



**Encore**  
Theatre Company

# SHOWBUZZ

MARCH 2010  
Extra Edition

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

A TRIUMPH • P.1

EPI-BLOG NEWS • P.2

THEATRICAL REVIEW • P.3

WHAT'S ON • P.4

## "A TRIUMPH"

Marcus Bower, THE SUNDAY EXAMINER



Creativity  
Innovation  
Excellence

### The Final Battle for Tickets is ON NOW

The critics and the audiences have spoken in the very best way possible. Encore's Les Miz is a huge hit with all concerned, and to date the audiences will total almost 6,000 (and still climbing)!

The Theatre North Box Office has been inundated with ticket requests and with just 5 shows to go if you haven't organised your tickets, what are you waiting for? For Marcus Bower's full theatrical review please turn to page 3.

Enquiries

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#### HOW TO WIN THE TICKETS WAR:

- ONLINE: [www.theatrenorth.com.au](http://www.theatrenorth.com.au)
- IN PERSON: Princess Theatre Box Office
- PHONE: 6323 3666
- DOOR SALES: Nightly from 6pm, Saturday matinee door sales from 10am

PO Box 951 LAUNCESTON 7250  
ABN: 78 571 056 515  
[encoretheatre@hotmail.com](mailto:encoretheatre@hotmail.com)

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# Les Mis-Construction!

In 2010  
Seeing is  
Believing

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Les Misérables

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Served?

Disney's Beauty  
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Boy's Own  
McBeth

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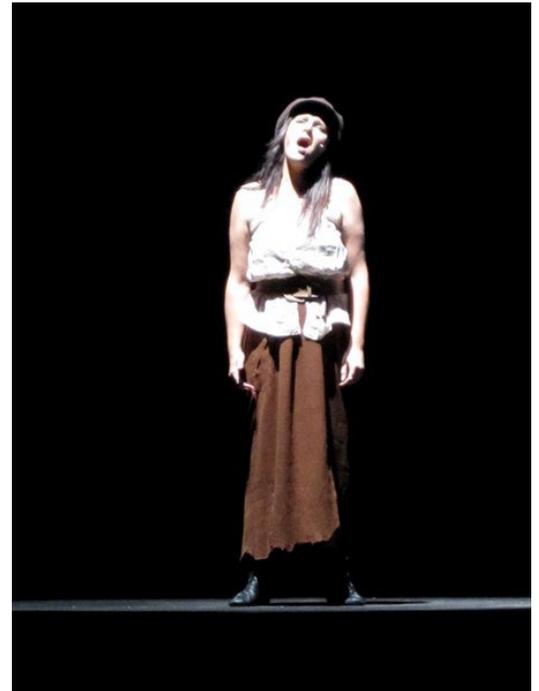
Before Eponine's final Epi-Blog in your next SHOWBUZZ, there's fantastic news to share...

One of the most popular songs in the Les Mis score is the power-ballad On My Own, and it is the hands of Natalie Bramich as she performs the role of the tragic Eponine.

However, what Natalie didn't realise until only recently was that she would never be singing the song on her own, because every night onstage she knows that she has company in the form of her twin babies.

Discovering her pregnancy only recently, she has shared the happy news with the cast and knows that if she were only a couple of weeks further along she may have had to withdraw from the hit production.

"There's a definite baby bump – or two – going on under my costumes," she says with a laugh. "But honestly, my husband Mark and I are thrilled and I am savouring every moment in the show, knowing that I am going to have a fantastic story to tell my kids in years to come about what I got up to while I was pregnant."



## Audience Feedback

Fantastic work - you were all superb - made me shed a few tears. Michelle O'Byrne, Minister for the Arts

Congratulations to the whole team on a triumph. Marc McCreadie, Sea FM

Congratulations on your wonderful production of Les Miserables, I attended the Saturday night performance and was moved, amazed and impressed by the quality of talent, direction, sound and design of the performance.  
Georgie Todman

Congratulations to you and everyone involved in the magnificent production of Les Miserables. I enjoyed it immensely. The singing, acting, sets, costumes and lighting were remarkable and the whole production was quite outstanding. I am very much looking forward to seeing the production again on Thursday night.  
Don Wing MLC, Member for Launceston, Legislative Council

It was just wonderful - and I feel privileged to have been able to attend such an outstanding, professional show.  
Gaye Willox

## Les Miserables delivers goods

Theatre Review by Marcus Bower, The Sunday Examiner, 14 March 2010. Reprinted courtesy The Examiner.

Encore Theatre Company hit all the right notes on Friday when it presented *Les Miserables* at The Princess Theatre. Directed by Liz Bennett and boasting a cast of seasoned singers and an equally skilled production team, *Les Mis* shone on opening night.

One of the great musical melodramas of its time it is an epic tale of love, sacrifice, oppression and hope set against the backdrop of a French Revolution. Given its theatrical pedigree and the artistic demands this show presented, comparisons would and could be made; however, Bennett's production was, on nearly every level, an extremely polished and professional affair.

It is to Encore's credit that this musical possessed a look, a sound and a feel that lifted it to new heights in local musical theatre. While it could be argued that the singing occasionally outshone the acting and that some of the work was too declamatory, the energy, commitment and attention to detail were unquestionable.

Bennett, along with the indefatigable Matt Dudfield and the equally talented Di Summers harnessed and directed the talents of a cast that rose to the musical challenges put forward by Alain Boublil, Claude-Michel Schonberg and Herbert Kretzmar. Dean Cocker was outstanding as Javert while Natalie Bramich, Ross Marsden, Travis Hennessey and Matthew Garwood had a marvellous presence and invested their characters with feeling and conviction. John de Jong and Di Briffa had complete control of the musical score while Belinda J King's reprise of Madame Thernadier was a crowd pleaser and Heidi Cooper was perfectly cast as Cosette.

The talented and vocally secure company had a superb theatrical platform on which to perform thanks to the work of Lighting Designer Darren Willmott and Set Designer James Walker. The look they were able to create and in particular the atmospheric lighting states Willmott devised to compliment Walker's sets were simply outstanding. Add to this Win Gray and Amanda Papworth's work as Costume Coordinators and the picture within the proscenium was complete.

Bennett's *Les Miserables* was in so many ways a triumph. It was a sweepingly lyrical and emotionally charged production that has raised the bar - yet again - in local musical theatre. Encore Co-Production Managers Jamie Hillard and BJ King have clearly invested a great deal of time and money into this production and it shows.

*Les Miserables* runs until this Saturday and is a musical experience not to be missed.



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## Encore Superstars

Encore is extremely grateful to the numerous people who contribute to and make up their organisation.

Not only does Encore salute their efforts, each month they highlight members of their invaluable team.

This month's Encore Superstar is not one person, but a whole team.

The Les Miserables crew who have gone beyond the barricade, as well as over and under it, to bring 19<sup>th</sup> century France to life on the Princess stage.

Thanks to all the team for your tireless efforts!



## ON SALE NOW

The Princess Theatre Box Office has been very busy with Les Miz tickets with final shows all well on the way to being SOLD OUT. Have you secured your tickets yet?

3 easy ways to book:

ONLINE: [www.theatrenorth.com.au](http://www.theatrenorth.com.au)  
PHONE: 6323 3666  
IN PERSON: Princess Theatre Box Office

*Don't  
Miz out!*



## WHAT'S ON in TASSIE?

Buy Locally & support your own theatre companies!

12-20 March Les Misérables presented by Encore Theatre Company at the Princess Theatre  
NOTE: PLEASE BE ON TIME - a 20 minute lock out applies to all latecomers

12-20 March A Slice of Saturday Night presented by G-String Productions at the Longford Town Hall

24-26 March Reality the Musical presented by Launceston Church Grammar School.