

Limelight Letter



The theatre is dark!

In theatre we have a tradition - whenever the theatre is empty, we are always sure to leave one light on. Typically, on a stand in the centre of the stage; this light is known as the 'ghost light'.

There are many stories about its origin - but its meaning is unmistakable.

It means though the theatre is empty, WE WILL RETURN. So here's to us. The actors, the technicians, the directors, the carpenters, the designers, the dancers, the teachers, the students, the freelancers, those on tour; those at sea, the electricians, the stitchers, the makers, the stage managers.... The artists.

Many of us have taken big hits during this virus. Financial and emotional weights have come crashing down as our entire industry is reduced to nothing but a bunch of ghost lights. But those ghost lights are temporary place holders. They are a sign.

We might be down now but our passion, our creativity, our drive is still centre stage. We'll be unplugging those ghost lights in no time. Until then- here's a ghost light- to let the world know we will be back!

PRESIDENT'S SPOT



Hello members and friends

What strange times we are living in! Isolation, physical distancing, masks and sanitisers!

I hope you are all managing to stay connected with family and friends by various means—whether you're phoning a friend, sending emails, having 'face-time' or maybe even writing a letter or card—any and all communication at times like these will help us all stay connected and sane!

As I announced in March, we are unable to meet at the theatre at the moment. No-one can predict how long it will be before we are again 'open for business'. The "Quartet" cast and crew were hoping to weather this current storm but have had to accept a long delay before they can bring this excellent play to our stage.

The current plan is to postpone all productions in the hope of bringing them to you later in the year or even in 2021. Watch this space!

Finally, many of you will have received membership reminders recently as the majority of subscriptions are due around March/April. Hopefully you will all renew your membership even though we aren't able to bring our usual entertainment to you. In the meantime, I will be sending you regular newsletters to keep you informed and entertained!

Shelley



Some early memories of Wanneroo Repertory Inc.

THE FIRST FEW YEARS

Our newsletter usually reports on the things that have just happened, are happening now and will be happening shortly. Well, there's very little going on at the moment so, I thought I'd take you all on a journey of discovery about Wanneroo Repertory and the Limelight Theatre.

The journey began in 1974 with three productions being staged at the Civic Centre.

Those productions were -

"Murder in the Red Barn" a Melodrama directed by Kate Stuart

3-one act plays—*"Five to Five-Thirty"*, *"Edward Bear's Picnic"* and *"The Bald Prima Donna"*
directors John Dooley & Sheila Buchanan

"Puss in Boots" a children's play directed by Sheila Buchanan

The following year a new committee was installed and the first draft of our constitution was drawn up. It was at this time that the aims for our theatre group were established -

A) To provide all types of theatrical entertainment, mainly for the benefit of the people in the Shire/City of Wanneroo and,

B) To encourage and assist in the training of all interested parties in all fields of live theatre.

In 1975 we staged 3 more productions at the Civic Centre -

"Dear Children" a comedy directed by Colin Stilwell

"Sweet & Deadly" a thriller written/directed Miriam Howard Wright.

"A Christmas Cracker" a variety show directed by Ray & Anita Middleton

As new members with expertise and experience joined the Club, we were able to extend the number of seasons, and in 1976 there were four, plus a season of one act plays—something of a tradition in community theatre all around WA.

“Arsenic & Old Lace”, “The Brides of March”, “Hansel & Gretel” and a variety show called “Comedy Tonight” were the full length plays “The Valiant”, “The Deterrent” and “Come in to the Garden Maude” were the one act plays for this year.



Rehearsals were different then!

The scout hut (vacated by the scouts) on the Wanneroo show grounds, was where actors rehearsed, where sets were built and the many props and wardrobe items were stored. The company prepared to perform in the Civic Centre,, a draughty hall that had to be set up for audiences each evening prior to the performances! The set had to be carried by trailers and cars to be installed on the Sunday prior to opening but nobody complained!

1977—1979

1977 opened with “High Spirits” a variety show and was followed by “The Boyfriend” a very popular musical then and now—I found in the program that, long time member, Kerry Goode was the choreographer for this production! There was the now mandatory one act play season with—”See if I care”, “The Rats” and “The Laboratory” being presented and the year ended with the pantomime “Cinderella” - Lyn Brown (MD) and Kerry Goode choreographing again!

1978 brought “Reward in Heaven”, “May Daze” (a variety show), “The Children’s Hour” and another panto—”Jack and the Beanstalk”

And in 1979, rounding off the decade, we presented two different variety shows plus “Fools Paradise”, “Aladdin” and “Gaslight” which would be staged again by the Club in 2017, but

"GASLIGHT" 1979



Looking back at old programs I found the cost of seeing productions in the 70s was \$1.50 adult and 75c concession! Programs were 10c and later 25c, how things have changed!

"REWARD IN HEAVEN," with Brenda Redding & Tom Brandwood and "CHILDREN'S HOUR" both from 1978



Annual pantomimes were a must in the early years. This was from "Aladdin" in 1979



YOUR CURRENT COMMITTEE AND THEATRE MANAGERS

**PRESIDENT—Shelley McGinn
(president@limelighttheatre.com.au)**

VICE PRESIDENT—Jane Anderson

SECRETARY—Richard Tudge

TREASURER—Mike Gibbs

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Julie Clark—Maintenance Manager

Carol Binks—Publicity & Marketing

Paul King—Sound

Kathleen Del Casale

Karen Murray

Ashlee Torrens

NON-COMMITTEE

Bookings & Membership—Patrick McGinn

Front of house—RJ Smolders

Wardrobe—Joan Braskic

FOR BOOKINGS

phone—0499 954 016

(Mon, Wed & Fri 9 –12)

Or on line -

www.limelighttheatre.com.au