



# Maitland Gilbert and Sullivan and Musical Society Inc.

ABN: 86 753 292 289

## March 2013 – Newsletter

(Newsletter Editor – Aaron Taylor)

### **GIRL POWER: “LITTLE WOMEN” – AN ASTONISHING SUCCESS!**

Our October 2012 season of “Little Women” was a great success for the Society! It was the perfect end to a highly successful year (with a successful run of “The Mikado” earlier in the year as well as “Nunsense II”).

The Society wishes to extend a very big thank you to all of those that comprised the creative and production team for this show. Massive thanks must also go to the highly talented cast we had for this show. We had many new members join us and it was an amazing boost for the Society to have so many talented people involved in the show!

### **SMOOTH SAILING FOR “PINAFORE”**

Rehearsals for our next production of “HMS Pinafore” are back in full swing after the cast had their Christmas break. This will be a modern production of the classic G&S operetta and will be directed by Jeanette Massey, with Ian Massey returning to the role of Musical Director. Amber Lewis & Freya Atkinson will ensure that modern and entertaining choreography put just the right twist on the show to appeal to modern audiences.

HMS Pinafore will tour three venues on the following dates:

- Maitland Town Hall:
  - Weds 15<sup>th</sup> May, 8pm
  - Fri 17<sup>th</sup> May, 8pm
  - Sat 18<sup>th</sup> May, 8pm
  - Sun 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2pm
- Hawks Nest Community Centre:
  - Sat 25<sup>th</sup> May, 7:30pm
  - Sun 26<sup>th</sup> May, 1:30pm
- Dungog Theatre
  - Sat 1<sup>st</sup> June, 8pm
  - Sun 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2pm

### **SHOWSTOPPERS!!!**

“Les Miserable”, “Fame”, “Chicago”, “A Chorus Line”, “RENT”, “Wicked”, “The Phantom of the Opera”, and many more of your favourite Broadway and West End musicals will be showcased in this all singing, all dancing, non-stop show!

The reasoning behind this concert is to display the high level of talent that we have in our Society in some epic numbers from some of the most famous musicals in existence! It is also going to raise funds that will assist us in producing our massive 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary season in 2014.

This is a very exciting venture for our Society and the committee wishes to extend a very big thank you to Angie Hutchison, Stuart Ussher and Daniel Dow for organising it.

Showstoppers will perform at:

- Maitland City Bowling Club
  - Sat July 20<sup>th</sup>, 8pm
  - Sun July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2pm
- Hawks Nest Community Centre
  - Sat July 28<sup>th</sup>, 8pm
  - Sun July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2pm
- East Cessnock Bowling Club
  - Sat August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 8pm
  - Sun August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2pm

### **CONCERT FOR ANNE ARMSTRONG**

As many of our members already know, our long time pianist and devoted life member, Anne Armstrong, now lives at the Broughton St Nursing Home in Rutherford. We thought it would be nice to take some music there for the residents to enjoy. If you are interested in performing some sing-a-long musical numbers on **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2013**, please contact Angie Hutchison at [a\\_hutchison@hotmail.com](mailto:a_hutchison@hotmail.com).

## **ATTEND THE TALE OF "SWEENEY TODD"**

Keeping with our goal to keep a variety of genres of shows, we will be staging "Sweeney Todd" this October! The directive team from "Little Women" will assemble again to put together this show. Aaron Taylor (Director) and Callan Creed (Musical Director) are excited to work together once again and look forward to producing another successful show. We are also excited to announce that Freya Atkinson will be the choreographer for this show! After interning in this role in two previous productions, it will be great for Freya to step up and do this solo.

Auditions will be held June 5, 6 & 7 from 7:30pm at Maitland Gaol. Audition material for principal parts and a character list can be found on our website at [www.mgasams.org](http://www.mgasams.org). To book an audition please email us at [admin@mgasams.org](mailto:admin@mgasams.org) and include the following details:

- Your name
- Contact number
- Part(s) you would like to audition for
- Date and preferred time for your audition

We will then get back to you with a time slot that suits your time preference as best we can.

We are currently negotiating dates with various venues and will publish these as soon as they are confirmed.

## **"ANNIE" IN THE MIDDLE**

We are constantly reflecting on the way we run the Society and are always looking for ways to improve what we do. As a result from the committee's recent review of our production seasons, we have decided to trial a January production in 2014.

To go with the holiday spirit and the fact that this season will occur towards the end of the school holidays, we have secured the rights to "ANNIE" which will be directed by Amber Lewis. This will be a sentimental journey for Amber as the last time we produced the show she played the little orphan girl.

More information about this production, including audition dates, will be published soon. Please keep an eye on our website and Facebook pages for the latest updates.

## **SUNDAY SWEETS STILL SELLING STRONG**

Coralie and Amber Lewis are still maintaining a successful stall at the Maitland Markets on the first Sunday of every month! This a great way for the Society to keep regular contact with the public

and raise much needed funds by selling cupcakes, cakes, muffins and other sweets at the stall. You are welcome to stop by and have a chat and buy some of these amazing, home-cooked, treats at very reasonable prices.

For our October season of "Sweeney Todd" we will be exploring ways of further developing our marketing strategies, including perhaps having tickets available for purchase from the stall through a new ticketing system we are looking at implementing for this production.

## **2013-14: A SEASON TO REMEMBER**

As you will be aware, 2014 will be the Society's 50<sup>th</sup> year in operation. As well as having exciting plans in place to mark this occasion, we have also created a bigger season to keep us all busy during the year! Included with this newsletter is a copy of our season brochure with information about our upcoming productions. Also included is a flyer for our next production, HMS PINAFORE, as well as one for SHOWSTOPPERS, which is on in July/August.

## **GOVERNMENT GRANT: GEOFF GAINS G&S GANG A DIMMER RACK**

Thanks to Geoff McLaren's successful grant application, the Society was recently granted funds to put towards updating our lighting technology. The committee has allocated these funds to purchasing a dimmer rack and new lighting control computer software.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Congratulations to several of our valued members, including Freya Atkinson and Dain Watts, who were in the cast for the recent production of "Chicago" staged by SNAP Productions at the Hunter Theatre in Broadmeadow.
- The Society would like to congratulate two of our members, Angie Hutchison and Stuart Ussher, on the recent announcement of their engagement! We wish you both the very best for your future together.
- Past member, Corey Boyd, has been successful in getting into the second round of this year's "X-Factor". Well done, Corey!
- Aaron Taylor, will be working with The National Theatre Company to stage the Hunter Valley & Newcastle premiere of the hit musical "13" in April/May with an all-teenage cast. This show will be staged at the Singleton Civic Centre in April and at the Newcastle Civic Playhouse in May. More information can be found at their website [www.tntc.org.au](http://www.tntc.org.au).