



Meet the *Cats* cast



PICTURE: Ryan Kettle Photography

Dress a Cat

Help us make the fur fly.

Our Wardrobe Wizards are looking for artificial fur to help clothe the cast of *Cats*.

They ask anybody who can donate a piece of artificial fur, any condition, to contact Christine McLachlan on 0407 784 672 or by e-mail to cmmclachlan@hotmail.com. The colours most wanted are black, white, greys and browns.

So rummage through your cupboards and dressers and dig out your old furs and send them Christine's way. And be thankful we resisted the temptation to burden you with such punishing word play as "don't be furtive" or "fur goodness' sake".

A foretaste of the Javeenbah production of *Cats* will begin with a sausage sizzle.

The classic Andrew Lloyd Webber musical is being staged by Javeenbah in June and July. The foretaste is a *Meet the Cats* afternoon at the theatre on Sunday 17 May.

The event starts with the sausage sizzle at 1pm. At 2pm director and choreographer Kim Reynolds will introduce some of her cast and production team and answer questions about staging the musical.

The afternoon will include examples of what will be on stage when Javeenbah presents *Cats* at Nerang Playhouse from 5 June to 4 July. For copyright reasons, we cannot give you a thorough foretaste of what you'll see and hear during the season.

But we will have on display some of the costumes, designed by our own wardrobe people and helpers. Although we will keep a few things up our sleeves for opening night, visitors will be able to get an idea of the set and how the *Cats* will be using it.

For catering purposes, booking is essential by phone on 5596 0300 or e-mail to info@javeenbahtheatre.com. There will be no concession on the admission price of \$5 – but that does include the sausages.

Wow! Meow!

Cats is going to be up there among the top half dozen productions Javeenbah has ever staged. Already, with five weeks to opening, it is looking fabulous.

Rehearsals for *Cats* are well under way and people who have seen the opening number describe it as fantastic and amazing. The word is obviously getting around. We have not started the publicity push yet but by the end of April we'd sold the equivalent of two full houses.

The cast has been drawn from the best on the Gold Coast. Director and choreographer Kim Reynolds describes their talent and experience as immense.

"They work hard and are extremely talented," she says. "The show is physically demanding and a lot to

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MORE CATS PICTURES ON P2 AND P3

Wow! Meow!

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PICTURE: Ryan Kettle Photography

ask of a performer but they all keep rising to the challenge.

“The show is high energy from the beginning but there are some really beautiful moments throughout the performance. Our vocal coach and musical director are both wonderful and have the vocals sounding magical.

“My cast is one of the best I have ever worked with.”

Kim says that as a first-time director *Cats* is a perfect show for her as it is heavily reliant on great choreography and movement which are her speciality.

The music of *Cats* is by Andrew Lloyd Webber from the T S Eliot work *Old Possum's Book Of Practical Cats*. Because the rights holders keep very strict control on all productions, we have “non replica” rights only. This means we are not allowed to copy any creative elements of the original 1981 London production or any other professional production or of the DVD of the play.

So while the music and lyrics of the Javeenbah production will be the same as London, Broadway or any other, the direction, choreography, costumes and setting will be all our own work. And they are stunning. So don't miss it.

Opening on 5 June, *Cats* runs Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights at 8pm until 4 July with Sunday matinees on 14, 21 and 28 June.

Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$22 for students or pensioners and only \$20 for Javeenbah members. There is also a concession for block bookings of 20 or more in the same transaction and at the same performance, provided the booking is finalised two weeks before opening. No concessions are available for Gala Night, Saturday 6 June — which is already over half full.

So if you haven't booked for this magical musical yet, don't delay. Call 5569 0300 and leave your name and number or e-mail to info@javeenbahtheatre.com.



Coming soon to Javeenbah

by special arrangement with Origin Theatrical Pty Ltd

Andrew Lloyd Webber's



CATS

Based on

Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats

by T S Eliot

Director Kim Reynolds

5 June to 4 July

Book on 5596 0300 or
e-mail info@javeenbahtheatre.com

Happy birthday, Will

Across the ditch, Auckland City Council managed to lose \$2.5 million on an international arts season featuring a cast of British and American actors. The three productions that cost a mint included *The Winter's Tale*. By a cruel irony, the council chose to announce the loss on 23 April, Shakespeare's birthday.

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PICTURE: Ryan Kettle Photography

As we have several young people in the cast of *Cats* we thought we'd introduce them to some

Theatrical Logic

In is down, down is front
 Out is up, up is back
 Off is out, on is in
 And of course—
 Left is right and right is left
 A drop shouldn't and a
 Block and fall does neither
 A prop doesn't and
 A cove has no water
 Tripping is OK
 A running crew rarely gets anywhere
 A purchase line buys you nothing
 A trap will not catch anything
 A gridiron has nothing to do with football
 Strike is work (in fact a lot of work)
 And a green room, thank god, usually isn't
 Now that you're fully versed in theatrical terms,
 Break a leg.

One-acts – three parts on offer

Auditions are planned for Sunday 7 June for the one-act play *Level 12* by Kate Beck. The play, along with *Effie's Burning* by Valerie Windsor, will form Javeenbah's one-act season opening on 24 July.

Level 12 will be directed by Barry Gibson and tells what happens to three people in a hospital lift which jams and strands the trio between floors. All want to get out for various pressing reasons but they're stuck. The result: An hilarious comedy.

Barry is looking for two women and one man. One of the women should be of a mature age and the other younger. The younger woman is pregnant. The man can be any age.

The queen cats

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

The tom cats

Alonzo	Shannon Kelly
Bustopher Jones	Eric James
Coricopat	Kyal Scott
George	Max Bimbi
Growltiger/Gus the Theatre Cat	Eric James
Macavity	Jimmy O'Halloran
Mr Mistofflees	James Barber
Mungojerrie	Jimmy O'Halloran
Munkustrap	Stewart Ryan
Old Dueteronomy	Jim Price
Rum Tum Tugger	Jacob Barry
Rumpuscat	Shannon Kelly
Skimbleshanks	Sean Curran

The cat people

Director/choreographer	Kim Reynolds
Assistant director	Amy-Louise Anderson
Assistant choreographer	Alana Tierney
Vocal director	Jamie Lee Wilson
Musical director	Antony Zambolt
Dance captain	Alana Kettle
Stage manager	Ralph Lenton
Set/props	Norm Strambini
Costumes	Christine McLachlan, Sue Lenton, Colleen Reynolds, Louise Anderson and team

People wanting to audition should contact Barry on 5528 8680 or by sending an e-mail to info@javeenbahtheatre.com — we'll pass it on.

Effie's Burning will be directed and performed by the mother and daughter team of Gillian Crow and Vicki Lawrence. They will not be holding auditions.

The play features Effie, who has lived in mental institutions since the age of 13 and has been hospitalised with severe burns. Treating her is Dr Kovacs, who, in uncovering Effie's extraordinary story, finds the strength to deal with her own dilemmas.

The one-act season runs until 1 August at Javeenbah's Nerang Playhouse.

Winslow says farewell



The Winslow Boy by Terence Rattigan, finished on a high last month with good houses and excellent audience reaction. Lining up for the photographer are, from left, standing: Colin Crow (technicals) Graham Simpson (Fred) Marja-Liisa Gregory (Catherine) Nathan Schulz (Dickie) Eric James (director) Wayne Bentley (Desmond Curry) Chris Chambers (Sir Robert Morton) Kyal Scott (John Weatherstone). Sitting: Cecile Campbell (Miss Barnes) Diana Ingram (Grace) Tim Carroll (Ronnie) Bruce Baddiley (Arthur) Jo Whittington (Violet) and Diane Cinelli (ASM). Cast, crew and friends enjoyed the end-of-run party, as can be seen from the pictures opposite.

Get fast, small and colourful cyber news

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

We've now got the file size down to 500kb to 700kb, so it's not too terrible to download on dial-up and a breeze on

broadband.

We are also able to include hyperlinks in the text of the cyber version. Javeenbah's e-mail address in the first paragraph is a link — click on it and it will open an addressed 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!

The e-mail version will be delivered earlier (it can take seven days to go through the printing and postage process) 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.

Insurance policies receive an update

A review of Javeenbah's insurances has resulted in a decision to switch to other insurers arranged through brokers Aon Risk Services Australia.

The move, which will come into effect when our present policies expire in June and July, should save us over \$1,000 a year and give us better cover in most areas. It will also increase our public liability insurance to \$20 million, which GC City Council will require next time we renew our lease.

An additional feature of the new policies is a volunteer workers personal accident insurance which covers volunteers at the theatre and travelling directly to or from the theatre to carry out voluntary work.

The policies have been tailored to suit the requirements of the Association of Community Theatre in NSW. The work of tracking down the information and negotiating with the broker was done by vice president Joan Stalker-Brown.



Winslow Boy cast ring down the curtain



On the hunt for RSAs

Javeenbah is on the hunt for RSA people.

No, we're not talking about the country that occasionally beats us at cricket, nor about what the Kiwis call their RSLs.

We're looking for people who hold a Responsible Service of Alcohol certificate.

Later this year, changes to the liquor licensing laws will affect us. One of the changes is a requirement to have a handful of volunteers who hold an RSA certificate. FOH volunteers will need to be under what

the law calls "the general supervision" of somebody who holds a certificate.

At this stage, we're not sure what "general supervision" means — it's being tested in the courts. So we'd like to have a corps of 10 or so people with RSA certificates in case it entails having somebody on the premises all the while alcohol is served. With a pool of people we won't have to call on any one person too often.

We shall be offering training courses to volunteers. We are talking with the GC Theatre Alliance about a joint training effort with other theatres and our FOH manager, Libby Bancroft, with help from Marie Cowling, is sussing out what courses are available and how much they cost.

But to help us out, we'd love to hear from any member who already has an RSA certificate. If that's you, please get in touch with secretary Ralph Lenton on info@javeenbahtheatre.com

Number's up

At 5 minutes and 6 seconds after 4am on 7 August, the time and date will be 04:05:06 07-08-09. This particular sequence will not happen again until 3009. Will you be ready for it?

Thunderous effect upset King

In the 1820s, the manager of the Edinburgh Theatre tried a return to the Elizabethan system of representing a storm for *King Lear*.

He placed ledges here and there along the back wall of the stage, and obtaining some nine-pound cannon balls, packed these in a wheelbarrow which a carpenter was instructed to wheel to and fro over the ledges.

The jolting of the heavy barrow as it was trundled along its uneven path over the hollow stage, and the rumblings and reverberations thus produced, was most effective for the raging of the tempest.

While the King was braving the pitiless storm, the carpenter missed his footing, tripped over one of the ledges, and fell, wheelbarrow, cannon balls and all.

The stage being on a declivity, the cannon balls came rolling rapidly and noisily down towards the front, gathering speed as they advanced, and overcoming the feeble resistance offered by the scenery, struck it down, passed over its prostrate form, and made their way towards the footlights and the fiddlers, amidst the amusement and wonder of the audience, and the amazement and alarm of Lear.

As the nine-pounders advanced towards him, and rolled about in all directions, he was compelled to display an activity in avoiding them singularly inappropriate to the age and condition of the character he was portraying. He was said to resemble a dancer achieving the terpsichorean feat known as the egg hornpipe.

The musicians also became alarmed for the safety of themselves and their instruments, and deemed it advisable to scale the spiked partition which divided them from the pit; for the cannon balls were upon them, smashing the lamps, and falling heavily into the orchestra.

Meantime, exposed to the full gaze of the house, prone beside his empty barrow, the carpenter, the innocent invoker of the storm he had been unable to allay or direct, lay exceedingly frightened and bewildered.

After this unlucky experiment, the manager abandoned his wheelbarrow and cannon balls, and reverted to more orthodox methods of producing stage-storms. — From *Theatrical Anecdotes* by Peter Hay, Oxford University Press.



Javeenbah's playbill 2009

17 May, *Meet the Cats*

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

15 August Open Day

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

Welcome

Javeenbah welcomes new members Jessica Purdy (student), Jim Price, Rachel Love (student), Shannon Kelly (student), Greta Brinsley, Sean Curran and Raewyn Bright. Their applications were accepted at the April meeting of the management committee.

Anti-diluvian



Heavy rain at the beginning of April caused problems at the theatre. Water seeped through the walls downstairs and flooded part of the wardrobe area and the set store and rehearsal space. Wardrobe manager Christine McLachlan and theatre manager Norm Strambini discovered the flood and got busy shifting stuff out of the water. Sue and Ralph Lenton turned up with mops and buckets to help the clean-

up. Between them they raised costumes, props, timber and other valuable gear to a dry level, swept out or mopped up the surface water then lifted carpets and dragged them outside into the sun. A bit more sweeping, mopping and turning on every fan in the place soon had the floor drying out but it took a few days before the carpets were dry enough to be brought back in.

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Publicity person wanted

Javeenbah needs a new publicity officer. Sadly for us, Sebastian Petrat has decided his university studies in Brisbane do not leave enough time for him to do the job. Seb has resigned from the committee.

The job is very straightforward and most of the tasks follow automatically from one to the next. But the publicity officer will need to write enticing stories about Javeenbah and its productions and be able to approach media people by phone, e-mail and in person.

It is a committee position. Members interested should contact secretary Ralph Lenton on info@javeenbahtheatre.com

Position filled

Javeenbah's management committee has chosen Cheryl Roberts to be our booking office manager. Cheryl comes to the job after a career in sales and marketing which included working on her own.

Secretary Ralph Lenton reports that the committee had a difficult job to choose a box office manager as all the applicants were of such a high quality.

Cheryl is not a member of Javeenbah but as she has started helping in Wardrobe she soon will be.

Open Day plan

Javeenbah has decided to become involved with Nerang Senior Citizens Club's Expo again this year.

The club held its first "On top of the hill, not over it" Expo last year and will repeat the exercise on 15 August, during Seniors Week.

Last year, Javeenbah put on an open day with tours of the theatre and entertainment provided by members.

If you have a great idea for entertainment or other attractions we could put on, call vice president Joan Stalker-Brown or any of the committee members listed on this page.

On other bills

Now Gold Coast Little *High Society* Cole Porter music and lyrics, directed by Julianne Shearer until 16 May; matinees 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.

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

22 May Neptune Productions at Tweed Civic Centre *Annie* by Thomas Meehan music by Charles Strouse lyrics by Martin Charnin until 31 May.

29 May Murwillumbah *Ruby Moon* by Matt Cameron until 6 June.

27 June Gold Coast Little *Jury Room* until 18 July (Thu-Sat); matinees 4, 12 July.