

Backstage with

By Jenny Bertelsen

Ray Woolf finally arrived in Kapiti to join the King & I cast in rehearsals. After a warm welcome on Friday, he received a rather different treatment on

Saturday: the show's hairstylist Louise shaved his head Yul Brynner-style!

The cast and crew reached a major moment this weekend when they moved into Southward Theatre. Everyone's found their possie in their dressing rooms and is enjoying the added excitement of rehearsing in costume with all the props, backdrops, lights and the big sound system. All we need is an audience!



This week I had a talk to two of our Leading Ladies...

Diane Bain (Production Manager)



Once enjoying the limelight on stage, Diane much prefers the administration behind the scenes of a production. In her role as production manager she organises all staffing, scheduling and planning for the show and keeps track of progress along

the way, which is an enormously time-consuming job. "We started last year June with obtaining the licence for the show and getting a team together. The work has built up over the months and now every spare moment is filled with planning the show. My normal life is on hold until this is over." Luckily, she's got a holiday to look forward to after the show's finished!

Sarsha Forbes

(Choreographer / Lady Thiang)



With an immense amount of talent and professional coaching behind her, Sarsha has taken on the job as choreographer as well as performing a lead role as Lady Thiang, the King's first wife.

"It's challenging to keep the two roles separate, because they need a completely different approach," says Sarsha, who's given up a thing or two to give this show her full attention. Having the different roles, Sarsha has had to rely on her understudy, Jan Patching, to step into the role of Lady Thiang when she has been unavailable. "I'm so grateful for that support so that the cast can get on with rehearsals. It's invaluable."

Next week we'll check out the Male Motivators...stay tuned!



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