatre 269 Miller St North Sydney

GEOFFREY SABA:
with **Jennifer Hagan (Speaker)**

Beethoven: The Last Three Piano Sonatas Op.
109,110,111

With readings from Beethoven's letters and writings. British-based **Geoffrey Saba** was awarded a bronze medal at the first Arthur Rubinstein International Piano Master Competition, and now tours regularly all over the world.

His best selling recordings for Carlton Classics have achieved tremendous critical acclaim, and his London recitals, with repertoire from Bach to Bartok including complete Debussy preludes have been recorded and released by Carnegie Concerts. NIDA graduate **Jennifer Hagan** has played leading roles in Ibsen, Moliere, Shaw, Shakespeare, Ayckbourn , Pirandello while working for mainly Sydney and Melbourne Theatre Companies. Jennifer also appears regularly on ABC television and radio.

Friday - 5th September 2008 - 8pm
Tickets - \$31.00

Bookings - Carol Martin 9697 7654



The Opera & Arts Support Group Inc

Invite you to join them for A WEEKEND IN THE COUNTRY

They will be delighted if you go along and allow them to pamper you for two days of music, friendship, food and wine. They have comfortable, single deck coaches equipped with all facilities, television,

air conditioning and piped music.

Visiting places they have not been to on previous trips.

Houses - Gardens - Restaurants - Theatre - Coaches - all new and interesting, with a *Highlights Recital* on Saturday 13th September in the splendid **Derek Pigot Auditorium** at **Kinross Wolaroi School** in Orange.

Leaving at 7.30am on Saturday 13th September from Eddy Ave pick ups also can be arranged in Chatswood and Parramatta.

Arriving at 9.45am at The Chalet Blue Mountains for a Devonshire Tea, then continuing on to Lamplighters Restaurant in Bathurst for a delicious lunch .

Following lunch you will visit Bishop's Court Estate a two story Victorian manse set in parkland and steeped in local history.

Arriving at your motel in Orange at 4.15pm unpack and relax before being transported to enjoy pre-recital refreshments and the Highlights Recital at 7.30pm.

The recital will feature singer Shu-Cheen Yu plus other leading singers. The following day you will visit places of interest in the area. Cheshire a historic colonial house, Kedumba Gallery at the Blue Mountains Grammar School with weather permitting lunch on the verandah.

At 4pm the coaches will return to Sydney.

Saturday -13th September and Sunday 14th September 2008

All inclusive price \$430.00 per person based on twin share accommodation.

Single supplement \$60.00

Private travellers - \$295.00

Does not include coach travel or accommodation.

Enquiries - Carol Martin - 9697 7654



DIAL M for MURDER

by Frederick Knott

Genesian Theatre 420 Kent St Sydney

“Do you really believe in the perfect murder?”

What would you do if you found your partner had been unfaithful? Contact your lawyer? Match their infidelity as revenge? Nothing?

This intriguing drama from the pen of noted playwright

Frederick Knott involves the cruel entrapment of an innocent wife by a jealous and selfish husband who sees his meal ticket in jeopardy.

When international tennis champion Tony Wendice blackmails an old school friend into killing his wife, things do not go quite his way.

It is up to a wily Inspector of police to untangle the intricate web of deceit Tony has spun.

Sunday - 14th September 2008 - 4.30pm

Tickets - \$20.00

Bookings - Carol Martin -9697 7654



Actors' Forum play reading

TAKING OFF

Independent Theatre 269 Miller St North Sydney

Australians and New Zealanders have, over many years, travelled overseas to taste adventure before 'settling down'. In this bittersweet comedy by Roger Hall four middle-aged New Zealanders, each at a turning point in life, take off alone for the trip she missed out on before embarking on domesticity. The play weaves in and out of each concurrent story through Frankie's phone calls, Jean's diary, the novel Ruth is writing and Noeline's emails. The play is sure to touch a chord with everyone familiar with somebody's first tentative pilgrimage to Europe - maybe their own.

Sunday - 21st September 2008 - 2pm

Tickets - \$20.00 Concessions - \$15.00

Ticket sales at door one hour before performance time



Discounts are available to SBW Friends for Costume Hire at

THE COSTUME SHOP

1st Floor, 401 - 407 Cleveland Street

Surry Hills

Phone - 9318 2511

Website- www.thecostumeshop.com.au



Opera Australia presents
MY FAIR LADY

by Alan J Lerner & Frederick Lowe
Theatre Royal King St Sydney

Starring- Richard E. Grant and Taryn Fiebig

For all SBW Friends who missed out on tickets for the previous two dates we had tickets put aside for this wonderful production when it was on at the Sydney Opera House it is returning this time to the Theatre Royal. One of the best loved musicals of all time. *My Fair Lady*, is brought back to life in this spectacular new production.

British film star, **Richard E. Grant**, in his international music theatre debut, joins rising star **Taryn Fiebig**, to play what are undoubtedly two of the most memorable roles in music theatre history. Henry Higgins and Eliza Doolittle.

The star studded cast also includes, John Wood, Nancye Hayes, Rhys McConnochie, Matthew Robinson .

Be transported to the lively heart of London in this timeless tale of the making of a lady. With a delightful mix of comedy and romance, lavish sets and extravagant costumes, you're guaranteed a truly 'louverly' night out with *My Fair Lady*.

Thursday - 30th October 2008 - 8pm

A Reserve tickets - \$95.00

Bookings - Carol Martin - 9697 7654



Some 'Friends' in the past have questioned the discrepancy of the price shown on the tickets for some functions to the price we actually charge. The reason for this is that our Foundation must make a profit on functions to build up our assets to continue benefiting the Performing Arts, but the price we charge 'Friends' is always cheaper than the normal price to the General Public. As well as paying for tickets months ahead the Foundation has to pay handling fees and in many cases 4% credit card fees. We aim to make 10% for the Foundation on each function but we seldom do, and at the same time SBW 'Friends' get the best seats at a reduced price



Actors' Forum play reading
DAYLIGHT SAVING

Independent Theatre 269 Miller St North
Sydney

It's the end of the summer, the last night of daylight saving and there is a full moon over Pittwater. A reunion is planned - a quiet tete-a-tete over dinner after twenty years apart. But a wedding anniversary has been forgotten and an ardent lover has given up the object of his affections for Lent.

Nothing turns out as anticipated in this witty romantic comedy by the late Oscar-nominated Australian, Nick Enright. An inquisitive mother, a presumptuous neighbour, a brattish sports star and the unexpected return of a traveller bring mistaken identity and merry mayhem

Sunday - 9th November 2008 - 2pm

Tickets- \$20.00 Concessions - \$15.00

Ticket sales at door one hour before

performance time



LITTLE WOMEN

The Broadway Musical

Book by Allan Knee - Music by Jason Howland

Lyrics by Mindi Dickstein

Featuring - *Judi Connelli, Hayden Tee, and*

Trisha Noble

York Theatre / Seymour Centre

City Rd/Cleveland St Chippendale

Little Women, based on Louisa May Alcott's own family experiences (and classic novel) follows the adventures of the four remarkable March sisters who come of age during the Civil War era. This timeless tale about the power of family, friendship and romance will capture the hearts of a new generation and captivate audiences of all ages.

Little Women embodies the complete theatrical experience; a night filled with laughter, tears, and a lifting of the spirit. The powerful and exhilarating score soars with the sounds of personal discovery, heartache and hope.

Sunday - 16th November 2008 - 3pm

Tickets - \$73.00

Bookings - Carol Martin 9697 7654

