



That's the spirit!

by Tim Kelly

by special arrangement with Dominic P/L

A Brooklyn Community Theatre Production 2008



That's the spirit!

Directed by Peter Hughes

Produced by Ray Bontoft

Program

Refreshments served from 6.30pm

Curtains up 8.30pm

Interval 9.15-9.35pm

End 10.20pm

Close / last bus 11pm

Story of the Play

If you're looking for hilarious escapist fun, a spooky puzzle or an entertaining whodunit, you'll find it in this off-the-wall, cock-eyed mystery spoof. A Hollywood psychic, Jenny Davenport, is murdered in a Lynbrook Valley lodge that once belonged to The Great Marvel, a famed "illusionist." Who should turn up as "investigator" but another dingy psychic who calls herself Claire Voyant! Her ill-fame rests on the fact she once cured a woman of a "haunted" elbow. She solicits the help of other weirdos like Bella Donna and her nasty ventriloquist dummy, Chester. Anne Boleyn, with her terrible fear of axes. The amazing Ernst Slater, the man with the X-ray eyes.

Toss in some bewildered police types, a fish-out-of-water niece, a ham actor who signs his photos "Bachelor Father," a crazed hermit and a walking lamp shade - among others! Mix well. The result is a one-of-a-kind lampoon that's hysterically funny, silly and genuinely scary at the same time. Is the motive the mysterious book that explains Marvel's fantastic illusions or is the motive something darker? What's that crawling in the cellar? Why are the dingos howling? What happened on the lake? What's that "glowing" in the hallway? Shudder, gasp and - LAUGH! The action is fast and furious. The rib-tickling chuckles and chills are non-stop.

About Theatre in the Park

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

From these 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 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 costs.

The charter of the Brooklyn Community Theatre is administered by Producer, Ray Bontoft and Director, Peter Hughes.

www.theatreinthepark.com.au



“One of the great joys in my life is to watch a story spring from the page onto the floor with real people materialising into wonderful characters who will lead an audience on a mesmerising journey, eventually affecting people in many different ways. You can watch films with all their ‘takes’ and modern gadgetry but to have actors performing there in front of you, with no safety net, is a memory that stays with you always. I admire enormously these brave souls who have challenged themselves to take this ‘journey’ - they have added something intangible to their lives and to those they affect. Break a leg!!”

The Director, Peter Hughes



“Theatre in the Park is a true community driven event and exists thru participation by community members. To see the cast and crew evolve during the journey of each production creates amazing rewards for both Peter and I. Special rewards come to those who ‘jump in the deep end’, take on a role and take the journey with Peter, they will be changed forever. To you, our audience, we thank you for the opportunity to take you places you may not have been before, but beware this whole thing is contagious! Have fun! That’s the Spirit!”

The Producer, Ray Bontoft

Helen Goodrich as Ruby

Helen has been in past productions such as *Godspell* and *Fiddler on the Roof* in the UK (although they were some years ago and she can't quite remember now...). Originally cast as the understudy for a whole one day, her 'unholy acting ability' was soon discovered (they were desperate) and she was placed into the role of Ruby. This will be her first production with the Brooklyn Community Theatre and her first time being a housekeeper (she ain't no maid!).

Karen Hughes as Irene Lockwood

"If you can't beat 'em, join 'em". After repeated demands fell on the Director's deaf ears, I finally got the tap on the shoulder. Would I be able to work well with this demanding Director... only time would tell. As a girl growing up in the village of Melbourne I could only dream of performing on THIS stage with THESE actors. Brooklyn Community Theatre one day... Broadway the next...

Jim Gosden as Wayne Hopkins

I'm happy to be back in another Hughes/Bontoft extravaganza production and I'm looking forward to the party!!

Venette Lowe as Claire Voyant

Last year Venette trod the boards with Brooklyn Community Theatre playing Barbara, a woman of 'virtually no substance'. This time there is plenty of substance alright only it's 'floating ectoplasm'. Partial to a 'touch of show business flash', Venette and her character Claire Voyant (naturally that's not her real name) will endeavour to summon some energy and create a little spirit for the evening... Now concentrate.... everyone..concentrate!!!!

Cast in order...



...of appearance



Gary Robertson as Inspector Prindle & Assistant Director

Imagine what kind of world this would be if the energies of its 6.7 billion people were removed from war efforts, freed from bureaucratic regimentation, and applied to the invention, production and exchange of useful goods and services...

Drew Bontoft as Bud Frazer

Last year Drew played an annoying little lad in love with a cute little bombshell. She may have been his "almost-sister" but he was never the less a teenager with a teenage mind. This year he plays Bud Frazer, a recently recruited, yet dopey, Detective. Frazer is a growing young man with the mind of a child and indeed Drew found no problem relating to this part. "Sure he's pleasant but he's not very bright" - Miss Irene Lockwood.

Greg Uphold as Scotty Nelson

The Director cornered me in the Anglers Rest... "I've got a part for you in the next play" he said. "It's a whodunit full of crackpots and fringe dwellers". I asked him what he wanted me to do. "Just be yourself" he said.

Emma Jones as Bella Donna

Emma is known for her appearance in the 2007 Theatre in the Park, her several minor film roles include cheering in the background of 'The Oyster Farmer', appearing on speeding and red light cameras but most notably security footage from the pub. Emma an aspiring genius, is currently working on making her first million dollars by inventing a cherry the size of an apple.

Cast cont...



Sonya Gieseckam as Anne Boleyn

After initially sounding like the Queen of Mudgie it took the professional guidance and faith of Peter Hughes and crew to find the Queen Anne within. In my first ever attempt at theatre, what can I say... Royalty is bliss!!



Paul Watt as Juan the Hermit

Paul, better known as 'Parlay' at the Anglers Bookie Ring, was snapped up by Theatre In The Park casting agents when seen doing his rendition of 'Up There Cazaly'! Paul grew in confidence to take out the 2007 Derby Day 'Fashion In The Field' award. Paul's inspiration for this role came from Nick Nolte's (Paul's hero) performance in Down and Out in Beverly Hills; he has spent the last six months living in a cave on the Hawkesbury in preparation for the role.



Noel Castley as Ernst Slater

Noel's first exposure to Theatre in the Park was as a character from somewhere between Transylvania & Sicily, in the 'The Odd Couple' he played a Poker player (a game of which he knows absolutely nothing). Most of Noel's qualifications for being a thespian come from life... a drama in itself. And now, a role in this play - a smarmy con man who tries to make people think he can see between the lines. The unnerving question Noel has been asking himself is, "Am I being typecast?"



Kate Duncan as Victoria Greenstreet

Tip: When feeling a little second hand on a Sunday morning after a big Saturday night, do not go to the ATM at the pub for you never know what you're getting yourself into. Directors lurk in dark corners and jump out at unsuspecting people and get them to join in their play.

The Crew

Stage Manager ~ Dave Mitchell

Assistant Stage Manager & Lighting ~ Lara Tattersall

Back Stage Manager ~ Steve Jones

Sound & Lighting Engineer ~ Peter Mudie

Sound & Lighting Prompt ~ David Brazel

Electrical Engineer ~ Dean Nesbitt

Stage Construction Manager ~ Brett Hughes

Set, Costume, Press Relations & Fundraising

~ Catherine Pignegy

Marketing, Program & Website ~ Ruth Steel

Public Relations ~ Robin, Fiona & Sue

Transport Manager ~ Paul Mares

Bus Drivers ~ Robert Williams & Paul Surrest

with special thanks to...

Bob Wilson (Hornsby Hospital) for supply of the buses

Brett Steele (The P.A. People) for power cabling

Darryl Manning for T-shirt production

Dave for his banner and lettering

Dave Broome for the mail drop

Dave Penno (PSP) for signage and parking

Hawkesbury River Real Estate for ticket sales

Hornsby Shire Council for the use of this beautiful park

Mooney Mooney Workers Club for their rehearsal facility

Noel Castley for his superb announcements

Suellen Warton and Sandra Dimmock for their fabulous food

The Mudie family... too numerous to mention

...and everyone that helped with the stage construction



our sponsors

*A & B Covers, Andrew Botting, Traditional Shipwright,
Australia Post (Brooklyn), Brooklyn Marina, Brooklyn Trade
Services, Dave & Brenda Thomas, Dolphin Boatshed, Don's
Boats General Store, Joshua's Restaurant, Mainsales, Norths'
Boatshed, Supercheap Auto and Wharf Street Marina*

Brooklyn Community Theatre Productions



1999



2001



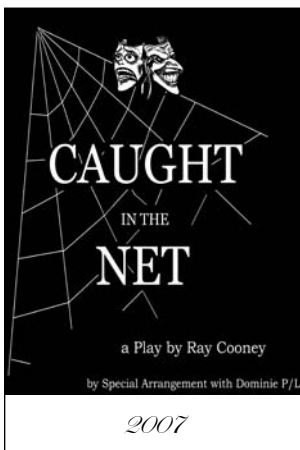
2000



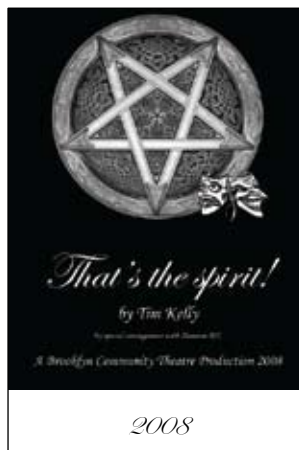
2002



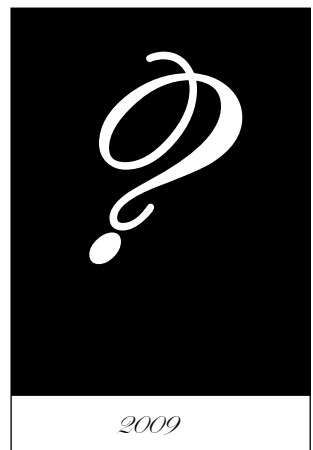
2003/4



2007



2008



2009

Theatre in the Park

*would not be possible without our
principal supporters...*



fenwicksmarina.com.au

Don Thompson Builders

Brooklyn Community Theatre is a volunteer non-profit group. If you are interested in assisting with next year's production or would like to provide financial support please contact us at: theatreinthepark@bigpond.com

www.theatreinthepark.com.au