Javeenbah Theatre Company Inc

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2009

Powerful Winslow story

The battling Winslows – from left: Chris Chambers (Sir Robert) Wayne Bentley (Desmond) Nathan Schulz (Dickie) Bruce Baddiley (Arthur Winslow) Diana Ingram (Grace) Marja-Liisa Gregory (Catherine) and (front) Jo Whittington (Violet) and Tim Carroll (Ronnie)

Playing to good audiences is Javeenbah's second production of the year, Terence Rattigan's *The Winslow Boy*.

Directed by Eric James Summers, *The Winslow Boy* runs until 11 April. There is no performance on Good Friday, 10 April. So if you have not seen it yet, get on to our booking office and reserve your seat.

The booking office number is 5596 0300 or you can book by e-mail at info@javeenbahtheatre.com.

Based on events that actually occurred, *The Winslow Boy* was written in 1946. The action takes place in the drawing room of the Winslow family's home in Kensington, London, from 1912 to 1914, just before World War I.

The early 1900s were volatile years for British politics. Germany was re-arming, while at home trade unions were demanding basic human rights and women the right to vote. Europe was parcelled out at whim amongst a few families called "royal".

Against this background, a young naval trainee was accused of theft and dishonourably discharged. His family took on the might of the British Admiralty and the House of Lords to clear his name.

Director Eric James Summers says the attitude of "keeping the bastards honest" is something we take for granted, but in the early 1900s it was a bold and wealthy man who could dare to challenge the power of the state. *The Winslow Boy* is essentially a story about a man and his family taking such a stand.

Eric says: "So along with this very human tale, there's a nice little lesson in life and history and we've contrived to authentically portray the style, clothes and manners of the time as the story unfolds.

"I have been delighted to return to Javeenbah to direct another significant drama and with such a diverse and interesting cast. Most of the cast are new to Nerang Playhouse, and each other, but they have brought a great wealth of experience from musicals, Shakespeare, Williamson and Austin productions to the stage for Terence Rattigan's *The Winslow Boy*."

Playing the title role of Ronnie Winslow is Tim Carroll who, at 13 is the same age as the Winslow boy he portrays. He has already appeared in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, Sanctuary Cove's *Kidnapped at Christmas* and GCLT's *Annie get your Gun*. Tim says he would like to thank the cast and especially Eric for their guidance, making his first serious acting role as Ronnie Winslow extremely enjoyable.

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Winslow story takes our stage

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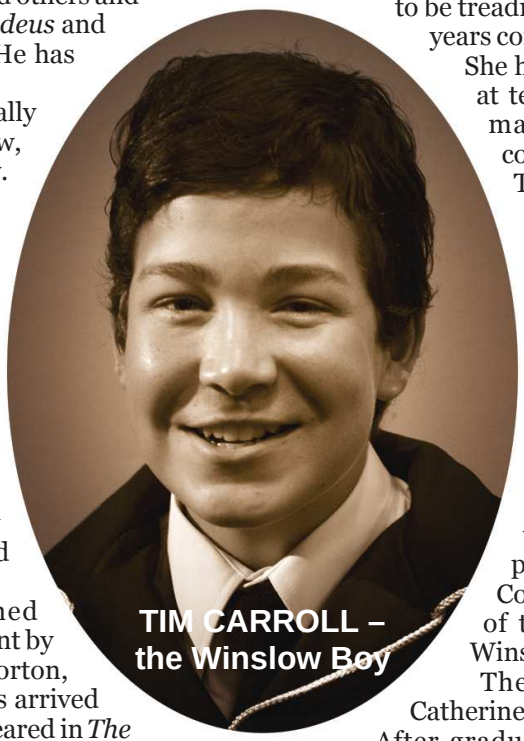
Ronnie's father Arthur Winslow is played by Bruce Baddiley. Bruce's extensive acting credits include work with La Boite, Playlab, Stagewise, Peter and Ellen Williams and a huge range of roles with Brisbane Arts including several Shakespeares, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, The Rose Tattoo, The Frog* and *Dead White Males*. For Trocadero Productions he has played Shakespeare, Chekhov and others and with 4MBS Classic Players *Amadeus* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. He has also appeared in films.

Ronnie's sister and staunch ally of their father, Catherine Winslow, is taken by Marja-Liisa Gregory. Trained at Griffith University and workshopped at RADA Marja-Liisa has worked in voice-overs, corporate videos and stage productions. 2009 has already been a full year so far as Marja-Liisa has played Conrade in *Much Ado About Nothing* (Mercury's Wings) and Mum in *Bedtime Stories* (QTOP). This is her first show at Javeenbah and she is very grateful to work with this cast and crew.



TIM CARROLL – the Winslow Boy

The family is championed through the courts and Parliament by leading barrister Sir Robert Morton, played by Chris Chambers. Chris arrived in Australia in 2007 and has appeared in *The Club* (GCLT), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Arts Theatre) and is a regular with the Play With Your Food Company (a restaurant/corporate entertainment group). His credits in New Zealand include Sir John Falstaff in *The Merry Wives of Windsor,* Bobby in *Run for Your Wife,* Colonel Connolly in *Once on Chunuk Bair,* dual roles in *House Guest* and Max Telligan in *A Touch of Danger*.

Sir Robert is instructed by solicitor Desmond Curry — Wayne Bentley. Wayne has performed in theatre on the Coast for several years. Credits include *Anything Goes* for GCLT, *Noises Off* for Spotlight and a short play season. Wayne completed studies in theatre in 2002.

Long-suffering Grace Winslow, Ronnie's mother, is played by Diana Ingram who says she is so glad to be treading the boards again after several years concentrating on a business career. She had previously majored in drama at teachers college and appeared in many musicals with Sydney companies. She thanks Javeenbah Theatre and Eric for giving her the opportunity to work in a classic play.

Ronnie's elder brother Dickie Winslow is played by Nathan Schulz who was last seen by theatre audiences in GCLT's *Tom, Dick and Harry* as the hyper-active Harry. He's since travelled to Berlin, Germany, where he performed and assisted with the direction of various shows. Now a seasoned performer, he's back on the Gold Coast and relishing every moment of the challenging role of Dickie Winslow.

The part of John Weatherstone, Catherine's fiance, is taken by Kyal Scott. After graduation from school in Western Australia at the end of 2007, Kyal has been in Queensland no longer than a year and already been involved in three top productions: *Annie Get Your Gun* (GCLT), *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (Javeenbah) and *The Boy From Oz* (GCAC). *The Winslow Boy* marks his first serious dramatic role on the coast and he is thrilled to work with such a talented cast.

Doing much to hold the family together is their maid, Violet, played by Jo Whittington who recently arrived on the Gold Coast from London. Her acting credits have been mostly in television, in such period dramas as *Elizabeth David: A Life In Recipes* and in the more widely known series of *Doctor Who* in England. Theatrically she has conquered many plays from Berhoff to Brecht to *Guys and Dolls*. She's hoping that now she has discovered the Gold Coast theatre

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Calling directors

Directors and plays are wanted now for next year's playbill.

Artistic director Cilla Scott and the productions sub-committee are sifting through the options for 2010 and they want to hear from anybody who would like to direct or has a play they wish to see on the boards.

Javeenbah usually produces a couple of comedies, a couple of challenging dramas, a musical and a one-act season every year. While following the same formula, Cilla and her team are open to the idea of slotting in a couple of short-season productions that need little in-theatre rehearsal time and use few resources.

Please let Cilla have your ideas on what you'd like to see Javeenbah stage next year, especially if you're prepared to direct something. You can reach her at priscillas@standrewslutheran.qld.edu.au

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Scenes from *The Winslow Boy*

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scene she can put her drama degree to good use!

The newspapers who hound the family are represented by reporter Miss Barnes (Cecile Campbell) and photographer Fred (Graham Simpson).

Cecile has worked on several productions with Eric and her credits include Pearl (*Summer of the 17th Doll*), Emilee (*My Three Angels*) substitute Girlie (*Inheritance*), Vera (*Auntie Mame*) as well as numerous stints as stage manager and make up artist. Cecile also directed *The Love Nest* at Tugun Theatre last year.

Graham returned to the stage after a 20-year break in *Les Miserables* 2006 (Sanctuary Cove), co-directed *The House Next Door* 2007 (Javeenbah), *Jesus Christ Superstar* 2007, *The Pirates of Penzance* 2007, *La Cage Aux Folles* 2008 (Spotlight). This is Graham's first time in a dramatic play.

Cecile, along with Joel Beskin, was one of the director's assistants and she also stage-managed the production with assistance from Diane Cinelli, Graham and Jo.

The remaining credits go to: Costume design and preparation: Christine McLachlan, Sue Lenton, Gillian Crow, Fay Holden, Cheryl Roberts and Julia Carroll; Lighting design: Eric Summers, Carmel Leonard and Colin Crow; Set design: Eric Summers; Makeup: Cecile Campbell; Special effects: Tom Howell and Colin Crow; Sound effects: Eric James and Colin Crow; Lighting operation: Colin Crow; Set construction: Norm Strambini and Allan and Lorraine Whyte; Edwardian re-creation fireplace: Allan Whyte; Set decoration: Margaret Huebner and Jo Whittington, assisted by Jim Ingram, Norm Strambini, Tim Carroll and the Winslow crew; Accent coaching: Gordon and Ursula Johnson, Joel Beskin; Stage floor prepared by Darren Campbell.

Cats stalk Javeenbah's stage

Jellicle Cats are starting to stir around Javeenbah in readiness for this year's big musical.

Director Kim Reynolds is gathering the Jellicle tribe for the Andrew Lloyd Webber classic ***Cats*** which runs at Nerang Playhouse from 5 June to 4 July.

With show-stopping numbers like *Memory* and unforgettable characters like Mr Mistofflees, Skimbleshanks and Gus the Theatre Cat, the production promises to be an amazing spectacle and a great night out.

Kim, who is choreographing the production as well as directing, has engaged some of the best dancers on the Gold Coast.

After successful auditions, rehearsals are under way off-site but are about to move into Javenbah's rehearsal area. Bump-in is on Easter Sunday and after Easter weekend all rehearsals will be at the theatre.

MORE CAT PICTURES, P5

Liquor laws change again

Recent law changes mean Javeenbah will have to switch liquor licences yet again

We've only just swapped over to what is known as a restricted club permit for liquor sales. One visible sign of the change was extra signage on the foyer walls.

Now we're going to have to go over to what is called a community other licence. It does have the advantage of not requiring an annual renewal, though we still have to pay a licence fee every year.

But it also imposes more restrictions and responsibilities on us. The effect of one of the restrictions is to cut the "special events" extension from 10 hours to four in any one week.

One of the extra responsibilities is to have FOH volunteers under the general supervision of somebody who holds a Responsible Service of Alcohol certificate.

At the same time as the liquor law changes come in, Gold Coast City Council has made a few changes of its own. One that directly affects us is the requirement for people like Javeenbah who lease council land to carry a $20 million public liability insurance.

Coincidentally, Javeenbah management committee is already looking at all the theatre's insurances and vice-president Joan Stalker-Brown has been sleuthing out a policy bundle designed specially for community theatres. And its standard version comes with a $20 million public liability clause.

Pencils please

FOH manager Libby Bancroft needs a pencil — several, in fact.

She is collecting any old coloured or lead pencils for a school in Vanuatu.

She says: "I absolutely adore Vanuatu and want to help the kids there to get the best education possible. Now that our kids are back at school and we have bought them new pencils, what becomes of the old ones? Give them to me and get rid of the clutter at home!"

Libby is going to Vanuatu in early May and is willing to collect any pencils. If you have pencils to spare drop her an e-mail to odd_sodd@bigpond.com

Theatre under threat

Javeenbah's management committee has agreed to support efforts to save the Village Theatre at Sanctuary Cove. Proposed rent increases are so big they would threaten the theatre's viability. Several shops and restaurants in the village are also threatened.

A town meeting called to protest against the rent rises heard that developers wanted the site cleared for apartments and multi-level car parks.

The management committee agreed to write a letter of support for the Village Theatre.

CATS

The tom cats

Munkustrap	**Stewart Ryan**
Old Dueteronomy	**Jim Price**
Rum Tum Tugger	**Jacob Barry**
Mungojerrie/Macavity	**Jimmy O'Halloran**
Skimbleshanks	**Sean Curran**
Mr Mistofflees	**James Barber**
Gus the Theatre Cat	**Eric James**
Coricopat	**Kyal Scott**
Alonzo/Rumpuscat	**Shannon Kelly**
George	**Max Bimbi**
Bill Bailey	**Lucan Smout**
Victor	**Henry Kafoa**

The queen cats

Demeter	**Bec Farley**
Bombalurina	**Karen Oliver**
Jellylorum	**Cat Deller**
Victoria	**Alana Kettle**
Rumplteazer	**Greta Brinsley**
Jennyanydots	**Brooke Stephens**
Jemima	**Ruby Hunter**
Tantomile	**Jessica Purdy**
Cassandra	**Ellen Sawdy**
Electra	**Rachel Love**
Pouncival	**Taylor Peake**
Sapheira	**Lilli Newman**
Wiggles	**Alana Osbourne**

The cat people

Director/choreographer	Kim Reynolds
Assistant director	Amy-Louise Anderson
Assistant choreographer	Alana Tierney
Dance captain	Alana Kettle
Musical director	Jamie Lee Wilson
Stage manager	Ralph Lenton
Production assistant	Megan Yo
Set/props	Norm Strambini

CostumesChristine McLachlan, Sue Lenton, Colleen Reynolds, Louise Anderson and team

From the president

What a month it has been! The curtain has come up on a fantastic production of *The Winslow Boy*, directed by Eric James Summers, with a superlative cast. My congratulations go to Eric on putting together this fantastic production; he is truly an asset and good friend of Javeenbah.

The play is coming into its final week, and the response has been overwhelming by those that have already attended the performances. If you haven't booked already for this magnificent play, give us a call now and book yourself some tickets.

Congratulations to the winners of our first mobile promotion, where 100 members were randomly selected to receive an SMS on their mobile, prompting them to call immediately to claim in a pool of prizes from free tickets to discount rates. This very successful promotion is sure to carry on throughout further productions, so keep your mobiles handy and Javeenbah in your speed-dial!

On a national scale, Australia is finding itself fighting back a recession, and now is the time more than ever to support your local businesses and suppliers. Commendation must go to our treasurer, Sharyn Waterhouse, for her skills and direction with the finances of Javeenbah. It is at these looming times that I am glad for the team and friendship around me at Javeenbah. Having worked in professional entertainment venues and with high-pressure clients, it such a pleasant experience to work alongside some terrific committee members, directors and actors. I sincerely encourage anyone who is thinking of becoming more active in the theatre circles to contact one of our committee members. They can not only initiate you to the inner-sanctum of the theatre world, but show you how much fun it can be.

I attended the first rehearsal of *Cats*, directed by Kim Reynolds and this is going to be Javeenbah's best show yet! I can't wait to see the result of what I'm told will be a lot of hard work (and a bit of fun too I suspect). Kim endeavours to take on this monumental production with a group of talented individuals on her production team, who I'm told will transform Javeenbah's stage into something altogether new and exciting. I can't wait to pop in and see the progress of this dynamic group as they continue their journey. I'll be sure to keep you updated too!

This year is a year of growth for Javeenbah and it starts with each and every member. I ask you to encourage your friends to become part of this terrific network of people who share interests and enjoy our time here. Included in the newsletter is a membership form, and we'd love to see some new members join and become part of our terrific network. We have added a new question to the form, asking your occupation.

The members of Javeenbah have always been supportive during the tough times, and as the global financial crisis looms, Javeenbah would like to facilitate the growth of success of our members. As we grow the network of our businesses and skills, we can each find ways of assisting each other. As the old adage says: "Together we shall prosper".

I wish good health and success to all our members.

Tom Howell

Javeenbah's playbill 2009

Now ***The Winslow Boy***, by Terence Rattigan, director Eric Summers – until 11 April

5 June ***Cats***, by Andrew Lloyd Webber, director Kim Reynolds – until 4 July

7 June Season of one act plays auditions

12 July ***Up'n'Under*** auditions

24 July Season of one act plays ***Effie's Burning*** by Valerie Windsor, director Gillian Crow and ***Level 12*** by Kate Beck, director Barry Gibson – until 1 August

18 September ***Up'n'Under***, by John Godber, director Ralph Lenton – until 3 October

20 September ***Female of the Species*** auditions

20 November ***Female of the Species***, by Joanna Murray-Smith, director Jim Dickson – until 5 December

On other bills

11 April Tweed Disney's *Alladin Jnr*, music Alan Menken, lyrics Howard Ashman and Tim Rice, director Lelle Wood until 26 April.

13 April Queensland Theatre of Puppetry *Easter Puppet Show* until 17 April.

17 April Spotlight *Shut your Eyes and Think of England* by John Chapman and Anthony Marriott, directed by Dorothy Henderson until May 2 (Thu-Sat); matinees 19 and 26 April.

18 April Gold Coast Little *High Society* Cole Porter music and lyrics, directed by Julanne Shearer until 16 May; matinees 25 April, 3 and 9 May.

14 May Tugun *Daisy Pulls It Off* by Denise Deegan, directed by Margaret Radcliffe until 30 May (Thu-Sat); matinees 23, 30 May.

15May Spotlight *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* directed by Tony Alcock until June 13 (Thu–Sat); matinees 24, 31 May 7 June.

Join a friend

Now's the chance to persuade one or more of your many friends they can't go a moment longer without joining the greatest community theatre on the Gold Coast.
Tell them about the fun you have with Javeenbah and the wonderful people who are already members.
Tell them too that as members they get discount prices for theatre tickets, information on upcoming auditions and productions and fun-filled social events.
Then get them to fill in this form and mail it off to our membership secretary.

Name: .....

Address:.....

..... Postcode: .....

Email: ..... Phone Number: .....

Occupation: ..... Mobile Number: .....

❑ I am a new member
❑ I am renewing my membership. Please state membership number if known: .....

Membership fee $20.00 for adults and $10.00 for students.

My Interests

❑ Acting ❑ Make-up ❑ Front of House ❑ Backstage
❑ Set construction ❑ Wardrobe ❑ Production Assistant ❑ Box Office
❑ Audience Only ❑ Directing ❑ Lighting & Sound ❑ Musician
❑ All of the above

Payment method I enclose:

❑ Cheque (cheques made out to Javeenbah Theatre Company Inc.)

❑ Money order ❑ Cash $_____

Please charge my credit card Name of Authorised Staff Member: (Office Use Only) .....

❑ Visa ❑ MasterCard ❑ Bankcard Expiry Date ❑❑ ❑❑

Card No. ❑❑❑❑ ❑❑❑❑ ❑❑❑❑ ❑❑❑❑

Cardholder's name: .....

Cardholder's signature: .....

Thank you for joining or renewing your membership with Javeenbah Theatre Company Inc!
Your membership card will be sent to you shortly.

Please return this form to PO Box 1101, Ashmore City, Qld, 4214 by 30 June.

As required by Section 70 of the Associations Incorporation Act, Javeenbah Theatre advises prospective members that it has third party public liability insurance cover of $10,000,000.

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Arts groups working together

Gold Coast Theatre Alliance and Gold Coast Arts Centre have been having informal meetings to discuss ways the two organisations could work together to benefit their members and the community. Javeenbah is an active member of the Alliance.

In the meetings, the Alliance has outlined the difficulty its member companies have in paying the high costs involved with staging anything in the main auditorium of the GC Arts Centre at Evandale in Bundall Road.

Since then the companion body, Friends of the Arts Centre, has talked to the Alliance about redevelopment of the whole site, to include the adjoining Gold Coast City Council offices.

The Friends would like to see the council offices relocated to another site and the Evandale area be used to develop the Arts Centre into multi complexes that have smaller, lower-cost venues. They would like to see the whole Arts Centre area developed in a way that showcased all forms of art, both indoor and outdoor.

The Friends have now gone public with their proposals to develop an outstanding cultural precinct at Evandale.

The city council has also taken steps and appointed an Evandale Development Task Force to determine a development brief for architects to provide a facility for both the council's and the community's cultural needs. The task force, chaired by Councillor Susie Douglas, includes several councillors and the chair of the Arts Centre board and the chair of the Friends.

Among the items being emphasised to the task force by the Friends is the need for a smaller drama theatre.

If you have any comments on the proposals, send them to the Friends at friends@friendsoftheatrescentre.com.au

Fire drill all clear

Javeenbah has passed its fire drill, at the second attempt.

The first attempt failed mainly because of incomplete paper trails. The fire service gave us a month to sort out the paperwork and when they came back they gave us the all clear.

The inspection went so well, in fact, that the inspector told theatre manager Norm Strambini that he wished everyone was as good as Javeenbah.

Welcome

Javeenbah welcomes Wayne Bentley, Joel Beskin, Eric James Summers, Cecile Campbell, Darren Campbell, Marja-Liisa Gregory, Chris Chambers and Tim Carroll (student) whose applications for membership were accepted at the March management committee meeting.