



# SANDGATE THEATRE SCREAM

Nov 2005 <http://www.sandgatetheatre.com> Ph: 3869 2099. PO Box 437, Sandgate, Q. 4017.

## SEX IS COMING!

This Friday will see the opening night of *The Opposite Sex*, a black comedy by David Tristram (directed by Peter Murphy) about adultery, marital disputes and the perils of pottery. Mark, an unhappily married man, makes a clumsy attempt to seduce former girlfriend Judith by inviting her (and husband Eric) to dinner. Unfortunately Eric turns out to be the man his wife Vikki had a brief but torrid affair with during her pottery class!

The play introduces two newcomers to Sandgate Theatre - Gerard Caesar as 'Mark' and Sarah Woodward as 'Vicky', while Jenny Lynch and Glenn Borland (last seen boasting an enormous codpiece in *Il Fornicazione*) return as Judith and Eric.

*The Opposite Sex* is on **25 & 26 November** and **2, 3, 9, 10 December, 7.30 pm** at the Sandgate Town Hall (doors and bar open from 7.00 pm). Tickets are \$15 Adult, \$12 Conc. (unemployed, pensioners, groups of ten or more). For bookings call 3869 2099 (answering machine). **Please note that the new email address for bookings is [theatrebooking@yahoo.com.au](mailto:theatrebooking@yahoo.com.au).**

## AUDITIONS FOR PRATCHETT PLAY

Our first play of 2006 will be the Terry Pratchett comedy *Wyrd Sisters*, performing 3-18 March. In this delightful take-off of Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, the wicked Duke and Duchess Felmet have seized power after the 'accidental' death of the King, and only three witches (and a reluctant Fool) can prevent the country from being dragged into rack and ruin and awful amateur theatrics.

Auditions for *Wyrd Sisters* will be held on **Tuesday 29 November** and **Thursday 1 December, 7.30 pm** at the Sandgate Town Hall. Men and women of all ages are

required for both acting and crowd roles. The specific parts we need to fill are:

Granny Weatherwax (a witch)  
Nanny Ogg (another witch)  
Magrat Garlick (the third witch)  
Verence (late king of Lancre)  
Leonel Felmet (Duke of Lancre)  
Lady Felmet (his wife)  
Vitoller (an actor-manager)  
Mrs Vitoller (his wife)  
Fool (a Fool)  
Tomjon (son of Verence)  
Hwel (a playwright)  
Sergeant (a stolid type)  
Demon  
Extras (Robbers, Players, Guests, Guards, Peasants and other riff-raff)



Needless to say, this play will also require a backstage crew as well as costume and set designers; anyone interested should contact the director Doug Hillman on 0408 152 371.

## BITS AND PIECES

☞ The end-of-year Christmas party will be held after the final performance of *The Opposite Sex* on 10 December, at the Sandgate Town Hall.

☞ So as to increase the time available for rehearsals, the committee has decided to have only three major plays next year. The plays will be in March (first major play), early June (one-acts), late August (second major/theatre restaurant), and November (third major). The Yarrageh Drama Festival will take place on the first weekend of September (the Intermediate and Open sections will be combined to reduce costs).

☞ The next committee meeting will be held on 12 December, 7.30 pm downstairs at the Sandgate Town Hall.

## WHAT'S ON IN THEATRE

### King Street Players (Burpengary)

*Think of the Magic*, a Christmas pantomime. 25, 26 November and 2, 3 December at 7 pm. 26 November and 3 December at 2 pm. Phone 3888 8580 for details and bookings.

### Mousetrap Theatre (Redcliffe)

Auditions for the comedy *Are You Being Served?* on Tuesday 3 January 2006 at 7 pm. Performing 10-18 March 2006. For enquiries call Val Scully on 3284 6545 or 3203 4515.

*The Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe*, a pantomime. 13, 14, 20, 21 January 2006 at 7.30 pm, and 15 & 21 January at 2 pm. Bookings on 3880 4598.

### Ipswich Little Theatre

*Highland Fling*, a theatre restaurant. 2, 3, 9, 10 December. Tickets are \$35 including three course meal. For bookings call Robyn on 3812 3450.

Auditions for *Scraps*, a short film set in a post-holocaust world. Saturday 10 December, Jean Pratt building at 11.30 am. For enquiries call Simon Taylor on 0423 162 166 or email [simtay2001@hotmail.com](mailto:simtay2001@hotmail.com).

### Act One Theatre (Strathpine)

*Sleeping Beauty 2001*, a pantomime by Clare Kelso. 2, 3, 9, 10 December at 7.30 pm. Matinee on Saturday 3 & 9 December at 10.30 am, and Sunday 4 December at 2 pm. \$8 adults and children, \$28 family of four. For bookings call Michelle on 3205 1897.

## THEATRE FACTS - 'The Scottish Play'

'The Scottish Play' is an alternative title used by actors for Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, in deference to the curse allegedly attaching to the play. 'That play' and 'the unmentionable' are amongst the other euphemisms used. Popularly regarded as the unluckiest play in the dramatic repertory, *Macbeth* has become the focus of many theatrical traditions and superstitions. If an actor refers to the play in a dressing room by its original title he or she must immediately leave the room, turn around

three times, break wind or spit, knock on the door, and ask permission to re-enter. Alternatively the line "Angels and ministers of grace defend us" (from *Hamlet*) may be quoted.

Nobody knows the origin of the superstition, but the witches' incantations on stage may be responsible. The history of bad luck began with the first performance, on 7 August 1606 at the Globe Theatre, when the boy-actor playing Lady Macbeth died of a sudden fever in the middle of the play. More recent years have seen the postponement of Laurence Olivier's first production at the Old Vic due to the death of Lilian Baylis on the opening night (1937), three deaths in the company during the first production with John Gielgud (1942), and - on an eventful tour in 1954 - an attempted suicide, an accident in which the company manager broke both legs, the electrocution of an electrician, and the death of a visitor from a blow by a stage spear after a member of the crew uttered the fateful word to him in conversation.

Many attempts have been made to ward off the curse, including an exorcism of evil spirits in 1926 by Sybil Thorndike and Lewis Casson at the Princes Theatre. A more powerful defence was used during Orson Welles' famous 1928 all-Black *Macbeth* in Harlem's Lafayette Theatre. John Houseman recalled, "Our supernatural department was very strong at the Lafayette." It included an authentic witch doctor who sacrificed live goats in the theatre at night. When the critic Percy Hammond attacked the production, the witch doctor led a voodoo session and Hammond died a few days later of a sudden illness. A similar tradition is associated with the play in China, where it is often referred to by the title *The Blood-stained Hands*.

