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HEADLINER

AUTUMN 2015

THE OFFICIAL CTC NEWSLETTER

Cosi a resounding success!

A big CTC congratulations goes out to all those cast, crew and front of house whose hard work and dedication made *Cosi* the resounding success it turned out to be. One audience member was heard to declare that she laughed so hard she almost wet herself! We had great audience numbers, and as publicity co-ordinator I'd like to say a huge thank you to Jeff Jones and all at the Castlemaine Mail and the Midland Express for the ongoing support and fantastic coverage of local theatre. Thanks, so much – it really makes a big difference to the success of our organisation. Well done to director Ron Moore, for a great debut to the 'main stage', and to assistant director Rob Jorritsma for his most thoughtful and valuable input.



The fabulous cast and crew of Cosi:

l-r back row: Neil Harrison, Mike Smythe, Morgan Kurrajong, Ron Moore, Adrian McBean, Lloyd Dodsworth, and Thomas Jones

front row: Michael Gillies Smith, April Garreffa, Nikki Sutterby, Ellie Barkla, David Watson, and Gus Saunders

Meet a CTC Member! Hello Nikki Sutterby

When I was preparing the program for Cosi I asked the cast to provide me with bios. Nikki, who played Ruth, was away on the night when I spoke to them about it in person, and she missed the message that the bio only had to be 50 words long. She wrote such a lovely piece about her interest in theatre and her connection with the CTC that I asked her if I could include it in the next Headliner and she agreed. Here it is:



As a child, my beautiful mother Jacqui Turnbull frequently took me to the theatre and I am forever thankful to her for that. I remember clearly seeing Romeo and Juliet at Montsalvat, and many other Shakespearean shows. MTC (Melbourne Theatre Company) was a regular experience for me and my parents growing up. Then as a teenager, I had the time of my life helping back stage with my best friend whose mother was a veteran director and actor. I have very fond memories of these times and the fun we had mucking around back stage. One time one of the props starting smoking mid scene, and we were all running around trying to find the fire extinguisher. It was farcical.

My love of the theatre hasn't changed since then and in my twenties I took a couple of roles as the dippy blonde in British farces including, Panic Stations at the Beaumaris and Noises Off at the Mordiallic Theatre Company. When I moved to Castlemaine I performed in Lipstick Dreams with Mount Players and various one act plays as part of the Daffodil festival with Kyneton Theatre Company. Doing The Fifteen Minute Hamlet with Alan Stone and director Ingrid Gang at Kyneton Theatre Company was another one of my favourite experiences.

Then after having my son 12 years ago, my time was limited and I was off the stage for a long time apart from playing alongside children's writer and now playwright Chris Milne in his debut play "A Nice Night at Home" for the Daffodil festival. I also recently got involved in the newly created theatre sports group becoming part of "The Improvables" with Ramon Angeloni and Ron Moore, which has been an amazing experience.

In my spare time, when I'm not at work looking after the patients and residents at Castlemaine Health, I work hard to save our precious wildlife, particularly kangaroos, who are currently the victims of the world's largest wildlife slaughter, the commercial kangaroo industry. This is very sad and difficult work for me, so I appreciate my time in the theatre, which is a great distraction from this heartache. In particular Cosi, has been a great comical relief for me and I feel honoured to have been invited onto this great team of artists. I must say, that Castlemaine Theatre Company has become a wonderful, community group that is very inclusive and welcoming. The committee has done a great job in welcoming new recruits to their company and I feel honoured to be a part of it.

Thanks Nikki, hope you continue to work with us at the CTC, as we really value your wonderful energy, humour and talent. Nikki is in fact President of the **Australian Society for Kangaroos**. You can find out more about their work on their website and Facebook page.

<http://www.australiansocietyforkangaroos.org/>

CONTRIBUTE TO HEADLINER! Have you got a story like Nikki's, or your very own journey to the CTC? Send it in to me at castlemainetheatreco@gmail.com

AGM 2015

The 2015 Castlemaine Theatre Company Annual General Meeting was held on Thursday 26th March at the wonderfully atmospheric back stage of the Town Hall. Barry set everything up beautifully for us, and we had a great turn out including life members Mary Edwards and Cecile Weerts, the irrepressible Ramon Angeloni, new members Rob Jorritsma, Bridget Haylock, Mark Penzak, Lenny Coltan and Marcella Olea, and of course the old committee favourites, myself, Ken, Laura, Donna, Ron and Deborah.

Ken gave his eloquent Presidents Report and Laura provided a comprehensive Treasurers Report and then we got down the business of voting in the committee for 2015/16. The executive positions remained the same as last year with no new nominations. Ken MacLeod returns for another year as President, with myself as Secretary, Laura Hall Levetan continuing as Treasurer and Ron Moore as Vice President. Sadly we said goodbye to the lovely Deborah Cowen who resigned, but Donna Steven is still on board, and we were very happy to welcome three new members to the committee – Bridget Haylock, Rob Jorritsma and Sue Anne Williams. I've asked the new members to introduce themselves to our mailing listers. Here's what they have to say:



Theatre came to **Bridget Haylock** many years ago. She walked past the Phoenix Theatre in London, and turned back to read 'Why not give it a try?' And so embraced a new life and was lucky enough to get a scholarship to drama school, then roles in theatre, TV, short film, feature film, and production work. This eventually lead to the role as Rebecca Marshall in CTC's *Playhouse Creatures* in 2014, and then election to the committee!! Bridget is passionate about theatre, especially writing for theatre, and has a lot of experience from working in professional theatre to share and much still to explore.



Rob Jorritsma: Originally from the Netherlands, I arrived in Australia in 2001. During my teacher training in Melbourne I developed a passion for theatre so when I came to Castlemaine as a teacher I decided to include lots of drama work with the students and also with the school community, staging two productions

a year for a number of years with the Waldorf Players. At the same time I further explored the theatre bug by enrolling in several short courses at the VCA and doing a Graduate Diploma of Theatre Studies at the University of New England. I graduated in 2013. Having now finished full-time teaching it's a great opportunity to join Castlemaine Theatre Company as a committee member and as a possible director of plays in the coming years. So, as Beckett wrote: "What do we do now, now that we are happy?"



VP Ron Moore (left) and new committee member Rob Jorritsma at the Phee Broadway rehearsing *Cosi* earlier in the year

Sue Anne Williams

This is my fifth year retired in Campbells Creek, from most recently Glenlyon and Melbourne, with my new doglet 'Lulubelle' (Maltese Shitzu). I spend most of my time caring for the aged, playing Boule and writing a book. My theatrical life has lengthy, interesting, pressured and exciting dealings with many well known actors and singers. I began as a model, actor and singer myself, appearing on Reg Lindsay and Graham Kennedy's shows, in musicals, magazines and catwalks until I was fortunate to be one of the first three theatrical agents in Sydney (well before casting agents etc. in the Prehistoric days!!!) Followed some years later by managing artists in the UK and abroad, then later again in Queensland touring well known artists, co-running a TV station and shopping centre, putting on shows and choreographing parades etc. Some years later the opportunity arose to be the principal of a performing arts college in Perth central. Taught modelling and acting advanced classes, personal development and audition skills preparing the students for WAAPA (Western Australian Academy of the Performing Arts). This is a synopsis of my rewarding and successful career. Now here I am in downtown Castlemaine and willing to lend my support in any way I can to your organisation, and thank you for asking me.

Wow! What an extraordinary wealth of experience and talent we have on our committee this year. Exciting times ahead for the CTC.

Winter Warmer: Under Milk Wood

CTC Secretary Kate Stones (yup, me) will be performing in 3's A Crowd's rehearsed reading of *Under Milk Wood* by Dylan Thomas, which will be performed at the Faulder Watson Hall on Friday 12th and Saturday 13th of June at 7.30pm

Tickets: \$25 (full) \$23 (conc/3AC members)

Bookings: Online – www.3ac.com.au

Phone – 0401468695

Here's a link to an article by Michael Treloar:

<http://www.castlemaineindependent.org/3s-a-crowd-present-under-milk-wood-by-dylan-thomas/>

I've had fun practicing my Welsh accents and am enjoying a bit of CTC/3AC crossover. Hope you can make it!

KEEP SENDING YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO HEADLINER!

Please send me articles for Headliner, if you have been involved in a recent show I'd love to hear your story - or you could review a local production, or let us know about other things going on in the world of local theatre. Photos to accompany your articles are much appreciated. The next

That's all for now...enjoy the log fires, mulled wine, hearty pies...like us on Facebook, check out the website, support local theatre...see you there!