

September 2008



Cayman Drama Society
at The Prospect Playhouse

Editor—Penny Phillips

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What a Summer!

Since the closing of *A Night of Broadway* on 13th July, there hasn't been a dull moment at the Prospect Playhouse.

As many of you will have noticed, our roadside sign was hit by a car and completely wiped out during the last week of *Watler's War*, and we have been busy negotiating with Vision Marketing/Signs of Paradise to find an affordable replacement. This has now been installed, and looks great—it's bigger than the old one, and includes our new logo. Our grateful thanks to Sallie and John

We have also worked on readying the Playhouse for its annual Liquor License inspection, and are pleased to report that each inspection was passed with flying colours, enabling us to submit our renewal forms to the Board to meet their deadline of 4th August. We now

await their decision on the renewal.

It was also agreed in committee meeting that the foyer needed a "sprucing up" - especially with regard to the flooring cover. The result is that the foyer has been completely repainted in a new colour scheme, a new floor installed, and light fixtures changed and added, now being controlled by dimmers. Two of the wall boards are being retained—one for notices and one to advertise the current production, but the remainder are to become permanent displays of the history of the CDS, now approaching its 40th birthday.

Last but not least was the purchase of new chairs just in time for *A Night of Broadway*. So far, we have received only positive response—the chairs are wider and more cushioned than the old ones, but surprisingly

we can still fit the same number into the auditorium. The majority of the original blue chairs are on sale at CI\$15.00 each—if you are interested in purchasing any, please call the Theatre Manager (Peter Phillips) on 926-2655 or 949-2193.



Above—original roadside sign, after demolition by a car in late June. Below—new sign.



WATLER'S WAR

Our hearty congratulations to Colin Wilson, the playwright/director, and his cast and crew for a very well presented original production. Having formerly been in an original play, I have found that there is something extremely satisfying in being the first to take on a role and make it your own, and the cast of *Watler's War* can be very proud of themselves



for bringing each of the characters to life so convincingly. The scenery, comprising a Caymanian house, a water tower and a

shed, was also utterly convincing and further congratulations are in order to Peter Phillips, Peter Pasold and Paul de Freitas for all the work they put in to the construction, and Jackie Balls and Penny Phillips for painting. The Cayman National Cultural Foundation's loss was our gain in being the first to stage this production.



Some of the dancers enjoying the After Show Party food, 13th July 2008

“To believe we are wonderful and join the CDS....”

Broadway in the Cayman Islands

Following hot on the heels of Watler’s War came *A Night of Broadway*, a concept created by Jackie Balls. She took her senior dancers and choreographed them to various famous theatrical numbers, and invited Alan Hall to put together a group of CDS singers to sing equally famous songs from Broadway shows between dances. The show was a huge success, starting on a Thursday in mid-July and continuing with a Champagne Gala on the Friday, and two more shows on Saturday and Sunday. With full houses every night, at the end of the run it was decided that it would be worth bringing it back

again after the summer holidays, so it returned for a three-night run on 12, 13 and 14 September, again playing to good houses.

The dancers were: Christine Anderson, Tobi Brennan, Sophie Gough, Jessica McDowell, Kirstie McMillan, Alyssa Solomon, Stacie Sybersma, Rachael Zimmer, Anya Belfonte, Gabrielle Myers, Candace & Lexie Freeman, Martina Jackson, Roberta Testori, Brianna Wilson, Claire O’Dea and Kathryn Schirn, with special appearances by Miss Jackie and Roland Stacey. Representing the CDS in the

singing department were: Kate Bowring, Alan Hall, Wendy Moore, Isabella Rooney, Dori Stayton, Neil Rooney, Hannah Wiley and Vanessa Hansen. Chris Bowring provided accompaniment with assistance from Helen Godfrey, and the show was produced by Kerry McMillan. Paul de Freitas constructed the stage-wide stairs which were then painted by Maxine Everson. Peter Phillips stage-managed the production, assisted by Paul de Freitas, while Colin Wilson took care of sound and Doug Marnoch and Valerie Cottier rounded out the crew by handling lights. Well done, everyone!

Two Acts and a Donkey



Ross Grater and Murali Ram put together what can only be described as a totally zany, off-the-wall evening of entertainment! Starring, in no particular order, Ross and Murali them-

selves, Dori Stayton, Angie Grater, Eric Stachelski and Roland Stacey, we were treated to three separate acts separated by intervals, after which a quiz was held to ensure that you were actually paying attention. The opening night—Members Night—on Saturday 20th September was attended by around 40 stalwarts, and a good time appeared to be had by all. Friday 26th September

was “Corporate Night” where teams from various local businesses competed for the quiz prize, and on Saturday 27th we had the *Final Hee-Haw* which allowed the general public to view just how crazy we actually are. This will persuade them to either (a) believe we are wonderful and join the CDS or (b) realize that we belong in a loony bin and avoid us like the plague!

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs

Auditions for this Brothers Grim classic were held on Sunday 28th September at 3.00 p.m. at the Prospect Playhouse. Being directed by Pat Steward, the auditions were very well attended, with the auditorium almost full by 3.15 p.m.. Backstage help will be required, so even if you can’t act or don’t want to act, there might well be something for you to do.



If you would like to help backstage, contact Paul de Freitas, Stage Manager, at : paul@defreitas.info



THE SEARCH IS ON!

In clearing up the foyer to enable the new flooring to be installed, we came across a box of very old photographs of people who were members and various plays performed back in the 1970's. On finding these, it occurred to us that, if we were to put them into frames as montages, they would provide interesting historical views of the Society which we could then display on the foyer wallboards, as we mentioned in passing in the story on page 1.

It also occurred to us that there must be an awful lot of old photos of the Cayman Drama Society's productions, either in stor-

age boxes, photo albums, attics or wherever which, if we asked nicely, might be either donated for the purpose, or loaned, scanned and returned.

With this in mind, if any of our members have photos they would be prepared to lend or donate, preferably with a note to identify the play and actors, it would be greatly appreciated.

What we would like to do is this: Collect as many photos as possible and buy some large frames into which to put them. Have a party at the Playhouse at which groups could work on each montage—labeling, past-

ing, identifying, etc.—and have them hung permanently on the foyer walls. If any of our members would be interested in getting involved in this fun task, please contact Penny Phillips at any of the following numbers: (office) 949-5585 (home) 949-9310 or (mobile) 525-1930, or email her on chairman@cds.ky.

Photos can be black & white or colour, and can be of recent as well as old productions. Once we have completely filled the walls of the foyer, we'll start on the cast lounge/rehearsal room upstairs, so we need as many pictures as we can get.

“If any of our members have photos of CDS productions they would be prepared to lend or donate, please contact Penny”

CDS PATRONS

HONORARY PATRON—Mrs. Mariko Jack

PLATINUM PATRONS (for donations in excess of CI\$5,000) - Peter and Anne Pasold

GOLD PATRONS (for donations of CI\$1,500 to CI\$4,999) - In Memory of Marion Auld;
Anonymous; Michael Parton

SILVER PATRONS (for donations of CI\$1,000 to CI\$1,499) - Visual Arts Society

BRONZE PATRONS (for donations of CI\$500 to CI\$999) - Joyce Cantlay

FRIENDS OF THE THEATRE

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**AND SPECIAL GRATITUDE TO THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION,
TRAINING, EMPLOYMENT, YOUTH, SPORTS AND CULTURE**

Cayman Drama Society

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Share the Show!

The Cayman Drama Society is registered as a “not-for-profit” organization in the Cayman Islands. We promote the dramatic arts in the Cayman Islands, and have done so since our first production in 1970. For more information check out our website shown below.

We're on the web!

www.caymandrama.org.ky

PRODUCTION MEETING

For many years, we have held a “Production Meeting” almost immediately after our Annual General Meeting, to set the productions for the upcoming year. However, it has gradually become apparent that this is not producing the results we envisaged. The main reason that the Production Meeting followed the AGM was that the current Executive Committee felt it was wrong to leave a slate of plays for the new Committee, believing instead that each committee would like to select the plays for their year.

As we stated, this isn't working. So this year we are going to try to set out a production schedule for 2009 early so

that the new Executive Committee will be able to concern itself with the running of the Society without spending the majority of its time trying to find plays to put on. This will also assist our Public Relations and Media subcommittee to pass on information about the year's plays to the media well in advance of their production dates.

With this in mind, we are planning to hold our Production Meeting to set the 2009 schedule of plays in November. As usual, this will take the form of a Friday happy hour, with free snacks and our usual excellent bar prices. As of the time of writing, a date has not been se-

lected, but you will be advised via Masque Mail when the date is set, so start thinking about what you would like to see put on at the Playhouse.

We usually aim for one major musical, one drama, and hopefully two or more comedies. And remember, we don't just want suggestions, we also need directors and producers. There are hundreds of play scripts upstairs in the Playhouse library, so if anyone would like to browse through them before the meeting contact one of the Executive Committee.

