

SHOWBUZZ

Encore
Theatre Company

e-Newsletter
January 2009

Hair, There & Everywhere!

Just over 40 years ago out-of-work actors Gerome Ragni and James Rado decided to create a play about life on the streets around them in New York.

It was the height of the Vietnam War. Young people had hippie attitudes and were protesting loudly about the alarming casualty rate of soldiers sent to fight in a long, grinding conflict.

Ragni and Rado wanted to capture this atmosphere of anti-war protest, drug-taking and alternative lifestyles. Inviting former Canadian church organist and composer Galt MacDermot to write some songs, what came out of this collaboration was *Hair*, the "tribal rock musical".

Hair ran for four years in New York, with the show being staged in London and Sydney and elsewhere as its reputation for high-energy entertainment, powerful rock songs and ballads and anti-war spin gathered momentum.

For baby boomers around the world *Hair* was emblematic of their lives — here was a show that provided a voice of protest against an increasingly unpopular war, a celebration of sexual freedom, and an affirmation of the youth culture that combined rock and popular music with the drug and hippie subculture of the time.

Even the brief, but always controversial, appearance onstage of the cast without their clothes was a kind of liberation — a defiance of conventions that had previously confined public nudity to the visual arts and never to the heightened reality of the theatre. The nude scene is also credited with liberating the theatre from repressive censorship laws in both Britain and Australia.

Now, with Australia still involved in conflicts around the globe, including Iraq and Afghanistan, *Hair* remains as a powerful reminder that it is young people who fight wars and young people who become its casualties.

According to *Hair* director, Jamie Hillard, "When *Hair* first premiered people were looking for change. There was an unpopular president, an unnecessary war... it's not difficult to see resonances between the story of *Hair* and Australia and the world's past 12 months with the peoples' desire for change. I believe audiences will embrace the chance the revisit the Age of Aquarius with us."

THREE EASY WAYS TO BOOK!

ONLINE: www.theatrenorth.com.au

PHONE: 6323 3666

IN PERSON: At the Princess Theatre

DOOR SALES: If a performance is not sold out, all remaining seats will be on sale at the door from 7pm nightly

SEASON: 4-14 February at the Annexe Theatre



ABOVE: The cast of *Hair* filming the opening sequences of the show in Prince's Park

MORE SHOWBUZZ

Creativity

Innovation

Excellence

Encore Theatre Company Inc.

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Book online NOW for

Hair:

The Original Rock Musical

www.theatrenorth.com.au

Or call 6323 3666

Encore Superstars

Driven by a shared passion for the arts, Encore Theatre Company Inc. is run entirely by a dedicated team of volunteers.

And put quite simply, Encore would not exist without their goodwill and input.

Each month Encore will highlight the efforts of a member of their team, and this month we would like you to meet Win Gray.

For more than 2 decades Launceston theatres have played host to an almost ever-ending array of costumes that have been designed, constructed or co-ordinated by Win.

Her talents first came to the fore with Launceston Light Opera Society in 1987 when she was asked to assist with outfitting the fellas in *Waltzes from Vienna*. From there she has repeatedly lent her talents to a variety of local companies and productions and cites her favourite show as being Launceston Players *Les Miserables* in 2001.

She is an active and enthusiastic member of the *Colonial Strollers*, which she describes as a group of friends who enjoy donning period costumes and adding to the atmosphere of local events ranging from the Evandale Village Fair to the Westbury St Patrick's Day Festival and a variety of Heritage Days at colonial residences.

Most recently she coordinated the costumes for Encore's *The Sound of Music* and has enjoyed the challenges of creating appropriate outfits that can be quickly shed for "that scene" in *Hair*.

Congratulations & thankyou to our newest **Encore Superstar...**
Win Gray!



Are you any good in the dark?

If that's not too personal a question, of course!

Because if you can navigate in half-light, then former-Nun Phillipa Simmons would like to hear from you!

Phillipa is putting together the front-of-house team for *Hair*'s season at the Annexe Theatre, and if you can spare some time during the run (Feb 4-14) then she'd love to hear from you. Just drop you contact details to Encore and we'll pass them on to Phillipa.

Email: encoretheatre@hotmail.com

BYO Caftans! *Torches supplied...*



WHAT'S ON in LAUNCESTON

In need of a night out? Then try these...

5-14 Feb 2009 **Hair** presented by Encore Theatre Company at the Annexe Theatre Inveresk
Tickets on sale from the Princess Theatre box office or online at www.theatrenorth.com.au

Adults \$27 Concession/Students \$22

In your next SHOWBUZZ... It's 'un-dress' rehearsal time...

This community theatre production of *Hair* is by arrangement with Tams Witmark Music Library, Inc