

From the President

Dear All,

Well, we find ourselves in (what would appear to the outside world) to be the "lull between storms", in quite a few senses of the word. We have farewelled those dashing, but tenderhearted Pirates, and those swooning maidens, but have not yet entered the world of trickery, titillation and trouble of River City Iowa. Similarly, our beautiful city has found herself battered, soaked, frozen and generally roughed up a bit two weekends running. Isn't it always the weekends?

I actually missed some of the meteorological disasters by fleeing the country. I have just come back from a week in Japan, where I spent time with my Host-Family from a year long exchange during high school. Which is starting to look like a scarily long time ago! It was wonderful to see them, and from a EUCMS perspective, it was interesting to note that modern Western musical theatre is currently experiencing a huge surge of popularity across Asia, but particularly across Japan. The week I was there "Wicked" was opening, and "Phantom of the Opera" and "The Lion King" were also playing.

It is phenomenal to see the familiar stages and stories in Japanese - and it reminded me of how the work we do even on our small scale in EUCMS is part of a medium that can offer enjoyment, morals, entertainment and emotional intimacy to peoples all over the world.

Speaking of entertainment, what a whirl of shows it has been over the past few weeks! I was absolutely thrilled to see the final (Sydney) performance of "Pirates of Penzance", and was unspeakably proud of all the cast and crew. Special mention must go to the rather wonderful bottom wiggle of the dashing Pirate King, and to Barry Barton and the men's chorus in the Second Act. I had heard from several sources that it could be a bit nerve-wracking waiting to see how the Police and Pirates would go, but I enjoyed every second of it. Congratulations everyone!

I was also luck enough to see my husband in Chatswood's production of "Oklahoma!" in the same week as Pirates, and for those of you who know John, you would have been proud - I was.

And now, we are heading into the tough end of the season again - choosing a cast and team from our talented pool of members, and the ever increasing number of those who are interested in joining EUCMS, even if only for a season. I wish everyone who has auditions coming up, either with EUCMS or our neighbouring societies, the very best of luck (and get yourselves to the auditions workshop for that special

edge!!).

Next I write, Japan will be but a fond memory (again) and Music Man will be bearing down rather fast. Until then...

Your rather jet-lagged (and currently dreaming in two languages) president,

Sarah

Farewell to Pirates

Now that our faithful pirate ship has sailed over the horizon and all the reformed noblemen (who had gone wrong) are conjugally matrimonified to their beautiful wives, we can say farewell to a very happy and successful season.



Whilst Marsden High School cannot be described as an ideal venue with the make up rooms in another building, the dressing rooms in the dungeons with stone cold floors for a mid winter performance and challenges for staging and lighting, we did have warmly receptive audiences who were very free with their compliments, so we achieved our primary goal of entertaining our patrons, as well as enjoying ourselves.

The "encore" performance at Yeoval was an exciting venture which was most rewarding and thrilling for all those who participated. Our country hosts were generous with their hospitality and their praise and we all had a sense of privilege that we had been able to support some of those who have been doing it tough.

My deepest personal thanks to all my wonderful Cast and Crew for their support and determination to make everything work, whether at MHS or Yeoval and I hope you are all as proud of the end result as I am.

"Away, away, my heart's on fire!"

Elaine

The executive would like to pass on their thanks to the "Yeoval Organising Committee" (officially Jim Murch, Megan Willis and Ben Cosier but assisted by others) for their efforts in organising our "away show". A great deal of effort was also put in by Elaine Gow (who in addition contributed the original concept as well as visiting Yeoval) and Tristram Fieldhouse, plus many others on the weekend itself. In particular we thank Jim who did the bulk of the organising of accommodation, travel, meals and venue, including twice driving to and from Yeoval to sort out every conceivable detail. Thanks also to Ben for organising the "in-flight entertainment" which we know certainly challenged some of those on the bus. It was a fantastic weekend and did nothing but enhance the society's reputation. Well done to all.

The Music Man News

To all those who thought they weren't interested in the next show, let me just twist your arm. What is my angle for directing this show? There is not one part of this show I do not like!



In fact many elements I have wanted in a show are either in this one or have the possibility to be blocked in on stage. There's a barbershop quartet, rhythmic singing, lively dancing, moving romantic songs and such fun characters. It's an all round humorous and enjoyable family affair.

Now there is every possibility that this show could be mediocre if our production doesn't rise to its high level of vitality, brilliant script and strong characterisation. Don't worry! I don't like the cast standing still for too long and keeping the audience entertained on one moment till it's past its due. I intend to capture the audience before they even step into the hall, and my vision is that every person, whether named in the script or not, will play a vital role in developing from stiff 'River Citizens' to a blossoming and generous community. Each character is amusing and comical to play and watch, even in the choreography, which by the way has plenty for the younger folks and the women.

Still not convinced? To get a feel for what the production is like, there are two film versions. I'm sure you can track down an owner of both the 50's copy and the 2002 movie – both with their own unique angle.

Well, I'll see you at auditions!!!

Love, Clare

The Music Man Update

There are still some production roles to be filled, so make sure you contact Clare or Sarah to discuss what your involvement will be.

Auditions: You will find enclosed with this bulletin, the *Music Man* information sheet. Auditions will be 16 and 17 July. We now have a separate date for children - Saturday 21st July, at Lakeside Road, starting at 9.30am. We ask that ALL auditionees ring Megan Willis on 9869 7413 (after 7 pm) to book a time.

If you want specifics of the audition procedure, expectations, questions about roles, the show, etc please contact Clare or Sarah as follows:

Clare Burgess: 0407 087 029 or
princessbride1980@hotmail.com

Sarah Hogan: 9868 5492 or skhogan@tpg.com.au

EUCMS News

2007 Subs Reminder

Have you **paid your \$20 subs** for 2007 yet? This will be your last reminder to do so before your membership lapses this month. Your address label on your envelope will tell you if you are financial or not. You can pay Tristram Fieldhouse in person or post a cheque to: EUCMS, PO Box 246, Eastwood, NSW, 2122. He can be contacted on fieldhouse2121@yahoo.com.sg if you have any questions.

Remember you will need to be a financial member if you intend to be part of *The Music Man*.

New Member

The Executive would like to welcome Bernard Carroll as a non-performing EUCMS member.

Clean-up Day Back On

The new date is 14th July from 10 am for our next clean-up and we will need some strong men there to do all the lifting of the really heavy containers. As we always say, even an hour of your help would be appreciated, so contact Elaine on 9872 6453 or eebeegee@bigpond.com

New Members Auditions

Our next date to bring your friends and family along for new members is 24 July. Contact Niki Barton to register names for this on 9802 9686 or email her at nikibarton@optusnet.com.au

Audition Workshop—THIS FRIDAY NIGHT!

What is it with auditions? Why are we all such confident performers, until the moment we find ourselves in front of an audition panel? What are "they" looking for, and how can I prepare myself to give it the best possible go?

If you've ever asked yourself any of these questions you may like to attend EUCMS next workshop event. Although the executive has chosen a date "between shows", we are not specifically targeting those planning to audition for roles in *Music Man*, and many of the tips and activities could apply to any audition for any show. Singing, acting and acting while singing will be covered, along with aspects such as role selection, preparation (both in the weeks leading up to the audition, and just before you enter the room) and overcoming nerves. There will be lots of advice, some practical exercises and demonstrations, some useful handouts, and yes, some brave souls have volunteered to be guinea pigs!

Andrew McAlpine and Penny Wilson will be running the night on 29th June from 8-11pm. A light supper will be provided. The event will be free to EUCMS members, and a fee of \$5 to cover costs will apply to non-members wishing to attend.

THERE ARE STILL SPACES AVAILABLE TO ATTEND!

Don't miss out on the opportunity to pick up some handy tips - and remember, now that we have some volunteers, the rest of you have nothing to fear!

Please contact Penny on 8812 2575 or via email at ozpanda@optusnet.com.au if you would like to register for this event.

Sewing Workshop

Want to know more about basic sewing techniques and costume making? This workshop will be run by Pam Bland and Barbara Lyle on 18 August starting at 10am and running into the afternoon.

Those interested are asked to bring along your sewing kit such as sewing needles, pins, scissors, measuring tape etc , a pattern and material if you have something you would like to make, otherwise we will supply something for you. We can then talk about 'the art of cutting without using twice as much fabric as you need!'

Yes, men are encouraged to come too!

You can come for part of the day if that's all you can manage, you will still learn something, and bring some lunch with you, otherwise you can go down to the shops. Let Barbara know if you would like to book for the day and if you able to bring a sewing machine with you. You can reach her at bronly2@bigpond.com or phone her on 4997 9630.

Mid-year Church Service

Our Mid-year Church Service is on 12 August. If you are able to assist with preparations or assist on the night, please let Belinda know on 9874 7334.

Our World Vision Child



We have just received an update from our sponsored child Charity Chiyezhi from Zambia. She said in her letter "Dear sponsor, I greet you and your family. Thank you so much." Charity is now in grade 5 at school, is active, loves reading and playing netball. Her family and community are involved with farming.

I will scan the whole annual report, so if anyone would like to read in more detail about the Mwinilunga Area Development Program where Charity lives, please email or ring Adam and he will send you a copy.

Missing Props Book

Our old, battered but well-loved and irreplaceable "props book" has gone AWOL. It is a small yellow "ring-binder" folder containing decades of information about our props. If you have it (obviously for safekeeping) or saw it in the recent past (it used to live under the stage near the paint) please let Jess Allen (9716 6832) or Megan Willis (9869 7413) know, as they will need it for Music Man."

Members' News

In Remembrance

It is with much sadness that we report the death of one of our past staunch members, David Morrisby, who passed away on 19th May, 2007.

David filled many roles in EUCMS, including chorister, principal, stage crew and stage manager and was one of our most tireless workers. With his capacity for invention he made a great deal of difference in the crew, especially with his mate, Fred.

We send our loving sympathy to Jeanette and the family and will remember David for his broad smile and quiet ways.

Our sympathy also is expressed to Melina Broadhouse and Felicity de Bruine whose mother has passed away recently.

Happy 90th!

Congratulations and many happy returns to Ern Sharpham who will be celebrating his 90th birthday in a couple of weeks. Well done and we're eagerly awaiting the century!

Missing Bracelet

If anyone knows of a child's gold bracelet being found at Marsden High School after our Friday performance, could they please contact Robyn Webeck on 9872 7701

More Music Man Information (Wikipedia)

The Music Man is a musical with a book, music, and lyrics by Meredith Willson, based on a story by Willson and Franklin Lacey. In 1957, the show became a hit on Broadway and spawned revivals, a popular film and is still frequently produced by both professional and amateur theatre companies.

The Music Man - Background and productions

After years of development, a change of producers, and more than forty drafts, the original Broadway production, directed by Morton DaCosta and choreographed by Onna White, opened on December 19, 1957 at the Majestic Theatre, where it remained for nearly three years before transferring to The Broadway Theatre to complete its 1,375-performance run. The original cast included Robert Preston (who went on to

reprise his role in the 1962 screen adaptation) as Harold Hill, Barbara Cook as Marian, and Eddie Hodges as Winthrop, with Pert Kelton, David Burns, and Iggie Wolfington in supporting roles. Eddie Albert replaced Preston later in the run.

The original cast recording was released on January 20, 1958 and held the #1 spot on the Billboard charts for twelve weeks, remaining on the charts for a total of 245 weeks.

After eight previews, the first Broadway revival, directed and choreographed by Michael Kidd, opened on June 5, 1980 at the New York City Center, where it ran for 21 performances. The cast included Dick Van Dyke as Hill, Meg Bussert as Marian, and Christian Slater as Winthrop.

After twenty-two previews, the second Broadway revival, directed and choreographed by Susan Stroman, opened on April 27, 2000 at the Neil Simon Theatre, where it ran for 699 performances. The cast included Craig Bierko, making his Broadway debut as Hill, and Rebecca Luker as Marian. Robert Sean Leonard and Eric McCormack portrayed Hill later in the run.

The success of the 2000 revival prompted a 2003 television movie starring Matthew Broderick as Hill and Kristin Chenoweth as Marian, with Victor Garber, Debra Monk, and Molly Shannon in supporting roles.

Awards Won

1957 production:

- Tony Award for Best Musical
- Tony Award for Best Actor in a Musical (Preston)
- Tony Award for Best Featured Actress in a Musical (Cook)
- Tony Award for Best Featured Actor in a Musical (Burns)
- Tony Award for Best Conductor and Musical Director
- Tony Award for Best Stage Technician
- Theatre World Award (Hodges)

1980 production:

- Theatre World Award (Bussert)

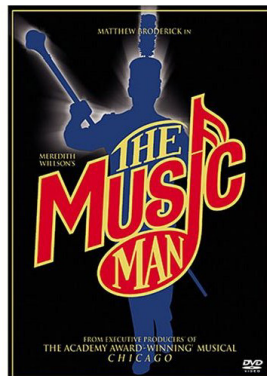
2000 production:

- Theatre World Award (Bierko)

1962 DVD



2003 DVD



Executive Members 2007

President - Sarah Hogan

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Current Director - Clare Burgess

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Next Executive Meeting

9 July at Adam Wilson's house, starts 8pm.

Important EUCMS Dates

29 June 2007	Audition Workshop 8-11pm
16, 17 July 2007	<i>Music Man</i> auditions
21 July 2007	Children in daytime
24 July 2007	New Members Auditions
31 July 2007	<i>Music Man</i> orientation night
3 August 2007	<i>Music Man</i> rehearsals start
12 August 2007	Mid-year Church Service
18 August 2007	Sewing Workshop 10am onwards
9-17 Nov 2007	<i>Music Man</i> performances
8 Dec 2007	EUCMS Christmas Party