

REPERTOIRE OCTOBER 2024

Hobart Repertory Theatre Society

SUMMER OF THE SEVENTEENTH DOLL



QUEENSLAND
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 THE
PLAYHOUSE
THEATRE
106 Bathurst Street, Hobart

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome again Hobart Repertory Society members. I hope everyone is well and looking forward to some better weather on the horizon.

Our last production was ***The History Boys*** directed by Beck Goldsmith, that opened on August 28th. It was set in a grammar school in Sheffield England in the 1980's following eight pupils preparing for their entrance exams to Oxford and Cambridge Universities.

I attended on opening night and it was not a show familiar to me, so I didn't know what to expect. I thoroughly enjoyed the show along with many others that provided me with great feedback. It was an interesting set design and the cast was fantastic, with many strong performances. Beck and her cast and crew should be proud of their work. Well done.

We had a **quiz night** on Saturday 21st September at the Rosny Park Bowls Club with Quiz Master Peter Gee. Again a great night was had by all and I would like to thank our social committee with special thanks to Lesley, Bev and Kathy along with Liz for the marvellous supper.

Thanks to Peter Gee for his masterful Quiz Master skills.

OneFest was on from the 4th – 5th October, directed by Ros Peck (Results next page). Our adjudicator was the well known and talented Natalie Venettacci.

It is brilliant that we have had such a huge response to Onefest which I always feel is a barometer to the health of our theatre scene in Hobart and surrounds.

I'm also really looking forward to seeing the production of ***The Summer of the Seventeenth Doll***, directed by Robert Jarman from the 16th-26th October.

Robert has assembled a talented cast for this Australian classic and it will be a show not to miss.

Our Panto, ***The Princess and the Pea***, is also on from 1-8th December.

More on this closer to the date.

We have finalised our shows for 2025.

These will be announced in our 2025 launch on the 12th of November.

Keep this evening free.

Thanks to the Production committee for their work on this.

As mentioned before we are 100 years old in 2026 and planning is well underway for various events for this year. It will come around quickly.

We are still actively looking to find a place to relocate our operations from Creek Road. Thank you for your suggestions and keeping an eye out for potential properties.

We have looked at a couple of properties and may be placing an EOI in for one coming up.

Welcome to Meredith McQueen to the Board as the Theatre Committee convenor. She has taken over from Von Hutchinson. I would like to thank Von's enormous contribution over the years and I know she will be continuing her contribution to Rep in other areas, so we are not losing her.

I am looking forward to working with Meredith with her vast experience in theatre.

As always I would like to thank the Board, all the members of the various Rep committees and the volunteers for their repeated hard work and dedication.



Yours in Theatre

David Clements

ONE FEST RESULTS

The 2024 OneFest was a very successful event with 19 short plays presented over 3 sessions and high audience attendances! A huge vote of thanks must go to the organising team including Julie Raphael, Ros Peck, Kev Collidge, Logan Nettlefold, David Szoka and Louise Stubs.

The adjudicator Natalie Venettacci gave the following awards:

Adjudicator Award for Lifetime Achievement: Ian McQueen and Peter Miller.

Newcomer encouragement awards (\$250 sponsored by Big Monkey): Jonty Hilton and Luca Cartledge.

Best Ensemble: Big Job Productions for *The Big Justice Team*

Best original work: *The Big Justice Team* written by Hamish Chilcott and Rhys Prestedge.

Best actor awards: Gabrielle Adkins and Julia Lambert

Best director: Roger Chevalier *For The Love of God*.

Best production: *For the Love of God* by Square Pegs.

(Thanks to Meredith McQueen)

Hobart Repertory Theatre Society Presents: The First Production of *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll* Since the Passing of Playwright Ray Lawler



Director Robert Jarman returns to The Playhouse Theatre for this outstanding Australian classic



The Hobart Repertory Theatre Society is proud to announce its upcoming production of *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll*, running from 16 - 26 of October. This landmark performance marks the first time the iconic play has been staged since the death of its esteemed playwright, Ray Lawler, and promises to bring to life one of Australia's most important and enduring works. Set in the 1950s, *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll* follows the lives of sugarcane cutters Arthur "Barney" Ibbot and Reuben "Roo" Webber, who have travelled to Melbourne for the past seventeen years to partake in an annual tradition of leisure with two city women, Olive and Nancy. This year, however, significant changes loom as Nancy is now married, and Pearl steps in to fill her role. The play explores the tension between the past and the present, as the characters confront the reality that their carefree days may be coming to an end. Written by Lawler and directed by Tasmania's leading theatre director, Robert Jarman, the play is celebrated for featuring the lives of ordinary Australian characters. At a time when the theatre scene was dominated by European influences, Lawler's work introduced genuine Australian voices— characters who spoke in local vernacular and embodied the unique spirit of the Australian landscape. This shift allowed audiences to see themselves reflected on stage, making the stories resonate deeply within the national consciousness.

Featuring a talented cast, the production includes:

• Trevor Gallagher as Roo • Chris Hamley as Barney • Clare Pearson as Olive • Astrid Tiefholz as Pearl • Virginia Kamino as Emma • Poppy Lennon as Kathie 'Bubba' Ryan • Jonty Hilton as Johnnie

Summer of the Seventeenth Doll sees Robert Jarman's first return to The Playhouse Theatre since his haunting production of *Journey's End*, and promises a rendition that is at once funny, sad, and profoundly moving. *The Doll* is not just a journey into the past; it's a powerful exploration of regeneration and the search for renewal in our lives.

SUMMER OF THE 17TH DOLL



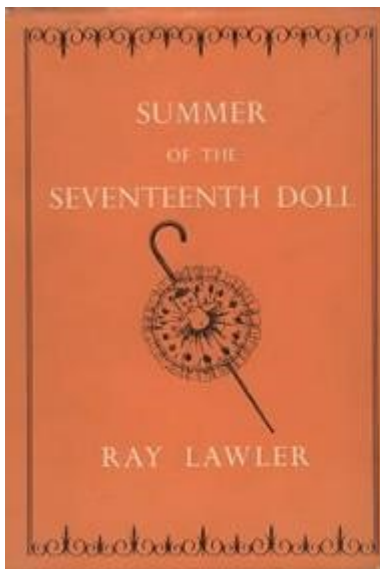
Author Ray Lawler and one of the iconic dolls from the play's title



Right: 1957 stage production
and Below:

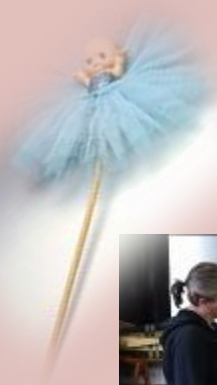
The Hollywood version

TRIVIA: Ray Lawler played Barney in Australia and in England. Cardboard King Richard Pratt was also featured before he became a billionaire!



Join us for an unforgettable theatrical experience. Tickets are available now through the Playhouse Theatre website: playhouse.org.au

“Doll” Rehearsals with Director Robert Jarman and cast



Thanks to Camilla Best for photos

From the Archives: *Summer of The Seventeenth Doll* – 1988 Production

In 1988, the Hobart Rep committee decided to commemorate the Bicentennial by programming a year of Australian plays – namely *The One Day of the Year*, *From the Fourteenth Floor You Can See the Bridge*, *On Our Selection*, *The Shifting Heart* and *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll*.

The 1988 production of *The Doll* was directed by Rep stalwart Bernard Pidd and starred Bill Briggs, Rosemary Mazengarb, Celia White, Andrew Buchanan, Carolyn Chalk and Chris Pidd. The part of Emma was played by the late, great Rep matriarch Barbara Button.

Several of the crew are still active Rep members – 36 years on! Well done to assistant director Liz Lewinski, assistant stage manager Richard Kowaluk and Marilyn Orpin who was responsible for properties and who dressed the 17 dolls!

Here are a few photos which really don't do the production justice:



A look back to 1988!



**With special thanks to
Meredith McQueen**

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How did the sponsorship of HRTS come about?

Here at Specsavers Kingston our team of optometrists and optical dispensers enjoy going to the theatre, so when we were presented with an opportunity to be involved in sponsorship of HRTS we were more than happy to agree.

Have you had any involvement personally in theatre?

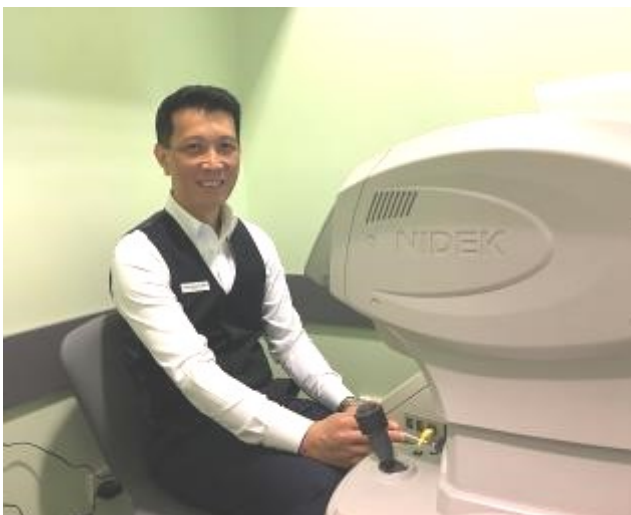
Going to the theatre is such a treat. It is easy to get whisked away to a different world for a few hours. We love the theatre, but none of us are brave enough to get on stage!

What are some of your favourite shows you've seen at The Playhouse?

We have seen so many great shows at the Playhouse. So choosing a favourite is difficult. However, one stands out, without a doubt, *Anne and Gilbert - the Musical*. The singing and acting was just fantastic.

Did any of your clients relate to those clever tv ads you run?

We are very lucky that our "Should've gone to Specsavers" ads have hit a chord with so many people. We, at Specsavers Kingston, are particularly grateful to have received such a tremendous support from the local community since we opened 10 years ago.



We at HRTS appreciate our sponsors and are grateful for their support.

They are all listed on the final page and we encourage you to support them.

The Great Hobart Rep Quiz Night was recently held at The Rosny Park Bowls Club. A splendid time was had by all.



Host Peter asked the questions



Thanks to Liz Lewinski for photos



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A detailed illustration of a feather with a soft, glowing aura around its base, positioned to the right of the text.

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