

THE Artful DODGER

OCTOBER:2007

1.n. loveable young pickpocket from Lionel Bart's "Oliver!" 2.n. printed handbill full of tidings from the W.M.I.&A.A. with a closing date for contributions of 17th of every month to Alan Cornell on 9844 4995 or alan@commercialventure.com.au



NOISES OFF

Did you see Lipstick Dreams? Wasn't it great? And what about my performance? No, I wasn't on stage, I was the one who made the toilet flush. Or not, depending on the night. Pretty simple really - two toilet flushes, three phone rings, various music links and backing tracks. What could go wrong?

We ironed out the bugs at tech rehearsals - too loud, too soft, non-existent, oops, sorry! It'll be alright on the night.

And so on with the show! Just wait for the cue, skip to the right track on the CD player and hit play. Flush!!! OK, so that was a bit late. Seems it takes a few seconds to get to the track and several more to actually start when you hit play. Tricky bit of timing this! I'll be ready next time. I'll just line up the track earlier and hit play before the line instead of after it. Just mark that on the script. No worries, track cued ready to go, hang on I've got both channels up - toilet's stage left, kill left speaker, got it ..Shit! It's jumped back to the start

of the disc! What track was it? Too late now. Obviously a half flush toilet. Next time don't cue up the track till twenty seconds before the line! Here we go, Lisa's line (hold off), Jan's line (not yet), Lisa's line (wait till she says 'red phone..') ...hang on I can't hear her, did she say 'red phone'? She must have, she's leaving the stage. Poor Misha won't know whether to come out or keep hanging on. I promise I'll get it tomorrow night - Lisa's going to emphasise RED for me - which she does, every night - "...there's a RED phone out the front. I'll just go and..." FLUSH!! Perfect! Now if I can just make the phone ring before Becca makes a bee line to answer it!

In the second week I worked out a new system. If you cue up the track and hit pause it doesn't jump back to the start, so you can concentrate on the lines, hit play and...bugger! There's no delay any more. Well that's got the show moving along a bit. Better just go through the script and remark all the cues. Again. Anyway I think I've mastered it. Oops, sorry

gay boys, what was that? "HEY BABY, CAN WE GET THE RIGHT TRACK!" Good ad libbing guys.

Then there's the microphone amp that goes to sleep every now and then. We can't hear Bill! What's happened? Crackle, pop, it's Jenny on the intercom telling me we can't hear Bill. Can't speak to you now Jenny, we can't hear Bill! What'll I do? Hit the amp, what else! Hey that works! Now Jan's mike's cut out. Smack! You're welcome! And the foldback speakers are pointing the wrong way and Lisa's mike is wailing like a banshee! Not that I can hear it from up here but she's not happy Jan, I can tell that much. You've got to hand it to those girls - absolute troopers!

Me? I've still got a lot to learn. Like not to volunteer for sound again. Either that or learn to emulate Gail's equanimity. A bank of lights drops out? "Well," she says, bringing up every light we've got, "that's me done for the night!" and goes back to her knitting.



Warrandyte Mechanics Institute & Arts Association Inc 0009153X

From everyone in the WMI&AA, HAPPY 80TH MARY BEECHAM!

Group reports.

Theatre



1. Lipstick Dreams - Wow!

Now that its season is complete, we can report that Lipstick Dreams was a triumph on many fronts. Firstly, it was yet another example of what great productions we can do – even on a relatively modest budget. Four excellent performances

from Lisa, Jan, Misha and Rebecca – what stunning voices! Secondly, the rotating and sliding flats added an extra richness to our set design – well done Bill! Thanks must also go to producer Phyllis, and her crew of many who helped bring the show to life. Special mention to Jenny, who helped with the costumes, and another Jenny (Tully) who rose to the ranks of Stage Manager with great calmness. In some ways, extending the season to 3 weeks may be worth considering in the future. Although never the main consideration, and due to strong attendances, Lipstick Dreams made a record profit for a September production – well done everyone.

2. Roles and helpers – we need you in 2008!

The committee has been looking at ways to better share the load of all the behind the scenes roles. One suggestion is that we invite people to take on a coordination role for a complete year (eg Costumes, Lighting, Promotions, Program planning). It wouldn't necessarily mean that you need attend committee meetings, or to be the only person involved in that area – just possibly a better way to develop expertise and experience across a year, rather than a production. Now that the last production for 2007 is over, the committee will (at November meeting) drafting a plan to address this issue for the 2008 season. Stay tuned for more!

3. Recent renovations

We have had a lot of improvements to equipment and facilities in the hall – not all obvious, but here's a list of what I can remember!

- Replacement headsets – for off-stage crew – these are much, much better!
- Removal of Rostra to new home under Pottery Workshop – creating a lot more space backstage
- Re-installation of three tracks of sliding flats
- Installation of a rotating flat
- Replacement of a faulty Lighting Dimmer rack
- Replacement of an exploding power cable attached to one of the dimmer racks
- A new couch for props and leisure purposes

There is still an urgent need for a complete review of our lighting equipment – perhaps more urgently than the proposed purchase of a data projector! More of this in the next Dodger.

David Tynan 9844 5727 and 0414 832 183

Pottery



Once again we must thank Doug and Jan Smidt for giving of their valuable time to repair "The Potters' Follie". I do hope that our revised hand treatment deters would be vandals.

Welcome back to Term IV. Please please please start your Christmas presents this week!

Marj Beecham 9844 3206

Music



Well no-one came up with the offer of an alternative venue for the October Music Night and at this stage, our diaries are filling up fast, making November look equally bleak. It is disappointing for the few keen new people that the group doesn't seem to have enough momentum to take off on its own. I am still

optimistic, however, and hope that the new year will generate some new life. In the meantime, I don't see our Medieval Christmas party working. We haven't had enough regular attendees from which to generate an instrumental group or a singing group. Perhaps next winter instead?

Do you all know about Eltham World Harmonies? This has been going for some years now, run by volunteers as a not-for-profit organisation, supported by the Eltham Arts Council. Each month, on the first Friday, there is a performance of some type of world music at St Margaret's Hall, Pitt Street at 8.00pm. Entry is \$12 (\$9 concession and children free). Bookings are not required. The details can usually be found on the calendar of events on Nillumbik Council's website. Alternatively, for information you can ring Rosie on 9437 2617 or email angeladavies@optushome.com.au

Pat Anderson 9844 3442

Painting



Gill Beddington 9844 1203

Pauline Cross 9439 1775

Craft



Rosemary Climas 9844 2154

Bendigo Bank Sponsorship

Four of us – Noelle, Anthony, Marjorie and I - attended the Bank's Sponsorship Night at the Grand Hotel in September. I think I have already mentioned that WMI&AA has been fortunate to be granted \$1,000 in sponsorship money for the 2008 Follies. This time the money is going towards the purchase of digital projection equipment.

It is worth pointing out just how community minded the bank is. In only four years' existence, this branch has supported forty local groups. On the occasion in September, each group that has been sponsored this year received a certificate and the gathering was told that the Bank aims to continue to increase its financial contribution to local community groups over the coming years.

How can you help? By banking locally, and encouraging others to do so too, you can help support groups in the community, including our own.

Another initiative the bank is supporting is a community website. All our groups will be listed on this, so hopefully this will be another avenue for spreading information.

Also on the subject of websites, one of the sponsored 'groups' this year is a 'Warrandyte Artists' website. Jill Dixon is the contact person. The aim is an online art gallery showcasing the finest works of Warrandyte painters, sculptors and ceramicists for review and purchase. I'm not sure whether or not the site is up and running yet, by the address is www.warrandyteartists.com.au. Jill would be keen to hear from people that fall into this category.

Pat Anderson



A bit of light reading for the working class.

and wealthy inhabitants, to raise, by means of a small periodical contributions, a fund to be expended in the instruction of the members in science, literature, and the arts, to the exclusion of controversial divinity, party politics, and subjects of local dispute, by means of a library of circulation, lectures, evening or day classes, and a reading room.

Generally, the Institute was a place for entertaining evening lectures on various scientific, literary, or artistic subjects, held instructional classes, and housed a library and reading room. For some its main purposes was to give the working class access to an education for education's sake. Others thought that more knowledgeable workers would result in increased industrial and economic efficiency. And some believed that these institutes would serve well as centers for moral and social reform. At its height, the Mechanics' Institute had 700 chapters across the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada, so its social relevance and impact was no little thing.

The London Mechanics' Institute

Despite its initial popularity, the Mechanics' Institute largely failed to capture the hearts and minds of the working class, and soon found that its facilities, lectures, and advanced classes appealed more to the bourgeoisie than the proletariat. Many were converted into libraries, schools, intellectual recreation centers (i.e., chess clubs), and even cinema houses.

Research Context:

The Mechanics' Institute is of particular interest to the field of the History of the Book, Print Culture and Media Studies. As the first real private initiative towards the increased literacy and education of the newly formed working class of the Industrial Revolution, it offers a glimpse into the formation of a mass reading public from an interaction (or clash) of the upper, middle, and lower classes. At the very least, it gives a sobering view of the importance of ideological motives at the creation of the printed word and the common reader of the word.

Some regard the Mechanics' Institute as a tool of middle-class oppression of the lower class, while others paint it as a marker of class divisions in the rapidly changing social order of the post-industrial era.

Online Transliterations Opportunities:

Regardless of the political and ideological purposes of the Mechanics' Institute, it aided in a widespread movement towards universal literacy and public texts for the common public. The Mechanics' Institute's contribution to the discussion surrounding the practice of online reading may shed some light on lower class avenues to online access. Will institutions such as corporations, the state, or the church, in an effort to exert control, begin an initiative to provide public access to online works and instructional classes on technology? If so, what are their motives? One of the Mechanics' Institute's original purpose was the empowerment of the worker in understanding the science behind his assigned machine, which they in large failed to accomplish, but did result in the empowerment of a different kind. The question is, if today's laborer of a transnational media-based industry is the third-world knowledge worker, what would result from an entire army of lower class global citizens empowered with access to information? Are the Nigerian spammers the Luddites of today? Reading empowered the English common reader of the 19th century, will online reading do the same to in the 21st century?

Summary:

The Mechanics' Institute sprang up in 19th century England for the ostensible purpose of imparting upon the working class mechanic knowledge of the sciences, literature, and arts. In actuality, a myriad of purposes shrouded the creation of these institutes, which were ultimately appropriated by the middle class when it became apparent that the working class was not as receptive as had been anticipated. Some scholars conjecture that they were really formed as a means of control and indoctrination of the working class, allowing only as little real knowledge as needed for them to improve as workers, but little else. As the middle class began to move in, the working class retreated to the Institute's libraries and reading rooms, where they were free to discuss topics that interested them. One of the unintended consequences of the failed Mechanics' Institutes was the aiding in the creation of a democratic infrastructure for working class access to printed materials, and despite the Institute's discouragement, a predilection for popular fiction. In short, despite being borne from a desire to regulate, they were an important precursor to the establishment of public libraries and a liberated mass reading public.

Description:

Founded by two Professors in Glasgow in the late 19th century, the Mechanics' Institute began as a series of free lectures by Professors John Anderson and George Birbeck. When John Andrews died, he bequeathed his estate to the founding of an institution of higher learning which went on to become the Glasgow Royal Technical College. Birbeck's interactions with the eager working class at Anderson's institute led him to establish a free class aimed at the scientific principles of mechanics, which was a rousing success. He created a Glasgow Institute in July 1823, and a London chapter followed in November 1823. Although there is some dispute as to the true origins of the Mechanics' Institutes, the Glasgow and London incarnations were the most culturally significant.

The Institute was a voluntary association of a portion of the humbler classes of a town or locality, assisted by a few of the leading



Thanks to Ted Cross for submitting this article.

Away

Propinquity is one
view Absence
makes the heart
grow fonder Proust
thought essential
Thomas Hardy too
I've never been
AWAY
from her touching
persistent loving
when the mind is
AWAY
remembering Auden
beauty persistent
actor supreme
many film decades
AWAY
from our London
enchantment with
Julie Christie while
AWAY
from Warrandyte
give TV a miss
but never
AWAY
from films

AWAY FROM HER Rivoli Camberwell - Throughout their fifty years of marriage, Grant and Fiona have never known a time... young Canadian Director Sarah Polly with Julie Christie as Fiona, Gordon Pinsart as Grant. (Google) Julie Christie was the essential swinging sixties girl of "Darling", "Billie Liar", "Dr. Zivago", "Far from the Madding Crowd", now in a film about ageing love.

Auden: "The Age" A2 Saturday, October 20, 2007 Features p.14 Writing: On the centenary of W.H. Auden's birth, John Clarke gives an appreciation of the great poet. "He wrote about love, death, fear, hope and gossip. Auden and Louis MacNeice, who could not write about the war since they were too young to have been at it, decided to embark on a venture that was uniquely theirs and so they went to Iceland and eventually published a book LETTERS FROM ICELAND" which was central to the plot of AWAY FROM HER.

Propinquity: Concise Oxford Dictionary 1976 p.890 "Nearness in place" Away: Ibid p.65 'to or at a distance from the place, person, thing, in question' Absence: Ibid p.4 'Being away from a place or person; time of being away'

Alain de Botton "How Proust Can Change Your Life" Picador 1997 p.175 "the general difficulty of maintaining an appreciative relationship with anything or anyone that was always around"

Thomas Hardy "The Return of the Native in Collected Novels of Thomas Hardy Vol.1" Modern Library Edition Random House 1994, p.771 'What shall I assist you in?' 'In getting away from here.'

Drizzled

DRIZZLED
like rain yes
spray like yes
but food ??
well I suppose
it is the idea
DRIZZLED
with a lemon
herb sauce
not only
DRIZZLED
layered bedded
growing up in
Warrandyte stone
1947 house in
Yarra Street I
never heard of
grilled salmon we
were into roast
lamb on Sundays
with mint sauce
and the rain
DRIZZLED

DRIZZLE: Spraylike rain, fall in drizzle.
Hence drizzly (probably French, Middle English
drese, Old English dreosan fall)

p.317 The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Current English
First Edited by H.W.Fowler and F.G. Fowler Sixth Edition edited by
J. B. Sykes Oxford at the Clarendon Press 1964, 1976
The Sebel Albert Park Melbourne C.M.C. Alumni Association
Gala Dinner 6 October 2007
Main Course Grilled Salmon drizzled with lemon herb sauce,
layered with red pepper and bedded on a spinach rice cake.

**You get it sooner, you get
it in colour and you save us
time and money when you
get your Dodger by email!**

Yours for the asking, via
alan@commercialventure.com.au

Foil(s)

FOIL(s)
How did
the word
change from
fencing
FOILS
to hairdressing
colour change
I'm always
recommending
Nevil Shute
in praise of
hairdressers
unknown to
FOILS
transforming A
Town Like Alice
like Warrandyte
practising their
art to baffle i.e.
FOIL

A Town Like Alice (1950) Nevil Shute (original name
Nevil Shute Norway, English novelist, lived in Australia from 1950)
"Superb novel came from a true story of 80 Dutch women and
children" (Google)

Video Helen Morse Bryan Brown; DVD Virginia McKenna
and Peter Finch

Foil (fencing) Wikipedia, the free encyclopaedia (Google)
As with any fencing weapon, protective equipment must be worn
when fencing with foils; this includes a jacket, glove, mask and
knickers known as breeches.

Foil Concepts and Terms: A brief treatise on some concepts and
terms to do with fencing. Polish women's foil team carried the day
over Russia. Aladdin Sports: Australia's largest supplier of fencing
equipment foil, sabre, epre, mask

Foil: Concise Oxford Dictionary First edited by H.W.Fowler and
F.G.Fowler Sixth
Edition by J. B. Sykes at The Clarendon Press 1976 p.407
"run over or cross scent or ground so as to baffle hounds."



TONIGHT!

(plus SATURDAY NIGHT and SUNDAY MATINEE!)

The Diamond Valley Singers present

"A Nice Dilemma"

A pastiche of G&S
at the Warrandyte Mechanics Institute Hall

October 26, 27 at 7:30 pm

October 28 at 2:00 pm

Tickets \$20/\$15

Call 9434-7273 and the rain

Come along to support their show!