



Greetings I T friends

I love the word serendipity. It's one of those words that fall "trippingly off the tongue". I love it so much that I'm thinking of asking the I T committee to change the name of the company to Serendipity Theatre. When you think about it, that would be a fitting name for a mob that has had serendipity by the truck load.

Of course it is no good having serendipity, which Wiki describes as "fortunate chance", unless you grab it by the scruff of the neck and turn it into something amazing. That is exactly what the indefatigable Rob Croser, with the support of the company has done over the past 25 years. Now on the eve of our birthday celebrations he has seized the most serendipitous opportunity thus far.

Consider this. Over a year ago Rob contacted the author of a new American play about the early 19th century plans to establish the West African colony of Liberia as a haven for freed slaves. This noteworthy work would feature our resident Liberian, Shedrick Yarkpai (for some obscure reason I keep calling him a librarian) and as we had some spare time at the beginning of 2008 we could present it as a costumed, dramatised play reading.

The playwright, Charles Smith, emailed a script and *Free Man of Colour* was performed at St Mary's College. It was bit like an off Broadway (though in our case, off Norwood) trial. It was so well received that Rob decided to present this story of John Newton Templeton, a young ex-slave who was the first black man to attend the Ohio University, as our first production for 2009.

When that decision was made, Barack Obama was battling to win the Democrat nomination. Now, with mega serendipity, we are about to present this work of great artistic and historic merit which has significant links to the remarkable U S presidential election result.



You might imagine that we couldn't top that but pushing my favourite word to the absolute limit, we have!

Charles Smith, pictured here, has accepted Rob's invitation to visit Adelaide. He will work with Rob and the A List cast of I T actors, featuring Shedrick, Lyn Wilson and David Roach, during the final week of rehearsals. His wife and daughter will join him in time for the family to be our very special guests on opening night.

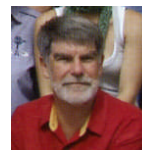
He is the fourth member of the American Theatre elite Rob has induced to join the I T family. This brilliant playwright will be a most important visitor to our city and we can't wait to welcome him and his family.

Make sure you book early to enjoy this superb play.

The Annual General Meeting of the company was held on Wednesday Feb. 11th. As usual it was impeccably chaired by our world champion chairperson, Tom Carney. Tom confessed to having a recurring dream that has him making his acceptance speech as he clutches his "best actor" Oscar. He realises that the speeches he makes accepting awards for I T is the best he can hope for but that is O K by him.



Tom highlighted the untiring efforts of the various committee members and others who support the company and thanked them for their hard work.



Rob highlighted the remarkable directions the company has travelled in the past five years since our 20th birthday celebrations. I quote here from his address to the meeting regarding these events.

"Two most significant productions have been *A Passage to India* and *Cry, the Beloved Country*. These two experiences have given us the opportunity to work with the increasingly rich fabric of the South Australian community and opened doors into stories, belief systems, cultures and living history that we had only read about before. We have been enriched, as individuals and as a company, by these experiences and wonderful new friendships. The dimension which they have added to our work makes our company unique in Adelaide, if not Australia."

He also commented on the work of the various areas of the company's endeavours and joined Tom in gratitude.

His outline of the three productions for this year, *Free Man of Colour*, *My Boy Jack* and *Vanity Fair* had us looking forward with great anticipation to another great year of exciting theatre.

The highlight of the meeting was the address by Guest Speaker, Kate Gould. Kate is the General Manager and Associate Artistic Director of the Adelaide Bank Festival of Arts. What a remarkable and engaging young woman she is. We could have listened all night to her detailing the elements that make the Festival a respected and important international event.



The enclosed flyer will give you details of a fund raiser Quiz Night on May 30th. We already have some terrific prizes to win but we need a few more. If you have some priceless heirloom or the odd bottle of Grange you can part with, please contact Penny (but no leftovers from the garage sale) penny.bissell@courts.sa.gov.au

What a fantastic almost unbelievable 25 years we have had. Hang on to your hats for the next 25.

So what do you think? Serendipity Theatre?
Think about it!

Regards Allen Munn



independent theatre inc

PO Box 435 UNLEY B C 5061 South Australia 5062
ABN 2740 3529 904 www.independenttheatre.org.au
