



Po Box 51  
Belconnen ACT 2616  
[phoenix\\_players@yahoo.com.au](mailto:phoenix_players@yahoo.com.au)  
[www.phoenixplayers.com.au](http://www.phoenixplayers.com.au)

PRESIDENT: Kelda McManus 0407 411 102  
EDITORS  
Peita Chappell [peitachappell@hotmail.com](mailto:peitachappell@hotmail.com)  
Dim Ristevski [midriski@gmail.com](mailto:midriski@gmail.com)

## Now Showing...

Editor's message for the festive season .....	1
Theatrical Superstitions – Whistling Backstage .....	1
Phoenix players AGM.....	2
Theatre around Canberra in January/ February 2013.....	4
Canberra Area Theatre Awards (CATS) Nomination Dinner - 10 December 2012.....	3
Upcoming shows.....	4
Sudoku.....	4
Membership Reminder .....	4

## EDITOR'S MESSAGE FOR THE FESTIVE SEASON

The festive season is upon us and so if you're not currently involved in a show it's time to sit back and relax for a few week's before we need to return to reality. If you are involved in a show you'll probably be spending some of the festive season practicing your 'step ball change', or 'do re me's', or perhaps making sure your back stage blacks are still black.



Well what ever you intend on doing, do it safely. They don't call it the silly season for nothing. If you're travelling, keep your eyes open and don't forget to take breaks. If you're staying around town, best keep some identification in your wallet or purse so the taxi driver knows where he's taking you. If you're unfortunate enough to be getting a lift in the blue taxi may as well test the accoustics in the back of the wagon...it's not every day you get your own portable private dressing room. Assuming they haven't auditioned anyone before you!

Anyway, wishing you all the timeless treasures of Christmas, the warmth of home, the love of family and the company of good friends. May 2013 be filled with lots new opportunities and good cheer.

*Peita Chappell & Dim Ristevski*

## THEATRICAL SUPERSTITIONS – WHISTLING BACKSTAGE

Whistling backstage is a taboo because it supposedly brings dire results. This superstition quite likely has its roots in the past when managers hired sailors to run the fly loft, on the premise that the sailors' expertise with knots and raising and lowering sails made them ideal workers. A signal system of whistles cued the sailors. Someone whistling for personal enjoyment could sound like a cue, resulting in a dire event like a heavy batten falling on actors' heads. Therefore whistling can be bad luck.

This is akin to clapping backstage. One never claps backstage, goes this superstition, because it brings bad luck. Again, the roots are founded in signals to crews, a noise like clapping might cue the fly loft crew to execute a shift, with distinctly unfortunate results.





**PHOENIX PLAYERS AGM**

The Phoenix Players Annual General Meeting was held on the 16 October 2012 in the Barbara Byrne Room at the Canberra Labor Club, Belconnen.

Once the guns had stopped and the smoke had settled the new committee was left standing.

- President** Kelda McManus
- Vice President** Judy Satrapa
- Treasurer** Sean Ladlow
- Secretary** Annette Sharpe
- Assistant Secretary** Jennie Norberry
- Member** Pam McManus
- Member** Peita Chappell
- Member** Dim Ristevski



The new committee with Mary Porter

The following awards were presented.

**Michael Thomas Award**

This award recognises a member that contributes to a show in a manner that reflects the Quiet Achiever attitude of the late Michael Thomas.

This member provides services beyond the role they play, or the production position they hold. They complete these additional tasks in a friendly manner and do so without expectation of reward. A true Quiet Achiever.

**Nominations**

*Mike and Roslyn Hall – Wizard of Oz*

Mike and Roslyn (Roszy) are nominated for this award for the assistance they provided to the show above and beyond those expected by family members of a performer in a Phoenix Players show. Mike and Roszy came along to working bees and designed and constructed the

tree costumes. They also were backstage performing running repairs throughout the show. We were also fortunate in Mike’s electrical skills with cheerfully volunteering his time and expertise to wrangle lighting for the broom in a way that was visually impressive, and safe and easy to operate. Likewise he assisted with maintenance of the Jitterbug eyes, checking and changing batteries as required.

*Adam Salter – How to succeed in Business Without Really Trying (Recipient)*

Adam was nominated for this award for his contribution during How to succeed in Business Without Really Trying. In addition to performing the role of Mr Bratt, he assisted his fellow cast in and out of rehearsals to develop their accents. He helped to promote the show on his radio program as well as organising interviews in other segments on 2XX. Adam volunteered to be part of the promotional video for the show and was always thinking of ways we could improve either the show or the casts experience during rehearsals. His genuine nature, generosity and enthusiasm inspired others to work hard on their performances.



The Michael Thomas Award went to Adam Salter presented by Michael Thomas’s father.





**The Ashes**

This award recognises a dedicated member who has committed their time and expertise beyond a particular show, in support of the company of Phoenix Players in their endeavours to provide theatrical opportunity and experience to the community.

“The Ashes” award recognises the contribution of those hard working people behind the scenes, without which our shows would just not be possible.

**Nomination**

Gaby Schmid was nominated for the Ashes Award and was voted the winner unanimously by the Committee.

This award was presented by Mary Porter patron of Phoenix Players.



Adam Salter, Mary Porter and Mike Hall

**The Chris Boyldew Memorial Award**

The Phoenix Players committee is pleased to announce in 2009 a new memorial award to acknowledge the contribution of one of our life members, Mr Chris Boyldew.

Chris was an inaugural member of Phoenix Players. He was our first president and directed our first show *Salad Days*. Chris continued to support the company as a performer, set builder and avid fundraiser. His enthusiasm and passion for theatre was integral to the development of Phoenix Players as a company.

As Chris was so involved in musical theatre and supported new and up and coming members it is fitting that this award acknowledges youth achievement in musical theatre.

**Nomination**

*Nicola Hall*

In *The Wizard of Oz* Nicola showed dedication and maturity preparing for her role as Dorothy. This is a demanding role that required her to be on stage for the majority of the show. She ensured that the children’s cast felt comfortable working with her in their scenes and equally built good rapport with the adult cast. Nicola spent a lot of time building a relationship with the Cairn Terrier Lily who played Toto and ensured she was cared for between their scenes. Taking on such a major role at a young age did not go to her head and she pitched in with other cast members helping at working bees to build set and props. Nicola also demonstrated a degree of maturity beyond her years in the promotional interviews she undertook for the show.

Nicola will no doubt continue in her career in theatre and as already appeared in other productions and recently landed the role of Maria in the forthcoming *West Side Story*. We are very pleased that her first “out of school” production was with Phoenix and we hope her experiences with us provided a great basis for her theatrical future.

Mary Porter presented the award, which was accepted by Mike Hall in Nicola’s absence.

**SUDOKU**

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## CANBERRA AREA THEATRE AWARDS (CATS) NOMINATION DINNER - 10 DECEMBER 2012

Phoenix were the lucky recipients of a 2012 ACTEWAGL CAT Awards Winner 2012 Judges



Choice Award for well-designed, easily readable and interesting program that suited the period of *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*.

Phoenix would like to thank *2B Advertising & Design, Gaby Schmid, and Kelda McManus* for their assistance with the program.

We are thrilled to congratulate the following people on their nominations for Phoenix Players production *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*.

- **Vanessa De Jager** – nominated in the category Best Actress in a leading role in a Musical for her performance as *Rosemary*; and
- **Richard Block** – nominated for the Patricia Kelson Encouragement Award for first time directing and creative PR leading up to the production

Congratulations and Best of Luck to all nominees.

## UPCOMING SHOWS



Phoenix is excited to announce our show for 2013, "ANNIE".

### Synopsis

Leapin' Lizards! The popular comic strip heroine takes center stage in one of the world's best-loved musicals.

With equal measures of pluck and positivity, little orphan ANNIE charms everyone's hearts, despite a next-to-nothing start in 1930s New York City. She is determined to find her parents, who abandoned her years ago on the doorstep of a New York City Orphanage run by the cruel, embittered Miss Hannigan.

With the help of the other girls in the Orphanage, ANNIE escapes to the wondrous and magical world of NYC. In adventure after fun-filled adventure, ANNIE foils Miss Hannigan's evil machinations and befriends President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. She finds a new home and family in billionaire Oliver Warbucks, his personal secretary Grace Farrell, and a lovable mutt named Sandy.

A family show full of comedy, catchy songs and lot of heart. More information, including advice about auditions will be in your next edition of Spotlight in the New Year.

## THEATRE AROUND CANBERRA IN JANUARY/ FEBRUARY 2013

**"Winnie the Pooh"** (Free Rain Theatre)  
Courtyard Studio, Canberra Theatre  
10 -20 January 2013

**"Les Miserables"** (Canberra Philo presents)  
Erindale Theatre,  
21 February – 16 March 2013

## MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

Don't forget to renew your membership, or join if you are new to Phoenix Players!

Everyone in a Phoenix show needs to be a member to be covered by insurance. And there are also some other great benefits:

- Regular updates via Spotlight, including advanced notice about shows and auditions
- Tickets to Phoenix shows at member prices
- **Southern Cross Health Club** – \$199 joining fee waived for Phoenix members
- **Belconnen Stationery** –15% discount on all personal purchases and a 15% discount on the first trade purchase (i.e. business) made by Phoenix members
- **Instant Colour Press** – 15% off all personal purchases and a 15% discount of the first trade purchase for all new clients.

So send in your membership form now!

The membership application/renewal form can be found on our website at

<http://www.phoenixplayers.com.au/images/membershipform.pdf>

