



HAMILTON
OPERATIC
SOCIETY

www.hamiltonoperatic.co.nz

May
2005

HOSTAGE



“The Full Monty” opens June 3rd!

The New Zealand Premiere of “The Full Monty” opens at Founders Theatre on June 3rd for a two week season.

The show is well into rehearsal and the cast and band are having lots of fun putting the show together.

The cast features many familiar faces and plenty of new ones, including well-known Auckland actor Grant Bridger as Howard. Grant’s recent work includes the role of Magaldi in the NZ tour of “Evita” last year. Familiar faces include David and Fiona Artis, Nick Wilkinson, Tim Pollock, Leona Lenore Robinson, Stephanie Christian and Gayle Williams. Lorna Booth plays the role of Molly MacGregor.

The musical director is Campbell Douglas, and

although he has performed in numerous productions, this is Campbell’s first show as Musical Director for the Society.

The set is being designed by Wellington-based John Harding who has managed to fit in “The Full Monty” between his work with Weta Workshops and a Tourism New Zealand Wearable Arts promotion in Singapore. John’s last work for the Society was “A Funny Thing Happened on the



Grant Bridger plays Harold

way to the Forum” in 1992. The set is being constructed by the team at Waikato Museum.

When not at rehearsals, the guys are working

Continued on Page 2



Buffing Up: the guys work out at Les Mills

“Girls’ Night Out” with The Breeze & The Chardy Club

The season for “The Full Monty” includes a special Girls’ Night Out performance on Tuesday 14th June at 6.30pm. Members of The Chardy Club will receive discounted tickets to the performance and the chance to meet the cast after the show.



Inside this issue:

- Chairman’s Message
- Membership News
- Award winning website
- WEL Energy Trust
- Future Shows
- The Rocky Horror Show
- Titbits



Chairman's Message

I attended the annual Music Theatre New Zealand conference in Ashburton in early April. This is the third year that HOS has been represented at the Conference since the society took a break from involvement in the association. I'm pleased we're back as it's a wonderful opportunity to meet members of other societies, attend workshops and find out what rights to shows are becoming available. I was delighted to be able to accept the award for "Best Website" at the conference and hope it demonstrates to other societies our desire and commitment to be one of

the leading musical theatre societies in New Zealand once again. This intention is also demonstrated by staging the New Zealand Premiere of "The Full Monty" this year and of course securing the rights to "The Rocky Horror Show". Riverlea Theatre has successfully bid for the 2007 conference and members may wish to take the opportunity to attend the conference and find out what it's all about.

Congratulations to David Sidwell who recently directed "Phantasmic" at the Michael Fowler Centre for Wellington Musical Theatre. The compilation of Andrew Lloyd Webber



hits received rave reviews and I've heard reports that the singing and dancing was stunning.

Don't forget we're planning a trip in July to see "The Producers" which moves to Sydney from this month.

See you at "The Full Monty"!

Membership News

If you haven't renewed your membership for 2005, it's not too late! Membership for this year is still only \$20. See Kathie at wardrobe for an application form.



Our AGM will be held after the season of "The Full Monty", with the exact date still to be set. Heather Connolly (nee Bircham) has recently resigned from the Board, and Dave

Smith is up for re-election. Full AGM details will be sent to all members in June.

Award Winning Website
Our website won the "Best Website" award at the recent Music Theatre New Zealand conference in Ashburton.



The Full Monty continued...

out courtesy of Les Mills World of Fitness who has sponsored free gym memberships.

Don't forget members receive 20% off up to 4 tickets for shows, so get a group together and book now!

Tickets can be purchased at any Ticket outlet, phone 838 6600 or online at: www.ticketek.co.nz

Thanks WEL Energy Trust!



Hamilton Operatic Society received a grant of \$10,000 in the 2004/2005 WEL Energy Trust Community Funding round.

The Trust approved just over \$2.3 million in funding to 233 local organisations. Community organisations working within the Trust's area in sectors such as Health, Welfare, Arts & Culture, Education, Environment, Event Sponsorship, Recreation and Sport were successful in obtaining Trust funding. The WEL Energy Trust is the 100 percent community owner of WEL Networks Limited, our local lines company.

Future Shows

The Board is currently evaluating possible shows for 2006 seasons and beyond.

If you've visited our website lately you may have noticed our "Mini-poll" we're running to get feedback on the types of shows audiences want us to produce. Results to date overwhelming support "new musicals e.g. Rent" (43%) or "anything by Andrew Lloyd Webber" (28%).

While hardly scientific, the poll has encouraged us to survey audiences on their show preferences and we will be conducting an audience survey at "The Full Monty".

Rights to recent West End and Broadway blockbusters in the league of "Les Miserables" are still not available to amateur societies in New Zealand, which means we are limited to redoing shows done in the past e.g. "Grease" or trying a show that audiences are unlikely to have heard of.

Both options have inherent risks for

producers: audiences have either seen the show before and may not wish to see it again, or have little or no awareness and don't want to risk spending their entertainment dollar.

We have to balance offering opportunities for members to do something new, but not at the risk of losing a fortune for the society.

If you'd like to suggest a show, let us know. We'll have an update on next year's show in the next newsletter. In the meantime visit our website to vote.

Type of Show	%
New musicals e.g. 'Rent'	43
Rodgers & Hammerstein e.g. 'Oklahoma!'	7
Classics we've done before e.g. 'Hair'	16
Anything by Andrew Lloyd Webber	28
Gilbert & Sullivan e.g. 'The Mikado'	2
Compilation shows like "West End to Broadway"	4

The Rocky Horror Show

Auditions for "The Rocky Horror Show" were held on March 5 & 6.

Over 100 people attended a pre-audition workshop on the Thursday prior, with most going on to audition over the weekend.

The show has been confirmed for Founders Theatre from 8 - 31 October and is already creating unprecedented media coverage. To date the Waikato Times has written four articles, just on casting the show.

The next newsletter will feature full information on the cast and production team as well as full ticket information and performance details.

Titbits

In the beginning there was Trustbank Community Theatre. Then with the bank name change came the WestpacTrust Community Theatre, then the sponsorship period ended but the name stayed. When Westpac Bank dropped the Trust from its name, the Theatre didn't... confused? Not any more! As the Westpac Bank wished to have its association with the WestpacTrust Community Theatre severed, Hamilton City Council has decided to simply call the theatre "The Community Theatre".

Speaking of which The Community Theatre and Meteor theatre are currently getting a much needed spruce up with repairs to external

cladding and a complete repainting of the exteriors. For The Community Theatre, it's probably the first time the building has been repainted since the current auditorium was built in the 1980s. Currently the building is a light grey, however the final result will be colourful to say the least! Check out the new look next time you're driving by.

The HOS office has moved upstairs to the mezzanine from its old position adjacent to the Boardroom, making it easier for Kathie to run the accounts side of things. (Those stairs can be a killer).

If you've been to Wardrobe on a Saturday morning recently, you'll no doubt will have met the very bubbly **Yvonne Milroy**. She's having heaps of

fun serving customers whilst dressed up in different costumes. Yvonne says there have been at least a dozen times she's had to quickly change out of whatever she's wearing so people can hire the clothes literally off her back! "Thank goodness I know where the kimono's are for a quick change".

Petrus Rijkers is currently appearing as Mr van Daan in Zeeland Productions' "The Diary of Anne Frank". The production is a collaboration between Te Awamutu Little Theatre and The Dutch Drama Group "De Plankeniers", and tours New Zealand until mid-October.

Got something to add to our titbits section? Email us at: info@hamiltonoperatic.co.nz

