

REPERTOIRE

Newsletter of The Hobart Repertory Theatre Society February 2014



HOBART REPERTORY THEATRE SOCIETY PROUDLY PRESENTS

BLITZ!

A SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY

"WHEN YOUR WHOLE WORLD IS EXPLODING AROUND YOU, ALL YOU CAN DO IS KEEP CALM AND CARRY ON SINGING!"

14 - 22 FEBRUARY, 2014
MATINEE SUN 16 FEB 3PM, & SAT 22 FEB 2PM

BOOK AT CENTERTAINMENT 6234 5998
CENTERTAINMENT.COM.AU

A CLAIRE DAWSON PRODUCTION SUPPORTED BY TASMANIA PERFORMS
ORIGINAL CONCEPT BY CLAIRE DAWSON
WRITTEN BY CLAIRE DAWSON & ROD ANDERSON
DIRECTED BY ROD ANDERSON
ACCOMPANIST / MUSICIAN CRAIG M. WOOD

Bertez
The Playhouse Theatre
www.playhouse.org.au

**PLUS: 2014 Season Launch
Lord Mayoral Reception for Playhouse 75th,
two new Life Members and more!**



www.playhouse.org.au

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I would like to welcome you, Hobart Repertory Theatre friends, to another exciting year of drama comedy and music.

I am feeling very excited about our season this year. We are fortunate to have obtained the talents of Claire Dawson. Her performance in *Blitz, A Sentimental Journey* promises to be a show which will both entertain and move you.

I would like to draw your attention to the fact that *Blitz* and *Journeys End* will have a shorter run. Please check with Centertainment or our Website for dates and times.

Our '*Saints and Sinners*' dinner last year proved to be a winner (Some photos below). Thank you to all who attended and to those who helped in any way. I would like to particularly thank Jack Rheinberger for being MC and to Ann Lennon-George, Pip Tyrrell and Gill Hunt for providing the entertainment.

The Pantomime, *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* was enjoyed by thousands of students. Thank you to Helen Cronin for all her hard work, not only for co-directing, but also for organising all the school groups. Thank you also to her hard working cast and crew.

Thank you to our sponsors for 2014, Bertoz Jewellers, Butler, McIntyre and Butler lawyers, The New Sydney Hotel and Heather and Christopher Chong.

Your Sponsorship is greatly appreciated.

All that is left for me to say is enjoy the wonderful productions we have in store for you.

Regards,

Liz Lewinski



SEASON LAUNCH

The Playhouse Theatre was comfortably packed for the 2014 Season Launch. It's always exciting to catch up with friends from the theatre and there was certainly a buzz around the place as people looked through the offerings for the new season. Our photographer caught some of the action. Host was Daryl Peebles. Di Richards provided entertainment including the song *At 17*





WORLD PREMIERE AT THE PLAYHOUSE THEATRE!

Hobart theatre goers are in for a treat with our first production for 2014 , **BLITZ! A Sentimental Journey**. Set in World War II in England it's an original musical/drama written by Claire Dawson and developed by Rod Anderson. Claire loosely based the character on her Liverpoolian grandmother. She remembered her beloved granny saying how the war was "the best of times" in spite all the gloom, hard times and death. Part of that was the incredible pluck of the British which combined optimism, hope and cheerfulness ably aided by wonderful songs such as *We'll Meet Again*

After appearing in numerous West End musicals (and even a movie with Robbie Coltrane) she met a Tasmanian who invited her to move back with him-and she did!

Her style is intimate, vivacious, filled with energy and highly professional. Her motto is of course to "Spread the Joy", and her performances always have a powerful and positive vibe which is completely contagious!

Reviewers have described Claire as "channelling Judy Garland" with "an extraordinary and powerful voice that will captivate audiences everywhere."

She is a singer/songwriter and has released three albums of original work.

She's had a busy couple of years with two sell-out tours, four musicals, three cabarets, a pantomime and several festivals just to mention a few things. Claire now lives in Eggs and Bacon Bay which reminds her of the Liverpoolian brekkies of her previous life in the UK. After a small hiatus of raising a family, she has returned to performing. Claire writes and performs one-woman shows and works as an MC, actress and comedienne throughout Australia.

OTHER PLAYERS IN THE STORY



Annette Downs:(Left) Producer for *Tasmania Performs* heard the early version of the production and saw potential for further development and recommended Rob Anderson (below) who likewise saw a great idea and came up with the final script. He also directs this present production. *Tasmania Performs* works with independent artists and companies to develop, produce and tour new Tasmanian work regionally in Tasmania and beyond. They commission new works, as they have done with the Hobart Rep to bring BLITZ! to the beautiful Playhouse Theatre stage.

Rod Anderson Script Co-Writer and Director

Rod played Anton, the dastardly lawyer, in the Channel 10 series *Return to Eden* as well as directing productions of plays, musicals and opera throughout Australia. His acclaimed production of Monteverdi's *The Coronation of Poppea* starring Marilyn Richardson toured extensively. He returned to the stage in a revival of *Barnum* at the National theatre and won *Best Actor in a Musical* for this demanding role. In later years he has been associated as a show creator and director with the Malthouse Theatre in Melbourne as well as writing *The Girls from Oz*, an evocation of the lives of Melba, Moncrieff, Sutherland and Bronhill that has been touring nationally over the past 18 months. Rod now lives in Hobart and is Chairman of the *Theatre IHOS Opera*.



THE LORD MAYOR HOSTS A RECEPTION FOR HOBART REP'S 75th YEAR AT THE PLAYHOUSE



Lord Mayor (and HTRS Patron) Damon Thomas welcomes guests to the Town Hall for the Reception.



The Lord Mayor gave a glowing history of HRTS and The Playhouse in Hobart's cultural life. Later President Liz presented two (pleasantly) surprised members with Life Membership-Adela Morton and Moya Deigan.(Above right)

HERE AND THERE

A team of volunteers have spent time replacing the stage floor of The Playhouse. Judging by what they found under those hallowed (hollowed?) boards a replacement was well and truly timely! Our sincere thanks to all who assisted. ("During" and "After" photos below) More info:

<http://playhouse.org.au/the-theatre/replacing-the-playhouse-stage/>



The Rep Theatre family warmly welcomes William Denzil Andrewartha. Congratulations Matt and Kate!



DIGITAL REPERTOIRE IS COMING!

Yes it's the 21st Century and, in time, the printed copy of the HRTS newsletter will be phased out.

With so many people using iPods, iPhones, tablets, phablets and laptops (etc) it will be an exciting way to keep you up to date more often-with links to our website and more. We will continue to print some for those with no access to the gadgets listed above but we think most people will embrace the new format. To enable this to happen we invite you to ensure we have your email address. If you have privacy concerns please let us know. Editor.

Repertoire Contact Details: Editor:
rayq@iinet.net.au
HRTS: Note new number:
Box 4650 Bathurst Street Post Office



www.playhouse.org.au

Reminder

Hobart Repertory Theatre Society **Annual General Meeting**

Wednesday 26 February 2014
6 for 6.15 pm
at the Playhouse Theatre

This newsletter printed with the assistance of



Hobart Repertory Theatre Society Season 2014 supported by



Heather & Christopher
Chong

