

# LAUGHTER UNDER A FULL MOON

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Before a full moon crowned the treetops at Brooklyn's Rest Park on Saturday night, the stars shone brightly from the stage in a triumphant performance of *Tom, Dick and Harry* by Brooklyn Community Theatre on Saturday November 12.

Kaz Hughes was the first to erupt on stage as a prospective adoptive mother waiting for the dreaded visit from the social worker, heralding a night of mayhem as her husband Tom and his two well-meaning but dim-witted brothers create havoc around her carefully ordered life.

Greg Upfold as Tom presented an increasingly harried figure as he tried to deal with a dead body, two unexpected illegal immigrants, an uptight social worker and even a policeman, juggling entries and exits with split-second timing. Phil Butterworth and Drew Bontoft proved perfect comic foils as the hapless brothers, all using the stage in a beautifully choreographed comedy of errors directed by Peter Hughes.

Gary Robertson's ability to make an audience laugh despite speaking fluent Romanian was one of the many highlights in a once-a-year community effort that brings together the cast and crew for an intensive 10-week rehearsal period.

Fine weather, a receptive audience, and efforts by many unsung community members provided Brooklyn and surrounding areas with an annual highlight that cements community ties. With a delicious selection of food provided by Dave O'Connell, the performance was the finest in recent memory.

BROOKLYN



Phil Butterworth, Greg Upfold, Gary Robertson and David Broome star in Brooklyn's Theatre in the Park.

Picture: JOE MURPHY

# Show-offs in the park

Monique Cowper

## AMATEURS DRAW HUNDREDS

IT was just over 10 years ago that two mates decided if theatre productions were not going to make it out to Brooklyn then they would simply present one themselves. This was how Theatre in the Park began and this month it will celebrate its tenth anniversary on Saturday night.

Brooklyn Community Theatre director Peter

Hughes said he and producer Ray Bontoft started the company because there was nowhere to perform.

"We decided to do it outside because there was nowhere else and almost 500 people turned up," he said.

These days Theatre in the Park attracts people from all over Sydney who take a blanket, food and wine to

watch a show performed entirely by local amateur performers.

"That's the secret of our success," Hughes said. "Some people have done two or three shows but we always cast new members, someone who have never even thought about acting."

This year's production of *Tom, Dick and Harry* is a

farce about a young couple trying to impress a social worker who will decide if they are suitable to become adoptive parents while hiding asylum seekers and even a dismembered body.

The gates at Rest Park on the Pacific Highway open from 6pm and the show starts at 8.30pm. There is no parking on site.

For ticket and travel information visit [www.theatreinthepark.com.au](http://www.theatreinthepark.com.au).

Brooklyn Community Theatre presents *Theatre in the Park*. This not-to-be-missed event is a unique blend of quality live theatre, beautiful bushland views and a relaxed family atmosphere with plays that will appeal to young and old. Theatre in the Park has become a popular annual event in the picturesque Brooklyn Rest Park, overlooking the Hawkesbury River.



**BROOKLYN COMMUNITY THEATRE**

## *theatre in the park*

**When:** Saturday, 12 November. Gates open and food available from 6pm. Show starts at 8.30pm.

**Location:** The Rest Park (Bird Park), Pacific Highway, Brooklyn

**Cost:** \$15 adults, \$10 children under 16 or concession, \$30 family ticket for two adults and three children

**More information:** Ruth Steel [theatreinthepark@bigpond.com](mailto:theatreinthepark@bigpond.com) or visit [www.theatreinthepark.com.au](http://www.theatreinthepark.com.au)



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