

The Director

John Taylor has directed, acted in, and created the sets for many a KUCOM show, starting with the fondly remembered "Sugar and Fred" which he co-wrote with Ken Kennet. Sets have included those for "Stop the World", "Oh What a Lovely War", "A Flea in Her Ear", and "Suddenly Last Summer".

Last Year he directed a trio of plays by Brecht, Williams and Sartre, did the sets for "The Crucible" and "Farce to Farce", and co-wrote with Brenda Price "Christmas Pudding". This year he co-wrote with John Atkinson "Fall of the House of Usher" for KUCOM's "Night of Horror".

Abroad, John has written and directed shows that were produced at the 'Shaw', 'Donmar', 'Almeida' and 'Oval' theatres in London, two shows for the Edinburgh festival, represented Britain at Expo '86 in Canada, and represented Berlin in Oslo! The shows have toured Germany, Belgium, Holland, Britain and America, with notable successes in New York, one show winning an OBIE (the Off Broadway Awards).

Titles of the 'shows' as he prefers to call them give no indication as to content - "Cheek", "Living Leg-ends", "Madame Mao - the Musical", "Just a Moment", "Lust in Space" and "Strapless".

One starry night in New York Mike Nichols returned for his 3rd visit bringing Mick Jagger and David Bowie to cram into the dressing room with Twiggy and Tommy Tune. Lotte Lenya (Brecht's widow) gave John his favourite critique - "This is my Berlin, - the Berlin of my youth" she said, and Mike Nichols of Warner Bros pinched all the jokes for "Air Plane". Ah well.....

KUCOM PRESENTS

HAY FEVER

Noel Coward's
COMEDY OF BAD MANNERS



"HAY FEVER"

The action of the play takes place in the garden of the Bliss's House at Cookham in mid-summer.

Act I Saturday afternoon

Act II Saturday evening

Act III Sunday morning

Cast

Sorel Bliss		Annette Hutchison
Simon Bliss		John Mann
Clara		Una Daniel
Judith Bliss		Heather MacTavish
David Bliss		Jim Kelly
Sandy Tyrell		Peter Rosier
Myra Arundel		Sue Stock
Richard Greatham		John Atkinson
Jackie Coryton		Maureen Coleman

Hay Fever

"There is neither health nor cleanness about any of Mr Coward's characters in *Hay Fever*", wrote one shocked critic in 1925. "They are all vicious babies sprawling about in the unwholesome crèche." "*Hay Fever*" went on to become one of the most often performed plays of this century.

It was Noel's especial favourite, he loved its construction, and the "ease" with which it was written, and he said on its opening night, "whatever you may think of it, you must admit it's as clean as a whistle." Depends of course on the whistle! - and like all good plays, it teaches us something about ourselves - in this case it points up the difference between those who know they are "acting" a part and those who think the part they are "acting" is "real"

Noel Coward

From "*The Vortex*" in 1924, ("scandalous" - Daily Mail) through 50 years to what he himself called "Dad's Renaissance," he was the most talked about, multi-talented figure in the English speaking theatre. Through 50 plays, films, short stories, several reviews, and innumerable popular songs, Coward sustained and developed his talent to amuse. "My life," he once remarked, "has been one long extravaganza". A remark which hides the fact he was a superb craftsman and tireless worker.

A list of his plays will be familiar to most theatregoers - here are just a few to jog the memory - "*Blythe Spirit*", "*Fallen Angels*", "*Private Lives*", "*Bitter Sweet*", "*Nude with Violin*", "*Design for Living*", "*Present Laughter*", "*Tonight at 8.30*", "*Brief Encounter*", "*Sail Away*", and "*Suite in Three Keys*" - and you all can sing some of "*Mad Dogs and Englishmen*", "*I'll Follow my Secret Heart*", "*I'll See you Again*", "*Mad about the Boy*", and "*A Room with a View*".

Annette Hutchison trained at Gray's Studio before coming to Mackay last year, when she displayed her considerable charm and skill in "Farce to Farce" and her dramatic powers in "The Crucible".

Heather MacTavish started in theatre at age 17 with the Mackay Community Theatre (the COM of KUCOM), was an inaugural member of Kudos (the KU) and then of KUCOM. She has played various roles and has recently tried directing. Highlights of her performing include "Bell, Book and Candle", "Dark of the Moon", "Abelard and Eloise", "Hotel Paradiso", "A Toast to Melba", "A Flea in her Ear", "Suddenly Last Summer", "Fiddler on the Roof", "The Importance of Being Ernest" and "The Crucible". Her favourite role is her current one of Judith Bliss in "Hay Fever".

Jim Kelly is arguably Mackay's most well known and useable actor. From a 14 year old stage-hand in "Sugar and Fred", Jim has been in at least 46 productions since. His most recent success being a lead role in "Brigadoon". Jim is also currently rehearsing "An Entertainment" for the Harbour Lights Theatre Restaurant.

John Atkinson trained as a classical dancer and has appeared in a number of original dance works. A relative newcomer to straight theatre, "The Crucible" and "The Fall of the House of Usher", most of his appearances have been in musicals, "Chicago", "Godspell", "Cabaret", "Barnum" and most recently in "Brigadoon". His presence has enlivened several revues, including "Christmas Pudding". Comedy is a definite forte, with roles in "A Midsummer Night's Dream", "Sunspots" and as a truly memorable Sir Andrew Agucheek in "Twelfth Night".

Una Daniel obtained her Degree in Drama at Rusden State College, Victoria. Una taught at Maribyrnong High School before 'escaping' to Queensland to appear in KUCOM's "Coward in Love" and "Christmas Pudding".

John Mann is a full-time year 12 student (mature age) at Mackay State High School, completing a course devoted entirely to the performing arts. John's acting career began in Moranbah with "Harvey", "The Uncucumber Man", "Cody vs Cody" and "The Black Cabinet" being some of his credits. Since arriving in Mackay John has been a very active Kucomber, besides roles in "In Camera", "Farce to Farce" and "The Crucible" he has helped out with props and set construction in most of our recent productions. John has tried dance, "Intermezzo" and will appear as the extremely loony sound technician 'Ludwig Mozart' in the MSHS musical "Off Beat". John plans to become a 'real actor' after attending Kelvin Grove to get his B.A.D. (Bachelor of Arts-Drama)

Maureen Coleman is a newcomer to the stage, having worked backstage in KUCOM'S "Feydeau Farces", "Christmas Pudding", "The Crucible" and "A Night of Horror". A strong on stage performance in "The Monkey's Paw" has propelled Maureen 'into the lights'.

Peter Rosier has been an active participant in Mackay Theatre since arriving from Melbourne some two years ago. Roles have ranged from walking about on stilts in Comedy Players' "Barnum" to posing semi-naked during "The Elephant Calf". Peter's latest appearance on the Mackay Stage was as Charlie Cameron in "Brigadoon", and he will sing along in the Choral Society's "Good Old Days" soon after the "Hay Fever" season is over. During daylight, Peter works as a Structural Engineer.

Sue Stock has enjoyed acting since school days in Nth Qld and is a regular KUCOM performer. "Stop the World", "Chicago", "Wait Until Dark", "A Perfect Analysis Given by a Parrot", "The Crucible", "Christmas Pudding" and "Suddenly Last Summer" are some of her credits. Sue is married to another "Kucomber" and directs two little "Kucumbers" at home.

Stage Manager

John Irvine (Rambo with a Hammer) started with KUCOM as part of the back-stage crew during production of "Other Games People Play" in early 1990. He then made an accidental "stage" debut as a hedonistic yobbo in Brecht's "The Elephant Calf", a significant role requiring him to be beaten to a pulp each night after heckling the actors

While licking his wounds in the secluded and seldom visited workshop area (under the house), he emerged to create cacophony and chaos with a claw hammer during rehearsals for "Farce to Farce". Giving in to the urge to expose himself publicly, he was a chain rattling Marshal in "The Crucible", and the head of John the Baptist, and a Ninja Turtle in "Christmas Pudding".

John headed back-stage for the "Night of Horror", giving his distinctive layed back voice for Sgt Duffy in "Sorry, Wrong Number", as well as helping the stage crew. Having shown his virtuosity in shifting furniture between acts over the last 5 shows, he now finds himself in charge of not shifting anything for KUCOM's latest blockbuster extravaganza, "Hay Fever".

Properties

Carolan Hill started as 'Props' and has ended up a Pillar of our Society. Starting with "Chicago" in 1984 she has given her enthusiasm and willingness to work in almost every KUCOM production since. Many shows have benefited from her efficient handling of the Stage Manager's job. She claims to have no ambition to 'go on the stage' or go bunjie jumping either. Carolan is our current Treasurer.

Crew

Director	John Taylor
Stage Manager	John Irvine
Set Construction	John Taylor John Mann Butch Bernet
Set Painted by	John Taylor John Mann
Costumes	May Taylor Toots Lemonde
Props	Carolan Hill
Publicity	George Stent
Bookings	Kate & George Stent of The Paper Chain

Special thanks to Mark Saunders for his donations, and to Shirley and Alan at the Salvos.

KUCOM's next event

is our "MAPP" Night - Music, Art, Poetry and Prose - for the Arts Festival on 23 & 26 July,
and the next play proposed is "Bell, Book and Candle" to be directed by Heather MacTavish.