

# A tale with a twist

'By the show's end I had truly grown to love this crew of misfits and their awkward director'

by Amanda Gray

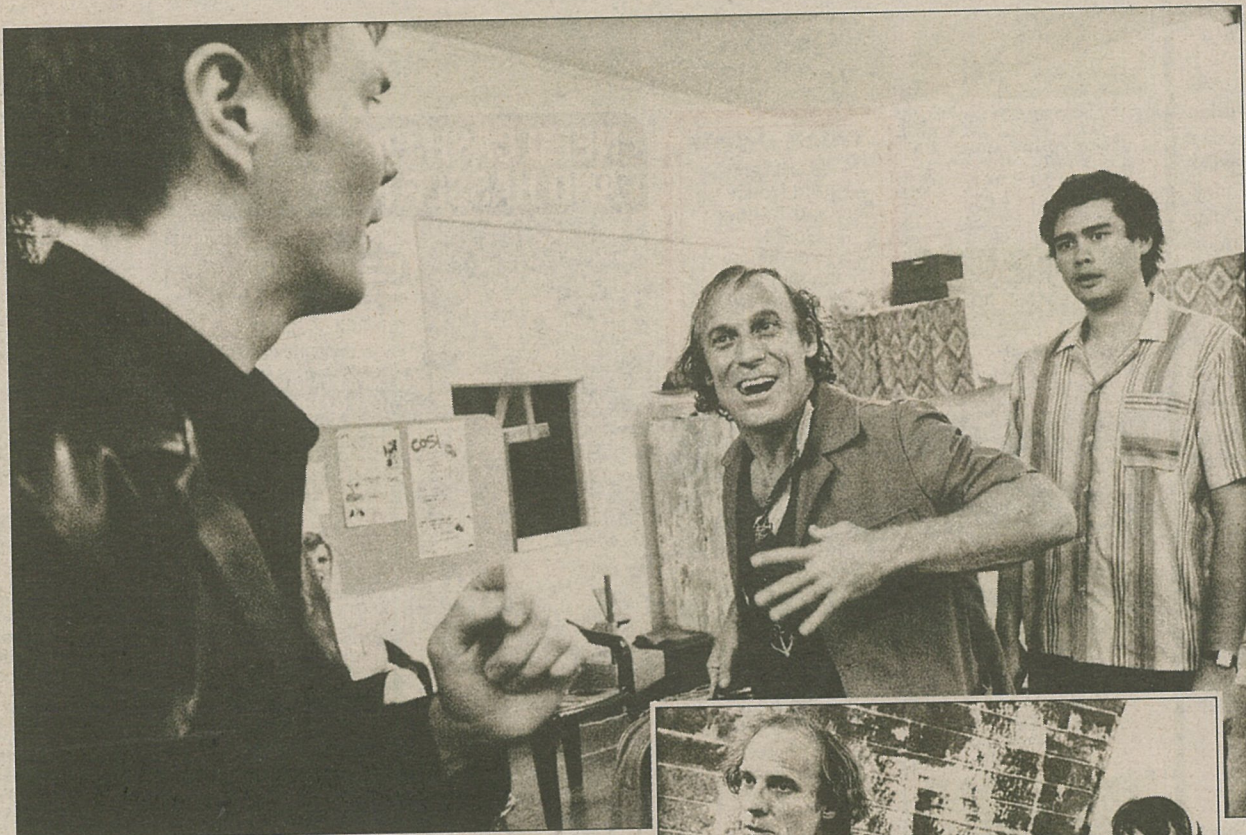


*COSI*, playing at the Court Theatre, introduces its audience to a group of patients at a mental institution and a young university graduate, Lewis, who is enlisted to bring the aforementioned patients out of their shells.

This position involves directing the group in a variety show or, at least, so Lewis thinks.

It soon becomes evident that patient, Roy, (played by show-stealing Brendan O'Connor) has other plans, which involve an elaborate Italian opera, *Cosi fan tutte*, never mind that no one can speak Italian, nor seem to have operatic skills of any kind. Undaunted, Roy is determined to bring his dream to life.

*Cosi fan tutte*, essentially a tale of love and tested fidelity, seems destined to parallel our director's growing awareness of not only his world, but also of his "actors". As rehearsals progress the bond between the group grows. All the while, Lewis must not only battle a leaking theatre, a pyromaniac and unwelcome puppy love but he must also battle with his conscience when it comes



**ABOVE: l to r Matthew Isokangas, Brendan O'Connor and Jason Schwab, in *Cosi*. RIGHT: O'Connor and Sandra Neal in a scene from the play**

Photos: CHRISSY MAGUIRE

to choosing loyalty to his own lover or the newfound love of his group.

From start to finish, the expert timing with which the humour is delivered and the subtlety with which the heartstrings are pulled is a credit to a team

directed by theatrical veteran Terri Brabon.

By the show's end I had truly grown to love this crew of misfits and their awkward director as they learned what it is to be human and the joy of truly connecting with others.

