

Backstage with

By Jenny Bertelsen

And then it's all over. Backstage is empty. The King & I is over. Last Saturday was tremendously busy with the 2pm matinee, 1 hour dinner break, and final show at 6pm.



Unlike other productions, the theatre had to be cleared and cleaned straight after the evening show, for another production was due to move in the next day. Many hands made light work and all cast and crew members gathered together for the "after party" - a show in itself! This was the time for cast members to perform skits, taking a tongue in cheek approach to the lyrics, songs or show - much to everyone's enjoyment!



Besides the tiredness, perhaps the hardest part for all was the rollercoaster of emotions everyone's had to deal with in the last week. The anger and disbelief that yet again the show had not received a review in the media, the elation and adrenaline of "final night" and then the mixed feelings of relief and sadness when going home that night. It must be hard to deal with for many of the children who starred in the show for the first time, rehearsing so regularly, forming very close relationships with everyone, dealing with the excitement and attention and then suddenly waking up after the final show to find themselves in a black hole of nothingness. I'm sure that most cast members who played their character for the last time will go through some sort of grieving process to come to terms with the end of a production. Some will do this quickly - meticulously clean their dressing room or get a hair-cut - and some will take a bit longer to process the impressions and experiences before "*The King & I*" is just another memory to think of in years to come.

Every show is a unique experience, built up from scratch by the many volunteers who provide that opportunity for locals to be involved in musical theatre. While there is never enough time or space to thank everyone involved in a production, Coasters sincerely wishes to thank the cast, crew, production team and sponsors, but mostly wishes to congratulate all those parents who have encouraged or allowed their children to take part and have supported them (and Coasters) throughout the production - many, many thanks!

For Coasters "the show must go on" and many people are already preparing for the next event:

Rob Guest - Live in Concert
Saturday 13 October (1 night only)
Tickets on sale now at Coastlands



If you would like to receive email updates and special offers from Coasters regarding upcoming shows and opportunities please email coastersmt@yahoo.co.nz.

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