



Big Monkey Newsletter: January 2011

Rain, Rain, Go Away!



The public season of 'The Wind in the Willows' opened to glorious weather during the first week of January but the show was washed out with heavy rain and thunderstorms on Saturday January 8th at 5pm! Kiah, the stage manager, was a sight to see after packing up in the rain, covered mud from head to toe.

A few more cancelled shows due to the rain followed during the next week, but with fingers, toes, paws, flippers and whiskers crossed the rest of the season was blessed with (mostly) bright sunny days!

Overall 'The Wind in the Willows' was a successful season, with the show getting better and better as the season progressed and audiences – kids and big kids – thoroughly enjoying themselves. Thanks for all the great feedback and comments!

For anyone wanting more or who missed the show in the Botanical Gardens, the cast of 'The Wind in the Willows' will be appearing at the Wooden Boat Festival from Sat Feb 12th to Mon Feb 14th 2011. Check the Wooden Boat Festival program to find out appearance times and venue.

<http://www.woodenboatfestival.com.au/program.htm>

A Raffle with a Difference!



You've seen raffles with prizes of cars and holidays and money... now here's a prize with a difference!

Toad has decided to upgrade his mansion to something a little more roomy (and bouncy), so he is allowing Big Monkey to raffle TOAD HALL, as featured in this year's production of 'The Wind in the Willows'.

Suitable for 4 children at a time, 3 years +, up to 45kg each, Toad Hall is a safe netting enclosed palace where kids can bounce around like Toad and have their own Weasel party.

Cost: \$1.00 per ticket.

Raffle drawn: 28th February 2011

If you'd like the chance to own Toad Hall, contact Kiah Davey on bigmonkeyinc@hotmail.com to purchase your tickets.

For more information about the 'Toad Hall' Play Palace, visit http://www.jumpcity.com.au/domestic-inflatables/inflatables-for-4-or-more-players/play-palace/prod_158.html

Little Monkeys join 'The Wind in the Willows' cast in the Myer Hobart Christmas Pageant



On Saturday 20th November 2010, a large fleet of little red cars gathered in the streets of Hobart. Fourteen Little Monkey club kids joined Toad, Ratty, Moley, Otter and Badger to participate in the Myer Hobart Christmas Pageant. Everyone made their own cardboard red car and followed Toad, in his red car decorated in flames, around the pageant route.

Unfortunately Toad is not a good driver and nearly ran over many spectators lining the streets! He had to be spoken to sternly by some policemen, but he didn't really listen and carried on regardless much to the delight of his entourage, who had an absolute ball.

It was a fabulous day and Big Monkey would love more Little Monkey's to join us in the Christmas Pageant in November 2011.

Scroll down to the end of this newsletter to see photos of the Little Monkeys in the Christmas Pageant.

If you know of someone who'd like to be a Little Monkey, send an email with their email address and birthday date and year they were born to bigmonkeyinc@hotmail.com, to receive a Big Monkey greeting on your birthday and news of special events for Little Monkeys to join.

'The Wind in the Willows' performs to thousands of school children at the Botanical Gardens

Schools from as far away as Dover, Orford and Dunalley joined Hobart schools in singing, cheering and yelling war cries as they follow the adventures of Ratty, Moley and Toad, and help to rescue Toad Hall from the Wild Wood Weasels.

The cast and crew of 'The Wind in the Willows' had full days from November 18th to December 14th 2010, performing to 8500 school kids every weekday in the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens.

The cast of 'The Wind in the Willows' rehearsing the show



Rehearsing a new show is not always long hours and hard work. The cast and crew have a lot of fun working out the staging and songs for the show. In this photo the cast is taking time out from rehearsing to have photos taken for this year's poster.

Fundraising performance to benefit 'Save the Children'



Big Monkey's fundraising performance of 'The Wind in the Willows' to benefit 'Save the Children' on Sunday 9th January 2011 was a wonderful success and a delightful evening.

Pre-show drinks and nibbles were served from 4.00pm with Mole, Ratty, Toad, Badger and Otter chatting with an audience of about 120 before launching into their adventures on the Riverbanks and at Toad Hall.

Over \$800 was raised for 'Save the Children' and Big Monkey hopes this will be the first of many events raising money for this worthwhile children's charity.

Opportunity for Little Monkeys



If you are a **Little Monkey**, are interested in acting, and would love to learn how to perform for television and film, we have a special offer for you.

Cooper Screen Academy is offering a 10% discount to **Little Monkeys** for their courses through 2011.

To find out more information, visit www.cooperscreenacademy.com.

Don't forget to let Cooper Screen Academy know you are a **Little Monkey** for your 10% discount by quoting the password phrase: *Toad can't drive!*

Big Monkey

For more information about Big Monkey or to become a volunteer or a member:

Email: bigmonkeyinc@hotmail.com

Website: <http://www.bigmonkey.com.au>

Postal: PO Box 406, North Hobart TAS 7002

Call: Kiah Davey on 0408 517 124

Christmas Pageant Photos



[Click here to see larger slideshow versions.](#)

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