

STAGES

NEWSLETTER ISSUE #2—February/March 2013



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JOHN MILSON 1937-2013

John Milson died on 19th January 2013, surrounded by friends who farewelled him with a standing ovation. Copious tributes flowed over the next few weeks and he is remembered as an incredible inspiration and mentor ... and as a tyrant!

Milson ran the Hole in the Wall Theatre Company, directed Opera Australia and Effie Crump Theatre and instigated the world-renowned musical theatre course at WAAPA, which he ran for twelve years.

How we remember John - or as Terry McAuley called him, "Thoroughly Modern Milson" - is as a director of amateur theatre. Clubs that benefited from his direction were Playlovers, Old Mill and GRADS. He had just won the coveted Finley Award for Best Director of a Musical for "Falsetto".



John Milson
(photo courtesy of The West Australian)

The following were directed by John for Playlovers.

"Chicago" in March 1988 at the Octagon Theatre. It starred among others Christine Ewing, Brian Dawson, Drew Elliott, Ann Adlem and Charmaine Clements. It was regarded as the finest production in Perth that year, amateur or professional.

"The Les Darcy Show". It starred among others Amanda Crewes, Michael Balmer, Trent Baker, Conrad Crisafulli, David Meadows and Astrid Garton. A magnificent production with fight scenes done in slow motion.

"The Lesson" by Eugene Ionesco. An amazing trio of Andrew Irvine, Amanda Crewes and Marie Corrigan brought this theatre of the absurd to life.

"Torch Song Trilogy" in 1991 starred Brian Dawson, Wayne Garton, Marian Lane, Susan Barry, Jonathon Bode and Paul Winchester. Challenging and confronting.

"Troilus and Cressida" starred Greg McNeill, Susan McNeill, Grant Malcolm, Angelique Cocks, Jason Crewes, David McRae, Simon Roberts, Alistair Cowie and Garry T Saunders. When David Crewes suggested John do Shakespeare, John wanted to avoid the popular plays and opted for this little known work.

"When She Danced", 1995, starred Jenni McCann, Marcia King, Kingsley Reeve and Peter Ross. John gave notes to the cast on the last night!

"The Talented Mr Ripley", 2009, starred Izaak Lim, Matthew Longman, Emma Shaw, David Colson, Rodney Worth, Nicholas Hiatt, and Marcia King. It was the winner of the Finley award for 2009.

"Jonah", 2010, starred Gillian Binks, Joshua Brnat, Maree Cole, Tim How, Breeahn Jones, Tyler Jones, Carolyn Latter, Lindsay McNab, Christina Odam, Alan O'Neill, Barry Preece and Rodney Worth. An Australian musical, a powerful work, rich, subtle and finely crafted. It was the winner of the Finley award for 2010.

John rang Playlovers in October 2012 and said he wanted to direct his swansong for Playlovers. The play was "American Buffalo". He had cast Izaak Lim, Nicholas Maclaine and Tyler Jones, "the three best actors in Perth", he said. If he didn't complete it, Michael Loney was to take over. Michael said he had the script for "American Buffalo" on his lap when they picked him up to take him to hospital. Unfortunately John died.

Because of other commitments made by Michael and the cast, the play was cancelled.

John has been a friend of Playlovers for twenty three years and I believe he has directed more plays for us than for any other amateur theatre group. Anyone who has seen any of his plays has been awestruck by the power of his direction. Anyone who has been involved in productions has learnt so much and has been inspired by his work.

"If you were picked on by John Milson", says Marie Corrigan, "it was because he knew you could do better and he was going to make you do better."

David Young, President

NEVERMORE

Music by Matt Conner
Lyrics adapted from the writings of Edgar Allen Poe
Book by Grace Barnes

Director: Jenny M Ferguson
Musical Director: Joshua Webb

Take a dark and mysterious journey into the life of Edgar Allan Poe. This imaginative musical uses Poe's poetry and short stories as its base and his shifting obsession with the women in his life as its catalyst.

With hauntingly beautiful melodies, *Nevermore* breathes new life into Poe's work and explores a twisted true-life tale that is as bizarre as his classic stories of the macabre.

Nevermore, a new musical that draws on Edgar Allan Poe's poetry and prose to ink-in his life's passions. The works of Edgar Allan Poe are more universal than one might suspect at first glance. Poe's words are filled with themes of love, hate, hope, horror, passion, and fear. Particularly his poetry filled with rhythm, and dramatic sounds that inspired. Even Poe, critically panned in his day for his 'musicality' as a writer, felt that true beauty was the combination of music and poetry. Thus was born the collaboration of *Nevermore* with a lyricist almost 200 years old.

CAST

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| Edgar 1 & 3 | Paul Spencer |
| Edgar 2 (Dark) | Tate Bennett |
| Edgar 4 (Young) | Caleb Robinson-Cook |
| Mother | Gemma Sharpe |
| Virginia | Monica Brierley-Hay |
| Elmira | Tyla De Brett |
| Muddy | Vivienne Glance |
| Whore | Donna-Maree Gavin |

PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

May 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18 at 8pm
On the 12th May a special
Mother's Day Matinee with High Tea

Ticket Prices:

\$25 Adult; \$20 Concession
\$20 group bookings (group =10 or more)
Bookings open in March

For more information see playlovers.org.au/nevermore

From the President

Here are a few words from our illustrious new president, the fabulously young David Young.

This will be my 12th time as President of Playlovers - and will be my last! I've enjoyed my time here for the last 35 years. Playlovers is in its 57th year.

I believe community theatre has a very important role in our society. Quite apart from the friendships that develop, there is a huge gossip potential! It also has the power to open new doors for everyone. If you are an audience member, backstage or on-stage, up in the bio box, behind the bar, paying the bills or typing the minutes, you are part of the magic of theatre. You are not lonely or bored or vegetating in front of the TV. You are lucky!

To all the people who have attended this AGM - and to all those who wanted to - Thank You! With Lyn Hutcheon acting as Returning Officer, the following committee members were duly elected by those present.

| | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| President | David Young |
| Vice President | Wayne Herring |
| Secretary | Alida Chaney |
| Treasurer | Marie Corrigan |
| Committee | Barbara Zahari |
| | Bronwyn Hammond |
| | Jenny Ferguson |
| | Ewen Malcolm |
| | Noel Herbert |
| | David Hardie |
| | David Gardette |
| | Wally Fry |



David Young

FALLING TO THE TOP REVISITED

Tyler Jones and Robert Wood restaged their show at the Fringe Festival. It has proved a hit at Fringeworld. Shortened and tightened, with the same cast, they strutted their stuff to packed houses. And they have won the Artrage Theatre Award for Best Western Australian Theatre Show at Fringe World 2013! Well done!

There has been a further development. Tyler has been asked to showcase "The Divalettes" on TV show "Australia's Got Talent".

FINLEY AWARDS

The 38th Annual Robert Finley Awards were held at the Koorlinny Arts Centre on 12th January 2013.

Playlovers received many **nominations**. These were as follows.

Best Set - Musical

"The Rink"

Best Set - Play

"Hobsons Choice"

Youth Award - Musical

Kate Sisley, "The Rink"

Best Actor Other than a Lead in a Musical

Chris Bedding, "Falling to the Top"

Best Musical Theatre Performer - Male

Manuao TeAotonga, "Falling to the Top"

Best Musical Theatre Performer - Female

Kimberley Harris, "Falling to the Top"

Mirella Renel, "The Rink"

Best Musical Direction

M J Bell, "The Rink"

Robert Wood, "Falling to the Top"

Best Choreographer

Tammy Rafferty, "Falling to the Top"

Best Director - Musical

Tyler Jones, "Falling to the Top"

Best Director - Play

James Hough-Neilson, "Hobson's Choice"

The **Winners** are:

Best Set - Musical

"The Rink" This set was designed by Wayne Herring, our new Vice President.

Best Musical Theatre Performer - Male

Manuao TeAotonga, for his role as Spicey in "Falling to the Top"

An **Adjudicator's Certificate** was awarded to "Hobson's Choice" for Atmosphere and Lighting with regard to the cellar/trapdoor at stage centre.

David Young received a **Lifetime Achievement Award** for Services to the Theatre and was inducted into the ITA Hall of Fame. On being presented with the certificate, he quipped that he hoped this didn't mean he was already dead!

Playlovers had no Best Production this year, but it's only fair that we let someone else win. After all, we have won best production 17 times. The closest other winners are Garrick 8, KADS 7 and Roleystone 6.

Congratulations to all the winners and to all who participated in each and every production.



The Producers

Book by MEL BROOKS and THOMAS MEEHAN

Music and Lyrics by MEL BROOKS

Directed by Peter Clark

Musical Direction by David Hardie

**The award-winning outrageous
Broadway musical from Mel Brooks.**

Two theatrical producers scheme to make money by overselling interests in a sure-fire Broadway flop. Their plan is not as faultless as they hope....!

CAST

| | |
|--------|----------------|
| Max | Alex McLennan |
| Leo | David Gregory |
| Franz | Ted Simpson |
| Roger | John Taylor |
| Carmen | Cameron Butler |
| Ulla | Samantha Gaunt |

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Supporting roles & chorus | Emily Lloyd Ben Anderson Sally Lansley Alan Markham Lizzie Howard Melissa Clements Clare Thomson Elise Giaimo Giuseppe Rotondella Kirsten Wilding Ian Greenwell David Sema |
|---------------------------------|---|

The season will run from
June 28 – July 20, 2013.
All performances at **8pm**
except Sundays July 7th and 14th -
matinee performances at **2pm**.
The matinee performance on
Sunday, July 14th
will be followed by **high tea**.

Bookings will open in May

More information at
playlovers.org.au/the-producers

Playlovers' Playbill 2013

| AMERICAN BUFFALO | NEVERMORE | THE PRODUCERS | CURTAINS | BOEING, BOEING | PLOVERS |
|---|---|---|--|---|---------|
| Directed by John Milson 15-23 March | Directed by Jenny M Ferguson 3-18 May | Directed by Peter Clark 28 June-20 July | Directed by Kristen Twynam- Perkins 13-28 September | Directed by David Nelson 15-30 November | tba |
| CANCELLED | IN REHEARSAL | | | | |

Second Hand Book Shop

Volunteers Needed



Save the Children is looking for
volunteers to help us staff
our new bookshop

Belmont Forum
Monday to Saturday
10am - 3pm



Please Contact Ceandra Faria

Tel. (08) 9267 3916

Email: ceandra.faria@savethechildren.org.au

Follow us on



Save the Children
Australia

What's on Where

| What's on | Where | When | Bookings |
|----------------------|---|---------------|--|
| The Secret Garden | Stirling Theatre Morris Place, Innaloo | 22 Feb-9 Mar | 9440 1040 |
| The 39 Steps | KADS Theatre Central Kalamunda | 22 Feb-16 Mar | 9357 2668 |
| Summer of the Aliens | Blak Yak production at KADS Theatre Central Kalamunda | 24 Feb-17 Mar | 9293 1412 |
| A Night in Provence | Harbour Theatre 70 Adelaide St Fremantle | 7-23 Mar | 9433 6260 |
| Abigail's Party | Limelight Theatre Civic Drive, Wanneroo | 4-20 Apr | 9571 8591 (From 4 Mar) |
| Bedside Manners | Rockingham Theatre 8 Attwood Way Rockingham | 5-20 Apr | www.rockinghamtheatre.com |

If undelivered, please return to -
PLAYLOVERS INC
PO BOX 164
WEMBLEY 6913

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QUIZ NIGHT
23 March 2013

Doors open 7pm Eyes down 8pm
Tables of 8 - \$10 per person

Bar open. Bring your own nibbles.

Bookings: bookings@playlovers.org.au
0415 777 173



PLAYLOVERS WEBSITE: www.playlovers.org.au

PLAYLOVERS INFORMATION EMAIL: info@playlovers.org.au

COMMITTEE 2013

| | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| President | David Young | 9444 2395 |
| Vice President | Wayne Herring | 0414750093 |
| Secretary | Alida Chaney | 0403 367 047 |
| Treasurer | Marie Corrigan | 9445 8626 |
| Committee Members: | | |
| | Barbara Zahari | 9379 3531 |
| | Bronwyn Hammond | 9447 0945 |
| | Jenny Ferguson | 6460 2467 |
| | Ewen Malcolm | 9284 9785 |
| | Noel Herbert | 0403 040 484 |
| | David Hardie | 041 166 3032 |
| | David Gardette | 0416 290 055 |
| | Wally Fry | 0419 838 414 |