



Seaborn Broughton & Walford Foundation Newsletter

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

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4th July 2013

Nan's Letter Space

Dear Friends

2013 marks the 20th anniversary of our Foundation's purchase, in 1993, of the Independent Theatre in North Sydney. One of the notable achievements of Dr Seaborn and the SBW Foundation was the rescue and restoration of this beautiful heritage building, arguably Sydney's oldest live theatre. Built in 1911 as a vaudeville hall, the Independent received its present name and gained national and international recognition during the artistic directorship of Dame Doris Fitton who held the lease from 1939-1977.

During the 1990's, as the Foundation's Chairman of the Friends of the Independent Theatre and also Chairman of the Restoration Project Committee, I witnessed Dr Seaborn's commitment and generosity in funding a large proportion of this project. I was also deeply impressed by the time, talents and tremendous dedication contributed by the Friends, community volunteers, the performing arts fraternity and local businesses, schools and TAFE. We were especially grateful for the low-cost, highly skilled professional assistance we received, and by the financial and moral support provided by the North Sydney Council and private donors as well as a substantial contribution by the Federal Government via training schemes for youth and the long-term unemployed.

We were delighted when the Independent Theatre restoration project received the 2001 National Trust Heritage Award for community participation in 'preserving an 'important piece of Australia's theatre history, an integral element in the local landscape'. Our vision was that the Independent would once again take and an important role in the artistic landscape of the wider community as well.

As you will recall, Dr Seaborn appointed a Theatre Manager who co-ordinated the final stages of the restoration, reopened the Independent in 1998 and ran the theatre for two years. He then leased the Independent to the Ensemble Theatre for its 40th Birthday subscription series and, in 2001, to the Australian Elizabethan Theatre Trust. In 2004 Dr Seaborn sold the Independent to the AETT. The Trust undertook 'to provide the Independent as an accessible community centre for the benefit of all in North Sydney who welcome excellence in both productions and facilities'. Now referring to the building as The Independent Music Centre, the Trust has beautified

the foyers and auditorium and undertaken structural changes to convert the Theatre into a world-class chamber recital venue with capacity as a recording studio. Any of you who have visited the Independent recently will notice the changes to the interior and the focus on fine music.

Last month, AETT Chairman Hon Lloyd Waddy AM rang to inform me that he had approached Wenona Girls' School, and had negotiated the sale of the Independent to the School.

This was an unexpected development. However, we applaud the subsequent statement by Wenona's School Principal Dr Briony Scott: "*We acknowledge the importance of the Independent Theatre to the wider community and acknowledge the contributions of its many supporters over many years. Wenona is looking forward to working with our local community, including North Sydney Council, as we foster the performing arts.*" The Independent's 2013 programme will remain unchanged and Wenona's expressed vision for the Theatre suggests that it is in safe hands. I am looking forward to meeting Dr Scott in the coming days. Like many schools, Wenona has used the Independent as a performance space for decades and even purchased Dame Doris's former home some years ago to use as a boarding house for the girls. The SBW Foundation, its Archivist and Theatre Historian will be glad to share our research on the Independent's past with the School. In this way, we fervently hope that the Independent's educative potential can be enhanced, its important role in the community and performing arts can be preserved and a new generation can help research and celebrate this unique Theatre's rich and significant history.

Last month I had the great pleasure of attending the graduation of the Class of 2012 at NIDA. During the ceremony, the inaugural Leslie Walford AM Award was presented to an outstanding student. The \$10,000 award was presented by Colin Davies to Phillipa Edwards, Bachelor of Drama (Acting) for an innovative project involving short episodes on social media to provide opportunities for herself and her peers in the industry. NIDA and the SBW Foundation are grateful that Colin has decided to make this an ongoing award.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Peter Lowry
Chairman

TOP GIRLS

by Caryl Churchill

New Theatre 542 King Street Newtown

Marlene is out to celebrate her big promotion at work, beating a man to the position of Managing Director. She earned it. It's a just reward for years of service and hard grind at the Top Girls Employment Agency. She escaped her working – class past. She's made it!

But tensions with her resolutely un-ambitious and pragmatic sister Joyce, and the consequences of a desperate choice made 16 years' ago, threaten to open up old wounds and destroy the life for which she has sacrificed so much.

This bold and ingenious work offers one of the theatre's most honest portraits of what it means to be a woman in a male-dominated world.

Thursday 11 July to Saturday 3 August 2013

Wednesday to Saturday – 7.30pm

Sunday- 5pm

Tickets - \$30.00

Bookings- Carol Martin – 9955 5444



DANGEROUS CORNER

by J. B. Priestley

Genesian Theatre 420 Kent Street Sydney

At their stylish country retreat, Freda and Robert Caplan host a dinner party for their colleagues and friends, all executives at a transatlantic publishing company. Young, beautiful, and successful, they have the world at their feet. Then a cigarette box and an ill-considered remark spark off a relentless series of revelations and other, more dangerous secrets are painfully exposed. As the truth spills out about a suicide of Robert's clever, reckless brother, and the private lives start to crumble, the cost of professional and social success becomes frighteningly plain.

Part whodunit, part thriller and this famous 'time play' will have you on the edge of your seat!

Sunday 14 July 2013 – 4.30pm

Tickets - \$26.00

Bookings – Carol Martin – 9955 5444

THE GLASS MENAGERIE

by Tennessee Williams

Directed by Mark Kilmurry

Ensemble Theatre 78 McDougall St Kirribilli

Amanda Wingfield wants what any mother would – a stable career for her wayward son Tom and a suitor for her fragile daughter. Her romantic sensibilities are captured by the idea that Tom's friend might be the ideal gentleman caller. But is he simply too good to be true? Widely regarded as one of Tennessee Williams' most powerful and haunting plays, *The Glass Menagerie* is a poignant reflection on the glories of times past, with echoes of loneliness, fragility and innocent hope.

Friday – 19 July 2013 – 11am

Tickets - \$ 49.00

Bookings – Carol Martin - 9955 5444

HOT SHOE SHUFFLE



The Anniversary Tour

Lyric Theatre The Star



Cast – David Atkins, Jaz Flowers and Bobby Fox

Hot Shoe Shuffle was the first critically successful homegrown Australian musical to gain both local and international success. It was the 1st Australian musical to ever play a West End season. The shows many awards include an Olivier Award – best choreography, Aria Award, 2 Green Room Awards and an Advance Australia Award.

The show tells the story of the Seven Tap Brothers who stand to inherit their father's fortune on condition they can reproduce his legendary song and dance act, the *Hot Shoe Shuffle*.

But the catch is they must include their long-lost sister April, into the act. The only problem is she has two left feet. *Hot Shoe Shuffle* is a homage to the great Hollywood dance musicals of the 40's. With great songs and music from the Big Band Era and brilliant dancing, it's a joyous celebration that is guaranteed to have you on your feet.

Sunday – 21 July 2013- 3pm

Tickets - \$94.00

Bookings – Carol Martin – 9955 5444



Opera and Arts Support Group
together with
Friends of St Mary's Cathedral
Invites you and your friends to a recital in the
magnificently restored
Chapter Hall St Mary's Cathedral College
St Mary's Road Sydney

David Corcoran – Tenor
Margaret Plummer – Mezzo Soprano
David Hidden – Baritone
Simon Kenway – Accompanist

Sunday 4 August 2013
2.00pm for 2.30pm
Entrée -\$65.00

Includes savouries and drinks on arrival and refreshments with the artists following the recital
Bookings – Carol Martin – 9955 5444

**AN AFTERNOON WITH
TEDDY TAHU RHODES**

Independent Theatre 269 Miller St North Sydney
Teddy Tahu Rhodes with Andrew Greene
at the piano.

Artsong NSW will present a celebrity recital featuring a man described in some circles as 'the greatest bar-hunk in the world of opera today'. This is none other than the celebrated new Zealand bass-baritone, Teddy Tahu Rhodes. This his intimate recital, unique to Sydney, will precede his appearances in the return season of "South Pacific" which was one of the hottest theatre tickets last year. Come early and we will give you complimentary coffee and cake before you enjoy an intimate afternoon with one of the world's most sought after performers. So join us in the elegance of the Independent Theatre for this Sunday afternoon of music making.

Sunday – 11 August 2013 at 5pm
(tea and cake from 4pm)
Tickets - \$47.00

Bookings – Carol Martin – 9955 5444

Discounts are available to SBW Friends at-
THE COSTUME SHOP
19/198-222 Young Street
Waterloo NSW
Phone – 9318 2511

Website- thecostumeshop.com.au

JERUSALEM

by Jez Butterworth

New Theatre 542 King Street Newtown

The Australian premiere of the play that took London and Broadway by storm!

On the morning of St. George's Day, Johnny 'Rooster' Byron is a wanted man. The council wants to serve him an eviction notice, his kid wants to be taken to the country fair, and his arch-enemy wants to give him a serious kicking. Fast and furious and hysterically funny, *Jerusalem* is a wildly original work, part lament about the erosion of country life, part rebuttal of the sterility of the homogenized modern world, and a war cry against the worst excesses of the 'Nanny' state.

Wednesday – 14 August to
Saturday -14 September 2013
Weds- Sat – 7.30pm Sun – 5pm

Tickets - \$30.00

Bookings – Carol Martin – 9955 5444

The Actors' Forum Presents a Professionally Performed reading of

THE TWO OF US

by Michael Frayn

Directed by Aarne Neeme

Independent Theatre 269 Miller Street North Sydney

A touching compilation of four one-act comedies: *Black and Silver*, *Mr. Foot*, *The New Quixote* and *Chinamen*. Each simultaneously funny, poignant and quirky, featuring the versatility of the actors. They highlight Frayn's dazzling ability for comic timing and farce. The backstage antics of *Chinamen* became the inspiration for his most popular work *Noises Off*.

Sunday- 18 August 2013 – 2pm
Admission - \$20.00 Concessions - \$15.00

Tickets on sale at door from 1pm

SYDNEY THEATRE COMPANY
ROMEO and JULIET
PIER GROUP LUNCH

Enjoy a combination of good conversation, interesting people, and a shared love of theatre and the arts at the next STC Pier Group Lunch. There will be guest speakers drawn from the cast of the forthcoming play, *Romeo and Juliet*.

Monday – 19 August 2013- 12 noon

The Bar at the End of the Wharf
Pier 4, Hickson Rd Walsh Bay.

\$79.00 per head (includes 2 course lunch and a glass of wine)

Bookings – Carol Martin – 9955 5444

FRUED'S LAST SESSION

Theatre Royal King Street Sydney

Cast includes- Henri Szeps and Douglas Hansell
Winner of the best play off Broadway 2011

This award-winning play centres on legendary psychoanalyst Dr Sigmund Freud, who invites a young, little-known professor, C.S. Lewis to his home in London. Lewis expecting to be called on the carpet for satirising Freud in a recent book, soon realises Freud has much more significant agenda.

On the day England enters World War 11, Freud and Lewis clash over the existence of God, love, sex and the meaning of life guarantees a riveting, tension filled encounter on life's most important questions.

Sunday – 25 August 2013 – 3pm
Tickets - \$85.00

Bookings – Carol Martin – 9955 5444



MURDER ON THE NILE

by Agatha Christie

Genesian Theatre 420 Kent St Sydney

Hold on to your panama hats! Agatha Christie's work has it all; more red herrings than you can poke a pistol at, jilted lovers and death everywhere you look. It's meant to be serious, of course, but it is still all great fun.

The Genesian Theatre is renowned for performing great murder mystery plays with sold out performances throughout their seasons. Join us on the date below and bring your friends.

Sunday – 1 September 2013 – 4.30pm
Tickets- \$26.00

Bookings – Carol Martin – 9955 5444



SEMINAR

by Theresa Rebeck

Ensemble Theatre 76 McDougall St Kirribilli

Cast includes Matthew Zeremes

Calling all writers! You think you have talent? Think you can take rejection and ride out the highs and lows? Once you've met Leonard, you'll have to think again.

Four aspiring young novelists embark upon a private writing course with Leonard, an abrasive but once-respected literary figure, hoping that some of his greatness will rub off on them. In a headlong rush of wit and verbosity, innocence collides with experience in this provocative, sparkling new comedy.

Tuesday – 3 September 2013- 11am
Tickets - \$49.00

Bookings- Carol Martin – 9955 5444



Opera and Arts Support Group Inc

Invite SBW Friends to join them for

THE VOCAL SCHOLARSHIP FOR 2013

To be held in the Ann and John Lewis wing of the Joyce Gibbons Music Centre, Kambala School Rose Bay.

Six finalists will be selected by our distinguished adjudicators John Pringle AM and Graham Pushee from over fifty aspiring young opera singers competing for total prizes to the value of \$16,000 with a first prize of \$10,000.

Stuart Maunder AM will comper the evening in his inimitable style.

Friday – 13 September 2013

7pm for 7.30pm

Entrée \$45.00

Including canapés and drinks on arrival and supper with the finalists, and the pleasure of hearing and supporting outstanding emerging young singers on their journey to operatic supremacy.

(The OASG kindly donate 10% of all ticket money to the SBW Foundation for bookings made by SBW Friends through our Foundation office- Phone 99555444).



Opera and Arts Support Group Inc

in conjunction with

Sydney Living Museums

(Historic Houses Trust of NSW)

Present an exhilarating musical evening of

Gilbert and Sullivan

Justice & Police Museum, Cnr Albert & Phillip Streets, Circular Quay.

Friday 18 October 2013 – 6pm for 6.30pm

Featuring an exceptional ensemble of established and young stars strutting their stuff from the dock of this historic museum.

Entrée – \$65.00

Bookings Carol Martin – 9955 5444



The Actors' Forum Presents a Professionally Performed reading of

THE PRISONER OF SECOND AVENUE

by Neil Simon

Independent Theatre 269 Miller St Nth Sydney

From the pen of this brilliant Pulitzer Prize winning playwright, this play deals with the trials and tribulations of a New York husband and wife; as relevant today as when it was first produced.

Simon's humour prevails throughout '...the most honestly amusing comedy that Mr. Simon has so far given us.' New York Times.

Sunday 20 October 2013 – 2pm

Admission: \$20.00 Concession \$15.00

Ticket sales at door from 1pm

No prior bookings.

