



# Seaborn Broughton & Walford Foundation Newsletter

NIDA /UNSW Sydney 2052 Phone - 9697 7654 Fax 9662 4610 Email - [sbwfoundation@aol.com](mailto:sbwfoundation@aol.com)

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

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## Nan's Letter Space

Dear Friend

In the theatrical world in Sydney one of the highlights was the Sydney Critics Awards at the Statement Bar on 1.1.2007. Of particular interest to the Friends of the SBW Foundation was a new category added to the awards this year. This new award is "The best performance in a musical" this award is in recognition of the life and work of Sydney's greatly respected and much loved theatre publicist Judith Johnson who died suddenly in October 2006. Judith Johnson was very well known and loved by the SBW Foundation. In 1991 John West donated his wonderful collection to the SBW Foundation and Judith Johnson was the publicist and since then had kept in touch with us. On her death her husband David Johnson donated her wonderful collection to the SBW Foundation.

At the awards on the 15 January Ian Phipps the MC of the Evening gave a wonderfully moving eulogy about Judith, this was added to by Judith's husband David who presented the Award to Iota for his performance in "Hedwick and the Angry Inch".

Another well loved person who so deservedly won an award and has been long associated in many ways with the SBW Foundation was Sandra Bates director of the Ensemble Theatre Co, who won the 2006 Life Achievement Award.

Below is a report by our archivist Dr. Peter Orlovich on the SBW/NIDA archives which is now assuming great importance.

In this report Dr. Orlovich mentions the generosity of David Johnson in donating the archives of Judith Johnson Publicity P/L and again on behalf of our Foundation I sincerely thank David.

Of the events we have organised for our 'Friends' full details are in the Newsletter and I suggest that you note in your diaries what you want to see and book early to avoid disappointment.

### **REPORT on the SBW/NIDA Archives**

Through the generosity of David Johnson, whose late wife Judith, one of Australia's leading theatrical publicists and a pioneer in the business of theatre and entertainment publicity, died suddenly on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2006, the SBW Foundation has recently acquired the archives of Judith Johnson Publicity Pty Ltd of Milsons Point, Sydney. After emigrating from England in 1964 with husband David, Judith Johnson worked as a publicist in 1974 at the Ensemble Theatre, and in 1982, she and a small

group of colleagues formed a company "Stage Wise" to provide expertise and advice in various theatrical disciplines. From this group, Judith Johnson Publicity was established. Judith was the publicist for New Theatricals, including its recent production of *Woman in Black*, and was the publicist for the world premiere stage production of *Priscilla Queen of the Desert*, which opened on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2006.

The archives include the entire collection of the company's publicity files which have yet to be arranged and described, and which she maintained on the tours of dozens of international artists as well as more than 400 theatrical productions publicised throughout her career, which extended over more than thirty years, according to John Hay-Mackenzie's estimate in Judith Johnson's obituary (Timelines, *Sydney Morning Herald*, Tuesday October 10 2006,p.16). The publicity files contain, for each production, a detailed publicity report on print, radio and television exposure, publicity schedules for artists and performers, photographic images and slides, and press advertisements, interviews and reviews. A large collection of theatre programmes relating to the productions publicised by Judith Johnson complements the publicity files, as well as theatre posters, and frames publicity brochures. Entries in a sequence of annual desk diaries from 1996 to 2006 verify the remark in John Hay-Mackenzie's obituary that "Johnson characteristically worked at full speed." A small but significant part of the accession relates to the Ensemble Theatre, including the refurbishment and extension of the theatre in the 1980's.

The importance of these archives is to be judged by their completeness and integrity, the duration of the career of the compiler, and the extent to which they reflect the life and work of a pioneer theatre publicist who commanded immense respect from a wide spectrum of practitioners in the theatre world. The Friends of the SBW Foundation convey their sympathy to David, children Kate and William, and their extended family, and express their deep gratitude for the generosity of David in entrusting the archives to the custody of the SBW Foundation for the use of theatre students and research scholars.

There is an on-going need for funds to sustain our very important archives for posterity and making them accessible for research. Friends of the SBW Foundation are invited and encouraged to contribute to the continuation of this important work by making a tax-deductible financial donation towards the project.

## LADY WINDERMERE'S FAN

by Oscar Wilde

Genesisian Theatre 420 Kent St Sydney

The play was first published in 1893. Like many of Wilde's comedies, it is a biting satire on the morals of Victorian society, particularly marriage.

The story concerns Lady Windermere who discovers that her husband may be having an affair with another woman. She confronts her husband but he instead invites the other woman, Mrs. Erlynne, to her birthday ball. Angered by her husband's unfaithfulness, Lady Windermere leaves her husband for another lover. Mrs. Erlynne follows Lady Windermere and attempts to persuade her to return to her husband, and she then sacrifices herself and her reputation in order to save Lady Windermere's marriage.

**Friday - 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2007 - 8pm**

**Tickets - \$20.00**

Bookings - Carol Martin -9697 7654



The Fruit Fly Circus presents

### CIRCUS GIRL

Parade Theatre NIDA

215 Anzac Parade Kensington

They fly through the air at dizzying heights, they tumble with breathtaking speed and agility, they bend themselves into impossible contortions.

*Circus Girl* is a celebration of the girls in the Fruit Fly Circus. It celebrates the hard times and the highlights of growing up in the physically demanding and emotionally confronting circus industry. It charts their passion, dedication, strength, courage, fear, pain and excitement. With stunning aerial acts intertwined with the thrill of the circus and the magic of theatre, this show will make you laugh and cry as you follow their extraordinary journey.

**Tues- Feb 20 at 7pm**

**Weds Feb 21, Thurs Feb 22, Fri Feb 23 - 11am**

**Sat-Feb 24 at 2pm and 7pm**

**Tickets - Adults - \$33.00**

**Children under 16 - \$20.00**

Bookings- Carol Martin -9697 7654



## THE TIMES OF MY LIFE

by Toni Lamond and Tony Sheldon

### TONI LAMOND

accompanied by Michael Tyack

Ensemble Theatre 76 McDougall St Kirribilli

*Toni Lamond* performs her new autobiographical show, a warts and all journey through the highs, lows, triumphs and hardships of a long, eventful career in theatre. From her colourful family background to playing the first lead roles in Australian musical theatre to performing around the world.

Co-written with Toni's son, well known actor, Tony Sheldon, this very personal, touching and funny evening is punctuated by the tunes that Toni made her own, from 'Gypsy', 'The Pyjama Game', '42<sup>nd</sup> Street' and many more.

**Saturday - 24<sup>th</sup> February 2007 - 5pm**

**Tickets- \$47.00**

Bookings- Carol Martin - 9697 7654



Actors' Forum Play Reading

### MEMOIR

by Jon Morrell

Directed by Ron Ferrier

**Starring - Jacqueline Kott**

**Independent Theatre 269 Miller St**

**Nth Sydney**

During her seventy-seventh and last summer, the legendary French actress, **Sarah Bernhardt**, prepares a second volume of her biography with her secretary companion, **George Pito**.

A lyrical character study of an indomitable woman who always saw herself as the principle player in the exhibitionist drama of her life.

**Jacqueline Kott** returns after past successes in *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* and *Sweet Bird of Youth*.

**Sunday - 11<sup>th</sup> March 2006- 2pm**

**Tickets- \$15.00**

Bookings- Carol Martin - 9697 7654





