



# Bendigo Theatre Company Newsletter

BTC email: [bendigotheatrecompany@gmail.com](mailto:bendigotheatrecompany@gmail.com)

## Bendigo Theatre Company

presents

# Guys and Dolls

this coming September/October 2024!



### Important Dates

Costume Dept. Helpers & Sewers **every Tuesday 10 – 1pm**  
Wednesday Crew Volunteers **every Wed 9am-12 noon**  
Saturday Crew Volunteers **most Saturdays 9am – 12 noon**  
Treasure Island rehearsals **every Wednesday & Sunday**  
The Curious Incident of the Dog... Audition dates **10 – 12<sup>th</sup> Dec**  
Rotary Carols – BTC Christmas Concert **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December**  
Treasure Island Performance dates **11<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> January 2024**  
Guys and Dolls Expressions of Interest forms due **31<sup>st</sup> Jan**  
The Curious Incident of the Dog... rehearsals **Wed, Fri & Sun**  
The Curious Incident of the Dog... show dates **4 – 14<sup>th</sup> April**

We are calling for Expressions of Interest in all production positions for our company's major musical for 2024!

**Production Manager**

**Director**

**Choreographer**

**Musical Director**

**Vocal Director**

**Stage Manager**

**Assistant Stage Manager**

**Set Designer**

**Scenic Artist**

**Properties Coordinator**

**Costume Designer**

**Costume Coordinator**

**Hair & Makeup Design**

**Set Construction Manager**

**Lighting Engineer**

**Sound Engineer**

**Publicity Manager**

All interested people are to apply via the following address in Google documents by **31<sup>st</sup> of January 2024**

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdMWJMbXWNxVFkIa2hbHfA32RDa9Nn\\_ux16Fu6TeiaF0aB46w/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdMWJMbXWNxVFkIa2hbHfA32RDa9Nn_ux16Fu6TeiaF0aB46w/viewform)

CONGRATULATIONS  
**Ben MacEllen**  
**TENX10**  
**2023 WINNER**  
**PEOPLE'S CHOICE**  
 Best Script  
 "Sunday Fishing"



**PEOPLE'S CHOICE  
 AWARD**


A big congratulation to [Ben MacEllen](#) for winning the People's Choice Award for Best Script in this year's TENX10.

A big thank you to everyone who directed, acted, and worked behind the scenes to bring this production to life. We could not have successful shows if it wasn't for the dedication of our wonderful theatre community.

Thank you to everyone who came along to watch! We value your support tremendously.

Thank you to [Stania Tresize](#) for organising another fabulous TENX10 season. Here's to 2024!!



Some images of some of the TENx10 plays from November 2023 Photos by  BLURR Photographer Elijah Clarke



**TREASURE ISLAND: THE PANTOMIME  
 TICKETS ON-SALE NOW!**

Make sure you grab your tickets for our first production of 2024. What a great way to spend time with the family before the summer holidays come to an end. Plenty of laughs guaranteed! The pantomime crew and cast are all working tirelessly to bring this production to life.

Tickets are available here:

<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1141254>

**BTC**  
 Bendigo Theatre Company  
 presents...

**Treasure Island**  
 THE PANTOMIME  
 Written and directed by Conor Cunningham

**11th-21st January 2024**

**BTC Arts Shed**  
 15-17 Allingham Street, Golden Square

Scan the QR code to book tickets!  
 or visit [www.trybooking.com](http://www.trybooking.com)

**Merry Christmas from Bendigo Theatre Company to you all.  
Have a safe and happy holiday season. We look forward to  
bringing you even more spectacular and diverse BTC  
brilliance in 2024!**

If anyone is familiar with BTC, then you know how busy we are year round! Unlike some who are winding down for the Christmas break, we are currently very busy building and painting sets for Treasure Island – The Pantomime; cast and crew are rehearsing the show to be ship shape on opening night; and everyone is pitching in to have the Arts Shed ready to welcome patrons from January 11<sup>th</sup> 2024! We look forward to welcoming you and seeing you all in the New Year very soon!

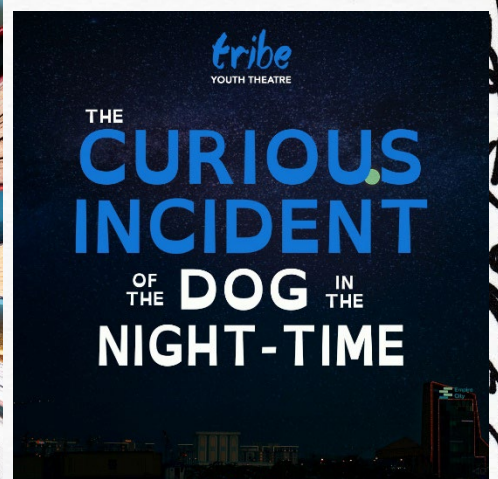


BTC Committee (from left to right): Maureen Fleiner, Jenni Clohesy, Colin Brown, Vern Wall, Stania Tresize, Grant Finlay, Barb Billings, Keva Lloyd, Samantha Lempio-Franklin and Conor Cunningham. Absent - Kerrie Turpie & Thomas Moore

Photo by  BLURR- photographer Elijah Clarke

### **CASUAL PLAY READINGS**

In 2024, in the cooler months, we will launch into our casual play reading evenings. Those interested will be invited to come along and read through a play together, including both classics and published works and unpublished local plays. In preparation for this, we welcome your suggestion of plays to explore. Please write us your suggestions at <https://www.facebook.com/BendigoTheatreCompany>



# Season 2024

On the 10<sup>th</sup> of November BTC announced its Season of offerings for 2024. This is what you can look forward to in the New Year! Also visit our website for more details and links: <https://www.bendigotheatrecompany.org.au/season-2024/>

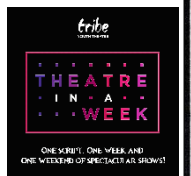
## 2024 Productions:

**Summer Pantomime: "Treasure Island"** Written by our own community and committee member Conor Cunningham, "Treasure Island" retells Robert Louis Stevenson's classic swashbuckling tale of pirates, high seas adventure and the thrilling hunt for the treasure of the Infamous Captain Flint, all through the lens of classic British Pantomime.

**Tribe Drama: "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time"** The theatrical staging of Mark Haddon's 2003 novel. Adapted by Simon Stephens for the National Theatre in London, 2012, the play follows the novel's protagonist, 15-year-old Christopher Boone, as he attempts to untangle a web of deception surrounding the death of a neighbourhood dog, determine whom he can trust, sit for his exams and all while navigating a world not adequately accessible to a neurodiverse child.



**Tribe Education Series: "Theatre In A Week"** Delivered as part of Tribe's "Education Series", Theatre In A Week will take participants through innovative workshops encompassing the entire production process of a stage performance during seven intensive days throughout the mid-year school holidays. Every step, from script analysis and character development, rehearsing, technical production, and stagecraft, culminating in performances of the production at the conclusion of the event. It's a platform for both the seasoned theatre artist and newcomers to come together, collaborate, and create something extraordinary. The show itself will be announced at the Information Night later in the year; keep an eye out for that date when it is confirmed.



**BTC Major Musical: Guys and Dolls** Frank Loesser's "Guys and Dolls" brings the larger-than-life and the glamorous (and sometimes not-so-glamorous) world of illegal gambling dens, glitzy nightclubs and the prim and proper missionaries of New York in the 1930s. Loesser's music and lyrics have stood the test of time, delighting audiences from its first Broadway production in 1950 to the present day. Bendigo Theatre Company is excited to bring "Guys and Dolls" to the Ulumburra stage in September 2024.



**BTC Short Play Series :TenX10** Following Guys and Dolls, we see a return of the long-running Bendigo Theatre Company short play series, TenX10. TenX10 has, year after year, delighted audiences with a versatile and engaging mix of comedy and drama across genres like romance, coming-of-age, science fiction and fantasy, slice-of-life and much more. As a showcase for not only the talent of local Bendigo actors and directors, but also a chance for local writers to showcase their work.

## Additional Offerings in 2024:

- Each Monday night, from 6:30-7:30pm, the B Sharp Chorus rehearses in the Shed Rehearsal Room, learning songs across a wide range of genres and styles. Open to all ages and providing a fun and relaxing opportunity for members to have a sing with each other.
- Also part of Tribe's Education Series, each Thursday night, from 6:30pm, the Level A Youth Chorus offers a chance for members to sing together who are at the beginning of their singing journey as well as more experienced vocalists. Level A will learn about the importance of collaboration and strive for excellence as a diverse group of performers, open to young participants up to 25 years.
- Throughout the year, the Company will be offering workshops on a variety of aspects of stagecraft and theatrical production. Keep an eye out for announcements of these events as the details are confirmed.
- Following the great success of the 2023 offerings, the BTC is pleased to offer a returning series of Showcases, displaying the talents and skills of its membership with performances of singing, musical instrumentals, radio plays and sketches, and any other performance a member wishes to submit.
- Throughout the winter, Bendigo Theatre Company will also be running casual Play Reading events on a weekly basis; participants are invited to come along and read through a play together, including both classics and published works and unpublished local plays.
- Thomas Moore will also be organising evenings where participants can play the Pandemonium Institute's global phenomenon storytelling and social deduction game, "Blood on the Clocktower". Someone in the town of Ravenswood Bluff is a demon; can you find out who? Run for 5 to 15 participants at a time, Blood on the Clocktower places you in either the role of a villager, seeking to parse the truth from the lies from the mad, or in the role of a minion, sowing discord and chaos across the village. Or, perhaps, even as the Demon, trying to fly beneath the radar and gradually whittling down the villagers until you and your minions are the only survivors. Keep an eye out for announcements.



## Showcase #2 in 2023

A few months ago we staged our second Showcase for the year, with huge success. It was a varied and entertaining mix of performances from some very talented individuals. Here are images of some of the acts which performed that night.



# BLURR

**As a dedicated local Bendigo photographer, Elijah Clarke (Blurr) specialises in headshots, portrait sessions, weddings, and events.**

"I am dedicated to providing you with stunning and timeless photographs that tell your unique story. With a passion for helping people look and feel their best in front of the camera, I bring a personal touch to every session. I am committed to delivering high-quality images that you will cherish for a lifetime."

<https://www.facebook.com/blurr.on>



We wish all **Level A Youth Ensemble** attendees and their families a wonderful Christmas and positive New Year. We look forward to coming together in new and different ways in 2024! Look out for more information in the New Year!

### & Level A YOUTH ENSEMBLE

If you are <25 yo and love to sing, come and try this singing group for young people!

Thursdays 6:30pm  
BTC Arts Shed



### BTC ALUMNI ANNOUNCEMENT

Bendigo Theatre Company's committee recognises that a select group of our previous performers have gone on to have professional careers in the Arts industry and in recognition of this, the committee is proud to announce that these Alumni will be recognised through a nomination process. The nomination forms are available on the website

<https://www.bendigotheatrecompany.org.au/about/alumni/>, or contact BTC on

[bendigotheatrecompany@gmail.com](mailto:bendigotheatrecompany@gmail.com) for more information. If you know of people who you believe meet these criteria you are encouraged to complete the form and send to the committee. If the committee approves the nomination they will be formally recognised as an Alumna/Alumnus of the Company. We will also arrange for an honour board to be produced and it will be displayed in a prominent position at the Arts Shed. We are also in the process of completing an honour board for life members and both these boards will be displayed together at the shed.

### B# SHARP COMMUNITY CHOIR

Merry Christmas, and have a safe and happy holiday season from the B# Sharp Chorus!

We are taking a break over the Christmas Holiday season, and look forward to re-grouping again in early 2024. Look out for more information soon!



## The Evolution of “Two and Two Make Sex”!

My ‘love-affair’ with “Two and Two Make Sex” began back in the 1970s, not that long after it was written. At the time, being a newsagent/bookseller, I was accumulating scripts and also theatre books covering many aspects of theatre – set design and construction, furniture styles, costume styles, make-up and lighting principally. Many of the books I indented from the UK and USA as they were not readily available in Australia. My collection is possibly priceless today but it’s there for the benefit of BTC.

Amongst the scripts I have tucked away are dramas, murder-mysteries, comedies, thrillers, period pieces and quite a few farces such as “Two and Two ...”. Some of the plays were performed at the time by my earlier theatre company, Sea Lake Little Theatre Group so I have a pretty good idea which of them ‘work’. We had never done “Two and Two ...” so it was somewhat of a challenge to me to bring it to BTC and I suppose something of a challenge to BTC as well in that I had never directed for our company before.

The initial appeal to me was its nostalgic nature, being set in 1973 but it also involved some quirky humour that evolved as we rehearsed. That humour may not have been the intention of the writers, but I believe it added volumes to the show. It is interesting to note that when it was done professionally in Melbourne in the ‘70s, it was not a great success. In fact, one critic slammed it! Perhaps then it was too close to home but fifty years later we can look back, reflect and laugh as the way life was lived at the time.

After a considerable wait due to COVID, we finally reached a point where we could stage the show. I had had plenty of time to do the ground work with regard to the set design and how the characters would come to life. Sam came on board as my scenic artist and she beautifully decorated the set, transforming our bland set pieces into works of art.

We had a reasonable turn-up to the information night, but I was aware that we were on the short side for auditionees. In fact, we were not able to hold traditional auditions due the lack of numbers. A play-reading was selected as the next best way to find a cast but that too left us a little short. A few taps on the shoulder worked miracles and the wonderful cast that we assembled came forward. All very quickly dropped into their character which made life for the director that much easier! All that remained was a little fine-tuning. Technical support was not so difficult to find, and a ‘dream-team’ was appointed.

Rehearsals ran seamlessly and the cast quickly built relationships both on and off stage. Together we crafted the show with all its quirky bits that proved to everyone what a fabulous play it was. Audiences from opening night to the finale clearly loved the entertainment that we provided, and the last two shows were sell-outs! Any scepticism about the play was quickly dispelled and new patrons of BTC are eagerly awaiting our next production. You can’t do much better than that!

My personal thankyou to the lovely people in the cast, crew and all those willing bodies that pitched in to bring the saucy ‘70s to life.

Written by Director – Keva Lloyd



Photograph supplied by Blurr - Elijah Clarke, and the others by Samantha Lempio-Franklin



## BTC's Christmas Concert are ready to stun audiences at the Rotary Carols in Rosalind Park

Most of the Christmas Concert crew after their final dress rehearsal in front of family and friends on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December.

After weeks of getting together at Bendigo South East Secondary College, the Christmas concert team ran their show for family and friends. It been a busy time with some of the cast also rehearsing for the Panto as well! Led by Claire Sexton who wrote the storyline - based on the poem "T'was the night before Christmas" the team performed an energetic musical show which is now ready to support the Rotary Carols on the 17<sup>th</sup> December.

Claire was responsible for direction / choreography and was assisted by Karin Van Poppel (MD), Jorj Polglase vocal coach, Kelsey Oberon for some choreography as well as Tara Glozier who was all-round assistant to just about everyone!

The team needs to thank Steve Glozier from Glozier Audio Visual for his support, as well as Anita Scott from Scott's Costumes and Mascots. Major support came from Bendigo South East College for their support in allowing us to use their theatre space and break-out spaces. Theatre communities supporting each other.

## Emergency Fire-Safe and Heat-Health Plan for the BTC Arts Shed

When a day is forecast to have *Extreme Weather Conditions* the shed will be closed to all members, volunteers, patrons, hirers and visitors. If a show or event is going to be on a day of 'Extreme Weather' - unfortunately the show/event will be cancelled and the shed will be closed to all. It is a safety requirement by CoGB and BTC Committee of Management, that we carry this out - as it is essential that we put the safety of everyone first.

# SURVIVE THE HEAT

Heat kills more Australians than any other natural disaster



### DRINK WATER

Even if you don't feel thirsty, drink water. Take a bottle with you always.



### HOT CARS KILL

Never leave kids, older people or pets in cars. The temperature inside a parked car can double within minutes.



### KEEP COOL

Seek out air-conditioned buildings, wear your clothes, use a fan, take cool showers and dress in light and loose clothing made from natural fabrics.



### PLAN AHEAD

Schedule activities in the coolest part of the day and avoid exercising in the heat. If you must go out, wear a hat and sunscreen and have a bottle of water with you.



### CHECK IN ON OTHERS

Look after those most at risk in the heat - your neighbour being alone, older people, the young, people with medical conditions and don't forget your pets.

**SURVIVE THE HEAT**  
Visit [betterhealth.vic.gov.au](http://betterhealth.vic.gov.au)

For more information visit the Better Health Channel. Call NURSE-ON-CALL on 1300 60 60 24 or see your doctor if you are unwell. In an emergency, call 000.



## KNOWING THE FIRE DANGER RATINGS COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE

The Australian Fire Danger Rating System has changed, all States and Territories now have the same fire danger ratings.

**Most Total Fire Bans will start at Extreme**, meaning you cannot use machinery or start fires in these conditions on these days. States and Territories will still have their local Fire Danger Seasons and a list of rules to help you understand what you should and shouldn't do on these days.

We know that fires happen in the Australian landscape all the time but Fire Danger Ratings are designed to help you understand the risk of a fire spreading on particular days, and how to stay safe.



### THE FIRE DANGER RATING LEVELS ARE:



#### MODERATE

**Plan and prepare.**  
Most fires can be controlled.



#### HIGH

**Be ready to act.**  
Fires can be dangerous.



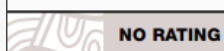
#### EXTREME

**Take action now to protect your life and property.** Fires will spread quickly and be extremely dangerous.



#### CATASTROPHIC

**For your survival, leave bushfire risk areas.** If a fire starts and takes hold, lives are likely to be lost.



#### NO RATING

On days where there is minimal risk, the white bar meaning 'No Rating' will be used.

Artwork by Emma Bamblett (Wemba Wemba, Gundjmarra, Ngadjoni and Taungurung)

**AFDRS**  
[www.firedangerratings.com.au](http://www.firedangerratings.com.au)



**Treasure Island** cast & crew have been working hard, scrubbing the decks and setting sail for docking on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at the BTC Arts Shed. Here are some shots of rehearsals of the talented cast in their element.

