

Big run for your show

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EXACTLY 67 years ago this month, a public meeting was held at the Mackay Town Hall to form a drama group.

That was the beginning of the Kucom Theatre group.

It isn't known exactly how many productions have come out of the theatre group since it began as Mackay Community Theatre in 1947, but in September that year there were three one-act plays in rehearsal, including *The Dear Departed*, *The Monkey's Paw* and *The Spinsters of Luske*.

Last night marked the opening show of their latest production, *Run For Your Wife*, which will be playing at the MECC until Saturday.

Kucom committee member Bronwyn Grannall said their latest production was a wonderful mayhem of classic farce where political correctness was cheerfully tossed out the window.

"Directed by Peter Rosier, this outrageous adult comedy features a lovable London cabbie named John Smith who lives happily with his



wife Mary in Wimbledon.

"He also lives happily with his other wife Barbara in nearby Streatham."

His life is turned upside down when John ends up in hospital and police notice his two addresses. His lies to get him out of trouble lead to more fibbing and ultimately

"bigger laughs for the audience", Ms Grannall said.

Run For Your Wife is playing in the Lynette Denny Space today, tomorrow and Saturday at 7.30pm, with a 2pm matinee on Saturday. Bookings can be made through the MECC, phone 4961 9777

LEFT: Kelly Gregg, Neal O'Leary, Brian O'Neill and Bill Wall perform in Kucom's latest production of *Run For Your Wife*

BELOW: Kelly Gregg, Neal O'Leary and Belinda Patroni are sure to be a laugh in Kucom's newest comedy.

PHOTOS: CONTRIBUTED

...He also lives happily with his other wife

— Bronwyn Grannell



Review - Run for your laughs

In the wonderful mayhem of classic farce, anything goes and political correctness is cheerfully tossed out the window – which is the case with Kucom Theatre's current production, *Run For Your Wife*, playing this week as part of the Mackay Festival of Arts. Written by Ray Cooney and first produced in 1983, the play ran for nine years in the West End, and is still a favourite of directors the world over.

Directed by Peter Rosier, this outrageous adult comedy features a lovable London cabbie named John Smith who lives happily with his wife Mary in Wimbledon. He also lives happily with his other wife Barbara in nearby Streatham. Injured in an attempted mugging, John ends up in hospital – where his two different addresses come to the attention of two investigating police officers.

John's desperate attempts to lie his way out of trouble, with the dubious help of his well-meaning but none-too-bright-neighbour Stanley (played very convincingly by Bill Wall), only lead to more lies - and bigger laughs for the audience.

Neal O'Leary is endearingly confused and innocent-looking as the irrepressible Smith, while Kelly Gregg and Belinda Patroni portray the dawning suspiciousness of the wives who are beginning to believe that something cockeyed is going on.

Police officers Troughton (Petar Grulovic) and Porterhouse (Brian O'Neill) are the yin and the yang of the police department, the serious cop and the buffoon (O'Neill looking especially fetching in a pink frilly apron!), while the appearance of Connor Bashford prancing on stage as the delightfully flamboyant upstairs neighbour, Bobby, gives a whole new meaning to the word 'camp'. Newcomer Bonnie Sammut makes a brief but telling appearance as a pushy newspaper photographer.

Run For Your Wife is playing in the Lynette Denny Space at the MECC on Wednesday 16th, Thursday 17th, Friday 18th and Saturday 19th July at 7.30pm, with a 2.00pm matinee on Saturday. Bookings through MECC 4961 9777.