

# The COMPANY OF THEATRE ARTS

## COMPANY NEWSLETTER: JANUARY 2011

Hi All

This was supposed to have been a pre-Christmas end-of-year newsletter, wrapping everything up after the successful show at The Heritage in October, and wishing you all a merry Christmas, happy hols (if you got any), and all the best for the new year.

WELL! It's the end of January, February peeps its head around the corner of the coming weekend, and 2010 is a goner. But it's not too late to wish you a fun-filled, adventurous, and fulfilling 2011. A previous theatre club I belonged to consistently, over the many years of my membership, threw a "Last-of-the New-Year's-Parties" towards the end of January, and it was always a complete raving hoot – as most theatre parties are, of course. I still think there are a number of excellent reasons for having New Year's parties in January: (1) by the end of December, you're so satiated with office parties and Christmas pudding, you can't bear the thought of another party; (2) you're exhausted from having all your relatives staying with you; and (3) the expectation of New Years Eve is rarely ever matched by the reality.

So there's another reason for sending out our newsletter in January: no one has the strength or inclination to read it anytime from mid-November. All of which brings us to the nub of the matter: what's happening within COTA?

*"One Hit Wonders"* staged at The Heritage in late September was an unqualified success for the fourteen-strong cast. The glowing reviews in the press made much of "the first group of amateur players to grace Heritage Theatre", but impresario Gary Mackenzie wasn't taking any risk at all: he knew exactly what to expect from a COTA show directed by Fiona and Liz! This was no Sunday school pantomime!

Being such an ensemble production, it would be unwise – nay, impossible - to single out individual "stars", so here they all are:

- The "regulars" from previous productions: Fi Barnes-Snyder (direction and choreography), Liz Cunningham (musical direction), Hannah Thomson, Janine de Froberville, Kerry Brown, Leigh Meyer, Meghan Moore, Tarique Mullany, Doug Shewell, Jaco de Wet & Neil Snyder.
- Welcome to some "new feet": Georgina Mabbett, Lauren Alblas, Richard Alberts.
- And welcome back after a 10-year hiatus: Scott McConnell from 1999, "Live from America".

Check out some pics from the show (no perving, guys!), and more info on our website [www.cota.co.za](http://www.cota.co.za).

As for the future, The Company tries to arrange the odd social get-together...and next up, Roland Perold (Stage & Screen, 2004) has produced & is performing at The Sneddon Theatre in *"I love you, you're perfect...now change"*, during February. **Bookings through Computicket....see you there!**

As for this year's production? Hmmm, you'll just have to wait and see; or better still, give us a call with some of your own ideas.

Yours creative-thinkingly

COTA COMMITTEE