

From the President

May I just take this time now to wish all our members a very Happy New Year as we welcome EUMCS into its 44th year in 2006.

I hope you have all had a relaxed Christmas break and are already champing at the bit to get involved with EUCMS again this year.

I know Elaine, Rebecca and Jeni would love to see you involved with the upcoming Gilbert and Sullivan double-bill we have planned. Please phone or email Jeni or Elaine to let them know of how you intend to help with the show. It is always nice for our production team to not have to wait until that first rehearsal to confirm numbers and to aid in pre-planning for both on-stage and off-stage roles. Even if you can only help at a limited number of rehearsals, I know the ladies would still be delighted to hear from you and would be able to find you a job. Last show we were blessed by members offering to be House Manager and Booking Officer before rehearsals had even started! I hope we see that sort of keenness repeated!

Please keep an eye out for your AGM material that you will receive soon in the mail. Please read these pages carefully, return your forms where appropriate and make every attempt to be there for our AGM on 21 February for this important meeting. More details are in my AGM letter.

Finally I would like to wish Elaine and her team all the very best for their upcoming shows and I am greatly encouraged to see the cast contains both new EUCMS members from Chess and members who have been around for the 44 years of the society. See you all down at Lakeside soon!

Adam Wilson (Phone: 8812 2575)

Trial By Jury & Sorcerer Update

Is it really two months since we all reluctantly said farewell to "Chess" after the thrill of performing in such a demanding show?

Well, yes, it is and it is now time to get serious about our next production - a double bill of "Trial" & "Sorcerer" by Gilbert & Sullivan.

Our Show Selection Sub Committee has presented us with the challenge of now acting in a completely different time, place and style - England in the 19th century.

How did they act, speak, walk, think, love and believe in those days? Let's start to feel ourselves into a completely different experience and come together to sing some truly exciting music.

Jeni, Rebecca and I are looking forward to seeing you on Fri. 3rd Feb. for the Orientation Night and Read/Sing thru' and working with you over the next 13 weeks on finding out at least some of the answers to those questions.

We have a great cast and now we need a great chorus to support them - so, see you there!

PS Please let us know if you cannot be at that night but intend to take part. Elaine (Phone 9872 6453)

New Trial By Jury cast announcements:

Defendant: Jassen Rose

Clerk of the Court: Megan Willis

Reminder of Show Dates:

Fri 19 & Sat 20 May at 8pm

Sun 21 May at 2pm - CCA matinee (not for public sale)

Fri 26 May at 8pm

Sat 27 May at 2pm and 8pm

Fri 2 & Sat 3 June 8pm

Note: these dates were wrong in the last bulletin! Adam

EUCMS News

Donations

An update regarding our donations:

We are pleased to announce that *Black Dog Institute* were the recipients of our \$500 that we set aside to donate to a charity dealing with depression. The Black Dog Institute is a clinical, research and educational body dedicated to improving understanding, diagnosis and treatment of depression and bipolar disorder (formerly called manic depression in severe cases). See www.blackdoginstitute.org.au for further information.

As a thank you from our donations from last month, EUCMS was mentioned in the annual reports of both the Parramatta Mission and the Breast Cancer Foundation. Great to see all our hard work being recognised!

We hope all members can be proud of their part in allowing us to contribute to these worthy groups.

2006 AGM

Don't forget our AGM is on 21 Feb 2006, in the church hall - starting at 8pm. Stay tuned to your letterbox for the arrival of all the necessary information to prepare yourself for the meeting within the prescribed time. Your annual \$20 subs will be due at the meeting to allow you to vote for the year. If you intend to pay Lynn on the night, allow time before the meeting starts to do this. Why not post Lynn a cheque for your membership before the meeting and make it easy for our treasurer??

2006 New Members' Auditions

For anyone who might have a friend or family member who loved CHESS and is now very keen to also get on stage, New Members' Auditions are on Tuesday 31 January at approximately 7.30pm. People mustn't just turn up, but must ring, as if there are a lot of new members wanting to come, Megan Willis will advise them individually of a time to arrive and needs to know how many people intend to audition so that appropriate numbers of panel members can be organised. Call Megan on 9869 7413 to register your interest or to answer any questions that a new member might have. People who are keen to help out as a non-performing member are asked to also come on the night for general society information and filling out of forms.

Production Managers' Forum

Saturday 11 Feb, 2006 will be the day for all those who have performed the PM role, to discuss the expectations of this role and how we can better help those up and coming PMs lurking in our membership. We will be chasing past PMs to join us on the day., so please mark the date in your diary now! The meeting will be held at Adam and Penny Wilson's house at 32 Pinetree Drive, Carlingford, 2118 at 2pm. Please ring or email us to confirm your intention to come.

Christian Community Aid

CCA is organising its 40th Anniversary March 17 to 19. On the 19th there is to be a church service at St. Anne's, Ryde (built in 1826) at 2.30 p.m. at which they would like some special music. So, because of the long and close association EUCMS have had with CCA, we would like to organise a small group to sing something appropriate. Please contact Tom Leslie on 9868 5456 or Barb Sharpham (our CCA rep) on 9817 2779.

Lakeside Road Policies

We recently received a reminder from the Lakeside Road Church committee about 'conditions of use' of the church grounds by all the groups who have the site booked. These include a 'zero-alcohol policy' on the church grounds, so please be mindful of this during rehearsals and other functions EUCMS hold on the church grounds.

State Library wants our Material!

We recently received a letter from the State Library asking for us to give them any printed information to help them document the history of EUCMS. If you have any old show programmes or other printed matter that you can part with, please let Belinda know. Otherwise we might need to start borrowing and copying material from members and archives for them.

Next Exec meeting:
13 February at Megan's place

CHESS Photos

The Chess photos have arrived! If you have paid for postage, they will be sent to you, otherwise Karen and Andrew McAlpine have the photos at their place. Give them a call (9877 0856) to arrange a time to drop around or wait to see them at the first couple of rehearsals.

Guidance for Actors

As read to 'The Pajama Game' cast by Nina Stevenson — tongue firmly in cheek.

1. Never learn you lines early. It's a waste of time because you'll pick them up eventually during rehearsal.
2. Try not to do any 'homework' between rehearsals. The director's job is to help you to give the best performance, and it will hurt his/her feelings if you don't let them do their job.
3. If there are pages missing from your script, or even if you don't have one at all, it's best not to worry anyone about it.
4. It's best to arrive at rehearsals a bit late, to give the others a chance to get there.
5. The director is always keen to hear you point of view about your characters, your part, the play, other people's characters, other people's parts, the quality of other people's acting, the quality of the director and especially where he/she is going wrong etc. - so make sure you tell him/her as often as possible.
6. Keep a handy list of people and things to blame when you're not doing as well as the director expects.
7. Be helpful to your co-actors by giving them regular appraisals of their work, and handy hints to help them lift their game.
8. Having a few drinks before rehearsals and performances is very relaxing.
9. Always try to draw focus on yourself, during rehearsal and especially when on stage. There's no point of being on stage if everybody isn't looking at you. They do say, after all, that there are no small parts, only small actors.
10. Be sure to get there early when the set is being installed to test out how it will affect you. Explain your problems in detail to the set designers and builders, but also take your concerns to the director, production manager, stage manager and ASM in case the others don't understand you requirements.
11. When arranging costume fittings, remember that the costume designer is there to serve you and not the other way around. Assume that the costume will be unsuitable, don't be taken in by assurances that it isn't finished yet and will fit; take the matter to the top or otherwise you'll never get anywhere.
12. Actors are 'special' and should never compromise themselves or their craft by getting involved in practical things like helping with sets or costumes.

Elaine says - NO NO NO!!!

See you next month!!