**In The Wings**  
**a monthly glance at the Wagga School of Arts Community Theatre**

**DECEMBER 2012**

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| ***And so we say farewell to 2012***  It’s been a busy year all round – a range of well-received productions through April, August and October; the introduction of a February Sunday program to start the year in a lighthearted way; a new venue for the Ten x 10 Play Festival at the Commercial Club; signing of the lease with Wagga City Council for our Basement premises after more than three years of negotiation so providing us with security of tenure in the area we have occupied for almost 50 years.  There is a busy year ahead in 2013 and we look forward to members’ involvement in what is hoped to be an exciting and entertaining program.  As noted in last month’s newsletter, **2012 will conclude with a Christmas dinner gathering at the Pavilion at 7 pm next Saturday 8 December.**  **The cost is just $25 per person, for a traditional Christmas menu of a roast plus Christmas dessert. The committee has decided to make a significant contribution towards the evening’s drinks. Please advise the SoACT Office as soon as possible if you will be coming along.**    **To all members and friends of SoACT**  **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**    **Play Readings**  Our new venture into regular play readings got off to a good start with a reading of Calendar Girls on 14 November.  Calendar Girls was a popular movie in 2004, starring such names as Helen Mirren, Annette Crosby and Julie Waters.  So those at the play reading relished the opportunity to give their take on the roles. It was the first read of the script for most attending, but the good thing about play readings is there is no pressure to “find” characters straight away, and everyone enjoys the fun.  More play readings are planned for next year and we would welcome suggestions of possible scripts.  ++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++  **Vale Joyce Holmes**  A life member of the School of Arts, Joyce Holmes, died recently at the age of 104.  She will always be remembered as the director of our first public full-length play – Home and Beauty, in May 1945. The play was received enthusiastically, described by the local press as “scintillating comedy” and Mrs Holmes’ direction drew praise. Home and Beauty marked the beginning of a long tradition of presenting fine theatre.  Mrs Holmes was also involved with the Wagga Shakespeare Club and a number of other local organisations. | ***President’s Report***  With next year marking the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Wagga Civic Theatre and planned productions, displays and celebrations, it is important to reflect on our organisation’s pivotal role in the establishment of the Theatre.  In 1959, the Wagga Wagga School of Arts donated the then substantial sum of more than 57,000 pounds – the result of the sale of its assets, a property in Fitzmaurice Street. The money was handed over to the Wagga City Council towards the construction of the Civic Theatre, representing approximately 35 percent of the total estimated cost of the theatre.  Our 153-years history is a proud one and we hope the 2013 theatre celebrations provide recognition of our long role in Wagga’s cultural life and, more specifically, the history of the Civic Theatre.  **Best wishes from the Committee:**  President: Nancy Blacklow  Secretary: Vacant  Treasurer: Margaret Bannister  Committee members: Tony Trench, Fay Walters. Alana Teasdale, Jan Farndale, Jackson Balme and Bob Hitchens.  ***Calling all playwrights***  Yes, planning is already under way for the 2013 Ten x 10 Play Fest.  The call has gone out for short plays to be submitted and quite a few have arrived at the SoACT office.  The Play Fest will be held on June 7, 8 and 9 at the Wagga Commercial Club.  The club has again given its strong support to this festival and, as noted in last month’s newsletter, we are encouraging members to join the Wagga RSL/Commercial Club (just $5 for a year’s subscription to both clubs) as a thank you for the club’s generosity.    **xxxxXXXXxxxx**  A final reminder for members to renew their subscriptions and so be eligible to join in the coming activities.  $30 Family, $20 Adults, $15 Concessions and Students, $10 School Students  Cash or cheque to Wagga School of Arts or direct debit is available by emailing [contact@soact.com.au](mailto:contact@soact.com.au) for details. |