

ARC Newsletter

Issue: 23, February 2009



From the President

It has been over four months since the last installment of the ARC Newsletter and quite a lot has happened in that time.

ARC's Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held in mid-August and the 2007/08 Committee would particularly like to thank all those who attended. It is great to see ARC members' determination in helping the company continue to grow. This is particularly comforting when one realises the troubles faced by other theatre companies in Melbourne this year. The AGM proved ARC is well placed for the future.

The AGM also saw the election of the 2008/09 Committee. I am ecstatic to be President for another term and I ask you to congratulate the following individuals on their election:

Vice President – Julian Campobasso

Treasurer – Zoe Hallwright

Secretary – Deanna (Dee) Bellen

General Representatives – Portia Chiminello, Ashleigh Kreveld, Diana Perini and Jessica Broadbent.

I would like to extend a thank you to outgoing Committee members Angie Bedford (Secretary) and Luis Rivera. Their efforts continue to be valued by the new Committee.

There is a lot of exciting news to report in this edition. Read ahead for updates regarding Artistic and Production Team selection, November 2009 Production and the variety of recreational opportunities available to members in the year ahead.

Mark Kearney, President

West Side Story Artistic Team

The Committee would like to congratulate the following people on their appointments to the Artistic Team for West Side Story:

Directors: Matthew Spiteri and Anthony Ventura

Musical Director: Matthew Weekes

Choreographer: Carla Gianinotti

Assistant Directors: Rebecca Mignone and Stephen Valeri

Assistant Musical Director: Christine Munro

Assistant Choreographer: Stephanie Laiacona

We wish them all the best in the months ahead as they work hard to make West Side a success.

IMPORTANT, PLEASE READ!

Due to an increasing number of 'return to sender' mail outs and in an effort to make ARC more environmentally responsible we will soon be conducting an overhaul of our entire newsletter and show notices database. In the future news will be sent via email rather than by the post.

Though we urge everybody to support this transition, we realise that it may not suit everybody. Therefore if receiving ARC news in the post is more convenient you can request that this continues by sending us a letter to PO Box 8096, Northland Centre, Preston Vic 3072 or email the committee at committee@arc-theatre.com

If you are one who has access to the internet but are receiving your news in the post we ask that you consider receiving all future ARC mail outs by email only. You can agree to this by sending your email address to committee@arc-theatre.com. This also applies to anybody who has changed their email address since requesting to be on the ARC database, as we would like to keep up to date records in our new system.

If you are one of the many who already receives all your ARC news by email please ignore this message as we will continue to send you updates and newsletters via the internet.

Julian Campobasso, Vice-President

Thank you and farewell

Many in the ARC community will be aware of the huge support we have received from Viewbank College and most notably from former Principal Peter Gannon, who retired earlier this year. Peter has been one of our strongest supporters in recent times and we'd like to extend our warmest appreciation and thanks to him for his constant support of ARC and wish him a happy and relaxing retirement. We hope to continue seeing him at future ARC events.

Zoe Hallwright, Treasurer

WEST SIDE STORY

West Side Story Auditions

Bookings for ARC's 2009 production of 'West Side Story' are now open. Please note that further audition info is available on our website at www.arc-theatre.com

Audition Requirements

Minimum audition age is 15

Please prepare 2 contrasting songs in the style of the show.

Please provide sheet music in the Correct Key or CD Backing Track (No A Capella singing please).

Please note that contrary to standard audition procedures, if you chose to, we will be allowing one audition song to be from West Side Story as callbacks will only be used if necessary.

A short script reading will also be part of the first audition. Readings will be available from our website www.arc-theatre.com from January 2nd.

Audition Dates

Saturday 31st January from 10am

Sunday 1st February from 10am

Thursday 5th February from 7pm

Saturday 7th February from 10am

Call backs will only be held if absolutely necessary, meaning that they may not happen at all. If they are necessary they will happen on Tuesday 10th February and Thursday 12th February.

Compulsory Dance Audition

Sunday 8th February 10am.

Please wear appropriate clothing (no jeans)

Venue

Auditions, Rehearsals and Performances will be held at Banyule Theatre, Cnr Buckingham Drive and Beverly Road, Heidelberg, Melway Ref 32 D3.

Rehearsals

Prior to rehearsals commencing there will be 3 Dance workshops/classes held in preparation for the show. They will be held in February and attendance is highly recommended. Official rehearsals commence in early March on Thursday evenings from 7pm and Sundays from 10.30am.

Book Your Audition

Please call 0448 912 128 or email auditions@arc-theatre.com

Production Team

We are delighted to welcome the first two members of our Production team for 08/09, who joined us back in September. Congratulations to both Frank Gullone (Graphic Designer) and Paul Campobasso (Publicist) on their appointments. The Graphic Design and Publicist positions have often proved to be two very difficult positions to fill in the past so we could not be happier to have Frank and Paul on board so early in the piece.

Stay tuned for further Production Team announcements coming soon, and if you're interested in joining the team check out our website at www.arc-theatre.com and visit the West Side Story page to find out which positions need filling.

Rec Dinner

Attention ARC members old and new, due to the great success of the Rec. Dinner in 2008, we have decided that on Sunday January 25th 2009 ARC will host its second annual Rec. Dinner at Alphabet City on High Street in Northcote. Dinner will start at 7pm but places are limited so RSVPs are necessary. If you would like to attend the Rec. Dinner please contact the committee by email to committee@arc-theatre.com or calling our secretary Dee on 0400 664 582 before Sunday January 18. We hope to see everyone there!

Diana Perini, General representative

2nd half show

2009 will see the return of the ARC '2nd Half Show', marking the first time since 2004 that ARC has staged more than one production in a year. Details on the show choice are at this point sketchy but we can confirm that it will be a straight play – the first ARC has staged since 2002 – and that it will be performed some time in late November. We plan on announcing our show choice at the Rec. Dinner on January 25th so make sure you're there for the fun.

Julian Campobasso, Vice-President

The costume inventory

Due to interest from other companies, the ARC Committee has decided to revive the ARC Costume Database. The members of the Committee are planning to do some serious work sorting and cataloguing our store of costumes sometime over the next month. If any members have old ARC costumes that need to be returned or other appropriate items (i.e., not stained or torn) that they would like to donate, please contact the Committee to arrange a drop-off time. If you are interested in helping us with the Costume Database working-bee, please contact us and we will let you know when it will be taking place. Note that lunch (and/or dinner) will be provided!

Jessica Broadbent, General representative

Sponsorship – securing ARC's future

2008 has been a tough year for Melbourne's theatre community. This year we've seen some of the largest and wealthiest amateur theatre companies stumble to the point of near collapse. Companies that were once considered secure and almost untouchable are now sitting within an inch of financial ruin. Through all this uncertainty ARC has survived through a turbulent 2008, but we are not immune from these hardships and there may come a time when we will not have the means to survive. This news may come as a shock to many but this is the reality that we may one day face.

So what can we do to avoid this crisis and ensure ARC's survival during this period of uncertainty? The most effective action one can take is to pledge support to ARC through sponsorship. By sponsoring ARC you will not only help secure ARC's future and help us continue to provide local youth with theatrical opportunities but in turn the benefits that we can provide to your company can help your business through these tough financial times. We can provide countless advertising opportunities reaching out right across Melbourne and introduce your business to a host of new clientele and potential customers. By sponsoring ARC you can boost your company's profile by presenting yourselves as community leaders, demonstrating a commitment to supporting a respected youth-focused community group. With the popularity that West Side Story attracts this is truly a unique opportunity for your business and one that should not be missed.

If you'd like to become a sponsor for West Side Story or know of any business that would be interested please email vice-president@arc-theatre.com for further information.

Julian Campobasso, Vice-President

Congratulations

On behalf of all ARC members the committee would like to congratulate ARC life member Andy Jameson and his new wife Vanta on recently getting married. We'd like to wish Andy and Vanta all the best in their new lives as Mr and Mrs Jameson.