

Light opera gets a musical makeover

THE former Williamstown Light Opera Company has been reborn with a new name - as the Williamstown Musical Theatre Company.

It will hold auditions this weekend for its first show after being in recess for four years while its home, the Williamstown Mechanics' Institute, was being renovated.

The group, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary, is Melbourne's oldest musical theatre company.

Secretary and production manager Marcus Cassidy-Anderson, said the first show for the "new look" company will be a concert called *Work in Progress*, comprising songs from past productions, mixed with numbers from current Broadway musicals.

It is likely to include songs from musicals like *Chicago*, *Cabaret*, *Sweet Charity* and *Bye Birdie*.

Auditions will be held on Friday, January 20 and Saturday, January 21 at the Mechanics' Institute.

The show will be staged from Friday, March 31 to Sunday, April 2, coinciding with the Williamstown Festival.

"We are looking for singers who can dance or move, and dancers who can sing," Mr Cassidy-Anderson said.

Mr Cassidy-Anderson, of Altona, began singing with the Williamstown Light Opera Company and the Altona City Theatre.

The show's director, Anna Marinelli, of Altona Meadows, has won three awards from the Music Theatre Guild of Victoria.



Work in Progress production team members, production manager Marcus Cassidy-Anderson, choreographer Jessica Taylor and director Anna Marinelli.