



# Stages

Issue 3 March 2009

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**CAN YOU SPELL S-Y-Z-Y-G-Y?**

The 25th Annual Putnam County  
**SPELLING BEE**

Music & Lyrics by William Finn  
 Book by Rachel Sheinkin  
 Conceived by Rebecca Feldman  
 Additional Material by Jay Reiss

Directed by Kimberley Shaw

66      11      42      37      3      69

A-D-U-L-T-S \$25  
 C-O-N-C-E-S-S-I-O-N \$20

SOME ADULT CONTENT

May 8, 9, 14, 15, 16, 17, 21,  
 22, 23, 24, 28, 29, 30, 2009  
 All shows at 8pm, except Sunday 17th and Sunday 24th at 7pm

Hackett Hall, Draper St Floreat

BOCS - 9484 1133 - www.bocs.com.au  
 Playlovers - 0415 777 173 - bookings@playlovers.com.au

Playlovers

Originally produced on Broadway by David Stone, James L. Nederlander, Barbara Whitman, Patric Catullo Barrington Stage Company, Second Stage Theatre  
 BY ARRANGEMENT WITH HAL LEONARD AUSTRALIA PTY LTD EXCLUSIVE AGENT FOR MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL (NY)

**TICKETS ON SALE NOW !!!**

**FEATURING:**  
 Vicki Kirkman,  
 Chris Gerrish,  
 Manuao TeAotonga,  
 Tammy Woolrych,  
 Lauchlan Bain,  
 Breeahn Jones,  
 Jeanette Teh,  
 Tyler Jones,  
 Joshua Brant.

**Season:**  
 May 8, 9, 14-17,  
 21-24, 28-30.

**BOOKINGS:**  
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 0415 777 173  
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 playlovers.org.au

or  
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 www.bocs.com.au

**more info pg 3**

# THANK YOU !!!

**QUIZ NIGHT**  
**FRIDAY 27th FEBRUARY '09**  
 7.00pm - doors open  
 8.00pm - questions start  
**HACKETT HALL**  
 Draper St, Floreat  
**\$20**  
 ALCOHOL & SOFT DRINKS AVAILABLE AT THE BAR  
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**VICTORIAN BUSH FIRE APPEALS**  
 through the Father Brian Morrison Crisis Care Centre  
 & Victorian RSPCA  
 PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY



**Thanks**

*"I love my dictionary - and I love the indented border. Every word's in alphabetical order - ergo, lost things always can be found."*

From "The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee"

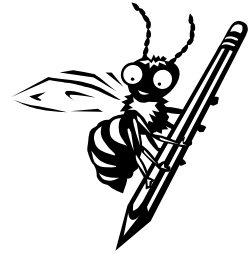
Hi All. I would like to thank all those people who came to the bushfire appeal quiz night. In total we raised \$3802. I have spoken to Father Brian and he is very happy with the goods people donated and the \$1901 his organisation will receive. The rest will be going to RSPCA Victoria. I would also like to thank those beautiful people who helped out on the night and to those generous people and organisations who donated prizes. It was a great night for a wonderful cause! Keep having fun! Janelle

## Playlovers' Playbill for 2009

<b>"I HATE HAMLET"</b>  Directed by James Hough Neilson  March 13 - 28	<b>"THE 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE"</b>  Directed by Kimberley Shaw May 8 - 30	<b>"THE HISTORY BOYS"</b>  Directed by Bev Jackson-Hooper July 10 - 25	<b>"THE TALENTED MR RIPLEY"</b>  Directed by John Milson September 11-26	<b>"RUTHLESS"</b>  Directed by Tyler Jones November 6 - 28	<b>Christmas Show</b>  incl. Plover Awards  December 11 - 13
<b>COMPLETED</b>	<b>In Rehearsal</b>	<b>Auditions Soon</b>			

# SPELLING BEE

SPELLING BEE is coming soon and it's not all about spelling. What is a kick line top hat and tails? ... ah the magic of theatre.



From the talented team who brought you *Eurobeat* and *Seussical the Musical*, along with our tiered seating – this show is going to be speckie !!



For Playlovers' May 2009 season:

## ***The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee***

Music and Lyrics by William Finn  
Book by Rachel Sheinkin  
Director - Kimberley Shaw

*Spelling Bee*, a musical comedy, centres around a fictional spelling bee set in a geographically ambiguous Putnam Valley Middle School. Six quirky adolescents compete in the Bee, run by three equally-quirky grown-ups.

Described by the New York Times as "i-r-r-e-s-i-s-t-i-b-l-e" and "o-u-t-r-a-g-e-o-u-s-l-y funny", this Tony-award winning musical follows the fortunes of six adolescents (played by adults) competing in the final stages of the Putnam County spelling competition.

As these socially-awkward over-achievers learn about winning and losing, they are supported (or not) by equally idiosyncratic grown-ups.

All the archetypes are here, from overly-tutored and hot-housed children to pushy and overly ambitious parents. When it opened on Broadway on 2005, the show earned rave reviews and won two Tony awards, including Best Book of a Musical.



## **THE GREEN ROOM is BACK !!!**

The Green Room team are back in 2009 with an online monthly edition showcasing WA's vibrant community theatre. Online videos and theatre news.

**APRIL EDITION IS ONLINE NOW !**

[www.greenroomtv.info](http://www.greenroomtv.info)

## A REVIEW...

### "I DON'T REALLY HATE HAMLET"



Every now and then, I make a spur of the moment decision to go and see a play – as I did last night. I took pot luck and without booking a ticket (naughty me!) toddled off to see “I Hate Hamlet”, renown Director James Hough Neilson’s latest offering at Playlovers, and I am very glad I did.

This hilarious romp through the trials and tribulations of a TV soap star making his theatrical debut as the lead in Shakespeare’s classic tragedy “Hamlet” is a masterpiece from whichever angle you view it. Impeccably directed, cast, staged, lit, audio-enhanced and performed there was not one fault that could be counted as detrimental. To be honest - I was hard pressed to find fault at all! But don’t take my word for it. This comment after the show came from a “first-time-at-theatre-in-Perth” punter: “I have seen shows of much lesser quality on the West End in London that I have payed a hell of a lot more to watch. This was fantastic!”

The season opened last week (the ominous Friday 13th) and thankfully I could find very little evidence of the dreaded \*2nd Night Syndrome\* that we hear so much about. Yes, the performers were a bit hesitant and just a smidgen under par as the show opened, but I can assure you it was only a matter of a very brief minute before they hit their stride and were firing on all 8 cylinders!

This is a fast paced work and it is essential that the actors stay in perfect timing with one another and the audience responses otherwise the whole effect of the conversational banter between the characters is lost.

Likewise there are subtleties and gestures throughout this play that are so real in everyday of our lives that we take them for granted without realising just how much language the body conveys. Nothing in this piece is overplayed or understated, at all times “The Hough” has excersised masterful control over the players he chose to tell his story and indeed the entire cast of six comprising: Andrew Symes as TV soap star “Andrew Rally”, Emma Shaw as his virginal girlfriend “Diedre McDavey”, Susan Marsh as his agent “Lillian Troy”, Tim Fraser as the money hungry TV Director “Gary Peter Lefkowitz”, Michael Hodgen as “the ghost of John Barrymore” and Texas born new comer to Perth theatre, Courtney Nyhuis as real estate agent “Felicia Dantine”, function as a well oiled machine, working in perfect harmony with each other to bring this tale to life.

But this is not “just a comedy”, there is something in this play for everyone, actor and punter alike. The ordeals “Rally”(an Americanism of “Raleigh” perhaps?) faces as he attempts to play what is arguably “the best role ever written” for an actor will endear him to you all. Among the clever and witty comedy, Andrew as “Rally” movingly displays a nervousness and anxiety that will be familiar to anyone that has ever dared to step outside their comfort zone and try something new Emma’s “Deidre” is a beautiful mixture of childish exuberance (think “Annie”) and zany antics (think “Annie, Get Your Gun”). This skillful young performer brings an almost “Perils of Pauline” style quality to the production and is adored by every guy in the room.

Susan Marsh’s “Lillian” is a cross between Lilly Marlene and Marlene Dietrich. She is the epitome of grace and poise, and yet carries a toughness that is borne of “Lillian’s” Germanic upbringing and obvious struggle to persuade “Rally” to be more than he is.

Tim Fraser is terrific as the dollar driven “Lefkowitz” (You don’t perform art - YOU BUY IT!) who just doesn’t get why people want to do something purely for the passion. Courtney Nyhuis’ debut as the clairvoyant real estate agent “Felicia” is a play all of its own. Her hilarious “trance like estate” will have you rolling in the aisle, and her conversation with “Mom” is, although a little one sided, a treat to watch and hear.

The portrayal of the late “John Barrymore” ( The greatest American Ham - let) by Michael Hodgen is truly magnificent. From the classic entry pose right down to the exaggerated codpiece (wait and see!!!) this man is a perfect caricature of Barrymore. His “larger than life” mannerisms and stentorian voice bring this erstwhile “ghost” undeniably to life, While the actors no doubt hold the audience mesmerised throughout the production, the highpoint of the evening would have to be the sword duel between Barrymore and Rally. Uncredited in the programme, this highly choreographed fight is most swash-buckling stage combat I have seen in ages.

No production, no matter how good, can be seen without lights or heard without sound and the Audio/Visual team of Terry Tinsley, Gordon Barnett and John Woolrych have worked their own specific brand of technical wizardry to enhance this production to a level that rivals many “professional” shows.

For my money, this a great night out and certainly a show not to be missed! Well done Mr. Neilson and team

## AUDITIONS – *The History Boys*

Written by one of the UK's best modern writers, *The History Boys* follows an unruly bunch of sharp, talented, witty British school-boys in pursuit of sex, sport and a place at university.

A maverick English teacher and the young and shrewd supply teacher, with opposing viewpoints on education, engage in a battle to get the boys into Oxford and Cambridge Universities.

With a headmaster obsessed with results, a history teacher who thinks he's a fool and the anarchy of adolescence, this play raises questions about history and how you teach it; about education and its purpose.

It takes a tragic turn of events for the boys to recognise some of the lessons that they had been taught and to realize how those lessons would impact, not only their choices, but the rest of their lives.

This ensemble play is set in Sheffield in 1983 at Cutlers Grammar School

**Cast Required:** all ages given are stage ages

**Teachers** - All university trained with upper class English educated voices

Headmaster - 50s. A Hull man

Hector - near retirement so 60+. Affable and eccentric. A Sheffield man.

Dorothy Lintott - 50s. History teacher. Durham.

Irwin - fresh out of university, 20s, temporary contract teacher. Oxford?

**Students** - all 8 of them are Sheffield bred but there is cultural diversity within the group representative of England. The boys speak with broader less refined accents

Stage ages 18 -19

Dakin

Posner/man - the singer

Scripps - competent pianist

Rudge

Lockwood

Akthar

Timms

Crowther



**Reading:** Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March - (optional but very rewarding)

**Auditions: Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April**

I would like to do the auditions in groups of 8 to 10 with a mix of ages. The audition will include reading from sections of the play and some role-playing.

First audition- 1 to 2pm

Second audition 2.15 to 3.15

Third audition 3.30 to 4.30

Call backs Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April at 7.

Please ring Bev Jackson-Hooper to book an audition time.

I am happy to answer any questions.

Hope to see lots there, as it is a great play.

Bev Jackson-Hooper ph 9383 9560 email: b.hooper@bigpond.com

# CONGRATULATIONS to everyone involved in the terrific and hilarious production of "I Hate Hamlet".

## PICS FROM "I HATE HAMLET"



*"A man is not old until regrets take the place of dreams."*  
~ John Barrymore



*"Doubt thou the stars are fire;  
Doubt that the sun doth move;  
Doubt truth to be a liar;  
But never doubt I love."  
~ Hamlet  
William Shakespeare*

## Auditions Elsewhere

### **"The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole"**

a comedy by Sue Townsend  
 directed by Ailsa Travers  
 Stirling Players  
 – Stirling Theatre, Morris Dve, Innaloo  
 Audition: Sat 4 April  
 Further Info: Ailsa – ph 9279 1151

### **"The Unexpected Guest"**

a mystery by Agatha Christie  
 directed by Dale James  
 Garrick Theatre  
 16 Meadow St, Guildford  
 Audition: Sat 4 April  
 Further Info: Dale ph 9389 7565

**For more information on Auditions and What's On Out & About**

Theatre Australia [www.theatre.asn.au](http://www.theatre.asn.au)

or

TAZ Entertainment [www.tazentertainment.com.au](http://www.tazentertainment.com.au)

## What's On Elsewhere

### **"Play On" – Rockingham Theatre Co.**

a comedy by Rick Abbott, directed by David Heckingbottom  
 The Castle, 8 Attwood Way, Rockingham  
 Dates: March 27-29\*, April 3-5\*  
 Time: shows @ 7.30pm, except Sun Mar 29 & Ap 5 @ 2pm  
 Tix: \$18/\$16 **Bookings: 9592 3464**

### **"Tip Toe Through the Tombstones" – Garrick Th.**

a comedy by Norman Robbins, directed by Lynne Devenish  
 16 Meadow St, Guildford (behind Guildford Town Hall)  
 Dates: April 3-5\*, 9-11, 16-18.  
 Time: all 8pm, except Sun 5<sup>th</sup> @ 2pm  
 Tix: \$16/\$14 **Bookings: 9379 9400**

### **"Absent Friends" – Melville Theatre**

written by Alan Ayckbourn, directed by Sue Hayward  
 cnr Stock Rd & Canning Hwy, Palmyra  
 Dates: April 24 – 26\*, April 30 – May 2, 7 - 9  
 Time: all 8pm, except Sun 26<sup>th</sup> @ 2pm  
 Tix: \$17/\$13 **Bookings: 9330 4565**

### **"Bannockburn – The Almost True Story" – a lad in sane productions**

a comedy written & directed by John Grimshaw  
 Phoenix Theatre, Joe Cooper Rec, Pomfret St, Spearwood  
 Dates: April 29 – May 2, 6 - 9  
 Time: all shows commence 8pm **Bookings: 9355 5591**

### **"Brown Acid" – Blak Yak**

a comedy by Martin Lindsay, directed by Nick Donald  
 Subiaco Arts Centre, 180 Hamersley Rd, Subiaco  
 Dates: April 15 – 18, 22 - 25  
 Time: all shows at 8pm  
 Tix: \$18/\$14.50 **Bookings: BOCS 9484 1133**

### **"Out of Order" – Wanneroo Repertory Club**

a comedy by Ray Cooney, directed by Sue Mainwaring  
 Limelight Theatre, Civic Drive, Wanneroo  
 Dates: Apr 16 - 18, 22 - 24, 30 - May 2  
 Time: all 8pm Tix: \$18/\$15 **Bookings: 9571 8591**

### **"Sleuth" – Harbour Theatre**

a mystery by Anthony Shaffer,  
 directed by Dannielle Ashton  
 cnr Cantonment & Parry Sts, Fremantle  
 Dates: May 1 - 4, 6, 8, 9, 13, 15, 16  
 Time: all shows @ 8pm  
 Tix: \$18/\$16 **Bookings: BOCS 9484 1133**

### **"We Happy Few" – Old Mill Theatre**

a comedy/drama by Imogen Stubbs,  
 directed by Simon James  
 cnr Mends St & Mill Point Rd, South Perth  
 Dates: May 1, 2, 7-10\*, 13-16  
 Time: all 8pm, except Sun 10<sup>th</sup> @ 2pm  
 Tix: \$20/\$15 **Bookings: 9367 8719**

### **"Sugar Daddies" – Darlington Theatre Players**

a dark play by Alan Ayckbourn, directed by Peter Clark  
 Marloo Theatre, Marloo Rd, Greenmount  
 Dates: May 6, 8, 9, 13, 15, 16, 20, 22, 23  
 Time: all shows commence 8pm  
 Tix: \$16/\$14 **Bookings: 9255 1783**

### **"Dad's Army" – Kalamunda Dramatic Society**

a comedy by Jimmy Perry & David Croft  
 Directed by Anita Bound  
 KADS, Town Square Theatre, Barber St, Kalamunda  
 Dates: May 8-10\*, 13, 15-17, 20, 22 - 24, 27, 29, 30  
 Time: shows @ 8pm, except Sunday's @ 2pm  
 Tix: \$15/\$13 or Sat \$20 incl Fish n Chip Supper  
**Bookings: 9293 2621**

### **"Flapper" – Stirling Players**

a musical comedy directed by Peta Flanigan  
 Stirling Theatre, Morris Place, Innaloo  
 Dates: May 8-10\*, 14-17\*, 21-23  
 Time: shows @ 8pm, except Sun 10 & 17 @ 2pm  
 Tix: \$20/\$16 **Bookings: BOCS 9484 1133**

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## “The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee”

**PERFORMANCE DATES 2009:**

May 8, 9, 14, 15, 16, 17, 21, 22, 23, 24, 28, 29, 30

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

Playlovers 0415 777 173 [bookings@playlovers.org.au](mailto:bookings@playlovers.org.au)

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Box Office	Robert Vincent	9472 0222; 0413 000 336
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Bar	Kevan Hook	0419 831 643
Theatre Maintenance	Tony Ridout	9446 6592
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	Claudette Ridout	9446 6592
Newsletter Editor	Graeme Johnson	0415 044 413
<b>Ex-Officio Members:</b>		
Sound/Lighting	John Woolrych	
Nedlands Council Liaison	Terry Tinsley	

Committee 2009