



Seaborn, Broughton & Walford Foundation Newsletter

Suite 10, 20 Young Street Neutral Bay NSW 2089 Phone-9955 5444 Email-office@sbwfoundation.com
For bookings please call Carol Martin -on 9955 5444 Monday to Thursday – 10.15am – 4.15pm

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2 May 2018

President's Letter

Dear Friends,

I am writing to share some exciting developments at the Seaborn, Broughton & Walford's new home at Neutral Bay. I would also like to take this opportunity, to express my profound thanks, on your behalf, to our staff and volunteers. They have been working with great skill, devotion and enthusiasm to ensure that our important Performing Arts Collection is being cared for professionally, and that our Foundation Friends' events will continue to be so varied and successful.

We were gratified that our collective efforts have been valued and recognised in the recent 2018 North Shore Achievement Awards.

CONVERSATIONS at the FOUNDATION'S SEABORN LIBRARY

On Monday April 9th, as our contribution to 2018 Seniors Festival, we held another very successful theatrical Conversations event in partnership with the local Council. I was delighted to see a capacity crowd of Friends and other theatre lovers chatting and listening to professionals regaling their experiences on the merry theme of 'Life Upon the Wicked Stage'. Attendees enjoyed entertainment, beautiful music and a delicious light lunch at this free event in the Seaborn Library downstairs.

Unfortunately, our special guest Carmen Duncan was unable to attend due to serious ill-health. However, she kindly arranged for Craig Bennett, popular entertainment reporter from Channel 10, to take her place. Craig spoke with tremendous warmth and humour about Carmen's remarkable life on stage, film and television. Distinguished actor directors Wendy Blacklock and David Goddard, who also acted at the Independent Theatre in the days of Doris Fitton, entertained us on the theme, adding their memories of Carmen's achievements. Beloved actor Henri Szeps amused us with some hilarious stories, as only he could tell them, and music theatre star, Meredith O'Reilly gave a lively account, in words and song, of the highs and lows of life upon the stage. Grateful thanks to them all and also to brilliant pianist John Martin who perfectly captured the spirit of the afternoon in music. Special thanks to our volunteers, especially the multi-skilled Caroline Mackie, for their generous assistance. A bouquet of flowers was sent to Carmen and attendees wrote heartfelt, loving get-well messages of support on the accompanying card.

Consult the next Newsletter for future Conversations.

DILOMACY at the ENSEMBLE THEATRE

We secured 90 tickets to *Diplomacy*, the extremely popular 'sold out' play with brilliant performances from John Bell and John Gaden, and many Friends enjoyed dinner before the show and post-show drinks with the cast. This was our most successful party on record.

VALE PETER STANNARD

It is with great sadness that we note the passing of our dear friend Peter Stannard. An important Australian composer, and also a good friend of the Foundation. He was an enthusiastic supporter of the Foundation's Independent Theatre restoration project and generously played the piano for many of our fundraising events. We include a tribute to Peter Stannard in this Newsletter.

FORTHCOMING THEATRE PARTIES

Please read the Newsletter carefully and note the events you would like to attend. It is always advisable to book early. Carol Martin is able to find very good seats for us but there is often a limited supply.

Of particular interest is a production of *Lola Montez* (June 2nd) at Riverside Theatre Parramatta - a timely tribute to composer Peter Stannard. And if you are wondering how to spend Mother's Day after, perhaps, enjoying brunch with the family, help us celebrate the 20th anniversary of the reopening of the Independent Theatre. Bring your friends and family to a delightful 'champagne' afternoon tea at 2.30pm and then relax to glorious music honouring motherhood presented by the young stars of Pacific Opera at the Independent Theatre, May 13th at 3.30pm.

AT THE FOUNDATION

We have been delighted to welcome many new Friends recently and most gratified to receive welcome donations to assist us in our task of supporting the performing arts and maintaining our unique Performing Arts Collection.

Carol and our Grants Committee are preparing for the mid-year round of Grant applications, our happy band of office and archives volunteers is increasing, a grand piano has been donated, and holiday programmes for children are being planned.

Thank you, once again, for your valuable, much appreciated and ongoing support.

Peter Lowry OAM
President

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 Italian, French
and English art songs and arias.

Pacific Opera is a 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

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MOVIE LUNCH-

Hayden Orpheum 380 Military Rd
Cremorne

**THE GUERNSEY LITERARY &
POTATO PEEL PIE SOCIETY**

Cast – Lily James, Michael Huisman,
Jessica Brown Findlay

US author Shaffer planned to write a biography
of Kathleen Scott, wife of the English polar
explorer Robert Falcon Scott. While
researching the subject, she travelled to
Cambridge, England, but was discouraged to
find that the subject's personal papers were
nearly unusable. While dealing with
frustration, she decided to spend some of her
planned stay in England by visiting Guernsey
in the Channel Islands. However, as soon as
she arrived the airport was shut down due to
heavy fog. She spent her visit in the airport's
book store, reading several histories of the
German occupation in World War 11.

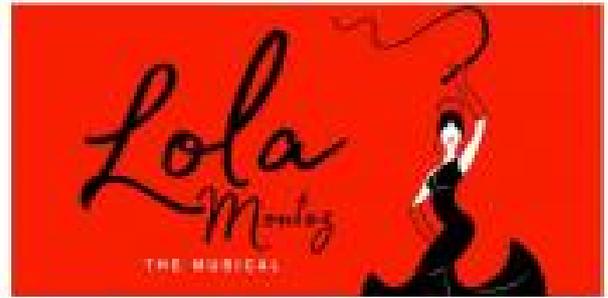
It was twenty years before Shaffer began a
novel dealing with Guernsey. That eventually
stayed in the Best Sellers List for 11 weeks
in 2009.

Wednesday – 16 May 2018 – 11 am -\$16.00

**Includes a light lunch, tea or coffee and a
raffle ticket.**

Bookings – Carol Martin- 9955 5444

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Diadem Productions presents
LOLA MONTEZ
The Musical
60th Anniversary Celebration
Concert

Music by Peter Stannard

Lyrics by Peter Benjamin, Book by Alan Burke

Cast includes- Debora Krizak, Red Symons,
Peter Cousens, Genevieve Lemon, Scott Irwin
and Stephanie Jones.

Parramatta Riverside Theatre
Cnr Market & Church Sts Parramatta

Written in 1957, *Lola Montez* is the most
commercially successful Australian musical
with an original score of all time. Now 60 years
since its final performance, Lola is back!
With a fresh new script based on the original,
sparkling new orchestration and a brand new
song Lola, written by the original and recently
departed composer, Peter Stannard.

Lola unhappy as a lower middle class young
Irish woman married to a military man, she
declared her independence, reinvented herself
as a Spanish Dancer extraordinaire, and as Lola
Montez took on the world. A great beauty of
her time Lola's famous lovers included writer
Alexandre Dumas, pianist/composer Franz
Liszt and King Ludwig 1 of Bavaria with
whom she lived at court, was made a Countess
and practically ran Bavaria for two years!

Her Spider Dance performance caused a
sensation throughout Europe, the USA and,
yes, Australia, during her visit to the goldfields
of Ballarat in 1854.

Saturday 2 June 2018 – 8pm

Tickets - \$72.00

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.

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



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



Movie Luncheon

Hayden Orpheum

380 Military Road Cremorne

THE LEISURE SEEKER

Cast- Helen Mirren, Donald Sutherland

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.

Wednesday – 20 June 2018 - 11am

Tickets - \$16.00

Includes raffle ticket

Bookings – Carol Martin – 9955 5444



Sydney Opera House Ladies Committee
Invites you to

HIGH TEA

at

Parliament House

In the presence of the Committee’s Patron,
Mrs Linda Hurley, wife of the Governor
of NSW.

To commemorate the centenary of the 1918 Women’s Legal Status Act, the Guest Speaker - **Dr Wendy Michaels** will present a lively account of the challenges faced and overcome made by Millicent Preston Stanley the first NSW woman MP.

The hostess will be the Speaker- of the Legislative Assembly, the Hon. Shelley Hancock MP (Member for the South Coast and the first female speaker)

Thursday – 28 June 2018

11.30am for 12 noon

Tickets -\$85

Bookings – Carol Martin –9955 5444



Opera & Arts Support Group
Invites you to the
VOCAL SCHOLARSHIP FINAL
St. Columba Uniting Church
Cnr Ocean & Forth Streets Woollahra

A major event in the Sydney Eisteddfod, this is your opportunity to hear and support dedicated young singers and future stars of the operatic stage. Six finalists selected from entrants Australia-wide will compete for \$17,000 in prize money with a first prize of \$10,000.

**Adjudicators – Brian Castles-Onion AM
and Nicole Youl**

Compere – Michael Lewis OAM

**Friday – 29 June 2018- 7pm for 7.30p
Entrée - \$47.00**

Bookings – Carol Martin – 9955 5444



FUNNY GIRL

The Musical in Concert

**Presented by Sydney Symphony
Orchestra**

**Nine amazing women, in one amazing role,
in one amazing concert.**

Concert Hall Sydney Opera House

Funny Girl, which starred Barbra Streisand as Fanny Brice in both the original stage and film versions, features songs including *I'm the Greatest Star*, *Don't rain on my Parade*, *Funny Girl*, *The Music That Makes me Dance and People*.

With the film celebrating its 50th Anniversary in 2018, this special concert production directed by Michael Butel will feature some of Australia's favourite leading ladies who each night share the role of Fanny Brice on stage: Michael Banas, Casey Donovan, Virginia Gay, Verity Hunt-Ballard, Dami Im, Zahra Newman, Caroline O'Connor, Queenie van de Zandt and Megan Washington.

The show stars Trevor Ashley, Nancye Hayes and Don Hany as Nick Arnstein.

Saturday – 14 July 2018 – 2pm

Premium reserve stalls tickets

\$149.00

Bookings – Carol Martin – 9955 5444

**CONGRATULATIONS
TO OUR PRESIDENT & BOARD
CHAIRMAN**

At the North Shore ceremony to mark 2018 Seniors festival, our President and Chairman of the Seaborn, Broughton & Walford Foundation Board, Peter Lowry OAM, was presented with an **Achievement Award, for Exceptional Contribution to the Community Initiatives and Services.**

In the citation, Peter's various contribution to community were mentioned, including his previous roles serving as the longest continuing Board Member of the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust, Board Member of the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority and Chairman of Transport Heritage. Particular reference was also made to Peter's current leadership of the Seaborn, Broughton & Walford Foundation and appreciation was expressed for the Foundation's relocation to the North Sydney area, bringing with it Dr Seaborn's valuable Performing Arts Collection and exciting fresh opportunities for education and research, small performances, rehearsals, and seminars as well as the Foundation's continued financial support for select individuals and projects within the performing arts sector.

NELL GWYNN

by Jessica Swale

New Theatre 542 King Street Newtown

“They've disgraced our trade. Ruined our art.

They've put a woman on the stage!”

London, 1660. King Charles 11 has exploded onto the scene with a love of all things loud, extra extravagant and sexy. And at Drury Lane, a young Gwynn is causing stirrings amongst the theatregoers.

Though sparkling with ribald humour, cheeky double-entendres, and a cast of larger-than-life characters, this tribute to the world of theatre has an explicitly feminist message at its heart.

Playing 9 August to 8 September 2018

Thurs to Sat -7.30pm Sun-5pm

Tickets - \$33.00

Bookings- Carol Martin – 9955 5444

Peter Stannard (1931-2018)



Peter Stannard, was one of Australia's leading musical composers. He was born in Sydney and began piano studies at the age of 12 with Irene Fletcher, a pupil of Clara Schumann. Although lessons were curtailed six months later due to evacuation from Sydney during World War II, Peter went on to become head chorister at St Mark's Church, Darling Point, and attended Randwick High and Sydney Grammar School. His musical talents were recognised and, while still at Grammar, he was professionally engaged to play for ballet schools, weddings and other events. Later, while undertaking an Arts degree at Sydney University, he distinguished himself as composer, actor, and co-producer of a number of student revues. During this time he met Peter Benjamin and Alan Burke with whom he later collaborated in writing the successful musical *Lola Montez*.

Following its enthusiastic premiere in 1958 at the Union Theatre, Melbourne, *Lola Montez* was produced in both Brisbane and Sydney by the Australian Elizabethan Theatre Trust (AETT). It has since been revived numerous times by amateur, pro-am theatre companies and musical societies around Australia. One of its main songs 'Saturday Girl' made the hit parades and has been recorded by more artists than any other song from Australian musical theatre. The cast recording of the show was the first LP produced in Australia. Selections from *Lola Montez* were also featured in the 1988 Royal Command Performance at the Sydney Opera House.

In response to this success, Stannard, Burke, and Benjamin were commissioned by ATN7 and Shell to write a family-orientated musical for television. That production, *Pardon Miss Westcott*, was broadcast on Christmas Eve 1959. Starring Wendy Blacklock, it was orchestrated by ATN-7's musical director, Tommy Tycho, along with Julian Lee. This was also recorded and released on LP. Another collaboration with Benjamin, for ATN's live variety show *Take a Chance* involved writing original songs in 40 minutes to titles suggested by the audience. Stannard also composed special arrangements for the TV version of Albert Arlen's *The Sentimental Bloke* (1975) and the original music for the songs in Canberra Repertory's production of *Errol Flynn's Great Big Adventure Book for Boys* (1982). Alan Burke directed both productions. A third musical by the trio, based on Ruth Park's *The Harp in the South*, is yet to be performed.

Peter Stannard was a prolific composer. He wrote music and lyrics - songs, revues, and musicals. Many of his songs were written for Australia's celebrated entertainers, including Diana Shearing, Jill Perryman, Gordon Chater, and Bernard King. He also wrote numerous classical works. Among his published works are *Capriccietto* for flute and piano (1998), *The Entheon Concertino* (1999) a number of piano suites and pieces for chamber orchestra, including *Evocations - A Blue Mountains Suite*, *The James Tyson Pastorelle* and *Concerto for Two Pianos*. He has also published *Pirates: The Musical* (1988), co-written with Ann Hogan and Lesley Englert and wrote and produced a small book of illustrated children's stories.

Peter Stannard married, had three sons and worked as a radio announcer, a copy and jingle writer, TV commercial producer, advertising agency director and freelance creative advertising advisor to the Sing Tao newspaper group in Sydney, until he retired in 2003.

Peter was a generous supporter of the restoration of the SBW Independent Theatre. In 1996, Gay Daniel, who had worked for the AETT on its *Lola Montez* season, suggested that he consider writing a musical about Rose Shaw, the renowned Sydney eccentric who sold flowers in Martin Place for 40 years. Rose sang operatic arias while working at her flower stall and, after work, attended the first nights of opera, ballet, concerts in a chauffeur-driven Rolls. The musical *Rosie* has a strong, identifiable theme of universal love, ambition, disillusionment and eventual fulfilment. *Rosie* opened in 2005 at the newly-restored Independent Theatre and starred Geraldine Turner.

Seaborn, Broughton and Walford Foundation

Your Gift to the Australian Performing Arts at Christmas

Since 1986, when the Seaborn, Broughton and Walford Foundation was launched by the Late Dr Rodney Seaborn, it has offered significant financial encouragement to many worthy theatrical ventures through the generosity of its *Friends*.

It has saved and restored the SBW Independent Theatre and the unique SBW Stables Theatre in Kings Cross; it has assisted in establishing the Rodney Seaborn Library at the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA) as well as subsidising a number of academic projects.

Each year the SBW Foundation provides funding to a number of theatre companies to offset their expenses and organises many theatre parties to support both commercial and independent productions. It is the Patron of the acclaimed Griffin Theatre Company and continues as a major sponsor of the Sydney Theatre Critics Awards.

The Foundation has always relied on the kind and often substantial donations from its *Friends*, in meeting the many requests it receives for grants. With the difficult times that the performing arts are experiencing at present, it is essential that the Foundation is in a position to increase its contributions to ensure their robust viability into the future.

Accordingly the Foundation is asking its *Friends*, to consider giving a donation so that the Foundation may continue Dr. Seaborn's inspired vision of supporting the performing arts. Your contribution would be most appreciated; all donations of \$2 or more, are tax deductible.

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss/Dr _____

Address _____

_____ p/c _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Cheque for \$ _____ Enclosed payable to SBW Foundation

Cash for \$ _____ Enclosed

Amex, Visa,
Mastercard _____

Expiry _____ Amex ID _____

Signature _____

Bank transfer to – Seaborn Broughton & Walford Foundation
Westpac Private Bank- 032-102 - 820196

Mail to –
Carol Martin SB&W Foundation, Suite 10, 20 Young St Neutral Bay NSW 2089
Phone – 9955 5444 Email – office@sbwfoundation.com