



March / April 2018

Horsham Arts Council Inc.

Let's Go On With The Show

After five months of rehearsals, the curtain is set to rise on our latest production of 'Joseph & the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat'. The cast includes 66 people, including children's ensembles of 16 who rotate with each show.

Like any show, the journey has been one of ups and downs. However, we have worked together as a team. Each rehearsal was a learning experience for us all. It is a privilege to watch the cast and crew grow as the weeks go by. To see the cast relax into their characters and bring them to life is a wonderful thing to behold. Then you hear the orchestra come together with the cast for the sitzprobe. What an awe-inspiring day that was. Catherine and the orchestra played their hearts out and brought the music to life. Throw in the sublime vocals from the cast and we have Christmas. I am so proud of everyone involved in the show. We have given our very best to make the best possible production that we can. It will be an honour to sit in the audience on opening night, watching what everyone has achieved.



Putting aside "Joseph" rehearsals, March and April have been very active for the HAC.

- Representatives from the HAC, including Beau Ladlow, Emily Friedrichsen and Tim O'Donnell, performed at the Wimmera Machinery Field Days in March 2018.
- The HAC performed a 30-minute set at the annual Relay for Life event held on 16 March 2018. The performers were very well received by the community. Thanks to Stacey Brennan for organising this on behalf of the HAC.
- The HAC trivia night was held at Uptempo Café on 6 April 2018. It was a superb night with a full room of people in attendance. Huge congratulations must go to Chris Versteegen, Erin Boutcher and Loucas Vettos for organising and running a successful night.
- Ken Warrick, Colin & Gen Kreymborg, Belinda Elliott, Jessica Wilson & myself attended "Jesus Christ Superstar" in Ballarat on the long weekend in March 2018. We formed a strong connection with Ballarat Lyric Theatre Society. We loaded a truck full of set items for "Joseph" (two trips mind you).
- Current HAC members travelled to see ex-HAC members in various productions. Rebecca Wik stole the stage as the lead role in "42nd Street" in Geelong. Samantha Prolius was a member of the hilariously funny "Spamalot" in Ballarat. It is great to see HAC members thriving. What's more, people making the effort and time to travel and support their fellow thespians.
- The committee has decided on the next HAC production. Debbie Boutcher will direct "Urinetown" in October 2018. Debbie has put together a wonderfully talented team who will ensure this will be a fantastic production.

I hope to see HAC members, their families and friends at the theatre to support the cast and crew of "Joseph". It is sure to be a wonderful show. Besides, it is a great excuse for everyone to together again and enjoy each other's company. Please spread the word within the community. The cast and crew deserve full houses for each performance.

-Simon Dandy

I closed my eyes, drew back the curtain, to see for certain...

what I thought I knew...



Secretary's Scribbles



We are in the middle of the hardest but most exciting part of putting on a show. We have mapped out the whole show, we know what we have to do. Now we revise, and review, polish and change when necessary to create a better overall show. We know that things might have to change yet again when we hit the theatre and we are faced with the differences between the theatre and our rehearsal space.

Technical changes may mean practical changes as to what is happening on stage. So even though the cast, crew and orchestra are expected to know their stuff, it is in the full knowledge that the reality of tech week will probably mean changes and relearning. Everyone on the team starts to get tired and stretched, but also more focused on getting things right. It is exciting to see things getting better, harmonies and movement tighter, and costumes go on. Sets are getting painted and props are being worked with. The orchestra has joined the cast and sound and lighting are being designed. This is the busiest, most rewarding and some times the most frustrating time as we are in the 're' part of rehearsals.

Opening night of 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat' is just around the corner and we are looking forward to sharing this wonderful show with you.

-Faye Johns

Joseph and the Amazing TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT





Horsham Arts
Council Inc.

proudly presents



Joseph and the Amazing TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT

MUSIC BY

ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER

LYRICS BY

TIM RICE

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Tim's Horsham Arts Council Journey

First of all, thank you for the opportunity to write a piece for the HAC newsletter. I joined last year as a way to meet people and to rediscover myself and my creative side. I was not in a great place in the second half of last year and joining a local social group was top of my list to recover and get an idea of whom I was going to be in the future. I was speaking with Deb Boutcher about expressing myself and finding a creative outlet. I mentioned HAC and Deb pointed me toward Luke Mitton, saying auditions were coming up shortly.



It was a fortuitous call to Luke that advised me of auditions coming up for 'Joseph' (a play, admittedly, I only knew two songs from, both sung by Michael Crawford). So I front up to dance choreography and then it all begins. First thought is, "what the hell am I doing here?" I hadn't done choreography of any nature for a long time and my last 'theatre performance' was high school plays 26 years ago! I felt wayyyy over my head on that first day. A couple of days after that were the vocal auditions. I sang a song for my family and a song for me. I adore 'Gethsemane' from JCS (or 'Yosemite' as Beau would call it) and 'Sweet Transvestite' from Rocky Horror (my personal fave musical). I still remember the looks on some faces (all positive, but my hands were shaking the whole time). To get a call back was a great feeling and I was given the challenge of 'Canaan Days' for the audition. I fell in love with that song from the first listen. I practised and practised and watched the brothers in many forms and plays to get an idea of what was going on. To be offered the role of Simeon is a privilege and one I don't take lightly.

I have many positives from my experience thus far, but I thought I would share a few:

1. This place exists. Creativity is much maligned and disregarded in some small towns and there can be stigmas or negative attitudes attached to people who wish to express themselves in this way. I am glad this exists as it gives people young and old an outlet that is both nourishing and fulfilling.
2. HAC takes itself seriously and endeavours to put on good shows. I have seen a couple in my time and was impressed with the quality of performance in such a small population. Yes it can be stressful for committee, directors, choreographer, coaches and the cast and crew. But we do it for a collective purpose. The payoff at the end of the rainbow (to quote Jess)
3. Support and encouragement; thank you for making me feel welcome from the start. It is not easy to come into an environment not knowing anyone, but I had no choice. I have received some very kind words of support in my time at HAC. I have been able to bring Harvey to a few rehearsals and was very appreciative that this flexibility was available to me. Jess had a great chat with me, reassuring me of the flexibility to make it work; Simon and co. supported this sentiment. Not only has Harvey really enjoyed the experience, he has also seen his Dad in another light - something I genuinely wanted to do. Without that support I don't think some of this could have been possible. I have paid it forward by being supportive to others. Support is given and then it should be returned.
4. Kids/Youth; It has been wonderful to watch younger kids and teens get into the creative path. I would not have had the guts to do this at their age and admire any parents that have encouraged their child's participation. Much respect to the teenagers in the crew. There is some serious talent in this group of young people. I respect that you would have the spirit and drive to have a go at this.
5. Volunteerism is alive – people give up their time, work hours in the background and for what? To provide an opportunity for the community to be creative. I genuinely worry about the evaporation of volunteers in our community, but I see it beat at HAC. I always think there could and should be more participation spread across an organisation so the same people don't get lumbered with responsibility each time, but that's common across a lot of social groups. I see Kenny and Jack, Gen and Col working along in the background. I was brought up by my late parents to be a volunteer and believe in giving back to community with whatever you can afford to give. Washing a floor or providing an extra set of hands is just part of the collective journey. This is not about 'me' but 'we'.

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much"

— Helen Keller

Continued...

Continued...

As we get closer to opening night I think of what it will be like to step out on stage for the first time in 26 years. I have no idea, other than I know I am ready. My family and friends are coming from far and wide and I am proud to be part of showcasing what we can do at HAC. I know the work it took to get to this spot and the energy you have to put in to get the most out of yourself. I have waded through doubt, smacked away self-consciousness and have found my character/s. Joining HAC was one of the smartest things I have done in a long time and I am grateful for the opportunity to work with such a great bunch of people. To the creative team, choreographers, vocal coaches; thank you for encouraging my growth creatively. I won't ever be Fred Astaire but at least I won't be Fred Flintstone. To the cast, let's have a lot of fun, support and encourage each other and put on a ripping show.

Cheers,

-Tim O'Donnell

Jesus Christ Superstar review

Ballarat Lyric Theatre

Wendouree Centre for Performing Arts

The future of theatre involves digital projections, mechanical set pieces and simultaneous live filming. Yet the heart and soul of theatre will always be actors creating committed, fascinating and breath-taking performances, musicians collaborating to transport an audience and a production team that is focussed on delivering a vision which pays homage to the source material and adds individual flair. Jesus Christ Superstar delivered all of these elements and more.



Ballarat Lyric Theatre, under the watchful and inspired direction of Steve Armati, took on the epic tale of Jesus Christ in his final days during their recent production of *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Needless to say, my lofty expectations were met with overwhelming success. Lead actor Laurence Heenan was a stoic and mindful Jesus who clearly displayed the sense of dread associated with the role. Alongside Laurence, Judas performer Aidan Brady showed vulnerability and brotherhood that ultimately resulted in his impending betrayal. Erin and I were fortunate enough to see both Aidan and Dylan Shalless, who also played the role of Judas on alternate nights. Where Aidan showed vulnerability, Dylan showed intensity and reflected Judas' unwanted pressures.

A production of this scale was ideal for the Wendouree Performing Arts Centre. As beautiful and awe-inspiring as Ballarat's Her Majesty's Theatre is, the ambitious set design which featured a platform that could be raised accordingly behind steps across the entire width of the stage and the orchestra positioned on the stage, was ideally suited to the modern surrounds of Wendouree. This also allowed the three MCG-sized screens to fit across the cyclorama and project live-feeds and also local Ballarat landmarks to enhance the modern interpretation.

Musically, the show was faultless. The special cameo performance by lead guitarist Lyndon Kriss was a certain highlight. Special mention goes to the vast talents of the ensemble who created the passion necessary to eventually force Jesus' crucifixion. Mary Magdalene was portrayed angelically by Shelley Svoza, her kindness and empathy towards Jesus and the other disciples, specifically Simon, was a refreshing take on the role. Liam Kelly's performance of Simon Zealotes was raw and youthful, he makes a powerhouse punk front man. Of course, a mention must go to the whip-wielding Samuel Apineru who had every woman in the audience swooning. Jesus Christ Superstar was an incredible production that did not shy away from experimentation. I am certain it will be remembered for many years to come for its strong casting, remarkable vocal performances and exceptional story telling. A wonderful production worthy of its second viewing.

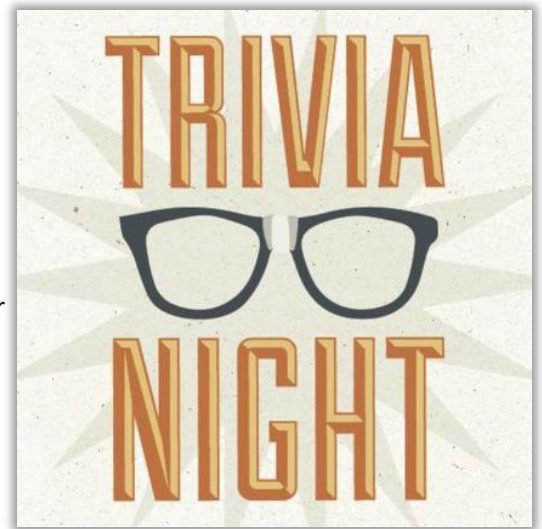
-Chris Versteegen

Trivia Night!

How exciting, a night for all HAC members, families and friends to get together to socialize and mingle out of rehearsals and the general catch up most of us do in the supermarket or down the street. Chris Versteegen, Erin Boutcher and myself whipped together the foundations of what will hopefully become an annual event for the Arts Council to draw in some new people, celebrate the current show we are doing but most of all, have a great time with our friends and family.

Our night started out quite easy with a Joseph/Andrew Lloyd Webber round and then we ventured into Sports, Australia, Musical Theatre/HAC, Disney, Celebrities/Famous Faces and Flags/Countries. With a room of approximately 60 people and 8 teams Chris, Erin and I tried to keep the peace between tables by allowing teams to purchase one question per round and then throwing in a couple of games with prizes. Kudos to our winners, enjoy your movie James Henwood and enjoy your pizza/salad Jess Wilson. Thanks to Horsham Centre Cinema and Bonnie and Clyde's Pizza/Salad for the donations.

Overall, it was a great night had by all but there could only be one winner! Our Grand Prize donated by the Horsham Town Hall was won by the "Bobba Fettas" consisting of Jessica Wilson, Anna Robarts, Esther and Violet Fry, Stacey Brennan and Belinda Elliot who won by ONE WHOLE POINT. All I can say is, next year's competition will be nothing but FIERCE. Keep an eye out in the newsletter and Facebook page for future social events!



-Loucas Vettos





URINETOWN

THE MUSICAL

Information Evening Date: 4pm– Sunday May 27th at HAC

Audition Dates: Saturday 2nd June

Sunday 3rd June

If required, Monday 4th June

Call Back Dates: 10th and 11th of June if required

Final Cast Announcement Date: Tuesday 12th June

Shrek Review

On, Saturday 17th of March, 4 HAC members travelled down to see SLAMS production of 'Shrek' the Musical which was being performed at the Alan Ross Centre at Billanook College in Mooroolbark. We were very excited to see how a non-professional company would deal with the technical requirements of a show like 'Shrek' as well as looking forward to seeing the engaging and entertaining show that it is. We were not disappointed.

Given the constraints of the performance centre that 'Shrek' was being performed in – there were no flies and only some tracks that set could run on, the setting for the show was at times minimalistic with clever choices of when to use their large set on tracks. Farquaad's castle was simple, yet well designed, the bath for his bathtub scene, and the oversize horse that Farquaad rides were fantastic. When they didn't have a great deal of set, they used clever, tight lighting to create the atmosphere that they wanted. Making use of the lighting to aid Fiona's transformations, allowed the magic of these scenes to flow through to the audience. Due to a lack of flies, they did not fly Fiona, however that did not detract from the overall quality of the show, they dealt with the technical constraints they had with creativity. The orchestra was incredibly tight and professional, with great sound mix and quality, having the space to put them in a room separate to the performance area, allowed the music to be impeccably controlled.

The cast of 'Shrek' was generally younger, with a few seasoned performers who's experience lifted the pure enthusiasm of the cast who were very obviously enjoying themselves, into a thoroughly enjoyable and engaging show. The lead actor Jay Haggett has wonderful vocals as the title character of Shrek. Ryan Purdy as Donkey and Tayla Thomas as Fiona, rounded out a tight knit lead trio, the comic timing of Fiona and Donkey had the audience cackling throughout the show. Jonathan Guthrie-Jones as Lord Farquaad stole the limelight every time he waddled onto stage on his knees as the pint sized would-be king. His use of vocal characterisations and facial expressions were quite incredible and his performance was captivating. The ensemble was solid, with a few stand out moments, like the choreography for the 3 Blind Mice, who blithely went about their way, regardless of what any one else was doing. The choreography was relatively simple, but tight, the tap dancing mice and the sharp controlled movements of the citizens of Duloc were great. Costumes and puppetry were also a standout, with SLAMS creating all their own puppets and costumes.

Watching it critically with an eye to how other non-professional companies handle the technical challenges and complexities that a lot of newer musicals present us with, I was still completely engaged and thoroughly enjoyed a bright, tight and funny show.



-Faye Johns

BEiNG FRANK

A live theatre performance to help raise awareness, understanding and “having a chat”, helping people get to know, learn more about and accept the value of trans and gender diverse people in our local community.

WHERE: Stawell Neighbourhood House

DAY: Monday 21st May 2018

TIME: 6:00pm arrival for a 6:30pm start

BOOKINGS: Via Eventbrite [here](#) or contact Carol

e: pcpic@grampianscommunityhealth.org.au p:5352 6225

“We are all bystanders and can help save lives and create stronger and safer communities”



‘Together we can all make a difference’

Written by Chris Summers
Directed by Suzanne Chaundy
Produced by Deakin University in
partnership with Transgender Victoria

Proudly brought to you by



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Maddi Ostapiw Vocal Studio is currently taking enrolments, including a discounted trial lesson to any past or present HAC member.



Contact Maddi on 0437 244 468 for more info.

HAC Life Members

Ritchie Hobbs* (1972)	Shirley Mewett (1993)	Ken Bradshaw (2002)	Sandy Wills (2007)	Don Mitchell (2012)
Ron Shepherd* (1976)	Avis Denholm (1999)	Dawn Deale (2005)	Debbie Boutcher (2010)	Jenny Rafter (2012)
Colin Mills (1987)	Jan Morris (2001)	Laurie Deale* (2005)	Gary (Jack) Janetzki (2010)	Ronnie Thomas (2016)
Barbara Mills (1987)	Richard Morris* (2001)	Stuart Johns (2007)	Lynne McKenzie (2010)	Libby Brennan (2016)
Ona Whiteside* (1993)	Gerry Nicholls (2001)			

HAC Meetings are on the 2nd Wednesday of every month.

All members are welcome to attend.

Next meeting is 7:30pm, 9th of May, 2018

Newsletter Team

Please forward any information for future newsletters to the team via ladlow@internode.on.net

or message **Cherie Ladlow** on **0458 747 236**

Until next time...

Happy holidays, from your friendly neighborhood newsletter team,

Cherie Ladlow, Beau Ladlow and Lynley Macdonald

MEMBERSHIP FORM

2018

Membership year of Horsham Arts Council Inc. extends from 1st January to 31st December.

Join now and support performing arts in the Wimmera and keep in touch with what is happening throughout the year through our newsletter.

Membership fees:
\$50 for a single
\$100 for a family

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