

Westville Theatre Club

July 2022



CUE



Editorial—Jill Sysum

As winter draws to a close, her icy fingers still have us in her grip. Snow in August is quite common, so wrap up warm and look forward to Spring!

We have had our AGM and it was well attended in that we had our quorum, but what fun it was. It was so nice chatting and talking and planning with real people; lovely! If you could not attend, you missed out on a great evening. Lets hope next year we will have more people attending. Always the same loyal members pitch up year after year Thank you so much for that, without you we would be so much the poorer.

Please find below our Chairman's Report, so you can catch up on what is going on with your club.

We have recently lost two very dear friends of WTC, very active members and always supportive of the club.

Joan Owen-Ellis - John you have our love and sympathy. Joan was very active in WTC and a staunch supporter of John who was equally active, a past chairman, and is still a treasured member. When I first joined the club and did my first show in the Civic, Joan was business manager and after that was F.O.H. for most of the Civic Shows, such a wonderful person, a good sense of humour and fun and what a hard worker.

Margaret Dobson : Was an amazing director, won many Durban Festivals for WTC and directed many plays. I was lucky enough to be in one of her plays and she taught me so much. A lovely gentle spoken person, but full of fun and spunk.

Heaven has gained two very spirited, fun loving and caring women.

Ladies of spirit is just about to open, so if you haven't booked yet, please do. Support your club and have a lovely relaxing evening of light entertainment, friends, food, and perhaps a glass or two.

In This Cue— Show dates and booking details for Ladies of Spirit — AGM Feedback

WESTVILLE THEATRE CLUB COMMITTEE:

Chairman—Shawn O'Neill

Club Secretary & EThekwini Liaison, wardrobe & Key Register—Hayley Hore

Treasurer—Iona Joshua

Membership & Wardrobe —Caroline Thomas

Hall Bookings & Calendar—Banele Khomo

Performance Rights, Festival Director, Quality Assurance & POPI Officer —
Daniel Oosthuizen

Cue & Wardrobe — Jill Sysum

Co-opted : Web Page and Media—Andrew Frangs

Technical — Shawn

Maintenance — Shawn, Andrew and Jill

Co-opted : Housekeeping, Committee Sec., Media & Public Relations—Dorothy O'Neill



"LADIES OF SPIRIT"

Westville Theatre Club is excited to be staging "Ladies of Spirit" written by Georgina Reid and directed by Jill Sysum, at its theatre adjacent to Westville Swimming Pool

"Ladies of Spirit" is a light-hearted comedy/drama three-act play. The action takes place in a school for girls, which was founded by the two Misses Pye. The ghostly Victorian sisters keep a watchful eye on the goings on in their beloved school. However, with the new headmistress in charge, the sisters, who still haunt the hallowed halls of Gibraltar School, are not at all happy, and when the changes made to their beloved school become too much for them to bear, matters come to a head, and the sisters feel something must be done. The result is an inexperienced haunting by Hattie and Mattie to change the wrongs perpetuated by Miss Rowe. The other five teaches all have their own roles in the hilarious unfolding drama, with Mrs Emmet adding her own spice to the mix!

Come along and bring your family and friends, picnic basket and drinks and enjoy!

Tickets: R100 per person (R80 for WTC Members, pensioners and students)

Show dates: 10 – 13 August and 17 – 20 August (Doors open 6.30 pm, curtains up 7.00pm) with a matinee only on Sunday, 14 August (Doors open 2.00, curtains up 2.30 pm)

Bookings: Dorothy O'Neill – 083 776 1754 or email: dorothyannoneill@gmail.com

Photo of Cast:



Back (L to R) Phiwe Filtane, Dorothy O'Neill, Maya Zozulya, Danielle de Chazal, Caroline Thomas

Front (L to R) Simone Grechy, Jill Sysum, Kerry White, Candice Bowman



Ladies of Spirit

Written by
Georgina Reid

Directed by
Jill Sysum

A lighthearted three act comedy
Ghostly hauntings at all girls' school, when things become too much for
the past Headmistress & her sister

10 to 14 & 17 to 20 Aug 22

@ Westville Theatre Club

6.30 for 7.00 pm

Sun, 14 Aug matinee ONLY 2.00 for 2.30 pm



Bring your own food & drinks

R100 p/p (R80 members, pensioners & students)

Bookings: Dorothy 083 776 1754 or dorothyannoneill@gmail

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – 2021/2022

Dear Members

Thankfully our AGM this year can be conducted in person at these lovely facilities where we get to see each others unmasked faces. The past two years have been bleak with remote AGM's no smiling faces, no snacks and drinks and no socialising. It is wonderful to be free again.

Thanks to those of you who have made the effort to be here this evening, your presence is most welcome.

Committee

I would like to give a brief introduction and thanks to my committee, as follows:

Caroline Thomas – Membership and Wardrobe

Jill Sysum – CUE Newsletter, Wardrobe

Hayley Hore – Club Secretary, Liaison between Ethekwini and the Club, Wardrobe

Iona Joshua – Treasurer

Daniel Oosthuizen – IT, Media, Housekeeping

Banele Khomo – Hall Bookings, Calendar

Andrew Frangs – Media, Website

Co-opted Members:

Dorothy O'Neill – Committee Secretary, Media & Public Relations

Sadly we have had to say goodbye to Andrew this past month as he had to make a career decision to work in the UK. Andrew has been a huge asset, assisting with maintenance, and taking on major acting, and directing roles. Andrew you will be missed and thank you for all you have done. He has offered to continue assisting remotely where he can with media etc. One good thing about the Covid period is that it has taught us and enabled us to work remotely.

Over and above their fiduciary duties, our committee members have also been involved in productions, be it performing on stage or off stage, directing, operating the lighting and sound desk, managing backstage, prompting, doing front of house, assisting in wardrobe, painting backdrops, etc. Thank you all for your dedication and proficiency. The healthy state of the club is due to your ability and dedication in working together through difficult times in the best interests of the club.

Summary of Activities over the past year

Natural Causes (14 to 30 October)

The new financial year started out with one of the most frightening events of our lives - the July riots. Just when we thought Covid was easing off, along came this.

Natalians and Thespians are a tough breed so despite the devastation, auditions and rehearsals for the play Natural Causes proceeded, and the play was staged from 14th to 30th October 2021. Directed by Jill Sysum, this play raised over R29000 for the club which is remarkable considering that seating was still limited to 40 patrons per show and following the recent circumstances.

The characters were cast exceptionally well, and this dark comedy of poison and mayhem was well received by patrons.

Following this play, we were suddenly approaching the end of the year, and without the usual Pantomime, there was a last minute scramble to make the most of the festive season.

Heathers Piano Evening (12 to 14 November)

Heather Dix once again put on a lovely piano evening (or two of them to be precise), supported by Tania Borman. Thanks to Heather for pulling a show out the bag at short notice.

The Waters Once More (26 Nov to 5 Dec)

This show was never planned, but came about by chance. Following the devastating riots in July 2021, we were told by Bianca Pretorius and Mat Love that they were relocating to the Netherlands. Bianca had been the star female singer in the previous two musicals, 'Test the Waters' and 'Yesterday Once More'. We met one evening at the club to hand over recordings that we had made from those two shows and Bianca said we have to do those songs again before they leave in December. The Waters Once More was put together in record time (less than three weeks) with a full band and two new singers and Dorothy on the sound desk this time. Heather joined the band despite having her own show and being away for the last week of the three weeks of possible rehearsal time.

The show was a success raising over R15000 from just five shows.

Musical Moment and Dinner for One (9 to 11 Dec)

While the above two shows were in progress, Jill and Heather Dix (the same one and only Heather), started rehearsals for Musical Moments and Dinner for One. A lovely show, which was sold out before it opened. Sadly this may have been the last Dinner for One to be performed by Jill and Geoff Shaw, as he will be moving overseas. These two are WTC legends when it come to Dinner for One and we salute the legacy and wonderful memories they made.

Well done to the cast, singers and pianist for all risking their lives, coming out during a peak Covid Wave to make sure the show went on. Some had to drop out and other stepped in, what a display of tenacity and talent.

And then it was the end of the year with a well deserved rest and recovery for the committee and cast who made such commitment in the first half of the year.

January 2022 started off with preparations for the One Act Play Festival, after two years of disappointing postponements.

It was good to see some plays revived from 2020, albeit with a change in some cast members. Thanks to those directors who persevered with their plays. Most notably Andrew and Jill who had been hanging on since 2020 and finally were able to stage their plays.

The festival went ahead from 24 March to 2 April, with the Woscars award ceremony taking place on Sunday 3 April.

There were six plays, split into two groups of three plays per night.

Degas C'Est Moi

I still have You

Jump

Lady Killers

The Legs

Surprise

This festival too had its moments of “The show must go on” with surprise and amazing last minute performances by Brandon Strydom and Melanie Visser.

April Showers

April had its own natural show with a surprise performance inspired by Judy Garland “Though April showers may come your way” and heck they sure did come our way. So in one year we had Covid, July Riots, and April floods yet here we are soldiering on.

Classical and Classics (27 and 29 May)

The final show for the year was a brief showcase of some local guitar talent. Classical and Classics, was a mix of classical and fingerstyle guitar with some vocals thrown in with some entertaining compering by Jonathan Payne.

Wardrobe and Housekeeping

Special thanks to the wardrobe ladies (Jill, Caroline, Hayley and Dorothy) for sorting out costumes and doing a much needed tidy up of the costumes and props areas, some of which had been lying in limbo for two years.

Other Activities

The following classes have been held at the theatre club over the last year and we hope to see them return in the near future: (Level 4 lockdown at the time of writing)

Action Academy – Iona Joshua

Competition Line Dance Class - Caryl Cusens and Dorothy O'Neill

Senior Line dance Classes – Arthur Olivier

Musical Theatre Classes – Tess Tjasink

Original Music

5th November – Maverick Blues Band

19 and 20 November - Nibs van der Spuy.

26 June - Rowan Stewart with original music from his recent album.

Membership

At the end of June we had 75 paid up and honorary members and this is the same as what we had in 2019.

Capital Expenses

We have continued investing in the comfort and technical improvements to the facility. Cost of productions once again have been kept to an absolute minimum.

The gutters in front of the kitchen and the full length of the back of the hall have been replaced with aluminium gutters. This was done a few weeks before the April floods and probably saved the downstairs area from flooding.

Monthly Expenses

The monthly fixed costs for rates, rental, armed response and insurance still remain high so we need the support of our members and patrons to keep the doors open and the shows going. We have a reasonable financial reserve left, and hope to be able to replenish it in the near future as we gear up for the new year.

Ethekwini had promised a rebate of sorts due to lockdown and Hayley is trying hard to make this a reality, so hold thumbs.

Next Attraction

The next big attraction is 'Ladies of Spirit' so please support your club by booking and spreading the word. Bookings are open

See You at the Theatre

Shawn O'Neill

Chairman

FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS :

Ladies of Spirit

10,11,12,13 & 17,18,19,20—Matinee 14 August 2022

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU ARE A CURRENT WTC MEMBER
THERE ARE BARGAINS TO BE HAD FOR FULLY PAID UP MEMBERS.

To pay your membership contact:

Caroline 082 879 0771

or EFT:WESTVILLE THEATRE CLUB,

Standard Bank Westville,

Branch Code 045426, Account No. 25254 8345,

Reference: YOUR NAME AND "MEMBERSHIP"

Family: R220— Single R150— Student/Pensioner- R100

We Need New Members!! Should you know of anybody who would enjoy being a WTC member, please give their details to anyone on the committee

Should you wish to stage a play or a show, please send your full proposal and budget to the committee for consideration.



If you have any news for the Cue, please contact Jill : 083 782 1054 or jill@ionline.co.za

