



KUCOM THEATRE INC
in association with Dominie Pty Ltd
proudly presents

Rumours by Neil Simon



**Kucom
Theatre
Playhouse**
361 Shakespeare Street

**10,11,15,17,
18,22,24,25**

**November 2006
at 8pm**

Bookings: Mackay Entertainment Centre Ph. 4957 1777
Enquiries: 0428 980 030

Rumours

THE DIRECTOR



Heather MacTavish

Probably best known as the voice of radio in Mackay, Heather has been acting since Mackay Community Theatre days. She was also an inaugural member of the Kudos Theatre, then of Kucom Theatre. She has directed many plays, some of her favourites being *Seven Nuns in Las Vegas*, *The Anniversary*, all the *Fardale* comedies, *Fatal Attraction*, *Steel Magnolias*, *Prin*, *Busybody* and *The Odd Couple* (female version). Some of Heather's memorable performances are roles in *Hay Fever*, *The Shifting Heart* and *Suddenly Last Summer*. Heather won the Best Actress award for her role as The Woman in *Duchess on Thursday* at the Yeppoon Drama Festival in 2003.

THE PLAYWRIGHT



Neil Simon (born Marvin Neil Simon, 4 July 1927) has written over 40 Broadway plays since 1961, ranging from humorous, lighthearted plays of the '60s (*Barefoot in the Park*, *The Odd Couple*) to darker, more autobiographical works in the '70s and '80s (*Chapter Two*, the *Eugene* trilogy featuring *Brighton Beach Memoirs*,

Biloxi Blues & Broadway Bound). He also contributed librettos to such hit musical comedies as *Sweet Charity* and *They're Playing Our Song*. *Rumours* premiered in 1988, and was Simon's first attempt at farce - he says: 'I wanted to laugh and to make audiences laugh. I chose to write a farce, not realizing that technically speaking, writing a good farce may be the hardest undertaking in a writer's career'.

Rumours

THE CAST

In order of appearance:

Chris Bevans	Rowena Marshall
Ken Bevans	Jim Kelly
Claire Cummings	Bronwyn Grannall
Leonard Cummings	John Atkinson
Ernest Cusack	Wayne Hughes
Cookie Cusack	Aggie Partridge
Glenn Cooper	Chris French
Cassie Cooper	Krystan Bird
PC Conklin	Geoff Stewart-Maclean
WPC Casey	Maureen Coleman

The action takes place in the living-room of a large house outside London on an evening in May

*There will be a 20-minute interval between Act I and Act II
The bar will be open and drinks are permitted into the theatre*

THE PRODUCTION CREW

Director	Heather MacTavish
Assistant Director / Stage Manager	Tessa King
Sound and Lighting	Laurie King
Props	Narelle McLachlan
	Carolyn Thompson
Set Design	Heather MacTavish
Set Construction and Painting	Laurie King
	Tessa King
	John Atkinson
	Bronwyn Grannall
Front of House Coordinator	Maureen Coleman
Program	Taffy's Typing Service

Special thanks to
DEWAARD DEMOLITION AND SALVAGE
for materials used in construction of this set

Rumours



ROWENA MARSHALL - CHRIS

Not seen in a production for some years, Rowena returns to the theatre to play the panicky Chris Bevans. In the '70s Rowena was employed by Twelfth Night Theatre and, since then, appeared in a few local productions including *Suddenly Last Summer*, *The Seagull* and *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll*. After a couple of decades where family came first, Rowena has been enjoying being a part of this light-hearted romp!



JIM KELLY - KEN

Of the many productions Jim has been involved with, his favourite roles include Mary Sunshine in *Chicago*, Roo in *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll* and Roy in *Cosi*. Jim has also directed numerous musicals and straight productions and has several times won Best Director and Best Actor at drama festivals, most recently winning every eligible award at the Yeppoon Drama Festival in 2003.



BRONWYN GRANNALL - CLAIRE

Bronwyn has appeared in numerous productions, both amateur and professional, in Australia and overseas, and has twice been awarded the Canberra Area Theatre (CAT) Award for Best Actress – in 2000 for Kath in *Entertaining Mr Sloane* and again in 2003 for her chilling portrayal of Annie Wilkes in Stephen King's *Misery*. Recent appearances for Kucom include *Farewell Brisbane Ladies* and *Shirley Valentine* (2005) and *Beautiful Thing* (2006).



JOHN ATKINSON - LEONARD

During his 16 years with Kucom Theatre, John has performed in about 30 full-length and short plays, playing all types of roles - from a young medical student, to an extremely elderly Russian servant; from a cross-dressing drama adjudicator to an Australian larrikin - and has enjoyed every minute of it (well most minutes anyway). John is currently President of Kucom.

THE CAST

Rumours



AGGIE PARTRIDGE - COOKIE

Aggie is a 'late bloomer' in terms of acting - this is only her third role since her student days, when as a chorus member of the Glasgow Operatic Society she performed in *The Merry Widow* and Offenbach's *Tales of the Underworld*. Her debut with Kucom was as the Scottish scatterbrain Flora (aka the Mikado) in 2005, and earlier this year she appeared in Mackay Choral Society's production of *The Gondoliers*.



WAYNE HUGHES - ERNEST

Wayne recently moved up from Sydney, where he was a member of City Drama Studio for four years, playing roles in several productions including *King Lear* (*King Lear*), *Lysander* (*Midsummer Night's Dream*) and *Mr Packer* (*Vinegar Tom*). He has also enjoyed several years' experience in writing and directing of kids' musical dramas. He was delighted to win this role in *Rumours*, his first performance with Kucom.



KRYSTAN BIRD - CASSIE

Krystan started acting in school where she performed in two high school musicals, *The Three Musketeers* and *Smithy*. *Rumours* is her first big scale public production since leaving school, and she hopes that it's not her last. She says: 'Rehearsing with the cast of *Rumours* has been an excellent chance for me to gain experience and knowledge from the talented cast'.



CHRIS FRENCH - GLENN

Chris performed in many Theatre Restaurants and Pantomimes in the late '80s with the Ulverstone Repertory Society, Tasmania, playing characters such as Cupid, Prince Charming and a Fox! Chris teaches Middle School drama at the Whitsunday Anglican School and has directed and produced numerous school musicals. After a long break from acting, he is enjoying the lime-light again as the ambitious politician, Glenn Cooper.

THE CAST

Rumours



THE CAST

Geoff Stewart-Maclean - CONKLIN

Actor, singer, poet, and can clear a room anywhere just by playing his banjo. Geoff has performed and directed, both unpaid and professionally, in Australia, the UK and Canada. He directed Kucom's last production, *The Memory of Water*, and is here tonight enforcing the long arm of the law.



Maureen Coleman - CASEY

We have lost track of the number of productions Maureen has featured in - she has, too - but she last appeared as the brilliantly neurotic Teresa in Kucom's July 2006 production of *Memory of Water* and has made memorable contributions to all the *Farmdale* comedies. Anyway, she has been 'treading the boards' for Kucom since 1990! She still asks herself 'WHY?' Well, what else would she do in her spare time?



Tessa King - ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Tessa gained many years' experience both as an actor and director in South Australia, with such companies as Elizabeth Repertory, Northern Light, Nonsuch, Spotlight and Camelot Theatre Company. She was also heavily involved with South Australian Writers Theatre (SAWT) working with authors on the development of new scripts, and collaborated with one of the SAWT members in the performance and production of a children's show each year.

Next year

KUCOM THEATRE TURNS 60 !

We invite you to help us celebrate Kucom's 60th birthday in 2007. We're planning a season of fabulous plays, including *Bazaar and Rummage* by Sue Townsend (creator of *Adrian Mole*), the hilarious comedy *Secret Bridesmaids' Business* by Australian playwright Elizabeth Coleman, and a revival of one of our most successful *Farmdale* comedies.



Keep watching the *Daily Mercury* for information about auditions and performance dates for Kucom's 60th birthday season, and you can also visit our website:

<http://kucommackay.spaces.live.com>

or give us a call on: 0428 980 030



Kucom Theatre is proud to be associated as a Business Partner with Easy Listening 1026am, Mackay

KUCOM COMMITTEE 2006

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Committee

John Atkinson
Jim Kelly
Bronwyn Grannall
Tessa King
Jill Mayhead
Maureen Coleman
Heather MacTavish

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