

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Bravo e brava!

The absolute first thing I need to do this month is to give hearty congratulations to Elaine, Sarah and Jess and all of the cast, crew, team and orchestra on the wonderful achievement that was *The Gondoliers* 2010! What a gorgeous production, and how well it was received by our appreciative audiences. I was lucky enough to be in the atrium for a number of shows (and in the audience for one or two) and I can attest that EUCMS' record of "most consecutive number of shows deemed by an audience member to be the best they've ever seen" continues to be extended! Well done by all!

In a special side note, there is some lovely poetry in the fact that, just as *The Gondoliers* was the first EUCMS production to be directed by Elaine, she announced at the after party that this sparkling show was also her final one (as director – fear not, EUCMS, she assures us she isn't going anywhere and will continue to be very much involved — what would we do without our inaugural "Hall of Famer"?). I know this is news that will disappoint many of our members, and our audiences, who have so enjoyed the deftness with which Elaine has created so many memorable shows, but as one of the recent directors who has learned so much from her (and undoubtedly will continue to do so, just no longer by example), I must say the laurels on which she now rests are thoroughly well deserved.

You may well feel that you'd like the opportunity to offer her special congratulations on hearing this news, or that you'd like to reminisce with EUCMS friends about the "Elaine shows" you've been part of or enjoyed. Although Elaine is very clear that she doesn't want a huge fuss made, let me suggest that the mid-year dinner, held at our own Eastwood Uniting Church, with the appropriate theme of "Homecoming", is approaching very quickly – please see the article below, and RSVP immediately, or before if possible!

Now is also the time to RSVP for the Curtain Raiser on Saturday, 28 August. This may seem early, but we need to set a closing date for submission of acts, to organise our accompanist(s) and the APRA licenses we will need. That date is Sunday 4 July – please see the article below. I have heard informally from several members who are planning their performances, but many of you have not yet responded. PLEASE don't think your contribution won't be missed – we need you, and we need you to bring friends and family along to watch. Enclosed are some copies of a flyer – make good use of them, so we can entertain a full hall on the night!

As another part of our fundraising effort, please set aside the night of Saturday 25 September, and get together a table of friends for a Trivia Night, to be held at Eastwood Uniting Church hall. More details will follow in next month's bulletin, but importantly, we are now appealing to you to help us build a "prize bank" for the night.

Please see the article below for suggestions on how you can contribute. Let me just say in passing, how generous our audiences for *The Gondoliers* were! I had many people tell

me how much they appreciate our shows, and our work in contributing to charity. They were also very understanding of the need to make this break from tradition, in raising funds to renew the curtains, and contributed, over 7 performances, very close to \$500. At times I find it awkward myself, to feel that we are asking so much of our members, and of our community – but it was a reassuring experience to learn just how worthwhile people find what we do. So I am emboldened again to ask you to dig deep – in standing up to be part of the Curtain Raiser, and in contributing to (and planning to attend) the Trivia Night.

Have you been thinking about the future of EUCMS? Your executive has! Another date to set aside is Tuesday 13 July, for the 50th Anniversary Celebration Forum – the opportunity we promised for you to contribute ideas, comments and/or offers of help for activities to be held in 2012. Starting at 8pm, it won't be a late evening, but it will be a valuable opportunity to help shape the celebrations and make the events what you would like them to be. The convenor for the evening will be our Vice President, Caroline Reddel, so if you are unable to attend, but would like your ideas to be added to the mix, or if you would like to help out on the night with setting out the tables, compiling notes, helping with supper etc, please contact her (cazthelion@hotmail.com or 9449 4561).

There is also an "optional" (as in not specifically EUCMS – all EUCMS events being compulsory!) event coming up – you'll find with this bulletin a brochure for the NIDA/ACT Conference, held biannually to support Community Theatre in NSW. This is a tremendously valuable opportunity for all of us to gain ideas, knowledge and the experience of workshops led by theatre professionals, at prices which are a real bargain, thanks to our membership of the Association of Community Theatre, and its patron, Nancye Hayes. If you are free on the weekend of 24 -25 July, I can't recommend it highly enough.

Lastly, also for the future of EUCMS – is some advanced warning — your second Questionnaire for 2010 is coming out next month! It will again present you with a shortlist of shows drawn from your suggestions by the Show Selection Subcommittee and approved by the Executive, so that you can vote for the show to be announced as our second production for 2011. You'll also have the opportunity to indicate how you'd like to be involved with the already announced shows – unfilled positions for *Guys and Dolls* and participation in all aspects of *Anne of Green Gables*, as well as to volunteer for lots of other EUCMS events, such as church services and dinners. But you'll also need to put on your thinking caps, so that you can give the Show Selection Subcommittee lots of ideas for other shows you'd like to nominate, although there may be some special guidelines, because this time we'll be asking you to think about shows you'd like to see EUCMS do for 2010 – the big 50th Anniversary Year!

All the blessings,

Penny Wilson,
President



Arrivederci Venice

What an exhilarating journey we have been on in our gondolas!

So many lovely friendships forged, so many wonderful working relationships, so much fun along with some anxious moments - (throat gremlins!) - but so much camaraderie and support which took us from a group of individuals to a well oiled working company.

Our patrons have been most appreciative, not only of the performances, but the welcoming folk who staffed front-of-house, and set the mood for receptive audiences. I have received many positive and complimentary remarks about the show and I know that others have experienced this also.

I would especially like to thank those stalwarts who came each Friday to set up the hall, stage and backstage areas ready for the weekend's performances.

My wish for Penny and Rebecca is that you will have as memorable an experience with "Guys & Dolls" as we have had with "The Gondoliers"

Once again to all my fantastic company I quote an unknown author - "I would thank you all from the bottom of my heart but for you my heart has no bottom".



Sincerely, Elaine

EUCMS NEWS



How goes it with you, EUCMS?

Nicely, nicely, I hope! Welcome everyone, to the beginning of what I hope will be an extremely enjoyable

season of preparing to present one of Broadway's greatest classics.

Guys and Dolls is based on the stories of Damon Runyon, whose tribute to the New York he knew and loved was a big part of building the international reputation of the Theatre District. I'm so looking forward to this show, called by critics over the last half-century or more the "essential musical" and the "perfect marriage of song and scene". I hope you are all looking forward to being involved as well. Let me tempt you with just a couple of the highlights from our Orientation Night last Tuesday, attended by about 30 members, all of whom supped on cheesecake and strudel afterwards (a G&D in-joke – do the show to find out why!).

Some of the classic Broadway comedy roles

Miss Adelaide, Nathan Detroit, Nicely-Nicely Johnson and some great "stretching" roles (Sister Sarah Brown, Sky Masterson) allow performers who love acting the opportunity to show a lot of versatility, as well as many other singing and non-singing character roles, and plenty of

opportunity for everyone in the ensemble to play distinct, developed characters rather than a featureless "chorus".

A show full of big Broadway classics

If singing is your "thing", the show is chock-full of big Broadway classics for the whole cast – the title song, "Luck Be a Lady", "Sit Down, You're Rocking the Boat", "A Bushel and a Peck", among others. Added to these are some wonderful solos, duets, and trios like the very funny "Adelaide's Lament", "If I Were a Bell", and "Marry the Man Today", the love-hate-love duets from both leading couples, "Sue Me", "I'll Know" and "I've Never Been in Love Before", the clever and harmonious "Fugue for Tinhorns" (you might know it as "I've Got the Horse Right Here") and the beautiful lyrical poetry of "My Time of Day". Any of these numbers would be at home in a "best of Broadway" compilation.

Some of the most memorable dance scenes in Broadway history

If *Anything Goes* – and the Cachuca for that matter, had your feet itching for a dance, then *Guys and Dolls* has some of the most memorable dance scenes in Broadway history – almost the whole cast can be involved in the big choreographed scenes such as "Runyonland", "Guys and Dolls" and the flamboyant Latin party number that degenerates into a brawl in "Havana". Then there are the classic burlesque numbers for the girls in the Hotbox scenes, and the men have the wonderful "story-dances" of "The Oldest Established" and "Crapshooters Dance".

A brief synopsis

The story itself is wonderful – "a musical fable of Broadway", to quote the subtitle. A fable has been defined as "truth told through the eyes of a lover", so this love story about – and love song to – the New York of the early 50's, is intended to be told with rose-coloured realism.

Here's an outline: two gamblers, one engaged for 14 years and never ready to give up gambling and get married (Nathan Detroit, engaged to Miss Adelaide, star of the Hot Box cabaret), and one who just prefers "aces back to back" over a real relationship with a woman (Sky Masterson), make a bet. Sky boasts that he can win any girl of Nathan's choosing, and Nathan chooses a Salvation Army type missionary (Sister Sarah Brown), who detests gambling and distrusts gamblers, but turns out, of course, to be the ideal woman he never thought he'd meet.

There are complications, misunderstandings, gangsters and side trips to Cuba and to the sewers beneath the city, but ultimately, everything works out for the two sets of lovers.

The show is full of hope, and a determined belief that everyone – the silliest showgirl, the most hardened gambler, and even the coldest, most moralistic "religionist" can grow, and be transformed into someone who is open to faith, relationship and redemption. If you'd like a (much) fuller synopsis, go to the EUCMS website, on the Current Show page and click on "Story and Vision".

Meet the team

The team is also slowly building to be impressive, too. Joining myself and Bec Kimpton as Musical Director, are

Clare Burgess as Choreographer, Andrew McAlpine as Assistant Musical Director, and Andy Myles as rehearsal and show pianist. Thanks so much, everyone! Keith and the crew have already started modifying the Gondoliers set, translating Venice to New York, and the door of the palace to a subway entrance with a news kiosk inside. Liz McCann has signed on for décor to help with the transformation, and will be looking for some willing helpers.

There are many roles still to be filled, however, so if you can't be onstage, there are many ways you can help – wardrobe, make-up and hair, staging and technical areas, and of course, we still need a Production Manager. Bec, Clare and I have parcelled out a lot of the responsibilities between us, but there needs to be someone on hand to answer questions and facilitate the needs of the various backstage teams while we are running rehearsals, and also to be the person to contact if you want to volunteer for a position! In the meantime, please, please give me a call if you think you can fill this, or any other role (8812 2575).

If I've tempted you enough that you don't want to miss out on being on stage for this, EUCMS' first production of one of the all time greats, book in with Bec (0402 970 666) for an audition slot on Tues 22 or Wed 23 June. Character notes and audition requirements are on the EUCMS website (if you didn't get yours with last month's Bulletin) and Bec can give you instructions for accessing audition materials, too. Girls wishing to be part of the "Hot Box" dance troupe also need to attend a dance audition at that time.

Read-through is Tuesday 20 July and first full cast rehearsal is Friday 23 July. We open on Friday 29 October, and run until Saturday 13 November, with matinees each Saturday – a total of nine shows! Get excited, and get involved!

"If you're looking for action, We'll furnish the spot!" See you there!

Penny

Mid-year dinner

The mid-year dinner is approaching rapidly! This is a great chance for us to share a meal and a night out together in a relaxed, fun atmosphere in the performance "off-season".

This year, we celebrate our homecoming to Eastwood Uniting Church with a catered dinner in the hall itself!

Where: Eastwood Uniting Church

When: Sat, 26 June, 2010, 6:30 pm

Cost: \$25

RSVP: by Wednesday 23 June at www.eucms.org.au/members.html or to Caroline Reddel at 9449 4561 / 0401 307 088

Partners welcome!

Can you help?

We need people to help set up the hall, or to set up or pack away just one course on the night.

We are also looking for anyone who has photos of the moving process out of the hall or back again. If you

have any, please contact Megan Reddel at 9449 4561 or megan_reddel@yahoo.com.au

Trivia night

Saturday 25 September will be EUCMS next big night of fun (and fundraising), when we hold a trivia night and auction for members, families and friends of EUCMS. For those a little nervous, don't worry – it's not going to be all about musical theatre – it's a night for everyone, and will feature some fun new types of questions, some games and an auction as well. Please plan to attend, and to get together a table of experts to join you!

There will be a flyer for you to hand around, and RSVP details in next month's bulletin, but we need to announce it to you now, not just so that you could get your "Brains Trust" together, but also so that you can think about ways you can help with the preparations or contribute to the prize pool for the evening.

We'd like to make the prizes as attractive as we can without cutting into the funds raised for the curtains, so if there is anything you can offer for either the auction or for other prizes on the night, please let us know as soon as possible.

Our plan is that the prizes for the winning tables (possibly the last place table as well) would be big baskets full of goodies to be divided among the team, so if you feel like you could donate anything – boxes of chocolates, nice toiletry items for men or women... (the kind of thing you'd find in the kind of gift basket you'd like to receive) that is one way you can contribute.

The auction will be for slightly more impressive, (and harder to share) items. For example, one family has already told us they will be contributing some Gold Class movie tickets, but you could also consider gift vouchers for local shops or restaurants, or even services (your own, if perhaps you run a family business, or those of someone you know – the auction would be an opportunity to give them a little publicity as well)! You may also have some quality unused items you have received as doubled-up Christmas presents – you didn't want to re-gift them, but you don't need them either ... that sort of small electrical appliance or nice giftware would be great as well.

We also plan to approach some of the local businesses in the area, explaining who we are, how we contribute to charity and asking for possible contributions from them, so if you feel that the best way you could help is by joining a team to help canvas the shops, we'd love to hear from you.

You don't need to bring in the items you'd like to contribute just yet, (that is something that can probably happen at the Curtain Raiser, or at a rehearsal or other event in August) but we need to know in advance the sort of things we can offer as prizes so we can promote the event, and we also need to know that we have a team of people prepared to take on jobs like canvassing for prizes as noted above, or sorting and arranging gift basket prizes, or helping with the computer presentation or scorekeeping work.

If you feel like you can help with any of these tasks, or if you have (or can pledge in advance) contributions for the prize pool, please contact Penny (8812 2575 or ozpanda@optusnet.com.au).

Curtain Raiser

The time has come to register your act for this fun night!

I've had a few people approach me with questions and ideas, but because we need to apply for APRA licensing for each song we use, because people wanting a pianist to accompany them need to give plenty of notice for the pianist to learn the sheet music, and finally because we need to start putting together the programme, we need to hear from you officially. The deadline for submitting an act is Sunday, 4 July.

So think hard – you can sing solo, duet, trio or small group, you can act in a scene or a monologue, recite a poem, do a stand-up comedy act or play an instrument, dance alone or in a group, perform something you've done before or something you've always wanted to do.

Please be involved – that really means you! Not one member of EUCMS, young or old, is unwanted for this event. Your act will contribute to a fantastic night of entertainment and friendship, and will really help us raise the money for the new curtains without compromising our contributions to charity.

Both active members and those who we'd love to see on stage just one more time are warmly encouraged to register a performance, simply by phoning Penny on 8812 2575 or emailing ozpanda@optusnet.com.au with:

- the name of your song/performance/item (we need to organise an APRA licence because this is not a free concert)
- the numbers involved and whether you would prefer to use a backing track or a live pianist (if so, please send a copy of the sheet music).

As a reminder, your rehearsal commitments, costumes, props, make-up etc. are really your own to sort out – once we develop the programme, you will only need to attend one of the two rehearsals to be held in the week leading up to the night, to confirm timings, and give stage crew a chance to work out any kinks in the flow of the evening.

Please also invite as many friends, family and colleagues as you can; we'd really like the evening to be sold out!

The registration fees and ticket prices are as follows:

Performers: \$10 for registration regardless of age, plus \$15 for a seat for the rest of the show.

Non-performer: \$20.

Child/Pensioner (Non-Performing): \$15

No longer financial?

Check the bulletin label on your envelope to see your current financial status. If you are unsure of your status, please contact Lynn, our Treasurer, and she will be able

to tell you (kbandlb@optusnet.com.au or 9871 6869). If you intend to be involved with *Guys and Dolls*, you will need to be a financial member. For those no longer financial, this will be the last bulletin posted to you.

ACT NIDA Conference

Please find enclosed a leaflet for the upcoming Association of Community Theatre conference over the weekend of 24/25 July 2010.

This exciting program is for performers, directors, producers and backstage workers. The venue is Australia's premier theatre school.— the National Institute of Dramatic Art, NIDA, Kensington.

Guest speakers during the weekend will be a combination of NIDA staff, theatre professionals and community theatre leaders. The keynote speaker is distinguished actor and producer Simon Gallaher. Nancye Hayes will also be involved. Our members have been to this event in the past and it is a fantastic opportunity to work with some of the best professionals in Australia for the weekend. I am sure Penny would love to see lots of her cast there to learn – there's even a session on accents!

Conference only for EUCMS Members is \$80.00, Conference and Saturday Dinner for EUCMS Members is \$120.00. Please speak to Penny Wilson (8812 2575) if you plan to attend so we can work out logistics of getting there etc.

INSPIRE 2010

You are invited to an evening of inspiration in support of Christians Against Poverty.

Come and enjoy a delicious meal with friends, fun and music, and see and hear about the amazing local work of CAP from John Kirkby, Founder and International Director.

When: Saturday, 17 July, 2010

Time: 7pm (pre-dinner drinks from 6.30pm)

Where: The Ballroom, Epping RSL Club, Rawson St, Epping

Dress: Smart casual

Cost: \$50 per person

RSVP: to Alison Buttenshaw (02) 4914 0523 or Alison.Buttenshaw@capaust.org

EUCMS has donated some *Guys and Dolls* tickets for a silent auction at this event and we encourage EUCMS members to come along and support this worthy cause.

MEMBERS' NEWS



Congratulations and best wishes to Bess and Andrew Yager on the birth of Timothy James. We wish this lovely little new family all the blessing in the world.

Get well soon

We send get well wishes to Bernard Carroll who has had a short stint in hospital and to Phillip Bongers who has managed to break three ribs — not, I am pleased to say, as the result of steering a gondola! We hope you both feel better soon!



Arrivederci!

Bon Voyage(r) to Jess Allan as she sets off for Venice and other ports European. Come back soon with lots of great memories.

Also to Jenny & Denys Gillespie who are setting off for the UK with the Sydney Philharmonia Choir. Safe travel!

Members onstage



Best wishes to Minh and Mitch, who are fighting their Gondoliers withdrawal symptoms in rehearsals for *The Mikado*, with Savoy Arts Company. The season runs over August/September 2010. We hope Japan is as rewarding a place to visit as Venice was!

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 (12 July).**

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS 2010

President/Current Director - Penny Wilson

Ph: 8812 2575 ozpanda@optusnet.com.au

Vice President - Caroline Reddel

Ph: 8812 2575 ozpanda@optusnet.com.au

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9638 4702 jenitaylor74@hotmail.com

Business Secretary - Megan Willis

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Treasurer - Lynn Bock

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Property Officer - Keith Barry

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Floor Member - Elaine Gow

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Floor Member - Adam Wilson

Ph: 8812 2575 ozpanda@optusnet.com.au

Floor Member - Cathy Bulfin

Ph: 9945 0305 cbulfin@cch.com.au

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Phone: 02 8061 7195 **Website:** www.eucms.org.au

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

Or join our members' chat list by sending a blank email to: euchatsubscribe@yahoogroups.com.

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

IMPORTANT 2010 DATES

26 June	Mid-year dinner
4 July	Deadline for act submissions for <i>Curtain Raiser</i>
13 July	50th Anniversary Celebration Forum
20 July	Read-through for <i>Guys and Dolls</i>
23 July	First rehearsal for <i>Guys and Dolls</i>
24-25 July	ACT NIDA conference
28 August	Curtain Raiser fundraiser
25 September	Trivia Night
29 October	Opening night for <i>Guys and Dolls</i>
30 October	Matinee and evening performances for <i>Guys and Dolls</i>
5 November	Second Friday evening performance for <i>Guys and Dolls</i>
6 November	Matinee and evening performances for <i>Guys and Dolls</i>
12 November	Final Friday evening performance of <i>Guys and Dolls</i>
13 November	Final matinee and <i>closing night</i> for <i>Guys and Dolls</i>