

PROGRAMME

THEATRE IN THE PARK presents



A Play
by
Ray Cooney

Run for Your Wife!

By Special
Arrangement
with
Dominie P/L



NO
OVERTAKING
ON
BRIDGE

NO
PASSING
ON
BRIDGE

STOP



A Brooklyn Community Theatre Production

Friday 21st Nov. 8.00 pm 2003.

www.hawkesbury-river.com.au/theatre



Ticket

About the Play

RUN FOR YOUR WIFE

"A frolic? It is much more than that, it is a triumph. The brilliance of the structure, the imaginative joy, the scope for comic acting... put this entertainment at the top of the hardest of all theatrical trees to climb - that of farce." *Daily Telegraph*

Ray Cooney's much-acclaimed comedy for six men and two women was seen at the Shaftesbury Theatre, London, with Richard Briers, Bernard Cribbens and Bill Pertwee and has been a smash-hit launch for The Theatre Comedy Company. John Smith is a London cabbie with his own taxi, a wife in Streatham, a wife in Wimbledon - and a knife-edge schedule! By strict adherence to this schedule, he has been successful, if tired, bigamist for three years. But one day, gallantly intervening in a mugging, he is taken to hospital with a mild concussion. In the ensuing complications, aided by an unwilling Stanley, John tries bravely to cope with a succession of well-meaning but prying policemen, the press, two increasingly irate wives and a very gay neighbour, until he manfully confesses the truth - but no one believes him!

The play will be presented in two acts with a 20 minute intermission. Refreshments will be available.

Our Sponsors

Without our sponsors this event would not be possible and we are indebted to the support of the following people:

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About the Director

Peter Hughes began his stage career writing and performing in comedy revues, before invading overseas disguised as a tour guide. On returning home, he graduated from The Australian Playhouse Studio in 1994. Peter's stage performances include leading roles in *Picnic* at the Figtree Theatre; *Death in Paris* and *The Good Doctor* at the Riverside Theatre. He later toured *Educating Rita*, *Playing Sinatra*, *The Dragon's Tail* and *The Star Spangled Girl* with his own ensemble, Encore Theatre Company. Peter discovers his deep well of talent from the Angler's Rest Casting Agency. "Where some of the great acts are performed nightly!"



About the Producer

Ray Bontoft, Captain of the Brooklyn Rural Fire Brigade, has been an enthusiastic producer of events ranging from fireworks displays to live theatre. It is not surprising he is a co-founder of Theatre in the Park. Ray is convinced this event could only happen in an area such as this. "After all, where else will a community turn out to build a stage for their own one-night-a-year performance?" Ray believes the event goes with a bang because it is a family picnic, a party and great live theatre. "Of course, all the necessary planning is conducted at the 'office', the Angler's Rest, which you will note has been mentioned several times in this programme, a sponsor in more ways than one," he chuckles.

THE CAST



Catherine Pignegy as Mary Smith
Catherine says she is more used to hiding behind a musical instrument when on stage, being a piano player and teacher from way back. This is her third role in Theatre in the Park, where she distinguished herself and widened her dramatic range. As she lives up the river, she observes wryly that she finds rehearsals for the play a very good excuse to get her onto dry land.



Ailie McMurdo as Barbara Smith
Ailie, our youngest cast member, has lived on Dangar Island for 12 years and adores the Hawkesbury River. She has been involved with drama for almost her whole life, starting with school plays at Brooklyn School. She joined Helen O'Grady's Children's Drama Academy before being talent-scouted for this production



Gary Robertson as John Smith
"A guitar in one hand and a book in the other. There is too much poet and dreamer in that boy - he'll never amount to much," the teachers said. Gary is a bookworm and minstrel-at-large, working around the river has encouraged him to go more with the flow. When he hits the odd shipwreck, his solution is simple - he refuses to grow up! Fortunately for the stage, where his star shines brightly.



Greg Upfold as Det Sgt Troughton
Greg's first foray down to Brooklyn from Cowan was earlier this year when he was drafted (and lagedered - often) into the Brooklyn over-35 soccer team. He was advised by the club president (director Peter Hughes) that his football skills might be better used on the stage. Greg feels privileged to be part of the play and is enjoying his stage experience.

in Order of Appearance



Steve Pearson as Stanley Gardner

Steve's introduction to theatre came when Peter Hughes tapped him on the shoulder at the Angler's Rest and said "Hey, mate, do you want to be in our play?" Steve took two sips and decided to give it a go, to much acclaim in three years at Theatre in the Park, and has since branched out to tackle other roles with theatre companies across the Central Coast. "It's good to be back," he says.



Al Shoemith as the Reporter

Al is a man of many talents - father, poet, friend to many, cook, pub masseur and reiki master. He's ready with a poem (and pun) for any occasion, and is a natural healer with a unique understanding of our place in the universe. Al tells many weird and wonderful stories of growing up on the river in Brooklyn, some of them printable. This role is his debut on stage.



Greg Wilson as Det Sgt Porterhouse

This musician came to Brooklyn about four years ago "to find some peace and quiet". He's still looking. Greg teaches gardening and landscaping and plays with several musical groups. He has played with the New Theatre in the musical *Reedy River*, but thinks his best acting has been after a night at the Angler's Rest trying to explain to his wife Jackie where he thinks he was - and why.



Bernie Leo as Bobby Franklyn

Bernie came to Brooklyn nine years ago and immediately fell in love with the town, the river and the people. One of his short stories made the final cut in an international competition this year. His hobbies include playing golf appallingly, following horse racing, theatre, film, and reading as many books as possible. He decided to appear in the play after Peter Hughes put something funny in his drink.

The Crew

Front of House Manager.....Ray James

Stage Manager.....Steve Jones

Sound Engineer..... Mark Hurndell

Lighting Engineer.....Peter Mudie

Publicity.....Sarah Macklin

Graphic Design.....Bodine Amerikah

Technical Support.....Alan Mcilvrde

Stage Construction Manager... Hugh Boyland

A special thankyou to the all that helped with
the stage construction.

With Special Thanks

- Peat Island Centre.....rehearsal facility
- Hornsby Shire Council.....stage base
park infrastructure
- Hornsby Rural Fire Service.....catering vehicle
projection equipment
poster printing
- Razzle Dazzle Studio.....sound & lighting
- Phil Grosvenor.....printing consultant
- Noel Castley.....announcement recording
- Window Pzazz
Steve and Kath Burgers.....banners
- Joel Gibbons.....banner artwork
- Darryl Manning.....T shirt art programming
- Whitelight Technology
Scott Graham.....website
- Allan Pratt.....stage equipment
- Brooklyn Public School &
P&C.....flyer printing/ ticket sales
- Peppers Brooklyn Kiosk.....ticket sales
- Michael Bowling.....stage material

and to all who gave their time and help!

Brooklyn Community Theatre

Theatre in the Park came into being five years ago in the unique Hawkesbury River community, home to many talented and colourful personalities living among this scenic backdrop.

The concept of a theatre group emerged from discussions between Ray Bontoft and Peter Hughes after the community lost its live entertainment options when the area's only hall was closed.

From those talks, a theatrical opportunity has evolved, giving the chance for all community members to take part at any level in creating a local event. Even the simplest form, being involved in a play has given people a sense of personal achievement, pride and equity in the final result.

Theatre in the Park was conceived with an outdoor stage and a vision for a family picnic-style atmosphere where everyone can enjoy quality live theatre.

This vision of a community-driven theatre came to fruition with the enormous success of the first production in 1999, when some 480 people joined the festivities. This year will be the fifth production and with last year's audience close to 600-strong, organisers hope for a large crowd for this single performance.

Brooklyn Community Theatre is a volunteer non-profit group operating through its patron, the volunteer Brooklyn Rural Fire Brigade.

Ticket pricing ensures the event remains accessible to all. With donations, both in kind and financial, and ticket sales, we are able to meet our production cost and pass on any surplus to our worthy patron.

The charter of the Brooklyn Community Theatre is administered by producer Ray Bontoft and director Peter Hughes. See our website for details at: www.hawkesbury-river.com.au/theatre