

AUG

19

CURTAIN CALL

DEVONPORT CHORAL SOCIETY'S NEWSLETTER



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PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

What a busy few months we have had at Devonport Choral Society. Our production of *Downtown! The Mod Musical!* moved audiences in a way other shows have not – with many people returning a second, third – or even *fourth!* – time to see the vibrant costumes and hear the classic tunes all over again!

Our choir, Right on Cue have been extremely busy, performing all around the state at various events as well as hosting international Musical Director, David Lawrence for a two-day workshop. Be sure to check out "*The Right on Cue Times*" for the lowdown on ROC's recent exploits!

After what has seemed to be such a long time, we're *finally* heading into springtime! And there's more exciting news! *The Rise and Fall of Little Voice* has hit the stage, with the support of the Latrobe City Council and The Port Sorell Little Theatre Company. Directed by Emil Djakic, with a cast of accomplished performers, this is certainly one you don't want to miss! The show runs until September, 14th. Grab your tickets from the Latrobe City Council or Camp Banksia at Port Sorell.

In addition to this we've announced our main mid-year production show for next year – *The Full Monty* will be directed by Sid Sidebottom, assisted by a highly-experienced and very enthusiastic production team. Stay tuned for more details!

Sincerely,

Maree Brodzinski

Devonport Choral Society President

PO BOX 397
DEVONPORT 7310
TASMANIA



devonportchoral.org

THE RISE AND FALL OF

LITTLE VOICE

A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR



The Devonport Choral Society production follows an English teenager who spends her days singing to the records of famous divas that her absent father left behind.

Director, Emil Djakic said, "Little Voice, [played by Andrea Hay] is reserved and very focused on her father's memory, which is attached to the music," while her mother is, "trying to cope with widowhood in her own way. It focuses on that relationship and how they're both coping and not coping," he said.

Little Voice is later thrust into the limelight when a talent scout – Mr Boo, played by Sid Sidebottom – discovers her amazing singing voice. "Eventually we do get to hear Little Voice singing in a club setting," Mr Djakic said. "She really only thought she was going to do it once but that's not what the other adults have in mind."

Mr Djakic labels the show as, "A mix of comedy and drama with a bit of music thrown in" and beyond that, that this production is "a chance to bring real live theatre to the east end of the North West!"

*An excerpt taken from The Advocate,
written by Lachlan Bennett and
adapted for Curtain Call by Bec Reynolds*

GET YOUR TICKETS!

Available from the Latrobe City Council or
Camp Banksia at Port Sorell

(They're selling fast so you need to be quick!)

DOWNTOWN!

PHOTO GALLERY



PHOTOS FOR THE ADVOCATE BY
SIMON STURZAKER

DOWNTOWN! The Mod Musical!

THAT'S A WRAP!

Devonport was abuzz when *DOWNTOWN! The Mod Musical!* hit the stage on Friday, the 17th of May. The infectious feel-good vibes from our talented cast, combined with an array of vibrant and masterly-crafted costumes, courtesy of Wendy McCrae, in addition to the simple yet profoundly psychedelic world designed by Belinda Gunson and Jenny Slater and brought to life with construction from by Max Darvell, Steve Locke, and Michael Rubock (and painting by Gunson and Slater). All this, in collaboration with clever lighting design and sound FX by Theo Viney, Michael Westcott and Show Systems Australia, props sourced by Jane Foote, Maree Brodzinski and some cleverly crafted by David Dunn made for one dramatic explosion of 60s fun and flair.

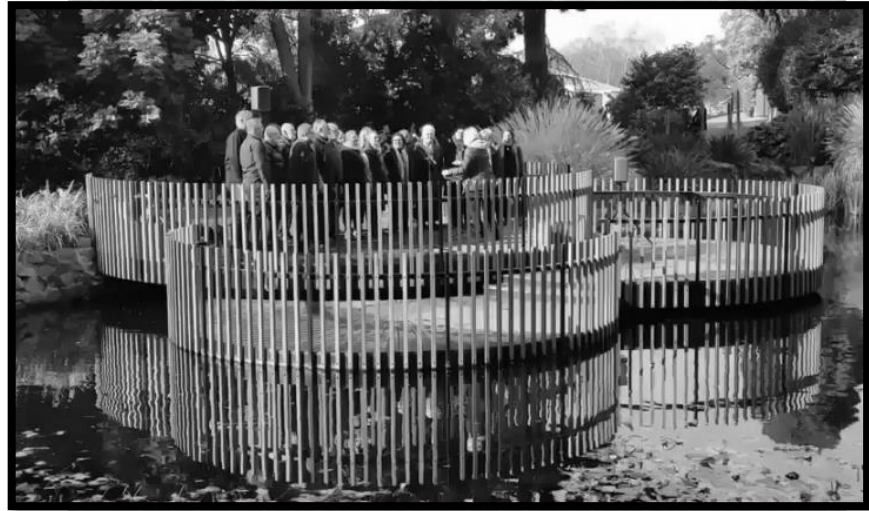
Under Bronwyn Darvell's awesome vocal direction and Elizabeth Viney and Emma Walker's 60s-inspired choreography, the all-female cast of 13 spent months learning and perfecting the 20 iconic songs that make up *DOWNTOWN!* And, of course, this only added to the impressive dramatization of our five main girls that seeped through their songs and dialogue – each with a unique personality and their own specific attitude and values. Blue Girl, a high-fashion, high-maintenance Barbie doll was portrayed with effortless class from Erin Araroa. Yellow Girl, fierce, friendly and at one point extremely-dedicated to getting her hands on *the* Paul McCartney's garbage, was brought to life with the fantastic comedic timing and American accent of Bronwyn Darvell. Orange Girl, perhaps a little rough-around-the-edges, is very loyal and caring and was played passionately by Hannah Lee-Archer. Red Girl, the sweet and naïve geeky schoolgirl who just wants a boy to like her back, came to us through powerful characterisation from Jessica Blair. And last but certainly not least, Green Girl, a charming cockney lass, originally full of sass and seduction, was played with hilarious crassness and charisma by Lana Stokes. All of our lead characters underwent huge personal growth over the course of the production with dynamic character development. Supported by a staggering six-piece ensemble of GoGo Girls (Helenmarie, Maive Grieve, Meegan Hughes, Toni Melese, Bronte Smith and Kimbra Westcott) who were on stage for the majority of the show, the comedic wit and sense of majesty we got from Andrea Harding in her Agony-Aunt-esque character, Gwendolyn Holmes – the advice columnist for *SHOUT! magazine* (the thing that originally brought our lead girls together, with a hustle of excitement on stage as they gathered for the latest issue every month). And of course, this would have been impossible without our fabulous six-piece, on-stage band made up of Pete Jeremy, Chris Lynch, Nathan Humphreys, Simon McNeair, Liz Viney and led by our Musical Director, Tim Squire.

A HUGE hats-off must go to Director, Sid Sidebottom for pulling this all together! With a vibrant nostalgia coming from the array of tunes of times gone by, including "Son of A Preacher Man," "Don't Sleep in the Subway," "To Sir, With Love" and "Wishin' and Hopin'" to name a few of these classics AND the amazing work of the production team, the band, cast and crew certainly did allow our community to *forget all their troubles, forget all their cares* when they went *Downtown!*

THE RIGHT ON CUE TIMES

AUGUST 2019

Saturday, June 22nd saw the choir braving the cold, donning the formal black attire and green accessories to compete at the annual Burnie Eisteddfod. *Blue Skies* and *A Million Years* from the recent hit-movie-musical, *The Greatest Showman* saw Right on Cue place second in the Championship Section. All members who were present on the evening, in addition to ROC's own Musical Director, Petrina Jahnz must be commended on a wonderful performance and their placing. Excellent job, everyone!



Festival of Voices – Tassie's original marquee winter event and Australia's premiere celebration of the voice – first occurred in 2004, in a response to Hobart's disengaged community in the middle of winter. The concept was simple: to light a massive bonfire in the city centre and invite everyone to come and have a singalong. Well, it's sufficed to say that the idea took off, with the Festival of Voices raking in audiences averaging 30,000 over the duration of just a fortnight. The first weekend of July, this year, Right on Cue travelled south and regrouped in Hobart. On Saturday 6th, members participated in a workshop and then on Sunday 7th, they performed two 'pop-up concerts' for the general public at the Farm Gate Market and the Botanical Gardens. Though a few more onlookers would not have gone amiss, it was a great experience and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, 16th September
DEVONPORT EISTEDDFOD

Friday, 25th October
ROC FUN NIGHT

Sunday, 1st December
END OF YEAR CONCERT

Just one week after Festival of Voices, ROC gathered again on July 13 and 14, for an almighty weekend that focused on their highly anticipated choral workshop with internationally-acclaimed Musical Director from the UK, David Lawrence. On the Saturday, the choir invited anyone interested to come along to the choral workshop – their



family, friends, acquaintances and the general public at large. An overwhelming response from those who participated – and aren't ROC members – was in regards to the welcoming nature of workshop, specifically complimenting Lawrence's relaxed persona and detailed instructions to assist getting certain techniques correct. When David suggested that those participants took what they'd learnt back to their various choirs, Libby Perkins said, "I [haven't] sung with a choir since 1976, when I was in the nun's chorus of *The Sound of Music*, 43 years ago! When I arrived today and we started signing in Italian, I felt I was *drowning* but after the fun and encouragement from David, I felt I was at least, *floating!*" and Maree Cole, Musical Director of Mersey Singers said, "It's good to hear another point of view or different way of saying or reinforcing many points that I've tried to instil in my choristers and [of course], to learn new tips." On the Sunday, ROC assembled on their own for a more focused workshop on their current repertoire. Many compliments were given to not only David Lawrence, but to Jake (ROC's President for organising the workshop, Petrina (ROC's MD) for her openness and trust, to those involved in the purchasing and preparation of the morning and afternoon teas provided and to the ROC Committee, as a whole, for hosting an event that everyone who attended left having gained something.



And as if they hadn't had a busy enough month, Right on Cue gathered again on July 25th to perform at Gospel Song as part of Devonport's Jazz in July at the paranaple Centre. They performed *Jesus, What a Wonderful Child* and *Steal Away* and did a magnificent job with both songs.

THE FULL MONTY

We thought fellow thespians might like a little insight into what we have in mind for **The Full Monty** (TFM). Please, be aware, the following is intended only as a taster and is not set in stone – We invite anyone and everyone to consider auditioning in October. **The Full Monty** will be staged mid-May 2020.

THE STORYLINE & THEMES

The musical follows the same story as the movie but on stage, it's set in the USA. It centres on personal and shared journey of six unemployed males but relies on a community of other characters – male and female – around them. **The Full Monty** requires a cast of approximately 20, including the six male lead characters – each of whom are equally important to the overarching storyline and each of which is readily and realistically 'identifiable' to audiences.

They are 'everyday' types of males facing unemployment and dealing with its effects. With time on their hands, what can they do collectively, rather than individually, to make ends meet? By show's end, to go 'The Full Monty' isn't so much about voluntarily stripping, but gaining personal strength, respect and self-knowledge, and a friendship based around a shared, daring and – some might say – risqué, enterprise!

THE CHARACTERS

Jerry, Dave, Ethan, "Horse" (Noah), Harold and Malcolm are our six leads, aged 20s-60s – Harold and "Horse" are older; Jerry, Dave, Ethan and Malcolm are younger. These guys have **all** got to sing Baritone/Tenor, move rhythmically (to music) and be prepared to go The Full Monty!

While less in quantity, but still equally important are the leads' significant others (or exes) in **Pam, Estelle, Georgie, Vicki, Susan, Joanie and Molly**. **All** will be expected to characterise (especially Estelle, Georgie, Pam and Vicki), sing alto/mezzo-soprano and move rhythmically. In addition to these female roles, is that of **Jeanette Burmeister** who plays the pivotal role of the six's piano-player come production-advisor. This is an acting and singing role for an alto, able to bring the ruff, tuff, never enuff attitude to the role. Her stage age matches Horse's.

Aside from these, there are a number of other supporting male roles such as, Jerry and Pam's son, **Nathan** (12-15yrs) who plays an important part throughout the show, the male stripper, **"Keno" (Buddy)**, Pam's boyfriend, **Teddy**, the nightclub owner, **Tony**, Police Sergeant, **Reg Willoughby**, a religious minister and **2-3 other males** as part of the ensemble.

THE PRODUCTION TEAM

DIRECTOR | Sid Sidebottom
PRODUCER | Maree Brodzinski
VOCAL DIRECTOR | Bronwyn Darvell
MUSICAL DIRECTOR | Simon McNear
CHOREOGRAPHER | Elizabeth Viney
PROPS CONSTRUCTION | David Dunn

COSTUMES | Wendy McCrae
SET DESIGN | Belinda Gunson & Jenny Slater
SET CONSTRUCTION | Max Darvell,
Steve Locke & Mike Rubock
LIGHTING | Michael Westcott
LIGHTING DESIGN | Nick Glen

UPCOMING EVENTS

DEVONPORT CHORAL SOCIETY'S Annual General Meeting

OPEN INVITE!
ALL WELCOME!

**MONDAY,
23RD
SEPTEMBER**

DCS's Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday, 23rd September at Forth Primary School (45 Wilmot Road, Forth), starting at 7pm.

The Committee would like to extend an open invite to anyone interested in becoming a new Committee Member. Regardless of age, choral knowledge or theatrical experience, you are welcome to attend and see if it's something you'd like to be a part of!

We look forward to seeing you there!

DEVONPORT CHORAL SOCIETY'S THE FULL MONTY

**INFORMATION
SESSION**

**SUNDAY,
13TH
OCTOBER**

This is your chance to find out what you need to know about Devonport Choral Society's 2020 production of THE FULL MONTY!

Meet the Production Team, hear all about the show and book your audition. This information session will be held at Forth Primary School (45 Wilmot Road, Forth), commencing at 4pm – don't be late!

Auditions will be held on the 25th, 26th and 27th of October (again, at Forth Primary School) and are available only by appointment.

The show season will run from the 15th to the 30th of May, next year.
We are so excited about this production! We hope you are too!

**SUNDAY
13TH OCTOBER**

**4PM @
FORTH PRIMARY
SCHOOL**



AUDITIONS:

25TH, 26TH, 27TH OCTOBER
@ Forth Primary School

**auditions are by
appointment only
(no walk-ins)*



DEVONPORT CHORAL SOCIETY PROUDLY PRESENTS
FOR THE FIRST TIME A **PORT SORELL POP UP THEATRE**

THE RISE AND FALL OF

LITTLE VOICE



POP UP THEATRE
BANKSIA CENTRE, PORT SORELL

OPENS FRIDAY 30TH AUG - SATURDAY 14TH SEPT

TICKETS FROM LATROBE COUNCIL
and CAMP BANKSIA, PORT SORELL

Blown fuses, real and metaphorical, punctuate the action
with flashes of pent up energy in this acclaimed play.
The diminutive heroine frequently plays her dead father's records
at a volume matched only by the soulful power of her vocals.
Little Voice has a hidden talent: she can emulate every chanteuse
from Judy Garland to Edith Piaf. She hides in her room, crooning
and dreaming of love. This is an engaging fairy tale of despair, love
and hope as Little Voice finds a voice of her own.

BY ARRANGEMENT WITH ORGSM™ THEATRICAL, ON BEHALF OF SAMUEL FRENCH, LTD.
Written by Jim Carterwright



ACM

MONDAY, 23RD SEPTEMBER
7PM @ FORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL

**Want Something
Featured
in our Newsletter?**

If there is anything you would like to share with our community, be it musical theatre related, regarding a choir or local group, feel free to send an email through to dev_choral@hotmail.com – we'd love to hear from you!

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY



Port Sorell
LITTLE THEATRE COMPANY
Creating the community of the future