

## From the Vice-President

Given the massive contributions of Caroline and Robyn, not to mention every other executive member (and many of our other members, of course) it falls to me as the only member of the Executive committee not involved to express our gratitude to and pride in the efforts of the production team, cast, orchestra and crew of *Anything Goes* on the conclusion of a wonderful, and virtually (literally on the last weekend) sold out season.

This is a phenomenon that needs to be recognised - ticket sales were a little slow in the lead up to the opening of the show, so there is no question that the reason for this outstanding result is word of mouth - you all did a wonderful job, and your audiences on the opening weekend obviously told their friends that EUCMS was presenting a show of such a high standard it was not to be missed!

As even my very little kids chorused (in harmony!) when I asked them what they thought about "Daddy's show" at interval - "It's de-liiiiightful!" Well done, everyone - in very trying circumstances, you have put in a huge effort, onstage, offstage, backstage, up ladders and down in cellars, at Marsden Road, at Galston, in garages and sewing rooms, at rehearsals, at meetings, at working bees and moving days, and the performances you created gave great joy to your audiences. Particularly to Caroline, Robyn, Barb and Megan, but to everyone else as well, our thanks and congratulations.

On another note, may I remind you of a message many of you will have received via email from Robyn recently: In spite of the excellent work done to see that *Anything Goes* made it to the stage, our moving work is not yet finished - we still need LOTS of help to move EUCMS' costumes, props and equipment back to the church. We have set aside 3 weekends to bring everything back (although it did take 6 months to get everything out):

**Saturday 31st October  
Saturday 7th November and  
Saturday 14h November  
are the 3 dates for the BIG MOVE.**

We appeal each and every member, (and members of their family if possible) to put at least ONE of these dates in their diary now and make a commitment to help for a couple of hours. On each of these days we will need help from about 9am - 3pm.

No matter who you are, and what your abilities, there will be a job you can help with. Letting us know now which days and at what times you can be available will help the Homecoming Committee to arrange a schedule

that will ensure your skills are put to use and your time is not wasted. Our plan also involves running a crèche or children's activity for each day, so that couples with children can also be involved; so knowing when they are coming would also be helpful for planning in this area.

At a time like this, when there are no rehearsals to attend, it is easy for something like this to "slip through" and be forgotten, but please be aware that your society NEEDS you for this task - it really cannot be done by just a few. Please consult your calendar and phone Elaine on 9872 6453, or via email [eebeegee@bigpond.com](mailto:eebeegee@bigpond.com) or you can book your available times in electronically via our website to let her know when you can help - and do it before you put your Bulletin aside!

Thanks in anticipation,

Penny

## Anything Goes News

By the time you read this, the S.S. American will have let down its anchor for the last time, all the passengers will be disembarking, and the crew will be making the ship ready for its transformation into something completely different next year!

We have had a hugely successful run of *Anything Goes*, with many of the 8 performances near to or actually sold out - cast and crew, you can be very, very proud of your efforts. It hasn't been easy to move into a new hall, find and iron out the bugs, *and* rehearse and bump in for a show at the same time, but we did it!

HUGE thanks to Megan and Barb for leading such a dedicated, helpful production team, Bernard and his tireless stage crew, Wayne and his amazing lighting crew (who had to cope with a dimmer board dying just before the final dress rehearsal!), Liz and her décor team, Megan Carroll and her makeup team, Shirley and Beth, Adam and everyone who helped with publicity, and all the many other people who contributed to making the show look so wonderful. And again, to Robyn and her talented musicians, Jenny and Rachel for their tireless work on the dancing, and of course Elaine, who helped me out at every step of the way.

And to my wonderful cast - thank you for all your hard work, and I hope you had a ball!

Because I can't say it enough, thank you - thank you - thank you - I've had a blast directing my first production. Now it's time to say "Bon Voyage" again but this time say it to each other as we go our separate ways for a while.

See you all next time!

Caroline

## EUCMS News

### Shows for 2010

The Executive is pleased to announce that Elaine Gow will be the Director of the first show for 2010: **The Gondoliers** by Gilbert and Sullivan, and that Elaine will be joined by Sarah Keith as Musical Director. Expect many more exciting details in your next Bulletin!

The second show for 2010 will be **Guys and Dolls** by Frank Loesser (book by Jo Swerling and Abe Burrows).

### Stagecraft Workshop

The Stagecraft Workshop which was conducted by Stuart Maunder proved to be a great success with all the 45+ members who attended. Stuart gave us plenty to think about and work on for the future and we can only express our sincere thanks to him for giving up so much of his precious time. He has already emailed EUCMS to say how much he enjoyed working with everyone and complimenting us on the amount of talent and enthusiasm which was evident during all three sessions he conducted. Here's looking forward to some really great work onstage in all our future shows.

### Epping Street Fair

Thank you to Adam and his big team of enthusiastic helpers for organising our very popular stall at a new community event. Quite a few tickets were sold and several contacts made with people interested in becoming involved, as audience, crew and performers - some didn't even know there was a Musical Society in the area! A fun and productive day was had by all.

### Storage System

A huge thanks to Steve Mead for all his efforts in sourcing the equipment and then building the new storage system for all our costumes at Eastwood Uniting Church. Future Production Teams and especially Wardrobe Coordinators will be delighted! Thankyou also to the team of helpers - Keith Barry, Toby Ireland, Jeni Lyle, Megan Willis and Adam Wilson - who came down on Friday night to help with the "heavy lifting" in the installation process.

### EUCMS Christmas Party

We are still looking for a venue and also some more willing people to help plan this event on December 12. Please contact Caroline if you can help in either way.

## Members' News

### Broadway to Australia

Several EUCMS members recently attended an Evening with Flaherty & Ahrens, at the City Recital Hall. (Stephen Flaherty and Lynn Ahrens are the composer and lyricist behind many superb modern Broadway

musicals, such as *Ragtime*, *A Man of No Importance*, and notably for EUCMS, *Seussical* and *Once on This Island*). We were blown away by the opportunity to hear these theatre legends chat about their creative process, play and even sing a little of their own work, and have some of their best known songs performed by Australian musical theatre professionals, as well as a chamber orchestra and gospel choir. What a wonderful night! They were brought to Sydney as a stop on the way to a cultural exchange program organised by the University of Tasmania. Next year, the university's music department plans to bring Stephen Schwartz (Composer/Lyricist for *Godspell*, *Pippin*, *Wicked* etc...) out as part of the same program. Those of us who attended would encourage all our fellow members to take advantage of any of these opportunities to broaden our knowledge of the artform we all love! We had a great time... especially the EUCMS member (who will remain nameless) who managed to get herself invited to the after-party for a long chat with the stars themselves... you can see photos on Facebook!

### Your News?

A reminder for members that they can let us know of their news or other items they wish passed onto members via the bulletin. If so, contact Elaine Gow on 9872 6453 or [eebeegee@bigpond.com](mailto:eebeegee@bigpond.com)

### Executive Members 2008

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*Next Executive Meeting: 12 October, 2009*