

# 5 MINUTE CALL

the theatre onset newsletter April/May 2015

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"Acting is all about honesty. If you can fake that, you've got it made" George Burns

## THEATRE ONSET/IN THEATRE'S INDIAN EPIC

The Indian epic, *The Ramayana*, is well underway. After a very slow start we are now gaining momentum as cast and musicians grapple with the fact of having to produce an all-acting, all-dancing musical extravaganza by the end of May. 20 actors and 5 musicians from Sapphire Coast Anglican College, Bega High School, Lumen Christi and homeschoolers from Years 7-12 have committed to the show under the direction of Mahamati, musical direction of Rachelle Blick and choreographic direction of Cassia Jamieson.

The story is an Indian classic - Rama, the personification of perfect manhood, who is also Vishnu made into physical form - is banished from the Kingdom of his father, King Dasharat. Sita, his beautiful wife who is the personification of all that is good and virtuous in a woman, goes with him and so does his brother Lakshman, who is the personification of all that is good and loyal in a friend/brother. They spend 14 years in banishment. In the last year of exile they meet Hanuman, the Monkey God, who is destined to help Rama in his (unknown by him) quest to defeat the Demon King, Ravana. Ravana steals Sita and this gets up Rama's nose so with the help of Lakshman, Hanuman, his Monkey Brother Sugreev and their fabulously well-trained army of monkeys they go to battle Ravana and his Demon horde on the beautiful and plump island of Lanka. Guess what happens? In our Theatre Onset/In Theatre version of *The Ramayana*, our hero and his friends are perhaps not the true personification of all that is good, but they are very entertaining and will be more so by the time the play is performed.

### **FUN FACTS!**

\*Four of the cast and crew were in a production of *The Ramayana* in 2008 at Mumbulla School - Pippi Watt-Meek, Lhotse Collins, Julien Comer-Kleine and Cassia Jamieson. Mahamati was a musician for that production and Rachelle was the director/choreographer!!!

\*The current Drama teacher at SCAC is Tim Dowman who in his youth was part of Theatre Onset's *The Legacy of Uncle Walter* (a cult classic in its time) and maybe an In Theatre production or two (**he can't remember!**). But he was instrumental in sending such a large and talented contingent of SCAC students to be in the play!!!

\*Cassia is a long-time member of fLiNG and completed BHS Year 12 last year!!!

### **Dates & info to remember:**

**Venue:** Bega High School hall

**Time:** 7:30pm

**Dates:** Friday 29 May, Saturday 30 May, Thursday 4 June, Friday 5 June, Saturday 6 June.



*The Ramayana cast: Back row, L to R: Sara, Molly, Pippi, Kelsey, Connor, Jordan, Tia, Lachy, Tycho, Steph. Front row: Quendy, Abbie, Indigo, Georgia, Lhotse, Sasha, Emmyt. Missing: Jess, Pixie, Jade, Lotty, Julien.*

## NIC'S BIT

The word's been around for a while now that if you were looking for a quality product, the small screen rather than the big one was the place to peer. People use shows such as *Mad Men* and *Breaking Bad* to prove their point. Put such shows alongside; say *The Sopranos* and the like and those critics have a point.

But, and it's a big but, we're still watching series where characters come fully formed at the beginning of each episode. In structural terms the vital first act is missing and we're the poorer for it. How else could any broadcaster get away with 725 episodes of *Midsomer Murders*? We're invited to watch virtually the same show over and over again. Even the direction falls into a neat package.

Back in what we now call the golden age of television the BBC staged the Thursday Night Theatre, a new television play each week. The result was writers like Denis Potter and Ray Galton and Alan Simpson and yes, yes I know they eventually morphed into series like *The Singing Detective* and *Steptoe and Son* but before that there were plays like *Brimstone and Treacle* which actually invited, no forced, its viewers to make a moral judgement.

Now, what's this I see? Could it be light at the end of the tunnel? Recently the ABC gave us (twice in the same night do you mind) *Cyberbully*. Didn't see it? No, not the do gooder- isn't-this-bullying- thing- terrible, sort of pap but a real live well written, superbly performed and directed standalone television play. Two principal characters, one a young girl the other the disembodied flat simulated voice of a computer, actually went on a journey. Nobody pulled a gun no one chased anyone in a car or up and down a fire escape; in fact nobody left the claustrophobic bed room.

SBS ran and has re-run *Black Mirror*, individual plays but each conforming to the concept of exploring the darker side of technology, but boy, were they thought provoking. Hey, who would ever have thought we'd say that about a television play? Perhaps the wheel is turning.