

ARC Newsletter

January 2004

Issue 11

President:

Sebastian Dworkin

0438 565 309

president@arc-theatre.com

Vice President:

Catherine Sharples

0417 051 081

vicepresident@arc-theatre.com

Treasurer:

Renai Bortolin

0413 484 218

treasurer@arc-theatre.com

Secretary:

John McTiernan

0402 117 108

secretary@arc-theatre.com

PO Box 1593

Preston South VIC 3072

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Notes From The President

Hello and welcome to the 2004 pre production newsletter. Please take a moment to read through developments on *Sweet Charity*, ARC's 2004 production. As you can see, auditions are coming up in February and we have an exciting artistic and production team. Everyone is looking forward to this show so book your auditions now and tell your friends about it to get them involved.

The first ARC Variety Night was a marvellous success. Audiences and performers alike were very happy with the result. Thanks to everyone who donated their time and skills so willingly.

I would like to take a moment to thank some individual members who have recently contributed their time and effort to ARC by joining the committee in painting Rick and Deb's new house at Romsey, being Andrew Jameson, Amelia van Lint, Anthony Ventura, Adrian Ventura.

I draw your attention to the ARC Strategic Summit. This is our opportunity to be part of the future development of ARC. Please read the information on this event and consider what feedback and ideas you would like to bring to the meeting.

I look forward to working with you on *Sweet Charity*.

It's Baby Season

Housepainting In Romsey

In early December last year, Rick Sweeney and Deb Poulter called for help to paint their newly bought house in Romsey (North of Sunbury). A number of ARC members contributed their time and effort to this exercise and raised a generous amount for the company. Thanks to those who gave up their time and to Rick and Deb for their generous contribution.

Since the last newsletter there have been two new additions to the ARC community: Michael James (proud parents being Dani Kent and Marty Accari), born on Christmas Day; and Noah (proud parents being Jane and Adrian Murone), born on the 14th December. We hope they grace the ARC community by auditioning for the 2020 musical.

Recent Events

VARIETY NIGHT:

ARC's inaugural Variety Night was held at the hall of Santa Maria College on the night of Saturday, November 29, 2003. The event showcased ARC members' talent including comedy sketches, songs from past ARC productions, dance numbers and vocal performances.

The audience enjoyed a number of memorable engaging performances too numerous to mention. The event also proved a financial success with the sell-out crowd ensuring close to \$1000 was raised for the funding of ARC's ongoing theatre work.

The success of the event was effected by the hard work and dedication of ARC members who performed and worked in technical and production roles. Special mention goes to Jayne Lovelock, the Coordinator, Marty Accari the Lighting Manager, Damien Calvert the Sound Manager and Sam Lee the accompanist. Everyone who contributed knows how worthwhile their involvement was.

If you have photos of the evening in electronic form please email them to Nick at webmeister@arc-theatre.com to permanently record this memorable night on the ARC website (www.arc-theatre.com) for other members and the wider community.

RECREATION CAMP:

Every year ARC organises a camp during summer to give people a chance to relax, get out and about and get to know their fellow ARC members. This year we travelled to Golden Valley Lodge near Flinders on the Mornington Peninsula.

We watched the movie version of "Sweet Charity", giving many people their first good look at the musical ARC will stage in July. Activities included horse riding and a tour of some of the local wineries. A great time was had by all.

GUILD AWARDS:

The fashion! The glamour! The excitement! The annual Music Theatre Guild of Victoria Awards Night, held on December 13, 2003 at the Arts Centre, Frankston, was every bit as fun as we've come to expect.

A large contingent of members represented ARC. We enjoyed award presentations for quality performances from the state's best productions of the year before being completely won over by a performance by special guest Todd McKinney. The event is a chance for the Victorian amateur music community to socialise together in one place and festivities after the presentation proved just as fun.

Leading up to the event, we saw that our own Francis Lawrence was nominated for the Dancer's Award for his performance in "Kiss Me, Kate". Unfortunately he didn't take out the award but we wish him every success next year. Congratulations go to Luciano Parissi and Adrian Ventura who scored commendations from the Guild for their gangster performances in "Kiss Me, Kate".

ARCappella

Shortly before the Variety Night, Jane Murone began her break from directing the choir in order to prepare for the birth of her and her husband Adrian's first child, Noah. In her absence the choir had the pleasure of being directed by Larissa Cairns, who conducted our Variety Night performance and guided us through until our final performance of the year on December 19.



We were treated with 3 opportunities to wow audiences during the Christmas season: Latrobe aged care facility on December 5, WestNet Centre For The Intellectually Disabled in Deer Park on December 12, and as part of the Christmas Lights entertainment on The Boulevard in Ivanhoe on December 19, which is becoming an ARCappella tradition. Standing on the side of the road in front of the Boulevard residents' Christmas lights displays, ARCappella stopped families in their tracks to listen to us singing Christmas carols until it became too dark to read our music, at which time we found a driveway with enough light for us to carol on! We even squeezed in an impromptu performance of "Java Jive" in front of the coffee-serving stall.

Resumption of rehearsals and performances will occur as soon as Jane is ready to take up the reins again. Interested members should feel free to contact Melissa at arcappella@arc-theatre.com for more information. Also, check the 'Notices' page on the ARC website (www.arc-theatre.com) regularly for details of our 2004 performances.

ARC Strategic Summit

We are holding the ARC 'Strategic Summit' to give the wider membership a chance to contribute to discussions about the future growth and direction of ARC. Some questions that may be debated include the structure of ARC performances, the structure of ARC management and ARC production personnel, the constitution and aims of the company and any other relevant questions and ideas about improving the company.

The enthusiasm and dedication to ARC that has been shown recently demonstrates that people care about the future direction of the company. The strategic summit will give us all the chance to be part of that future direction.

The summit will be held in the Creative Living Centre on March 7 at 2pm. It will be chaired by John McTiernan. It is preferred that any specific agenda items are communicated to him to enable him to publish the agenda and give people time to prepare. Contact John on the 0402 117 108 or secretary@arc-theatre.com for further information or to register your interest.



WINERY TOUR

The Committee is organising a winery tour to be held on Saturday, Feb 28. The tour will visit the wineries of the Yarra Valley (East of Melbourne) including De Bortoli and Domaine Chandon.

A minibus will be hired for the day (and an ARCian will drive it), but other details are yet to be confirmed. If you're interested, email info@arc-theatre.com and we'll put you on the list.

WEBSITE

The ARC website has undergone further development and is still updated regularly. The 'Members Area' of the website now contains the full calendar of upcoming events (the 'Calendar' page) and our popular Message Board. Once rehearsals commence it will also store the rehearsal and production week schedules, enabling the cast to check where and when they are needed.

The members area is available to all past and present members of ARC. To enter the 'Members Area', enter the username and password. If you do not have the password email Nick on webmeister@arc-theatre.com.

Calendar

Below are the major ARC events and milestones planned in the coming few months. Note that these dates may be revised over time; visit the 'Calendar' page inside the Members Area of the ARC website (www.arc-theatre.com) for the most up-to-date information.

Feb 14-15, 21-22: auditions for cast
Feb 28: Winery Tour
Mar 7: Strategic Summit
Mar 21: commencement of rehearsal season

If you have any feedback or ideas you want the committee to hear, write to us at committee@arc-theatre.com or contact any of the officebearers by email or telephone.

PLENTY COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION

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Interviews

One difference between ARC and other Melbourne amateur theatre companies is that applications for our major artistic roles are generally open to the full membership and the wider community in the same way as performance roles. This gives any ARC member the chance to rise as far as their talent and dedication will take them and results in a better quality artistic team for the company.

This year we have decided to expand this tradition to cover an even greater number of roles. Interviews were conducted for a further 13 positions, covering the main technical, production-related and managerial responsibilities. These positions were advertised to give everyone the chance to get more involved in ARC.

The company is connecting production team members with senior mentors in the ARC community to help develop skills.

Interviews were held over the weekends of January 18-19 and 24-25. The Committee were impressed with the number and quality of applications and are very excited to be able to announce them in this newsletter. It is particularly good to get some of the minor roles filled early on to get all aspects of the production underway from the start.

We know you will welcome and support the entire 2004 production team.

The Play

"Sweet Charity" is the poignant story of Charity Hope Valentine and her search for love. Set in the sixties, it's swing music opens interesting performance and artistic opportunities. Memorable numbers include *Hey Big Spender* and *Rhythm Of Life*.

Synopsis and character outlines will be available at the ARC website at

<http://www.arc-theatre.com/>

Performing

Cast auditions are scheduled for the weekends of February 14-15 and 21-22 at the Creative Living Centre.

Please be prepared to sing one song (not from the show). It is strongly recommended that you bring accompaniment either in the form of sheet music to be played or a backing CD as this almost always improves the quality of your audition. To book your audition, call Catherine Sharples on 0417 051 081 or email vicepresident@arc-theatre.com.

Rehearsals are currently planned to begin on Sunday, March 21.

2004 Production and Artistic Teams

Name:

Director:
Assistant Director:
Musical Director:
Assistant Musical Director/Accompanist:
Choreographer:
Assistant Choreographer:
Stage Manager:
Lighting Designer/Technician:
Sound Technician:
Set Designers:
Set Construction Manager:
Media Officer/Publicist:
Costume Designer/Manager:
Graphic Designer:
Sweet Charity Graphic Designer:
ARC Visual Identity Developer:
Front-of-House Coordinator:
Make-up Designer:
Ticketing Manager:
Props Manager:

Role:

Andrew Jameson
Kane McDonald
Lucas Burns
Sam Lee
Leigh Barker
Gary Lee
Jayne Lovelock
Damien Calvert
Joseph Austin-Crowe
Nicolaas Burgers and Damien Calvert
Stewart Richards
Carli Jones
Dachelle Fergusson

Jaime Cavanagh
Stuart Ford
Zoë Holloway
Jaime Almond
Amelia Van Lint
TBA