



# Seaborn Broughton & Walford Foundation Newsletter

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## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Friends

The cicadas are singing outside the Foundation's premises in Neutral Bay, an unmistakable sign of Sydney summertime. I do hope that you all enjoyed a wonderful Christmas holiday, a memorable festive season and a Happy New Year. The Festival of Sydney, with its imaginative smorgasbord of local and international events has drawn to a close, and Carol Martin has a long list of theatrical treats for you to enjoy in 2018.

Please read the list carefully and book early as the limited number of good seats we acquire for the Foundation Friends are usually very popular.

**FOUNDATION GRANTS:** Last November the Foundation received 47 applications for financial assistance. All were delivered to our Grants Committee to study, consider and make recommendations to the Board. The Grants panel who presently undertake this important task, consists of Foundation Directors Elizabeth Butcher AM, John Clark AM and Kevin Jackson and former Foundation Chairman Gary Simpson AM. As you will recall Dr Seaborn supported projects and individuals from across the wide spectrum of the performing arts. The decision-making is an exacting process. Not all applicants can be selected and not all requested amounts can be approved. However thirteen, applicants were recommended and all were approved by our Board.

Congratulations to the following applicants. Theatre of Image (\$10,000); Monkey Baa Theatre Company (\$5000); Red Stitch Actors' Theatre (\$10,000); Alex Galeazzi - individual performing artist (\$10,000); Zac Pidd - individual performing artist (\$10,000); Kay Yasugi – individual performing artist (\$5000); Shopfront Arts Company (\$10,000); Kate Gaul – individual performing artist (\$10,000); Power House Youth Theatre (\$10,000); Matriark Theatre (\$10,000); Sydney Theatre Awards (\$10,000); Sport For Jove Theatre Company (\$10,000); The Seymour Centre (\$10,000).

We hope that the grants we are able to provide at this semi-annual (twice yearly) grant round will assist all successful recipients in developing exciting contributions to the performing arts scene.

It is most gratifying to receive acknowledgements and heartfelt thanks from Foundation grantees and I would like to share a few examples with you. We have received a post card written on behalf of the Monkey Baa Theatre Company presently touring in Philadelphia, USA and addressed to 'Peter and the SB&W team': "Mothball and Diary of a Wombat Company took Philadelphia by storm!

The audience of children & delegates adored the show. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all your support. Eva." And from Ian Phipps producer of the Sydney Theatre Awards. 'On behalf of the critics panel of the Sydney Theatre Awards: and in fact from the entire Sydney theatre community, may I say thank you again to the Foundation for their generosity and ongoing support. Without the grant from the Foundation, we would not be able to hold an awards ceremony nor have beautiful framed certificates to present to the award winners.' And from Kay Yasugi, puppeteer and General Secretary of UNIMA Australia, the Puppetry organisation of Australia: 'Thank you very much for my individual grant. I was so glad I was able to receive it in person and have a wonderful tour of your amazing puppetry collection! I do hope I can come back soon to see the puppets up close & I will bring some more puppeteers and enthusiasts with me! Thank you again.'

And we thank all our generous Friends, supporters and donors who understand the importance of assisting a wide range of projects and performing artists. You enable us to enable them.

## PERFORMING ARTS COLLECTION:

We presently have ten volunteers who regularly help at the Foundation. The majority help our archivist Neil Pollock in his wonderful work, sorting, rationalizing and cataloguing our Collection. Removing duplication allows room for controlled growth and ensures we have a 'living' collection.

A growing number of people from the performing arts and local Council are visiting the Collection. We are excited to be listed in the North Sydney Council's 2018 Arts & Culture Guide as the **Seaborn, Broughton & Walford Foundation Performing Arts and Study Centre**. And, indeed, we are successfully assuming this role. The Australian Theatre For Young People recently held a successful workshop with a young playwright in our intimate rehearsal space, and Ian Phipps (Sydney Theatre Awards) also shared his impressions: 'The new SB&W premises are easy to find, laid out well and spacious. For theatre enthusiasts it's easy to find items of interest in the collection, and the meeting rooms are suitable for small scale rehearsals and presentations. They also have the advantage of being metres from a thriving shopping strip, regular buses and street parking.' Another visitor from the performing arts, Leona Geeves, wrote: 'Researching Leona Deane, Trafford Whitelock, Carrie Moore. Thanks to Neil and Carolyn- found the program for 'The Dybbuk' and my late mother was ASM, AMAZING to have the program.'

**RECENT EVENTS:** On behalf of the Foundation, Carolyn and I attended the Lord Mayor's Christmas Reception at the Town Hall and the Actors' Benevolent Fund Christmas Party. With other Foundation Directors, we attended the Sandra Bates Awards and the Christmas gathering at the Ensemble Theatre, as well as the Sydney Theatre Awards at the Seymour Centre. The Foundation was warmly acknowledged and applauded as a major sponsor. Carolyn also represented us at the Live Performance Australia (LPA) Centenary Awards to honour 10 luminaries of the live entertainment and wider performing arts industry. This year marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the restoration of the Independent. This achievement was warmly acknowledged by the North Sydney Mayor Jilly Gibson, and Australia Day Ambassador, opera singer Amelia Farrugia, at the Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony at the Independent Theatre. You are invited to join our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations at the Independent on 11<sup>th</sup> March and the 13<sup>th</sup> May. Details in this Newsletter.

**FOUNDATION CHRISTMAS PARTY AND RODNEY SEABORN PLAYWRIGHTS AWARD:** We were very pleased to be able to welcome so many of you at our annual Christmas party. As usual, this was a merry and most enjoyable event and is always made very special by the announcement of the winner of the Rodney Seaborn Playwrights Award by Gary Simpson representing the Trustees of the Award. The 2017 winner was Kit Brookman for his play *Ithaca*. Kit's most recent play, *The Plant*, premiered at the Ensemble Theatre in 2017 and an earlier play, *A Rabbit for Kim Jong-il*, was presented by Griffin Theatre Company at the SBW Stables. Kit is overseas at present but we look forward to meeting him on his return and hearing how the Award will assist the development of his play. The runner up, whose play *Quite Drunk, Very Jesus-y*, was highly commended by the Trustees was Grace De Morgan. Details of the winners of the Rodney Seaborn Play Writing Support Fund will be announced in our next Newsletter. Thank you, once again, for your valuable, much appreciated and ongoing support.

**Peter Lowry OAM  
President**



President Peter Lowry with Sandra Bates Award winner Liz Arday, Sandra Bates and Claire Nesbitt-Hawes



James Bell (a Foundation Director) Carolyn Lowry and President Peter Lowry at the Sydney Theatre Awards.



The Foundation Grants Committee: Elizabeth Butcher, Gary Simpson, Kevin Jackson and John Clark



Australian Theatre for Young People's workshop at the Foundation- Back row L>R: Mary Tran (actor), Johanna Williams (intern playwright), Guy Webster (composer), Josh McElroy (actor), Kayla She Davey (actor), Lincoln Hambrick (actor); Front row L>R Rachel Coopes (Playwright), Stephen Champion (Director).



Sydney Opera House Ladies' Committee  
**MY FUNNY VALENTINE LUNCH**  
 The Women's Club, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor,  
 179 Elizabeth Street Sydney

Join the Sydney Opera House Ladies Committee to celebrate a romantic lunch with outstanding tenor, Brad Cooper a dynamic performer, equally delighted to engage in a wide range of genres, from Opera to Crossover, from Early Music to romantic and modern. Accompanied by pianist, Jonathan Wilson Who has won numerous competitions and has performed in concerts in many countries.

Thursday – 1 March 2018- 11.30am  
 Tickets - \$80 per person  
 Bookings – Carol Martin – 9955 5444  
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Image by Will Perez Rondero

**The José Carbó Trio**  
**L'Heure Exquise**  
**(The Exquisite Hour)**  
 Independent Theatre  
 269 Miller Street North Sydney

In a unique exciting collaboration, Australia's premier baritone José Carbó joins forces with spectacular emerging classical guitarists Andrew Blanch and Ariel Nurbadl.

Their debut recital L'Heure Exquise, named after Reynaldo Hahn's masterpiece, features music by Schubert, Faure, Debussy, Verdi and more.

Sunday 11 March 2018  
 Afternoon tea from 2.30pm- Concert 3.30pm  
 Tickets - \$35.00  
 Includes afternoon tea

Bookings – Carol Martin – 9955 5444



**FAULTY TOWERS DINING EXPERIENCE**

Utzon Room Sydney Opera House  
 The internationally acclaimed 5-star comedy returns!

Expect the unexpected in this hilarious tour de force that makes you 'laugh until you cry through two riotous hours of food, wine and impeccable comic timing'

Chaos reigns right from the start in this fully immersive experience that sees you, the audience, become diners in that famous British hotel restaurant. With 70% improvised and unique theatrical script, it's a true blend of ingenious comedy and multi-sensory feast that is perfect for comedy fans.

Thursday – 22 March 2018 7pm for 7.30pm  
 Tickets -\$149.00

Includes a three-course dinner and play  
 Please advise of any dietary requirements  
 Bookings – Carol Martin – 9955 5444



**SEABORN CONVERSATIONS**  
**'LIFE UPON THE WICKED STAGE'**

A Talk Down Memory Lane  
 With Celebrity Guest

**Carmen Duncan and Friends**  
 Monday – 9 April 2018 – 12 noon

20 Young Street Neutral Bay (Ground Floor)  
 Join us for a light lunch and reminisce with Carmen about her theatrical journey from Cooma to NIDA, to the Independent Theatre North Sydney, London, New York, Los Angeles and back to Sydney.

To Celebrate Seniors' Week  
 (see attached insert)

Limited Seating - Bookings Essential  
 Carol Martin – 9955 5444







Sydney Opera House Ladies' Committee

**LUNCH**

The Utzon Room Sydney Opera House  
The Guest Speaker will be celebrated actor  
and theatre director

**JOHN BELL AO OBE**

Wednesday 11 April 2018- 11.30am

for 12noon to 2pm

Tickets - \$90

Bookings – Carol Martin – 9955 5444



**SHERLOCK HOLMES and the  
SPECKLED BAND**

by Arthur Conan Doyle

Adapted by Max Gee

Genesian Theatre 420 Kent Street Sydney

A young woman tragically dies under mysterious circumstances on the eve of her wedding. A low whistle, a heavy metallic clang. No reason for her death is ever discovered.

Her twin sister is distraught but life must go on and her own wedding is approaching. And then late at night, she hears a low whistle in the dark.

This adaptation remains faithful to the original spine tingling short story from Conan Doyle.

Sunday – 15 April 2018 – 4.30pm

Tickets - \$28.50

Bookings – Carol Martin – 9955 5444



**CELEBRATION RECITALS**

Hunter Baillie Church presents

Pianist – Roger Woodward

Playing the music of Brahms, Chopin and Debussy (to mark the centenary of his death)

Roger Woodward will perform two recitals at 3pm on

Saturday 5 May and Sunday 6 May

Hunter Baillie Memorial Presbyterian Church,  
Cnr Johnston and Collins St  
Annandale

Tickets - \$55.00 Student \$25.00

Bookings – Carol Martin- 9955 5444



**CELEBRATION RECITAL**

Hunter Baillie Memorial Presbyterian Church,  
Cnr Johnston & Collins Sts Annandale

Sydney City Organist ROBERT AMPT

will give a recital on

Sunday May 13 at 3pm

Tickets – Adult - \$40, Student \$20

Bookings – Carol Martin – 9955 5444



Pacific Opera Company presents

**MOTHERS DAY CONCERT**

Independent Theatre 269 Miller Street  
North Sydney

A celebration in music and song of motherhood in particular and Mothers,

Featuring sublime music from the past 300 years. The concert includes many well known and beloved arias and ensembles as well as a few surprises. Highlights include the climaxes of well-known operas as well as popular Italian, French and English art songs and arias.

Pacific Opera is the Young Artists' opera company. They produce fresh, vibrant opera with a twist, providing a platform for the stars of tomorrow.

Sunday - 13 May 2018

Afternoon tea from 2.30pm-Concert  
3.30pm

Tickets - \$35.00

Bookings – Carol Martin – 9955 5444



Movie Luncheon  
Hayden Orpheum  
380 Military Road Cremorne  
**THE LEISURE SEEKER**

Cast- Helen Mirren, Donald Sutherland, &  
Chell Ramos

A runaway couple go on an unforgettable journey in the faithful old RV they call the Leisure Seeker.

The Leisure isn't the sort of picture to start meddling with that formula, but it sets about its business with a satisfying efficiency and its played by Helen Mirren and Donald Sutherland- both of whom give rousing substantial performances.

Crushingly funny.. a consoling teary-funny road trip comedy about an aging couple who realise their days of living independently, at least .. are numbered.

Wednesday – 16 May 2018 - 11am

Tickets - \$16.00

Includes raffle ticket

Bookings – Carol Martin – 9955 5444

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Hayes Theatre Company presents

**GYPSY**

Book by Arthur Laurents. Music by Jule Styne  
Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

Hayes Theatre 16 Greenknowe Ave  
Potts Point

Cast includes - Blazey Best & Laura Bunting

Regarded by many as the greatest musical ever created, *Gypsy* is the ultimate mother daughter story – the sophisticated, gripping, funny and heartbreaking tale of Madame Rose, and her fight for her daughter's success, no matter what the cost.

Set across America in the 1920's, Arthur Laurents' landmark show sees Rose, Louise and June grapple their act through the dying days of vaudeville, and the birth of a shocking new form of entertainment – burlesque. Rose's fanatic determination pushes her family loyalty to breaking point, but from the most unlikely of places emerges one of the twentieth century's most illustrious and ingenious entertainers- Gypsy Rose Lee.

Saturday – 19 May 2018 – 2pm

Tickets - \$79.00

Bookings – Carol Martin – 9955 5444

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**OSAGE COUNTY**

by Tracy Letts

New Theatre 520 King Street Newtown

In the scorching heat of an Oklahoma summer, the Weston family has come together due to the disappearance of their patriarch, a world-class poet and alcoholic. Violet the matriarch, is depressed, addicted to pain-killers, and ruthlessly honest.

This insightful and compassionate study of a family in meltdown is both dense and deeply funny, a brilliant example of the best of contemporary American drama and a theatrical juggernaut of epic proportions.

Winner in 2008 – Tony Award Best Play  
Pulitzer Prize for Drama, New York Drama Critics' Award for Best Play.

Playing from 7 June to 7 July 2018

Thurs to Sat – 7.30pm Sun – 5pm

Sat 7 July 2pm only

Tickets- \$33.00

Bookings- Carol Martin 9955 5444

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**THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING  
EARNEST**

by Oscar Wilde

Genesian Theatre 420 Kent Street

Algernon and Jack are two young members of the English gentry who pursue their romantic desires dishonestly. Both men want to adopt the name 'Earnest' who is Jack's imaginary younger brother.

The idea of name changing comes about when Algernon wants to marry Cecily and Jack wants to marry Gwendolen. However, it just so happens that the girls are only interested in marrying men names Earnest!

This overdue revival will introduce a whole new audience to the joys of bunburying, handbags and cucumber sandwiches.

Sunday – 17 June 2018 – 4.30pm

Tickets - \$28.50

Bookings – Carol Martin – 9955 5444

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2018 SEABORN CONVERSATIONS

TO CELEBRATE SENIORS' WEEK

***'Life Upon the Wicked Stage'***

A LUNCHTIME TALK DOWN MEMORY LANE WITH CELEBRITY  
GUEST

**CARMEN DUNCAN AND FRIENDS**  
**MONDAY 9th APRIL 2018 12 noon**

Carmen Duncan is an international star of stage, screen and television.

She has been described as 'one of Australia's most respected and recognised actresses' Her long career includes a Theatre Critics' Award and many nominations for her outstanding performances.

Join us for a light lunch and reminisce with Carmen about her theatrical journey from Cooma to NIDA, to North Sydney's Independent Theatre, London, New York, Los Angeles and back to Sydney with so many successes in her chosen profession and in her work for charity as well.



**SEABORN, BROUGHTON & WALFORD FOUNDATION**

**20 Young Street, Neutral Bay (Ground Floor)**

2-hour parking in the street or in the Car Park under Woolworths nearby in 43-51 Grosvenor Street; regular bus service from Wynyard.

**LIMITED SEATING, BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL 99555444**