

From the President...March 2003

Thank you to all those who took the time to attend our AGM. It was a very special occasion at which we had the opportunity to hear of the exceptional contribution of 3 of our members and honour them by making them Life Members of EUCMS. Congratulations to Sylvia Foulcher, Barbara Sharpham and Jenny Gillespie. Listening to the breadth and depth of each of their unique contributions to EUCMS, you realise what true dedication means. Thankyou ladies, for all you have done and continue to do for our society. I hope that Life Membership goes some way to showing the gratitude that words can never fully express.

Your new executive for 2003 is as follows: *President:* Robyn Mead, *Vice President:* Barbara Sharpham, *Secretary:* Heather Clarke, *Treasurer:* Lynn Bock, *Business Secretary:* Megan Willis, *Property Officer:* Andrew McAlpine, *Floor Members:* Adam Wilson (*bulletin editor*), Liz McCann, Kath Sharpham (*New Members' Convenor*) and Tom Leslie.

You may be aware of some changes and it is appropriate for me to thank those executive members who have served on the committee until last year. To Jim Murch, Belinda Bongers and Mark McKinnon, thank you on behalf of all the members for your individual contributions to the running of our society. Your time, effort and expertise has been respected and appreciated.

Speaking of new teams – it is great pleasure to announce the production team for our second show – *Brigadoon*. Our director is Elaine Gow, our Production Manager is Barb Sharpham and our Musical Director is Gareth Young. Additions to the team will be announced as they are made.

Time to start selling again – *Once On This Island* tickets go on sale next month!! If you don't know what the show is about – (then you haven't read your bulletins!!) – but you can still find out by taking the chance to come down to a rehearsal and feel the enthusiasm and energy that is driving this show. Very different but very exciting!!

I mentioned at the AGM that one of four big issues facing us at present is OH & S. Well, having got hold of the relevant document for our society, the issue is bigger than I had imagined. We will need to appoint an OH & S officer for the society, but I am currently looking for a team of interested, or even experienced people to do the necessary risk analysis and put all the required guidelines in place. If you have any training or experience, or are willing to offer some assistance please give me a ring on 8824 6301. Other executive matters include; the purchase of some special rubber mat flooring which will cover our stage for shows and make dancing easier, minimise some of the foot noise and hopefully provide a smoother and safer performance space. Our thanks to Pam and David Bland who have spent a great deal of time sorting out the costumes under the stage, putting them in new plastic containers and updating our list. Please, please – if you wish to borrow something from under the stage, then contact an executive member who will ensure you follow the correct procedure.

We are looking at holding several workshops this year – so keep watching for details.

Enclosed with this bulletin is our questionnaire. As I mentioned at the AGM, I believe it is the responsibility of each member to respond to the request for information to assist our planning. The return of a questionnaire that tells us you are not available for a show or other activities, is a very useful piece of information. Can I urge you to return your questionnaire responding to all sections, including suggestions for donations, offers of assistance for various activities etc.

As you can see we are already off to a busy and hopefully successful year. - Robyn Mead

Inside this issue:

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| From the President | 1 |
| Once On This Island | 2 |
| ACT Launch | 2 |
| New members info | 3 |
| ACT AGM News | 3 |
| Member's News | 4 |

A new look bulletin...

After a mighty fine effort with our bulletins, Belinda has hung up her shoes for a while and the ball has been passed to me. As the new editor, I would love feedback on the new look, as well as ideas, submissions, stories and news that you would like to see shared with your fellow EUCMS' members. This is YOUR bulletin, please make use of it! Thanks to all those who have contributed to this issue.

Adam Wilson Ph: 9873 5639 / 0425 313 336 or panda@tig.com.au



EUCMS rises to the challenge!

Rehearsals for *Once On This Island* are rolling on, and the show is taking shape in a very exciting way.

Considering that *OOTI* has:

- easily twice the choreography of most EUCMS shows,
- a ratio of singing to spoken word that is unprecedented in our previous productions,
- very individual costuming and (for us) high-tech and complex staging,

- a dramatic and challenging storyline for actors to deal with,
- massive amounts of ensemble work for chorus and principals alike,
- an important spiritual message that could easily be misinterpreted if we don't handle it just right,

this show was always going to be a big ask for the members of EUCMS!

Even at this early(ish) stage, I have to say CONGRATULATIONS - and thank you to the whole cast, crew and production team! The look and the sound of the work so far is a credit to your enthusiasm, commitment, creativity and talent - keep it up and this will be a show you can be proud of for a very long time!

The majority of the cast recently took on the responsibility of representing EUCMS in a public preview for the most critical audience you'll ever find - fellow performers from most of the

musical societies in NSW. They performed extremely well, and at only a few days' notice! (see Kath's article below)

To those involved with *OOTI*, to those looking forward to being part of *Brigadoon*, to society members who are "having a rest" at the moment, I would encourage you to get excited! Ticket sales are opening soon - tell all your friends to come along and bring their friends, too! This show is mostly unknown in Australia, but it's already clear that EUCMS' production will win many new fans for *Once On This Island*.

- Penny Wilson

USHERS PLEASE... We are looking for keen ushers to help with the show and we want you to be involved in the story too, not just show people to their seats... Keen? Interested? Curious? Contact Liz McCann (Usher Co-ordinator) for details efmcc@bigpond.com or 9484 9628.

ACT Launch - Sunday 9th March 2003

Sunday 9th March saw 20 cast members of *Once On This Island* make the journey to Parramatta Riverside Theatre for the ACT (Association of Community Theatre) launch and AGM. We were fortunate enough to be able to perform the opening number from *Once On This Island* "We Dance" for representatives of musical societies from all over Sydney. Two other societies performed short excerpts from their shows as well. It was a well attended afternoon with the Lennox Theatre at the Riverside being almost full. This might have had something to do with Jon English being the keynote speaker this year, but I personally think word had got out that EUCMS would be performing.



I think we did a great job and it was well received. One attendee was heard to say that they had been waiting for someone to put on *Once On This Island* and thought it looked and sounded fantastic. Another commented that they thought a lot of people were very impressed. I think it also gave some of us a boost of confidence in ourselves and the show. We went and had fun and promoted EUCMS and *Once on This Island*. Let's hope we get some ticket sales from it! So congratulations to everyone who came and performed and a big thanks to those who came and supported us. We did a fantastic job! Keep up the good work! Your friendly cast representative - Kath Sharpham

[Nice to be able to add 'performed for Jon English' in our 'things we've done' list - Ed]

New Members update...

Hi Everyone...

I'd like to start out by welcoming all our new members. We are blessed to have lots of new talent in all aspects of production for this show. It is wonderful to have you all join us and I hope that you will enjoy your time at EUCMS.

On to some more serious business. The role of New Members' Co-Ordinator is not a difficult one, but it can become laborious and quite painful when people don't follow the guidelines. **All new members** must go through the orientation process. This includes new principals, non-performing members and orchestra members. Non-performing members

do not need to audition, however if they ever wish to become a performing member they will have to audition regardless of how long they have been a member. Orchestra members who have auditioned for the orchestra but wish to go onstage in a production will have to go through the new members' audition process.

New Members' auditions are held twice a year, this is advertised in the bulletin and also posted on the EUCMS email list and website: www.eucms.org. If you have a friend who would like to join but they are unable to make the designated audition night, they are to contact the

New Members convenor and arrange an alternate time. Please do not expect to turn up on the first night of rehearsals and be entitled to an audition as it may not be possible. If you miss the auditions you may have to wait till the next show.

Please note that the panel do have the right to refuse performing membership.

The next lot of auditions will be held in June prior to the commencement of rehearsals for *Brigadoon*. Thank you

- Kath Sharpham (New Members' Convenor)

Association of Community Theatre Update

After the *Once On This Island* performance at the Parramatta Riverside Theatre, Penny and Adam stayed around for the ACT AGM to support them and see how decisions and ideas suggested here could help our society.

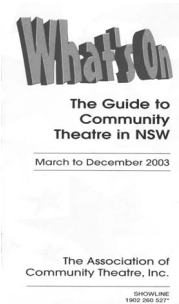
'The Association of Community Theatre was formed in 1993, with the goal of fostering the amateur sphere in Sydney, N.S.W, Australia and around the world.'

It was certainly a very interesting meeting with lots of discussion about OH & S and public liability insurance hassles. It really pointed out to us that

there are a lot of other people going through the exact same problems as we do and it is nice to know that there is an umbrella organisation that we are a member of to help share this burden.

Their big encouragement was to help get information about our shows out to the public and to each society's members. As a result of that, you will find a **What's On** brochure included with this bulletin which gives us all a great opportunity to support other societies and for them to also hear about us. The publication this time was

changed to a yearly format, which sadly meant our *Brigadoon* details missed getting in there, but hopefully they will do a re-print between now and then. Enjoy seeing what other societies are doing and support amateur theatre in Sydney!
www.showline.com.au for more details. - Adam Wilson



Trivia Corner - Which shows are these lines from? Answers next bulletin....

1. 'Come on, Chief. You know I got what it takes. Don't make me brag.'
2. 'Oh, George! I'm shot, George! Who shot me?'
3. 'Ay! Here comes the whole commercial. The mother of Tony was born in Poland, the father was born in America. That makes him an American but us? Foreigners! Lice! Cockroaches!'
4. 'I thought I hated Nathan. I still think I hate him. That's love.'
5. 'I swallowed one.' 'That's okay, I have plenty more.'
6. 'Now that I'm an actress it's Amanda.'
7. 'I'm not an orphan! My parents love me and they're comin' back for me!'
8. 'I'm just an ordinary mother and housewife, just like all you mothers and housewives out there.'
9. 'There's no place like home.'
10. 'Boy, why are you crying?'
11. 'A diamond just fell in the macaroni!'
12. 'Etcetera, etcetera, etcetera!'
13. 'As 'King' of this 'castle' I dub thee knight.'
14. 'I'll get you, my pretty, and your little dog, too!'
15. 'Even if it only lasts from one night to the next, it's the best thing in the world!'
16. 'Who could learn to love a beast?'
17. 'I can do that.'
18. 'I think your dress is the ugliest one I ever saw.'
19. 'To die will be an awfully big adventure'
20. 'Without tradition, life would be as shaky as...'
21. 'Ye Gods!'
22. 'Te adoro Anton'
23. 'It's always darkest just before you turn on the lights.'
24. 'Thank you very much ladies and gentlemen. You're very kind. You know, everyone has someone to thank for their success. Sometimes it's their mother. And sometimes it's their father. Tonight, I would like you all to join me in giving thanks to an uncle of mine and an uncle of yours. The greatest uncle of all time: our Uncle Sam!'

See Member's News - Page 4, for prize details.

Member's News.....



The Verdict is a dramatic /musical presentation of the Easter story which will be held at Eastwood Baptist Church on Easter Sunday, 20 April 2003 at 7.00 pm and Sunday, 27 April 2003 at

7.00pm. Guest Speaker: Leigh Hatcher (TV news reporter). Directed by Tim and Sarah Keith. All welcome. Free admission. Email Sarah for more details at s.keith@pigott.com.au or call them on 9980 1267.

Michael Trinidad

(**Papa Ge** in *Once On This Island*) is appearing in **Les Miserables** with *The Highlands Theatre Group*, March 28 -



April 12 at Mittagong. Prices \$22/\$18 and discounts for 10 or more in a group. Contact Adam Wilson if you would like to be included in a group booking. We wish Michael all the best for this production!



Our best wishes go to **Brad and Kath Buckingham** who have moved to Melbourne. They wanted to pass on their many thanks for the many special times and friends that

EUCMS gave them during their time with us. Let me know if you wish to get some contact details for them.

Elaine Gow asked me to remind everyone that she is the society's Public Relations contact and is also keen to hear of any member's news such as birthdays, births, deaths, engagements, weddings so that the appropriate action such as sending a card can occur. Contact Elaine on 9874 7231. Also contact me



so that this information can be put in the bulletin.



Want to join the EUCMS Email Group? It's free! Here you can stay in touch with members or the cast and crew of the last show, get all the

latest news and society happenings, organise a social event and share any news, questions and thoughts you might have with the group. Simply send a blank email to: **eucms-subscribe@yahoogroups.com** and follow the easy instructions. Once joined, if you want to send a message to the group, send it to: **eucms@yahoogroups.com** For friends, workmates or family that may want to receive EUCMS upcoming show news only, get them to send a blank email to **eucmsnews-subscribe@yahoogroups.com** Any questions? Email Adam Wilson at panda@tig.com.au.



Publicity ideas? We are always looking for new ways to publicise our upcoming shows, so if you have any ideas let Andrew McAlpine (9877 0856) or myself

know. Or if you want to be part of a team or help us cut flyers, write newspaper articles etc, let us know!

The website... have you seen our new website? Have a look at **www.eucms.org** as there is a lot of information on there for the public and for our members. Check out the secret members-only section at:



www.eucms.org/members.html Here we will have specific information that is only relevant to our members. Currently you will find the wonderful effort of Robyn's that details all the key roles of the

production team. Have a read and you might learn something or be inspired to take on one of these roles in an upcoming show.

I believe that a website needs to be changing all the time to make it interesting so I would love to have some help to get information up for previous shows if you feel like some typing, photo scanning and the like.



We welcome back **Patricia Rasker** who has returned from down on the border. Her talent and friendship have been missed and we look forward to her being involved in future shows.

Trivia Corner

prize - answer the questions on Page 3, write them down on paper and include them with your completed questionnaire and from all the correct (or most correct) answers received, one will be selected at random and win a delightful EUCMS coffee mug filled with chocolates. How's that for incentive to get your questionnaires in?



If you can't work out all the answers, EUCMS' 40th Anniversary **Coffee Mugs** are still available for \$5.

Contact an executive member with your order!

Remember to return your questionnaires to an executive member or via post to the address below. The Show Selection Sub Committee will begin meeting soon so your feedback is important!

Our postal address:

EUCMS Inc.
PO Box 246 Eastwood 2122