

ARC Newsletter

Issue: 21, February 2008



From the President

Welcome to another edition of the company newsletter.

Things have been buzzing with energy at ARC over recent months. Chief among our latest achievements is the selection of an Artistic and Production team for our fast-approaching season of *Godspell*. The committee has assembled a collection of talented, confident and passionate people who will bring a variety of experience to our company. Bookings for auditions are now open and without saying too much, early signs indicate that ARC's 2008 show will be an event not to be missed. It is such a pleasure to be involved with a company that is so open to challenging itself creatively.

The ARC circle continues to be a hive of social activity. For example, our recent Rec Dinner was a great success. Watch out for other similar opportunities which will arise in the coming months! There is also strong support within the membership for ARCapella, who continue to impress at their myriad recent performances.

On a personal note, a thank you must be extended to Vice President Julian and the rest of the committee for their continued efforts during my recent travel. ARC truly is in safe hands!

Until next time,

Mark Kearney, President

ARCapella Update

Hello everyone and welcome to the New Year!

The last few months of the year were indeed busy for ARCapella.

With the departure of our conductor, Andrew Jameson stepped into the role with much fervour and led the choir through this period. Andy's dedication and commitment to the choir has been extraordinary and I, and all the members of the choir, am grateful of his immense contribution.

The *Spring Sounds* showcase with special guests *Keytones*, was held at the Northcote Town Hall and had over 80 people in attendance. The audience response was overwhelming and was the perfect ending to a challenging year learning many new pieces of work.

After the concert ARCapella moved straight into rehearsals for Christmas events. ARCapella had the pleasure of entertaining a group of adults in Rosanna at their end of year break up party as well as the City of Darebin's Carols in All Nations Park – Due to some appalling weather, the event was relocated to a local church where the programme was cut short resulting in ARCapella not being able to perform solo.

On a more positive note, ARCapella was again fortunate to be selected by Banyule City Council to entertain visitors to The Boulevard in Ivanhoe for their annual Christmas lights display. This event remains the highlight of the carolling season for the choir.

The choir always welcomes new members, so if you are interested in joining in 2008 send an e-mail to arcappellamanager@arc-theatre.com for more information.

Sara Lacey, ARCapella Manager

Godspell update

Well it's that time of year again, it's musical time. I'm pleased to announce the cutting edge production of ARC's *Godspell* is underway. The Artistic team are in full swing in preparations for auditions and the production team have started their various meetings. This time round we are not going down the entirely traditional path for this musical. We will be dragging *Godspell* into the 21st century kicking and screaming all the way. Myself with the artistic team have a vision of gangs and darkness for this take on the classic "hippie" musical. All of us are looking forward to working with ARC, many for the first time.

I think the tone for this production was set when going in for a set designer interview the committee turned to me and said "how do you feel about directing?" The dye was cast and the cogs started to turn "Why the hell not!" I replied.

So fellow members of ARC come and join us on this magical adventure of plays within plays, combat, fire twirling and possibly some puppetry too.

Based on the Gospel According to St. Matthew, and featuring a sparkling score by Stephen Schwartz, *Godspell* boasts a string of well-loved songs, led by the international hit, "Day By Day." As the cast performs "Prepare Ye The Way Of The Lord", "Learn Your Lessons Well", "All For The Best", "All Good Gift", "Turn Back, O Man" and "By My Side", the parables of Jesus Christ come humanly and heartrendingly to life.

Drawing from various theatrical traditions, such as clowning, pantomime, acrobatics and vaudeville, *Godspell* is a groundbreaking and unique reflection on the life of Jesus, with a message of kindness

Andrew McDougall, Director

Godspell Artistic & Production Team Announced!

Congratulations and welcome to the successful Artistic and Production Team Members for *Godspell*:

Director: Andy McDougall

Assistant Director: James Baker

Musical Directors: David Howell and Glen Barnett

Choreographer: Carla Gianinotti

Set Designers: Andy McDougall and Dayani Jinadasa

Set Construction Manager: James Baker

Stage Manager: Tanya Cooper

Assistant Stage Manager: Bernadette Burke

Sound Designer and Operator: Marcello Lo Ricco

Sound Assistant: Sarah Liistro

Lighting Designer and Operator: Russell Allsop

Lighting Assistant: Daniel Crawford

Properties Manager: Portia Chiminello

Costume Manager: TBA – Apply Now!

Make-up Designer: TBA – Apply Now!

Front of House Co-ordinator: TBA – Apply Now!

Ticket Secretaries: Sara Lacey and Amelia van Lint

Please email secretary@arc-theatre.com if you are interested in any of the available positions. Applicants with all levels of experience are encouraged to apply. You are also welcome to apply for Assistant and backstage crew roles.

Angie Bedford, Secretary

Dates for your diary

Tues 12th February *Godspell Auditions*

Saturday 16th February *Godspell Auditions*

Sunday 17th February *Godspell Auditions*

Saturday 23rd February *Godspell Call backs*

Sunday 24th February *Godspell Call backs*

Friday 2nd – Sunday 4th May *Godspell Rehearsal Camp*

Friday 4th July 2008 *Godspell Gala Opening 8pm*

Saturday 5th July 2008 *Godspell 2pm & 8pm*

Wednesday 9th July 2008 *Godspell 8pm*

Thursday 10th July 2008 *Godspell 8pm*

Friday 11th July 2008 *Godspell 8pm*

Saturday 12th July 2008 *Godspell Closing 5pm*

Securing ARC's future

our partnership with Viewbank Secondary College

ARC's relationship with Viewbank continues to grow stronger. Since our last newsletter report, Peter Gannon (Viewbank Principal) has agreed on a yearly fee that ARC will pay to cover rehearsals (at the school & theatre) and theatre hire (production week & performances). We have also signed a ten-year agreement with the school that secures ARC's plans for the proposed shed. We received nothing but positive feedback from the artistic team, committee and cast regarding *Cabaret* rehearsals at the theatre and school in 2007 - these areas provided ample space for choreography, blocking and singing. I have been informed that the infamous Banyule theatre car park has been upgraded and is ready for use (goodbye potholes!). With the help of family and friends in early December '07, we deconstructed Viewbank College's existing bike enclosure (site for the ARC shed). With all the dimensions finalised, the Committee is now in the process of getting quotes and arranging the construction of the shed. We see construction of an ARC shed as the final step in giving us a permanent home, as after 12 years, we will finally be able to have ongoing venues for rehearsals, set construction and performances. I also recently met with some members of the Banyule city council to discuss ARC, as we are now based in the city of Banyule - the ARC Committee now has some contacts within the council that will prove invaluable in the future.

Adrian Ventura

Choir Leader Required

ARC is seeking a choir leader for their a cappella choir, ARCapella.

This established choir comprises 15 members S,A,T,B and has a diverse repertoire; performing regularly at eisteddfods, festivals and other events.

Extensive experience is not required; students looking for an ensemble to conduct as part of their course are especially welcome to apply. For further information and a full position description please contact Sara Lacey at:

arcappellamanager@arc-theatre.com

ARC Rec Dinner

On January 12th all the ARCIans old and new gathered at *Alphabet City* in Northcote for an evening of great company and fine food.

The night began with the arrival and many old faces and some new, the beer garden was alive with laughter and conversation. I would like to thank everyone who came along it was a night enjoyed by all and we look forward to making it Annual event.

Cheers to all,

Dee Bellen, General Committee Member