



SEPTEMBER 2009

Meet these battlers at AGM



It's Dad's Day at Javeenbah.

Bring Dad along to Javeenbah on Fathers' Day to meet the team staging the pub rugby comedy *Up'n'Under*. Hear how director and cast are tackling the story of the side that proves losers can be winners.

Afterwards, stay for a sausage sizzle on the house.

Meet the Team will be straight after Javeenbah's AGM on Sunday 6 September. So members can follow business with pleasure.

The main business of AGM will be to restore the management committee to full strength. The committee will go into AGM with six vacancies. The small number of committee members left means that this year's quorum for AGM will be 15, about the lowest on record.

But there will be lots of good news for the outgoing committee to report, especially on the financial front.

Once the AGM business is over, the team presenting *Up'n'Under* will offer a few snippets from

Meet the team from the Wheatsheaf Arms. Back row, from left, are Scott Pickett as Tony, Stuart Brennan as Arthur and Darren Campbell as Steve. Front row: Anthony Miller as Phil, Sharyn Waterhouse as Hazel and Michael Madden as Frank. — Picture by Debbie Harrison

the play and introduce their characters. Afterwards, director Ralph Lenton and cast will answer questions.

The cast comprises Stuart Brennan as Arthur Hoyle, Sharyn Waterhouse as Hazel Scott, Darren Campbell in the two roles of Reg Welsh and Steve Edwards, Michael Madden as Frank Rowley, Anthony Miller as Phil Hopley and Scott Pickett as Tony Burtoft.

CONTINUED ON P5 – MORE PICTURES ON P4, 5

Bar and foyer facelift

Javeenbah's management committee has budgeted to upgrade the theatre's bar and foyer.

The refurbishment will include an overhead dispenser for wine glasses, spirits dispensers so that we don't have to stock alcopops but can mix our own

and an electronic cash register that tallies the night's bar takings automatically.

Other possibilities, if we can find the money, include a patio heater and an ice-maker.

We're also going to talk to some suppliers and see if we can cut a deal for a new drinks fridge – our present one is getting very noisy and probably won't live much longer.

We're having to get some more wine glasses to replace breakages and the replacements will almost certainly carry a "standard measure" marking. FOH volunteers will be instructed to fill glasses only up to the mark because over-filling will cause problems with the licensing authority.

FOH volunteers will also be instructed that at least two of them must be on duty at all times – no more ducking in to see the show and leaving only one person out front who has to leave the place empty to pop into the loo.

It is expected these changes will be brought in over the next month or two.

Costume laundry

Two more pieces of equipment have been acquired by wardrobe department.

Outgoing president Tom Howell has given us a washing machine and past president Jim Dickson has offered a clothes drier.

They will be kept downstairs in wardrobe department but unfortunately there are not enough power points to run them both without disconnecting other devices.

So until we can afford some rewiring, we'll just have to switch a few things off before we plug in the washing machine or drier.

Digger Norm tackles drainage

Theatre manager Norm Strambini has been beavering away at the theatre and has dug earth away from against the wardrobe wall downstairs to improve drainage.

We also need to improve drainage at the other end of the building but the ground against the wall under

the dressing room needs concreting. Before we can do that, we must approach the council about a fig tree outside the dressing room which has its roots under the theatre and is adversely affecting drainage. Norm will contact the council to see if the tree can be removed.

In other work around the theatre, Norm has built cupboards downstairs for the wigs and wig stands. He has put down rat bait under the auditorium and replenished it until it was no longer being taken. So it seems the rats that caused problems by chewing through cabling under the auditorium have gone.

Javeenbah's playbill 2009

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

20 September *The Female of the Species* auditions

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

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

Interpretation

Molière's company was preparing to stage *Titus and Bernice*, a new play by Corneille.

Michel Baron was playing the role of Domitianus and, memorising his part, he could not figure out the meaning of a particular quatrain. He asked Molière what the four lines meant, but he just shrugged that he did not know.

Then Baron went to Corneille himself. The poet read the lines a few times, and said, "I must admit, I don't know what I meant."

"What am I to do?" asked the actor.

"Nothing," said Corneille, "just say the lines as written. There will be some in the audience who won't understand yet will deeply admire them."

Schools drama support

Javeenbah's management committee has decided to continue its sponsorship of the GC Secondary Schools' Drama Festival. Our \$200 sponsorship gives us naming rights to the intermediate trophy and includes advertising in the festival program and other benefits.

The committee considered we should continue to support efforts that encourage young people to become involved in live theatre.

Booking office

Member Stewart Ryan has been appointed booking officer to take over from Cheryl Roberts who finished up after *Cats*. Stewart is taking bookings by phone and e-mail for *Up'n'Under*.

Auditioning for feminist fun

Past president Jim Dickson plans to have fun with feminism at Javeenbah's end of year production, *The Female of the Species* by Joanna Murray-Smith.

Jim goes to auditions on Sunday 13 September for what critics have described as "a hilarious riposte to the received idea that feminism and feminists are not funny". One critic, who described Murray-Smith as "Australia's foremost female playwright" said everything in the play "coldly and cruelly clicks with the neat efficiency of clockwork".

"The landscape of feminism and sexual politics is a mine-field of sensitivities," Murray-Smith says. "The time has finally come not only to observe the triumphs of feminism but also to laugh at its ironies and hypocrisies."

Jim needs six actors to cast *The Female of the Species* and is holding auditions at 2pm on 13

September at Javeenbah's Nerang Playhouse. The season runs at Javeenbah from 20 November to 5 December.

The lead role is Margot Mason, feminist writer, 60-ish, handsome, impressive, a monster. Other parts are: Molly Rivers, one of Margot's former students, early 20s, bright;

Tess Thornton, Margot's daughter, 30s, lost;

Bryan Thornton, Tess's husband, 30s but boyish, handsome, genial, thick;

Theo Hanover, Margot's publisher, 60s, dapper, gay, handsome, refined;

Frank, taxi driver, 20-something, very handsome, masculine.

The Female of the Species opens with career-feminist and agitating academic Margot Mason hunched over a blank screen, wrestling a tired muse. Though famous for such groundbreaking reads as *Madame Ovary* and *The Cerebral Vagina*, she is now battling a deadline while hostage to writer's block.

Her problems are compounded by the uninvited arrival of a former student, Molly Rivers, who is troubled by the social impact of Margot's literary efforts and still resents criticisms suffered previously in Margot's creative writing class. It soon appears that Molly has a serious chip on her shoulder — and a gun aimed squarely at Margot.

Who will come to the rescue of the feminist thinker, cuffed and accused of bombast and brainwashing? Not her daughter Tess, strung out on the stresses of motherhood, who chances upon the scene only to side with her mother's captor. And probably not Tess's sensitive new-age husband, Bryan, either, too busy adjudicating to offer any real assistance.

Might Margot be liberated by random cab driver, Frank, an angry young man with storytelling aspirations? Or will Margot's publisher Theo save the day, if only to squeeze just one more golden egg from his legendary literary goose?

The script is a smart and witty comedy of ideas, crackling with brilliant one-liners. How's this for an example: "I remember when a Brazilian was just a person."

Murray-Smith took her inspiration for the comedy from an incident in April 2000 when fellow Australian Germaine Greer, author of *The Female Eunuch*, was held captive in her country house in Essex, England. The image of the famous feminist cuffed and gagged by an infatuated and unstable young woman inspired Murray-Smith to pen her play.

When *The Female of the Species* opened in London's West End last year, Greer launched into Murray-Smith describing her as "an insane reactionary" who "holds feminism in contempt". In reply, Murray-Smith described herself as "upset", "irritated" and "mystified" by Greer's comments.



Author Joanna Murray-Smith

On other bills

11 September Spotlight Basement *Erogenous Zones* until 26 September, matinees 13, 20

12 September Gold Coast Little *Waiting In The Wings* by Noel Coward, director Joan Stalker-Brown, Thu-Sat until 3 October, matinees 19 and 27 September

25 September Neptune Productions at Tweed Heads Civic Centre *The Desert Song* by Oscar Hammerstein 2, Otto Harbach Sigmund Romberg until 4 October, matinees 3, 4 October

16 October Tweed Theatre *The Last Resort* by Judith Prior until 25 October, matinees 18 and 25

16 October Murwillumbah *James and the Giant Peach* by Roald Dahl adapted by Richard George, until 1 November

23 October Spotlight *HMS Pinafore* by Gilbert and Sullivan, director Eric James Summers, until 21 November, matinees 1, 8, 15 November

Debits and credits

Javeenbah's box office is getting credit card vouchers returned because the customer had used a debit card instead of a credit card. Our merchant account with the bank is only for credit cards and if a debit card is inadvertently accepted we lose out.

Treasurer Sharyn Waterhouse is investigating whether we can move to a more electronic system that would also allow us to use of a wider range of cards such as eftpos debit cards. It may cost us more but it's the way the world is going.

Welcome

Javeenbah welcomes new members Iain Hogg, Stuart Brennan, Michael Denny, Lynda Brough and Anthony Miller whose applications for membership were accepted in August.

Play the ball



Darren Campbell and Stuart Brennan practise playing with their odd-shaped balls for the John Godber pub rugby comedy *Up'n'Under* being presented at Javeenbah this month. Below: The team get fit — from left, Anthony Miller, Michael Madden, Stuart Brennan, Scott Pickett, Sharyn Waterhouse and Darren Campbell. — Pictures by Debbie Harrison





Pictured above, Arthur Hoyle (Stuart Brennan) and Reg Welsh (Darren Campbell) watch the Cobblers Arms in action. Above right, Steve (Darren Campbell) dives over the Cobblers defence for the line. Below, the Cobblers go for Hazel (Sharyn Waterhouse) like growling bears. — Pictures by Debbie Harrison



CONTINUED FROM P1

Last month saw the 25th anniversary of *Up'n'Under's* first performance. It was written by John Godber, an English dramatist known mainly for his innovative theatre and observational comedies with an edge. He has been calculated as the third most performed playwright in the UK behind Shakespeare and Ayckbourn.

The play follows an inept pub team from the Wheatsheaf Arms in a sevens competition. Ex-pro Arthur Hoyle is goaded into betting his house on the Wheatsheaf being able to beat the unconquerable team from the Cobblers Arms.

Arthur becomes manager of the Wheatsheaf and the pitifully unfit men struggle through adversity to become a team.

Up'n'Under won the Laurence Olivier Award for best new comedy in 1984 and was Godber's first play after he was appointed artistic director of Hull Truck Theatre Company in England. The theatre was struggling financially at the time and *Up'n'Under* helped save it from closure.

Godber is directing *Up'n'Under* himself at Hull Truck next month as a 25th anniversary celebration.

Here are the details of Javeenbah's plans for Sunday 6 September: AGM at 2pm, *Meet the Team* at 3pm, sausage sizzle at 4pm.

Bring Dad and all the family to meet the team from the Wheatsheaf Arms.



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General

Vacant

President jets away

Javeenbah president Tom Howell has flown away from the sunshine state to take up a job in England. With a bit of luck he'll have a few days of autumn weather before the bleak London winter sets in.

Tom's role will be taken by Katrina Lardner as acting president until AGM. Katrina was appointed vice president last month to replace Joan Stalker-Brown who had resigned.

Other resignations mean that we will go into AGM with what amounts to a skeleton management committee but there did not seem much point filling the vacancies when AGM was so close.

Figures from *Cats*

Box office returns for *Cats* confirm what a huge success the musical was for Javeenbah. We recorded an average house of 97.8 percent. Patrons who paid the full ticket price made up 32 percent of the audience, pensioners and students 31.9 percent and block bookings and charity nights 27.9 percent. The other 8.2 percent were members or complimentaries.

A big round of applause for the director and cast of a phenomenal success.

Edging closer

The internet-based ticketing system SABO is a couple of steps closer. Our new box office manager Stewart Ryan has had training in the system and we're working on "back-end" requirements for getting the money from the patron and into our bank account.

We're still not sure when we'll have it up and running, but it has at least reached walking pace. Watch this space.

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@javeenbahtheatre.com with "Newsletter" in the subject line.

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.

Good news, bad news

Two stage managers were discussing the likelihood of there being some form of theatrical endeavour in the hereafter. The first consulted a friendly medium and reported back:

SM1: "I have good news and bad news. The good news is that there is a wonderful theatre in heaven — well equipped, spacious, plenty of wing space. In fact, there's a show opening tomorrow night."

SM2: "That's wonderful! So what's the bad news?"

SM1: "You're calling the show."

**JAVEENBAH THEATRE COMPANY INC
NOMINATION FOR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2009/10**

I, _____ (name of nominator)
hereby nominate _____ (name of nominee)
for the position of _____
on the management committee of Javeenbah Theatre.

Name (please print) _____

Signature of nominator _____

I second this nomination _____ (name of seconder)

Signature _____

I accept this nomination _____ (name of nominee)

Signature _____

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Please note that whilst all positions are declared vacant at the AGM, this year several current position holders ARE NOT RE-STANDING, and these positions MUST be filled. Consider what you could offer to the theatre NOW. Nominations must be in the hands of the secretary at least 48 hours before AGM. That means this year's deadline is 2pm Friday 4 Septemeber 2009.



JAVEENBAH THEATRE COMPANY INCORPORATED

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the twenty-second Annual General Meeting of members of Javeenbah Theatre Company Incorporated will be held at Nerang Playhouse, Stevens/Ferry Streets, Nerang, on Sunday 6 September 2009 beginning at 2pm.

Business to be transacted:

- 1. Acceptance or otherwise of apologies for absence**
- 2. Acceptance or otherwise of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 21 September 2008**
- 3. Receive reports of the principal officers:**
 - 3.1. President**
 - 3.2. Artistic director**
- 4. Receive the treasurer's statement of income and expenditure and other financial business for the 2008/09 financial year**
- 5. Receive the auditor's report on the books and accounts for the 2008/09 financial year**
- 6. Elect members of the board for the ensuing year:**
 - 6.1. President**
 - 6.2. Vice president**
 - 6.3. Secretary**
 - 6.4. Treasurer**
 - 6.5. Nine members to occupy the roles of**
 - 6.5.1. Assistant secretary**
 - 6.5.2. Assistant treasurer**
 - 6.5.3. Artistic director**
 - 6.5.4. Theatre manager**
 - 6.5.5. Publicity officer**
 - 6.5.6. Block bookings officer**
 - 6.5.7. FOH manager**
 - 6.5.8. General committee (two required)**
- 7. Appoint an auditor**
- 8. General business**

**This notice was issued by me on 22 August 2009
Ralph Lenton, Secretary, Javeenbah Theatre Company
Incorporated**