

MELBOURNE GANG SHOW '92



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RALPH READER C.B.E.

Founder of the English 'Gang Show', and creator of much of the original material, both songs and sketches.

This material is still in use throughout the world where ever 'Gang Shows' are staged.

The location is 'Gordon Park' Bulowaya. The photograph is old – it was

taken when Rhodesia was still the name used when speaking of the land currently called Zimbabwe.

The persons in the photograph are: 'Quill', 'Scotty' warden of Gordon Park, Bulowaya, and Ralph Reader.

WELCOME to the 1992 MELBOURNE GANG SHOW



Thanks for coming...

In attending this performance of the Melbourne Gang Show, you're participating in the continuing tradition of Gang Shows worldwide.

This is the occasion of our fortieth birthday show and we're just a little proud. However, 'Gang Shows' have a much larger, much longer heritage.

The first show that could reasonably be called a Gang Show was performed near London in 1929. The show was written, produced and directed by a character who was known, somewhat mysteriously, as 'A Holborn Rover'. The show was a huge success and transferred to larger and larger theatres. By 1934, the title had been established as the 'Gang Show'

The show was of such a high standard that London critics began to treat it as legitimate theatre. The mask of anonymity dropped from the 'Holborn Rover' and he was found to be Ralph Reader, who had already achieved success in the theatre in London and New York.

We are relative newcomers to the Gang Show. Our first performances were in 1953 at the Union Theatre, followed by annual shows at various venues such as Cathedral Hall, National Theatre, Princess Theatre and the Palais Theatre. Once having commenced we have never looked back.

Thousands of young people have participated in Gang Shows over the years and every one has been a star.

It would be churlish to pick out names and nominate particular people – the Gang Show has always been, before anything else, a co-operative effort. Everyone participates to his or her ability and no one can ask for more than that.

The key to our success, such as it has been, is your participation – you, the audience.

You may not realise it but the legions of Gang Show audiences now number well in their millions.

We thank you all – every one of you. It's been great to know you.

SYNOPSIS

Celebration

It certainly is the beginning of our Party. With exciting and traditional mixed together in this fast moving production number. We welcome our audience of today which includes many Gang members from the past!

Time to Rock

Rock and Roll is currently undergoing a big revival. This exhilarating dance extravaganza is true to the style. Big Bopper and Blues feature in this number which recalls the heady days of Rock.

Robin Hood

Timeless hilariously funny Gang Show sketch which has delighted generations of audiences. You could be sitting next to any one of these characters from the past shows.

Solutions?

Imaginative treatment of arguably the greatest problem facing us today Homeless Youth. An impassioned look at how an aloof society finds it easier to disregard rather than confront this pressing issue. There must be a solution to this crisis.

House of Raps

A comic send-up of our political leaders in Rap style. Do they represent us or are they too busy looking after themselves. A lively romp through the lower House of Government and its rapport with the electorate!

Not Cricket

The teenage cast were bowled over with the chance to face up to this sketch. The pitch is quick as we bounce along through this short innings.

Largo

Continuing the great tradition of a feature dance number. Detective Largo takes us through a strange case which is set in the alleys and night clubs of Manhattan. Cool and composed he confronts the underworld as love, lust and power surround this gripping tale.

Columbus

It is 500 years since Columbus sailed from Spain to find a route west to the Indies. Only now can we look back and critically analyse what this meant for the Americas, its people and indeed the world. Only now can we put the chain of events which followed into gripping perspective. Only now can we believe that history could dramatically repeat itself.

This epic sequence begins in the court of Queen Isabella in 1492. It takes us across the Atlantic as Columbus is threatened by mutiny, shows us the conflict between the civilised natives and invaders, moves us graphically through the torrid events which lead to the chilling climax on New Years Eve 1999.

We've got a Song to Sing

The main strength of Gang Shows is always the enthusiasm and enjoyment which is demonstrated by the younger members of the cast. In this special fortieth opening of the second act we pay tribute to those songs which have become favourites over the years.

Sawadee

A creative mime of our impressions of fascinating Thailand. A very different Gang Show item in the style of Phillippe Gentry puppetry which mixes shapes, movement and colours to create vivid images. From the jungle to the temples to the bustling cities Thailand this imaginative item has its own unique feeling which comes to life in this ingenious portrayal.

I Don't Want My Mother to Know

A romantic view of courting in the earlier part of this century. Our teenage cast spin back the years for a lighthearted look at the difficulties when boy meets girl in the 'good old days'.

Once Upon A...

Hilarious send up of fairy tales which all managed to happen in the same place at the same time. See if you can recognise all the characters some of whom have taken on modern ideas. Of course they all have to live happily ever after don't they?

Better Dead than Red

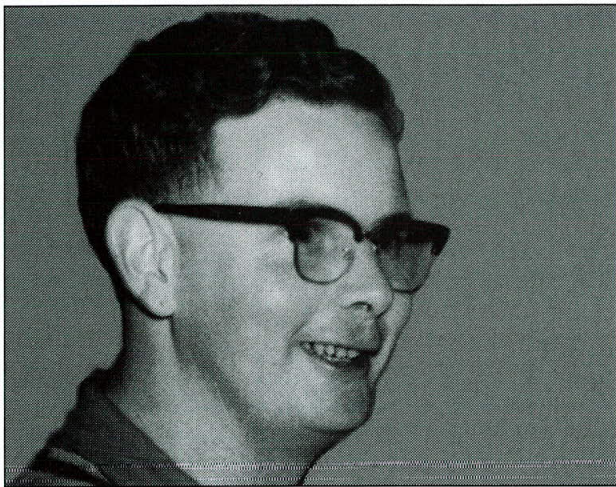
Comic look at the problems of ordinary guards living in some extraordinary times. Change is a challenge for our friends at the front.

Russia

A return to Pre-1917 revolution in Russia as the men prepare to leave for battle the next morning. The formal mazurka, a moving and haunting prayer by the children, then the suggestive excitement of the Gypsy dancer and the thrilling competitive dance between the Gypsies and the Soldiers make this a colourful theatrical spectacle.

Making Memories

We certainly have! a quick look back over our last forty years of success and an inspirational vision of our next forty.



Ken Bayly long time producer of The Melbourne Gang Show; twenty four long years of writing composing, directing.

Ken announced his retirement following the successful tour of Thailand last year. This photo was taken in 1962 before Ken took on responsibility for the top job.

Thanks Ken for all your twenty four years of leadership.

Robert Motton is producing his first Melbourne Gang Show this year.

Robert is a drama teacher and has been associated with Gang show for twenty six years.

He succeeds Ken Bayly who had been producer for twenty four years. Robert promises many new innovations in the future.

Congratulations and good luck Robert.



TOBY BELCH PATROL

Brad List P.L.
Vincent Boyle
Greg Eckfeld
Matthew Grikepelis
Ian Mackenzie
Jarrod Miles
Peter Osmotherly
Greg Peck
Charles Ray
Geoff Shields

THE 1992 GANG

• BOARD

CHAIRMAN

David Jefferson
Brian Eade
Alan Evered
Rob Motton
Adrian Walsh
Neil Weatherill

• MANAGEMENT TEAM

ADMINISTRATION

Ken Rook

FINANCE

Jon Willis

HUMAN RESOURCES

Jon Willis

MARKETING

Shirley Bean

PRODUCTION

Sandy Pretty

TECHNICAL

Barrie Robinson

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E.O.H. CO-ORDINATOR

Lillian Beard

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Mike Bennett
Helen Rolls
Cheryl Spencer
David Osmotherly

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Ashley Andersen
Brent Andersen
Robert Cooling
Una Cooling
Bryan Freeman
Sophie Martin
Jenny Mills
Norman Riley
Joel Taylor
Mark Toogood

USHERING

Kay Perkins H.D.
Lyn Allen
Neil Arnold
Alma Brand
Sandra Cooling
Michael Every
Cathy Fisher
Steve Green
Anne Lambe
Jenny Leishman
Paul Leishman
Carolyn Machin
Lois Rolls

• FINANCE

BOX OFFICE

Ro Willis H.D.
Sandra Austin
Fiona Barden
Bert Lawes

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Anne Sheridan

• HUMAN RESOURCES

FIRST AIDER

Nicole Evered

GUIDE LIAISON

Judi Lewis-Williams

HUMAN RESOURCES SERVICES

Margaret Boyd

INTERNAL SECURITY

Graeme Bell H.D.
Trevor Jones
Sue Laughton
Ewan Mackenzie
Pat Mackenzie
Graeme Moor
Craig Moore

POLICE SCOUTERS

Harry Beckwith
Marg Bysouth
Syd Bysouth
Alan Rosser

ARMOURER

Col Robinson

• PARENTS AND SUPPORTERS

Bernie Brown
Margaret Brown

Keith Burnell
Ron Dean
Colin Eaton
Bob Francis
Bev Huntley
Rob Huntley
Stan Johnson
Geoff List
San List
Elaine Nichols
Nev Trembath

• PRODUCTION

ASSISTANT PRODUCERS

David Bell
Alex Boemo
Russell Corr
Damien Lippiatt
Rob Pinal

PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS

Nathan Reynolds
Teague Rook

CHOREOGRAPHER

Susan Phelan

PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR

Ken Beaton

PRODUCTION SECRETARY

Delia Francis

• CAST SUPERVISION

H.D. Judi Lewis-Williams
Peter Bean
Barbara Duncan
Don McLeod
Trena Morcom

• TECHNICAL

DESIGNER

Barrie Robinson

STAGE MANAGER

Trev Howlett

STORES CARETAKER

Greg Ginger

AUDIO

Graeme Gill H.D.
Jason Butcher
Jason De Voogd
Paul Krasey
Marty Tyrrell

COSTUMES

San List H.D.
Glenys Chandler
Judy Lawes
Jill Peggie
Iris Robinson
Nanette Wheatland

LIGHTING

H.D. Andrew Bennett
Tim Leek
David Livingston
Stephen Nichols
David Strahan

MAKE-UP

Steven Cooper H.D.
Erica Cooper
Mals Duncan
Elle Goodwin
Vanessa Gothajner
Jan Hopwood
Ken Kemp
Sue Nichols
Marj Pepper
Bronwyn Pirrone
Nicole Taylor
Petra Van'Thorff

PROPS

Nick Jones H.D.
Ken Graham
Gregg Johnston
Chris Pratt
Craig Young

SPECIAL EFFECTS

Juz Bryant
Andrew Buchanan
Rodney Holliday
Andrew Morcom
Benjamin
Whycross

STAGING

David Reeve H.D.
Richard Brown
Wes Chandler
Donno Donaldson
Andrew Huntley
Peter Leek
Rosemary Manchee
Dale Sebire
Brendan Shields
Andy Trigg
Paul Tripp

VIDEO

Rod Cooper H.D.
Bryan O'Reilly

WARDROBE

Pat Dando
Elizabeth Podolski

SHYLOCK PATROL



Cam Bell P.L.
Brent Addison
Bruce Anderson
Matthew Bennett
Alex Browne
Matt Cruise
Glenn Elliott
James Ellisdon
Adrian Hillyer
Teague Rook
Mat Spencer

VIOLA PATROL



Karen Wigg P.L.
Debbie Attard
Caroline Eaton
Julieann Goodall
Tanya Griffiths
Ceri Hale
Robyn Leishman
Liz Mackenzie
Cazz Redding
Bronwyn Rolfs
Leanne Shield
Jessica Willy

MARKETING GUESTS
Sandra Pretty

MARKETING
Neil Arnold

PHOTOGRAPY
Helen Cornish

MEMORIES OF THE FIFTIES

Some glimpses of the very early Gang Shows. Unfortunately we have no details on the '54 show... Here's a quiz for all you "Old Timers" can you remember who is in these slides and any facts about the content.



'54



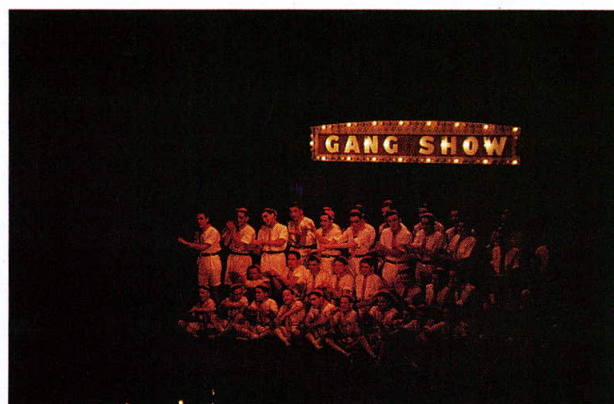
'54



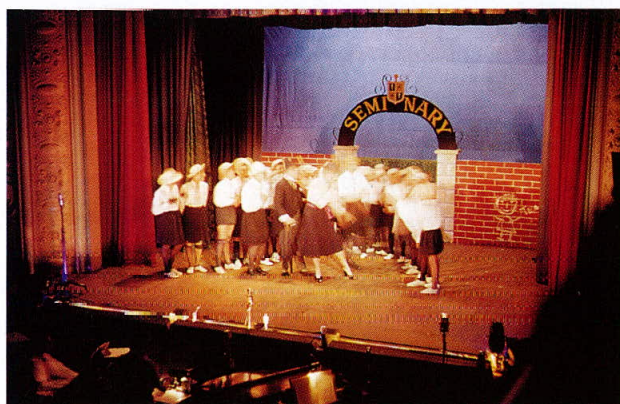
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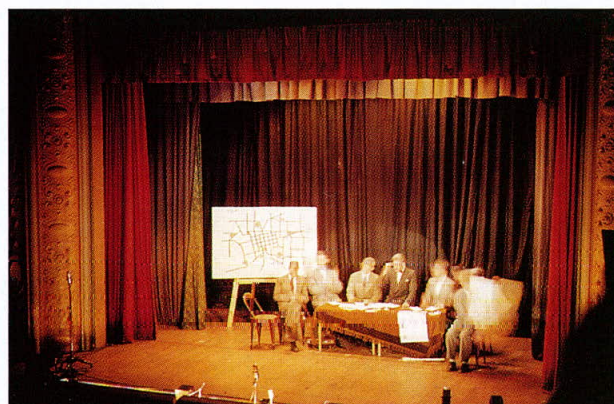
'54



'54



'54



'54

MEMORIES OF THE SIXTIES

The first four pictures are not identified. Perhaps some member of the audience can recall the show and date.

Working from the mounts and style we think it's the 60's – can you help?



?



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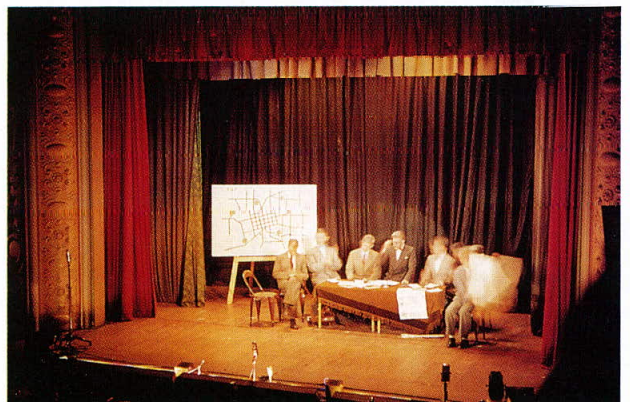
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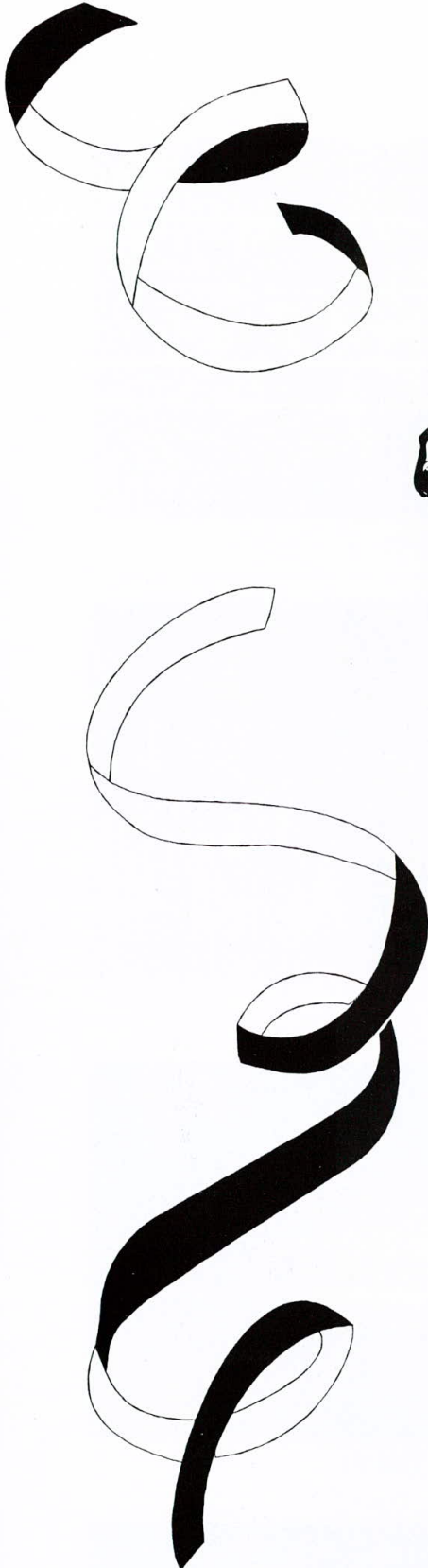
Top '64



Meet The Navy '64



Sleeping Beauty '64



PROGRAM

40th ANNIVERSARY

CELEBRATION

Words & Music Ken Bayly

TIME TO ROCK

Words John Hunter, Music Peter Marriott,
Adapted MGS Writers' Workshop

ROBIN HOOD

Ralph Reader

SOLUTIONS

Lyrics Teague Rook, Music Alexandra Boemo

PRESTIDIGITATE

Teague Rook

HOUSE OF RAPS

Words MGS Writers' Workshop, Music Russell Corr

NOT CRICKET

Ralph Reader

LARGO

Choreography Susan Phelan, David Bell, Rob Pinal
Music Russell Corr

BRAVE NEW WORLD

DOMINUS REGNAVIT Jasquin De Prez

LAST HORIZON — Lyrics Doug Edmonds, Music Ken Bayly

SAIL ON — Lyrics Doug Edmonds, Music Ken Bayly

SPIRIT OF THE MOUNTAIN — Lyrics Doug Edmonds, Music Ken Bayly

BRAVE NEW WORLD — Lyrics Doug Edmonds, Music Russell Corr

INTERVAL



TIME 1992

RSARY SHOW

WE'VE GOT A SONG TO SING

WHISTLE — Words & Music Ralph Reader

COOL CATS — Words Doug Edwards, Music Ken Bayly

TROLLS — Words & Music Ken Bayly

PREHISTORIC — Words & Music Ken Bayly

SOMEDAY — Words & Music Cynthia Walker

WE'RE THE MERRY, MERRY MEN FROM MARS — Words & Music Ken Bayly

LEPRECHAUNS — Words & Music Ken Bayly

STEPPING OUT IN STYLE — Words & Music Ken Bayly

PRESTIDIGITATION

Teague Rook

VISIONS FROM THAILAND

MGS Production Team

**I DON'T WANT MY MOTHER
TO KNOW/TONGUE TIED**

Words & Music Ralph Reader

ONCE UPON A...

MGS Writers' Workshop, Lyrics Teague Rook, Music Russell Corr

BETTER DEAD THAN RED

Teague Rook

RUSSIA

Words & Music Ken Bayly

RUSSIAN NATIONAL ANTHEM Traditional

PRESTIDIGITATED

Teague Rook

MAKING MEMORIES

Lyrics Ralph Reader, Music Ken Phillips

THESE ARE THE TIMES — Words & Music Ralph Reader

A TOUCH OF SILVER — Words & Music Ralph Reader

MEMORIES OF THE SIXTIES

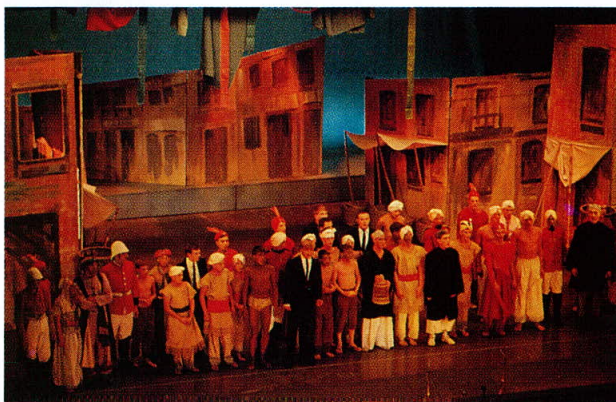
Here are more reminders of great
performances of the past...



I See Red



Tribute To Shares



Bengal



Australia



Opening



Stone Age Romantics

'67



Voodoo '67



May '67



Roll '67



May '67



Mars '67



London Fantasy



Finale '67



CAESAR PATROL

Trev Dando P.L.
Gordon Allan
Paul Fittolani
Steve Green
Stephen Griffiths
Dan Harcourt
Darren Leckie
Brad Podolski
Glenn Tremball
Matt Walsh

JULIET PATROL

Carolyn Lewis-Williams P.L.
Rachelle Arnold
Carissa Beeston
Debbie Brown
Jo Conner
Lisa Curran
Monique Duiker
Yvette Johnson
Rebecca Landy
Leonie Pilgrim
Georgina Pizaro
Sally Turpin-Poulton



KATHARINA PATROL

Tracey Tebbutt P.L.
Kate Bennett
Natasha Curran
Vanessa Farrell
Emma Gibbs
Cathy Haycroft
Sam Jupp
Beck Moore
Heidi Sanderson
Suz Schaap
Kim Taylor
Melanie Timney

MACBETH PATROL

Zoran Timic P.L.
 Kirk Docker
 John Jenkins
 Robert Lang
 Ben McMillan
 Ben Moody
 David Mould
 Marc Phelan
 Michael Shine
 Stuart Wall



MIRANDA PATROL

Di Hallewas P.L.
 Clare Burns
 Lisa Chatto
 Sarah Dobson
 Hayley Edgerton
 Kym Foley
 Kathy Meegan
 Lauren Moor
 Nicole Squires
 Chris Thomas
 Sheryl Van Wyk



OPHELIA PATROL

Suzanne Coyne P.L.
 Belinda Addison
 Skye Brewster
 Kathryn Lewis-Williams
 Sally Dunlop
 Magida Ezzat
 Sian Hammond
 Brooke Hanna
 Bronny Pierce
 Tamsin Sanderson
 Christine Shields





OTHELLO PATROL

Wayne Motton P.L.
 Simon Arnold
 Glenn Burnell
 Ken Chandler
 Jordan Cole
 Mick Corbett
 Peter Faulkner
 David Parsons
 Andrew Podolski
 Paul Spencer
 Rafael Wlodarski

PORTIA PATROL

Imogen Francis P.L.
 Shelley Dando
 Megan Glew
 Clare Moran
 Brony Oke
 Fiona Sale
 Sigred Sanderson
 Veronica Shine
 Leonie Walker
 Kirsten Walsh
 Helen Wright



ROMEO PATROL

Wayne Robinson P.L.
 Jason Allen
 David Glew
 James Kidd
 Ben Landsberg
 Chris Leishman
 Brian Post
 Nathan Reynolds
 Matthew Walton

TALES OF THAILAND

As the curtain came down on final night at the Palais last year the Melbourne season was over. Well not quite! Two weeks later the 175 strong Gang, including representatives from other shows, gathered at Tullamarine Airport to depart for Thailand to perform 11 shows in Bangkok and Chiangmai.

The invitation to do these shows came from the Scout Association of Thailand and followed on from our successful season touring the Philippines in 1988.

Many reservations were held about the show before we left Australia mainly due to the differences in our cultures. The greatest barrier was that English is not widely spoken by the majority of the population. Would the Gang Show style of performance work in Thailand?

We arrived safely in Bangkok and after acclimatising to the change in weather, we commenced some sightseeing and rehearsals.

No sooner had we arrived then it was off to Chiangmai by train. This gave us the opportunity to see the changing landscape of Thailand and more importantly interact with the local Scouts and Guides who met us at every station with beaming smiles, signs of welcome and food. Some had travelled four hours on foot to greet us. The frantic sight of badge swapping and the impromptu dancing made our journey a memorable one.

Once in Chiangmai it was off to the Culture Centre for our only dress rehearsal, (which turned into a preview show for the students of the college), and five shows in the six hundred seat theatre. Here we were visited by many dignitaries including the National Director of Arts who flew up from Bangkok to see the show. During breaks we had time to share more intimate moments with the local students. Will the Thais ever be the same after corrupting them with the chicken dance?

Following the shows we got to tour around the Mae Rim region in the mountains of Chiangmai.

On the itinerary were elephants, orchids, silk, silver and handcrafts, where we brought umbrellas and fans which can be seen in the show tonight.

We also had time to join in activities with the local scouts which included abseiling, traditional cooking, obstacle courses along with demonstrations of Thai boxing and sword dancing.

On our last night in Chiangmai we were treated with a farewell Kantoke Dinner which was a show in itself with traditional dancing, fireworks and processions.

We left our new found friends and headed back to Bangkok with renewed confidence. Gang Show was a hit with the Thai people.

A rest day was then followed by an experience of a lifetime. The theatre we played in holds two thousand people and was built at a cost of sixty five million Australian dollars. It was majestic and no doubt the best theatre that has been performed in by any Gang Show in the world.

Six performances were given in Bangkok with the gala performance being attended by the Crown Princess of Thailand and the Australian Ambassador. Needless to say the adrenaline was running high and everyone was a little nervous but this could have had something to do with the many security guards backstage.

The Princess was so impressed with the show she sent a television crew to film the whole performance the next night.

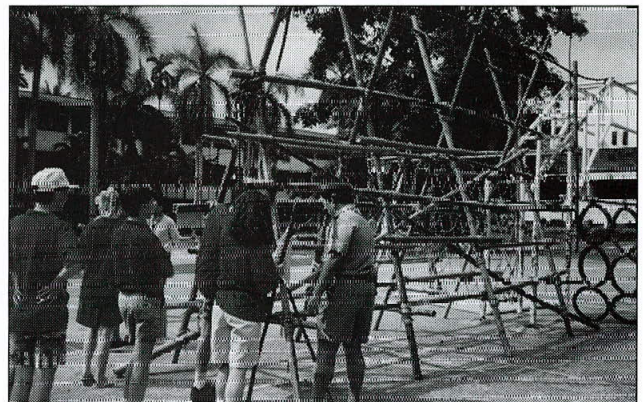
With all the performances over, it was time to relax to do some more sightseeing and last minute shopping before we headed home.

During the two weeks in Thailand we had developed strong bonds not only with our hosts but also within the various scouting shows around Australia and there were many teary eyes as we said goodbye but not farewell to our new found friends. Those early doubts about doing a show in Thailand were well and truly forgotten.

Trevor Dando



Princess of Thailand entering Auditorium for Gang Show.



Gang Show Members see Thai style pioneering work at Chiangmai.

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FAREWELL



FROM ALL THE 1992 GANG

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Palais Theatre
Panasonic Australia Pty. Ltd.
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Kodak Australasia
Commercial Video Productions
Carey Baptist Grammar School
Herald and Weekly Times
National Theatre Trust
Australian Ballet Co.
The Southern Cross Hotel

