

NEWSLETTER NO 4 –  
NOVEMBER 2021



## Wonderful successes - despite some COVID misfortune

### *Jesus Christ Superstar suffers a blow*

One of the casualties of COVID lockdown, rehearsals for JC came to a sudden halt. There has been much disappointment with this delayed production. We had such a wonderful cast to bring the show to life at the SEC in November this year, with Ron Hawthorne's ambitious staging ideas. After initially thinking we could postpone until next year we now face the situation of not being able to gain the rights for the show in 2022 because of professional productions to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the production in 1972. Any community production is not permitted.

**THANK YOU** to the wonderful cast and musicians who committed many hours of rehearsal and held on because they all knew we had something special in the making.

### *Musical Theatre Workshops conclude*

Emma Hawthorne, Scott Bowcher and Claire Honeywood ran a productive and enjoyable workshop at the Youth Hall in August. The remaining 2 workshops were another of the COVID lockdown casualties. They are now re-scheduled to November 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> for the participants. Participants have been contacted and if they are anything like the first one they will be most enjoyable and informative. Emma is a highly experienced professional musical theatre performer. She has auditioned for, and will be appearing onstage in a touring production commencing in January 2022 in Sydney. We're not allowed to say what it is .... yet!

### **Annie in May 2022**

After a number of false starts and Covid delays, we are pleased to announce that **Annie will finally be staged in May 2022** at the Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre.

Plans are already underway for auditions in November. They will be held on the weekend of **13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> November** for Orphans (including 'Annie'), and on **20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> November** for older character roles.



Due to the time delay and changing circumstances for many of the original cast from 2019, **all roles are open for auditioning** with fantastic opportunities for both MALE and FEMALE performers. New faces are always welcome!

The minimum age to be in the show is 8 years old, and there is no maximum age. Annie and her Orphan friends need to have a believable stage age of 7 to 14 years. They need to be able to sing, dance and act confidently, and the ability to tap dance is an advantage. Adults need to have a believable stage age of 17 and older, and also need to be able to sing in harmonies as well as act and move confidently on stage.

**If you are interested in auditioning for a role** there is a **narrated slide show presentation** of information about rehearsals and auditions, and the important details of how to book an audition. This can be accessed on **our Facebook page**; there are links on **our webpage**.

*It is wonderful to see audition spaces filling already. **Don't hesitate**; applications close on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November for Orphans (including Annie) and Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November for Ensemble and Adult roles.*

If you are unable to attend the auditions in person but would like to be considered, there are alternative ways to audition.

**Email any enquiries to [annie@amtc.org.au](mailto:annie@amtc.org.au)**

## Wanna know what JAM are hatching for 2022??

It's funny, it's tuneful, it's got great leading roles, there's plenty of opportunity for ensemble work. The costumes are fun...

JAM, that's – Junior Albatross Musicals, just in case you didn't know! We are looking forward to another fun filled year at JAM developing musical theatre skills, creating a production and just having good fun!!

**The JAM 2022 information session will take place on Wednesday 16th February 2022.** Our weekly program starts shortly after that, so you can settle into school for a few weeks and then start JAM. It was little different last year because covid cut our plans short ... we are planning several weeks of skill development workshops in 2022 and then we work toward a full stage production at the Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre in October school holidays.

Once again, JAM will meet on Wednesdays after school at the Nowra School of Arts – there's plenty of space to meet as one big group, or to break out into smaller group spaces, there's no wasted time. The team spends considerable time devising a weekly schedule, so all children are involved in rotating activities, not sitting around watching. They'll always come home buzzing, never saying "didn't do much". We think we've hit on a perfect formula and limit our age groups from 10 to 15 years old - this differentiation allows younger children to feel comfortable with great older role models, without any intimidation.

JAM shows are chosen with many thoughts in mind – analysing the take home messages in the script, suitability for the age of the actors, the music has to be fabulous of course, and the show must be

suitable for modifying for a large ensemble. Our Director creatively makes sure every child has something special to contribute to the show. It's not just about how popular or how well known the work is. (Although our JAM shows have indeed been great ticket sellers, *Alice in Wonderland* was sold out, even though only local people could attend last year).

We are proud that the JAM program is backed by Albatross Musical Theatre's nearly 50 years of musical theatre creation. AMTC has considerable capacity to support wonderful productions of professional quality sets, lighting and costumes - and our facilitators have qualifications and experience in teaching music, dance and drama. JAM fosters the spirit that we are all cogs turning the same wheel, working together as a team – for the love of it all, not for a profit.

JAM provides the program to the children of our community free of charge, for the love of musical theatre. The cost of the script is the only necessary investment, apart from your time commitment! All children, regardless of experience or abilities are accepted into JAM. Everyone will be in the show, without an audition. We have the expertise to apply educational accommodations in our program to make sure your child has a great experience.

Creating together and learning the tangible elements needed for musical theatre also helps in the development of persistence, resilience, and in the growth of confidence and discipline. Your children can also make friendships with those from different schools and learn from people we have chosen as great role models. These are the aspects of JAM of which we are most proud!

JAM is looking forward to producing another award-winning show in 2022. Did you know our 2019 production of *Aladdin* won 'Best Youth Musical' production AND 'Best Direction of a Youth Musical' at the Canberra Area Theatre Awards? And our 3 Fionas from *Shrek* were invited to perform in the 2018 Awards night? Mmmm, wondering now if our sensational 2021 *Alice in Wonderland* will feature in the awards list this year?



Our 2022 JAM production!  
Adapted for young performers, with music by George Stiles and the book and lyrics by Anthony Drewe (*Mary Poppins and Wind in the Willows*), *Honk! Jr.* is a heart-warming celebration of being different. Based on the story *The Ugly Duckling* by Hans Christian Andersen, the full musical *HONK!* won the Olivier Award for Best Musical in 2000.

## See you at the JAM 2022 information session on Wednesday 16th February 2022

A community organisation such as ours runs with many fabulous helpers. We have a large family of supporters who give time and creative thought and physical labour to the many facets of any production. Look at these ***Alice in Wonderland Dress Rehearsal*** photos and you'll see the level of detail in set pieces, props and costuming. All of this is done by volunteers.





Some of our volunteers are acknowledged in the show program –



Kristy Lochrin and Genevieve Coulthart Scenic Artists and Set Construction Manager Oli Gait

**Our Junior JAM Production crew/helpers**



L to R: Marieke O'Neill, Tom Hodgkins, Mia Harris, Cruz Turner, Naomi Parker, Rommey Hazell, Jamie Parker, Makenzie Bonney, Tylor Shorter, Brayden Collison, Ryan Dowers. Absent: Paige Clarke, Isabella Harkness, Luc-Pierre Tannous

There were many more parent helpers involved with JAM, among them – Terrie Bolton, Belan Walsh, Beth Heard, Miriam Williams, Anne Dewsbury, Tina Tebbutt, Kim Willett, Wendy Colman, Mel Sater, Liza Hodgkins, Gina and Norm Black, Rachel and Craig Larsen, Bessie Weissel, Hetty Petre, Dom and Helen Cooper and Wes Lochrin and others ... sorry if we missed your contribution in this list.

Whether it was providing food and refreshments, sewing skills, painting and construction, supervising, moving things, cleaning or other necessary activities – we want you to know we value your input to the show production –

**THANK YOU!**

A special shout out to Shenae Bolton and Ellie Cooper who assumed special **understudy cast roles**, something you dread having to do with shows. COVID lockdown prevented some Illawarra and Shellharbour resident cast members attending. It was a sad situation to have to put understudies in place. We thank Shenae and Ellie for their concerted efforts, and we thank James Tebbutt who rehearsed but did not get to perform the Dormouse role.

### ***JAM extras***

JAM have been approached by Imogen Clarke, in her capacity as a Nowra Show girl entrant, to develop and perform in a small item for the Nowra Show based on the concept of the food process **‘Paddock to Plate’**.

**Julia Armstrong has written the script** and will direct 12 children with the assistance of Paul Fraser overseeing the **music which has been made available to us from the ABC George the Farmer series**. Looking forward to having a little bit of fun before the summer holidays. If anyone wants to join in, please contact Julia Armstrong on 0411436350, the more the merrier!!

### ***Changes to AMTC Constitution***

AMTC working practices have been evolving over time and we now find that they are out of step with our original Constitution. The Constitution is a mandatory legal document required for community organisations. It governs the way we can work. The last amendments to our Constitution were made in 1999. This is before we moved to the SEC, before we commenced doing more than one production each year, and before we had JAM in place. Our community profile is now more significant and involves many more players than were in the Company when it started in 1975. We need to bring our Constitution into line with our contemporary practices.

We have had a Committee working group poring through the details and carefully formatting the document. We have compared the AMTC constitution to the State Government model.

**Our next step is to bring our newly formed constitution to the membership for approval, possibly at the 2022 AGM in February.**

There will be further notice to members if this is an achievable timeframe. We need to have our Constitution in place to govern and support our activities and practices. You all have the chance to review and vote for our suggested changes. Please make your voice heard.



## **We can't wait to tell you some exciting production news for October-November 2022**

But... like all copyrighted shows, we are not allowed to announce the show publicly until we have official 'go ahead' .....

### ***Learn some new skills!***

Albatross Musical Theatre Company is excited to offer some professional development opportunities for its members who are over the age of 18. We can offer 4 different members the chance to choose from 4 NIDA courses that are being taught online via zoom from the end of November to December.

These include:

[The Art of Costume Design](#)

[The Art of Set Design](#)

[The Art of Lighting Design](#)

[Producing for Theatre and Live Performances](#)

These courses are valued at between \$250 and \$300 and this cost will be paid for by Albatross Musical Theatre Company with funding from the Shoalhaven Arts Board. Please fill in the Google Form linked in our Facebook or by copying the link below for your chance to be selected to upskill! **Applications close on the 10th November.** (If courses have been filled by NIDA by the time applications close, we may give you the choice to choose another course of similar value).

<https://tinyurl.com/ejtkddys>

AMTC have been invited to be represented in the **Berry Christmas Parade**. Members are welcome to come march through Berry with our banners and flyers. A social occasion and a chance to promote our next shows. Meet at the Berry Showground by 2:45pm. Contact [secretary@amtc.org.au](mailto:secretary@amtc.org.au) for further info.

**Grand Christmas Street Parade**  
**Saturday 4 December**  
 It starts at 3pm.  
 Starts from the Showground, down Queen St and finishes with Celebration Festivities in Apex Park.

\* Santa Photos (gold coin donation) \* Sausage sizzle, fairy floss, popcorn, drinks and more  
 \* Jumping castle and entertainment  
 COVID PROTOCOLS AT THE TIME APPLY

Rotary Club of Berry

Our last general get together is the planned **Xmas function** on **December 14<sup>th</sup>** at the **Youth Hall** Nowra Showground at 7pm.

Come and join us to celebrate what we've achieved this year, and what's in store for 2022. We would love to see our many AMTC supporters