

Theatre In the Park 2007



CAUGHT

IN THE

NET

a Play by Ray Cooney

by Special Arrangement with Dominie P/L

A Brooklyn Community Theatre Production

Ticket

Saturday 17th November

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About the Play

CAUGHT IN THE NET

"Imagine Watergate, suburban-style if you tell one lie to cover up a mischief you're forced to tell more and more until you've constructed a bizarre mirage whose one virtue is a lunatic consistency."

The Times

Ray Cooney's sequel to his much-acclaimed comedy "Run For Your Wife" finds our bigamist taxi-driver, John Smith, still keeping both his families (one in Wimbledon and one in Streatham) happy and blissfully unaware of each other. However, his teenage children - one girl and one boy by each wife - have met on the Internet and are determined to see each other in person, especially as it transpires that they have so much in common - same surname, taxi-driver dad of the same age, etc! When it dawns on John that they are about to meet, he plunges into a hell-hole of his own making in order to keep them apart. His saviour could be, Stanley, his lodger. Stanley is about to go on holiday with his decrepit old father, who turns up thinking he is already at the guest house. The ever-spiralling situation gets increasingly out-of-hand as John busts a gut to juggle with the truth.

The play will be presented in two acts with a 20 minute intermission. Refreshments will be available.

Our Sponsors

Without our sponsors this event would not be possible and we are indebted to the following sponsors:

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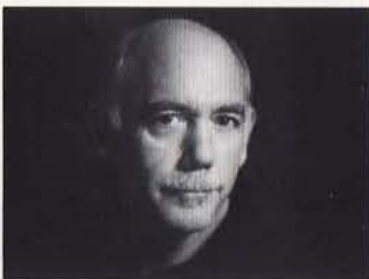
About the Director

Peter Hughes graduated from The Australian Playhouse Studio in 1994. Peter's stage performances include leading roles in Picnic at the Figtree Theatre; Death in Paris and The Good Doctor at the Riverside Theatre. He later toured Educating Rita, Playing Sinatra, The Dragon's Tail and The Star Spangled Girl with his own ensemble, Encore Theatre Company. Peter discovers his deep well of talent from the Angler's Rest Casting Agency. "Where some of the great acts are performed nightly!"



About the Producer

Ray Bontoft has been an enthusiastic producer of events ranging from fireworks displays to live theatre. Ray is convinced this event could only happen in an area such as this. Ray believes the event is successful because it is a family picnic, a party and some great great live theatre. "Of course, all the necessary planning is conducted at the 'office', the Angler's Rest, which you will note has been mentioned several times in this programme, a sponsor in more ways than one," he chuckles.



About the Assistant Director

Gary Robertson is a self-confessed bookworm and 'minstrel at larger generally puts down the book only to pick up the guitar. An accomplished actor and foundation member of Brooklyn Community Theatre, Gary not only carries out the function of Assistant Director in this production he is also cast in the role of *John*. Gary acknowledges that growing up in this world requires tenacity, purpose and a basic plan. BUT living and working around this splendid river has encouraged him to go more with the flow of things. Unfortunately, this has led to the occasional shipwreck, so his solution is simple - he refuses to grow up.

THE CAST

Drew Bontoft as Gavin Smith

Andrew Bontoft or as almost everyone these days calls him, Drew, began his acting career as a T-rex in his Kindergarten end of year performance. He stayed in the car, not showing up. In this year's play he portrays Gav, a superbly irritating child with no concept of social decency or boundaries. Walking from house to house, he simply invites himself inside making himself at home, he annoys inhabitants to the end of their wits, causes havoc and comedy alike and all under the pretence of getting "jiggy" with their daughters.

Indeed, life imitates art.

"You must be a real pain in the arse at school Gavin" – Stanley
Yes indeed, life imitates art.



Emma Jones as Vicki Smith

Having successfully avoided playing in the Brooklyn Womens' Soccer team for over two years, Emma has finally been roped into a community activity; playing Vicki, the daughter of a bigamist, in the latest 'Theatre In The Park' production. Emma considers this role a good step up from her first encounter with the stage – an impulsive 'jelly-wrestler...



Venette Lowe as Barbara Smith

Venette commencing her acting career in high school in the much acclaimed "Red Hot Cinders" - need we say more -

She has gone on to play other women of substance such as Melanie in the Brooklyn Community Theatre's production of 'This Way Up'!

Determined not to be typecast, she has now risen to the challenge of playing a woman with virtually no substance, Barbara "Babs" Smith.

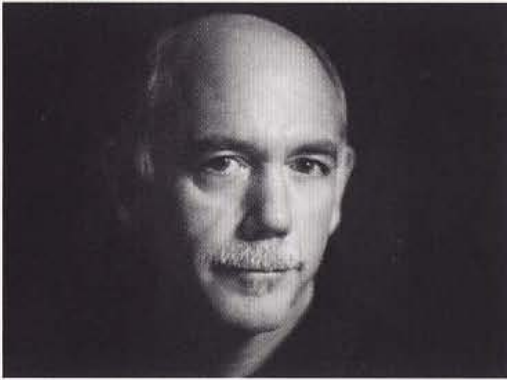


Melisah Caines as Mary Smith

Melisah was born in Mullumbimby and attended the Ballina School for wayward women. There she played the lead role in the school's production of "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas". Numerous offers of theatrical roles followed but she refused all of them to concentrate on waitressing and barwork.



in Order of Appearance



Gary Robertson as John Smith

A guitar in one hand and a book in the other. There is too much poet and dreamer in that boy – he'll never amount to much" the teachers all said.

They were probably right. A self-confessed bookworm and 'minstrel at large.

He acknowledges that growing up in this world requires tenacity, purpose and a basic plan. BUT, living and working around this splendid river has encouraged him to go more with the flow of things - this has led to the occasional shipwreck, so his solution is simple - he refuses to grow up.

"Life is mighty like this river's tide. It goes out and leaves you up to your belly button in mud, but it comes back in and you are swimming



Steven Pearson as Stanley Gardner

It started with a tap on a cold shoulder, or was it a shoulder on a cold tap?

From a psychopathic police impersonator, card playing buddy, funeral director to a loyal lodger!

Where will it end?

Ask Barmy and Pedro!

They've got the Coopers!



Ross Martin as Dad

Rosco plays *Dad* a cranky senile old man. According to Rosco, he has absolutely no acting skills at all, but he has all the natural attributes to play the part. He informs us that *Dad* does in fact have 'tinnitus', as does *Dad*, and a perfectly matched medical behavioral record to suit the role. Rosco does maintain that he has no recollection of ever agreeing to play the part!

We see that he is well cast for the part!



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The Crew

Front of House Manager.....Ray James

Back Stage Manager.....Steve Jones

Assistant Back Stage.....Phil Butterworth

Sound Engineer.....Peter Mudie

Lighting Engineer.....Alan McIlvride

Assistant Lighting.....Carla Sorensen

Stage Construction Manager..... Hugh Boyland

Catherine Pigneguy.....set and costume

Publicity.....Jacqui Karu

PromptNoddy

Public Relations.....Lyn

Fiona

Sue

Robyn

Mal

Al

Janelle

Transport Supervisor.....Robert Williams

A special thankyou to the all that helped with
the stage construction.

With Special Thanks

Mooney Mooney Club.....rehearsal facility
Riverside Resturant.....rehearsal facility
Hornsby Shire Council..... park infrastructure
Hornsby Rural Fire Service.....catering vehicle
projection equipment
poster printing
Grant Regan.....printing consultant
Noel Castley.....announcements
Darryl Manning.....T shirt art programming
Jacqu Karu.....website
Allan Pratt.....stage equipment
Mister Ply & Wood Hornsby.....stage materials
Able Timber & Hardware.....stage materials
Brooklyn Public School & P&C..... printing/ ticket sales

and to all who gave their time and help!

Brooklyn Community Theatre a Short History

Theatre in the Park came into being during 1999 in the unique Hawkesbury River community, home to many talented and colourful personalities living among this scenic backdrop.

The concept of a theatre group emerged from discussions between Ray Bontoft and Peter Hughes after the community lost its live entertainment options when the area's only hall was closed.

From those talks, a theatrical opportunity has evolved, giving the chance for all community members to take part at any level in creating a local event. Even in the simplest form, being involved in a play has given people a sense of personal achievement, pride and equity in the final result.

Theatre in the Park was conceived with an outdoor stage and a vision for a family picnic-style atmosphere where everyone can enjoy quality live theatre.

This vision of a community-driven theatre came to fruition with the enormous success of the first production in 1999, when some 480 people joined the festivities.

Brooklyn Community Theatre is a volunteer non-profit community group.

Ticket pricing ensures the event remains accessible to all. With donations, both in kind and financial and ticket sales, we are able to meet our production cost and pass on any surplus to our worthy patron.

The charter of the Brooklyn Community Theatre is administered by producer Ray Bontoft and director Peter Hughes. See our website for details at: www.hawkesburyriver.com and select *Theatre in the Park* from the menu.