

# PLAYBILL

# The Elanora Players Newsletter



## October 2011 edition

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### DIARY DATES

#### April 2012 Production – *Blithe Spirit*

**Play Reading:** Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> November,  
7.30 p.m.

**Auditions:** Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> November,  
7.30 p.m.

(see below for more information)

#### Elanora Players Christmas Drinks/Dinner

**Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December** at the Terrey Hills Tavern  
from 7.00 p.m. (more details below).

#### January 2012 Production – *Curtain Up*

**Set up:** Evening of Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> January

#### Performance dates:

Opens Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2012, 8.00pm

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup>, 3.00pm & 8.00pm

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>, 3.00pm

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup>, 8.00pm

Friday 20<sup>th</sup>, 8.00pm

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup>, 3.00pm & 8.00pm

**Members'  
discount on  
1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> nights -  
\$15 tickets!**

**Set down:** Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2012.

### Director's Report "You're Only Young Twice"

The ability to complete casting in week one proved a great advantage in terms of rehearsal time. The combination of fast dialogue and frequent sight gags required a lot of rehearsal. Despite the amount of work involved it was a lot of fun: it took several weeks before some lines could be rehearsed without the cast breaking down into laughter. The mixture of hilarity interspaced with moments of touching solemnity gave the cast plenty of opportunity to display their acting abilities. Audiences loved it.

Full marks also to the cast for their hard work in bumping-in then bumping out the set. It was a small team to undertake a big task, even when supplemented by our off-stage and FOH crews. Kerrie King as SM, assisted by Wade Orth, did a tremendous job with props and scene shifting. Wendy Knight's experience as lighting operator proved invaluable while Sandra Muscat climbed (successfully) the steep learning curve as sound operator. Trish Longley and Margot Beckett at front-of-house did a great job of organisation as usual.

In view of my experience with rehearsal time on this show I heartily support the experiment of reading and casting the following show well before the end of a current season. Next thing to work on is the means by which we inform people about coming events and so ensure maximum participation.

- Bill Akhurst.

### New schedule for Auditions

In case you were wondering why we have been holding our readings & auditions for plays earlier than usual (i.e. in the week following the final performances of a play), your Committee has decided to change this to allow more time to get a show up and running, and to allow for possible cast changes/hiccups earlier, rather than later. It will also give the cast more time to get started on learning their lines well before rehearsals begin officially!

So, from now on, we will be auditioning for plays during the rehearsal period of the current production. There is no set timing for this, so you will just have to keep your eye on the *Playbill*, or watch for email announcements.

## Bliithe Spirit by Noel Coward

Auditions for our April 2012 show are coming up soon. Wade Orth will be directing this classic comedy, written by Noel Coward.

A comfortable, middle-aged couple entertain friends and the local medium for an evening of dinner and drinks. They also plan an informal séance, expecting to get a few laughs. The contact with the after-life is more successful than they imagined and Charles' late wife appears – only to Charles – resulting in hilarious double conversations with invisible people.

### Characters:

* Ruth, dry s.o.h., confident	40 – 60 y.o.
* Charles, a little neurotic	40 – 60 y.o.
* Elvira, the dead wife, wicked s.o.h.	40 – 60 y.o.
Dr Bradman	40 – 60 y.o.
Mrs Bradman	40 – 60 y.o.
*Madame Arcati, very eccentric medium	40 – 80 y.o.
Edith, fairly brainless maid who runs everywhere	20 – 50 y.o.

\*main character

--Other roles needed: Stage manager, Production assistant, Lights, Sound, Props, Costumes

All welcome to:

Play reading – Wed 23rd Nov at 7.30pm

Audition – Wed 30th Nov at 7.30pm

at Elanora Community Centre, 49a Kalang Road, Elanora Heights.

## Short and Sweet 2012

Elanora Players' production of *Through the Chair*, which was performed by James Belfrage as part of our July show this year, has been accepted for inclusion in the 'Top 100' of 2012's *Short and Sweet Festival*.

*Through the Chair* was written by Mark Bourne (who also wrote *A Better You* which was EPs show in April, 2010) and will again be performed by James Belfrage, and directed by Tracey Keene.

We will let you know the dates of the performances in the New Year so you can go along and show your support.

## Fun Fillers

Finding a woman sobbing that she had locked her keys in her car, a passing soldier assures her that he can help.

She looks on amazed as he removes his trousers, rolls them into a tight ball and rubs them against the car door. Magically it opens.

"That's so clever," the woman gasps. "How did you do it?"

"Easy," replies the man. "These are my khakis".

## CURTAIN UP By Peter Quilter

Holding the reading and auditions early for *Curtain Up* has certainly proved positive in so many ways. Luckily I was able to cast it on the first round and apart from one change of cast member since, due to illness, all members have had their scripts for weeks which not only assists them with extra time to learn lines but has clearly been an asset with early forming of characterisations.

*Cast members are:*

Wendy Starkie as Pam  
Audrey Harpur as Betty  
Sandy Muscat as Theresa  
Maureen Carr as Sharon  
Wendy Knight as Jackie

*The crew consists of:*

Vanessa MacArthur as SM, Ian MacArthur on Lights, Robert Longley as Production Manager, Bill Akhurst on Sound and Wade Orth on Props.

*Curtain Up* is a very funny play with a few twists and turns just to add some 'drama'. As a director, I find if I'm laughing during rehearsals, then it's a good storyline with good delivery.

As it's an all-girl cast we will need your help for bump-in but rest assured the set will be as simple as possible.

Bump-in: Friday/Sat/Sun 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> January, 2012.

Performance dates: Opening night Friday, 13th Jan 2012  
then Sat 14<sup>th</sup> 3pm & 8pm  
Sun 15<sup>th</sup> 3pm  
Thurs 19<sup>th</sup> 8pm  
Fri 20<sup>th</sup> 8pm  
Sat 21<sup>st</sup> 3pm & 8pm

Bump out: Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> January.

Looking forward to a great show - cheers, *Kerrie King*.

## Fun Fillers

Harold was asked, 'What do you do now that you're retired?'

"Well... I'm fortunate to have a chemical engineering background and one of the things I enjoy most is converting beer, wine and whiskey into urine. It's rewarding, uplifting, satisfying and fulfilling. I do it every day and I really enjoy it." .....Harold should be an inspiration to us all.