



Performing for the Territory

DARWIN THEATRE COMPANY

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2007

## STAFF

**John du Feu**  
Artistic Director

**Kellie Nicol**  
General Manager

**Lucy Brown**  
Marketing & Admin  
Assistant

**Belinda Palmer**  
Bookkeeper

## BOARD

**Megan Lawton**  
Chairperson

**Sally Crawford**  
Vice Chairperson

**Mary Fox**  
Secretary

**Board Member**  
Doug Gillanders  
Daniel Wauchope  
Gaurav Saxena

**Patrons**  
Tom & Tessa Pauling

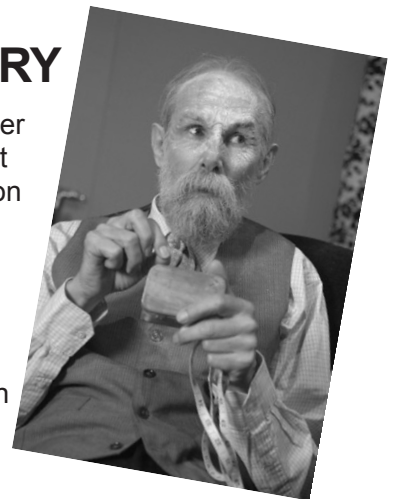
## CONTACT

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## ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S NOTE

### CONSTANCE - A NORTHERN AUSTRALIAN SUCCESS STORY

When Stephen Carleton wrote *Constance Drinkwater* and *The Final Days of Somerset*, he was drawing not only on his extraordinary talent as a writer but also on his years of development as an artist, most of which had occurred in Darwin. For us, it was a natural choice to produce and present this nationally-acclaimed play for the Darwin Festival but we were conscious of the huge responsibility we were taking on. In the event, Merrilee Mills production has been a hugely rewarding experience for all of us involved in it and also, from all reports, for our audiences and, thankfully, for Stephen too.



The show was produced in Darwin on a basis of excellent co-operation with our co-producers JUTE, Cairns and Tropic Sun, Townsville. As director, Merrilee worked closely with South-Australian designer, Morag Cook, on this show and the look that eventuated has been a strong element of the show. The team of actors - Suellen Maunder, artistic director of JUTE, Jason Chong (Sydney), Chris Glover (Townsville) together with three Darwin actors - Ella Watson-Russell, Daniel Cunningham and me - brought a range of skills and, we worked out, nearly a hundred years of collective experience to the production.

The core production team - Kellie Blumberg, stage manager, and Reuben Hopkins, lighting designer and production manager - are emerging Darwin-based theatre technicians for whom this show provided an important developmental experience. The company was expertly managed by Kellie Nicol with marketing support from Lucy Brown and Tony Collins.

At the box office, the show has been tremendously successful, exceeding box office expectations by 50% in Darwin with the expectation of similar results in Cairns and Townsville. Nearly 1100 people over five nights crowded into the DEC Studio to see this production, making it the most successful show DTC has presented at this venue.

Currently the show is on tour in Cairns where it is the theatre centrepiece of the Cairns Festival and next week we go on to play a week in Townsville.

## ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S NOTE CONTD..

Back in Darwin, meanwhile, rehearsals are underway for the third playreading in our season of six this year. The second was a spectacularly well-attended and successful reading of Euripedes 'Medea', directed by Edmund Morley, staged at the Town Hall Ruins. Edmund's creative and strongly choral approach to this work kept a young enthusiastic audience of around 75 spellbound for over ninety minutes, even in the hot sun of an August afternoon. We are confident that the fine quality of this work will be emulated in the reading of Anton Chekhov's 'The Three Sisters' which, under the direction of Bob Scheer, will be presented on September 29th at the Wesleyan Church in the Botanical Gardens.

In the fourth quarter of this year, audiences and artists can look forward to another three playreadings, a series of workshops and our playwright development program with dramaturg, Peter Matheson. Watch this space!

## PLAYREADING



### **Three Sisters by Anton Chekov**

**Saturday 29th September**

Wesleyan Church

George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens @3pm

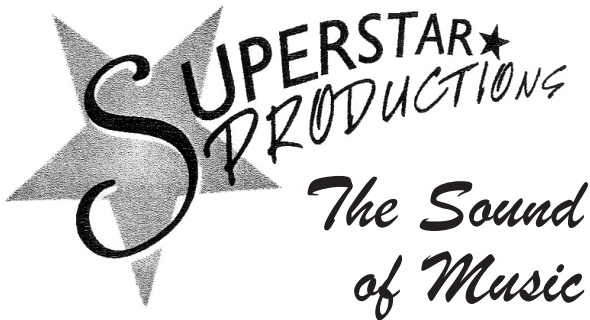
Cost: \$5

Directed by Bob Scheer

A Darwin Theatre Company Playreading



## THE SOUND OF MUSIC



Superstar Productions have announced their upcoming production of "The Sound of Music", performances for which will run over a period of two weeks (8 nights) in April 2008, and to be directed by Dianna Nixon. The production is currently calling for auditions, which will be held on Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 October 2007, at a venue still to be advised...(watch local newspapers and the DTC website for details). Rehearsals for the show will start soon.

Superstar Productions is a joint venture between Darwin Theatre Company, The Cavenagh Theatre, Darwin Entertainment Centre and The Darwin Chorale.

## WORKSHOPS

Damien Pree's practical and fun acting workshops continue to be held every Monday and Wednesday night in the DTC rehearsal space at the Harbour View Plaza in Darwin CBD. Participation numbers are on the up in these past few weeks and everyone has been enjoying the classes immensely, learning new skills as well as brushing up on a range of acting techniques. Monday night is a general acting class for beginners, professionals and all those in between, with each week focussing on a different aspect of the craft, such as: voice, character, method acting, improvisation etc. Wednesday night's class, for more experienced actors, focuses on the development of scenes and monologues, providing invaluable performance opportunities with the support of Damien's professional coaching and direction. Classes run till the end of the year, with the exception of the school holidays, (which means no classes on Monday 1st or Wednesday 3rd October 07). Damien looks forward to seeing you a few more of you developing thespians there soon!!



What: Actors Drop In Classes

When: Mondays 6-8pm

Dates: All Mondays until 12th December, except during school holidays

Where: Harbourview Plaza, Ground Floor

Cost: \$10 per workshop

Info: DTC 8924 4184 or Damien 0400 093 019

What: Weekly Monologue and Scene Workshops

When: Wednesdays 6-9pm (coffee provided)

Dates: All Wednesdays until 12th December, except during school holidays

Where: Harbourview Plaza, Ground Floor

Cost: \$10 per workshop

Info: DTC 8924 4184 or Damien 0400 093 019

