

## **The One Day of The Year – Media Releases (April 2001)**

### **Media Release # 1**

To: All Media Outlets

By: Peter Deane

Ph: XXXX-XXXX (W) XXXX-XXXX (H)

Fx: C/- XXXX-XXXX

Re: Wyong Drama Group's Next Production The One Day of the Year

Dt: 11 March 2001

The One Day of the Year was last performed by Wyong Drama Group in 1990. It is a very moving play, and received excellent reviews at the time. This year, the group has decided to reprise the play, and it will include two original cast members from eleven years ago.

Central Coast theatregoers will know most of the cast. It is Laszlo Weidlich as Alf, Julie Bailey as Dot, Duncan Mitchell as Hughie, Annishka Oska as Jan, and Don Moran as Wacka. The play will be directed by Peter Deane.

The play tells the story of the Cook family around the Anzac day week. Alf has hit the bottle, and his mate Wacka Dawson helps him reminisce, much to the ire of Dot (Mum). Hughie (Alf's son) is attending university where he meets his new girlfriend Jan Castle. It is clear that Hughie's higher education has opened a communication gap between himself and his parents. Whilst Alf sees Anzac day as a great day where old diggers get together and can feel special, Hughie regards it as merely a great excuse for them all to get drunk – very drunk.

The One Day of the Year opens at Wyong Memorial Hall on Thursday 26 April 2001 (the day after Anzac Day) at 8pm. There will also be

performances on Saturday 28 April (2pm and 8pm), Sunday 29 April (5pm), Thursday 3 May (8pm), Friday 4 May (8pm), and Saturday 5 May (2pm & 8pm).

Wyong Memorial Hall is in Anzac Avenue, Wyong, opposite the RSL. Tickets cost \$15/\$12 for the Friday and Saturday evening performances, and \$12/\$10 for all other performances.

Any enquiries can be answered by the director, Peter Deane, on XXXX-XXXX (after hours).

## Media Release # 2

To: All Media Outlets

By: Peter Deane

Ph: XXXX-XXXX (W) XXXX-XXXX (H)

Fx: C/- XXXX-XXXX

Re: Wyong Drama Group's Next Production The One Day of the Year

Dt: 18 March 2001

The One Day of the Year was written by Alan Seymour in 1960. It recounts the story of the Cook family around the Anzac day week. Alf has hit the bottle, and his mate Wacka Dawson helps him reminisce, much to the ire of Dot (Mum). Hughie (Alf's son) is attending university where he meets his new girlfriend Jan Castle. It is clear that Hughie's higher education has opened a communication gap between himself and his parents. Whilst Alf sees Anzac day as a great day where old diggers get together and can feel special, Hughie regards it as merely a great excuse for them all to get drunk – very drunk.

Jan and Hughie set out to do an article for the University paper, with Hughie taking photographs of Anzac day revelers in somewhat compromising situations (e.g. vomiting). When Alf sees the article even Dot cannot bring peace to the family and the gap between parents and son grows even more unbridgeable.

The questions of class difference, age difference, educational difference, communication between parents and children, free

expression, old times' sake and respect for people all make this a fine play and an excellent study of Australian character.

The One Day of the Year opens at Wyong Memorial Hall on Thursday 26 April 2001 (the day after Anzac Day) at 8pm. There will also be performances on Saturday 28 April (2pm and 8pm), Sunday 29 April (5pm), Thursday 3 May (8pm), Friday 4 May (8pm), and Saturday 5 May (2pm & 8pm).

Wyong Memorial Hall is in Anzac Avenue, Wyong, opposite the RSL. Tickets cost \$15/\$12 for the Friday and Saturday evening performances, and \$12/\$10 for all other performances.

Any enquiries can be answered by the director, Peter Deane, on XXXX-XXXX (after hours).

### **Media Release # 3**

To: All Media Outlets

By: Peter Deane

Ph: XXXX-XXXX (W) XXXX-XXXX (H)

Fx: C/- XXXX-XXXX

Re: Wyong Drama Group's Next Production The One Day of the Year

Dt: 25 March 2001

There are two sides to any story, and this is where the main conflict occurs in Wyong Drama Group's next play The One Day of the Year. To a son, watching his father get drunk every Anzac Day, it is something to be hated. To a father who hasn't gotten all that much out of life, Anzac Day is a day where he feels special.

The play was written in 1960 by Alan Seymour, but over forty years on it stands as a very moving experience. With young Australians making pilgrimages to Gallipoli even today, the story of the diggers is still enchanting. It's when Australia came of age as a nation, and means something to all of us one way or another.

The play is set in 1960, and will bring back memories for lots of us. It was four years after television was introduced, we still had pounds, shillings and pence, and the Menzies government had been in power for as long as we could remember. Come and re-live these memories when The One Day of the Year opens at Wyong Memorial Hall on Thursday 26 April 2001 (the day after Anzac Day) at 8pm. There will also be performances on Saturday 28 April (2pm and 8pm), Sunday

29 April (5pm), Thursday 3 May (8pm), Friday 4 May (8pm), and Saturday 5 May (2pm & 8pm).

Wyong Memorial Hall is in Anzac Avenue, Wyong, opposite the RSL. Tickets cost \$15/\$12 for the Friday and Saturday evening performances, and \$12/\$10 for all other performances.

A much-praised feature of WDG shows is free Tea/Coffee and programmes, and this play is no exception. Straight theatre seating will be used for this play for a more intimate experience. Bookings can be made on WDG's booking number XXXX-XXXX.

## **Media Release # 4**

To: All Media Outlets

By: Peter Deane

Ph: XXXX-XXXX (W) XXXX-XXXX (H)

Fx: C/- XXXX-XXXX

Re: Wyong Drama Group's Next Production The One Day of the Year

Dt: 1 April 2001

When The One Day of the Year was last performed by Wyong Drama Group in 1990, one reviewer commented that it was "the best drama [she'd] ever seen it do". It struck a chord with audiences who could relate to the themes and especially the setting - a working-class household in an inner-western suburb of Sydney in the early 1960's.

Now, eleven years later, WDG is re-visiting the play. "For a start it doesn't seem like eleven years ago," says director Peter Deane. "The object this time is to do it even better." Two of the original cast members are in this show: Laszlo Weidlich as Alf and Julie Bailey as Dot (the parents). The three new cast members bring fresh attitudes, but as much, if not more talent than the ones they replace.

A number of successful elements of the original show (such as the set design) will be re-created for this production, but improvements will be seen. The author has made revisions to the text: there is stronger characterisation, and a few cuts have been made, giving it more impact. The director has eleven years' more experience. Technology has improved the staging elements available to the drama group.

But the theatrical experience is still a very rich and moving one. The playwright Alan Seymour has created an incredibly enduring work, and WDG's finished work will more than do it justice. It's a show not to be missed and opens at Wyong Memorial Hall on Thursday 26 April 2001 at 8pm. There will also be performances on Saturday 28 April (2pm and 8pm), Sunday 29 April (5pm), Thursday 3 May (8pm), Friday 4 May (8pm), and Saturday 5 May (2pm & 8pm). The Sunday "twilight" performance has never been tried at WDG before, but seems to provide a very convenient time for audiences.

Wyong Memorial Hall is in Anzac Avenue, Wyong, opposite the RSL. Tickets cost \$15/\$12 for the Friday and Saturday evening performances, and \$12/\$10 for all other performances. Bookings can be made on WDG's number XXXX-XXXX.

## **Media Release # 5**

To: All Media Outlets

By: Peter Deane

Ph: XXXX-XXXX (W) XXXX-XXXX (H)

Fx: C/- XXXX-XXXX

Re: Wyong Drama Group's Next Production The One Day of the Year

Dt: 8 April 2001

When Alan Seymour's play *The One Day of the Year* was scheduled for its first performance at the Adelaide Arts festival in 1960, it was rejected by the board of governors on the grounds that it might offend the RSL. At the time, the concept of Anzac Day was held as a sacred cow by most Australians, and Seymour had dared to question that. He had, however, exposed some of the negative points of the day, and maybe Australia wasn't ready for this in 1960.

During the play's first professional run in Sydney in 1961, there was a bomb threat to the theatre before the play opened. There was some controversy afterwards, but much of the argument about "the play attacking Anzac Day" came from those who had not actually seen it.

The play's strength evolves from its presentation of both sides of Anzac Day. A son watching his father come home drunk every 25 April would have reason to loathe it. But a father who hasn't achieved all that much in life, and is made feel special on the day, would naturally love it and look forward to it every year. Most people who see the play now would not regard it as a play attacking

Anzac Day, but rather one where all viewpoints are explored and their own opinions may well change.

The One Day of the Year opens at Wyong Memorial Hall on Thursday 26 April 2001 at 8pm. There will also be performances on Saturday 28 April (2pm and 8pm), Sunday 29 April (5pm), Thursday 3 May (8pm), Friday 4 May (8pm), and Saturday 5 May (2pm & 8pm). The Sunday “twilight” performance has never been tried at WDG before, but seems to provide a very convenient time for audiences.

Wyong Memorial Hall is in Anzac Avenue, Wyong, opposite the RSL. Tickets cost \$15 (\$12 concession) for the Friday and Saturday evening performances, and \$12 (\$10 concession) for all other performances. Bookings can be made on WDG’s number XXXX-XXXX.

## **Media Release # 6**

To: All Media Outlets

By: Peter Deane

Ph: XXXX-XXXX (W) XXXX-XXXX (H)

Fx: C/- XXXX-XXXX

Re: Wyong Drama Group's Next Production The One Day of the Year

Dt: 17 April 2001

Anzac day is not the only issue dealt with in Wyong Drama Group's forthcoming play opening in late April. When Alan Seymour wrote the play in 1960 he was trying to capture the mood of Australian working class families, and address the problems of the generation gap.

When Alf's son Hughie attends university, his education outstrips that of his parents and communication between them becomes increasingly difficult. Hughie is torn between university, where his new girlfriend Jan encourages him to be outspoken; and his parents, who want him to study just enough to get a decent job and take advantage of an opportunity they never had when they were his age.

But, when Hughie publishes a story critical of Anzac Day in the University's paper, the rift in the family grows larger. Alf is a veteran of World War II and attends every dawn service and march. Hughie discovers in order to maintain a good relationship with his parents, he may have to give up not only Jan, but his entire course at university.

“Despite being timed around Anzac Day, the play is more a study of Australian character than anything else,” explained Peter Deane who is directing his fifth play for WDG. “The main issue in the play is family stability.”

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A much-praised feature of WDG shows is free Tea/Coffee and programmes, and this play is no exception. Straight theatre seating will be used for this play for a more intimate experience. Bookings can be made on WDG’s booking number XXXX-XXXX.

## **Media Release # 7**

To: All Media Outlets

By: Peter Deane

Ph: XXXX-XXXX (W) XXXX-XXXX (H)

Fx: C/- XXXX-XXXX

Re: Wyong Drama Group's Next Production The One Day of the Year

Dt: 24 April 2001

A play last performed by Wyong Drama Group in 1990 The One Day of the Year is set to open again on Thursday 26 April. Known as "The Anzac Play", it will include two of the original cast members from eleven years ago. Central Coast theatregoers will know most of the cast. They are Laszlo Weidlich as Alf, Julie Bailey as Dot, Duncan Mitchell as Hughie, Annishka Oska as Jan, and Don Moran as Wacka. The play is directed by Peter Deane.

The One Day of the Year tells the story of the Cook family around the Anzac Day week. Alf has hit the bottle, and his mate Wacka Dawson helps him reminisce, much to the annoyance of Dot (Mum). Hughie (Alf's son) is attending university where he meets a new girlfriend Jan Castle. It is clear that Hughie's higher education has opened a communication gap between himself and his parents. Whilst Alf sees Anzac day as a great day where old diggers get together and can feel special, Hughie regards it as merely a great excuse for them all to get drunk – very drunk.

The play is being staged at Wyong Memorial Hall, which is in Anzac Avenue, Wyong, opposite the RSL. Tickets cost \$15/\$12 for the

Friday and Saturday evening performances, and \$12/\$10 for all other performances. There will be performances on Thursday 26 April (8pm), Saturday 28 April (2pm and 8pm), Sunday 29 April (5pm), Thursday 3 May (8pm), Friday 4 May (8pm), and Saturday 5 May (2pm & 8pm).

A much-praised feature of WDG shows is free Tea/Coffee and programmes, and this play is no exception. Straight theatre seating will be used for this play for a more intimate experience. Bookings can be made on WDG's booking number XXXX-XXXX, or simply show up at the door.