



JMS PUBLIC RELATIONS

2009/10 ROSTER & RELEASES
PRODUCTS / SHOWS / EVENTS
 from 22 June 2010

Announcement	Event	Description	Genre
Bunyip returns For the school holidays!	THE BUNYIP OF BERKELY'S CREEK Spare Parts Puppet Theatre	<i>Classic show with beautifully crafted puppets of Australian animals</i>	Children's / Theatre
MS Society adds new annual production	PUSS IN BOOTS MS Society WA	<i>Pantomime at Christmas about a magical talking cat!</i>	Children's / Pantomime / Theatre
Casting Announcement	THE SOUND OF MUSIC MS Society WA	<i>Cast announced for Regal Theatre October season</i>	Musical Theatre

Date / Venue	Event	Description	Genre
3 to 17 July Spare Parts Puppet Theatre Fremantle	THE BUNYIP OF BERKELY'S CREEK Spare Parts Puppet Theatre	<i>Noriko Nishimoto returns to revive this classic show with beautifully crafted puppets of Australian animals</i>	Children's / Theatre
11 August Hale School, Wembley	LET'S DO IT Visiting Artists Programme	<i>Janice Taylor-Warne and John Michael Swinbank Sing Cole Porter and Noël Coward</i>	Music / Cabaret / Concert
25 Sept to 9 Oct Spare Parts Puppet Theatre Fremantle	BIRTHDAY Spare Parts Puppet Theatre	<i>New show for 2010 in the lead up to the company's 30th Anniversary</i>	Children's / Theatre
5 to 23 Oct The Blue Room Perth	ROMEO & JULIET: as performed by William Shakespeare & the Earl of Southampton Prickly Pear Ensemble	<i>A sensational behind the scenes look at Shakespeare's creative process not to mention his private life</i>	Theatre Warning: Male Nudity!
7 to 17 Oct The Regal Theatre Perth	THE SOUND OF MUSIC MS Society WA	<i>Following the wonderful success of 2009's Les Mis, the MS Society presents the ever popular musical</i>	Musical Theatre
10 to 22 December The Playhouse Theatre Perth	PUSS IN BOOTS MS Society WA	<i>Pantomime at Christmas about a magical talking cat!</i>	Children's / Pantomime / Theatre
December / January Spare Parts Puppet Theatre Fremantle	THE NIGHT ZOO Spare Parts Puppet Theatre	<i>2nd Annual Summer Season</i> <i>A whole zoo-ful of animals visits a lonely little girl in the big city</i>	Children's / Puppetry / Theatre

Media Release: May 2010

Multiple Sclerosis Society of Western Australia

Casting of *The Sound of Music* announced

Media Contact:

John Michael Swinbank 0414 743 418



MS Society WA announces the casting of *The Sound of Music* at the Regal Theatre in October, 2010.

Casting for The Multiple Sclerosis Society of Western Australia's 7th annual musical theatre production, *The Sound of Music*, has been finalised with over 40 performers selected to perform one of the all time favourites at The Regal Theatre from October 7 to 17.

Following a record turn out of auditionees the director, John Senczuk, is extraordinarily enthusiastic about the result. "The level of skill and musicality in the Perth community is astounding," he said. "With over 350 registered auditionees it has been an incredible window on the talent that is available in Perth."

The Sound of Music is Senczuk's second production for MS WA following his box office breaking production of *Les Misérables* in 2009. For *The Sound of Music*, he will be rejoined by Musical Director Tim Cunniffe and Choreographer Caroline Sinnett.

Among the cast of thirty-two principals and ensemble cast, the roles of Maria and Captain von Trapp have been awarded to Casey Edwards and Peter Knol; Colin Hughes and Katherine Friend will play Max Detweiler and the Baroness Shraeder; and Ann Adlem will make a guest appearance as the Mother Abbess.

For the famous younger roles of the seven Von Trapp children, three casts will perform in rotation over the season. "As they're our "favourite things" we refer to them on the rehearsal schedule as the "Snow Flakes", "Copper Kettle" and "Wild Geese Companies," said Senczuk. "With over 40 on stage, this is a big cast for a big musical and it is exciting opportunity for all performers to experience what it's like to be in blockbuster music theatre production."

Based on the uplifting true story of the Von Trapp family, *The Sound of Music* marked the final collaboration of the legendary song-writing duo, Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II. A huge success from its stage debut in 1957 (winning six Tony Awards), *The Sound of Music* was made into a film in 1965 (winning five Oscars) becoming one of the most successful and popular film musicals ever.

Set in Austria in the lead up to the Second World War, the musical's timeless message of triumph over adversity and its memorable score (including My Favourite Things, Do-Re-Mi, Edelweiss, Climb Every Mountain, Sixteen Going on Seventeen, The Lonely Goatherd and the glorious title song, The Sound of Music) continue to speak to people of all ages.

The MS Society's annual musical is one of the fixtures of the Perth theatre calendar. Last year, over 15,000 people attended the Society's production of *Les Miserables* (with all proceeds going to the charity) making it one of the most successful community theatre events in Perth.

Tickets to *The Sound of Music* are selling fast and are available at Ticketek on 1300 795 012 or www.ticketek.com.au

**Photo and interview opportunities are available.
Please contact John Michael Swinbank 0414 743 418 jm@johnmichael.com.au**

Credits and information follows ...

**Multiple Sclerosis Society of Western Australia
Presents *The Sound of Music***

REGAL THEATRE, 8-17 October

Duration: 2hr30 (including 20 min interval)

Suitable: 4+

Bookings: 1300 795 012 or www.ticketek.com.au (transaction fees apply)

Media Contact:

John Michael Swinbank 0414 743 418

Production Credits:

Director/Designer John Senczuk

Musical Director Tim Cuniffe

Choreographer Carolyn Sinnett

Assistant Director Ian Toyne

Lighting Trent Suidgeest

Sound David Keys

Special guest appearance by Ann Adlem as the Mother Abbess

Dates:

Preview 7 October 7.30pm

Evening Performances 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, October 7.30pm

Matinees Saturday 9 & 16 October 2.00pm

Sunday 10 & 17 October 3.00pm

Tickets:

VIP (includes special benefits) A Reserve B Reserve

Adult \$80.00 \$62.00 \$52.00

Concession \$49.00 \$39.00

Junior (12 and under) \$39.00 \$29.00

Family (2 adults; 2 juniors) \$175.00 \$139.00

Groups Purchase 10, get one ticket free

Ticket prices include GST and Booking Fees.

MEDIA RELEASE:

Spare Parts Puppet Theatre *The Bunyip of Berkley's Creek* 3 to 17 July

Media Contact:
John Michael Swinbank 0414 743 418



The Bunyip is back for the holidays!

A new generation of Western Australian children and their families will get the rare opportunity to see *The Bunyip of Berkeley's Creek* when the acclaimed production by Spare Parts Puppet Theatre will be presented at the company's Fremantle theatre from Saturday, July 3 for the school holidays.

Devised and directed by Noriko Nishimoto and Michael Barlow from the book by Jenny Wagner, this uniquely Australian story has charmed audiences in WA and overseas since its 1998 premiere. Original cast member Michael Barlow will be joined by new cast members, well-known comedian Shane Adamczak and acclaimed musician Mel Robinson, making her debut with the company.

Set in outback bush country, *The Bunyip of Berkeley's Creek* tells the amusing and poignant story of a lonely Bunyip who yearns to discover the truth about his identity and physical appearance. On his journey along the creek bed, he encounters a 'who's who' of iconic Australian animals including a cheeky echidna, a recalcitrant platypus, a few vague wallabies, and an assortment of birds, in particular a mad emu as well as an even madder scientist.

The set, designed by Zoe Atkinson, evokes a "dreamtime Bunyip world", awash with Australian landscape colours of reds, yellows, browns and ochres. It features a billabong, a creek bed, where the animals live, and a tree, which doubles as a large scale musical instrument for composer Lee Buddle's bubbly and beautiful original score. Slats on the tree become a marimba while tensioned wires become a hammer dulcimer which is plucked, strummed or plain old whacked by the puppeteers, in particular by singer-cellist, Mel Robinson. The hand carved rod puppets by the company's Chief Puppet Maker, Jiri Zmitko are among some of the most beautiful in the company's extensive repertoire.

Artistic Director of Spare Parts Puppet Theatre, Philip Mitchell, said that *The Bunyip of Berkeley's Creek* was one of the flagship productions from the company's 30 year history. "I am thrilled that we are able to bring this uniquely Australian story to a new generation of children," he said. "It is atmospheric, poignant and extremely entertaining, particularly when joyous mayhem is unleashed through duelling marimbas, dulcimer chopsticks and some snappy dance routines in this Aussie larrikin-style yarn guaranteed to make the young and young at heart laugh, cry and absolutely believe in Bunyips."

Suitable for everyone but perfect for ages 4 to 8, the 50 minute show will open for the school holidays from July 3 with two shows daily at 10am and 1pm. Additionally, there will be a 6pm performance on the following days: Friday and Saturday July 9, 10, 16 and 17. Early bookings are advised as the company's shows frequently sell out. 24/7 booking facilities are available online at www.sppt.asn.au or by phone on 9335 5044.

Spare Parts Puppet Theatre is based in Fremantle, Western Australia and is Australia's leading puppetry company, creating entertaining and inspirational theatre for young people and their families. In October, 2010 a new work, *The Birthday*, will begin celebrations marking its 30 year history of creating quality new Australian puppetry works that excite the way we view our world through image, illusion and entertainment.

Photo and interview opportunities are available.
Please contact John Michael Swinbank 0414 743 418 jm@johnmichael.com.au

Listings: *The Bunyip of Berkeley's Creek* – uniquely Australian story about a lonely Bunyip and his hilarious encounters with a 'who's who' of iconic animals, including echidna, platypus, emu and wallabies, by Spare Parts Puppet Theatre (opposite Freo Train Station) Suitable for everyone but perfect for 4 to 8 year olds. From July 3 for the school holidays. Book on 9335 5044 or 24/7 at www.sppt.asn.au

Spare Parts Puppet Theatre
1 Short Street, Fremantle
(opposite the Freo Train Station)

The Bunyip of Berkley's Creek
3 to 17 July

Media Contact:

John Michael Swinbank 0414 743 418

Running Time

50 mins

Age Range

Suitable for everyone, but perfect for ages 4 - 9.

Season

School Holiday Season :

Sat 3 – Thurs 8 & Mon 12 – Thurs 15 July, 10.00am & 1.00pm

Fri 9 – Sat 10 & Fri 16 – Sat 17 July, 1.00pm & 6.00pm

Prices: Adults at Child prices, \$17.50

Groups of 4+, \$15.50

Groups of 10+, \$13.50

History

1998 Premiere Season

1999 Regional Tour, Western Australia

International Tour, Japan

2000 Return Season, Spare Parts Puppet Theatre

Director

Noriko Nishimoto.

Assistant Director

Michael Barlow

Devisor

Noriko Nishimoto and Michael Barlow

Designer

Zoe Atkinson

Composer

Lee Buddle

Puppet Construction

Jiri Zmitko and Zoe Atkinson

2010 Performers

Michael Barlow and Shane Adamczak

Cellist, Soprano and Dancer: Mel Robinson

Original Cast

Michael Barlow and Paul Johnson

Cellist, Soprano and Dancer: Taryn Fiebig

Spare Parts Puppet Theatre

The Birthday

School Holiday Shows:

Sat 18 Sept 10am and 1pm (opening to the public)

Sat 25 Sept – Sat 9 Oct 10am and 1pm (public season)

The present is wrapped, the candles are on the cake, the streamers and balloons are in the backyard. Everything is ready for a birthday party!

Meanwhile, in the tiny world under the tablecloth a very different birthday is about to begin...

From the moment the smallest caterpillar hatches it waits for its own birthday to arrive, even though it doesn't know why it has a birthday. It asks the spider but she can't say what birthdays are for. So the caterpillar sets off to find out for itself, and along the way meets some very odd birthday guests.

Come on an adventure with a grubs-eye-view of the world in this visually huge performance that will stretch little minds and find out the best thing that happens on a birthday.

'The Birthday' is a growing up story for the whole family.

Director

Philip Mitchell

Writer

Michael Barlow

Designer

Cecile Williams

Composer

Lee Buddle

Lighting Designer

Graham Walne

Puppet Construction

Cecile Williams & Jiri Zmitko

Costumes

Lyndell Darch

Performers

Michelle Anderson, Oda Aunan and Tim Watts

Media Release:

Let's Do It

**John Michael and Janice Sing Coward and Porter
With Mark Coughlan at the piano**

**Hale School Visiting Artists Programme
John Inverarity Centre
Wednesday 7.30pm August 11, 2010**

Singers shine in night of sparkling song



Cabaret entertainer, John Michael Swinbank will join forces on stage with lyric soprano, Janice Taylor-Warne on August 11 in a new show especially devised for the Hale School Visiting Artists Program that will celebrate the sophisticated and moving lyrics and music of song-smiths, Noël Coward and Cole Porter.

The show, *Let's Do It* is a two-act romp through some of wittiest songs ever written such as Porter's *You're the Top* and *Anything Goes* to Coward's *I Went to a Marvellous Party* and *In a Bar on the Piccola Marina*. On the flip side, the two composers' darker natures are explored in the great torch songs such as *Mad About the Boy* and *So In Love*.

John Michael has built a career out of his distinctive interpretation of Noel Coward's repertoire with invitations to perform around the world over a 25 year career. Janice, a former principal soprano with Opera Australia is equally at home with songs by Richard Strauss and Gustav Mahler as well as the elegant showbiz composers like Coward and Porter.

The two singers will be joined on stage by Mark Coughlan, an acclaimed classical pianist who also enjoys crossing over to the Broadway repertoire.

Mr Swinbank who has worked with Mr Coughlan on a number of occasions said that he was thrilled to be performing with Miss Taylor-Warne and Mr Coughlan at the same time to bring these work of Coward and Porter alive to a new audience. "Janice and Mark are superb musicians who will bring their exquisite classical sensibility to these charming, beguiling and amusing songs," he said. "I, of course, will be entirely decorative and make the odd joke or two. It should be very funny."

The performance is in two halves and begins at 7.30pm. Bookings can be made on 9347 9726 or www.hale.wa.edu.au

LISTINGS: *Let's Do It!* – a romp through some of the most sophisticated love songs in the English language by cabaret entertainer John Michael Swinbank and lyric soprano, Janice Taylor-Warne with Mark Coughlan at the piano.

**Hale School Visiting Artists Programme
John Inverarity Centre
Wednesday 7.30pm August 11, 2010
Bookings: www.hale.wa.edu.au or 9347 9726**

GOSS: Janice moonlighted for six years with Graham Kennedy on the *In Melbourne Tonight* show.

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

Janice Taylor-Warne:

Melbourne born singer/voice lecturer, Janice is a former principal soprano with Opera Australia where she performed many of the lyric soprano roles. She is an ABC Recording Artist and has sung principal roles in opera and oratorio with Australia's leading orchestras.

After many years in Sydney and Melbourne (where she moonlighted with Graham Kennedy on In Melbourne Tonight), Janice settled in Perth to take up a position at the WA Academy of Performing Arts at the invitation of Richard Gill.

At WAAPA, she built a solid reputation as a teacher whose skill has shaped the sounds of many of Australia's top vocalists such as Katherine McCusker and Rachelle Durkin.

Janice has a diverse repertoire list, equally at home with the songs by Mahler and Strauss and Gershwin and Porter.

John Michael Swinbank:

Born in England, John Michael is a singer / actor / raconteur with an international reputation gained by a distinctive interpretation of the Noël Coward musical repertoire and he has toured Australia and the world, making his West End debut in 2008 for the Noël Coward Society.

Other touring highlights include the re-opening of the legendary Raffles Hotel in 1991, performances aboard Cunard ocean-liner, QE2 and a special invitation to fire Hong Kong's Noonday Gun, immortalised by Coward in *Mad Dogs & Englishmen* and fired by him in 1968.

Three new plays with music have been inspired by his long-standing work with the Coward repertoire. In 2007, the workshop production of *A Coward in Vegas* and the premiere of *Two Old Queens* for Mirage Makers, both co-devised with John Senczuk. The latter being a witty confection about the HM the Queen Mother and Sir Noël Coward, co-starring renowned actor, Edgar Metcalfe had follow-on seasons in Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney.

In 2005, Western Australian playwright, John Aitken directed John Michael in his play *Imperial Façade* set in 1920s Singapore.

Mark Coughlan:

After studying and working in London, Mark Coughlan decided that the lifestyle and quality of wine in Perth was infinitely superior and he returned to establish a busy career in music performance and education in Australia.

Mark has held some rather lofty positions, including Federal Chairman of the Australian Music Examinations Board, Head of the UWA Music School and as a Director of Musica Viva Australia, but he has also slumped it as a downtrodden, overworked and underpaid concert pianist, lecturer, promoter and music critic.

He was Musical Director for the 2006 Leeuwin Estate Concerts and is currently Artistic Director of the Government House Foundation concert series held in the beautiful Government House Ballroom. He performs regularly on ABC Classic FM and plays a wide range of music, from Beethoven to Broadway.

When not engaged in musical activities, Mark pursues business interests in the medical services area and indulges his passion for old cars, fine food and fabulous wine (not necessarily in that order). He can be found jogging through King's Park with his dog Mia and thinks Perth's best coffee is found in Subiaco.

MEDIA RELEASE:

The Blue Room Theatre in association with Prickly Pear Ensemble

R&J as performed by William Shakespeare and the Earl of Southampton

By John Aitken

October 5 to 23, 2010

The Blue Room

Media Contact:

John Michael Swinbank JMS PUBLIC RELATIONS 0414 743 418

New play puts spotlight on swinging Shakespeare

A new play by Western Australian playwright John Aitken premiering in October at The Blue Room, puts one of the most famous playwrights of all time, William Shakespeare centre stage as chief actor in a play that explores professional and personal ambition.

R&J as performed by William Shakespeare and the Earl of Southampton is a provocative dramatic thriller that sees a world weary Shakespeare lock horns with patron and muse, the extremely handsome Henry Wriothesley Earl of Southampton as they 'workshop' the Bard's new play about 'star crossed lovers'. The young Earl not only possesses one of the most unpronounceable surnames (it sounds like 'risely') but great wealth, high connections and a very curious nature that could land them both in a lot of trouble.

Set in the late 16th century in a dangerous age where religion, politics and sexuality were the hot topics of the day, *R&J* sees Shakespeare and Southampton engage in a war of words about the nature of art and love (with liberal use of the playwright's great works including the famous *Sonnets*) that crosses the boundaries of artist and benefactor.

Director, John Senczuk said that Aitken has wrought a provocative, intriguing, sexy and satisfying play that explores one of the more fascinating partnerships in theatrical history. "Aitken's scenario is as contemporary as it is speculative, but all so cleverly supported by the literature seamlessly woven through the text," he said.

The role of Shakespeare will be played by local actor Ethan Tomas (*The Ships Pass Quietly, Cloudstreet*) and Southampton by exciting newcomer, Lauchlan Bain. Senczuk will also design the production and will be joined by Trent Sudigueest as Lighting Designer. Young composer Daniel Masmalian has been commissioned to write an original score.

The season runs from October 5 to 23 at The Blue Room in Northbridge and bookings are advised on 9227 7005 or www.blueroom.net.au

WARNING: Adult Themes; male nudity

Photo and interview opportunities are available.

Please contact John Michael Swinbank 0414 743 418 jm@johnmichael.com.au

LISTINGS: *R&J as performed by William Shakespeare and the Earl of Southampton* – it's *Romeo & Juliet* like you've never seen it before! Ethan Tomas and Lauchlan Bain cross swords in a provocative and sexy dramatic thriller. **WARNING:** Male Nudity. From October 5 to 23, The Blue Room Theatre. Bookings are advised: 9227 7005 www.blueroom.net.au

Media Release: June 2010



**The Multiple Sclerosis Society
of WA presents**

Puss in Boots

Media Contact:

John Michael Swinbank 0414 743 418



The MS Society of Western Australia announces new annual pantomime for Perth



The Multiple Sclerosis Society of Western Australia is delighted to announce that it will present another annual theatrical offering for Perth families when it produces its first traditional pantomime, *Puss in Boots* at The Playhouse Theatre in December 2010.

The pantomime season builds on the MS Society's reputation as a producer of musical theatre at the Regal Theatre, with its forthcoming October season of *The Sound of Music* being the seventh production in its successful history.

Directed and written by John Senczuk from the original 17th Century fairy tale by Charles Perrault, *Puss in Boots* tells the tale of Colin, a poor miller's son who inherits a cat upon his father's death. However, this cat is spectacularly clever, wittily magical and has a particular fondness for fancy boots! As quick as he can pull them on, the frisky feline comes up with plans for Colin to not only get rich quick but to marry the princess of his dreams!

MSWA's production features live music with Tim Cunniffe as Musical Director and Perth veteran Michael Loney as the pantomime dame, Queen Cupcake, with highly experienced performers, Jenny McNae and Ian Toyne, and newcomers, Michael Bingaman and Charlotte Devenport as Colin and his Princess!

MS Society of Western Australia Chief Executive Officer, Marcus Stafford, said that this new initiative was an exciting step in the Society's development as theatrical producer. "This is an exciting addition to our annual MS Musical in providing quality entertainment for families in Perth," he said. "Our theatrical productions offer a unique point of difference for our charitable organisation as well as a wonderful opportunity to give back to the community, which supports our aims so generously."

Puss in Boots will be presented from December 16 to 22 with two shows a day at 11am and 1pm daily (except Sunday), with a 6pm show on December 16. Tickets are available from all BOCS outlets or on 9484 1133 and www.bocsticketing.com.au

Photo and interview opportunities are available.

Please contact John Michael Swinbank 0414 743 418 jm@johnmichael.com.au

LISTINGS: *Puss in Boots* – traditional pantomime about a magical cat with a fondness for fancy boots and get rich plans, starring Michael Bingaman, Charlotte Devenport, Jenny McNae, Ian Toyne and Michael Loney as *Queen Cupcake*. From December 16 to 22, 11am and 1pm daily. Bookings on BOCS 9484 113 www.bocsticketing.com.au

About MS and The MS Society of Western Australia

The Multiple Sclerosis Society of Western Australia is a not-for-profit organisation that has been providing support and care to the thousands of Western Australians living with MS for 37 years. MS is a chronic degenerative and often disabling neurological disease. Each month sixteen West Australians are diagnosed with MS and there is currently no known cause or cure. For further information, visit www.mswa.org.au