

IN THIS  
NEWSLETTER

News of  
Season 2011

Spider-Man  
Flies, just

Pic wrap of  
Bites

On Other  
Stages

NT Live  
At Narooma

ENTRY FORM  
FOR  
PLAYWRITING  
CONTEST

MEMBERSHIP  
2011

FIRST 2011  
MEETING  
WED JAN 19  
AT BECKY  
AND JAMIE'S  
121 EAST ST  
6.30

# ACTORS IN THE GARDEN

The bulletin of Theatre Onset inc  
PO Box 91 Bega 2550 (p) 64926117

December 2010  
(e) mahamati@internode.on.net

## MUCH TO LIKE IN BITES

There was plenty to like about Bites. Paul Hossack turned out to be a first rate stage manager. Jillian mastered the art of lighting tech, Niamh had nerves of steel when it came to managing a complex sound plot and we uncovered some great new acting and directing talent. Better yet we really felt like a company with each and every

## THIS HAPPY BREED... MOST OF TH BITES FAMILY JUST BEFORE BUMP OUT



member supporting and congratulating their fellow actors. No one shirked the bump out, which was completed in record time, and we had our share of drama. How about Denise and Paul juggling the need to be with a daughter ill in hospital with the responsibilities of making sure the show went on? And when Paddy, urged and abetted by rev-head Jillian, had his little brush with a windscreen it gave a bewigged Mahamati a chance to swap blood for a Bloody Mary as understudy of the year.

Howard Stanley and David Lamb not only gave us a polished piece of theatre but linked us to Bermagui and once again we enjoyed the patronage of our friends at Footprint Theatre. Audiences liked the show (door takings more than doubled in the second week of the run) and we made a modest profit. We even scored a complimentary letter to the editor.

We hope to see much more of 'new' members Paul, Denise, Mary and Suzanne. In Theatre 'graduates' Maddy, Niamh, Rory, Paddy and Alby were a joy to work with and all of us had a great time.

Many, many thanks to all concerned.



*Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous new  
year to all our friends in theatre*



**Auditions,**  
**THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES**  
Mid February production  
Call Mahamati 64926117

See the NTL season at Narooma

Thank Scott Hailstone. He's the one who discovered that Narooma's Kinema is one of only four places in rural NSW where you can see the NT Live performances. These are productions of the UK National Theatre Company filmed, as a play not as a film, in high definition and screened on a strictly limited basis at selected spots around the world.

Scott organised for a group of us to see Theatre Complicite's production of *A Disappearing Number*. The impact was, in a word, stunning. The production gives you the feeling of walking into one of the UK's great theatre's. In this case it was the Theatre Royal in Plymouth. My guess is that the theatre seats about a thousand. There was not a spare seat in the house and, incredibly, you felt as though you were part of that huge audience. Throughout the production you were part of the audience reaction to what was a stunning production, all the more odd because our actual theatre was tiny, just 29 seats.

Next production is *Hamlet*, 15, 16 January and throughout the year an African dance company with *Fella*, *Lear*, *The Cherry Orchard* and *Frankenstein*, all by either the National Theatre Company or other top production houses.

Just 29 seats available and only two showings possible so bookings are a must but they should be part of your 2011 theatre calendar.

Some Things were never meant to fly.

*Spider-Man Turn off the Dark* has assumed the mantle of Broadway's most expensive show. At a whopping \$US 65m it has cost more than twice as much as *Shrek the Musical* and its first preview night must have had backers chewing their nails.

Lift off in the 1,900 seat theatre was set for 6.30 but didn't happen until 24 minutes later and then at 7.23 Spider-Man hit the fly paper and there was a ten minute break while he was freed from the flying harness. Then, just before interval after our hero had scooped up the heroine and was supposed to fly to the galleries he stopped in mid-air over the audience while stage hands tried to grab him by the foot and bring him back to earth.

It wasn't the only technical hitch. The audience started a slow clap two hours into the show and there were audible complaints from the house and since some of them had paid \$140 for a ticket that's not surprising. The curtain finally came down at 10.09 allowing a not too enthusiastic audience to file out.

Creative team for Spider-Man includes Bono and the Edge who wrote the score and Julie Taymore, who directed *The Lion King*. Previews had already been delayed for two weeks by technical problems at a cost of \$US4m and the show is expected to open, glitch free hopefully, on Jan 11. (sourced from a NY Times article).

### **BEST PLAY FOR MTC**

*Clybourne Park*, an American play which premiered at the Playwright's Horizons Theatre in New York in February, has won the Evening Standard Award as the best new play in the UK for season 2010. Its Australian premiere is scheduled by The Melbourne Theatre Company for Sept, October next year.

Set across a time span of fifty years the play casts a comical eye at prejudice then and now.



# a taste of BITES



## I'D LIKE TO SEE THAT

At the Canberra Theatre Centre from the Irish company Guna Nua comes, *Little Gem*. Described as three women, three generations one play of pure honesty.

A heart warming Irish play that burst into life at the Edinburgh Fringe in 2009 and later played a sold-out run off-Broadway.

Kay's got an itch that Gem can't scratch (but maybe Kermit can) ... Lorraine attacks a customer at work and her boss wants her to see a psychiatrist ... Amber has bad indigestion and the sambucas aren't getting rid of it. If all that wasn't bad enough, *Little Gem* makes his presence felt and life is never the same again.

*Little Gem* has played sell-out seasons across the globe and has all the traits of a true Irish character: talkative, inquisitive, funny, philosophical, honest, and above all, great company.

### And I will see:

The NTLive production of *Hamlet* at the Narooma Kinema January 15,16

### WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE:

The NTLive production of the *Making of War Horses*? Just about the definitive marriage of actors and life sized puppets the show won all sorts of awards. The DVD is available. Could we show it at one of our meetings?



**Bay Players** took the adventurous step of sponsoring a brand new Aussie musical, *Beautiful Things* for a two night stand 10, 11 December. A popular pick at the Sydney Festival the show was in part created by a former member.

**Cooma Little Theatre** has completed auditions for its March production of *Harvey*.

**The Nowra Players**, who have their own 140 seat theatre, will open 2011 with a march production of *Romeo and Juliet*



## Season 2011

2011 promises to be a big year for Theatre Onset and In Theatre. We open early, February, with a production of *The Vagina Monologues* (nothing like a little controversy to start the year) directed by Mahamati. The production will feature a Valentine's Day performance and with rehearsals to start early January auditions are called immediately. Auditionees please contact Mahamati ASAP 64926117

The monologues will be followed by *Sparkleshark*. In a break with tradition Mark Friend will direct this young people's play for Theatre Onset. Originally commissioned by the youth arm of the National Theatre Company, *Sparkleshark* is a magical, story-telling play with a cast of nine. Production is set for April, May with auditions early in the new school year. Mark has plans to cast his auditioning net as widely as possible.

Depending on the availability of cast David Stocker will select a suitable piece for performance by In Theatre with rehearsals also scheduled during the first terms of the school year.

Mid-year will see a directorial debut by Scott Hailstone. Scott is still reading Australian plays for this July slot and is aiming for a female driven script with some meat to it.

In a further In Theatre initiative Patrick O'Halloran is planning a production of *The Breakfast Club* for the second half of the year.

The highlight of our tenth birthday celebration year promises to be an October production of a specially commissioned work. We failed in our bid to get Mumbulla Foundation sponsorship for an original play to form part of our 2011 season but have elected to go it alone. We're inviting playwrights across Australia to submit an original, unproduced play for selection as our October production. Diana Nicol will direct. Deadline for the submission of scripts has been set for mid-June with Theatre Onset members making a first cut before inviting selected theatre professionals to be involved with final selections. We've reserved the right not to produce any of the submitted scripts if they're deemed not suitable and as a failsafe Diana has selected *Fairy Tales of the Future* by Lisa Jacobson or *Two*, a two hander requiring the actors to tackle five or six roles each.

But, as they say, there's more. Improv is back bigger and better in 2011 with the first Tuesday in February set for the first session. Six pm every Tuesday night in the Thimble and all are welcome.

**THEATRE ONSET INC**  
**PO Box 91**  
**Bega NSW 2550**

I would like to become a **Member / Friend** (please circle) of Theatre Onset (including the youth theatre group, In Theatre) for the calendar year \_\_\_\_\_.

I enclose my payment of (please tick):

- ☐ \$10 (single membership/friendship)
- ☐ \$20 (family rate)

Name (if family rate please include all names for whom this applies):

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---

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Email (if you are happy for us to contact you this way):

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- ☐ I would like to receive the monthly newsletter by **email / hard copy** (black & white only)
- ☐ I would not like to receive the newsletter

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

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Name (if family rate please include all names for whom this applies):

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## THEATRE ONSET PLAYWRITING COMPETITION/OPPORTUNITY

As part of its tenth year birthday celebrations, Theatre Onset, based in Bega, NSW is seeking a play for production in 2011. The prize money is \$1,500. How To Enter and the Rules form part of the competition.

### HOW TO ENTER

1. Complete the Entry Form (below) ensuring Part A is stapled to your script and Part B is placed in a sealed envelope. Please also enclose a 200 word synopsis. The envelope will only be opened when the judging is complete.
2. Enclose one small envelope, which should be stamped (with sufficient postage) and addressed (using your pseudonym) and on which should be written the title of the play. It will be used to acknowledge receipt of your play.
3. Scripts will not be retained after the judging.
4. Entries to be received no later than COB Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2011.

Send entries to: Theatre Onset  
Playwriting Competition  
PO Box 91  
Bega NSW 2550

### RULES

1. The competition is open to any Australian resident regardless of nationality, but plays should be in English.
2. Plays must be full length and previously unproduced. Estimated playing time not less than 90 minutes and not more than 120 minutes. (Just over a minute a page is a rough guide, when scripts are typed as per Rule 3 below).
3. Scripts must be clearly typed on bond paper in **three copies**, double-spaced with wide margins, with numbered pages, paper clipped but not bound, and at final draft stage when submitted.
4. Plays must be submitted using a pseudonym to ensure impartiality and the author's real name removed from *all* pages of the script.
5. Authors must guarantee that they have sole rights to all matter contained within the play. Any play accepted for production elsewhere before the judges' decision is announced, will be disqualified.
6. Theatre Onset will have the exclusive rights to the winning play for the first production.
7. The judges' decision is final and no correspondence concerning the results can be entered into.

### Play Information

Plays must be for 6-20 characters, may include original music or musical numbers but not be a musical, for an adult audience (over 16 years old), for a small, fixed space with no wings and no curtains and with minimal sets or sets to be such that they can be moved for touring purposes.

Theatre Onset reserves the right not to award any prize if entries are deemed unsuitable.

While all reasonable care will be taken, Theatre Onset does not accept responsibility for loss of, or damage to, submitted scripts.

**THEATRE ONSET PLAYWRITING COMPETITION 2010  
ENTRY FORM**

Please complete in clearly:

**PART A – Which must be stapled to the script**

**Title of play:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Pseudonym of Author:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**PART B – Which must be placed in a sealed envelope marked only with the title of the play. Please also include a 200 word synopsis and 100 word biography.**

**Title of play:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Real Name of Author:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Address:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **Postcode:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Ph (day):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone (night):**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Mobile:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Email:**

\_\_\_\_\_

I confirm that I have read and agree to abide by the rules of Theatre Onset's Playwriting Competition.

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:**

\_\_\_\_\_