

Official Newsletter of the
**SPOTLIGHT
THEATRICAL
COMPANY**

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or Phone 5539 4255
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SPOTLIGHT THEATRICAL COMPANY

ONLINE
ANYTIME

CATCH US ON FACEBOOK

THE YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN

Book by Mel Brooks and Thomas Meehan
Music and Lyrics by Mel Brooks

Original Direction & Choreography by Susan Stroman

**MAY
9
-
31**

Peter Pan

DIRECTED BY
KATE PETERS

JULY 2 - 12

DOWNTOWN
The Mod Musical

A celebration of the 60's

Created by Phillip George, David Lowenstein, Peter Charles Morris

Directed by Cilla Scott & Kim Reynolds

Choreographer Kim Reynolds
Musical Director Matt Dennett

**AUG
8
-
30**



Celebrating 60 years of
Spotlight Theatrical Company
Diamond Anniversary, 2015

May 2014

THANK YOU JOHN DAVIDSON

John Davidson is a student in our Youth Theatre program. For approximately 6 years John has participated firstly, in the Drama program and is now enjoying the High School Music Class. He was part of the Youth Theatre who participated in the Masquerade scene of ***Phantom of the Opera*** late last year. This is when I first met him.

Since then John auditioned and was successful in securing a role in ***The Memory Mill*** which was the pantomime produced by Spotlight in Janaury. John not only became part of the cast but he also volunteered his help with the set – painting, construction – anywhere where he could be of assistance.

He then auditioned for a role in ***Young Frankenstein*** and was successful in becoming part of this production. I continually hear of his participation in assisting with painting etc. and again doing anything to help.

Although young, it appears that John has inherited a great love for the theatre and with this has come the knowledge that the theatre has many faces all deserving the same attention. *Can I help?* is certainly his philosophy. From performing to helping out in the bar, to simply observing and picking up some empty glasses when needed seems to be no trouble.

So thank you John for your contribution to Spotlight and I hope this shall continue for both you and the theatre.

John gets ready for Young Frankenstein



*Patsy Drew
President*





Celebrating 60 years of
Spotlight Theatrical Company
Diamond Anniversary, 2015

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 during our 60th anniversary.

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!







 Celebrating 60 years of

 Spotlight Theatrical Company

 Diamond Anniversary, 2015

THE NEW MEL BROOKS MUSICAL

YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN

Book by
 Mel Brooks and Thomas Meehan

Music and Lyrics by
 Mel Brooks

Original Direction & Choreography by
 Susan Stroman

Director
 Tony Alcock

Choreographer
 Paulo Natividad

Musical Director
 Matt Pearson

By arrangement with Hal Leonard Australia Pty Ltd Exclusive agent for Music Theatre International (NY)

MAY
9
-
31

Based on the Oscar-nominated smash hit 1974 film, **YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN** is the wickedly inspired re-imagining of the Mary Shelley classic from the comic genius of Mel Brooks. When Frederick Frankenstein, an esteemed New York brain surgeon and professor, inherits a castle and laboratory in Transylvania from his grandfather, deranged genius Victor Von Frankenstein, he faces a dilemma. Does he continue to run from his family's tortured past or does he stay in Transylvania to carry on his grandfather's mad experiments reanimating the dead and, in the process, fall in love with his sexy lab assistant Inga? Unfolding in the forbidding Castle Frankenstein and the foggy moors of Transylvania Heights, the show's raucous score includes "The Transylvania Mania", "He Vas My Boyfriend" and an unforgettable treatment of Irving Berlin's "Puttin' On the Ritz".



DOWNTOWN!

THE MOD MUSICAL!



Meet The Ladies of DOWNTOWN

Caroline Taylor as ORANGE GIRL



Caroline holds a Masters of Music Studies in Vocal Pedagogy and Contemporary Voice (QCM) and Bachelor of Music Theatre (CQCM). She teaches voice at *Saint Stephen's College*, *Kings Christian College* and her private studio, *Gold Coast Voice Studio*.

Caroline performs regularly around the Gold Coast in restaurants, clubs and private functions, both solo and in the jazz/pop duo *Two's Trouble*. Her debut Jazz album, *Night & Day* is played regularly on local radio station, 94.1FM. She is also a former member of the sixties girl-group and corporate act, *Blush Divas*.

Some of her stage credits include: *Lipstick*, *Sizzling Hits*, *Beehive*, *The Beat Goes On*, *Jukebox*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* & *Les Miserables*.

Downtown is her first show at Spotlight Theatre Complex and she is delighted to be involved in this production!

Lucy McIntosh as YELLOW GIRL



Lucy is no stranger to the stage having now performed in over 50 musical productions (yes...she counted). Lucy studied at the Central Coast Conservatorium of Music, received scholarships to Sydney Theatre Company's ATYP, NIDA open programs and National Voice Centre.

Most recently, Lucy's credits include; Cathy in *The Last Five Years*, Judy Garland in *The Boy From Oz*, Lady in the Lake in *Spamalot*, *Forbidden Broadway* and *Broadway in Concert*.

Lucy is a regular performer in *Popera Classics Collection* and has written and produced her own shows including *Eva By Heart – a tribute to Eva Cassidy* and *Unforgettable*. Lucy released her debut album titled *A Little Night Music* in 2010



Sarah Newton as BLUE GIRL



Sarah has been performing for many years, her most recent shows include *Joseph & the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Guys & Dolls* and *The Boy From Oz* at The Arts Centre Gold Coast as well as *All Shook Up* here at Spotlight Theatre.

She has always enjoyed being on stage in cabaret troupes, dance and drama schools, singing alongside local artists and also being the lead singer of a cover band, though her biggest passion is musical theatre.

Sarah has an Advanced Diploma in Film, Television & Theatre studies which she obtained from The Actors Workshop in Brisbane in 2004.



Steffanie Kriz as GREEN GIRL



Steffanie has come from a musical family and has grown up singing. She first performed on stage at age 4 and has been hooked ever since.

Steffanie has been involved in a number of theatre productions including *The Little Shop Of Horrors*, *Into The Woods*, *The Sound Of Music*, *Hello Dolly*, *Oliver*, *The 25TH Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Avenue Q*, *Ruthless* and, most recently, *Hairspray* for Spotlight Theatre.

Outside of the theatre world, Steffanie is a grade 3/4 teacher at Queensland Independent College.



Greta Brinsley as RED GIRL



Greta is excited to be returning to the Spotlight stage after performing in this year's production of "Annie" as Lilly St Regis.

Other musical theatre credits include *Seussical the Musical* (Gertrude McFuzz), *Hairspray* (Amber Von Tussle), *Reefer Madness* (Mary Lane) and *Hair* (Crissy).

She holds an Advanced Diploma in Music Theatre and Dance and is a staff member of the Performing Arts Departments of both Southport High and Merrimac High. Greta teaches dance and acrobatics at N.A.P.A. and acrobatics at Dance Technique.



**SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE MUSICAL CLASSES
LAUNCH THE 2015
60 YEAR DIAMOND JUBILEE
WITH A MID-YEAR CABARET**



Senior Musical Theatre is up and buzzing for Term 2 and once again, we are busy working on our skills and towards an exciting project.

We began rehearsals for the 2nd Annual mid-year **Cabaret** showcase and this has proven to be more difficult than we first thought. There are so many talented young things wanting to showcase their talents and progress through 2014! We have settled on around 45mins and two acts of music from productions that Spotlight Theatre has featured in its almost 60-year history on the Gold Coast. We selected material from old and newer musicals and hope you will join us in the Main Theatre on June 13 and 14 as we launch the celebrations for Spotlight's 2015 Diamond Anniversary Season.

Many of our students are in their local school musicals this term (MINNIE BEHN-KATZ: St Hilda's **Return to the Forbidden Planet**; LAUREN SMITHERS: St Stephen's College's **Beauty and the Beast**) as well as DANIEL NEWBERRY featuring in Javeenbah's **Footloose** in May and the number of excited troops treading the boards in Spotlight's production of **Young Frankenstein** - HARLEY WILSON, DOM BRADLEY, JOHN DAVIDSON, LAUREN SMITHERS, ZOE RICHARDS and yours truly - which opens next week. Chookas to you all for a fantastic season!

Hope you had a relaxing Easter break and look forward to seeing you at a production soon,

Jess

Spotlighter May 2014

And now we close the door on *Next to Normal*. It has been a thrilling and challenging experience and it's going to be hard to let this one go. This show has taught me so much about my craft and about the way to live my life. Thank you to everyone who put this piece together and especially our audience who made the effort to see it - none of this could have happened without you!

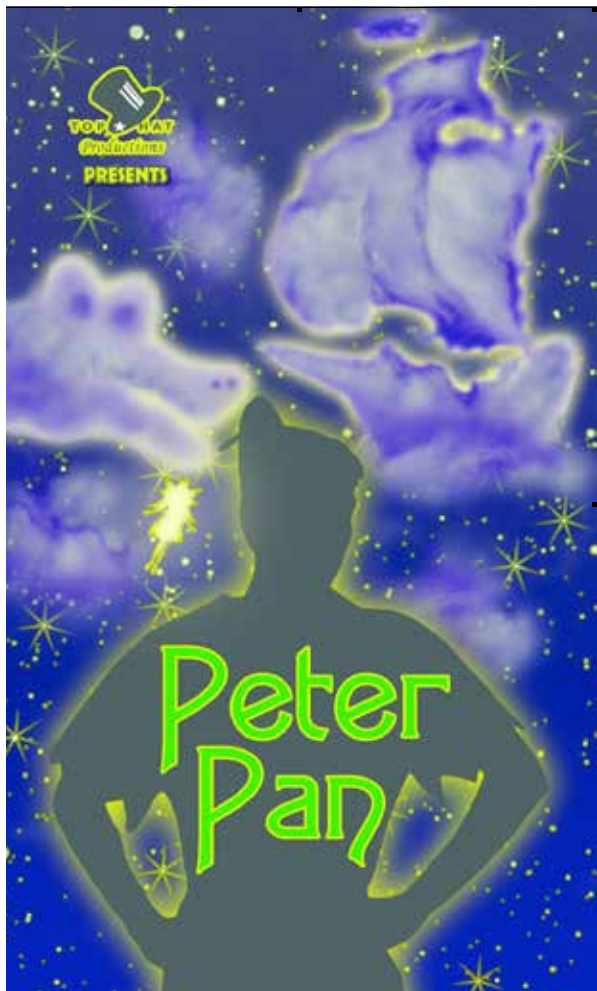
"Day after day, we find the will to find our way knowing that the darkest skies will some day see the sun."

Joshua McCann-Thomson
Director



RAVE REVIEWS WERE RECEIVED FROM CRITICS & AUDIENCE MEMBERS ALIKE. CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!





AUDITIONS FOR DANCERS / SINGERS / ACTORS!

**Sunday, 11th May 2014 at
Spotlight's Basement Theatre.**

**Another great July School Holiday
Pantomime from Top Hat
Productions!**

Season: Wed 2 to Sat 12 July at
Spotlight's Basement Theatre,
Ashmore Road, Benowa.

Auditions: from 4-7.00pm.

DANCERS EN MASSE 6.30-7.00pm.

**Please make audition appointment
with Director Kate Peters on
07 5539 6456 or on**

peterslk@iprimus.com.au

ALL ROLES ARE OPEN

Top Hat Productions will once again stage their traditional English pantomime (the 11th one on the Gold Coast) in the July school holidays. This year's is **PETER PAN** – the well loved story of the Boy Who Wouldn't Grow Up! A large cast of the familiar characters everyone knows (Captain Hook, Peter Pan, Tinker Bell, Wendy, John, Michael etc.) plus a junior chorus will be auditioned on Sunday 11th May at Spotlight's Basement Theatre.

The show will open on Wednesday 2nd July and run twice a day until Saturday 12th July (no show on Sunday 6th). These July school holiday pantos are always popular and give young performers a terrific chance to perform with adult professionals. All roles are open. Rehearsals begin on Sunday 18th May - for audition appointment email the

Director, KATE PETERS, on peterslk@iprimus.com.au

**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.

GOLDEN GIRLS NEWS

We are well into our first season and everyone is enjoying the run. We still have 11 shows remaining finishing on the 18 June.

We have had some new venues and some that we have not had for some time, Leamington Nursing Home and Villa Serena to name a few.

We performed again at the Terraces Varsity Lake which is a much loved venue and a good audience. We never know where we will be changing and performing so it is always a juggling match, tiny rooms with seven girls changing several times certainly makes us work.

We have started rehearsals for our second season which begins in August. We again have some great numbers and a lot of learning to do. 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.

**Noni Buckland
Golden Girls Liaison**



*Top: The Golden Girls
with Director Marilyn
Hodge (2nd from left)
Left: Marilyn Culell as
Gooch
Below: Irish Segment*



EARLY YEARS of our THEATRE



Celebrating 60 years of
Spotlight Theatrical Company
Diamond Anniversary, 2015

THE GREEN DYNASTY

HOW IT ALL BEGAN:

After the first show early 1955, *High Jinks*, Shirley Hodge (later to be Tillitson) tried to talk Judith Dautel (nee Green) into being part of the shows. Both were involved with the famous Harry Brook's Ballroom Dancing Academy, Shirley being a most proficient ballroom dancer. Judith was unable to commit but Marilyn (her sister) and Olive (their Mother) did and as the old saying goes-the rest is history

Also joining in that first year was Graham Hodge – just one of the many romances/marriages that came about from being part of the 'Southcoast Revue Co.'

OLIVE GREEN joined the South Coast Revue Company as it was known and performed on stage initially but became Front of House Manager and also did the Show Bookings (executed from home phone and selected commercial venues as Agents). She was also part of the Revue Choir; Bookkeeper/Treasurer and Babysitter as well as doing the numerous other tasks associated with her FoH duties. Olive also operated Stalls for fund raising and was great at unpicking old for new costumes.

Olive kept her Front of House duties until the Company used the Arts Centre for the first time in 1987 and died later that year just as we were about move into the Centre for *Annie Get Your Gun*.



Isabel & Alf Williams, Olive Green & Beth Carrington

JUDITH (GREEN) DAUTEL

Recently married Judith headed for Brisbane with husband Bill Dautel in late 1955 – without a car or a phone (can you believe that?) However she managed to do shows when Bill was away at National Service training camp. Just like so many of the female performers during that time there was time out for babies and as the company expanded so did the number of little ones and it was a crèche situation at the theatre and Judith was no exception –

especially as her 'chief' sitter – mother Olive Green – was also managing front of house as well. One show required a drawer to be set up to accommodate baby Michael during an evening performance. Although he was the first of Olive's grandchildren to appear on stage during the Panto *Cinderella* (1963) directed by Billie Whyte – it was a one-off.

Husband Bill appeared in one memorable show the *Black & White Spectacular* in 1965.

Judith and Bill's daughter, Kerrie was not interested in being on stage but her daughter Caitlin Ireland has been very active in the Spotlight Youth Theatre programme appearing in all their shows since 2011. Judith was involved in Dance performance

Answer to last month's riddle:

This glamorous gal is Judith Dautel . These days Judith spends many hours in the "The Cage" (sewing room) at Spotlight.



and arrangements for Revues, Co-directing, Costume Design and Construction and still is. Researching Costumes to suit special eras, Costuming the Golden Girls, Committee, Front of House staff, Vice-President and to this day spends hours behind the Spotlight Theatre sewing machines.

MARILYN HODGE (nee GREEN)

now Directs and Choreographs the **Spotlight Golden Girls**. In the days of the South Coast Revue Company (1955) she not only performed but was one of the Ballet Mistresses (as they were called), Directed and was Wardrobe Mistress for many productions as well. The Company changed its name in



Judith (Green) Dautel, Graham Hodge and Marilyn (Green) Hodge in an early revue

July '55 to Spotlight Revue Company for the show **Gals and Gags**. Marilyn along with Billie Whyte choreographed the ballets, danced and Marilyn met husband to be Graham Hodge. He also co-directed, painted scenery, acted and danced. They were in most revues, were partners for ballroom dancing competitions and married in 1961. Sadly Graham died suddenly in 1962 and later Marilyn had health issues which put her out of action for a while. She returned to Spotlight in 1968 to direct **The Pyjama Game**.

Their son, Mark Hodge was one of the King's children in the **King and I** (1967).

Sharyn their daughter joined the **Spotlight Junior Choir** and later was an invaluable help with the **Youth Theatre** in the 1980s. Sharyn appeared in **Annie** (1985) then **Irene, Annie Get your Gun** (Arts Centre 1987) and in latter years she and her husband have volunteered behind the bar and helped with other aspects of the theatre. In the early days Olive's grandchildren were also 'employed' by front of house for the selling of programmes/raffles/sweets.



An early revue.

"A lot has happened in the intervening years but being a part of Spotlight helped to keep up with friends and even forge new and lasting friendships."

Judith

VALE



VALERIE BREADMAN

PASSED AWAY EARLY HOURS OF SUNDAY MORNING
27TH APRIL 2014

Valerie's funeral details will be in the Gold Coast Bulletin Tuesday 29th but I understand the funeral will be held at the Tweed Heads Crematorium on Friday 2nd May at 10am.

Stan Breadman invites all Val's theatrical friends to the funeral.

Val was a member of Spotlight and Tugun Theatres in the late 1980's. For Spotlight Theatre she Conceived and Directed **Steps in Time I** in 1988, and after a successful season did **Steps In Time II** in 1989. She had a principal role in **Fiddler on the Roof** and several other shows.

Val was a popular Director and hard task master but also an excellent hostess and many actresses and actors spent fun times at the Breadman home and enjoyed their convivial hospitality.

Valerie also directed several variety shows for Tugun Theatre Company and was President of the Gold Coast Entertainers and Musicians Society (GEMS) for a number of years. **The Goldcoasters** (a small Variety Group of entertainers) was very much a part of her life as was the **Variety Five** entertaining at various venues around the Coast.

Our sincere condolences to Stan and family.

Val is remembered fondly by those who knew her.

Valerie (top left) with three of the **Variety Five** members, Roy Butler, Dawn Mortimer and Shirley King when they performed in the Basement March 1990 to raise funds for Spotlight. Pianist, Eileen Castles not present.



WANTED FOR YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN PROPS

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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!



<http://www.goldcoasttheatre.com.au>

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