

## DIAMOND VALLEY SINGERS

**D**iamond Valley Singers is an entirely amateur group, dedicated to musical performances for charity. We don't audition chorus members but we hold open auditions for principal parts in all shows.

Over the 20 years of our existence we have donated more than \$80,000 to charities, shared by **World Vision** and a variety of local groups. All profits from all our productions (including this one) go to charity.

We will perform a cabaret in Montmorency on February 25. Call **9435 5841** for details.



Our next musical will be "*Calamity Jane*" here at Warrandyte High School Theatre, directed by Lynne Counsel and Maxine Lemcke.

2 pm on June 24, 25 and July 1.

8 pm on June 23, 24, 28, 30 and July 1.

To book, visit: [www.dvsingers.org](http://www.dvsingers.org).

In 2007 we will perform "*Fiddler on the Roof*" in this theatre.

Our previous shows include *Oklahoma*, *Brigadoon*, *Orpheus in the Underworld*, *Die Fledermaus*, *The Merry Widow from Bluegum Creek*, and all of the Gilbert & Sullivan favourites.

**Diamond Valley Singers** began in 1985. We have always performed one stage show and at least one non-stage work each year, including opera, cabaret and oratorio – the oratorio in 2006 will be *Verdi's Requiem* with the Preston Symphony Orchestra. "*The Hobyahs*" is our first venture into children's theatre.

**Diamond Valley Singers** welcomes adult singers. We practise on Wednesday nights in Diamond Creek.

Visit our web site for more information, updates on current and upcoming productions and more:

[www.dvsingers.org](http://www.dvsingers.org)

Profits from this season of **The Hobyahs** will go to **World Vision** and **Open House**.  
Thanks for your support!

## PRODUCTION CREDITS

**O**ur thanks to **The Children's Theatre Company of Victoria** and their friends... including Gabriel DeFigueiredo for the use of a keyboard.

### Gloomy Gullies Gala Goodtime Orchestra

John Anderson, Eva Popov, Ian Lowe (*President of DVS*) plus a percussionist whose identity was unknown at time of printing. As you're about to discover, the Gloomy Gullies Gala Goodtime Orchestra is an integral part of the plot – although there may be times when you suspect that they've either hijacked it, or lost it altogether!

### Lighting and Sound

Michael Blake (lighting design), Andrew Boyle, Will Hamilton, Nick Hodgins and Damien Maclean create magic and mayhem as they juggle the lights (*hot*) and the sound system (*heavy*).

### Costumes

Maxine Lemcke, Jeanette Flint and their enthusiastic team of light nimble-fingered Mums (mostly of kids playing Hobyahs) have conjured up wonders in the costume department.

Josh Counsel of [www.ToxicImage.com](http://www.ToxicImage.com), Florida, (and a former Hobyah from our 1986 season) designed and made the Hobyah masks.

John and Esther Counsel created Barney from cane, foam, glue, chrome spray and jute.

### Scenery

Geoff Vaughan and Alan Flint built it. John and Lynne Counsel and helpers painted it.

### The Back Stage Crew

Anita Wilton, Norma Turnbull-Smith, Matthew Johnston and their faithful assistants.

### The Front of House Crew

Maxine Lemcke, Phillip Connell and assistants.

### And special thanks to...

Vicki Gardiner & Associates Real Estate of Warrandyte for signage, [www.Kidspot.com.au](http://www.Kidspot.com.au) for free advertising, Ray, Lynne and Joe of World Wide Printing, Camberwell, everyone who helped with promotion and publicity, and all the families of our cast members for their patience, transport and enthusiastic, practical support!

**Diamond Valley Singers** in association with  
**The Children's Theatre Company of Victoria**

# The HOBYAHS



by JOHN COUNSEL & GREG SIMMONS

## SOUVENIR PROGRAM 2005

# The HOBYAHS

**T**he Hobyahs first appeared to Victorian children in the *Victorian Readers Second Book*, published in 1937. It was used in all State Primary Schools until 1952, and it had a lasting impact on a whole generation.

Elsie Jean McKissock's inspired illustration did as much – or more! – to put the wind up impressionable pre-TV era kids and give them nightmares for years. It was so easy to conjure up images of the Hobyahs moving silently up from the Gloomy Gullies. run, run, running. Skip, skip skipping on the ends of their toes, crying their blood-curdling chant, their beady black eyes peering and prying.

I never forgot the Hobyahs, even after I grew up. I toyed with the idea of creating a puppet play at one stage – then I met **Greg Simmons**, a fellow teacher, and we decided to write a traditional panto, with original music, to entertain my two eldest children, Marnie and Josh, then just 5 and 3 years old.

That pantomime has now been seen by thousands of Victorian families since 1975, and this thirtieth anniversary season will add thousands more. Watch [www.hobyahs.com](http://www.hobyahs.com) for future productions.. including the exciting sequel, "Captain Lightning and the Smugglers!"



Enjoy!

**John Counsel**  
Executive Director  
The Children's Theatre  
Company of Victoria  
Co-writer of "The Hobyahs"



Greg Simmons

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## JOIN IN THE FUN! SING ALONG WITH US

### The Chant of the Hobyahs

From the Gloomy Gullies creep the Hobyahs,  
Tripping along on our pointy toes,  
Peering and a-prying with our beady black eyes  
And sniffing through our long pointy noses...

#### Chorus

Hoby-a-a-ahs!  
We're so wicked and mean!  
Hoby-a-a-ahs!  
We're sneaky, smelly, unclean.  
We like to go HOB!  
We like to go YAH!

If you go walking in the bushlands  
As the sun goes down and the mist appears  
Keep your eyes wide, 'cos we'll be a-watching  
And our song will drift to your ears.

We come out only in the moonlight  
Tripping through the gullies in the dead of night  
Crying "Hobyah! Hobyah! We'll eat you up!"  
We're a fearful, horrible sight...

### Jugband's the Music I Play

When the old girl gets me down  
Jug band's the music I play!  
Get my old ukulele out  
Strum a tune all the day...  
First, I clap my hands  
Then I stamp my feet  
Next I tap my head  
Then I shout "HOORAAAAAY!"  
When the old girl gets me down  
Jug band's the music I play!

#### Chorus

She always nags and tells me off  
Whenever I try to sing  
But one day I'll be strong enough  
To tell her just what I think!

When the old girl gets me down  
Jug band's the music I play!

### Grateful Are We (Finale)

Captain Lightning and his faithful steed  
Have rescued us in our time of need,  
We owe to him that our lives are saved  
And Gloomy Gullies now is a happy place!

#### Chorus

Grateful are we  
Now that we're free!  
The Hobyahs have been chased away  
We'll all live happily!

The Captain and his horse for bravery  
Are pardoned by the Trooper and let go free!  
No longer will they have to run and hide...  
Amelia now can be the Captain's bride!

Let's dance and sing and give loud cheers!  
Gloomy Gullies is a safe place for many years  
The birds and the animals are happy to...  
Everybody's joyful... how about you?!

## Mother Peppercorn's Gratuitous Advice for Children #371. How to Recognise a Hobyah



Pay attention!

Beady black eyes

Long pointy nose

Horrible!

Pointy black hat

Green face

Sharp pointy teeth



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**MALCOLM WILTON**  
as Mrs Peppercorn

**M**alcolm has enjoyed performing in many productions over the years, more recently with Diamond Valley Singers and Eltham Little Theatre. He has had fun with Gilbert and Sullivan shows and Music Hall. He has also played serious roles such as Donald Ritchie in



*Brigadoon*. This is his first step into pantomime, and excluding the kilt in *Brigadoon*, his first time in a frock! He hopes you enjoy the fun of this depiction of the irrepressible and indomitable Mrs. Peppercorn.

**TROY LARKIN**  
as Mr Peppercorn

**T**roy has performed from a very young age. Under the direction and tuition of director Man Cheung, he appeared in many stage pieces. Troy completed twelve months acting tuition under British Director Sebastian Pasche. He became a Head Teaching Artist and Workshop Director for the Australian Acting Academy in Brisbane, gaining a reputation as a dynamic teacher and actor. Troy currently lives in Melbourne. He is



# The HOBYAHHS



**JOHN COUNSEL**  
as Trooper Trott

**A**n experienced actor, singer, director, producer, stage designer, publicist, musician and comic, John's experience extends to every aspect of theatre.



He found it impossible to resist the opportunity to once more tread the boards as the



argumentative, know-it-all Trott. Years of performing in theatre, restaurants and comedy venues have given John an incurable taste for audience contact, which suits the role of Trooper Trott perfectly since he's the main antagonist with young audiences. (And those are all his own teeth!)

**ANNE GASKO**  
as Hobyah No. 1

**T**hroughout her school years, Anne was involved in many theatrical productions, beginning with *The Jungle Book* in grade three. Since finishing school in 2004, Anne has been living and working in the theatre world, as well as taking dance, drama and singing lessons. She hopes to one day work as a professional performer in music theatre. Her first non-school show, *"The Hobyahs"* has given her real insight into working in a company.



**STEPHANIE LOCK**



several Youth Education programs. Troy is Co-Director of an upcoming production company called Revolt Productions, specialising in film production.

## THE HOBYAHS as Themselves!

Annie Tolmy



The Hobyahs are played by two groups. Here they are without their masks and costumes. They're pretty normal kids underneath it all!

### Hobyahs (in alphabetical order)

Claudia Bowers, Sean Bowers, Samantha Burns, Rob Coburn, Matt Coburn, Rochelle Costin, Ben Davies, Matthew Johnston, Christopher Johnston, Annie Kearney, Caitlin Lambourn, Audrey Lister, Emily McDonell, Caitlin Russell, Caitlin Sharkey, Catherine Wilton.

## JULIE GEDDES Dance Director

Julie has had the challenge of training and rehearsing two groups of Hobyahs for this season – enough to give anyone nightmares!

Julie has been a popular Dance Director and Choreographer for Diamond Valley Singers and has worked tirelessly to ensure the artistic success of this season.



## DREW HANNA as Captain Lightning

Drew is happy to be back at Warrandyte High School Theatre, where his stage life began. Starting as a chorus member in "Grease" in Year 7 he worked his way up with each production to achieve the leading role of "Sweeney Todd" in Year 12.



Other roles have included "Asher" in "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" the Baker in "Into the Woods" and Riff in "West Side Story" Offstage, Drew is a Physical Education/Science Teacher. He also sings in his church band.

## LYNNE COUNSEL Director

Artistic Director of The Children's Theatre Company of Victoria and a regular director for Diamond Valley Singers, this is Lynne's fourth season as Director of "The Hobyahs"

Well-known and respected for her work in children's theatre, including school productions, Lynne is the daughter of one of Australia's best-known actresses and stage directors of the 1930s and 1940s. Lynne "trod the boards" before she even entered the world, and has been performing and directing ever since.



## ESTHER COUNSEL as Amelia Peppercorn

Amelia is Esther's fifth role for 2005 – a busy year for this talented 16-year-old who plans a professional career in music theatre.



She's had a keen interest in live theatre from a very early age and has been learning singing since she was ten.

She currently studies with well-known singer and music teacher, Margaret Dagleish. An accomplished character actress like her mother and grandmother before her, Esther is looking forward to her first romantic lead role this season.

## JOHN ANDERSON Musical Director

John Anderson loves music. His entire life revolves around it. He spent the past year travelling the world... playing, singing and writing new songs.

John teaches music, plays almost every instrument known to man (and a few more besides!) and plays with anyone willing to jam along.

This is his third season as Musical Director for "The Hobyahs" Watch for John leading the Gloomy Gullies Gala Goodtime Orchestra... he'll be the one bobbing happily up and down. He really enjoys his music!



Steph has been involved in a number of school and amateur productions over recent years. She loves acting, singing and playing trombone on her school's Big Band. She hopes for admission to music theatre courses in the future and is enjoying all the experience she can find before then.



## SUZIE & LOUISE WILTON as Barney the Wonder Horse

Suzie (left) made her first stage appearance at the age of six as one of Buttercup's assistants in HMS Pinafore.

She has enjoyed being part of Diamond Valley Singers productions, usually on stage, but earlier this year working as stage crew. She has also appeared in the *Hot Mikado* with Donvale Christian college and in dance school productions. This is her first time as a horse!

This is Louise's first appearance in a fully fledged pantomime and she is really looking forward to the show. She brings up the rear of Barney! Louise has appeared on stage alongside her sisters in Diamond Valley Singer productions. She learns dance with Dance Plus in Montmorency and put these skills to use in the Donvale Christian School production of *Hot Mikado* (her favourite show).

Barney will make you laugh – look out for his special dance!



Visit our web sites for free downloads and updates about new productions and events...

[www.hobyahs.com](http://www.hobyahs.com)  
[www.dvsingers.org](http://www.dvsingers.org)  
[www.childrenstheatre victoria.com](http://www.childrenstheatre victoria.com)

Norma Turnbull-Smith