



Burnside Players News

Melbourne's getting *Phantom* - again.
Adelaide has the Australian Premiere of *By Jeeves*

This August, Burnside Players are doing what no Australian company, professional or amateur, has ever done – staging a production of Alan Ayckbourn and Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical collaboration, *By Jeeves*.

Based on the much-loved Jeeves and Wooster stories by P.G. Wodehouse, *By Jeeves* is a show within a show. Affable upper-class twit Bertie Wooster is holding a banjo concert; his masterful gentleman's gentleman Jeeves (knowing full well that's the last thing anyone wants to hear) prompts him, in his inimitable style, to relate some anecdotes instead. With the help of some press-ganged local characters, the hall's costume-cupboard and some hastily constructed sets, the result is a charming and hilarious recollection of some of the pair's most memorable adventures, complete with songs.

The show's first incarnation, *Jeeves*, produced in 1975, was not a success. But in 1996, Ayckbourn and Lloyd Webber reworked it completely, scrapping all but two songs. The result was a West End hit.

Alan Ayckbourn is one of England's most prolific playwrights; his more than seventy produced works (many of them award-winning) include *Absurd Person Singular*, *Woman in Mind* and *House and Garden*. Andrew Lloyd Webber is one of the most successful modern-day writer/producers of musical theatre and his credits include the massive hits *Cats*, *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *The Phantom of the Opera*.

Director Megan Dansie, who in 2006 directed Burnside's critically acclaimed and award-winning production of *The Crucible*, says this: "*By Jeeves* is a charming hidden gem of music theatre; laugh out loud funny, with a great script by Alan Ayckbourn, the master of British comedy, and delightful songs by Andrew Lloyd-Webber. I was attracted to *By Jeeves* as it is not a typical Lloyd-Webber show either musically or production-wise - it is a small, almost chamber musical - and is ideal for cabaret style in the Burnside Ballroom. I am very proud to be directing the Australian premiere of this delightful show, which can truly be called a 'Musical Comedy'."

Musical direction is by Kate Pope and choreography by Irena Setchell. The cast includes Burnside regulars Brendan Clare as Harold 'Stinker' Pinker and Richard Gruca as 'Bumpy' Bazely/Sir Watkyn Bassett. Philip Lineton is Jeeves and Paul Briske makes his debut at Burnside as Bertie; they are joined by Cara Brown as Stiffy, Max Halupka as Gussie, Dominic Hodges as Bingo, Nicole Seal as Honoria, Sera Davey as Madeline and Tim Benveniste as Cyrus - as well as a talented and energetic ensemble.

The **season runs from August 2 to 11**, in cabaret style in the Burnside Ballroom, corner of Portrush and Greenhill Roads, Burnside. Performances are Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm, with a Saturday Matinee on Saturday August 11 at 2pm, and a Twilight Performance on Sunday August 5 at 6pm.

Tickets: \$20 and \$18 concession. Group rates (for 10 or more) and members' rates available. **Bookings:** Burnside Booking Line 0500 520 105, BASS 131 246, or online at www.burnsideplayers.com



BURN
SIDE
PLAYERS

July 2007

Memberships

Memberships are \$40 for full members and \$30 for concession. Our single show cast membership is \$20.

Members receive a free ticket to each show for members, and a \$5 guest ticket which represents excellent value and a saving of up to \$45 over our regular prices.

Send a cheque and your details (including email address if you have one) to
Burnside Players Inc.
PO Box 151
Burnside SA 5066

Committee

President: Jamie Wright
Secretary: Brendan White

Treasurer: Megan Dansie
Members: Kate Pope, Rob Herman, and Cara Brown

Burnside is always looking for enthusiastic others interested in joining the committee or just helping out.

Burnside Players Inc.

PO Box 151

Burnside SA 5066

Phone: 8370 3533 (President)

Bookings: 0500 520 105 (local call cost)

Email: bpi@thespia.com

Newsletter editor: Karen Mather



Do you want to
receive this newsletter
by Email?
Let us know at
bpi@thespia.com

Much Ado About...Something a little different

In November this year Thorin Cupit and Burnside Players plan to do something a little different. Playing on the concept that the only difference between a Shakespeare comedy and a Shakespeare tragedy is whether everyone gets married or everyone dies, they will be performing two versions of the same play – ‘Much Ado About Nothing’.

Cupit says this: ‘In the traditional version the Priest steps in and suggests a remedy. Hero pretends to be dead until the plot is uncovered and a penitent Claudio atones for his injustice and lack of faith in her. Then she re-emerges and they marry. In the tragedy, Hero does die, and by the time the plot is revealed Claudio has been challenged to duel to the death. The careful arrangements for the marriage of Beatrice and Benedick fall through, and all end unhappily. Very little rewriting is needed to achieve this, and

the actors for the most part only need to learn one set of lines.’

It will be Thorin’s third play for Burnside having directed the wildly successful 2003 production of ‘A Midsummer Night’s Dream’ and 2005’s ‘Oh! What a Lovely War’. He most recently directed ‘As You Like It: Working Title’ for Unmasked Theatre.

The roles are for four women and fourteen men aged 18+, with no upper age; however, many of the male roles could be played equally well by females (9 of the 14 in fact). The parts vary in amount of lines, but all will be demanding to balance the comedy and tragedy of the two plays. It will be performed in the original Shakespearean language (with tutoring on the meaning and pronunciation).

Auditions

Auditions for *Much Ado About Nothing* Saturday, 21st July, from 9am onwards at Burnside Town Hall, Cnr Portrush Rd and Greenhill Rd. The information night is from 7.30pm, Thursday 19th July, at the same venue. Look for details in the Adelaide Theatre Guide and The Advertiser.

Expect the Director to push you to think differently about any role you try for.

Further Information: Thorin on 0400 729 406 and thorin@datagaard.com.au