



APRIL 2010

'Blokey' comedy takes shape



The booking office is now open for Javeenbah's next production: **Zigzag Street**, the hilarious story of a "blokey" bloke overcoming heartbreak.

This Australian comedy is written by Phillip Dean from the book by Nick Earls. Both writers are Brisbane-based and the play is set in Red Hill. Javeenbah's production is directed by Amy-Louise Anderson.

Amy has cast Nathan Wright in the lead role of Richard Derrington, a corporate lawyer whose girlfriend Anna recently dumped him. The play follows his attempts over six months to get over this heart-wrenching break-up from his partner of several years. He shares his thoughts and feelings and takes the audience on his journey of recovery.

He's helped by his best mate Jeff, played by Jimmy O'Halloran, his doctor Greg (Max Philipson) and his

Jeff (Jimmy O'Halloran) makes a move in his attempt to help mate Richard (Nathan Wright) recover from a bitter break-up — a scene from rehearsals for Javeenbah's next production, *Zigzag Street*.

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boss Hilary (Naomi Thompson). Others supporting him are Jeff's wife Sal (Kate Hickson) and work colleagues Deb (Alana Osborne) and Renée (Shae Jesson).

The play opens in 34 Zigzag Street, Red Hill, Brisbane — Richard's late Nanna's old Queenslander

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For details of future productions visit our website at <http://www.javeenbah.org.au>

Javeenbah Theatre Company Inc gratefully acknowledges the support of Gold Coast City Council

Website's first month a hit

Javeenbah's new website received 8,506 hits in February, which was its first full month of operation. The hits came from 421 visits by 284 visitors.

About a quarter of the hits could be put down to administrative functions such as adding and updating pages. Nearly 70 percent of hits were direct or came from bookmarks or e-mail links and the rest came from links with other sites (notably the GC Theatre Alliance site) or search engines.

Secretary Ralph Lenton reported to last month's management committee meeting that the website is operating satisfactorily and several people had submitted audition application forms through the website for *Sweet Charity* and *Zigzag Street*.

The forms give directors an opportunity to gauge interest in their production in case they have to look for people to fill particular roles. It also makes it easier to arrange closed auditions. All productions for the rest of the year have audition details and an audition application form.

Ralph urged members to have a look at



Party date

Mark your diaries — Javeenbah's Christmas party this year will be on Sunday 5 December and start at 5pm, after the matinee of *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*.

We'll be applying for a liquor licence extension to cover the evening and ideas for entertainment include a festive review. If you have thoughts about how a theatrical Christmas should be celebrated — or want to help organise the event — call president Colleen Reynolds on 0420 788 017 or e-mail her at colleengail@hotmail.com.

the "Plays of the Past" feature which can be accessed from the "About Us" page. He wants to get a definitive list of the opening date, title, author and director of all Javeenbah's productions.

So far, we go back only to February 1997. So he is asking for anybody who directed, acted in or took part in anything we staged in the 1970s or 1980s to drop us a note (e-mail to info@javeenbah.org.au is best) and mention opening date, title, author, director and anything else about the production that would be good to have on record.

Work is still going on to set up secure pages so that we can take credit card details over the net for membership applications. At the moment, potential members and people renewing their membership can pay their subscription online directly into Javeenbah's bank account or else resort to snail mail and cheque.

Lighten up

Wanted: Ideas for popular, well-known comedies.

They're wanted for next year's playbill which is looking a bit light on the light stuff.

Artistic director Amy-Louise Anderson is urging people to email her with applications for next year. "We need to hear from people with ideas for popular comedies and some known plays," she reported to last month's management committee meeting.

She will be organising a brainstorming meeting of the production sub committee to sort through ideas received so far. In the meantime, she recommends e-mail over phone call as she's rarely in the situation when she can answer her phone.

She prefers messages on her work e-mail, aanderson@marymount.qld.edu.au.

Javeenbah Theatre Company Inc
presents
ZIGZAG ST
Directed by Amy-Louise Anderson

An Australian comedy
by Philip Dean from
the book by Nick Earls

30 Apr-15 May — Thu - Fri - Sat at 8pm
Sunday 9 May at 2pm

At Javeenbah's
Nerang Playhouse
Stevens/Ferry Streets
Nerang

(Door sales available most performances)

Book on 5596 0300 or at www.javeenbah.org.au

Charity starts to sing

Singing rehearsals are under way for the musical *Sweet Charity* which opens at Javeenbah on 9 July.

Sweet Charity, from the book by Neil Simon, with music by Cy Coleman and lyrics by Dorothy Fields, is being directed and choreographed by Kim Reynolds, who gave us the smash-hit *Cats* last year.

The musical includes the wonderful numbers *Big Spender*, *If My Friends Could See Me Now* and *Rhythm of Life*.

Kim has cast Jodie Scott in the title role of Charity Hope Valentine, a girl who wants to be loved so much that she has lost sight of who she is, and Ashley Tardy and Rebecca Farley as her friends Helene and Nickie.

The part of the shy Oscar has gone to Kynan Francis with Max Philipson playing film star Vittorio Vidal and Jacob Barry as the phoney evangelist Daddy Brubeck. Jim Price is Herman, the authoritarian owner of the Fandango Ballroom and Charity's boss.

Sweet Charity premiered at the Palace Theatre, New York, in January 1966. It was directed and choreographed by Bob Fosse and was nominated for 12 Tony Awards. The 1986 Broadway revival won four Tony Awards. The 1969 film version, also directed by Fosse, featured Shirley MacLaine as Charity.

A second revival, starring Christina Applegate, opened on Broadway in May 2005 but after a troubled three-city preview tour the producers pulled it. However, two days later, the Broadway engagement was on after Applegate convinced the producers to

continue. The show was nominated for three Tony awards.

The show opened at the Menier Chocolate Factory, London, last November and is due to transfer to the West End on 23 April.

The story of Charity, the girl who stays sweet when things turn sour, opens with her meeting her fiancé in the park — at least he will be her fiancé when he gets his divorce. She tells him she's brought her life's savings to put a down payment on their new home.

Charlie the fiancé has other ideas — he pushes her into the lake and runs off with the cash.

Charity works as a taxi dancer, a professional dance partner, at the Fandango dance hall in New York City. The other hostesses at the Fandango are not surprised by her adventure and get Charity to admit that she's been taken for a sucker once more. She vows that this will be the last time. No man will ever again make a fool out of her!

But Charity doesn't just wear her heart on her sleeve, she's had it tattooed to her arm as well. She is too trusting and soon finds herself involved with an Italian movie star. The actor is no better than the other men Charity has dated, and once again she finds herself jilted and alone.

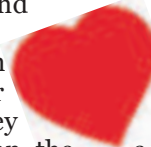
The next night she is trapped in an elevator with Oscar, a claustrophobic tax accountant who sweeps Charity off her feet. It becomes clear that this man is different — that he actually wants to marry her — but will he still feel the same way when he finds out about her job?

When she does tell him, Oscar doesn't care. He wants to marry her anyway. Her friends at the Fandango throw her a going-away party. Everything looks like it is going to work out — just like a fairy tale!

But Oscar can't forget all the other men Charity has slept with and chickens out. Charity meets him in the park to try to change his mind but he pushes her into the lake and runs off. The happy ending is: Oscar has not stolen her bag.

Kim has the core of a support team already but will also need a big wardrobe team and a strong backstage crew, including dressers.

Vital info: *Sweet Charity* opens with a Gala Night on Friday 9 July and runs until 31 July 2010 at Javeenbah's Nerang Playhouse, corner of Stevens and Ferry Streets, Nerang. Matinees are Sundays 18 and 25 July. There is likely to be a preview performance on Thursday 8 July and a "meet the cast" function in mid-June. Further information from Kim Reynolds at misskimmi_22@hotmail.com or from Javeenbah's website, <http://www.javeenbah.org.au>



Charity people

Director/choreographer	Kim Reynolds
Musical director	David Willis
Assistant director	Drew Wade
Assistant musical director	Matt Pearson
Charity Hope Valentine	Jodie Scott
Helene	Ashley Tardy
Nickie	Rebecca Farley
Oscar	Kynan Francis
Vittorio Vidal	Max Philipson
Daddy	Jacob Barry
Herman	Jim Price
Ursula	Jennifer Morgan
Rosie	Greta Brinsley
Frug dancer	Ellen Sawdy
Hostesses	Helen Maden, Liliias Davie, Sharyn Waterhouse, Shae Westerveld, Caitlin Misuraca, Ashley King, Lela Guerrero
Dancers	Sam Campell, Max Bimbi, Henry Kafoa, Drew Wade, Ben Hambley, Alana Osborne, Danielle Miller, Candice Willington, Brittiika Wylde

To audition for productions visit our website at <http://www.javeenbah.org.au>



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which his parents have given him rent-free. He has it on condition that he renovates it, something he spends most of his time avoiding.

Richard's behaviour is unpredictable and includes stripping off to dance naked in the office. He's not eating properly, work is piling up and he's lost all interest in just about everything. Life's looking grim and he spends most of his time in self flagellation and wallowing in self-pity.

Eventually, after confronting some hilarious situations, Richard meets Rachel (played by Luisa DiPompo) and manages to navigate his way back towards the hope that things might just get better for him.

The Nick Earls book *Zigzag Street* won a Betty Trask Award in the UK in 1998 and the Philip Dean play toured Australia in 2005.

Earls was the founding chair of the Australian arm of the international aid agency War Child and is now a War Child ambassador. He was the face of Brisbane Marketing's

'Downtown Brisbane' and 'Experience Brisbane' campaigns. His contribution to writing in Queensland led to him being awarded the Queensland Writers Centre's inaugural Johnno award in 2001 and a Centenary Medal in 2003.

Dean has collaborated with Earls in bringing others of his books to the stage, notably *48 Shades of Brown* and *After January*.

Vital info: *Zigzag Street* opens at Javeenbah's Nerang Playhouse, corner of Stevens and Ferry Streets, Nerang, with a Gala Night on Friday 30 April and runs until 15 May. There will be a matinee on Sunday 9 May. There is likely to be a preview performance on Thursday 29 April and a "meet the cast" function near the end of April. Further information from the director Amy-Louise Anderson at amyandflynn@live.com.au or from Javeenbah's website, <http://www.javeenbah.org.au>. You can also find ticket booking details on the website. You may also book by phoning 5596 0300 and leaving your name and number or by e-mail to book@javeenbah.org.au



Nick Earls



Philip Dean

Scenes from rehearsal

Opposite page: Richard (Nathan Wright) Rachel (Luisa DiPompo) and Greg (Max Philipson) after bumping into each other in a Brisbane mall — a scene from rehearsals for Javeenbah's next production, *Zigzag Street*.

Left: Alana Osborne (Deb) and Naomi Thompson (Hilary) discuss Richard's workplace behaviour

Below: Deb gets close to Richard's phone caller

Bottom: Richard and Rachel share a couch moment



'Brave' Javeenbah praised

Javeenbah received a mighty mention on ABC radio last month for its "brave" policy of staging productions by Australian authors.

In a segment of the *Afternoon Chillout* program with Scott Mayman, Javeenbah was praised for having two Australian-authored plays on its playbill during the remainder of the year.

The segment, entitled "The Mr Bigs of Little Theatre", features Joel Beskin on the Gold Coast and John Burles on the Sunshine Coast taking calls from listeners on theatre topics. The Javeenbah mention occupied two minutes and 42 seconds of Joel's reply to a listener.

The caller, identified as "Cathy", said that we see plays by people like David Williamson and Hannie Raison and asked: "Why don't we see more Aussie plays instead of all the overseas plays?"

Joel had first response and he said: "That's a reasonable question . . . Sure Williamson and Raison get on the agenda because they're fairly timeless and they talk about people that you can recognise but there are other Australian plays. Little Javeenbah Theatre . . . they're the brave ones. This year for instance they

are doing *Zigzag Street* by Philip Dean, Brisbane writer, based on the book by Nick Earls, another Brisbane writer . . . *Zigzag Street* is a comedy but is really about relationships and it's Australian.

"Javeenbah are doing that and then they have a writer of their own. David Scott, a writer who used to operate cinemas in New South Wales . . . David Scott has written a full length play called *Has Alice Frikkin a Ghost of a Chance?* and you can presumably alter those words round and reorder those words around if you want to.

Scott Mayman interjected: "I'll just take that as Alice's surname."

Joel: "Yes, it is her surname and it's being directed by a very experienced director so it will get the full treatment from Joan Stalker-Brown. It is a ghost story and an Australian story. So there are two current ones."

John Burles talked about the large number of one-act plays by Australian authors produced by community theatres before the program moved to other topics.

You can catch the theatre segment of the *Afternoon Chillout* program at 2:15pm every Thursday on ABC Coast radio, 91.7 FM.

Javeenbah has actually planned three Australian-authored plays for 2010 — the two Joel mentioned and *Ruby Moon*, which was on stage in January and February. The final play of 2009 was also by an Australian.

Supporting young talent

Javeenbah will again be supporting the Gold Coast Secondary Schools Drama Festival this year. The festival will be in August and involve 300 secondary school students participating across three divisions — senior, intermediate and junior.

Javeenbah will sponsor the best overall play and runner up trophies in the intermediate division, which will be staged between 19 and 21 August. Each division is hosted at a different school.

The winner of the Javeenbah trophy last year was All Saints Anglican School with Helensvale State High, Somerset College and Southport State High runners up.

Welcome

Javeenbah Theatre welcomes new members Megan Yeo and Jan Crick whose applications for membership were accepted at the March management committee meeting.

Javeenbah's playbill

2010

- 30 April ***Zigzag Street*** adapted by Philip Dean from the book by Nick Earls, director Amy-Louise Anderson — until 15 May
- 9 July ***Sweet Charity***, book by Neil Simon, music by Cy Coleman, lyrics by Dorothy Fields, director Kim Reynolds — until 31 July
- 11 July ***Has Alice Frikkin a Ghost of a Chance?*** auditions
- 15 August ***I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*** auditions
- 17 September ***Has Alice Frikkin a Ghost of a Chance?*** by David Scott, director Joan Stalker-Brown — until 2 October
- 26 November ***I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*** by playwright/lyricist Joe DiPietro, composer Jimmy Roberts, director Iain Hogg — until 11 December

On other bills

- Now Ballina Players ***Arsenic And Old Lace*** until 10 April
- 5 April Queensland Theatre of Puppetry ***Mariottes On Parade***
- 8 April Top Hat Productions ***Singin' In The Rain*** until 11th at Twin Towns Services Club
- 16 April Spotlight ***Play On*** until 1 May
- 17 April Gold Coast Little ***Showboat*** until 15 May
- 17 April Tweed Theatre ***Snow White And The Seven Dwarfs of the Black Forest*** until 2 May
- 13 May Tugun Theatre ***Outside Edge*** by Richard Harris, matinees 15, 22, until 29 May
- 21 May Spotlight ***Little Shop of Horrors***, matinees 30 May, 6 June, until 12 June
- 28 May Murwillumbah Theatre ***The Foreigner***, until 12 June
- May (dates TBA) Neptune Productions ***Salad*** by Jim Fury, Tweed Heads Civic Centre



Bare appreciation

Scenes from the final night of Javeenbah's production of the farce *Who Goes Bare?*: The cast take their last curtain (top); director Dorothy Henderson with a memento of the production (above left); Dorothy and husband Ted sort gifts for their cast (above) and (left) the party cake.



There was a lot of appreciative feedback to the production. A couple of audience members even took the trouble to write to us with their praise. One of our group booking organisers thanked cast, crew and front of house volunteers for making their evening such a special event. Another e-mail, from somebody who obviously knew what he was talking about, marvelled at the way the set coped with the slamming doors. The comments were passed on to Dorothy and her cast and crew and to FOH manager Scott Pickett and his team. – Pictures: COLIN CROW

To join Javeenbah Theatre, visit our website at <http://www.javeenbah.org.au>

Committee

President

Colleen Reynolds

P 0420 788 017

E colleengail@hotmail.com

Vice president

Katrina Lardner

P 0418 596 277

E klardner@goldcoast.qld.gov.au

Secretary

Ralph Lenton

P 5502 6794

E pentalibra@qld.chariot.net.au

Assistant secretary

Jocelyn Moore-Carter

P 5576 3869

E jocelyn.moore-carter@tlc.qld.edu.au

Treasurer

Sharyn Waterhouse

P 0418 715 882

E sharyn@tacticalprotection.com.au

Assistant treasurer

Megan Yeo

P 0423 037 330

E meganyeo2@hotmail.com

Group bookings

Martin Jennings

P 0425 302 809

E mjennings@goldcoastwater.com.au

Publicity

Vacant

Artistic director

Amy-Louise Anderson

P 0407 799 983

E aanderson@marymount.qld.edu.au

FOH manager

Scott Pickett

P 0432 413 512

E sap@onthenet.com.au

Theatre manager

Norm Strambini

P 0428 556 485

Wardrobe

Christine McLachlan

P 0407 784 672

E cmmclachlan@hotmail.com

General

Jim Dickson

P 0408 691 418

E jaydee2598@gmail.com

New people take on important jobs

Megan Yeo has been voted on to Javeenbah's management committee to take on the role of assistant treasurer. The position was left vacant when Martin Jennings moved over to look after group bookings.

In another change reported to the March management committee meeting, Naomi Thompson has taken over from Stewart Ryan as booking office manager. She took over part way through the run of *Who Goes Bare?*

We have now organised our phone system so that the booking office manager has a mobile phone which the theatre number, 5596 0300, can be switched through to. Once Telstra get their act together the theatre number will be diverted to the booking office mobile which will reduce the number of times people need to leave a message.

The phone will be undiverted during performances so that box office volunteers can take calls. When the phones are busy or switched off they will play a generic message instead of the production-specific messages we now use and allow people to record a message for us.

The position of publicity officer on the committee is still vacant. If you'd like to help promote Javeenbah and its productions give president Colleen Reynolds or secretary Ralph Lenton a call. Their contact details are at left. We do have a publicity sub committee to help with much of the work.

Cyber newsletter

Don't forget, Javeenbah's newsletter is available by e-mail. If you receive the snail mail newsletter and you want to go on the e-mail list, send an e-mail to us at info@javeenbah.org.au with "Newsletter" in the subject line.

We've now got the file size down to around 500kb, so it's not too terrible to download on dial-up and a breeze on broadband.

FOH helpers

Front of house rostering remains a headache for FOH manager Scott Pickett. He reports it's still tough going to fill the roster and urges members to make time for at least one spell of FOH duty per production. The management committee has decided that at least one member of the committee or of the production sub committee will be rostered to each performance.

After Scott produced a price comparison between nips plus mixers and ready-mixed drinks, the management committee confirmed its decision to return to the practice of selling ready-mixed (UDL) drinks.

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