

5 MINUTE CALL

the theatre onset newsletter June/July 2015

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"It is a hopeless endeavour to attract people to a theatre unless they can be first brought to believe that they will never get in." Charles Dickens

**JUST IN CASE YOU MISSED IT, HERE'S THE RAVE
REVIEW OF THE RAMAYANA
THAT APPEARED IN THE BEGA DISTRICT NEWS ON THE
FIFTH OF JUNE BY JAMIE FORBES.....**

Python and Rowan Atkinson sketches in the school talent quests that the bloody O'Donnell Brothers always won and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat* and then more sketches (some of which skated a little too close to the edge and nearly got me thrown out of school) and *Bye Bye Birdie*, *The Pajama Game* then the Endeavor Theatre Company plays *The Legend of King O'Malley*, *Montreal: The Bermagui Mystery*, *The Kobolt Blues*, *Absent Friends* and *Junk* (*Mister Jones* and *Just One Tree* were done in the Thimble Theatre). My first band even used to practice on the stage of the hall. I've been up to the high school many times since I moved back to Bega and seen the hall open and heard exciting things being done by talented young folk inside but I've never gone in. Why? Wistful yearning for the good old days? Probably. Jealously of those talented youngsters having a really good time? Definitely. I know that now, because last week I went to see Theatre Onset/In Theatre's production of *The Ramayana* based play *Seeking Sita* and all it was was very talented kids having a raucous good time and I wanted to be part of it ... which, in the audience of this show, you kind of are, as battles rage and dancers dance all around you.

The Ramayana is an epic (the original text spans 22 volumes, it's been somewhat cleverly trimmed by Madeline Stocker for this version) sacred poem from Ancient India. It's a tale of gods and demons, princes and princesses and a heck of a lot of monkeys. What more could you ask for in a night's entertainment? It really is an epic, too, with a cast too numerous to name here, although they all do a great job, the stand outs in terms of sustained dramatic or comedic performances are Tycho Jenkins-Smith, Pippi Watt-Meek, Charlotte Aherns, Sasha Wright, Molly McLennan and Julien Comer-Kleine. The whole thing looks great, too. The costumes, back drops, lights and choreography are a feast for the eyes. The highlight for me, however, was the music. Sierra Sharman, Sarah Brens, Dominique Turville and Carrie Evans under the musical direction of Rachelle Blick make this a truly extraordinary show. Reigning over this great piece of entertainment and somehow reining everyone in is director Mahamati, to whom most of the due for this must go. Go get swept up in the manic splendour of *Seeking Sita*. It's worth those few pangs of jealousy.

I hadn't been in the Bega High School Hall since the early '90s when *Junk*, the last of the Endeavor Theatre shows, was staged. In the '80s it felt a bit like I lived there ... I certainly spent more time in that part of the school than anywhere else the whole time I was enrolled. It started in 1983 with Monty

WELL DONE AND THANK YOU ALL INVOLVED!



ACTOR WANTED

I'm looking to cast a young male actor (18-22) in a short play with Footprint Theatre this year.

The 10 minute play is called 'Driving the Holden' by Gerry Greenland and will be performed locally in the second half of August over two weekends.

The character is a young man called Eddie who's been in trouble with the law and is now doing community service to pay for his crime.

He's forced to meet George - invalid pensioner, former Vietnam soldier and Holden fanatic. Neither of them like each other much to start with, but George has a dream and by the end of the play, Eddie shares in the dream.

Rehearsals will be by arrangement in Lochiel, Pambula or Merimbula. Expect about 20 hours total. Skype may be used for some rehearsals if necessary.

The play will be performed for the public as part of an evening of short plays and the playwright from Sydney will attend at least one of the performances.

This is an unpaid role but actors are fed before each show and there's always a good after-party! The actor will receive photos and a video of their performance to use as part of their showreel.

Please contact me directly by phone on 6495 7160 if you wish to read the script or discuss the role.

Cheers
Lis Shelley
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OUR NEXT MEETINGS ARE

WEDNESDAY JUNE 10

and

WEDNESDAY JULY 8

at 121 EAST STREET, BEGA at 6.30pm.

ALL WELCOME! GO INTO THE LIGHT, CAROL-ANNE!!!

Nic's Bit

BABY IT'S COLD OUTSIDE

But that's no reason not to make theatre.

Spectrum has all the ducks in line for its production of Moonlight and Magnolias (we're off to the deep South again folks). That's due to hit the boards in August/ September. At the Bay they're in celebration mode. It's the Bay Players ruby anniversary. That's forty years. Their celebrations include a renovation of the foyer of their own theatre. And a musical extravaganza with a production of Wind in the Willows scheduled for November/December.

At Nowra the players there have Leading Ladies on stage right now. All is quiet at Cooma and what I hear you ask of Bega and Theatre Onset?

Why not something completely different? I mean what we usually do is call auditions for a production. Let's reverse the process. Tell us you'd like to perform in a show scheduled for say September and we'll find the show and the director. How's that for a challenge?

THE CURTAIN FALLS by David Stocker

The curtain falls

On false flat walls

Another night has ended

The curtain calls

The last applause

Another night has ended

With hall lights on

And audience gone

The techies come on stage

The backstage crew

A quick review

"Tomorrow night at six"

The props are stored

Another show

Tomorrow night at six

Home to bed

Empty the head

Another night has ended