



Gosford Musical Society

A friendly and family oriented society of performers and theatre lovers just like you

President's Message



Hello and welcome to 2017. I sincerely hope everyone enjoyed their festive and holiday season and are fired up and ready to bring your energies into the new year.

We have started the year off with a huge success with *Peter Pan* and everyone involved deserves congratulations. What a wonderful show and with quite a few new GMS first-timers too. Well done everyone. We look forward to our next fantastic junior production of *Bring It On* in July.

The Committee had it's planning day on Sunday 22 January and set our targets and goals for 2017. Thank you to all Committee members who gave their time up. Thank you to MaryAnne Hamilton for keeping us fed and watered as we worked. Thanks to Karen Johnston who cleaned the premises and made them ready for us to use. Minutes and a calendar of events will be available shortly.

As the year gets under way, we look forward to celebrating our 70th anniversary. There will be a range of activities for you to look forward to and share. There will be a President's information release on the website and Facebook to keep you updated.

Briefly, we are holding a celebration dinner on 16 September 2017 at Central Coast Leagues Club, so keep that date free for yourselves and your friends.

We are currently working on development at Studio 18 over the road. Concept designs are under way. This will provide much needed space for rehearsals, auditions, and the Committee. Watch this space for progress.

It would not be possible for us to achieve this development if it were not for people like Jamie McKenzie, Daryl Kirkness, Karen Snook, Frank O'Toole, Amber Markham who have given up Saturday mornings to assist with clearing out of the house and rubbish removal. My grateful thanks to those people who have given up their time for this so far.

If you can spare some time and would like to join in the clean up brigade, please come and join us. Saturday mornings between 9.00 and 11.30am – generally with coffee afterwards. There will be more areas to be sorted out after this, culminating in a large bonfire up at Somersby to finally clear out our storage up there.

Don't forget to get in touch if you are a previous GMS member who would like to hear from others or just give us the "goss" on where you are and what you are doing gosfordmusicalsociety@gmail.com

Look forward to it, thanks.

Cheers 🎷 Ros

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GMS Committee members hard at work on the planning day

GMS Juniors hook onto a winner with *Peter Pan*



The GMS Juniors have put on a spectacular display to open Gosford Musical Society's 2017 season, playing to sell out crowds for their entire 8-show season from 17th to 21st January 2017.

Sebastien Thornton-Walker was simply flawless in the title role of *Peter Pan*, successfully bringing to life the boy who wouldn't grow up. Audiences were raving about his performance, and we are sure he has a bright future ahead of him.

Bringing to life the nasty Captain Hook was Declan Dowling who similarly did a wonderful job and showed some incredible improvisation skills along the way. They say that anything can happen in live theatre, and when a couple of wayward props threatened to cause havoc on gala night, Declan deftly saved the scenes with some very quick thinking. Well done Declan!

Supporting the two lead gentlemen were Ella Powell as Wendy, and Teaghan Thompson as Hook's off-sider, Smee who both performed exceptionally well. Rounding out the leads were Keegan Morley as John, Harry Mangos as Michael, Addison Morley as Mr. Dowling, Katie Canty as Mrs. Dowling and Bethany Capps as

Tiger Lily. They all showed tremendous talent and experience in each of their respective roles.

Peter Pan was directed by two first-time directors for GMS, Lauren Miller and Casey Scoines but you would not have been able to guess that this was their first show as Directors. The success of *Peter Pan* is a testament to the many years of experience in the theatre industry that both Lauren and Casey have.

Musical Direction for the show came under the careful hand of the ever-experienced Bronwynne Anderson, whilst the choreography was devised by GMS regular, Kristy Kirkman.

Congratulations to the entire cast, crew and production team of *Peter Pan* on your sellout season.

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER 2017

70

Gosford Musical Society has big plans to celebrate our 70th anniversary with a fabulous night of entertainment at the Central Coast Leagues Club.

We can't reveal too many other details yet but be sure to keep this date free.

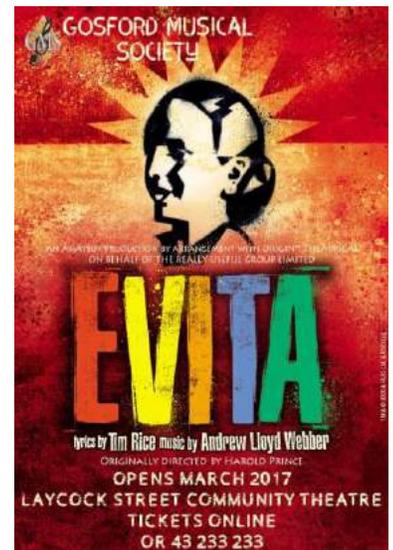
In Production

EVITA

You may have seen the promotional videos doing the rounds on social media recently for *Evita*, our first senior production of 2017. Well look out Buenos Aires, *Evita* takes to the stage at Laycock Street Theatre from March 3-18, 2017. Gareth Davis is the Director for this epic production, and in this month's featured interview we caught up with Gareth to find out how rehearsals are going. Check out the interview with Gareth on page 4. Providing the Musical Direction for this epic production is the ultra-talented Ben Ross, and Amanda Woodbine provides the vibrant latin choreography which brings this show alive.

Evita features a cast of very talented local performers including Kasey McKenzie as Eva Peron, Tyson Almond as Che, Chris Martin as Juan Peron, Gareth Isaac as Magaldi and Jessica King as the Mistress.

Tickets are available now by telephoning the box office on (02) 4323 3233 or can be purchased [online](#)



Here is a sneak peak at some of our rehearsal photos.



Coming Soon

YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN

Directed by Kerrie Rochford

Do you dream of performing on stage with GMS? Then come along to our information night for Young Frankenstein and find out everything you need to know about auditioning for this hilarious Mel Brooks musical.

Our information night will be held at 7:00pm on Tuesday 7th March 2017 at Laycock Street Theatre, North Gosford.

An interview with Gareth Davis

Gareth Davis has been a longstanding member of Gosford Musical Society, and has even been recognised with a spot on the Honour Board for the hundreds of hours he has put in at GMS both on and off the stage.

In 2017, Gareth has taken on the huge challenge of directing *Evita*, an Andrew Lloyd-Webber show with a complex musical score. We caught up with Gareth recently to find out some of his favourite memories of GMS and how he is going with this mammoth task of directing *Evita*.

Tell us about your first show at GMS. What was it and what is your favourite memory of that show?

The show I credit as my first is *Alice in Wonderland* in 1995 (dear lord I'm getting old). Juniors had only one nighttime performance back then and on our Gala night, myself, Jillian Logan and Chris Walker were in perfect comedic harmony with each other. It remains one of my favourite moments onstage.

You have played many famous roles on stage at GMS through the years including Rum Tum Tugger in *Cats* (2009) and Lumière in *Beauty and the Beast* (2006), which role was the most memorable and why?

Carmen Ghia from *The Producers*. Such a hilarious role that came so naturally to me, funnily enough. I loved every second of being onstage in that show and most of the cast all remain my closest friends. It was impossible to not enjoy yourself while onstage, which the audience could pick up on. Those are always the best shows.

***Evita* is also not the first show that you have directed at GMS, you also directed the hit musical *Legally Blonde* in 2015. Tell us a bit about that experience and what you learned from it?**

Legally Blonde taught me to delegate and the meaning of production "TEAM". You cannot put on a huge production by yourself. A director has a vision and it is their job to share that vision and bring like-minded people together to put on an amazing show. Trust in your team and let people who are experts in their field do what they do best. I was surrounded by a wealth of experience and knowledge in *Legally Blonde* and this is something I desperately wanted to replicate in *Evita*.

What attracted you to want to direct *Evita* for GMS?

Evita is my favourite musical. But I never wanted to direct it. I wanted to be in it. Sadly I am the most unargentinian person around and I'm getting too old to play Che, so I decided to take a punt and put my hand up to direct. I have such a passion for this show and I truly believe passion is what drives this story. Once I considered it, I realised how many ideas I had in my mind and I wanted to tell the story my way.

***Evita* was of course famously adapted to film in 1996 with Madonna playing the iconic role of Eva Peron, how is the stage show different to the film?**

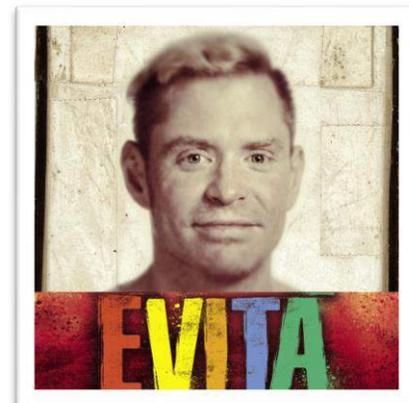
At the risk of being crucified, I absolutely love the Alan Parker film. It is so stylistically done. However, yes there are a lot of changes. Aside from all the songs being taken down for Madonna, there is no dancing in the film. The dance numbers, instead have taken the opportunity of using huge crowds and different locations etc. that you simply cannot use onstage to portray how large and real this story really is. There is also the 85 costume changes Madonna has. Hard to accomplish that onstage.

What has been the most challenging aspect about preparing *Evita* for the stage?

Evita hasn't been available for amateur rights for over 20 years. The movie is also over 20 years old. The Broadway revival in 2006 was not received well so never made it to Australia. *Evita* is not a well known musical anymore and moreso there is no real definitive version. Musicals like *Les Mis*, *Phantom*, *Miss Saigon* etc. there are specific ways things need and are expected to be done. *Evita* no longer has that. It's good in some ways because you can be creative, however there is a lot of pressure to ensure the story is told correctly, understood and in a new fresh creative way. This has been a huge challenge but hopefully we've managed to pull it off.

Lastly, what is the best part about being a member of GMS?

The people. Hands down. The society brings like minded people together to express art whilst having a great time.



Bring It On cast list announced

Bring It On is the next GMS Juniors' production to take to the stage in July 2017. The production team had a very tough time recently in trying to narrow down their final cast list from a pool of approximately 100 auditees. The calibre of talent at the auditions was extremely high, and we are pleased to present the cast for *Bring It On*.

BRING IT ON
THE MUSICAL™

CAST

CAMPBELL
GEORGINA HEDGES
DANIELLE
KATARINA PASCUTTINI
RANDALL
ADDISON MORLEY
BRIDGET
TEAGHAN THOMPSON
LA CIENEGA
SEBASTIAN THORNTON- WALKER
NAUTICA
LULU QUIRK
EVA
SAVANNAH DUCK
SKYLAR
CHELSEA PEARSON
KYLAR
HARRIET WOODROW
TWIG
JOSEPH ARRUA
CAMERON
CONNOR PIIPARI
STEVEN
JAI COTTERIL

BRING IT ON
THE MUSICAL™

CAST

ENSEMBLE

LAUREN WINSOR	KRYSTALLE WILLIAMSON
MORGAN MCELHONE	LULU ENGLUND
MIA CROSS	ABIGAIL GRACIA
LAYLA TWEED	BREANNA REDHEAD
HANNAH BAR	TAKAYLA CALTHORPE
LILY FREEMAN	JASMINE RILEY
RAYELLE PAYNE	ALLEGRA HALL
RHLEIGH BEGGS	KASEY BARNES
CHLOE PATCH	JESSICA NADER
MACKENZIE WEBER	TBA

BRING IT ON
THE MUSICAL™

CAST

JACKSON DANCE CREW	BUCCANEER CHEER SQUAD
MADLINE BELL	JADA JOHNSTON
MADDI XUEREB	SOPHIA HAWKINS
ALANA HARDCASTLE	AIMEE SMALLMAN
MARLEE CARTER	LAUREN HOLMES
VICTORIA BOOTH	DARCY MATTOCKS
ARI RILEY	JACINTA PASCO
SOPHIA BULABALAVU	BENJY CARTWRIGHT
TASMA SMITH	DAMON WILSON
CLAUDIA PHILLIPS	TIANNA WITHYMAN
MACKENZIE THORNTON-WALKER	ISABELLA NOWALINSKI

CHEER STUNTS

CAITLIN HARRISON
HOLLY YUILE
ZALIA HAZEL
RUBY FISCHER

Quiz time

- In which musical would you find the characters Colonel Hugh Pickering and Mrs. Eynsford-Hill?
 - South Pacific
 - The Pirates of Penzance
 - Evita
 - My Fair Lady
- Which singer played Peron's Mistress in the 1996 movie adaptation of *Evita*?
 - Andrea Corr
 - Shakira
 - Jennifer Lopez
 - Celine Dion
- Beck Johnston (Director for *Bring It On*) has performed on stage in several musicals with GMS, but which one of the following musicals was she NOT in?
 - Grease (2012)
 - Hairspray (2013)
 - Crazy For You (2014)
 - The Pirates of Penzance (2015)
- Which star of *Will and Grace* featured in the original Broadway run of *Young Frankenstein*?
 - Debra Messing
 - Eric McCormack
 - Megan Mullally
 - Sean Hayes
- Which of the following songs does NOT feature in the musical *Chicago*?
 - Cell Block Tango
 - Razzle Dazzle
 - I Can't Do It Alone
 - As Long As He Needs Me
- Which longstanding member of GMS played Che in our 1995 production of *Evita*?
 - Gareth Davis
 - Ben Stephens
 - Darryl Davis
 - Christopher Hamilton
- Which Hollywood actress starred in the 2000 film version of *Bring It On*?
 - Alicia Silverstone
 - Neve Campbell
 - Sigourney Weaver
 - Kirsten Dunst
- Kerrie Rochford (Director for *Young Frankenstein*) performed in the cast of which of the following GMS productions?
 - The Phantom of the Opera (2014)
 - Legally Blonde (2015)
 - Mary Poppins (2015)
 - Wicked (2016)
- Which character did Toni Williams (Director for *Chicago*) play in our 2002 production of *Chicago*?
 - Roxie Hart
 - Velma Kelly
 - Matron "Mama" Morton
 - Mary Sunshine
- Which musical features the song "I Am What I Am"?
 - West Side Story
 - La Cage Aux Folles
 - Anything Goes
 - Young Frankenstein



Toni Williams (Nancy) and Tyson Almond (Artful Dodger) from the GMS production of *Oliver!* in 2007.

Answers on Page 7

GMS Costumes

Are you in need of a dressmaker for mending or alterations? Just call into the GMS Costumes shop and we'll try and assist you.

Very reasonable prices! For further information, telephone Narelle on (02) 4324 1305

Former GMS members achieving great heights



Joe Kalou is a well-known face around GMS having played the title role in the GMS Juniors' production of *Aladdin*, as well as other lead roles including Warner in *Legally Blonde* (2015) and Fiyero in *Wicked* (2016). More recently, Joe has been chosen to form part of the new Hi-5 line-up. He began his new career path by performing with his fellow Hi-5 band members at the televised Carols by Candlelight in Melbourne on Christmas Eve 2016. Congratulations Joe.



We always knew Daniel Russell was bound to achieve great things which is exactly why he was cast in the title role of *Oliver!* (2007). After *Oliver!*, Daniel went on to play the title role in the Australian professional production of *Billy Elliott* in 2009 and more recently we've been delighted to receive the news that Daniel has been chosen to play Baby John in an upcoming international tour of *West Side Story*. The tour will last approximately one year and will travel through Europe, Asia, the Middle East and New Zealand. Congratulations Daniel.



Speaking of *West Side Story*, Kayla Strada who is known to GMS audiences for having played Anybody's in our production of *West Side Story* (2008) has recently made a film in America called *Love Is...* The film recently held its International premiere at Laycock Street Theatre on 13 January 2017, and Kayla has even attracted critical praise for her performance in the film, picking up an award for Best Actress at the Nova Film Fest (Virginia) in 2016. Congratulations Kayla.



Answers to the Quiz:

1D 2A 3C 4C 5D 6B 7D 8A 9B 10B

GMS Tours

Did you know that GMS holds regular tours of the Shed, GMS Costumes and Laycock Street Community Theatre for interested members of the community?

The tour includes a welcome at GMS Costumes followed by a historical outline of the society and a guided tour of wardrobe, props, the sewing room, the shed and a backstage tour of the theatre. The tour starts at 10am and concludes at about 12 noon when Devonshire tea is served! The cost of the tour is \$10 per person.

To enquire about taking a tour, please call Narelle at GMS Costumes on (02) 4324 1305

