



Playlovers Inc.
Hackett Hall, Draper Street, Floreat
www.playlovers.org.au

STAGES

NEWSLETTER ISSUE #6—October-December 2017

PLAYLOVERS INC
INVITES YOU TO

PICNIC IN THE PARK



Saturday 13 January 2018 at 5pm

Lawler Park, Draper St, Floreat

Adjacent to Hackett Hall

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Comments on *The Jungle Book*

Last month Playlovers presented our second production for 2017. We had good houses and the critical response was positive.

“Gordon The Optom”

(www.ita.org.au/2017/10/the-jungle-book-reviewed-by-gordon-the-optom/) commented favourably on the set, the complex lighting design and the soundscape. He also liked the projected backdrops, in particular the original animation section. Costumes were described as outstanding, and he was impressed by the way the actors “managed to move just like the creatures they portrayed” The puppet that was used for Kaa, the rock python, was “stunning, and beautifully brought to life”

In general, “the production flowed perfectly” and “had plenty of colour and magic”.

Kimberley Shaw (www.facebook.com/stagewhispers/posts/10155138036055829) was also impressed by the set and backdrops, and again made mention of the original animation sequence, calling it “excellent”. She too was lavish in her praise of the puppeteer, calling him a “standout” and “mesmerising”.

The production was summed up as “A lovely showcase of developing talent.”

Congratulations to all involved.





43rd Robert Finley Awards 2017



Nominations

On Sunday 10th December, The Independent Theatre Association and Irish Theatre Players hosted the nominations for the 43rd Robert Finley Awards to a sell-out crowd at the Irish Club in Subiaco.

Playlovers has had nominations in a number of categories despite our limited seasons.

All nominations come from *Other Desert Cities* and are:

Best Director of a Play	Barry Park
Best Actress in a Play	Sally Barendse Cate Jennings
Best Supporting Actress in a Play	Chandra Wyatt
The Brenda Stanley Award for Best Costumes in a Play	
The David Crewes Award for Best Set in a Play	



Additionally, Alide Chaney, Playlovers Committee member, was nominated for Best Actress in a Play for her role in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* presented by Darlington Theatre Players.

Presentation Ceremony

The Awards will be presented this Sunday, 17th December at the State Theatre Centre of WA.

Tickets are available from ppt.wa.gov.au

PICNIC IN THE PARK

Saturday 13th January 2018 at 5:00pm

Lawler Park, Draper St, Floreat



We are still unable to use Hackett Hall for public gatherings and because we had only 2 seasons in 2017, the usual Plover awards seem inappropriate. Nevertheless our adjudicators have chosen some they think will substitute adequately and we will present them at a Picnic in the Park, as we did last January.

Please bring your picnic gear, food and drinks and join us to help celebrate the shows of 2017 in Lawler Park adjacent to Hackett Hall.

Top class entertainment and the announcement of the **2017 Plover Awards**.

President's Report



Hi everyone.

Compliments of the season to you all. I love this time of the year. It gives me an opportunity to reflect on the year that has been. So much has happened in 2017 with most of the happenings occurring behind the scenes which, from a theatre perspective, is disappointing. Congratulations and thank yous must go to Barry Park and Sarah Christener for putting on two wonderful shows under difficult circumstances.

Other Desert Cities received fantastic reviews and the dedication shown by all involved has been reflected in the show receiving several Finley nominations. Congratulations to Barry and his cast and crew. Best wishes to you all for the awards night and I eagerly await the results. *Jungle Book* was a great success and saw many new faces to Playlovers grace the stage. The youthful energy displayed on stage was a credit to Sarah and her cast and crew.

While 2017 has thrown several curve balls at us your committee has stayed strong and continues to make plans for the future. One inhibiting factor is that we still don't have Hackett Hall back in a full capacity. After our win at the State Administrative Tribunal we were given 60 days to complete a schedule of works. In our eyes these works were completed, but Playlovers continues to jump through hurdles put in front of us by the City of Nedlands. I met with the Nedlands CEO recently and while there is still a long way to go, things seem to be moving in a positive direction. I had the opportunity in this meeting to voice my concerns about a number of things and one of those things was the fact that we had not been made aware of the outcome of the inspection of Hackett Hall back in late October. This inspection was carried out by the council in order to check that everything in the schedule of works had been done to their satisfaction. This was a great source of frustration but a meeting has finally been arranged to hopefully give us a clearer picture of what we are still required to do moving forward. I've also met with a new councillor, Cilla de Lacey, who has been a great support for Playlovers since winning her seat. It's nice to finally have someone on council who is taking an interest in our situation and our club.

With Hackett Hall still out of action we will be looking to find venues for our 2018 productions. Please stay tuned for news on that front. I look forward to seeing some of you at our Plover Awards evening being held on Saturday 13th January 2018. Please also keep in mind the date of our AGM, Sunday 11th February 2018 (see page 5 for more detail).

Merry Christmas to you all and please stay safe over the festive season.

Alex McLennan

Member Subscriptions Due End of January

Subscriptions to Playlovers are due at the end of January. Please renew by making a deposit to our bank account.

Details are at playlovers.org.au/membership/

Note that members who are renewing need only make the payment; the online form is not needed.

However, it is **very important to ensure your payment can be linked to your membership**. If your surname is a common one, please use your full name.

Playlovers Annual General Meeting

Sunday 11th February 2018

Time: 7:30pm

Venue to be confirmed

All members are invited to attend and have your say

Do you want to be on the 2018 Playlovers committee?

Or do you know someone who you think should be?

If you would like to nominate someone for a position on the committee, please obtain permission of the person concerned, please print this page, then fill out the form below.

Playlovers 2018 Committee Nomination Form

I,, being a current financial member of Playlovers Inc,
hereby nominate for the position of
.....on the Playlovers 2018 Committee.

Signature of Proposer:.....

Signature of Nominee:.....

PLEASE NOTE: All nomination forms and motions of notice must be received before the AGM

Please hand to a committee member. Or scan and email to info@playlovers.org.au.
Or address to:

Playlovers Inc.
PO Box 164,
Wembley
WA 6913

NB. You must be a financial member to vote at the meeting.

Subscriptions are due at the end of January.

Happy Days at Hackett Hall

An Interview with David Young

Committee member David Young has a long association with Playlovers and Hackett Hall so it seemed an appropriate time to have him reminisce.

Ed: What do you know about the origins of Playlovers?

DY: It started in 1956 with the name Playlovers, and used a church hall in Hay St, Jolimont. The first production was a series of one act plays and entry price was something like 2/6 (25 cents in today's decimal currency).

The profits from that production were used to provide a light bulb on the stage as lighting for later productions - this is in the minutes of a committee meeting from the time.

Also during this period there was a fundraiser. A letter was sent out requesting that women bring a salad sufficient for three people and that men provide meat for two.

Ed: And Hackett Hall?

DY: Architect Iain McDonald suggested to Nedlands Council that a hall be built which would have a stage for theatre productions. This happened and Hackett Hall was opened 18 June 1960.

The first production was "The Happiest Days of your Life" which opened on 1 July 1960.

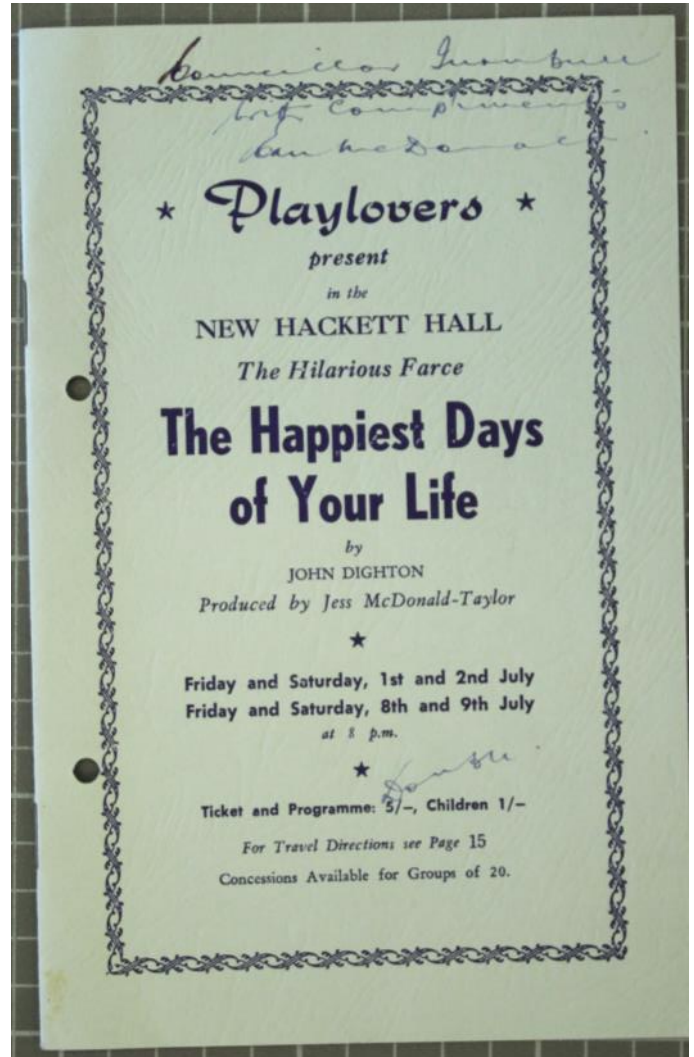
Ed: You were too young to be involved in these earliest Playlovers events. When did your connection with Hackett Hall begin?

DY: The first time I went to Hackett Hall was in 1962 while I was a boarder at Guildford Grammar School. My mother came up from Harvey to perform in a one act drama festival that was adjudicated. I came from school to watch. I remember it was a melodrama in which she had to break a string of beads. Afterwards they had to be collected and rethreaded for subsequent performances.

Ed: When did you become seriously involved with Playlovers?

In 1979, close to the 20th anniversary of Hackett Hall, I came to see a friend perform in *Bell, Book and Candle*. I thoroughly enjoyed the play and later that evening was coopted to become treasurer by Jacqui LeFevre. And almost immediately after that I was performing on stage. Over the next few years I did almost everything - stage manager, props, and so on. There was a great club atmosphere, but not much communication between other amateur drama clubs. We then began to organise group trips to other theatres and then others started reciprocate

There had been no musicals up till then. The first was *Fiddler on the Roof* in the mid eighties. It was very successful, so from then on we decided to do a musical each year



Flyer for first Playlovers production at Hackett Hall

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Ed: What was your favourite Playlovers musical?

DY: *Eurobeat* - the Kimberley Shaw production in 2007. It was set in Sarjevo, Yugoslavia and we did it on the flat. We hired extra chairs and Bronwyn Hammond and I as front of house staff were also in costume. I was the Yugoslav dictator and Bronwyn was my wife.. The leading lady had about 20 costume changes. The costume design was by Terry [McAuley]. There was a lot of audience participation. It was the most fun I ever had with a show.


Ed: Any other noteworthy moments that spring to mind.

DY: There was one performance of *Inherit the Wind* that was both funny and nerve-wracking. One of the jurors was very drunk. He fortunately had very little to say, but at times it was difficult to tell if he was acting or not. All the cast and crew were aware of his condition but I don't know if it was apparent to the audience. However, we got through it without major incident.

Ed: Are you aware of any actors who performed with Playlovers before going on to greater things?

DY: Suzie Mathers was in *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Grease* and *Match Girls* for Playlovers while at WAAPA. Since then she has played Glinda in *Wicked* here in Australia and also the West End in London. And I believe Wayne Garton was in a professional production of *Phantom of the Opera*.

Ed: Thank you, David. It has been a delight to hear about happier times at Hackett Hall.

**Save the Children**

BOOK SALES
2018

Joondalup
HBF Arena, Kennedy Dr, Joondalup
MARCH
Saturday 24th 9am-4pm
Sunday 25th 9am-1pm

University of WA
Stirling Highway, Crawley (under the clock tower)
AUGUST
Friday 17th 3pm-9pm
Saturday 18th 8am-5pm
Sunday 19th 8am-5pm
Monday 20th 9am-6pm
Tuesday 21st 9am-7pm
(half price day)
Wednesday 22nd 9am-3pm
(\$15 a box)

Cannington
*Cannington Exhibition Centre,
Cnr Albany Highway and Station Streets*
SEPTEMBER
Saturday 22nd 9am-5pm
Sunday 23rd 9am-5pm
Monday 24th 9am-5pm
Tuesday 25th 9am-5pm
(half price or \$10 a box)
Wednesday 26th 9am-5pm
(half price or \$10 a box)
Thursday 27th 9am-noon
(half price or \$10 a box)

Any queries please call us on 9267 3900

Seasons for 2018

We have now been without a permanent performance venue for more than a year. Despite this, in 2017 we have managed two very successful seasons at other locations. We fully intend to present at least two seasons again in 2018. At this stage we have nothing confirmed., but submissions are very welcome.

Please continue with your support of our efforts. It is much appreciated.

And watch this space!

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

**SURFACE
MAIL**

**POSTAGE
PAID**

PP602669-00364



Picnic in the Park

**Saturday 13 January 2018
5pm**

Please bring your own picnic and seating.
Playlovers will present some awards and provide entertainment items



PLAYLOVERS WEBSITE: www.playlovers.org.au



PLAYLOVERS INFORMATION EMAIL: info@playlovers.org.au



www.facebook.com/PlayloversWA

COMMITTEE 2017

President	Alex McLennan	0438 937 078
Vice-President	Bronwyn Hammond	9447 0945
Secretary	Janelle Hammond	0423 847 383
Treasurer	Marie Corrigan	0414 529 736
Committee Members:	Jan Budden	0403 820 770
	Alide Chaney	0403 367 047
	Chelsea Defontaine	0423 989 873
	Gaye Harvey	9446 9834
	Ewen Malcolm	9284 9785
	Daniel Toomath	0455 923 650
	David Young	9444 2395