



The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of SA Inc.



G&S Newsletter

www.gandssa.com.au

No. 4 November 2013

Oliver!
Book, Music and Lyrics by Lionel Bart

A must-see production.
Ewart Shaw, The Advertiser

"Book a seat now
- they won't last."
Rob de Rokh, InDaily

Director **DAVID LAMPARD** Assistant Director **AMANDA ROWE** Musical Director **PETER JOHNS**
Friday 31 January to Saturday 8 February 2014 ARTS THEATRE - Ranges St, Adelaide
Including a 4pm show on Sun 2 February & 1:30pm matinees on Sat 1 & 8 February
Tickets at www.gandssa.com.au or ring 0447 7233

KICKSTART FOR KIDS
Proudly supporting The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of SA Inc.

A Little Night Music

Giacomo Puccini
Madama Butterfly

Adelaide Repertory Theatre
presents
The Mystery of the HANSON CAB
The Top
November 21 - 30
2013
BOOKINGS 8233 8777
www.adelaideartscentre.com.au

In this Issue:

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- **The Way Forward**
- **Welcome Ashton!**
- **Vale Kemerli**
- **Brava Claire Heap!**

Our Suggested Events!

The Gilbert and Sullivan Society of South Australia

Established 1937 ABN 45 510 475 165

PO Box 306

HINDMARSH SA 5007

Website: www.gandssa.com.au

Email: contact@gandssa.com.au



The Gilbert and Sullivan Society of South Australia is proud to support Kick Start For Kids

From the President...

What a fantastic production *Oliver!* turned out to be! Not only from my point of view of a cast member but, as President, I am so incredibly proud of the huge number of talented people we have working with and for us. Every member of the team, from a children's cast right through to our back stage crew, technical staff and administration all put in 'over the odds' efforts to make *Oliver!* what it was. To all involved I say thankyou on behalf of the Society and thankyou personally for helping to breathe new life into this well worn tale.

In the end we sold 76% of available tickets which is our best result in a long time and, as always, by the end of the season word had spread about how good the show was and we had three sold out performances and were turning away bookings. On an almost daily basis I am told by people that they really wanted to get to see it but couldn't and so.....*Oliver!* – *Please sir – I want some more* is happening..

The Board decided to remount our production of *Oliver!* so that the large number of people who missed out the first time will get a second bite of the cherry. Most of our original cast, crew and production team are coming back for the return season and we are really excited about remounting *Oliver!* again.

Sadly however, we won't see John Greene or Bev Shean reprise their roles due to other commitments so a big thanks to them for their efforts in the first season – you will both be missed!

Stay tuned for special ticket offers and please push the return season hard with your family, friends and workmates – this will be their last chance!

In other news we had a fantastic 'cup of tea' morning – as it has become affectionately known. Thanks to those who came to the Shed to chat about new directions for the Society. Your feed back was both encouraging and candid – exactly as we wanted it to be - so much so that we have decided to try to repeat the exercise on a regular basis.

Our new treasurer, Dee Dhawan has been working feverishly in her new role and is giving us some great insight into forward financial planning for the Society.

And, very soon, the Board will be having another strategic planning day to review our last two years through the prism of what we set out to do at our last planning day. We are all looking forward to getting our teeth into this project.



So, as always, the game is afoot and we keep on working hard for the betterment of the Society. I look forward to you all coming back to seem me kill Nancy one more time....

Tell Us What You Think! The 2013 G&S Survey

Please visit the website and undertake our survey to help us ensure that the Society keeps you informed and hears what you have to say.

So please take the time to fill it in and give us some feedback. One lucky respondent will win a Westfield voucher worth \$200 as a thank you for your time.

www.surveymonkey.com/s/GANDSSA

Membership 2014

The end of the year is almost upon us and it is time to renew your membership of the Society for 2014.

This ensures that you receive information about upcoming activities for the year as well as special ticket deals for our productions. You may even want to run for election to the Board!

Membership can be renewed online at <http://gandssa.com.au/about-us/join-us/purchase-membership> (make sure you include both hyphens)

What To See in November

The Society has been very pleased to assist and support The Hills Musical Company to stage their current musical, Stephen Sondheim's *A Little Night Music*.

The production has a cast of whom almost all are Society members past or present! It features three generations of the James family— Myfanwy May, (Madame Armfeldt) Bronwen James (Desiree) and Georgia James (Fredrika). Myfanwy and Bronwen have both performed with the Society, as has Georgia's Dad Craig!

Other Society members in the cast include Karina Jay, (Anne), Ian Andrew (Henrik), Rachel Rai (Petra), Rod Schultz (Count Carl-Magnus), Danii Zappia (Mrs Andersson), Bethany Anne (Mrs Nordstrom), David Lampard (Mr Lindquist), James Christopher Reed (Frid) and Alexandra Wiedenmann (Osa).

And behind the scenes you will find other Society contributors such as Hayley Horton, Wendy Rayner and Thomas Wiedenmann. Its worth a trip up the Hill to see a great show!



Puccini's Masterpiece

State Opera of SA stages *Madama Butterfly* at the Festival Centre on 23, 26, 28 and 30 November at 7. 30 pm with Society members in principal roles.

In the title role is Joanna McWaters, sponsored by Society Patron, the late Hon. Dr Kemeru Murray AO, State Opera Young Artist Desiree Frahn as Kate Pinkerton and Andy Turner as Prince Yakuside. Adam Goodburn plays Goro. Members of the chorus include Meran Bow, Alexandra Gard, Daniel Goodburn, Michelle Grootenboer, Norbert Hohl, Reece Keane, Mark Oates, Sarah-Jane Pattichis and Paul Talbot.

The Opera commercial was a family affair, with Jo as Cio-Cio San, Andy as Pinkerton with their nephew Callum as Dolore.



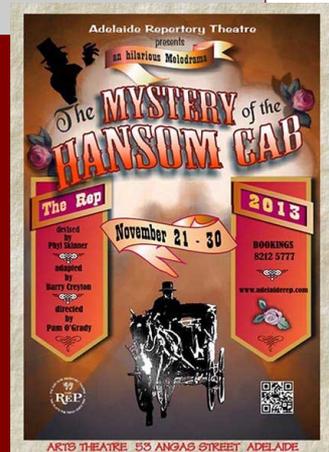
Boo! Hiss!

Come and see G&S stalwart Barry Hill as the dastardly villain in the Adelaide Rep's final production for 2013.

Set on the streets of Victorian Adelaide, this play is based on an Australian novel of the same name. Staged in the best melodramatic tradition.

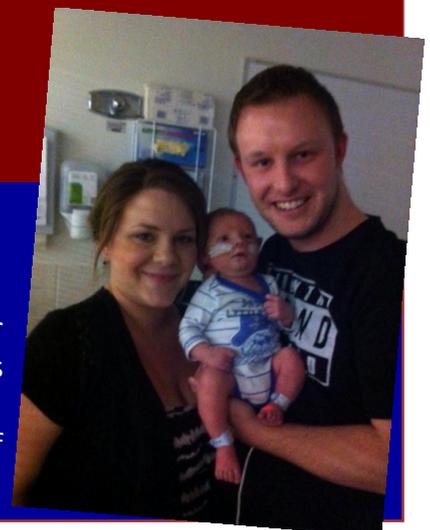
Tickets can be bought at

<http://trybooking.com/48832>



Our Own Little Oliver!

Congratulations to Michelle and Sam Davy on the arrival of their son. Ashton Robert Alexander Davy was born in the early hours of 5 October 2013. Ashton has started life with some health problems and Society friends send their love, best wishes and support to Michelle and Sam. Michelle plays the pregnant Agnes Brownlow in the opening sequences of our production of *Oliver!* therefore making Ash our own little Oliver!



What's On At The Society - December

You are invited to attend the G&S Society of SA movie fundraiser. The fundraiser has become an annual tradition for the society and a great opportunity for the theatre community to catch up and share a great afternoon with friends and bring along further friends and family.

This year, the movie to be screened is

The Hobbit in 2D - The Desolation of Smaug

We hope to see you there!

Date: 29 December 2013

Time: Mid to Late afternoon (to be confirmed closer to the date)

Place: Palace Nova Eastend Cinemas
251 Rundle Street (enter off Vaughn Place)

Cost: \$25 per ticket including ticket and drink (including beer, wine or soft drinks)

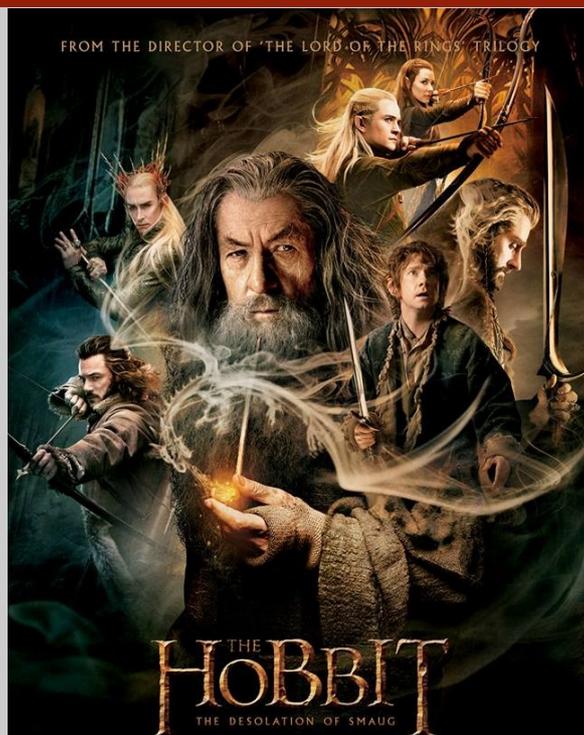
Bookings: www.gandssa.com.au or Paula 8447 7239

Bookings must be received by no later than 8 pm 28 December 2013

Parking: Frome Street/North Terrace Carpark or Rundle Street

PLEASE NOTE: The Cinemas advise us that the session is likely to be sold out and it is therefore is very important that you collect your tickets by 2.30 pm at the latest. G&S Society personnel will guide you to your seats.

You will not be able to book G&S tickets at the Cinema.



Board of Management 2013

President:	Paul Talbot
Vice President:	Ric Trevaskis
Secretary:	Kate Warren
Treasurer:	Jan Hooper/Aditi Dhawan
Board Members:	Ian Andrew, Megan Doherty Manik Meah Sarah Nagy Michelle Wickett David Williams
Ticket Secretary:	Paula Pamment
Ex-Officio	Louise Gillan Jan Hooper

From the Editor

Welcome to Newsletter No. 4! Once again there has been so much news to report that it has been hard to fit it all in!

Thank you so much for your feedback and comments on past editions.

I am looking forward to the return of *Oliver!* next year, or as I have nicknamed it *The Fagin Strikes Back!*

If you know of events happening involving Society members or friends please let me know.

Have a Merry Christmas and see you early 2014.

Contact me on: liz@gandssa.com.au

What's On At The Society - February

Want some more? Oliver returns to Adelaide to stage return season!

The widely acclaimed and sold out production of *Oliver!* presented by the G&S Society in July 2013 will return to the Arts Theatre stage on Friday 31 January 2014. to 8 February 2014 at the earlier starting time at 7.30 pm, two matinees and a twilight performance on Sunday 2 February 2014 at 4 pm.

David Lampard's (director/designer) latest masterpiece received rave reviews from both critics and audience members and the return season was announced this week. The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of SA has also confirmed and pledged to continue their support for SA charity partner Kick Start for Kids and will be continuing their fundraising efforts to improve the lives of dis-advantaged children in SA.

Helmed by the multi-award winning production team of David Lampard and Peter Johns (musical director) the production boasts most of the original SA cast as well as the original creative team.

"The process of rehearsing and performing a show as large as *Oliver* really brings everyone together. The cast and everyone's involved become your family and we are so pleased we get to do it all again," said Lampard

The Gilbert and Sullivan Society of SA raised \$2000 for the local charity which will feed one SA school of disadvantaged children for an entire year. The Society also volunteered in excess of 40 hours of cast/crew time and provided marketing support to the charity.

Adult Cast Members

Nancy	Emma Bargery
Fagin	Rod Schultz
Bill Sikes	Paul Talbot
Mr Bumble	Nicolas Lock
Widow Corney	Roslyn Lock
Mr Brownlow	Tim Blackshaw
Mrs Sowerberry	Vanessa Lee Shirley
Mr Sowerberry	David Lampard
Mrs Bedwin	Renie Walker
Noah Claypole	Damien Quick
Charlotte	Petra Taylor
Bet	Em Carter
Dr Grimwig	Andrew Crispe
Old Sally	Wendy Rayner
Seller's Quartet	Sarah Nagy
	James Nicholson
	Vanessa Lee Shirley
	Lisa Simonetti

"We couldn't be more grateful to the cast and crew of *Oliver* and especially all the patrons who attended and donated money. We are excited to see what we can achieve in our next run," said Ian Steel, Founder of Kick Start for Kids.

Priority tickets are now on sale for the return season of *Oliver*. Packages and special offers will be announced in the coming weeks via www.gandssa.com.au

Every ticket sold will buy breakfast for one disadvantaged child. Research shows that a healthy breakfast is imperative to a child's development in their education.

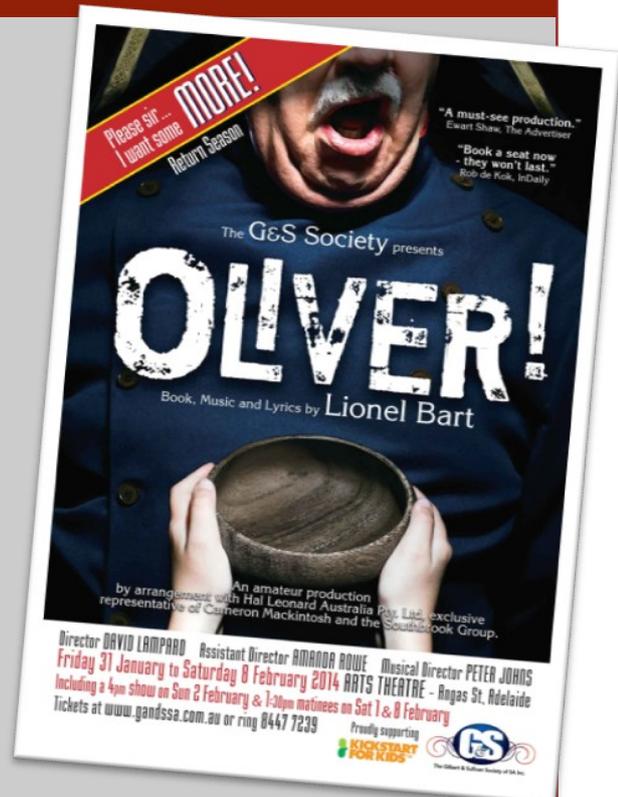
To book your tickets, call Paula on 8447 7239

Email Paula@gandssa.com.au

Or visit www.gandssa.com.au

Adults \$38, Con. \$33

Child \$25, B Reserve \$25



Consider Yourself One of Us! 1975 meets 2013

In November 1975, under my direction, students at Newlands Primary School in Coburg, Victoria, staged a modified version of the musical *Oliver!* Just recently, in June, a memorable reunion was held in Sunbury, Victoria, where thirteen members of the cast excitedly met after 38 years. They travelled from Sydney, Adelaide, Brisbane, the Gold Coast and from many places around Melbourne.

On Saturday 20th July, our Fagin (Karen Annear—Melbourne), two of his gang (Tracey Warr — Melbourne and Tracey Bagshaw — Adelaide), the artful Dodger (Angelo Gencarelli — Adelaide), Widow Corney (Di LaVelle —

Melbourne) and I travelled to the Arts Theatre in Adelaide for the G&S production. It was, of course, much more professional than our show and we just couldn't help but sing and tap (quietly) along.

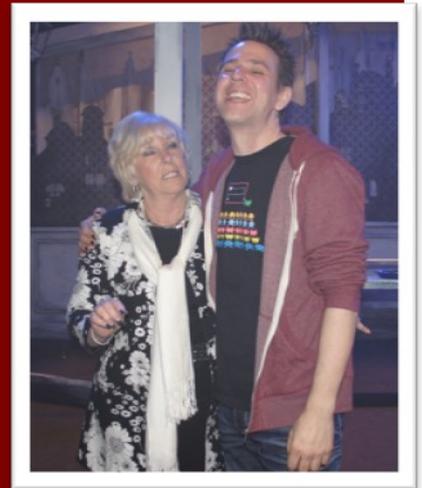
One of the many highlights of the day was being invited backstage following the matinee performance to meet the extremely talented director and cast members. What a absolute thrill it was to introduce OUR characters to YOUR characters and line up beside them for photographs.

We all have very special memories relating to 'Oliver', and your kindness has ensured that that love will endure.

A million thanks to all concerned.

Dianne Pate

(Teacher/Director 1975)



Directors Dianne Pate and David Lampard meet backstage



*Left: The Widows Corney—Bev Shean and Di Lavelle
Right: Di in 1975 as Widow Corney with Mr Bumble*

Dianne, the cast and crew of 2013 had a wonderful time meeting the 1975 cast and we thank you for travelling from Queensland and Victoria to see the show. Editor.

*Top Left: Two Dodgers and Fagins —Angelo Gencarelli, Rod Schultz, Karen Annear, Connor Olsson-Jones
Bottom Left: Charlie and Dodger 1975—Terry Holborn and Angelo Gencarelli
Bottom Right: Fagin 1975 - Karen Annear*

Cup of Tea Morning

On Saturday the 10th August the Board invited anyone interested to come to the Shed for coffee and a talk about what's important for our members and supporters. About 20 people attended, including most of the Board, quite a few of our longer standing members and a handful of interested supporters. Manik Meah led what was quite an energetic discussion.

The purpose of the morning was not to give answers, but more to raise questions and give the Board feedback. From the Board's point of view, probably the most important point was that people generally were of the view that we have to move with the times, accept that G&S is harder for us to sell, that we have to use amplification and that audiences these days expect technical standards and good acting as well as singing. In relation to G&S discussion ranged around how we keep G&S alive; how we keep a balance between "traditional" and "innovative" G&S, both of which need to be encouraged, how we get and keep young people interested, with the suggestion that perhaps we need to see our G&S productions as more "boutique" shows.

There was quite a lot of discussion around marketing and related topics: how we appeal to the age group with the most disposable income; how we sell the Society as well as our productions; the viability of country / suburban performances; the best form of advertising in an age of social media; using guest artists. There were valuable suggestions about the sort of information we send out and the best ways to send it. Everyone present was conscious of the need to keep a balance between production standards and costs. One suggestion was that, while we remain the G&S Society, perhaps we should consider trading under a different but related name, as "a division of the G&S Society".

There was also quite a focus on how we attract, keep and look after our members and supporters, including member benefits, records and databases, and generally maintaining the sense of the "G&S family".

Two hours was not long enough! People expressed support for this type of feedback session to be an ongoing event. To that end we intend to arrange another morning in several months, and then possibly twice a year. Thanks to those who were able to come. It would be great to see more people next time.

Ric Trevaskis

Barbara Turner and David Lampard in the 2005 Society production of The Sorcerer. No magical tea was served and all attendees did not fall in love with the first person that they saw at the recent Cup of Tea Morning!

Vale

One of the Society's Patrons since 2008, Dr Murray passed away in August 2013. Our Vice-President, Ric Trevaskis, worked with Dr Murray for many years and remembers a remarkable woman and arts patron.



The Hon. Dr Kemer Murray AO

Kemer Murray was a trail blazer. Educated in law at Adelaide University she became only the second woman judge in the state, and went on to become Australia's longest serving judge, a mantle handed on to the eminent former High Court Justice Michael Kirby. Her list of accomplishments within the law, the Anglican Church and University circles was prodigious.

I had a professional association with Justice Murray throughout her 35 year judicial career, appearing before her regularly as one of "her" court experts. She was a woman of immense integrity who took her position, and the social responsibility that went with it, extremely seriously. I may not always have agreed with her, but I couldn't help respecting and becoming very fond of her (and it took quite a while after her retirement to get used to using her first name!) Away from the trappings of a court she was a compassionate, very caring person, with a naughty sense of humour, keen interest in and great loyalty to those in whom she believed. I was lucky to be one of those people.

As well as law, Kemer studied piano at the Elder Conservatorium, and maintained a lifelong passion for the arts – especially her beloved Wagner, travelling overseas regularly to see the Ring Cycle. She was a long term supporter and patron of a wide range of arts bodies. She was delighted to be asked to become our Patron, and was very encouraging of our productions, which she came to whenever she could.

Kemer died in August after a significant illness. St Peter's Cathedral was almost full for her funeral, and I couldn't help a quiet chuckle as she was taken from the cathedral to the strains of "The Ride of the Valkyrie". I will miss the inevitable "Ric my dear – how lovely to see you!" with the cheek offered for a kiss.

A very special South Australian and a very special person.





Brava Claire Heap!

As reported in Newsletter No. 3, Honorary Life Member of the Society, Claire Heap (nee Donaldson), passed away on 1 June 2013, after a long illness.

It is difficult to condense into a newsletter article the contribution that Claire made to the life of the Society. Quite simply, she and George were a fundamental part of the Society for over 46 years.

Claire joined the Society in the chorus of *The Yeomen of the Guard* in 1967. She and her husband George, had been involved in another amateur theatre group but that year, the Society was moving into the almost new Scott Theatre and it needed an experienced Stage Manager.

George was invited to stage manage the May 1967 production of *Iolanthe*. He went on to stage manage another 60 productions between that time and 1997, when he retired from the role.

Claire appeared in the chorus until the 1994 production of *Ruddigore* (she appeared as a bridesmaid) but was forced to retire from the stage because she lost her voice due to a medical condition.

Her contribution was not limited to onstage performance however. Claire assisted George in numerous backstage tasks from set building to prop making. Claire's specialty with prop making was with sewing and papier mache.

In 1977, the Society presented *The Pirates of Penzance* in Kadina for the Kernewek Lowender Festival. George and Claire and Dr Bruce and Margaret Napier went to Kadina two days early to arrange dressing rooms, lighting in the Town Hall and check on the billets for the performers.

Claire was involved in dressmaking for the Society from early productions. In those days, if the costumes were not in the wardrobe or hired, the cast were given material and patterns to make their own. If they could not sew, they had to have them made up.



For the 1979 production of *Iolanthe*, she purchased the material, cut out every costume and made some of them. As she was in the chorus as well, she decided that it was too much to do all the costumes and from then on she made individual costumes, made additions and was backstage for every performance to help cast members and be available to them to do repairs.

Some principal costumes she made were for General Stanley, Sir Joseph Porter, the Pirate King and the Duke and Luiz in *The Gondoliers*.

A luncheon was held in the early 1990's to celebrate George and Claire's silver anniversary with the Society and at that time, they presented to the Society the framed portraits of Gilbert & Sullivan which hang next to the Honour Board in the Shed's Green Room.



George and Claire were heavily involved in the purchase of and development of the Shed, and Claire spent many hours working with George and others to turn the shell of a Nissan Hut into the rehearsal rooms that we now know.

After George retired from Stage Management, he continued to organise props for 10 more productions and Claire assisted him. George was also Property Manager of the Shed and Claire supported him in this also.

However, it was for the legendary parties at their home in Dernancourt, held a week or so after the production to celebrate and watch a video of the production, that George and Claire were most famous. The party would start for lunch and continue into the wee hours of the morning.

Red wine would flow and Claire's famous trifle would appear. There are also tales of an unaccompanied performance of *Trial By Jury* in their cellar by the attendees of one of these parties.

The Society played a big part in the Heap family's lives; both their sons worked backstage and Roger debuted as a policeman in *Trial By Jury* and went on to direct and perform in a NSW amateur company.

The Heaps' contribution to the life of the Society was recognised when George was made an Honorary Life Member in 1979 and Claire was soon to follow in 1983.

In 2005, and after 38 years, George and Claire made the decision to retire from active duties, however that did not stop them from being staunch attendees at every Opening Night for some years to come.

However, Claire's mobility began to decrease and she was no longer able to stand or walk well enough to attend in recent years. George cared for her devotedly but she required nursing home care in the last year of her life. It was not until very shortly before her death that the cause of her decline was diagnosed as motor neurone disease. She and George had been married for over 61 years.

At Claire's funeral, many present and past Society members attended and all shared stories and memories of the happy times spent with Claire in the Society. Indeed, the Society is poorer for her loss.

Personally, I am very grateful for the friendship and support that George and Claire have given to my family over almost thirty years. It was a privilege to have known Claire. Our sincere condolences to George and his family.

Elizabeth Olsson

On 23 September 2013 a service was held at St Martin's Church Paradise and Claire's ashes were interred in the Donaldson family vault.

**Is life a boon?
If so, it must befall
That Death, whene'er he call,
Must call too soon.**





OLIVER!



"A must-see production... see this once and you'll want some more."
Ewart Shaw / The Advertiser

TAMedia.com.au



OLIVER!



"Round up the family and book your tickets
before word spreads and they sell out."
Barry Lenny / Broadway World

TAMedia.com.au



OLIVER!



"Book a seat now - they won't last."
Rob De Kok / InDaily

TAMedia.com.au