



Winslow Boy team line-up

Here is the team of actors putting Terence Rattigan's *The Winslow Boy* on Javeenbah's boards. They are:

Back row, from left: Kyal Scott (John Watherstone) Wayne Bentley (Desmond Curry) Chris Chambers (Sir Robert Morton) Nathan Schulz (Dickie Winslow) Jo Whittington (Violet). Front row: Cecile Campbell (Miss Barnes) Marja-Liisa Gregory (Catherine Winslow) Timothy Carroll (Ronnie Winslow) Bruce Baddiley (Arthur Winslow) Diana Ingram (Grace Winslow).

Cecile Campbell also doubles as stage manager and

trebles as assistant to director Eric James Summers. Eric is also assisted by Joel Beskin.

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.

Marja-Liisa Gregory studied theatre at Griffith University and workshops at RADA, London. She has since been involved in corporate video and voice-over work. Moving recently into community theatre, she is relishing being part of *The Winslow Boy*.

Tim Carroll, 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*. He is delighted to be playing a serious role.

Bruce Baddily has been acting for many years and has appeared with most theatre companies in Brisbane. He is very pleased to add Javeenbah to his list as his first work on the Gold Coast.

Diana Ingram is so glad to be treading the boards again after several years concentrating on a business career. She has previously appeared in many musicals with Sydney companies.

Kyal Scott has been on the Coast for only a year and has been in some fantastic productions, including *The Boy from Oz* at GCAC and Javeenbah's *Thoroughly Modern Millie*. He's loving what he calls his "first real acting role" instead of musical chorus parts.

5MOREFUN

That's Javeenbah's phone word. Dial the numeral 5 and the letters MOREFUN and you'll go straight through to our phone message service. If you don't have letters on your phone, 5MOREFUN translates to 5667 3386. The original number, 5596 0300, is still operating and will continue for a while. But 5MOREFUN will eventually become the one and only number. It works through an internet-based provider and it gives us cheaper phone hire, loads of free phone calls and a host of other benefits. These include the ability to have a menu-based answering system — "Press one for bookings, two for the year's playbill", that sort of thing — which is being set up now and should be operating within a few weeks.

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Seeking a new Javeenbah look

Several recent management committee meetings have been looking at ways to simplify and update Javeenbah's logo and general "face" to the public.

The main reason for going down this track is publicity — our present logo is too complex. As an example, in its usually reproduced version it contains 10 colours. Some versions shade the main colours — maroon, yellow and cyan — and the colour count for these goes up to 16 or 20.

Logos in the commercial world usually limit themselves to three or four colours — think of Target, or McDonalds or Shell. Often the colours are strong primaries.

The purpose of a logo is instant recognition. Yet with our logo the white on the outer masks often disappears because some graphics programs use a white background instead of a transparent one. So our logo is apt to appear with the white half of the masks in the same colour as the paper it's printed on. This ruins



consistency and reduces the chances of instant recognition.

The committee has been looking at options produced by graphic designers. Some have been rejected outright and others sent back for tweaking.

The consensus is that we should drop the three faces and use a version of the traditional tragi-comedy theatre masks with only two faces (see above). The colours should be black, red and white and the name "Javeenbah" should be in a bold and clear type.

So now we're seeking feedback from members. If you have a comment on the proceedings thus far, drop a line to the secretary at info@javeenbahtheatre.com or at PO Box 1101, Ashmore City, Qld 4214.

The intention is to ask directors to agree their poster designs early enough for us to present a graphic designer and printer with a package for the year's playbill and posters, fliers and programs for individual productions. We would obtain a better financial deal for the whole year than we can on a play-by-play basis.

It would also enable us to present publicity material with a more professional look.

Box office job

Javeenbah management committee is looking at hiring somebody from outside the theatre to take bookings and organise the box office on a contract so that the position becomes closer to a strictly employer-employee relationship than it has been.

After discussion, the committee decided to put together a job description and contract for the position which would become separate from a committee position and to place an item in the newsletter to see if any member is interested.

If you want to register interest, drop a line to the secretary at info@javeenbahtheatre.com or to PO Box 1101, Ashmore City, Qld 4214.

Break a leg

Javeenbah has upgraded its emergency gear with two new first aid kits, one for the foyer and one for the bio box. The old kits have been put in the dressing room and downstairs. So now we can all break a leg with confidence.

Official newsletter of the publisher, Javeenbah Theatre Company Incorporated, PO Box 1101, Ashmore City, Qld 4214, (Cnr Ferry/Stevens Sts, Nerang, Qld 4211) Phone 07-5596 0300, fax 07-5596 7513, e-mail info@javeenbahtheatre.com, website <http://www.javeenbahtheatre.com>, ABN 85217315331. Editor Ralph Lenton

Prize changes

Javeenbah management committee has decided to change the prizes for raffles at performances. Instead of a prize of a double complimentary ticket to the next performance, each raffle will offer two prizes — a bottle of bubbly and a box of chocolates.

Committee members felt that as most of our audience were likely to attend a future production anyway, giving them tickets was counter productive.

Raffle tickets will be priced at three for \$2 or nine for \$5.

Get fast, colourful 500kb cyber news

Get fast, small and colourful cyber news

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@javeenbahtheatre.com with "Newsletter" in the subject line. You need not worry about a message.

We've now got the file size down to less than 500kb, so it's

not too terrible to download on dial-up.

We are also able to include hyperlinks in the text of the cyber version. Javeenbah's e-mail address in the second paragraph is a link — click on it and it will open a message page in your e-mail program.

Please make sure you send your e-mail from the address you want the newsletter sent to because that's the one we'll reply

to. If it's a work address, check with your administrator — some firms strip attachments from e-mails. And warn us about any spam blocker in place!

The e-mail version will be delivered earlier (it can take seven days to go through the postal system) and the pictures will be much more colourful. Plus, it's cheaper for us which helps us keep your subs down to the great value level they are now.

Time for 🐱 CATS 🐱 to slink their stuff

This year's Javeenbah musical, the Andrew Lloyd Webber classic, *Cats*, auditions on Sunday 15 March.

Director Kim Reynolds is looking for 12 male and 12 female actors who can fill the fur of the Jellicle tribe. Most of them need to be strong singers, strong dancers or both.

Auditions will be at Nerang Senior Citizens rooms in Mylor Street, Nerang – a couple of hundred metres up the road from Javeenbah's Nerang Playhouse.

Singing auditions will start at 10am on 15 March and will be closed. To book your audition time call Kim on 0424 386 277 or e-mail her at misskimmi_22@hotmail.com.

Dance auditions will be open and start at 6.30pm on 15 March.

Successful auditionees for both singing and dance must be available for callbacks on Monday 16 March starting at 7.30pm. Callbacks will be at Javeenbah theatre.

Cats will run at Javeenbah from 5 June to 4 July.

Here are the cat characters Kim needs:

THE BOYS

Munkustrap (18+) Strong singer/dancer, the noble "first-in-command". Must have a strong stage presence.

Old Dueteronomy (25+) The leader of the Jellicle tribe. Must have commanding stage presence.

Rum Tum Tugger (18+) Think "Elvis" or "Mick Jagger". The heart throb of the tribe. Singer/dancer.

Mr Mistofflees (16+) Singer/dancer – classical training preferable.

Mungojerrie (16+) Strong character actor with good dance and vocal ability – acro training an advantage. Twin brother of Rumpleteazer.

Skimbleshanks (16+) The cat of the railway train. Must be a strong character actor. Some singing and dancing.

Coricopat (16+) Singer/dancer. Twin brother of Tantomile.

Gus the theatre cat (30+) Character actor with good vocals.

Bustopher Jones (25+) Character actor with strong

vocals. The "25 pounder" cat that loves to feast!

Alonzo (16+) Singer/dancer, a black and white cat that is the "second-in-command" of the tribe. His dance moves are stylish. Doubles as Rumpuscat – the courageous, red-eyed cat that stops the Awful Battle of the Pokes and the Pollicles.

Carbuckety (16+) Dancer – acro training an advantage. Doubles as Macavity – The villain of the entire tribe.

Bill Bailey (16+) Dancer – acro training an advantage.

THE GIRLS

Demeter (16+) Exceptional skills in all areas required. Her sister is Bombalurina.

Bombalurina (18+) Strong singer/dancer with powerful stage presence. The biggest flirt of all the queens. She is mates with Rum Tum Tugger. Her sister is Demeter.

Jellylorum (18+) Strong singer/dancer. She doubles as Griddlebone.

Jennyanydots (18+) Must be a strong character actor with excellent dance and vocal skills. Tap training an advantage.

Grizabella (25+) Excellent vocals and character skills required. The tribe's outcast. Must have a commanding stage presence.

Rumpleteazer (16+) Strong character actor with good dance and vocal ability – acro an advantage. Twin sister of Mungojerrie. She is the more cheeky and energetic of the two.

Victoria (16+) Acro and classical training an advantage The only all white cat in the tribe. She has a heart of gold and is gifted in the area of dance.

Tantomile (16+) Singer/dancer. Twin sister of Coricopat.

Jemima (12-18) Strong singer/dancer. The youngest cat of the tribe. She is an innocent, sweet-faced queen.

Cassandra (18+) Strong dancer classical training an advantage. A very sophisticated siamese cat.

Electra (16+) Singer/dancer – acro training an advantage.

Etcetera (16+) Singer/dancer – acro training an advantage.

Javeenbah Theatre Company Inc

CATS

By special arrangement with Origin Theatrical Pty Ltd

Music by
Andrew Lloyd Webber

Based on
*Old Possum's Book
Of Practical Cats*
by T S Eliot

Director **Kim Reynolds**

Auditions 15 March

Singing (closed) 10am
Dance (open) 6.30pm

Call 0424 386 277
for appointment

Season 5 June to 4 July

Audiences by the hundred

Block bookings officer Sue McKeay has been going back to basics and checking all the potential sources of multiple bookings.

She reported to last month's management committee that there are 80 to 100 retirement resorts on the Gold Coast and a huge number of clubs and associations.

Because of the tough financial times many organisations are facing, some could

be on the look-out for fundraising opportunities. Part of Sue's selling point to them will be the option of a whole house booking that lets them use the theatre for raising money.

Sue is going to work her way through those clubs and resorts to make sure they all know about the fabulous program on at Javeenbah this year.

Alcopop tax slugs Javeenbah

The extra tax on alcopops has worked through to Javeenbah.

FOH manager Libby Bancroft reported to the February management committee meeting that a meeting of the FOH sub committee with the treasurer

Javeenbah's playbill 2009

- 15 March *Cats* auditions
- 27 March *The Winslow Boy*, by Terence Rattigan, director Eric James 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

and secretary had decided we need to raise our prices.

The management committee agreed and approved the proposal that the price of cruisers should go to \$6, mixers to \$6 and Strongbow to \$5. Cast on performance nights will continue to be entitled to a \$1 discount on drinks except for mixers where the discount will be 50 cents.

Also on the drinks issue, the FOH meeting recommended we go in for standard sized wine glasses so that we could standardise drink measures.

Apart from the need to be fair to all patrons, the subject of standardised drink sizes was part of the responsible service of alcohol requirements of our liquor permit.

In co-operation with other theatres, we are organising training for FOH volunteers on the responsible service of alcohol requirements.

FOH volunteers will be asked to wear black and white predominantly so that we presented a more professional look. Volunteers will also be asked to wear badges identifying them as staff.

Libby also reported that an e-mail list for volunteers was working well and that when drawing up rosters we would ensure that one of the pantry key-holders was rostered on to FOH each night to access the safe.

The FOH sub committee will also work on ways to make gala nights more of a special occasion.



Un-needed threads make money

Wardrobe wonders Christine McLachlan and Sue Lenton cleared out a lot of clothing from the wardrobe department which was surplus to Javeenbah's needs and came up with the bright idea of selling it off to raise a bit of extra cash.

So they organised a wardrobe sale in the covered area outside the foyer and timed it for the same day as

the working bee in the hope that the sale would bring in more workers and the bee bring in more buyers.

They sold the clothing off at \$2 an item and something over 60 pieces went to a new home. Clothing unsold at the end of the day was donated to the Red Cross.

Thanks to Christine and Sue and their helpers Deb Harrison, Diana Ingram, Greer Collins, Libby and Darryl Bancroft, Joan Stalker-Brown and Gillian Crow. Some of these helpers also lent a hand with the working bee downstairs on the same day.

Totally unconnected, of course – the management committee has voted wardrobe a \$50 petty cash float so that they can snap up those “they’ll-be-useful” bits and pieces when they see them on the op shop shelves.

Winslow line-up

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Wayne Bentley has performed in theatre on the Coast for several years. His credits include *Anything Goes* for GCLT, *Noises Off* for Spotlight and a short play season. Wayne completed studies in theatre in 2002.

Chris Chambers arrived from New Zealand two years ago. He has recently appeared in GCLT's *The Club* as Laurie, after which Eric encouraged him to try for Sir Robert. He's enjoying rehearsals with cast and crew and looking forward to opening.

Nathan Schulz 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.

Jo Whittington recently arrived on the Gold Coast from London and is excited to bring her experience from her drama degree to the local theatre scene. This is her first play in Australia and she hopes it will be the first of many.

Bulk buying space

It's cheaper in bulk when it comes to advertising Javeenbah. Publicity officer Sebastian Petrat has found that by booking the space for a year's supply of production advertisements in the Thursday *Play* liftout of the *GC Bulletin* he can save around 6½ percent on the cost.

So every play this year now has its main advertising space booked.

Seb has identified other areas in the advertising and promotional field where savings can be made by various means and hopes to free up well over \$1,000 a year for additional publicity initiatives.

Moving drama draws to a close



Above: Old friends Michael Beard and James Wallace at the closing night party. Right: James cuts the commemorative cake. Below: The cake, made by Javeenbah member Deb Harrison, before James sliced into it.



Javeenbah's first production of the year, *Orphans* by Lyle Kessler, closed to critical acclaim in January. Although houses were smaller than expected, audiences were impressed and moved by the powerful drama. Director James Wallace brought out the humour as well as the tension and emotion in the well-crafted script.

At the closing night party, James paid tribute to his cast, Jordan Schiele as Phillip; Stewart Ryan as Treat; and Michael Beard as Harold. He recalled that he had worked with Michael several times, notably in *Death of a Salesman* for GCLT and *Glengarry Glenross* for Javeenbah.

It was the first time he had worked with Jordan and Stewart and they had impressed him by the way they had made the parts their own. He recalled that he had directed *Orphans* for GCLT in 1993 but this had been a totally different production with emphases and interpretations completely unlike the earlier work.

James dedicated Javeenbah's production of *Orphans* to the memory of Alistair Beer, Cameron MacKendrick and Lee Phillips — members of the 1993 cast and production team who have since died.

He thanked his cast for their help with set construction, costuming and makeup and made special mention of Dolores Beer (assistant director and stage manager) Christine McLachlan (costumes) Norm Strambini (set design and construction) Colin Crow (lighting design) Barry Gibson (lighting and sound operation) Sebastian Petrat (publicity) and Ralph Lenton (programme design).

James also made special acknowledgment to Norm Strambini, Graham Simpson, Barry Gibson, Colin Crow, Ralph Lenton, Mark Ellison and David Van Der Muelen.



'Cinders' Joan among the charred paperwork

On a busy January Saturday at Javeenbah, while a host of helpers were selling surplus wardrobe clothing upstairs and another group was shifting furniture and painting away downstairs, vice president Joan Stalker-Brown was weeding — files.

Ensnared in the foyer surrounded by archive boxes, lever-arch files and yellowing envelopes Joan

worked her way through several years of old records. Some of them had charred edges and a smoky smell from the fire.

Joan weeded out the irrelevant, the out-of-date and the general rubbish and slimmed the piles down to a reasonable size of stuff that was of historical or archival value.

Lack of paper foils fire drill

Oh, dear! Javeenbah has failed its fire drill.

We were inspected by half-a-dozen fires in February and they found a whole list of things they didn't like. Don't worry, you're not likely to roast at one of our performances. Most of the problems concerned the paperwork.

For example, we did not have a piece of paper less than six months old and signed by an electrician to say that our emergency lights work. You only have to flick the switch on the main board to see that they do work. But, no, we must have the paper trail as well.

We ran into a similar problem with fire extinguishers, smoke alarms and exit doors. They all work perfectly but we need a piece of paper duly signed by a recognised authority to say that they work.

Theatre manager Norm Strambini and secretary Ralph Lenton are now running around getting the

paper sorted. Some of it, like the requirements for emergency lights and fire extinguishers, have to be done by professionals — at a cost — and updated every six months.

We've also had to update our evacuation plan and we must have copies of it on display in the foyer and in the downstairs area.

One requirement is new to us and will involve the co-operation of members. We must now maintain a register of fire safety wardens who must receive proper training.

The training is not onerous — it's basically a case of: "There's the door, go through it." But it has to be done and everybody who goes through the training must sign the safety register.

In the past, our safety wardens have been the techs operator and the stage manager for each production. In future, those two will be joined by selected FOH people, committee members and a couple of others. And all will have to sign the register.

Javeenbah will be re-inspected during March and as long as the paper is all present and correct we'll get a pass mark.

Application tidy-up

Javeenbah's membership application form has been updated and generally tidied up.

We've discovered an obscure section of the Associations Incorporation Act says we have to tell prospective members whether we have public liability insurance. So we've put the answer to that on the application form.

Otherwise, it's much the same as before except that we're also asking people to tell us what they do for a living. We figure it could be useful to know who among our members is an electrician, a builder, a plumber, a publicist, a tinker, tailor, soldier, sailor.

For the future — no date yet, but probably at renewal time — we plan to ask all members to update the details that we have for them on record. And we're looking at letting members use electronic funds transfer for renewals.

Another initiative on the membership front: We are refusing to let lapsed members go without a fight. They're all going to get a letter telling them how much we love them and asking them to sign up for another year.

Group booking formula

A formula worked out a year ago for prices for multiple bookings has proved difficult to apply in some circumstances. Javeenbah management committee has devised a new set of ticket prices for multiple bookings.

The single-seat price for plays of \$15 per person for members, \$17 for students, and \$20 for the full price will remain. So will the single-seat prices for musicals: members, \$20; students \$22; full price \$25.

But instead of a two-tier pricing system for groups, there will now be one price — \$15 for a play and \$20 for a musical for a prepaid group of 20 or more. The discount price will apply to every person in the group.

The discount will apply only when the tickets have been bought at least 14 days before the opening night of the season and paid in full by cheque or EFT.

The prepaid requirements will also apply to whole house and charity night bookings. Whole house prices for plays will be \$1,200 and for musicals \$1,700.

Cagey jobs get completed

You may have noticed a large, strong wire cage downstairs at Javeenbah. It looks as though it was made for keeping mad stage managers out of harm's way. But no, it's for storing wine.

The kitchen pantry where we now keep the grog gets too hot at this time of year. It's much cooler down below so as soon as the cage has been tidied up a bit that's where the bulk of the bottle store will go.

Other changes around the place

include a lattice upright in the foyer to hide the kitchen fridge and form a more positive delineation between behind the bar and the public area.

There's also a set of smart cupboards in the ladies' toilet under the vanity basin, painted pink. The theatre's records have been brought up from the cold and occasionally damp downstairs and stored in the cupboards.

The round tables in the foyer

have had a new coat of gloss paint as well.

The odd jobs round the place are down to theatre manager Norm Strambini, although he had a lot of help with the wire cage — it takes three strong men to lift it!

Norm also set up all the wiring for an electrician to install an external floodlight, internal power points and other electrical work. His efforts enabled the electrician to keep the costs down mightily.



Storage transformation

You wouldn't recognise it! The picture above is the downstairs area that used to be paint pots, flats and lengths of timber. Now it's a bright and spacious make-up area with benchtops, mirrors and lights.

The picture on the right shows the view from the roller door — plenty of good space for rehearsals.

The transformation was achieved at the Javeenbah working bee in January. A hard-working crowd turned up and shifted furniture bench tops and other gear from one end of the building to the other. They also painted walls and installed free-standing shelving.

While all this was going on, people clambered over the roof to clear rubbish from the gutters. In one place, they pulled about three metres of tree roots out of the drainage system.

Down on the ground, a drainage channel was extended, dug out and concreted. This should reduce the amount of water that sometimes flows under the door into wardrobe during heavy rain.

The success of the working bee was greatly helped by all the preliminary work theatre manager Norm Strambini had carried out. He built a mass of new shelving in wardrobe which enabled costumes and accessories to be stored so that they can be easily retrieved. This freed up loads of space.

Norm's helpers at the working bee included Jim and



Marie Dickson, David Scott, Emily Scanlon, Tom Howell, Sebastian Petrat, Colin Crow and Ralph Lenton. Some of the helpers also lent a hand upstairs where the wardrobe sale was held at the same time. And some of the wardrobe sellers came downstairs to help with the working bee.

A great effort by all concerned.



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Production team gets going

The newly reformed productions sub committee is making sure directors get the fullest support from the theatre.

Working under artistic director Cilla Scott, the committee comprises Amy-Louise Anderson, Ian Hogg, Brett Edwards, Jocelyn Moore-Carter and Lisa Potter.

A priority is to ensure directors will always have a sub committee member as a general liaison and whom they can call in the event of a problem.

The sub will also work on the idea of creating education packs and targeting schools. *Cats*, with its attraction to dance pupils, is thought to be the most viable one for this on the 2009 playbill and the sub will probably concentrate their efforts on marketing the education packs with this production.

The 2010 playbill is also on the agenda with the emphasis on ensuring everything is ready for launching as soon after AGM as practical.



Overlooked overlocker?

WANTED: One four-thread overlocker, in working order.

Javeenbah's wardrobe department is on the lookout for a four-thread overlocker that they can work to death on the costumes for *Cats*.

So if you have one that has been sitting, sadly overlooked, in the bottom of a cupboard, now's the time to get it out, dust it off and put it to work.

Call Christine McLachlan on 0407 784 672 or click on cmmclachlan@hotmail.com to e-mail her. Alternatively, call Sue Lenton on 0413 260 828 or click on pentalibra@qld.chariot.net.au.

Oh yes, an instruction manual would be good, too.

Committee move

New face on the committee belongs to Marie Cowling, who was voted on at the February meeting to replace Sue Lenton. Sue resigned to concentrate on her work for wardrobe. Marie will take up a general committee role.

New members

Javeenbah welcomes Harold Parker, Nathan Thomas Schulz, Bruce Baddiley and Tanya Dobson whose applications to join the greatest community theatre on the Gold Coast were accepted at the February management committee meeting.

Code change

We've changed the code for the roller door keybox at the theatre. If you think you're going to need to unlock the roller doors you should talk to theatre manager Norm Strambini about getting the code.