

Bringing Live Theatre to Local Rural Communities



VHP

Vagaries

[www.villagehallplayers.com](http://www.villagehallplayers.com)

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## THE DAME : Vintage Drag in Mint Condition

The full-house audience was treated to a marvellous evening with The Dame (Stan Munro) at the KMI Hall on Saturday 5 November. It was an evening of stories and reminiscences, lip-synching and laughter, as well as a few tears, when The Dame: Vintage Drag in Mint Condition took to the stage.

Funded by a NSW State Government grant through their Reconnecting Regional NSW – Community Events Program, supported by Kyogle Council, and presented by Village Hall Players, The Dame told the story of local resident, Stan Munro's incredible career as a glamorous entertainer that stretches across three continents and six decades – and counting.

Using a mix of projected images and videos on to a large screen and a lively conversation between Stan and the show's co-producer, Kevin Markwell, the audience was quickly drawn into a remarkable life story that was captivating and, at times, quite emotional. This was an honest, no holds-barred examination of a life well lived. Munro, Stan travelled around the UK for several years as part of the dance duo, The Munro Brothers, performing on the same bill as The Andrews Sisters and Petula Clark..

Arriving in Sydney in 1963 as a Ten Pound Pom, Stan soon discovered the emerging drag scene and was employed initially as a male dancer at the newly-opened Les Girls Restaurant in Kings Cross while working at Dairy Farmers milk factory during the day. Within a couple of years, he had been promoted to compere of the show before eventually taking it to Melbourne in 1970 where he starred and compered for the next eight years.

Throw in appearances in three movies including the role of Mrs Warren in the hit Australian movie, Alvin Purple, riding a cantankerous elephant for a charity fund-raiser, leaving Bert Newton tongue-tied during Stan's appearance on The Graham Kennedy Show, compering and performing drag shows in Hong Kong and Beirut, friendships with Cilla Black, Sir Robert Helpmann and Danny La Rue, dealing with, and recovering from a nervous breakdown, and later touring the country as compere of Australia's first male strip show, The Cheeky Chaps, and you can see why the night was both entertaining and revealing.

The show was brought to an emotional end when Stan sang Fantasy, a song written for him

by his musician friend, Tim Barton, and which captures the essence of Stan's life as a performer whose use of illusion, masquerade and fantasy entertained and enthralled audiences across the decades. As Stan writes in the show's Program, "Drag has treated me very well and enabled me to do the things I love. I love performing, I love entertaining. I always have. This is my story".

It is likely that The Dame will be performed during the Pride Festival in the Victorian town of Castlemaine next April and Stan is hoping to also take it to Melbourne and Sydney.



# EXIT LAUGHING

What a fabulous tour! Five shows over four weekends. And if that wasn't enough, our wonderful cast and crew said, "Yes!" to a Special Request performance at the Goolmangar School of Arts in aid of victims of the Lismore floods. Here are some photos for those who came along and for those who missed it. Enjoy!



1 Commercial Hotel, Casino



2 Stage at Collins Creek Hall



3 Table Settings for Opening Night



4 Huge audience at final show!

## STOP PRESS:

Through the generosity of Exit Laughing cast, crew and audience members, VHP donated \$777.40 to the Lismore Flood Appeal. Thank you everyone!



## By Special Request

The Committee of Goolmangar School of Arts contacted VHP and asked if we would perform for an audience of Lismore flood victims. The wonderful cast and crew of *Exit Laughing* agreed to another show for such a worthy cause and so on 19<sup>th</sup> November, we did just that. The show was sponsored by the NSW Government through the headspace organisation and was such a bit hit, that VHP have been asked to include Goolmangar on its village halls tour!

# AUDITIONS

*Village Hall Players is preparing for their 2023 Season.*

*Our first production will be the Broadway Musical*

## **Annie**

We are looking for:

**6 girls** – 8-13 years – gritty, neglected and vulnerable, yet basically honest and potentially loveable, need to sing (some solo parts) and some dance training or willing to learn

**A male** – 25-65 years - the ultimate radio personality - needs to sing

**Males** – 20-60+ years – to play a butler, policeman, dog catcher, politicians, homeless people, etc.

**Females** – 20-60+ years – to play servants, homeless people, an apple seller, etc.

Rehearsals will begin on the 29<sup>th</sup> January 2023 with performances being held on 13, 14, 20 & 21 May 2023. If you have time to commit and are up for the challenge, please attend the auditions at the KMI Hall on

**Saturday 21 January 2023**

9am till 3pm

If you are *genuinely* interested but cannot make it, please call Lynette on 0429 922 169.

***We are a small community group who would love to welcome new members.***

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# DIRT News

DIRT students performed their self-written scenes and monologues in their production, *Created by Kids*, at the KMI Hall on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November at 5:15pm.



## Help Needed

VHP is looking for volunteers. We want to keep bringing quality theatre productions to our halls but we need help. The time commitment for production cast and crew is only during that production. A little more for Assistant roles.

We are a Centrelink Volunteer Approved organisation and can offer training in almost all areas, if needed. Training is conducted by professionals and experienced members.

Currently we are looking for people interested in any of these opportunities:

- backstage crew (assistant stage manager and stagehands);
- lighting technicians;
- assistant to the director;
- assistant producer;
- makeup artist;
- costume designers/makers;
- front of house crew; and, of course,
- actors and singers are always needed.

All volunteers must be 18 years or older and have a current NSW Working with Children Check.

Like all community, not for profit organisations, we can't do what we do without our amazing volunteers.

We are a small group who have a whole bunch of fun doing what we do.

If you are interested or would like to know more, please email Lynette at [villagehallplayers@gmail.com](mailto:villagehallplayers@gmail.com).

*"Movies will make you famous; Television will make you rich; But theatre will make you good."*

Terrance Mann, actor

# 2023 Season

Production	Dates	Venue
Annie	13, 14, 20 & 21 May	KMI Hall
DIRT Annual Production	3 & 4 June	KMI Hall
2 Act Comedy	September	Village Halls
Divarama	December	KMI Hall

This will be updated with new information once it comes to hand.

We are unable to advertise the names of upcoming shows until we have been granted a licence.



May 2023 bring you an abundance of peace, love and laughter.