

Secrets, lies and wedding cake: comedy delivers “altar-ed” states

IF YOU knew a secret that could shatter a bride’s dream the night before her wedding, would you tell?

That’s the premise of the Old Mill Theatre’s first production for 2013, *Secret Bridesmaids’ Business*, written by Elizabeth Coleman and directed by Mary Wolfla.

The popular comedy is set the night before Meg Bacon’s wedding in a hotel with her mother and bridesmaids, ready for one last night of girly fun.

But one lie could change everything – and the bridesmaids have to decide whether to reveal a secret about the groom.

Secret Bridesmaids’ Business was made into a 2002 telemovie

with Vince Colosimo while playwright Coleman is also known for *It’s My Party (And I’ll Die If I Want To)*.

Mary chose to direct the play because she believes it has elements almost everyone can relate to if they have been involved in a wedding, whether as the bride and groom, planning the event or as guests.

“I also love comedies and the play is full of strong and funny characters,” she said.

“The biggest challenge is trying not to laugh too much during rehearsals, although it’s a wonderful problem to have.”

Involved in theatre while at high school in Idaho, Mary became serious about the performing arts when studying drama and speech education at Butler University in Indianapolis.

She moved to Sydney in 2006 and worked as a stage manager for various companies before coming to Perth in 2010 to work as education and administration officer for Buzz Dance Theatre, also working at the Old Mill Theatre on *The Shape Of Things*, *Daisy Pulls It Off* and *Parramatta Girls* in the past few years.

“With *Secret Bridesmaids’ Business*, I am blessed to work with a group of talented actors who have taken the development of their characters seriously and have added lay-



ABOVE: Sue Lynch, Bennet Andrews, Rebekah Easton, Elethea Sartorelli and Nicole Meyer find an upcoming wedding hits troubled waters in *Secret Bridesmaids’ Business*.

ers of comedy I would have never been able to just through direction,” Mary said.

The talented cast features Rebekah Easton, Sue Lynch, Elethea Sartorelli, Nicole Meyer, Naomi Bartlett, Zoe Cole and Bennet Andrews (the one lucky male in the show – how did he get that gig?).

Elethea was recently nominated for best musical theatre performer at the Finley Awards for her role in *Seussical* at the Koorliny Arts Centre last year (full details on the Old Mill’s Finley Award success on page 2).

REMEMBER! Book for opening night and enjoy cheese and wine after the show... and also meet and mingle with the cast.

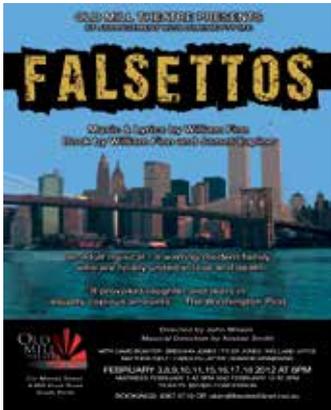
***Secret Bridesmaids’ Business* plays at 8pm, February 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15 and 16 with a 2pm matinee February 10.**

Tickets are \$25, \$20 concession – book on 9367 8719, oldmilltheatre@inet.net.au or online at www.oldmilltheatre.com.au.



FINLEY SUCCESS!

SEVERAL Old Mill productions from 2013 were recognised at the annual Finley Awards, community theatre's night of nights, as detailed below:



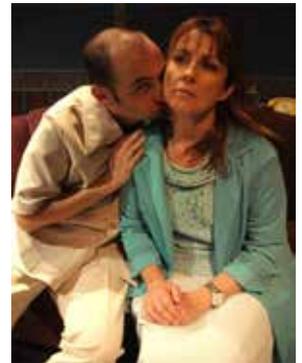
WINNER: Best musical
WINNER: John Milson,
best director of a musical
WINNER: Alistair Smith,
best musical director



WINNER: Sharon Kiely (nee Wisniewski),
best musical performer – female,
Falsettos



NOMINATED: Welland
Joyce, Youth Musical
Award, *Falsettos*



NOMINATED: Sally
Barendse, best female
actor, *Plaza Suite*



TOP 10: Parramatta Girls for best play
ADJUDICATORS' CERTIFICATE: Ensemble
work



TOP 10: *Who's Afraid of Virginia
Woolf?* for best play
WINNER: Bev Lawrence, best female
actor
NOMINATED: Garry Lawrence, best
director of a play



THIRD PLACE: *Flesh Wounds* for best
play
NOMINATED: Jessica Messenger, best
director of a play
NOMINATED: Bonnie Coyle, best
female actor



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**SHEILA BUCHANAN ACHIEVEMENT
AWARD:** Old Mill Theatre for
diversity and continued excellene
in choice of plays

Did you know?



A NEW Finley
Award category
was announced
this year, named
in honour of the
late former Old
Mill chairman
Hywel Williams.

The Hywel Williams Award for Technical
Achievement was given to Midnite Youth
Theatre Company's *Macbeth@Metros*.

**Go online to check out the colour
version of this edition:
www.oldmilltheatre.com.au**

PLAY READINGS BACK FOR 2013

THE series of play readings that started in 2011 – but were postponed during the Old Mill's exceptionally busy 2012 – are making a comeback.

As Wednesdays appeared to suit most people, it remains the evening of choice for 2013.

The program aims to include a new play, an Australian play, a classic and a locally-written play. However, the program is fluid and the play-reading team welcomes suggestions from members.

It is a relaxed and informal format and the plays vary and range across periods and styles of theatre. This diversity means all tastes are catered for.

Directors planning to submit a play for 2014 are encouraged to have a play reading because it gives the Old Mill board and play

selection committee a chance to hear and appreciate the script.

The first play reading for 2013 will be Nick Enright's *Good Works* at 7pm, Wednesday, March 6.

Born in NSW, Enright wrote the original book version of *The Boy From Oz* and adapted Tim Winton's *Cloudstreet* for the stage. Other plays include *Blackrock*, *Daylight Saving* and *A Servant of Two Masters*. *Good Works* spans several decades and three generations and exposes some of the darker moments in the histories of two Irish Catholic families.

For enquiries, call Siobhán O'Gara on 0409 374 731 or email siobhanog@westnet.com.au.

SUNDAY SERENADES 2013



Justin Freind's Sunday Serenades are back for another year.

The dates for 2013 are March 10, May 12, July 7, October 13 and a Christmas concert on December 15.

Phone bookings still available



YOU may be aware the Old Mill has a new online booking system – but this doesn't mean phone bookings have stopped.

People can still call 9367 8719 and make a booking, if they prefer.

The Old Mill understands its differing audience members have different ways of wanting to book so, rest assured, the phone will still be there for you.

Bookings can also be made via email oldmilltheatre@inet.net.au and at www.oldmilltheatre.com.au.

Great debate

THE Organ Donation and Transplant Foundation of WA would like to invite you to The Great

Debate at the Old Mill Theatre.

The Great Debate is a free event hosted by the foundation as part of DonateLife week.

It promotes discussion on the myths relating to organ and tissue donation using two key groups as representatives for each opinion.

This event is open to the public and will be held from midday, Sunday, February 24, with light snacks provided.

ODAT WA would like to thank the Old Mill Theatre for hosting this event.

To register your interest in attending or for more details, email odatwa@bigpond.com.



Milly Awards



DREADED deadlines have prevented us giving you a complete wrap on the Milly Awards – i.e. we

went to print before the winners were announced.

But rest assured there will be full details in the next issue of *The Old Mill Times*.

Winners will also be posted at www.oldmilltheatre.com.au.

WHAT'S ON ELSEWHERE?

THE LATE EDWINA BLACK
Limelight Theatre, Wanneroo



Clever Victorian-era suspense thriller
8pm February 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16,
21, 22 and 23. Book on 9571 8591.

HANDS ACROSS THE SEA
and SOMEONE CALLED ROB
Melville Theatre



Two one-act plays: a Noel Coward comedy and the latest from Martin Lindsay.
8pm February 8, 9, 14, 15 and
16 and 2pm February 10.
Book on 9330 4565.

A NIGHT IN PROVENCE
Harbour Theatre, Fremantle



Comedy of three couples who perhaps shouldn't be in the same French villa at the same time.
8pm March, 7-23 with 2pm
matinees March 10 and 17.
Book through TAZTix 9255 3336.

AMERICAN BUFFALO
Playlovers, Floreat



A Chicago junk shop owner and two lowlife friends plot to steal back a valuable buffalo nickel.
8pm March 15, 16, 21, 22 and
23 and 7pm March 17.
Book on 0415 777 173.



That's Elegant Amore

ELEGANT Amore - the Como bridal store behind the wedding dresses in *Secret Bridesmaids' Business* - is a company made by newlyweds for newlyweds to be.

Having a direct relationship with their designers and manufacturers, they are able to customise each gown with highly competitive pricing.

This includes changing colours, necklines and modifying embellishments, all within a timeframe sure to suit every bride.

Elegant Amore also specialises in dresses for evening wear, bridesmaids and flower girls, also easy to customise.

For more details, call 9313 1477, email info@elegantamore.com.au or visit www.elegantamore.com.au.

Elegant Amore is located at Shop 4, 460 Canning Highway, Como.

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Old Mill Theatre 2013 Board of Management

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