



Seaborn Broughton & Walford Foundation Newsletter

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For bookings please call Carol Martin -on 9955 5444 Monday to Friday - 10am - 4pm

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5

Date

1st October 2009

Nan's Letter Space

Dear Friend

I am writing to you at an exciting time in the SBW Foundation's history. The Foundation, with its office and significant archival collection, has moved into a new building of its own at 925 Botany Rd, Rosebery. Our hard-working staff members Carol Martin and archivist Peter Orlovich have been toiling, with some help from volunteers, to turn the dream into a reality Dr. Seaborn would have been very pleased. It is anticipated that the moving, unpacking and setting up should be completed in time for the festive season and the next Newsletter will contain further details.

Our recent function on 2nd September at the Independent Theatre was a 'sell out' success. Theatrical luminaries from the Theatre's distinguished past joined friends and supporters of the Independent in celebrating the 70th anniversary on the day in 1939 when the late great actor director Dame Doris Fitton renamed and reopened the old vaudeville hall at 269 Miller Street thus creating a new era of live theatre.

John Derum, David Goddard, Jacqueline Kott, Betty Lucas, Rodney Milgate and Dinah Shearing led the walk down memory lane, entertaining guests with memories and readings. Attendees thoroughly enjoyed John's reading from the life of Peter Finch (one of Doris Fitton's earliest proteges), David's extract from 'The Seagull', Jackie's reading from 'The Lion in Winter', Betty's readings from 'The Women', Rod's original, poetic curtain speech written for the John Alden company and Dinah's readings from 'Phaedra' and 'The Way of the World'. They were joined by John Kingsmill from the original Rusty Bugles cast (1948) who recalled the circumstances of Doris Fitton's historic production, and John Whitham who was Doris Fitton's stage director for 18 challenging years,

Barbara Wyndon (accompanied by Lucy Yeomans) wound up the afternoon with a glittering cabaret number.

Director teacher Aubrey Mellor AOM, Dean of Performing Arts at La Salle College Singapore, who was once a student at the Independent, sent a special message to be read out at the event. In this email Mellor recalled 'important plays, impressive direction

transporting performances and a convivial atmosphere created and maintained by Doris'. He hailed the 'line-up of distinguished colleagues' and requested: 'will someone please use this occasion to announce to everyone that artists like Jacqueline Kott, Dinah Shearing, Betty Lucas and Barbara Wyndon are actual National Living Treasures!!?? who have given, given and given of their world quality art - and Australia is consequently a much better place.' This announcement was greeted with enthusiastic applause from the appreciative audience. Aubrey believed that the performers would 'no doubt humbly say that it was through the inspiration of Doris Fitton and the Independent that they were able to practice their art', and he concluded: 'Thank you Rodney for saving the Theatre and thank you whoever instigated this occasion; I trust the 70th birthday of the Independent Theatre is noted, appreciated and celebrated everywhere in the Australian Theatre scene.'

We are most grateful to our honoured guests for their generous and talented contributions. Their participation ensured a most enjoyable afternoon.

I would also like to reiterate my thanks to Carol Martin whose efficiency and organisational skills made my job of producing the 70th Anniversary event so much easier. Thanks, too, to Warwick Ross and the AETT for recalling an earlier agreement with Dr. Seaborn and allowing us rent -free usage of the elegantly-decorated foyer, and to Margaret Beveridge and Caroline Mackie for the delicious afternoon tea.

We were most gratified to receive an interesting email from one of our Friends, Professor Marlene Norst, expressing her appreciation of the event. Her delightful letter is on the back page of this Newsletter.

The warm response received from the audience has tempted us to consider organising a similar event next year on the 80th Anniversary of Doris Fitton's Independent. For those who would like to see the Mosman Daily's coverage of the function go to:

<http://Mosmandaily.wherelive.com.au/photos/gallery/independenttheatre>.

Yours sincerely

Carolyn Lowry

WICKED

Capitol Theatre

13 Campbell Street Haymarket

Starring- Amanda Harrison, Lucy Durack, Bert Newton, Rob Mills and Maggie Kirkpatrick.

Wicked is now in Sydney! The international blockbuster has opened at the Capitol Theatre for a limited season. *Wicked* is the untold story of the Witches of OZ. One, born with an emerald green skin, is smart, fiery and misunderstood. The other is beautiful, ambitious and very popular. *Wicked* tells the story of how these two unlikely friends grow to become the Wicked Witch of the West and Glinda the Good Witch. When *Wicked* opened on Broadway, it worked magic on critics and audiences alike.

Winner of 20 major awards including the Grammy and three Tony Awards, today it remains one of the most successful theatrical events in the world.

Limited seats available

Sunday October 18th 2009 - 3pm

Front Dress Circle

Matinee- \$118.00

Bookings - Carol Martin- 9955 5444



Actor's Forum play reading

LOVE CHILD

by Joanna Murray-Smith

Independent Theatre 269 Miller St North Sydney

Cast - Belinda Giblin & Romy Bartz

Playwright, novelist and screenwriter, Joanna Murray-Smith is one of this country's acclaimed contemporary voices. Her play, *Honour* had a public reading in New York by Meryl Streep and Sam Waterson.

In *Love Child* her vivid and distinctive style of dialogue brings into play every nuance of an extraordinary meeting between a woman who gave away her unwanted baby and one who comes looking for a mother. Both are unmasked in a dramatic confrontation of fact and desire, throwing into question conventional ideas of love ties.

Sunday - October 18th 2009 - 2pm

Tickets - \$20.00- Concessions - \$15.00

Tickets on sale at door at 1pm



THE HOUSE OF BERNADA ALBA

by Federico Garcia Lorca

Genesian Theatre 420 Kent St Sydney

During a hot, Spanish summer a house is in mourning. Totally dominated by their mother, five lonely sisters waste their lives away in games of petty jealousies and bitterness. The fiancé of the eldest is loved by two others and in his claustrophobic environment only tragedy can result.

Will any find love?

Do join us for another great afternoon at the Genesian Theatre.

Sunday - 1st November 2009 -4.30pm

Tickets - \$23.50

Bookings - Carol Martin - 9955 5444



Sydney Theatre Company

presents the

STC ALL STAR CABARET

Sydney Theatre 22 Hickson Road Walsh Bay

Join us at Sydney Theatre Company with a cast of familiar faces as they celebrate 30 years of the STC.

Alex Galeazzi returns to direct the annual spectacular, and they welcome **Craig Renshaw** as the Musical Director.

Cast is still to be announced.

This event will sell out, but we have put a couple of tables of 10 aside for SBW Friends.

Do join us either alone or with a friend or friends

It will be a great evening

Sunday - 8th November 2009

6pm for 6.30pm

Tickets - \$60.00

**Guests are invited to bring picnic baskets
and will be seated at cabaret tables**

Bookings - Carol Martin - 9955 5444



The Opera and Arts Support Group
invite you and your friends to join them for a
MUSICAL THEATRE
EVENING

William Wilkins Gallery
Level 7, 35 Bridge St Sydney

Showcasing the dazzling talent of stars of cabaret and musical theatre, this annual event is to be held in the elegant William Wilkins Gallery, and you will be assured of yet another spectacular and highly entertaining evening. **Tyran Parke** has again undertaken to organise an ensemble of celebrated artists who will perform a fabulous programme.

Friday - 13th November 2009

6.30pm for 7pm

Tickets - \$75.00

Enjoy dinner, drinks and the show for this all inclusive cost

Bookings - Carol Martin- 9955 5444



**OUR ONCE YEARLY MAIN FUNDRAISING
FUNCTION AT THE**

SBW STABLES THEATRE

10 Nimrod St Kings Cross

STRANGE ATTRACTOR

Deep in Western Australia's mining country, against the blood-red landscape of the Pilbara, a cyclone has wreaked havoc in a remote railway construction camp.

Now a small team of employees anxiously await the arrival of "the company man", sent from Perth to do his own investigation before a coronial inquiry.

But a stormy evening of shared memories soon takes a strange unexpected turn ...

With explosive characters and a wily sense of humour, **Strange Attractor** is a stunning portrait of a small-team camaraderie in a globalised market.

Wednesday - 18th November 2009-7pm

Tickets - \$35.00

Bookings - Carol Martin 9955 5444

The Griffin Theatre Company kindly donate all monies from this evenings performance to the Seaborn, Broughton and Walford Foundation



MUSICAL THEATRE

CABARET

Book by Joe Masteroff, Music by John Kander, Lyrics by Fred Ebb

New Theatre 542 King St Newtown

Willkommen, Bienvenue... Welcome!

Cabaret has been hailed as one of the most iconic and defining musicals of the 20th century since it first hit the stage in 1966. Taken from John van Druten's play *I am Camera*, which in turn was inspired by Christopher Isherwood's semi-autobiographical short story *Sally Bowles*. Set mainly in the dark and decadent Kit Kat Club of 1930's Berlin, where patrons dabble in erotically charged and sexually ambiguous games reflecting the political chaos and anti-Semitism raging outside, **Cabaret** entices with its intoxicating blend of sly humour, edgy drama and jangling, jazzy songs.

Thursday 19th November 2009 to

Saturday 19th December 2009

Thurs, Fri and Sat at 8pm

Sun - 5pm

Tickets - \$25.00

Bookings - Carol Martin - 9955 5444



DICKENS DOWN UNDER

by Melvyn Morrow

World Premiere!

A Victorian Vaudeville

Genesian Theatre 420 Kent St Sydney

As a special end of year treat the Genesian are delighted to present this world premiere!

Melvyn Morrow, fresh from his work with Opera Australia and as co-author of **SHOUT!** and **Dusty**, takes us on a wonderful journey through the life and works of Charles Dickens, focussed around two of the novelist's sons who emigrated to Australia.

Featuring a dash of history, all your favourite Dickensian characters and a superb selection of Victorian Parlour ballads, this warm, witty and moving celebration will sell fast.

So do book your tickets soon.

Sunday - 22nd November 2009 - 4.30pm

Tickets - \$23.50

Bookings - Carol Martin - 9955 5444



