

REPERTOIRE

April 2021

IT IS NOT OFTEN THAT SOMEONE COMES ALONG WHO
IS A TRUE FRIEND AND A GOOD WRITER

Charlotte's WEB



From April 9



THE
PLAYHOUSE
THEATRE

106 Bathurst Street, Hobart



LIZ BOWS OUT AS PRESIDENT



Liz Lewinski recently completed an eight-year stint as Rep President - standing down at the 2021 AGM. While we had the chance, we thought we'd have a chat to her about a whole bunch of Rep-related things. Here's what she told us.

Liz recalls that her very first experience with Hobart Rep was in 1984 shortly after she returned to Hobart from a four-year teaching stint in the state's North West. Keen to make new friends, learn new skills and set up a new network of friends, she courageously auditioned for a role in the upcoming Panto - 'The Three Little Pigs' which was being directed at the time by Reg Byers. Sadly for Liz, the experience was quite short-lived once she learned that most of the performances would be held during the daytime, when she was supposed to be teaching. Not to be deterred, Liz quickly joined other Rep productions initially helping director, Arleen Richards with backstage work, a task she went on to complete many times working on every Rep production over the next four years adding other roles to her repertoire including properties manager, lighting and sound operator and the now-forgotten role of prompter.

In 1989 she decided to have another go at auditioning and was delighted to score the first of her two acting roles as Helen in 'The Seven Year Itch' playing opposite her on-stage husband, Colin Dean, whom she shot every night during a dream sequence. Liz recalls that on one occasion, Colin skipped a few pages of script and that the only way she could think of to get back to the shooting scene was to dump a bowl loudly on a table and improvise a few words of script. Her second on-stage role was in 1990 with 'Dear Charles' directed by Jan Kuplis in which she played a French woman with an outrageous accent! There followed a couple of stints directing one-act plays but somehow Liz always returned to Stage Manager, the role Liz counts among her very favourite of all her theatre jobs with Rep. Her first SM g'ig was in 1988 with Ray Lawler's classic Australian play, 'Summer of the Seventeenth Doll' directed by Bernard Pidd but it was the start of a love affair with Liz taking on dozens of other SM roles over many years. She recalled doing 'West Side Story' - an iconic musical and really worthwhile because so many young people who had never been on stage got the opportunity to experience theatre and for quite a few, it kick-started a move to national and international theatre experiences.

Food and drink must go hand in hand with theatre and many will know that Liz has been doing the catering for Rep's Opening Night suppers of recent years but she remembers a time of lavish, gala affair that Rep used to hold at the Fifty and Better Club with catering provided by Mr Wooby. We've also had other celebrations including Rep's 90th dinner - a very memorable event with over 100 members helping to celebrate and share that cake!



Listening to Liz's reminiscences, it's easy to see her fondness for Rep and the Playhouse Theatre. There were lots of challenges along the way, keeping in touch with everyone, working out the various goals and who and how they could be achieved. There were also lots and lots of heart-warming moments and for Liz, the thing she really loves about Community Theatre is that everyone is there with the same purpose in mind, there's a real team effort.

"I have also made so many good friends through the theatre and must have spent about three quarters of my time with Rep on one committee or another. I love that we have our own theatre and it's something we should all be really proud of, that we can present our own shows in our own place is a bit of magic."

"I was really humbled when I become President and delighted that people wanted to work with me on the many projects we had to do. I'm very proud that we were able to secure grants of almost \$100,000 for the fly upgrades and the stage curtain automation, works which have enabled our people to work in a safer, more efficient atmosphere."

"As President I also feel so proud when Rep is nominated for awards at the Tasmanian Theatre Awards - it's like your child winning first prize in a race!"

Although leaving the role of President, Liz will remain on the Production committee and you're sure to see her doing front of house or one of the many other jobs she has been doing over the last forty years!!

**Pictured above: Moya Deigan (VP) , Liz and Karen Fahey (Secretary) at the recent AGM .
Special thanks to Moya for contributing this article.**



CHARLOTTE'S WEB SET TO WEAVE MAGIC AT THE PLAYHOUSE

Charlotte's Web is ready to open and director, Anne Blythe-Cooper, is very satisfied with the production.

"There are two actors taking the role of Wilbur, Winnie Valentine and Isaac Wells. Both are young but very capable. The non human characters are shaping up well and have studied how to move and speak as an animal. The set will involve a large web and Charlotte, Abbey Maddox, will be something special. Abbey is a dancer who will navigate the web with grace. The cast is a mix of experienced old hands and new younger members with a lot of mentoring and support evident in the rehearsals. The show should be highly entertaining and adults, as well as children, will find enjoyment in the well developed characters, a clever set, magical moments and laugh out loud moments." Anne, Director.



Rehearsal shot from Charlotte's Web



Happy faces of cast and crew reflect that the audience is in for a great show

Charlotte's Web is on at the Playhouse Theatre from 9 April, and this classic story is sure to be fun for the whole family!

Charlotte's Web is one of the most loved books of all time, and Tony-winning playwright Joseph Robinette's touching and faithful stage version will make audiences believe this beloved book is coming to life on the stage. The heart warming children's fable about friendship and love is directed by Anne Blythe Cooper.

A pig was born. His name is Wilbur. And he is destined to become tomorrow's bacon—until a spider with amazing skills hatches a plan. As she spins her unique web to give Wilbur's life new meaning, a remarkable friendship is formed in a story that has delighted children and adults alike for more than 60 years.

Charlotte's Web is showing at the Playhouse Theatre from 9 April, 2021. Tickets are available starting from \$25, at playhouse.org.au

Book at playhouse.org.au or leave a message on 6234 1536.

2021 AGM NEWS

AT A GLANCE: (With thanks to Grace Burdick for photos)

Liz Lewinski retired from the role after 8 years as president. Liz was thanked for her contribution to the society, and will remain on Production committee and will remain involved with the society. The AGM was well attended.

The following were elected unopposed

President: David Clements

Treasurer: Donna Powell

Secretary: Karen Fahey (for a one year term)

Marketing Convenor: Ben Armitage

Matthew Andrewartha and Karen Fahey both received life membership in recognition of their significant contributions to the society.

The financial report and presidents report were accepted, with members acknowledging the work of the finance committee to remain solvent without having to touch reserves in term deposits during the upheaval of COVID-19. Keeping up Appearances and the traveling school panto both generated revenue for the society.





Remembering Berenice Eastman



Wal and Berenice Eastman were almost part of the furniture of The Playhouse over many years. Wal's reviews in The Mercury played a big part in the success of many productions. Berenice started her career as a librarian and was also a writer and reviewer. She was a great supporter of the arts.

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