Official Newsletter of the

SPOTLIGHT THEATRICAL COMPANY

185-187 Ashmore Road Benowa PO Box 8074 GC Mail Centre Q 9726 Phone 5539 4700

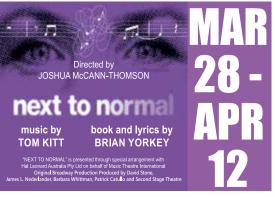
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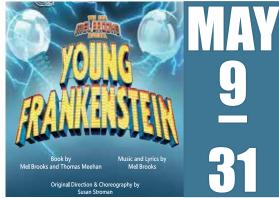




CATCH US ON FACEBOOK









BE PART OF SPOTLIGHT'S DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATION IN 2015.

Directors please present your submissions for Musicals, Pantomimes and Plays OR OTHER EXCITING SUGGESTIONS outlining your ideas for presentation.

APPROXIMATE DATES

Main Theatre - Musicals

Mid February/March Latter part of May/June Late July/August Late October/November

Basement Theatre Pantomimes/Plays

Early January
Early April
Late June/July
Mid September/October

Submissions close 30th June 2014

Please present to: Production Committee
Spotlight Theatre
185-187 Ashmore Road, Benowa
or mail to
Production Chairperson
Spotlight Theatrical Company,
PO Box 8074
Gold Coast Mail Centre Q 9726



Dates may change depending on submitted ideas for our Diamond Jubilee Celebrations!



2015 marks the 60th Anniversary of the Spotlight Theatrical Company, a time to reflect on past glories and celebrate the future. Over the coming months we will be taking a glimpse back at the story behind Spotlight and the



people that have made it happen and who continue keeping Spotlight the busy little venue it is today.

We are happy to report that both Joel Beskin and Zoe Nourse are recovering well from recent surgery, in fact Joel will be seen on stage in our upcoming production of The New Mel Brooks Musical *Young Frankenstein*.

Life Member Dorothy Malmgren is currently not enjoying the best of health. Dorothy was our Group Bookings Officer and Front of House volunteer for many years.

At the time of this going online Margaret De Mestre, for many years our Golden Girls liaison, will be undergoing surgery.

Our Spotlight 'family' wish you all a speedy recovery.



THE SPOTLIGHT THEATRICAL COMPANY

HALF-YEARLY GENERAL MEETING

Thank you to those members who attended the Half-Yearly General Meeting. Unfortunately only 15 members signed in so we didn't have a quorum for the meeting to proceed.

However, discussion was held regarding our **2015 Diamond Jubilee Celebration** and a subcommittee of seven people was formed to make suggestions to our Councillors. Chairman is Council Member, Melissa Dorge and any suggestions/ideas can be directed to this subcommittee c/- Melissa Dorge <*email:* mf.dorge@gmail.com>

Photos and information on Spotlight's past history are being sought. If you can help in any way please contact Melissa or Administration 07/5539 4255.

OUR SPOTLIGHT SEWING AND PROPS DEPARTMENTS ARE IN URGENT NEED OF HELPERS!!

IF YOU CAN VOLUNTEER A FEW HOURS FOR SOME HAND SEWING AND PROP MAKING IT WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED.

CONTACT ADMINISTRATION 07 5539 4255.

SOMETHING NEXT TO NORMAL...

By Jessica Papst

It's not often that a musical tackles material like drugs, family dysfunction and bipolar disorder. But if you are expecting *Next to Normal* to "rain on your parade" then don't fret. Though the material may be challenging and confronting – the intelligent use of irony and word play coupled with the outstanding rock score will have you leaving the theatre listing the ways you have been moved. *Next to Normal* is about love, destruction, light, struggle and hope.

This piece will leave you spellbound.

When I spoke to the director of Spotlight's Autumn production of **Next to Normal**, Josh Mc Cann-Thomson, we discussed the relevance, importance and beauty of this 2009 Pulitzer Prize-winning Broadway show.

"It's like, deep down, this show has such universal themes – maybe you're not suffering from bipolar disorder, but everybody is suffering in some way...everyone has their baggage..."

Next to Normal rocked Broadway during its run when it cleverly and carefully dealt with relevant, contemporary material. Breakout performances from Aaron Tveit as Gabe (from the film of *Les Miserables*) and career-defining work from Alice Ripley as Diana wow-ed audiences night after night and the Gold Coast premiere of this, "physically and mentally compelling show," will continue in this fine tradition.

With the passionately 4ft-nothing powerhouse that is *Arlie Mc Cormick* in the role of the mother, Diana, talented Gold Coast performer *Steve Hirst* as her devoted husband Dan (last seen in *Title of Show* and *Annie*) and Brisbane's mix-belt superstar *Heidi Enchelmaier* playing their mixed-up daughter Natalie (Grace in *Annie*) - *Next to Normal*'s family unit is almost complete. Add the divine *Shaun Kohlman* as Gabe (Jack in 2013's *Into the Woods* and arguably Brisbane's finest young, male tenor) and you have our very left-of-centre family. But, really, aren't we all?

As Director, Josh, continued, "**Next to Normal** tackles a realistic situation, in an unrealistic world.... You don't often get to see this kind of material that challenges the audiences to make hard decisions and question their own life and relationships."

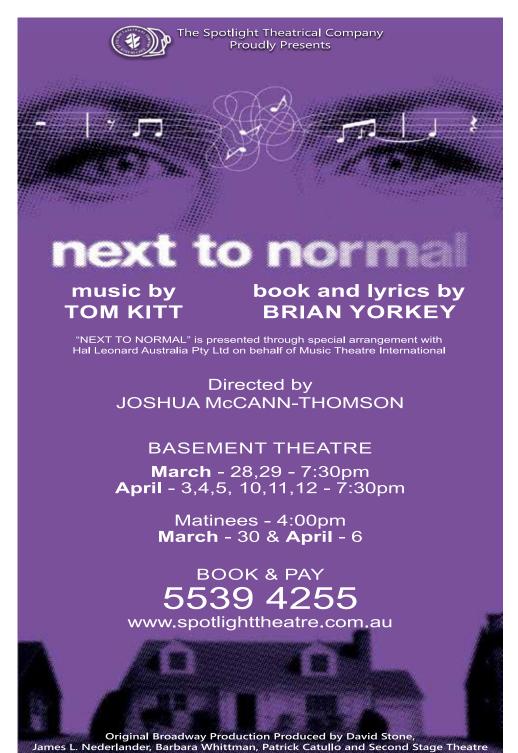
Lachlan Geraghty and Jaiden Isgrove play Natalie's love interest, Henry, and Diana's Doctor respectively. Both of these young men are integral to the journey of the female characters as Diana and Natalie deal with their own, "cuts, burns and shocks" in different ways.

When I asked Josh why Gold Coast audiences should see this show, his reply was heartfelt and true. See *Next to Normal*, "...if you want something that will move you and make you want to hug your family a little tighter"

Next to Normal opens Friday 28 March in the Basement at Spotlight Theatre and runs until April 12.

Tickets are strictly limited.









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VALE — BILL FOXOVER 8-9-1928 - 23-3-2014

It is with great sadness that I tell you we have lost a wonderful, talented, artistic Life Member, BILL FOXOVER.

BILL PASSED AWAY ON SUNDAY 23rd March aged 85 years.

He is survived by his wife Shirlie, three children, Neredah, Graydon, and Owen; six grandsons Ben, Matthew and Nicolas Summerville and Michael, Joshua and Aaron Foxover by his eldest two children respectively; son-in-law Andrew, stepbrother Jim and step sister Edith.

A Private Funeral for family and close friends is being held for Bill at the Southport Uniting Church.

A Memorial Service will be held at the Uniting Church, Cnr Scarborough and Short Streets, Southport, 2pm Friday 4th April. (It is advisable to park in Australia Fair due to traffic changes.)

Our sincere Sympathy to Shirlie and family and extended family members.









BILL AND SHIRLIE FOXOVER FOUNDING MEMBERS OF THE SPOTLIGHT THEATRICAL COMPANY

Shirlie (Hodgson) joined Joyce (Williams) Forbes, the Founder of The South Coast Revue Company (as Spotlight was known in its early years), in the very first Revue which opened in 1955 after starting rehearsals the year before. Shirlie's father, Fred, was Joyce's driving instructor at the time when she was looking for singers to form her Revue Company and Shirlie became a member of the group after Fred told Joyce he had a daughter who was a lovely singer. That started Shirlie's stage career and she appeared in many of the revues and later musicals.

Bill had moved to the area and was boarding in Southport near Shirlie's parents' corner shop on Johnson and George Street. He used to call in every day after a surf to purchase items. Bill had noticed Shirlie who used to walk the family dog each day and had the opportunity to ask her to a movie one day when she was looking after the shop. At the time Shirlie had a girlfriend staying with her so declined, but Bill said he'd take them both. This impressed Shirlie with thoughts "he must be a nice bloke to take them both" and so began their romance.

Always a true gentleman, Bill came to Spotlight around 1958/9 and joined Shirlie in revues. They married in 1961.

The South Coast Revue Company progressed to Musicals and a name change "Spotlite" eventually becoming The Spotlight Theatrical Company. Bill played the support role, Jeff Douglas in the Company's first musical, **Brigadoon** in 1962 while Shirlie was pregnant with Neredah. He was the first King in **The King and I** (1967) and received many accolades and praise for his performance in this role to present times. Not only did Bill appear as Wild Bill Hickock in two of Spotlight's **Calamity Jane** seasons – 1964/1973 but also as a chorus member in the 2003 season. As well as appearing in many other musicals, in most

productions over the 55 years he was involved with Spotlight he was invaluable behind the scenes. His scenic art has been a part of numerous musicals throughout the years. Even in recent years he could be seen up a ladder painting huge backdrops both in the Main and Basement theatres.

Shirlie appeared as Lady Thiang in *The King and I* with Bill and their daughter Neredah aged 5, (one of the King's twins with Mark Hodge, son of Marilyn Hodge). Shirlie continued to appear in major roles at Spotlight and was well known for her comedic aptitude as well as her singing. In later years, Shirlie visited Nursing Homes and Senior Venues with the Golden Girls and was much loved for the joy and laughter she brought to their shows. She has only recently retired from the Golden Girls due to health problems. Spotlight is indebted to Bill and Shirlie and many others over the years who have invested so much time, effort and talent in our theatre.

READ MORE ABOUT THEM IN THE COMING YEAR AS WE PREPARE FOR OUR GOLDEN JUBILEE - **60 Years of continuous sparkling entertainment.**







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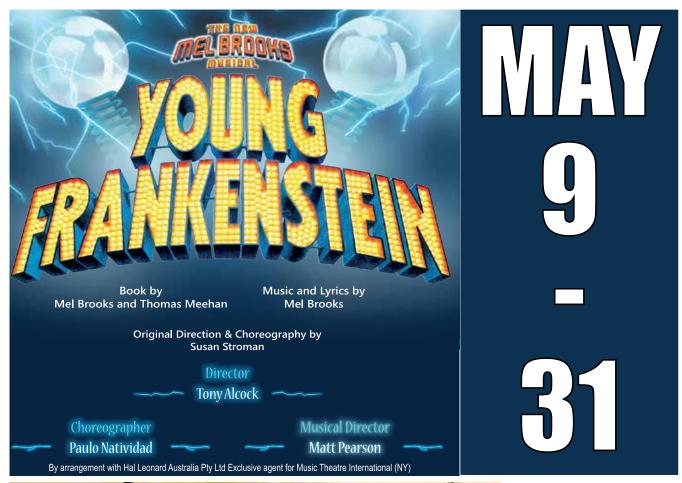
It's Alive! From the creators of Broadway's record-breaking sensation *The Producers*, comes this monstrously entertaining new musical comedy with its show stopping musical numbers, including "Puttin' on the Ritz" complete with tap dancing monsters, round out this monstrously fun show.

The New Mel Brooks Musical Young Frankenstein Opens May 9th at the Spotlight Theatre

Transylvania mania is about to take over the Spotlight Theatre when Mel Brooks' hysterical musical comedy *Young Frankenstein* hits the stage..

Young Frankenstein is based on the Mel Brooks comedy film, which is an affectionate parody of the classic 1930's horror film. The reluctant heir to the Frankenstein legacy, played by **Brad Kendrick**, makes a bumbling transformation into the mad doctor with the help of all the characters from the hit film. The original Broadway production was nominated for three Tony Awards and a Grammy Award for Best Musical Show Album, in addition to winning the Outer Critics Circle Award for Best Musical. It ran on Broadway from 2007 to 2009 and toured the U.S in 2010 and 2011.

Brad most recently enjoyed success in the roles of Raoul, The Vicomte de Chagney in *Phantom of the Opera* and Daddy Warbucks in *Annie*. The role of Elizabeth will be played by **Tess Burke**. A director and Choreographer, Tess's recent performing credits include *Into The Woods*, *Beauty and the Beast* and *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*. Cast as Igor is **Kieton Bielby** (*Curtains, Little Shop of Horrors, The 39 Steps*) and playing The Monster is **Martin Jennings** who has appeared in many Spotlight shows including *Phantom of the Opera, All Shook Up* and *Seussical!*. **Jessica Papst** has been cast as Frau Blucher. Her recent acting credits include *Boy From Oz* and *Into the Woods*. The voluptuous Inga will be played by **Becky Morgan** who has recently been seen as Miss Perkins in *Annie* and Jeannie in *HAIR*. **Simon Stone** joins the cast as Inspector Kemp. A recent arrival from Canberra, this marks Simon's second appearance at Spotlight, the first as Monsieur Le Fevre in *Phantom of the Opera*.





Spotlighter April 2014

SPOTLIGHT ON YOUTH THEATRE

PETER MORRISSEY (Drama)
JESSICA PAPST (SENIOR MUSICAL THEATRE)
TERRI WOODFINE (Assistant Teacher)

LEA VOSTI (YT Administrator)
MARTINA FRENCH (YT Liaison)

SENIOR MUSICAL THEATRE REPORT

lready we are fast approaching the end of Term 1 here at Spotlight and the Senior Musical Theatre classes are powering ahead, combining their skill development in singing, dancing and acting with some great new material.

Once again, Martina French has begun the important work of figuring out our students' vocal ranges and together we have been teaching vocal parts for the catchy track, "Everybody Say Yeh" from the 2013 Tonyblitzing-Cindy-Lauper-penned musical, KINKY BOOTS. The students have been enjoying this work combined with the peppy and preppy dance routine, "What I Was Born to Do" from the Lin Manuel Miranda musical (of In the Heights fame) BRING IT ON. Yes, it's just like the film. But better.

I took a week off to travel the Adelaide Fringe Festival and left the students in the capable

hands of Tony Alcock and Martina – which the students just loved. Working on their improvisation craft and developing even more confidence and understanding of the creation of drama, we have loved repeating some of Tony's activities of late – and creating some hilarious scenes.

We move on to Audition preparation and CV creation as the term comes to a close, developing lifelong skills in the students and knowledge that they can take into many fields. We will shortly be moving into preparations for the mid-year cabaret, which the students are very excited about, and we will be revealing more details about this next month. Have a happy and restful Easter and I look forward to Term 2 with our talented, energetic students.

Jess

SOME MEMBERSHIP FEES AND YOUTH THEATRE FEES ARE OVERDUE

For your convenience Payment can be made as follows:

You can pay via cash, cheque or card (credit and eftpos) at the Costume Hire Shop during Business Hours (Monday – Friday 9.00 – 5.30, Saturday 9.00 – 4.00). You can call through to the Costume Hire (55394700 or 55394255) and pay over the phone with credit card. **INCLUDE NAMES OF ALL ADULTS AND CHILDREN FOR WHOM MEMBERSHIP IS BEING PAID PLEASE** (individual entry is required for our records).

Or you can pay online – the details are

Name: The Spotlight Theatrical Co

BSB: 124-086

Acc No: 22100850

If you pay online YOU MUST GIVE THE STUDENTS NAME & CLASS AS THE REFERENCE.



SPOTLIGHT GOLDEN GIRLS BEGIN THEIR 2014 SEASON OF MUSICALS

We are now running our new show, we have five performances under our belt with seventeen shows remaining for the first season.

Our theme for this year is Musicals and has been received very well. We open with *Give My Regards To Broadway* which will be our opening number for the year.

We close this first season with *The Girl On A Magazine Cover*, which includes all members, a great finish with everyone in a different coloured flowing gown. Colourful costumes and variety of numbers are always a hit with our audiences.

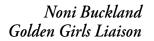
On the 7th march we performed at Tricare Cypress Gardens, a new venue for us. The staff and residents relayed that we were the best concert in several years. A great boost for our egos.

The new members have fitted in well with Anne's performance of *Hello Dolly* going over very well and Marilyn's *Gooch's Song* a hit as well.

We start rehearsals for our second season in April. We will be very busy for the next couple of months juggling rehearsals and performances.

Anyone interested in joining our little group are most welcome. If you can sing and dance please apply – Phone Marilyn Hodge on 5529 0776.

Now back to the boards.







We are on the search for Five Fabulous Women who will sing and dance their way through the 60's in Spotlight's Production of DOWNTOWN, Co-directed by Kim Reynolds and Cilla Scott and Musically Directed by Matt Dennett

The Five Women need to be exceptionally strong vocalists and able to follow some groovy choreography.

BASEMENT THEATRE
Spotlight Theatre Complex
185 – 187 Ashmore Rd, Benowa
TUESDAY 8TH APRIL 2014
6.30PM

NB Lead Cast will need to be 25+. We are looking for a range of looks and ages. Also note that this will be a group audition.

Orange Girl - Soprano with Belt - Low Bb - High Bb

The mother of the group. Wise, soulful and mature – she is slowly asserting her new-found independence

Songs Include - You Don't Have Say You Love Me, I Only Want to Be With You, All I See Is You

Yellow Girl - Alto with Rock Diva Belt - F Below Mid C to Belt Eb

Uninhibited and brash American. She is a ray of sunshine with a surprising vulnerability **Songs Include -** *Son of a Preacher Man, These Boots Are Made For Walking, Shout*

Blue Girl – High Soprano Belt – Low Bb – High C

Blue blooded fashion model. Sophisticated, poised and aloof **Songs Include -** *You Are My World, Don't Sleep in the Subway*

Red Girl – Soprano with Belt – Low Bb to High C

The baby of the group. Quirky, enthusiastic and naive. Hopeless romantic. Insecure about her looks **Songs Include** – *To Sir With Love, Those Were The Days*

Green Girl – Mezzo with Shirley Bassey-like Belt

Good time girl. Blousy, middle-class and zany. A Bit frayed around the edges. A comedian is needed.

Songs Include - Gold Finger, 1,2,3, I Couldn't Live Without Your Love

We are also looking for 3 Onstage Backing Vocalists.

Audition Requirements

Auditionees are required to sing a verse and a chorus from a song of the era. This may be from the show if preferred.

Please provide your own CD Backing (edited)

Callbacks will focus on harmony work, basic choreography and script interpretation

TO REGISTER FOR AN AUDITION PLEASE EMAIL

auditions@spotlighttheatre.com.au



We are also looking for 10 swinging dancers!

MAIN THEATRE
Spotlight Theatre Complex
185 – 187 Ashmore Rd, Benowa
SUNDAY 11[™] MAY 2014
10.00am – 12 noon

Dancers will need to be able to pick up choreography quickly and work well in an ensemble. No vocal audition will be required.

16+

Please bring chorus shoes

Dancers will need to attend the en masse dance call.



Who is this glamorous gal?

Clue: Joined Spotlight (The South Coast Revue Company [Spotlight]) in the early days of revues. Is a dynast and can be seen regularly at Spotlight to this day. This pic was taken during the performance of *Brigadoon* 1962.

NEXT ISSUE WILL DISCLOSE.



You are invited to a Memorial Celebrating The Life Of Patricia Lilian Aldam 1938 - 2014 At Javeenbah Theatre on Tuesday 1st April 2014 at 7:00 pm

A Tree will be planted at Javeenbah in her Memory
The J-Bah will be open & all proceeds will go to the Australian Cancer Council
Please bring a plate
Any Enquires Please Ring
Graham Simpson On Mobile: 0411484453

PAT ALDAM 1938 - 2014



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Spotlighter April 2014



Joel Beskin's 'Theatre Roundup'

is now on Air every week on Tuesdays
Tune in to 4CRB 89.3FM between 2.35pm and 3pm
for Community Theatre News
Kate Peters' 'Showbiz Buzz'

is now on air every week on Monday afternoons
Tune in to Radio 94.1FM at 2.30pm for all the gossip

on current/past/future productions (and performers) on the Gold Coast!



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