

The Muriel Project Epistle No: 5 (May 2010)



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Greetings Members and Friends!

Much is happening as we head into events that promise to be the highlight of our foundation year - although it will be hard to top the Balloon Commemoration & Hanky Launch in Rundle Mall! Thanks to all who made that event such a great occasion.

Invitation –

The next function you are invited to attend (flyer has already been circulated) is

Muriel Goes Global!
Launch of The MMS Web Site
By Hon L Breuer, Speaker of the House of Assembly
in the
Old Chamber, Parliament House (North Terrace)
Thursday 6 May, 2010 from 5.30pm – 6.30pm.

In her first official act as Speaker, Lyn will push Muriel's button and launch The Society onto the World Wide Web. (Due to limited space, a 'members only' event.)

2010 Commemoration Performance – Why Muriel Matters

The draft is now a script and rehearsals have begun! Thanks to playwright Sheila Duncan and production co-ordinator Margie Fischer. We now also have a director, two wonderful actors and Lisa Philip-Harbutt (from Community Arts Network) will be looking after what will be stunning visuals.

The Play is now also officially part of the Cabaret Festival Fringe.

The opening performance, to be attended by members of MM's family, will be at the Town Hall on **Sunday 13 June at 7pm**. A Lunch is planned before (venue to be confirmed) and following the opening performance, a Cocktail Function will in the Southern Gallery, Town Hall (details for both to be finalised and advised shortly).

**PLEASE NOTE - MEMBERS SHOULD BOOK TICKETS FOR THEMSELVES AND
THEIR PARTNER AND/OR FRIENDS THROUGH THE SOCIETY.
PLEASE CALL OR EMAIL TO RESERVE YOUR SEAT/S AND PAY
AT THE DOOR ON THE NIGHT.**

This is necessary because BASS cannot verify MMS membership, so this is the only way we will be able to extend any subsidy. Member wage earners can purchase at the concession rate and **all** members will avoid the booking fee, a saving of \$2.50 per ticket. Cost of member partner and other friend/s tickets will be at the advertised price of \$25 waged or \$15 unwaged. MMS will be reserving a block of preferential seating at the front of the auditorium for members and partners and friends.

Please register if you would like to be part of a team (just like the suffragists – spreading the word!) for jobs on the night – before and after the performance.

Program Committee – the creative team is planning for this special glossy and fully illustrated publication. The Executive has pursued funding to help subsidise the cost, which we hope to keep under \$20.

Dirigible Committee – working on special effects for opening night of The Play, one of the reasons you must be there!

Hanky Production – hankies promoting The Play are still available, keenly priced at \$20. As this is a strictly limited edition (stock of blank hankies in SA is now exhausted), over time they will definitely become a collector's item.

Merchandise – we are exploring a range of cards, featuring MM, for sale on the night.

Memberships

Thanks to all those who have already joined The Society. Membership is still growing in this our inaugural year. Life Memberships have increased to 5 and several organisations have come on board. A full list of all Foundation Year members will be included in the souvenir program for June 13, **so there is still time to join and be recognised as part of this special group.**

Progress Continues

In the UK – A trip to unveil the Blue Plaque on MM's Pelham Crescent home is planned for August.

Research - Wendy Herbert continues to find wonderful things – particularly for use in The Play and Program. ACC Archives and Marie Maddocks help with special tasks whenever asked. Steven Anderson has prepared the web site and I'm sure you will agree (when you see it!) we owe him a vote of thanks for a job well done.

Follow Ups

* The special stamp issue is proving difficult to pull together as it has not been possible (as yet) to source pictures of some of the halls MM used on her 1910 Tour. We are, however, still hopeful!

*Mark Thomson continues to Chair and oversee work on the Dirigible Committee and Program Committee. His work on the Hanky Committee has produced a marvellous result and we thank him for his tremendous work on behalf of The Society.

*Frances's visit to Tasmania's State Library in Hobart to view the collection of theatre posters of the Brough Comedy Company was very successful. Alas, while we now have a full repertoire of Brough plays of the period, the Murphy Collection has no mention of MM.

* The Clerk of the House of Assembly (Mr Malcolm Lehman) has been wonderful in his pursuit of The Grille – letters have been written requesting one of the portions of the original Ladies Gallery (in storage at Westminster) be sent - eventually, to Adelaide as a gift from the House of Commons. Very exciting and fingers crossed this actually can be achieved.

Presentations

Several successful (and always well received) presentations have been made to groups since our last newsletter - with many more already booked. Please recommend MMS as guest speakers for any appropriate groups with which you have an affiliation.

Significant Current Lines of Investigation

*Still to organise a meeting with Hindmarsh Historical Society and Lands Titles Office (LTO) in SA and UK.

*Still looking for our first lead on William Porter.

*Still to visit Pt Augusta.

*Still looking to touch base with our contact within BHP Billiton.

An AGM agenda item will be discussion on setting up a research plan and commissioning of the documentary.

Suggestions are always welcome. Please contact The Society via email and we will do our best to accommodate.

Please Add to Your Diaries

Sunday June 13, 2010 – 7pm performance at Adelaide Town Hall (the same venue used by MM!) to commemorate the Centenary of MM's 1909 Australian Tour.