

The 2014 Not the Kangaroo Valley Buster Keaton Silent Movie Show

with **Robert Constable**, piano; **Karen Cummings**, soprano; **Jillian O'Dowd**, actor/singer; **Patsy Radic**, singer/actor; **Simone de Haan**, trombone; **David Stanhope**, bass trombone; **Helen George**, actor

1. Liberty (1929)	silent movie starring Laurel & Hardy ; piano: Robert Constable
2. The Policeman's Song (1879)	Simone de Haan , trombone; David Stanhope , bass trombone
3. On the Good Ship Lollipop (1934)	Patsy Radic as Shirley Temple
4. My Funny Valentine (1937)	Simone de Haan , trombone
5. Cops (1922)	silent movie starring Buster Keaton
	supper
6. Our Shirl (2014)	audio-visual poem read by Jillian O'Dowd
7. Karen Cummings sings	Ballad of Marie Sanders (1938), Le Grand Lustucru (1934), J'attends un Navire (1938) and, possibly, Baghdad Baby Boy (encore, 2007)
8. At the Movies (2014)	movie by Libby Turnock

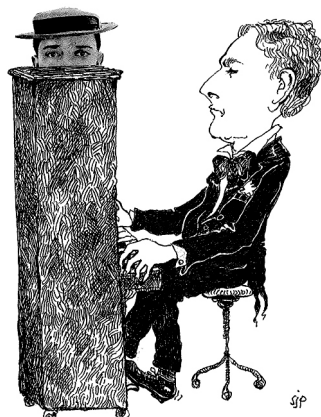


for comprehensive notes on performers, songs, movies etc, go to www.shoalhaven.net.au/~mwsmith/oct4.html

STOP PRESS: We regret that the advertised new movie by Belinda Webster could not be completed due to her recent illness.

We are delighted, again, to welcome pianist **Robert Constable** to yet another Kangaroo Valley silent movie show. This time he's a permanent resident: having come here ten times - from Newcastle, then Auckland, then Christchurch - to play for our **Annual Kangaroo Valley Buster Keaton Silent Movie Show**, he decided to save on plane fares and buy a house here.

Good move: last year's show - his eleventh annual appearance straight - cost us just his bus fares. Tonight we again hear him as composer and accompanist as well as improviser for silent films. But this is *not* the Annual Kangaroo Valley Buster Keaton Silent Movie Show - like last year's show it's something different, even though it contains one of Keaton's classic shorts. There's a brand-new old-style movie, and a brand-new new-style movie, and there are songs - one with images - and audio-visual poetry. If this show continues as an annual event, we hope that before long we will present a show created and performed entirely by Kangaroo Valley residents.



Robert is active in a number of musical areas and across many styles of music. His recent musical achievements include music for flute and piano which was recently recorded and released on CD by the Sydney-based flutist **Christine Draeger**, a soundtrack for a short film by **Belinda Webster**, a performance in Christchurch of the solo part in **Martin Wesley-Smith's Weapons of Mass Distortion**, and silent film and other improvisations in both New Zealand and Australia. Until the end of 2013, Robert was also a Professor of Music and Director of the University of Canterbury School of Music, where he was involved in the post-earthquake restoration of music at the University as well as more generally across the city of Christchurch. In order to spend more time in Kangaroo Valley, which he now regards as home, he has relinquished those roles and is now a part-time consultant to the University supporting the work of the new Director of Music. (Graphic at left by **Sue Prescott**)

After a career of contemporary music theatre, song, cabaret and opera, tonight's guest artist - soprano **Karen Cummings** - is beginning to develop her own work. As the inaugural Bushman Scholarship recipient for her PhD at Newcastle University, she is developing performances combining classical singing and the microphone. The first project will be a performance of Hanns Eisler's **Hollywood Songbooks**.

Karen specialises in new and cross-genre works. In 2009 she took part in the first stage of the development of **Pecan Summer**, performed by Australia's first indigenous opera cast and premiered in 2010. Since then it has been performed in Adelaide's Princess Theatre (2014), Perth's Festival Centre (2012) and the Melbourne Arts Centre (2011). Karen is both vocal coach and cast member.

She has premièred several new Australian works including **Shadows and Dreams** (**Corinna Bonchek**), **Tales of Love** (**Richard Vella**), **Laquiem** (**Andree Greenwell**) and **The Audience and Other Psychopaths** with **Nigel Kellaway**, **Stephen Adams** and the **Opera Project**. Her own work, too: **When my Ship Comes In**, directed by **Anne Louise Rentell**.

Karen has a particular interest in the music of the 1920s and 1930s, and has developed a number of programs for broadcast of tango, French chanson, German cabaret and American song from this period. **Street of Dreams** was broadcast in 2009 as part of ABC-FM's **Saturday Live**. In March 2010 she performed **Glad to Be Unhappy**, a program of 1930s-inspired song. In 2012 she recorded another one, **No Man Is an Island**. She has regularly performed these programs in a range of venues.

Liberty stars **Stan Laurel** and **Oliver Hardy** as escaped convicts who, while trying to change pants, wind up on a skyscraper in construction. In their haste to change into street clothes, Stan and Ollie wind up wearing each other's pants. A cop chases them to a construction site, where they escape by riding an elevator to the top floor of a unfinished building. Atop the girders, 20 stories in the air, they finally switch trousers, contend with a crab that has found its way into Ollie's pants, and manage to avoid falling to their deaths several dozen times.

The Policeman's Song comes from Gilbert & Sullivan's **The Pirates of Penzance** or **The Slave of Duty**, a comic opera in two acts. Its official première was in New York City on 31 December 1879, where the show was well received by both audiences and critics. Its London debut was on 3 April 1880, at the Opera Comique, where it ran for 363 performances, having already been playing successfully for over three months in New York.

Trombonist **Simone de Haan** is one of Australia's leading performers, festival directors, music educators and advocates of contemporary music-making. He has held positions as Director and Professor at the Tasmanian Conservatorium, Queensland Conservatorium, Griffith University and the ANU School of Music. As soloist, member of the Australia Contemporary Music Ensemble and co-founder of Flederman and the Pipeline Contemporary Music Project, he commissioned over 100 works by Australian composers. He was foundation Artistic Director of the Queensland Biennial Festival of Music and has collaborated with several indigenous musicians in the Northern Territory.

David Stanhope is a freelance conductor, composer, pianist and occasional bass trombonist. He has made several CDs covering all of these categories for ABC Classics and Tall Poppies. He has been a regular and irregular conductor for Opera Australia. He recently moved from Sydney to Robertson.

Hollywood star **Shirley Temple** was a leading child film actress during the Great Depression, starring in works like *Bright Eyes* and *Captain January*. When her rendition of the song *On the Good Ship Lollipop* became famous in the 1930s, she earned a special Academy Award. Temple took on some acting roles as an adult before entering politics, becoming a U.S. diplomat for the United Nations. She died on February 10, 2014, at age 85, in California.

In the late 80s/early 90s **Patsy Radic** performed lead roles in comedy and musical theatre, pantomime and theatre restaurant shows in Wollongong. These included **Prince Charming** in *Cinderella* and **Mrs Sowerberry** in *Oliver* for The Arcadians Theatre Group, **Geraldine** in The Powerhouse Theatre's production of *What The Butler Saw*, and lead characters in The Illawarra Performing Art Centre's theatre restaurant production *Golden Garter Review*. Locally (and more recently) she has performed in puppet shows as a 'larger than life' puppet and in pantomimes by the KV-based script-writer **Sean Kramer**. Patsy was a founding member of the seven-member *a cappella* singing group **The Thirsty Night Singers**, performing in a variety of festivals and concerts locally and in Canberra and Sydney. She has also provided voice-over for a film project produced by the Kangaroo Valley Community Association and Roads and Maritime Services on historic Hampden Bridge. She recently performed in the Albatross Musical Theatre Company's production of *Chicago*, cast as a Merry Murderess. Patsy has sung at previous Buster Keaton film nights. She recently formed a musical duo with local guitarist **Jeremy Butterworth**.

Additional lyric by **Peter Wesley-Smith**; images sequenced by **Martin Wesley-Smith**.

My Funny Valentine is a show tune from the 1937 musical *Babes in Arms*. It was introduced by former child star **Mitzi Green**. The song is a popular jazz standard, appearing on over 1300 albums performed by over 600 artists ...

Cops was written and directed by **Edward F. Cline** and **Buster Keaton**. Through a series of mistaken identities Buster winds up with a load of furniture in the middle of parade of policemen. An anarchist's bomb lands in his carriage. After lighting his cigarette with it, he tosses it into the ranks of police. When it explodes the police chase him all over town ...

Our Shirl was written by **Peter Wesley-Smith**; narration: **Jillian O'Dowd**; model: **Helen George**; photographs: **Tony Barnett**; visual design, photoshopping: **Diana Jaffray**; visual sequencing, songs: **Martin Wesley-Smith**; music: **Robert Constable**.

It is curious that one of the most famous, notorious, larger-than-life characters in Kangaroo Valley's history is now utterly forgotten. **Shirley Cholmondeley-Smythe**, born in a shack in Upper River, went on to enter parliament, advise the leaders of the free world at Yalta, and take the Japanese surrender in 1945, while raising a large family with Dirty Dan. On 4 October, the centenary of her birth, she will be appointed to the Honorable Australian Order of Knights and Dames. She's hoping she will be able to accept our accolades that evening in Kangaroo Valley Hall.

New Zealand-born **Jillian O'Dowd** (NIDA BDA LTCL) has worked professionally on stage and screen for over twenty years. Her industry experience as an actor, singer, teacher, musician and director has taken her all over Australia, NZ, UK, Europe and Asia. One highlight includes the *Hugh Jackman, The Boy from Oz* arena tour. She has recently worked as the voice of the Narrator and Bluebird on Series Two of *Guess How Much I Love You* for SLR productions, airing on the ABC and OS in 2015.

Ballad of Marie Sanders

lyric: **Bertolt Brecht**; music: **Hanns Eisler**; English lyric: **Eric Bentley**

Le Grand Lustucru (1934), from *Marie Galante*

lyric: **Jacques Deval**; music: **Kurt Weill**

J'attends un Navire (1934), from *Marie Galante*

lyric: **Jacques Deval**; music: **Kurt Weill**

Like an encore? You'll probably get one anyway, like it or not:

Baghdad Baby Boy (2007)

lyric: **Peter Wesley-Smith**; music: **Martin Wesley-Smith**

At the Movies (world première!)

a movie by **Libby Turnock**

Inspired by the ABC's program of the same name, the Valley's own film reviewers, **Diana** and **Nigel**, critique two locally-made movies. After showing excerpts from each of the films (re-makes of *Black Swan* and *Strictly Ballroom*) the reviewers then give their respective verdicts. **At the Movies** is a light-hearted take-off of these famous but very different dance movies. It was shot entirely in Kangaroo Valley with a cast of local actors and dancers.

This event presented, on behalf of KVRP, by **Martin Wesley-Smith** assisted by **Peter Wesley-Smith**. Many thanks to all who have helped, including **Tony Barnett**, **Robert Constable**, **Karen Cummings**, **John George**, **Helen George**, **Simone de Haan**, **Diana Jaffray**, **Carl Leddy**, **Derek Lucas**, **Kangaroo Valley General Store**, **Michael Moore** (lighting etc), **Jillian O'Dowd**, **Patsy Radic**, **David Stanhope**, **Peter Stanton**, **Rosemary Stanton** and all those who contributed to tonight's supper, **Libby Turnock**, **Paul Turnock**, **Belinda Webster**, **Jed Wesley-Smith** (sound), **Olivia Wesley-Smith**, **Rob Wesley-Smith**, and all the stars of **At the Movies**.

Visit the **Kangaroo Valley-Remexio Partnership** website here: www.kvrp.org.au. For more detailed program notes, visit www.shoalhaven.net.au/~mwsmith/oct4.html.