

## FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

What a busy month it has been for EUCMS! While you might think the break from rehearsals would mean a break for the society as well, many of our members have been busy with lots of activities:

- Guys and Dolls auditions have taken place — the eagerly anticipated cast list appears in this bulletin.
- The mid-year dinner was celebrated in homecoming style — you can read the account in this bulletin.
- Some of our members met to discuss ideas and opportunities for our 50th anniversary celebrations at the open forum — see the special report in this bulletin.
- The Show Selection sub-committee has been very busy choosing an exciting shortlist for the October/November 2011 show (now awaiting your votes in the enclosed questionnaire).

Frankly, some of us are relieved that this break between the shows is over, so we can “just” get back to rehearsals for a while!

Of course, our President is probably not one of this number! Penny will now be more consumed with her role as director – meaning that for the next few months you'll be hearing from her second-in-command.

There is so much going on for EUCMS at the moment. I hope you're all excited about the first chorus rehearsal of Guys and Dolls this Friday night (23 July) and planning how YOU can best get involved in the show! The G&D team needs more than just onstage participants. Check out Penny's report for some of the ways you can help.

Keep an eye on the important dates – there are more every month! The church service (22 August), Curtain Raiser (28 August) and the trivia night (25 September) are all fantastic ways to be involved in the life of EUCMS. There'll also be an opportunity to attend a jewellery fundraising party hosted by Elaine on 9 October – for anyone who loves jewellery or knows someone who does!

Sound like a lot of opportunities? It certainly is, and don't underestimate the amount of work going into organising all these events. The Executive would love your help! The trivia night especially needs volunteers to be part of an organising team. I'm now taking expressions of interest – drop me an email or give me a call.

As mentioned above, questionnaire time is upon us again. You have until the Curtain Raiser (28 August) to return your questionnaire to an executive member. We're also asking for your offers of help with the Christmas party and Christmas church service, the way you'd like to be involved in *Anne of Green Gables* in May/June 2011 – and, of course, for your votes on the October/November 2011 show. We have again given you a choice of three fantastic shows, and will make the decision based on your responses.

We're entering an exciting time in EUCMS' history. Fifty years is a great achievement, and I for one am looking forward to celebrating this milestone. So sit back, have a cup of tea, read the bulletin, and start anticipating all the fun things we've got planned!

*Caroline Reddel,  
Vice President*

## SHOW NEWS

“We got the cast right here...”



Well, that's not strictly true – we've got some terrific people to play most of the roles we auditioned for, but that is less than half a cast – we need a big, enthusiastic supporting cast to really bring the show to life!

A great job was done by all at auditions, giving us some real surprises, and Bec, Clare and I were really impressed with the calibre of “auditionees” from which we had to choose. The cast for Guys and Dolls 2010 to this point is:

- Sky Masterson: Mike Zarate
- Sgt Sarah Brown: Rachael Fullston
- Nathan Detroit: Tim Keith
- Miss Adelaide: Aimee Timmins
- Nicely-Nicely Johnson: Chris Melotti
- Benny Southstreet: James Baguley
- Rusty Charlie: John Kane
- Harry the Horse: Peter Bulfin
- Lt Brannigan: Cliff Watson
- Joey Biltmore: Warren Grzic
- Hot Box Dancers:
  - Caryn Kneale (Mimi)
  - Bronwyn Carroll (Katie)
  - Emma Kershaw (Ruby)
  - Megan Reddel (Rita)
  - Kerri-Ann Wilson (Gracie)

We cannot confirm the role of Big Jule at this stage, although we are hopeful of securing just the man for the role. We also have a few of our “Save-A-Soul” Missionaries - Ian Claridge as Calvin, Delia Zarate as Martha and Melody Newberry as Hannah, but we need lots of our members to join us on stage to create a colourful New York scene - more missionaries, (in particular, some of our senior members) – we still have two quite featured roles outstanding – Sarah's Grandfather, Arvide Abernathy (one solo number) and the impressive General Matilda Cartwright – a featured non-singing role for a lady “of a certain age” who doesn't want to dance and would like a limited rehearsal schedule, as well as a small role which could be cast from

our ensemble – Agatha (ideal for a younger non-dancing lady with comic ability). There is also room for a few other members in the Mission Band – and we can name them as they arrive.

From our ensemble, we also need lots and lots of gamblers – Angie the Ox, Liver-Lips Louie, Society Max, the Greek, Brandy-Bottle Bates, Scranton Slim are just a few of the names we can allocate from the text – and don't they suggest wonderful character development for everyone on stage!

All of these ensemble members will add extra depth and some colourful characters to the "core" roles – we also need a Hostess and some waiting staff for the Hot Box – lots of cameo characters for Runyonland, Guys and Dolls and a few other street scenes, and everyone will have the opportunity of transforming into an exotic Cuban character as well. Please get involved – this is a show full of rare opportunities for developing your characterisation skills, and we need a full and vibrant ensemble to make it work. You wouldn't want to have to change the lyrics to "there are well-heeled shooters here and there"!

In terms of our various production teams, Bec, Clare and I are very grateful for the help being offered by Megan Willis, Cathy Bulfin, Jess Allen and several others in taking on bits and pieces of organisation and liaison work in the absence of a production manager. We have also had offers of help in the make-up team, but we would love someone to offer for leadership of that team, and of the wardrobe department – a lot of the planning and design work is done, but an experienced leader to help with fitting from our existing wardrobe and purchasing of fabrics would also be very helpful.

Looking forward to a great turn-out from our members on Tuesday 20 July for the read/sing through, and on Friday 23 July for the first full rehearsal – you'll get to sing the wonderful "Sit Down, You're Rocking the Boat", so don't miss it! See you there!

*Penny Wilson*

## EUCMS NEWS

### New Members

*Guys and Dolls* has encouraged a large number of new members already! We welcome Ian Claridge, Rachael Fullston, Christopher Melotti, Aimee Timmins and Kerri-Ann Wilson to our ranks.

We also welcome back James Baguley as a performing member, as he has now reached the age required for EUCMS membership, and Delia Zarate, who is of course no stranger to EUCMS as a behind-the-scenes helper, but will now be performing on stage with our society for the first time!

Please note – if you have any friends who still wish to audition as a performing member before *Guys and Dolls* (and as usual, particularly encourage your male friends!), please contact Caroline on 0401 307 088 to see if we can arrange an audition before a rehearsal.

### Mid-year Dinner



The mid-year dinner, a celebration of our homecoming to Eastwood Uniting Church, was enjoyed by 30 of our members on Sat, 26th June.

Some might have thought that we were using the night to recruit new behind-the-scenes folk, as our party games highlighted the many skills of our guests. Our craft game turned up some talented décor

artists, while our scavenger hunt pointed to some future prop finders! Meanwhile, the Name That Show game made good use of all our creative skills.

The evening also featured a fantastic montage of photos of the moving process.

Many thanks to our organising committee: Jess Allen, Cathy Bulfin, Beth Madden, Caroline Reddel, Megan Reddel, Adam and Penny Wilson.

Also thanks to our extra helpers: Stephen Lee, Keith Barry, Minh and Mitch Bryson, Peter Bulfin, Karen Swancott, Megan Willis, and those wonderful people who made desserts and pitched in with serving and cleaning up.

### 50th Anniversary Celebrations Forum

Last Tuesday at the open forum, about a dozen EUCMS members met to brainstorm some ideas for a fantastic 50th Anniversary year.

EUCMS began in 1962, which means this auspicious anniversary is in 2012 (not as far away as it sounds).

There is still time for you to offer your thoughts on what you think should happen as part of the celebrations, and especially to put up your hand to help out.

The executive will be planning the 2012 calendar at our August meeting, so that the foundations will be in place for a fantastic year.

Here is a preview of some of the thoughts we had during the forum, and some of the events you can get excited about:

- A gigantic dinner at a catered venue
- A special thanksgiving service with a light lunch to follow
- A big open day showcasing EUCMS to the public
- Celebrations associated with opening nights of both shows.

There are many more things under discussion, including documenting some of the history of EUCMS – perhaps in a video format – and the potential for other events.

We will also need a focus on publicity – not just to let people in the community know about our milestone, but to get in touch with former EUCMS members to invite them to the events.

If you volunteer to help now, you are not necessarily making a commitment that will last for the next two years! We need people to get the ball rolling on these things – particularly to make sure the dates are set and we have begun the work that will take time, such as contacting former members – but they will not be alone, and they can certainly choose to hand over responsibility to others if necessary.

Can I ask that if you have more suggestions, or if you would like to help out in the initial stages, you contact me in the next week to give me time to make sure the executive is able to make informed decisions about the 2012 calendar in a few weeks' time.

There will be more information in the next Bulletin, and hopefully some more specific ways in which you will be able to help – so stay posted! And get excited. 50 years is a massive accomplishment, and we want to celebrate in style.

*Caroline Reddel*

## Fundraising News

Thank you EUCMS – it looks as though there is going to be a wonderful programme of song, dance and instrumental performances for our Curtain Raiser event on Saturday 28 August – really something for everyone! Make sure you book early, as this is a one night only show. Don't miss out on seeing what your friends can do!

Another reminder – Saturday 25 September is our Trivia Night. Don't forget that we need your help in putting together and then sorting and arranging a "bank" of prizes for winners and for auction on the night. This is one way in which everyone can contribute – whether you join with friends to buy a gift voucher, provide a service, put together a gift basket or track down some of those quality "re-giftables" you haven't used.

Finally, we have another date for you to mark ahead in your diaries/phones/organisers: the EUCMS Tupperware afternoon will be held at Adam and Penny Wilson's home on the afternoon of Saturday 20 November – just in time for Christmas Shopping!

## Anne of Green Gables News

We now have a director for *Anne of Green Gables*. Caroline Reddel has stepped up to the plate and will lead the Production team for this great show. Stay tuned for further announcements about *Anne of Green Gables* later in the year.



## Jewellery party

Ladies (and gentlemen) and friends are invited to a jewellery party on 9 October, from 2:30 pm at Elaine's home. Lovely Christmas gifts to give or spoil yourself. Entry \$5 and lots of afternoon tea, fun and chat. More information later and all profits to the curtain fund.

## NIDA Conference

Just a last minute reminder that the Association of Community Theatre's biennial conference at NIDA is on next weekend 24 and 25 July. They are happy to take last minute RSVPs so please call Adam or Penny on 8812 2575 if you would like to join with others going or get some more information from us. EUCMS' members pay the discounted price of \$80 for a packed weekend of theatre lectures from industry professionals and NIDA staff.

## Induction service for Andrew Williams

An induction service for the Reverend Andrew Williams on his appointment as Secretary to the NSW Uniting Church Synod will be held in the Eastwood Uniting Church Worship Centre on Friday 27 August. EUCMS has been invited to provide a group for a musical contribution. Elaine (9872 6453) would welcome anyone who can help (and who is not involved in rehearsals for *Guys and Dolls*). You must be able to attend rehearsals on Friday 20 August and Monday 23 August at 7:30 pm in the Worship Centre.

For any EUCMS member who is free and would like to attend, Reverend Williams' farewell service will be held on Sunday 1 August at 9:30 am in the Eastwood Uniting Church Worship Centre.

## Christmas party

No, we're not crazy – we want you to add Saturday 11 December to your diaries now! That's the date of the EUCMS Christmas party. We're looking for people who would like to be involved in planning and running this event. Please talk to Caroline if you would like to help.

## Show Selection Shortlisting - Why or why not

The following shows were suggested by members for consideration by the Show Selection Sub-Committee in the February Questionnaire. As promised, here is a list of the shows that were suggested, but not short-listed at this time, along with the reasons we didn't select them at this stage. There are many excellent suggestions here (thanks, everyone!) and you will notice that many of them were only ruled out because of timing – they were too similar to recent or upcoming shows or were unavailable, or financially unviable until we have \$30 000 (or so) worth of Curtain fundraising behind us. Don't be afraid to re-nominate these shows – these situations change, and so does the type of show the executive encourages us to consider.

A further note on another major issue with many of the shows suggested, and one which might make a difference to your decision about whether to re-nominate a favourite show: the Ensemble Show issue... that is, when a show has a small ensemble cast, all principals, sometimes doubling for minor roles, but not using a chorus or allowing for one in the lib and score.

Speaking for the Show Selection Sub-Committee – we love many of these shows, we love the idea of EUCMS being able to present them – they certainly lend themselves well to the “intimacy” of our performance and audience space. The issue is that we have a strong core of members who participate in most shows, but only ever chorus/minor roles, and we don’t feel we can exclude them. Also with smaller casts, and our tendency to sell most of our tickets through the cast, these are financially risky shows if we choose them in place of a show with chorus involvement. But we love these shows. If you do, too, we have a couple of suggestions, based on the models of societies that do them:

SOME (not all) of these shows could lend themselves to the integration of a “larger ensemble” – chorus used sympathetically and effectively as a complement to the cast in particular scenes. This would have to be a carefully thought out choice by Musical Director. If you feel passionately about one of these shows, and you are prepared to put the work into making it feasible, you need to either be (or get on board) a Director and MD, formulate a plan and submit it. We’d then be more than happy to consider it as a Nomination with Team offers, although of course it may not be shortlistable if there are other concerns such as expense, poor “match” with previous show etc.

SOME societies have been able to introduce these smaller ensemble shows as an “extra” show on top of their regular season so that their “chorus” members don’t miss out on doing a show. This is easier for societies that have traditionally had only one show per year (NUCMS) but not impossible. Again, it would need a very committed person to assemble a whole team (Director, MD, PM, accompanist, set, décor, costume, orchestra etc...) prepared to work on a tight budget and mainly off-site (we can’t afford to book the hall more often, but at least with a small cast, you can use a small rehearsal venue, and let’s face it, we’ve done lots of off-site construction and décor recently) and then “bump in” after one of the regular May/June or Oct/Nov seasons, for a production in July or late Nov/early Dec. It’s been pretty hard to come up with complete teams for even our regular shows, but if this is something you are passionate about, it’s worth approaching the exec with either a plan, or your questions about what would be involved, and if a whole group is passionate enough, they may find the resources to do it.

The three shows short-listed for your consideration this time were:

***Annie Get Your Gun***

***Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat***  
***South Pacific***

Much more about each of these in your questionnaire – please read it, fill it out and return it to an executive member as soon as you can.

Remember there is an electronic version on our website!

In alphabetical order, the following shows were also suggested, but not chosen for short-listing at this time :

***A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*** (ensemble show)

***A Year With Frog & Toad*** (small ensemble)

***Annie*** (wouldn’t pair well with *Anne of Green Gables*)

***Blitz*** (explored - nice show for the future, but too unfamiliar to sell at the moment)

***Calamity Jane*** (too similar to *Annie Get Your Gun*)

***Caroline*** (about Caroline Chisholm – a little hard to sell at the moment)

***Cinderella*** (explored - Delightful, but too similar in appeal to *Anne of Green Gables*)

***Evita*** (explored - unavailable)

***Into the Woods*** (ensemble)

***Jesus Christ Superstar*** (Currently in rehearsals at RLE, Hornsby - too many, too recent)

***Kiss Me Kate*** (a bit too similar in style to *Anything Goes*)

***Les Misérables*** (On hold because of possible professional production for the next two years)

***Little Women*** (ensemble)

***Lucky Stiff*** (ensemble)

***Me & My Girl*** (significantly lower votes – please re-nominate)

***The Merry Widow*** (explored - nice operetta, but not right for the time if we are considering G&S first show 2012)

***The Mikado*** (too soon after *Gondoliers*, but we are considering a G&S for 2012)

***My Fair Lady*** (A bit expensive for the moment)

***Oklahoma!*** (Still feels a bit recent – wait awhile)

***Oliver*** (Hills too recent)

***The Pirates of Penzance*** (Too recent)

***The Secret Garden*** (wouldn’t pair well with *Anne of Green Gables*)

***Singing in the Rain*** (Too expensive at the moment)

***Spelling Bee*** (small ensemble)

***The Wiz*** (explore – but too expensive at the moment)

***The Wizard of Oz*** (too expensive at the moment)

***The Yeomen of the Guard*** (G&S)

## MEMBERS’ NEWS

Congratulations to Andy Myles and Rachel McGregor, who have announced their engagement.



## YOUR NEWS?

If you have something to share please contact Elaine Gow on **9872 6453** or at **eebeegee@bigpond.com** so we can include it in the next Bulletin. **All items for the Bulletin must be received before the next Executive meeting (9 August).**

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Join our official EUCMS email list by sending a blank email to: **eucoms-subscribe@yahoogroups.com**.

Or join our members' chat list by sending a blank email to: **euchat-subscribe@yahoogroups.com**.

Next Executive meeting: 12 July at Adam & Penny Wilson's house, starts 8pm.

**IMPORTANT 2010 DATES**

<b>20 July</b>	Read-through for <i>Guys and Dolls</i>
<b>23 July</b>	First rehearsal for <i>Guys and Dolls</i>
<b>24-25 July</b>	ACT NIDA conference
<b>22 August</b>	EUCMS annual church service
<b>27 August</b>	Induction service for Andrew Williams
<b>28 August</b>	Curtain Raiser fundraiser
<b>25 September</b>	Trivia Night
<b>9 October</b>	Jewellery Party
<b>29 October</b>	Opening night for <i>Guys and Dolls</i>
<b>30 October</b>	Matinee and evening performances for <i>Guys and Dolls</i>
<b>5 November</b>	Second Friday evening performance for <i>Guys and Dolls</i>
<b>6 November</b>	Matinee and evening performances for <i>Guys and Dolls</i>
<b>12 November</b>	Final Friday evening performance of <i>Guys and Dolls</i>
<b>13 November</b>	Final matinee and <i>closing night</i> for <i>Guys and Dolls</i>
<b>20 November</b>	Tupperware party

*Put the calendar on your fridge!*