



# THE SENTIMENTAL BLOKE™

PRESENTED BY

Mackay Community  
Theatre

THEATRE  
**ROYAL**

SEPT. 8-9-10-11, 1970



# "THE BLOKE"

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

Mackay Community Theatre presented "The King and I," their first musical, on September 6th, 1965, so it is six years almost to the day that we once again venture into musicals. "The Sentimental Bloke" is based on the poems of C. J. Dennis and all his immortal characters come to life.

"The Bloke" has always been part of Australian Theatre, having been one of the early silent movies (1918), then as a stage play (1922), also a sound movie (1932) and last as a stage musical, our version of which you will see tonight.

This is a completely Australian musical as the lyrics were written by Albert Arlen, his wife Nancy Browne, and Lloyd Thomas, who at the time of writing the music were all residents of Canberra where "The Sentimental Bloke" was world premiered in 1958. It is interesting to note that Albert Arlen also composed "The El Alamein Concerto."

We hope you will enjoy our presentation tonight. Each and everyone of us has enjoyed all the work and preparation that has gone into it, and we feel sure that you, like us, will go home humming at least one of the catchy tunes.

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## THE CAST

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**LYNNE LEESEN** — This is Lynne's first production with The Mackay Community Theatre. She has had experience in both straight plays and musicals in Innisfail. During a short stay in Bundaberg she was a member of the Amateur Players there. Some years ago Lynne was a member of Mackay Choral Society and appeared in "The Desert Song." Her husband, till recently, was a bank officer but has now changed positions and is to be permanently in Mackay. After seeing Lynne tonight as Doreen we know that you will agree with us that we should see more of her in future productions.

**BRYAN STURGEON** — It is some years since Bryan has appeared on the stage in Mackay. Those of you that know the Col Baillie productions will recall Bryan's part in them. Since then he has done a lot of cabaret work and recently was seen in a local TV production. As **BILL**, tonight, Bryan gives of his best and his feeling for the words of C. J. Dennis really make "THE SENTIMENTAL BLOKE" come to life. His singing of difficult, as well as the lighter numbers, show what an asset he is to the production.

## THE CAST

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**ADRIAN SAKRZEWSKI** — Adrian has been seen in our Pantomimes previously and earlier this year produced "The Facts of Life." Tonight, as Ginger Mick, we feel he really shows his true worth. Adrian has appeared with numerous societies in Queensland as his position gave him many moves. He has now decided to change jobs and settle in Mackay and, we hope, do more work with us.

**BIDDY DOCHERTY** — Biddy has been a valued member of the Theatre for a number of years and we feel her portrayal of Annie in "Annie Get Your Gun" will long be remembered. Biddy has also appeared in many straight shows but we know that musicals are her first love. Tonight, as ROSIE, she has a ball as she acts, sings and dances her way through the show.

**NORM GREEN** — It is some time since Norm has appeared before you, but he has appeared in many shows, among them being "Teahouse of the August Moon," "One Day of the Year." He was also in "Annie Get Your Gun." Norm has produced a number of plays for the Theatre, "Arsenic and Old Lace" being one of them. We welcome him back and we know you will love his portrayal of Mr. Smithers.

**ESME KEAN** — It is some time since Esme appeared on stage. She has produced for the Theatre and is a valued member. Her "Mother" tonight, though only a small part, is a gem of characterisation.

**ARTHUR McBRIDE** — Though Arthur only joined the Theatre this year he has already appeared in "Facts of Life" and produced "Something to Hide." Tonight he plays Uncle with ease.

**LOLA McNAUGHT** — Tonight Lola plays the small part of Mrs. Capper. She appeared in "Facts of Life" earlier this year and we feel sure we will see her in larger parts in the future.

**JOE HUTCHIESON** — Joe seems to pop up in all sorts of parts for the Theatre and after his role of the detective in "Something to Hide" his Mr. Capper tonight is a very small role but nevertheless important.

**JCYCE JOHNSON** — This is Joyce's debut with Theatre and we know you will love, and perhaps recognise, her interpretation of Mrs. Mitchell.

## THE PRODUCTION TEAM

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To produce a musical it is necessary to have a producer, a choreographer and a musical director, also an accompanist. We feel that here we have created a precedent as all these essential people were females.

**PRODUCER — MOYA HUTCHIESON** has previously produced our last two pantomimes and has also appeared in "One Day of the Year" and "Facts of Life." She produced and acted in Goulburn N.S.W. and Bundaberg before coming to Mackay two and a half years ago.

**CHOREOGRAPHER — BETTY MESKELL.** Mackay Community Theatre is indeed fortunate in having the services of Betty with her wealth of experience and know-how. Not only does she provide us with an excellent ballet from her school of dancing but she also manages to teach the chorus to dance, too. We know when you see the chorus tonight you will agree she has done wonders.

**MUSICAL DIRECTOR — DAWN FURSMAN.** This is Dawn's first experience as a musical director of a musical comedy, and after realising that we work mainly with untrained voices, she got to work and has done a remarkable job. We feel sure she would be game to do it again. Dawn has had a lot of experience with choirs in Cairns and also the Mackay Choral Society, having been their accompanist. She also conducted the Choir for the World Day of Prayer.

**ACCOMPANIST — RITA HOWS.** Rita, we feel, needs no introduction to you as apart from playing accompaniments she also won the Piano Championship at last year's eisteddfod. She is indeed an asset to the Theatre and we fully appreciate her efforts.

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# MACKAY COMMUNITY THEATRE

PROUDLY PRESENTS

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## ***"The Sentimental Bloke"***

Produced by MOYA HUTCHIESON

Choreography by BETTY MESKELL

### Cast in order of appearance

The Lamplighter ..... Arthur McBride  
The Newsboy ..... Helen Van Eldik  
The Lairs ..... Lana Hinchey, Diane Mapley, Jennifer Mears  
Mrs. Mitchell ..... Joyce Johnson  
Mr. Capper ..... Joe Hutchieson  
Mrs. Capper ..... Lola McNaught  
The Policeman ..... Brian Phillips  
The Drunk ..... Evan Weiss  
Ginger Mick ..... Adrian Sakrzewski  
Rose (Ginger Mick's Girl) ..... Biddy Docherty  
Bill (The Sentimental Bloke) ..... Bryan Sturgeon  
Mr. Smithers (The Stror 'at Coot) ..... Norm Green  
Pickle Factory Girls—  
    Mabel ..... Robyn Dixon  
    Gertie ..... Lana Hinchey  
    Olive ..... Sandy Grice  
    Patsy ..... Terry Brunckhorst  
    Cora ..... Alison Atkinson

Musical Director ..... Dawn Fursman  
Accompaniste ..... Rita Hows

Belle ..... Diane Buttell  
Elsie ..... Vicki Waddington  
Sal ..... Beryce Bowman  
May ..... Margaret Mengal

### Pickle Factory Men—

Fred ..... Graham Marriott  
Wal ..... Ross Thompson  
Doug ..... John Buttell  
Shorty ..... Peter Mattarazzo  
Stan ..... Brian Phillips  
'erb ..... Geoff Robinson

Doreen ..... Lynne Leeson  
Charlie Skewes ..... Charles Ivin  
Amy (Doreen's Mother) ..... Esme Kean  
Uncle Percy ..... Arthur McBride  
A Neighbour ..... Ross Thompson  
The Ringkeeper ..... John Buttell  
Second Policeman ..... Graham Marriott

Violinist ..... Alan MacKenzie  
Percussion ..... Carl Wilson

## SYNOPSIS OF SCENES AND MUSICAL NUMBERS

The Place is Melbourne.  
The Time— 1913.

### Act 1

- Scene 1: SPADGER'S LANE.** Morning.  
SPRINGTIME MORNING ..... Residents of Spadger's Lane  
RABBIT-OH! ..... Ginger Mick  
THE SPRINGTIME CRAZE ..... Bill
- Scene 2: OUTSIDE THE PICKLE FACTORY.** Saturday, Lunch Time.  
PICCALILLI LIL ..... Rose, Stror 'at Coot and  
Pickle Factory Workers  
INTRAJUICED ..... Doreen, Bill, Rose and Ginger Mick  
I DIPS ME LID ..... Bill
- Scene 3: THE BEACH.** Sunday Afternoon, one week later  
SUNDAY ARVO ..... Rose and The Company  
I'M A COVE WITH WIMMIN ..... Stror 'at Coot, Mabel  
and Gertie  
MY SENTIMENTAL BLOKE ..... Doreen
- Scene 4: SPADGER'S LANE.** A fortnight later.
- Scene 5: THE PICKLE FACTORY.** The following Saturday Morning.  
WORKIN' FOR THE BOSS ..... Charlie Skewes and Pickle  
Factory Men  
FOR ME SHEILA AND ME ..... Bill and Pickle Factory  
Workers  
LITTLE BIRDS IN THEIR NEST ..... Rose, Bill and  
Ginger Mick  
Reprise: I DIPS ME LID ..... Bill

— INTERVAL —

### Act 2

- Scene 1: FLEMINGTON RACECOURSE.** Melbourne Cup Day.  
CUP DAY IN MELBOURNE ..... The Company  
I'VE BACKED THE WINNER OF THE CUP ..... Bill and  
The Company
- Scene 2: DOREEN'S HOME.** The following Saturday Afternoon.  
'ER POOR DEAR PA ..... Ma, Doreen and Bill  
Reprise: MY SENTIMENTAL BLOKE ..... Doreen
- Scene 3: SPADGER'S LANE.** Later that evening.  
COME IN SPINNER ..... The Ringkeeper and Two-up School  
LIFE'S WHAT YER MAKE IT ..... Doreen and Bill
- Scene 4: OUTSIDE THE CHURCH.** Three months later.  
HAPPY IS THE BRIDE ..... The Company  
FINALE ..... The Company

## CREDITS

|                   |                                           |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Choreographer     | Betty Meskell                             |
| Decor             | Adrian Sakrzewski                         |
| Stage Manager     | Wally Neale                               |
| Wardrobe Mistress | Moya Hutchieson                           |
| Lighting          | Robert James                              |
| Script            | Eileen Green                              |
| Publicity         | John Hazell                               |
| Programme         | Moya Hutchieson                           |
| Front of House    | Eileen Green                              |
| Back Stage        | John Marrs, John Hazell and Norm. Howland |

## THE CHORUS

This programme would not be complete if a mention were not made of the boys and girls of the chorus. They are more or less the unsung heroes of any musical. In the casting they are listed as the Pickle factory men and girls. They have worked as hard as the principals and given both Betty and Dawn, also myself, their utmost co-operation. Our thanks go to each and every one of you and I hope we may all work together again sometime.

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# THE MAKING OF A SHOW

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Many times I have been asked exactly what goes into the making of a show and why it is so hard to make a profit. Perhaps you are one of the people who little realise the amount of work and expense each show takes, so I will take the liberty of giving you a short idea of what happens.

Firstly we have to find a producer, not an easy task most times; then we have to find a suitable vehicle to present. This is not as simple as you may think, as we have to have a show we think will appeal to you, the public, one we think can be suitably cast and one that the producer is happy to produce. We then have to see if the particular play is available. It is amazing the times that it is not. Next we have to find a suitable date that the Theatre Royal is available. Auditions are then held and after the casting the producer starts to work with his cast. Other jobs to be done are soon started; a set has to be built and painted, advertising has to be written and allocated, furniture has to be borrowed either from willing stores or from our own homes, costumes have to be made or sometimes we use our own clothes.

In a musical a lot of this work is more than doubled. In a straight show we only have to build and paint one set whereas, in a musical, we have to paint a number of backdrops; in "The Bloke" we use five scenes and all these had to be drawn and painted; paint is not cheap, materials have to be bought and all the costumes made. Electricians have to organise all the lighting, front of house staff has to be found. On the expense side, I'll example a musical, rights to perform cost from \$150 to \$200, then we have hire of the theatre, advertising, posters, costume material, programmes, orchestra, paint, plus some other incidentals and, all told, we have to have 1000 people in the audiences before we even look like making a profit.

All this work and preparation goes into the 2½ hours it takes to perform the show. We all enjoy what we do in the Theatre and the finished performances give us a lot of satisfaction, but this may give you a little insight into what goes on before we get on stage for a few nights. You can help us, if you have enjoyed our show tonight, perhaps you can persuade someone else to come and see it. In this way we can continue to present enjoyment for the people of Mackay and, at the same time, provide a healthy and cultural recreation for those who participate in our activities.

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**TRIBUTE TO THE BALLET**

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In tonight's show you will see a ballet that I feel is at least on a par with many professional ballets. These girls work very hard under the choreographer, Betty Meszell, who is also their teacher. During rehearsals for The Bloke three of these girls studied for and passed major dancing exams. Quite an achievement you must agree. On top of all this work they were at practice when required and always cheerful, good workers. Two of the girls also double by playing small parts. These girls, together with their ballet mistress, Betty, are a very valuable asset to the Mackay Community Theatre and our deepest appreciation goes to them and we hope they will be happy to work with us again.

**MEMBERS OF THE BALLET**

**ROBYN ERICKSEN, HELEN McFADZEN, HELEN Van ELDIK,  
DIANNE MAPLEY, JENNIFER MEARS, WENDY GRETTON, ROBYN  
DIXON, LANA HINCHEY**



## ADMINISTRATION

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|                          |                                                          |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| PATRON .....             | Dr. I. H. Chenoweth                                      |
| DIRECTOR .....           | Moya Hutchieson                                          |
| SECRETARY .....          | John Hazell                                              |
| HON. TREASURER .....     | Eileen Green                                             |
| HON. ASSISTANT SEC. .... | May McVicar                                              |
| COMMITTEE .....          | Betty Meskell, Len Milnes, A. Sakrzewski, Arthur McBride |

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## THANKS

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THE MACKAY COMMUNITY THEATRE gratefully acknowledge the generosity of the following local business houses who have advertised in this programme:—

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Without their assistance it would not be possible to produce such a programme, and we commend them to you for your patronage.