

April 2024



Bendigo Theatre Company Newsletter

BTC email: bendigotheatrecompany@gmail.com

The Patricia Lyon Black Box Theatre

BTC held a naming ceremony of our very own theatre on 14th March 2023, with many of the Lyon family present, as well as special guests and members. We also unveiled our Life Members Board, and Alumni Board to solidify and celebrate our history and it's valuable contributors and members.

More of the story and photos on the following pages.



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**

The Curious Incident of the Dog... performance **4 – 14th April**

Guys & Dolls Information Night **6:30pm Tuesday 23rd April**

Guys & Dolls Audition Bookings **open 6:30pm Tue 23rd April**

BTC AGM – all members welcome **7pm Wednesday 24th April**

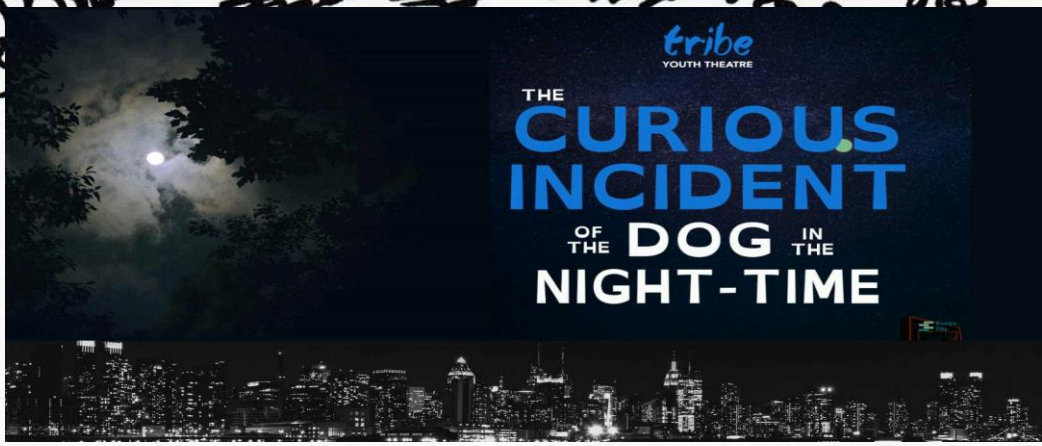
Blood on the Clocktower (free) event **7pm Tue 30th April**

Guys Dolls Audition Dates: **Thu 9th, Fri 10th & Sat 11th May**

BTC Web Page:

<https://www.bendigotheatrecompany.org.au/>





Some rehearsal shots of the cast, working hard to bring this intriguing tale to the stage. Director - Kerry Turpie (right) giving encouragement and guidance to the cast.



Guys and Dolls

Our Major Musical in 2024!

GUYS AND DOLLS

A Musical Fable of Broadway

Save the date: The 'Guys and Dolls' Information Night is Tuesday 23 April, at 7pm in The BTC Arts Shed. If you are keen to audition, or help out behind the scenes, then please come along. We look forward to welcoming you. Audition dates are Thu 9th, Fri 10th, and Sat 11th May, with callbacks if required on Wed 15th May.

INTRODUCING THE PRODUCTION TEAM FOR 'GUYS AND DOLLS'

We are proud to announce the production team for 'Guys and Dolls'. These fabulous people will be instrumental in bringing this performance to the stage. Congratulations to you all!

GUYS & DOLLS PRODUCTION TEAM 2024

Production Manager: Conor Cunningham

Production Assistant: Sarah Cunningham

Director: Claire Sexton

Choreographer: Vashti Lamaro

Musical Director: Meg Martin

Vocal & Dialect Coach: Penny Larkins

Assistant Director: Thomas Moore

Stage Manager: John Trainor

Assistant Stage Manager: Selina Trainor

Backstage Crew: TBA

Repetiteur: Karin van Poppel

Costume Coordinators: Stania Tresize & Lauren Mitchell

Costume Team: Michael Scobie, Julie Drake, Polly Filla

Make-Up Design: Kimberly Godfrey

Hair Design: Daisy Pratt-White

Lighting Design: Ian Scott – ISLX

Dome Operators: TBA

Audio Design Ian Scott – ISLX

Lighting and Audio Assistant – Ezekiel Bourke

Set Design Team: Samantha Lempio-Franklin, Vern Wall, Keva Lloyd, Steve Tinker

Set Construction Coordinator: Vern Wall

Set Construction Crew: TBA

Set Painting: Samantha Lempio-Franklin

Properties Coordinator: Barbara Billings

Publicity Manager/ Mentor: Bryley Savage

Publicity Coordinator/ Mentee: Aoife Cunningham

Publicity Material/ Program Design: Kristen Beever

Production Photographer: Daniel Soncin

Marketing Coordinator: Grant Finlay



Youth Ensemble

Join in
from 6:30pm
Thursdays!

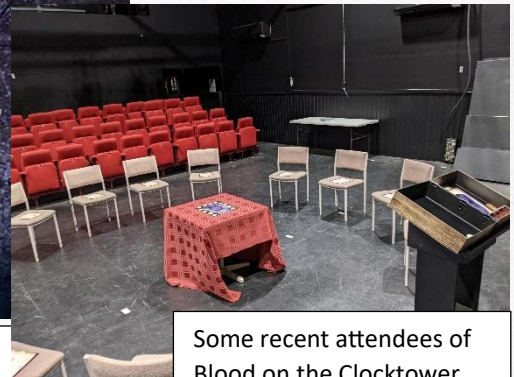
BTC Arts Shed
15-17 Allingham St, Golden Square

Level A Youth Ensemble will break over the Easter school holidays for the upcoming production of The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time.

We'll be back after the school holidays!

If you would like to join in and see what it's all about, you're most welcome to come along at any time. We'll help you sign up on the night if you like what you see!

18+ are required to provide Working With Children Checks. Otherwise, just bring your good selves!



Some recent attendees of Blood on the Clocktower

BLOOD ON THE CLOCKTOWER

A demon stalks the night in the sleepy little town of Ravenswood Bluff; can the townsfolk see past the lies, the misinformation and the mistrust, to track down the killer and save themselves?

The Bendigo Theatre Company have now run two free events for the international bestselling social deduction game, **Blood on the Clocktower**. Created by Australian company "The Pandemonium Institute" and run by BTC Committee Member, Storyteller Thomas Moore, there is one more opportunity to come along and try out Blood on the Clocktower free of charge.

Delve into the mystery, as 5 to 15 players at a time are cast in the roles of townsfolk in the tiny village of Ravenswood Bluff; no townsfolk is certain of anyone's true identity but their own, and must ask the right questions and give the right answers to figure out who is bluffing and who is innocent. Meanwhile, the demon and their minions are working to sow seeds of doubt, cast blame on others, and eliminate other players during the night.

The final free game is booked for Tuesday, April 30, running the "Sects and Violets" script; full of wild twists and turns, it's sure to be an extraordinary night!

Location: [Bendigo Theatre Company](#)

15-17 Allingham Street, Golden Square Victoria 3555



Naming the of the Patricia Lyon Black Box Theatre (continued)

The Black Box theatre history

A little over twenty-four years ago the Bendigo Council approached Bendigo Theatre Company with an interesting offer. The vacant Army Drill hall in Allingham Street was available for sale and would we be interested. The Committee of the time had a long discussion and we decided to take a risk and purchase even though our financial resources were very limited. So, with some scraping and saving, a bank loan and some very supportive Committee members we acquired the shed for a little over \$25k. Well, we had a shed but little else. Apart from the lino covered rooms (including an old dentist chair) we basically had a huge asphalt covered space. We were able to use some of this area for set building and storage but the rest was very much 'potential'. The Company was also advised that it would be in our best interests to hand the building back to the Council and then they would be responsible for the maintenance and upkeep and that has proved most beneficial.

So, in small steps we gradually improved the space, adding an interior wall to create a theatre space, a wooden stage, lighting bars and scenic lights and finally a technical mezzanine and tiered seating to accommodate around 60 patrons. In 2010 we officially named the shed the BTC Arts Shed. So, from very humble beginnings, we have come a very long way, and arrived to this day.

For a couple of years, we have planned to have the Black Box theatre be given an official name and now we are very pleased to name this space after a very special person. This person is a BTC life member and was a member of this Company for over fifty years and I believe was involved with over two hundred productions. With great pleasure we announce that new name for this theatre space.

Adam Lyon made a speech on behalf of the Lyons Family to accept this honour.



Some of the BTC Committee with Gaelle Broad at the naming ceremony event

Life Members Honour Board

Bendigo Theatre Company began in 1952 and in 2022 we celebrated our 70th anniversary. In that time, we have had many outstanding and Committed members and at our Annual General Meetings we have the capacity to recognise these people by awarding them a life membership. Over the years we have had a number of people nominated and then rewarded and this list has now grown to around twenty-one names.

Although always listed in all our company's show programs the current Committee has decided to create a permanent honour board to be displayed in the Arts Shed listing their names. Grace Cox and Ann Ball, two of our oldest members, were present at the event, and were asked to unveil the Life Members Honour Board.



Naming the of the Patricia Lyon Black Box Theatre (continued)

Alumni Board

BTC is very much committed to viewing the Arts Shed as a valuable community asset. For example, in the past year the company has made set pieces and costumes available for many local schools, other theatre groups and professional companies.

This has also included the use of the Black Box Theatre space for groups to enjoy theatre games, video and photography production, and most recently an event celebrating International Women's Day. In addition, we have many volunteers who give many thousands of hours of their time to assist the company.

Bendigo Theatre Company is very committed to producing community theatre that enables people of all ages to experience theatre in all its forms.

As a consequence of that we note with pride that some of our members go on to professional careers in theatre and with that in mind the current committee decided to recognise these achievements by creating an Alumni Honour Board. With twelve names to begin this process of recognition, this is just a small example of past members considered eligible for this honour. We are confident that this is just the initial step and we will be continuing to add names as they are nominated and recognised by the committee. The two main criteria for nomination are that they have had a membership connection to the company and have since gained a respected professional career in theatre. The twelve listed people are all very well qualified to be part of this initial list as they have achieved significant careers in professional theatre. This includes an impressive range of theatrical academic qualifications gained, professional acting careers, professional production and technical management, world recognised choreography, and professional opera singing. Gaelle Broad was present at the evening to unveil the Alumni Honour Board, and present her speech.



'Naming of the Patricia Lyon Black Box Theatre' piece written by BTC President Vern Wall

Victoria's Child Safe Standards

Plain language summary

BTC IS A CHILD SAFE ORGANISATION

Bendigo Theatre Company is committed to being a child safe organisation and with the release of new Government guidelines for community groups, the BTC committee are in the process of upgrading our current practises and policies so that all children who attend BTC events feel and are safe. A summary of the child safe standards is attached to this newsletter and all members and parents are urged to read this. The upgraded and new policies will be available to be accessed on the BTC website. Queries comments or questions should be emailed to the committee.

- 1** Your organisation welcomes Aboriginal children. You support them to express their culture and to enjoy their rights. You don't allow racism.
- 2** Child safety is important to everyone at all levels in your organisation. You document how you find, avoid, and stop risks of child abuse or harm.
- 3** Your organisation supports children to know their rights to be safe from abuse, informed, and involved. You help them to talk openly and take part in decisions that affect them.
- 4** Your organisation tells families and the community about what you do, and how you keep children safe from harm and abuse. You help families to have a say and to take part in decisions that affect their child.
- 5** Your organisation understands that every child is different and has different needs. You make sure that they can get the information and help that they need.
- 6** Staff know what they must do to keep children safe from abuse and harm. They record, report, and share information about child safety when they should. Staff who work with children have had the background checks they need.
- 7** Children and their families know how to make a complaint and what happens when a complaint is made. Your staff know how to respond properly to complaints.
- 8** Your organisation trains and supports staff to keep children safe from abuse and harm. Your staff know the signs of child abuse and harm and what to do if there are issues of abuse and harm.
- 9** Your organisation makes sure children are safe when they use your services, settings, and activities. This includes when children are online.
- 10** Your organisation checks and improves the ways you keep children safe from abuse and harm.
- 11** Your organisation has written policies about how you keep children safe from abuse and harm. They are easy to understand, and all staff follow them.

For more information, contact the Commission for Children and Young People
www.ccp.vic.gov.au

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 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.



CASUAL PLAY READINGS

For 12 weeks in June, July and August, we are holding weekly play reads in the Patricia Lyon Black Box Theatre.

There will be an even mix of comedy and drama, mixed with classic and modern(ish) plays on the agenda.

In preparation for this, we welcome your suggestion of plays to explore.

Please write us your suggestions at <https://www.facebook.com/BendigoTheatreCompany>

Look out for more information soon!

WEDNESDAY CREW



The Wednesday Crew are in the Shed this Wednesday from 9am - 12 noon.

Coffee and/or lunch afterwards if you would like to partake

Film-maker seeking actors for showreels and sample scenes

My name is Chris Poynton and I am looking to collaborate with actors who want to develop their screen skills.

I am most interested in devising very short scripts or sample scenes that best suit the needs and career goals of the actor.

Any genre can be tackled! Magic happens when you scout a good location and start jamming with simple ideas.

This is done on a creative, non-commercial basis ... as I am getting "back in the saddle" after a long break from film.

I specialise in Steadicam and gimbal moving shots, using digital and vintage lenses, and have a small selection of lighting gear.

SAMPLE VIDEO : tinyurl.com/ScreenTestJosh

I can provide further personal and creative information if this video is of interest. I began in film as a cinematographer on 16mm student films in the early 1990's.

In 2016 I shot the Bendigo Theatre Company "10 x 10" short plays DVD.

I'm up for a coffee and a chat to develop micro-collaborations ... and maybe something more audacious.

CONTACT: chris.poynton@gmail.com 0410 553 225

A Moment with Emma Kelly

Emma has only been with BTC for 2 years, and in that short amount of time she immersed herself in many facets of BTC, and come very far. Currently she is building and working with her own singing group 'Level A Youth Ensemble'. However Emma began her journey into performance and theatre back in High School in Swan Hill.

Whilst in school she attended a drama camp open to all students in the Swan Hill area – the 'Fairfax Youth Initiative'. This had a huge positive effect on Emma, as it was a place for similar aged, like minded students to gather together and learn, develop a play over several days, and perform at the end. The thoughts and contributions of each other, working together and making a difference to the success of a project. She made many valuable friendships, which also boosted her enthusiasm and confidence in the performing arts for the future. So passionate about her involvement with this camp and its people, she later returned as a mentor to students - to work with, support and help them through their journey, and hopefully make their experience just as significant to them, as it was to her.

After some years she moved to Bendigo, and plunged right into BTC, acting in a 10 x 10 play called "Things That Go Bump in the Bite" – as the outstanding Mina the Vampire. Later that year she performed in BTC's 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' as Violet Beauregarde's father. Who could forget the plum coloured 'Zoot Suit' side burns and flashy glasses, and a personality as bold as his daughter's.

Our seasonal Pantomime ('23/'24) had Emma playing Jim Hawkins – a lead role, Nancy's love interest, a vine swinger, skilled sword handler, a clever and careful hero with a voice as strong and as beautiful as the character itself. Emma thoroughly immersed herself in this fantastic collaborative and forward thinking team of cast and crew. Wanting this production to be an absolute success, herself and cast members poured their whole heart and energy into it, and from which had flourished comradery, enduring friendships and admiration for each other. Being a part of it was a very rewarding experience for her, which she hopes to repeat and re-live in community theatre shows in the near future.

As well as acting, and being a highly valuable member of the Tribe sub-committee', Emma's constant passion is 'Level A Youth Ensemble' which is always moving along developing from week to week. She has put a lot of personal time and effort into creating this opportunity for younger performers, and her dedication is paying off. The group is a dynamic and forward thinking crowd, who persist with the learning of musical pieces, and honing the skills of its participants as single entities and as a group. Every individual has their own story to contribute to the gathering, and the outcome is a culmination of those different skills and aspects. Working as an 'ensemble' also means that it is not a 'static' assemblage of people like a choir or chorale – it is more dynamic by having interaction between parties as well as movement. The two possible meanings behind the name 'Level A', is it could be the 'start of your singing journey', or a grade level, meaning 'a high level of expectation'. Level A is aimed at junior's through to 25 years old, and always welcomes newcomers - be they new to musical theatre or well seasoned. They meet every Thursday at the BTC Art's shed at 6:30pm (however they will be breaking over the Easter school break whilst Tribe's "Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time" is being performed.)

"Do what you love, and you won't be working a day in your life" – this is a cherished quote that Emma would love to live by, and it is her goal to pursue it. Emma is a very determined and enthusiastic personality, who cherishes working within a group environment, encouraging others to be their best, yet also a humble leader – a positive and encouraging guide to others. She has a passion for all aspects of theatre – on stage, behind the scenes and in the creation of shows – as well as a fervent involvement in the stable support and background work behind these shows by the BTC Committee and Tribe sub-committee. She feels very much at home in Community Theatre, and hopes to develop her knowledge and passion further in the performing arts in the years ahead.

