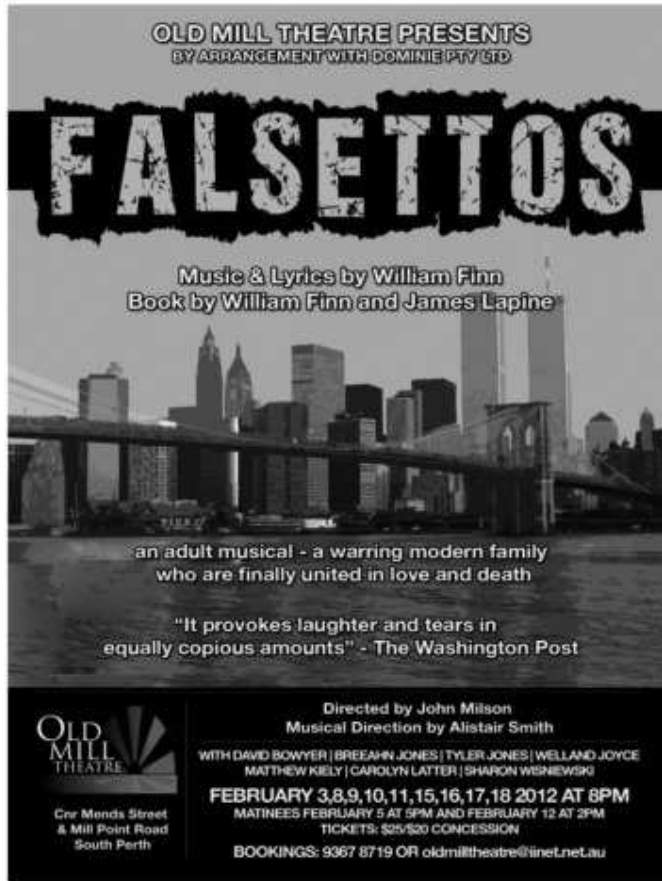


FALSETTOS: on song with WA premiere of breathtaking musical



THE Old Mill Theatre is opening its 2012 season this February with the WA premiere of an acclaimed, award-winning musical.

Directed by the experienced and well-known John Milson (responsible for Hamlet at the Old Mill last year) with musical direction from Alistair Smith, Falsettos has been described as a production that provokes laughter and tears in equally copious amounts.

Written by William Finn, the story follows a warring modern family in an age of liberated sexual choices and shifting social rules.

It also comes with top-notch theatrical credentials, winning two Tony Awards in 1992.

John said Finn, also responsible for the musical The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, has rightly been described as a genius for his unique voice.

"He delivers wickedly witty and sardonic lyrics, matched with energetic, heartfelt music," he said.

"This musical is actually the second and third parts of a trilogy: the first show is called In Trousers, the second is March of the Falsettos and the third is Falsettoland.

"Each was produced singularly as one-act plays before the second and third were put together as acts one and two of Falsettos."

Given some of the subject matter in Falsettos, John warns it is a musical for adults and not suitable for children under 12.

"It focuses on Marvin, his ex-wife Trina, his psychiatrist Mendel, his son Jason and his gay lover Whizzer Brown," he said.

"Despite being at odds with each other, they become fondly united in love and death."

In 2010, John celebrated a 40-year career as a director and lecturer, covering drama, opera, musicals and cabaret.

Originally from Sydney, he has been based in Perth since 1986 and was head of musical theatre at the WA Academy of Performing Arts for 12 years, where he worked with a vast array of students who went on to bigger and better things, including actor Lisa McCune, musical theatre performers Lara Mulcahy and Alexander Lewis and opera singer Emma Matthews.

John has also received an Order of Australia for his services to the performing arts and WA Equity Guild Awards for best director and lifetime achievement in the arts.

With Falsettos, he is aiming to deliver the required passion and sensitivity in a joyous story about the struggle between values, love and forgiveness.

"It touches on concepts of life, loss, relationships, alternative families and the relationships of love that develop, all set at the turn of the 1980s," he said.

"This musical is a work of genius - it's class writing of the highest order that will have audiences in stitches at the start and needing tissues by the end."

The talented cast features David Bowyer, Breeahn Jones, Tyler Jones, Welland Joyce, Matthew Kiely, Carolyn Latter and Sharon Wisniewski.

DID YOU KNOW? The Old Mill regularly has quality wine and a selection of cheeses on opening night to celebrate the production's first show. It's a chance to meet the cast and crew afterwards, so why not stick around and socialise? Make sure you book early to be part of it!

FALSETTOS plays at 8pm, February 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17 and 18 with a *5pm*** matinee on February 5 and *2pm* matinee on February 12 (PLEASE NOTE THE DIFFERENT MATINEE TIMES).**

Tickets are \$20, \$15 concession - book on 9367 8719 or email oldmilltheatre@inet.net.au.

More details on the show at www.oldmilltheatre.com.au



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

2012 is now with us and the Old Mill Theatre has an exciting and busy time ahead. We look forward to you sharing that journey with us as we put on our top hats, tie up our white ties and brush up our tails - 12 months of treading the boards with a great theatrical mix lies ahead.



AUDITIONS

World Premiere

The Beast And The Beauty

Written by *The Sum of Us* playwright David Stevens

Directed by Mark DeFriest

February 4, 6 and 7
Old Mill Theatre

Season: June 22 to July 15, 2012

David Stevens



Mark DeFriest



DETAILS of what's required for *The Beast and The Beauty* auditions have been provided by director Mark DeFriest, below:

I am delighted the Old Mill Theatre has agreed to stage David Stevens' new play, *The Beast and the Beauty*, opening on June 22.

Stevens (*Breaker Morant*, *The Sum of Us*) has turned this classic fairytale of magic and enchantment on its head, setting it in the Australian outback of the 1880s.

There is no evil spell lifted, no dark curse removed... the Beast isn't a beast at all - just an ordinary man, horribly disfigured by the Australian nightmare... bushfire.

Initial auditions for this "upside down" love story will be held at the Old Mill Theatre on February 4, 6 and 7.

To receive a copy of the play, please contact Norma Davis via davisrn@people.net.au or 9367 8719.

If you like what you read, book your audition with Norma and she'll email your audition script.

Alternatively, go to www.oldmilltheatre.com.au for full character breakdowns and click the links for audition scripts.

ROLES AVAILABLE

FEMALE: Belle (early 20s), Irene, Jessie.

MALE: Tom (mid-20s), Jack (Aboriginal stockman), Andy, the Vicar, Finlay, various stockmen.

There are several other minor roles that will be doubled by actors playing some of the parts above.

If the story grabs you... and one of the roles speaks to you... plus you're willing to give 110% to this world premiere production... then I look forward to seeing you at the auditions.

- MARK DEFRIEST

Daisy Pulls It Off?

She certainly does!



Yet again the Old Mill Theatre has delivered another successful season with the final week of *After Dinner* sold out (book early, people!)

Below is an extract from a review, showing how we managed to please the punters again.

By GORDON THE OPTOM

Sourced from www.theatre.asn.au

DAISY Pulls It Off won for its playwright, Denise Deegan, an Olivier Award and the Drama Theatre Award for best comedy.

The play, which is a subtle blend of *St Trinian's* and *The Secret Seven*, had its original production run for almost 1200 performances in London's West End.

She was born in London three-score years ago and, although trained in theatre tech-ing and stage management, she now lives in North Wales finding joy as a morris dancer and as part of the Brecon Hills search and rescue team.

With *Daisy Pulls It Off*, this style of melodrama depends upon slightly hamming-it-up and the director Susan Lynch and her capable assistant, Mary Wolfla, have created just the right level.

Combined with the marble-in-the-mouth accents of the gentry, taught by Laura Djanegara, the effect is hilarious.

With most of the cast being still at school, or early university, and fairly new to the stage, the director still managed to get good movement, stage presence and comedic delivery from the girls. Congratulations to all.

The delightfully, twee script has every well-worn catchphrase from the era, woven cleverly into the dialogue.

The older audience members will cringe at the headmistress' stern and matronly manner, such as the admonishment for having ink blots in your exercise book when only dipping-ink pens were available.

Dorm midnight feasts, with oodles of iced buns, are all incorporated into this lively, wholesome adventure.

The main set of the school hall was impressive. Kristina Binks and her team ensured the minor set changes went smoothly with a few well-chosen props to set the scene.

Siobhan O'Gara's sound teching was very good. The lighting was controlled smoothly but I would like to have seen a great deal more picking out of the stage areas that were being employed for different locations, rather than the full floods being left on.

The lighting was very effective at the rescue scene, just more of the same please.

Jenny Prosser's costumes, school uniforms and bottle green stockings brought a smile.

Be sure to join in with the school anthem at the end. As Trixie would say: "jubilate" and you will have an absolutely spiffing time with lashings of laughs.

Stephen Faulds also wrote, via the Old Mill website: "Congratulations to the cast and director of *Daisy*. It was a great production. The school girls were particularly good. I was a drama teacher for many years and I know what it takes to get that level of performance. Absolutely spiffing!"

AGM RESULTS

FOLLOWING the annual general meeting, there has been a switch at the top - Phil Barnett is now chairman of the Old Mill Theatre while Hywel Williams is vice-chairman.

Michael Trestrail is a new face on the board and Garry Davies has returned for 2012 with all other members remaining the same.

Unfortunately, Jadwiga Poulson has had to resign from the board since the AGM because of family commitments.

She will be sorely missed and the Old Mill Theatre thanks her for all her hard work making over the theatre in recent months.

The AGM also saw theatre manager Norma Davis awarded life membership.

NOTICE (THIS) BOARD

THEATRE HAPPENINGS

The theatre make-over has been continuing apace with new carpet in the dressing room and stage tunnel area.

It's looking pretty schmick, peopies!

GET INVOLVED

The Old Mill is on the hunt for people in the areas of lighting and sound.

Novices welcome - just need an interest and enthusiasm and you'll be taught what you need to know.

MEMBERSHIP

Memberships were due in October - details are at <http://oldmilltheatre.com.au/get-involved>

OMT ONLINE

The Old Mill Times is now being distributed to members via email. If you would prefer to receive a hard copy in the post please email oldmilltheatre@tinet.net.au.

Milly Awards

As this issue was being put together, all the buzz and excitement of the Milly Awards was brewing.

Production deadlines prevent us from giving the results and a full rundown this time around but, rest assured, there will be plenty of coverage in the next issue.

Besides, we all know you're dying to find out who was named Silly Milly of the Year!

FACEBOOK

There's plenty of Old Mill Theatre action online these days - tell us what you think on Facebook - <http://tinyurl.com/omtfacebook>

MEN'S CLUB

Gentlemen, are you ready?

COMING in 2012 is a new men's club at the Old Mill Theatre every Tuesday at 9am.

Men at a loose end are invited to come down and work on various projects around the theatre. You can also work on your own projects, too.

More details soon...

Be sure to head to www.oldmilltheatre.com.au for all the latest news!

WHAT'S ON ELSEWHERE?

37TH ANNUAL FINLEY AWARDS
Judith Cottier Theatre, Perth College



Community theatre's annual night of nights, acknowledging the best of 2011.
7.30pm, January 21. Book on 9467 7118.

RUBY MOON

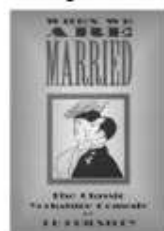
Spare Parts Puppet Theatre



It starts like a fairytale... but where does it end?

8pm, February 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 with 2pm matinees on February 4, 5, 8, 9 and 11. Book on 9484 1133.

WHEN WE ARE MARRIED
Limelight Theatre



The classic farcical Yorkshire comedy by J.B. Priestley
8pm, February 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24 and 25. Book on 9571 8591.

WHO KNOWS
Garrick Theatre



Follows Russell, a lovable loser obsessed with Doctor Who.
8pm, February 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 24 and 25 with 2pm matinees February 5 and 12. Book on 9378 1990.

For more of what's on and where, go to www.theatre.asn.au

Delve into 2012



February 3-18: Falsettos, directed by John Milson.
March 9-24: Flesh Wounds, directed by Jessica Messenger.
May 11-26: Parramatta Girls, directed by Siobhan O'Gara.
June 22-July 15: World premiere of The Beast & The Beauty, directed by Mark DeFriest.
August 17-September 1: The Vagina Monologues, directed by Megan Burley.
October 5-20: Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolfe? directed by Garry Lawrence.
November 30-December 15: The 39 Steps, directed by Susie Conte.

Updates will be posted at www.oldmilltheatre.com.au

FINLEY AWARDS

Nomination sensations



THE Old Mill Theatre has received several nominations in the upcoming Finley Awards, highlighting the best in community theatre across WA for 2011.

Congratulations go to:
Best Director (Play)
Vanessa Jensen for Amadeus
John Milson for Hamlet
Sue Lynch for Daisy Pulls it Off (Sue was also nominated for Crimes of the Heart at Melville Theatre).

Best Actor (Play)
Izaak Lim for Hamlet
Eliot McCann for Amadeus

Best Actress (Play)
Grace Edwards for Amadeus

Best "Other Than Lead"
- Male
Matt Longman for Hamlet

Best Set
Daisy Pulls it Off

Breakthrough Award
Sian Chin and Zoe Cole for Daisy Pulls it Off

Best Costumes (Musical)
Company

Best Costumes (Play)
Amadeus

Winners of the Finley Awards will be announced on Saturday, January 21, at Perth College's Judith Cottier Theatre. Tickets are \$25, book on 9467 7118 or via www.koorliny.com.au.



Flesh Wounds



COMING SOON

COMING this March is the premiere of **Flesh Wounds**, a multi-character drama with live music, written and directed by **Jess Messenger** with assistance from **Stages WA**.

It follows the lives of six young people, as they struggle to grow up and deal with their baggage.

The play ponders... although sometimes we feel damaged beyond repair, is it just a flesh wound?

From alcoholic buskers to aspiring singer-songwriters, pregnant waitresses and traumatised post office clerks and a love triangle

between God, a conservative Christian and another man – there's something for everyone!

The production has a lot of wow factor between the live musical performances, huge dramatic character roles and a combination of stark naturalism and more stylised theatre.

With many emotional and raw moments, it's also balanced with a lot of humour.

Flesh Wounds runs from March 9 to 24 at the Old Mill Theatre.

For updates, go to www.oldmilltheatre.com.au.

The Old Mill Times
PO Box 1390
South Perth WA 6951

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Mail

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AS YOU'RE probably aware, the Old Mill Times also goes out via email.

But one of the challenges we're facing is deciphering some of your email addresses from your handwriting on membership forms.

If you have paid your membership and haven't been getting your newsletter via email - and would like to - email your details to oldmilltheatre@inet.net.au.

See the lovely lady to the right of this arrow? Megan hasn't been the best of late and the Old Mill Theatre wants to wish her all the best after her recent stay in hospital.

Old Mill Theatre 2012 Board of Management



Phil Barnett
Chairman



Hywel Williams
Vice Chairman



Michiel Van Doorn
Treasurer



Maree Grayden
Board Member



Megan Burley
Board Member



Michael Trestrail
Board Member



Madaleine Rennie
Board Member



Garry Davies
Board Member