

Z-PAC NEWS

Zephyr Street, Scarness, Q, 4655 | (07) 4124 1271 | info@zpactheatre.com

Rehearsals Revving

With the new year upon us, Z-PAC News is pleased to hear that rehearsals for the first 2015 production are well underway. Ray Lawler's Australian classic play, *The Summer of the Seventeenth Doll* is directed by Judith La Forest (involved in her 4th production in a row!).

Judith has cast a stellar company of Fraser Coast favourites: Jonathan Dunn; Mark Thomson; Tamara Bailey; Janene Sweetnam; Stuart Wates; and Taylor Dunn. Tickets can be purchased online from <http://www.zpactheatre.com/booking.html>

Coming Soon

- Feb 5 **Members Night**
- Feb 7 **Theatre Workshops**
- Feb 27 **Summer of the
Seventeenth Doll
Opening Night**
- Mar 5 **Z-PAC Annual
General Meeting**
- Mar 14 **Summer of the
Seventeenth Doll
Closing Night**



Jovial Jubilee

Z-PAC Theatre is now officially 50 years old! The theatre celebrated in style with a special production just for the occasion, new member recognition and a live band (pictured below). There were a number of special guests, many regular members performing as well as some brand new ones.

State MP, Ted Sorenson, was present to help commemorate the jubilee. Mr Sorenson gave a comprehensive speech on the significance of the theatre to the community and recalled the Theatre's history. The Theatre's Vice-President, Steve Dixon was the evening's Master of Ceremonies, doing a tremendous job keeping the evening flowing at a steady pace and on time.

Liane Kidd, Z-PAC's Promotions officer spoke on the Theatre's history and introduced the commemorative plaques: for every production, an engraved plaque now hangs on the wall of the theatre with the cast, director and stage manager's names.

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Addictive Acting

Z-PAC's Youth Theatre programme has been revived thanks to fellow member Tamara Bailey and her private drama school, *Addictive Dramatics*. *Addictive Dramatics* harnesses children's love of creativity, channeling their boundless energy toward learning and building constructive life skills.

Student drama classes are held regularly to teach acting skills, stage presence, confidence and belief in their own abilities. These interactive classes are held by experienced Hervey Bay drama teachers dedicated to building young actors and actresses into confident and talented individuals.

There will be three classes across various age groups. Class sign-up is the 3rd and 4th of Feb.

One Act Play Festival

Z-PAC Theatre is seeking expressions of interest for members to organise and adjudicate the first One Act Play Festival. The festival is scheduled to take place at the theatre on June 20th and 21st. It is open to all local Fraser Coast high schools, theatre groups and private drama schools. Contact the Committee if interested.

Spanning 50 years, this ambitious project of recognition is not complete, but funding will be sought to do so in the near future. The Theatre's committee received a generous grant from the RSL, courtesy of former President and Life Member, Suzanne Geddes, to begin the project, which the audience and members were thrilled to behold.

Z-PAC's President, Michael Ware, also spoke on the significance of the theatre to the community and introduced the Z-PAC Theatre's Life Members Board. "There was a little controversy over the complete list, but that was soon rectified after the unveiling and will be hung once the new names are printed," the President stated.

To celebrate the Theatre's birthday, Z-PAC organised a variety show of song, sketches and improvisational comedy. The regulars returned to the stage with many memorable sketches, both old and new. Brad Chapman opened the ceremony with his address as HRH Queen Elizabeth II (pictured below). The stage was fortunate enough to grace some fresh young talent in the likes of Sam Shepard, who wowed audiences and wooed the girls with his guitar and vocal skills. The theatre sports portion of the evening had the audience in stitches, with Brad Chapman and Michael Ware, doing their best to keep up with first-timer Chris Hetherton.



The final act saw a collaboration of Z-PAC regulars perform a live reading of the Richard Curtis and Ben Elton classic, *Blackadder's Christmas Carol*. Stuart Waters had the audience in tears laughing as the title character. Particular note must go to newcomer David Spriggs who trod the boards for the first time as the Spirit of Christmas.

To wrap up the evening, the audience, cast and crew were treated to a special bonus performance of the Fraser Coast's favourite professional band, *Soul City*.

Technical Technique

Prior to *Yes, Prime Minister*, the choir microphones were re-positioned and wired for maximum effect, achieving greater volume without feedback. During rehearsals for *YPM*, the sound board became un-reliable and failed. Thanks to a loan from *Stage Rats* the theatre made do until a brand new one was purchased; at a bargain price and with more channels and effects capabilities (this also fixed Foyer sound issues). As a result, gains will be able to be set higher, giving more sound control and quality.

All the microphones were tested and some were found to be faulty and will be replaced in the new year. The Gobi-lights (movers) have been cleaned and tested and re fully operational, awaiting new bulbs. They have been wired up permanently as has the wireless mic system. Technical Co-ordinator, Wayne Jones, would like to meet with directors prior to rehearsals so the technical team can program the cues and the effects that the director envisions for their production.

Positions Vacant

The theatre is looking for assistance with Front of House - door/ticket sales, the kitchen, ushering and the bar during our productions. The Z-PAC Theatre is also looking for some big, strong, muscular 'he-men' types to help build/construct sets, props and to lend a hand on Tuesdays. Any help would be most appreciated.

Yielding Year

With 2014 drawing to a close, there are many members who are worked hard throughout it and are happy to move into 2015. There were two shows affected by casting troubles, and two affected by health concerns and personal tragedy; coupled with a depleted treasury, a small youth theatre, and a change in management, it was a hard struggle for much of 2014, but the Theatre persevered.

The real bread-winners were *Hoovering on the Edge* and *Yes, Prime Minister*, bringing in over \$11,000 profit to the theatre from over 1000 patrons. The Youth Theatre has been rejuvenated with the amalgamation of Z-PAC and *Addictive Dramatics*. There are a few new faces around the theatre with many new members putting up their hand to help out on the Front of House team. With an exciting programme for 2015, next year couldn't look more promising.

ATTENTION ACTORS:

Due to the popularity of response, a second audition for La Cage Aux Folles will be held on Saturday, Jan 31st from 12pm. Prepare one verse and chorus of a song. Auditions are by appointment; phone Brad on 0433-481-746 to book. Details of parts required can be found on the Z-PAC website.



**Z-PAC Theatre Presents,
in Association with Curtis Brown Pty Ltd**

RAY LAWLER'S
Summer OF THE
Seventeenth
DOLL



**Directed by
Judith La Forest**

**February 27th – March 15th
Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30pm
Sundays at 2:00pm**

**Tickets available soon at www.zpactheatre.com
Proudly supported by Big Screen Cinemas, Hervey Bay**