

*News from the New Zealand Theatre Federation Inc.
www.theatrenewzealand.co.nz*



Sisters by Alison Quigan and Lucy Schmidt
Foxton Little Theatre's latest production

President's Column

Dear Members,

Many of you will have watched *Dancing with the Stars* and other programmes that try to find the next world class talent. After all we need light relief after rehearsals, etc. Have you noticed how upfront, sometimes downright rude their very public adjudications are and how well the competitors take it? Brave faces are put on and thank you said and they leave with dignity.

Many, many times I have heard that people don't want to enter our annual Festival because of 'the adjudicators' and yet teams are not asked to go through such searing treatment and especially not from the stage. It may (and should be) more searching and particular in the green room.

I am not talking academically here as I regularly enter the Festival and although I have had success I have also fallen by the wayside. Each time I have learnt more about my craft from the event and see it almost as a competition against myself that I do the best I can with the team I have that year.

As an adjudicator I find it difficult when a team obviously does not want to hear my view. When we are inside a play we have learnt to live with and accept some of our performance through familiarity, whereas a skilled outsider can pick up on points that bring enhancement.

You are a great group of people: you work hard at your craft, run great societies, do a huge variety of works, so now trust yourselves and be prepared to share. We do want to see more of the great work being done in New Zealand.

*Sincerely and with appreciation
of your talents.*

*Denise Walsh,
National President*



Cover photo:

Left to right: Yvonne (Linda Jarvis), Margaret (Carolyn Allan) and Connie (Stephanie Thomas). *Sisters* tells of a weekend of self discovery and home truths somewhere in the bush. Read about Foxton Little Theatre, page 5.

Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the 39th Annual General Meeting of The New Zealand Theatre Federation Inc will be held in the Evelyn Rawlins Room Level 1 Square Edge, 52 The Square, Palmerston North on Saturday 27 June at 11am.

Nominations for President, Vice President, and Treasurer are called for. Nomination forms are enclosed and should be returned to the library by Friday 29th May.

Remits are also called for. One has already been received from the Executive to alter subscriptions for the 2010 year:

"It is proposed that the subscription for all members excluding individuals and life members for the year 2010 /11 be \$100 + GST."

In regard to this year's subs, invoices for which have been sent out, please note the amounts are GST inclusive.

Charities Commission

NZTF, your parent body, is now registered with the Charities Commission. Thanks to Bob Cater, Life Member and Past National President for organising this for us. He also successfully completed an application on behalf of Wellington District.

Contents

President's Column	2
Annual General Meeting	2
Charities Commission	2
Festival of Community Theatre	3
More Festival News	4
National Final Weekend	4
Profile Foxton Little Theatre	5
Greytown Little Theatre Backstage	5
Drama Education in Schools Conference	6
PANZ Competition for Full Length Plays	6
Library News	6
What's On	7
Wellington Region Heritage Month	8

Come to the National Final of the Festival of Community Theatre!

**Glamour
at the Globe**

New
Zealand
Theatre
Federation

**Festival of
Community Theatre - One Act Plays
NATIONAL FINALS**

GLOBE THEATRE
PALMERSTON NORTH
Friday 26 June 7.30pm & Saturday 27 June 7.30pm
For more details and bookings
Contact (06) 356 5565
Or email nztflibrary@xtra.co.nz

LIBRARY OPENING FUNCTION
Evelyn Rawlins Room, Level 1, Square Edge
Saturday 27th 3pm (bookings essential)

A weekend of sophistication and elegance is in store for attendees at this year's Finals at the Globe Theatre as you are requested to come in formal attire. Complimentary champagne and canapes will be served from 7pm on Friday 26 June before the opening at 7.30pm. And supper will be served after the final performance on Saturday 27th. Make your bookings now, email nztflibrary@xtra.co.nz or phone (06) 356 5565. Theatre tickets cost \$10 for students each night, Adults \$15 for one night and \$25 for both nights. Saturday supper ticket costs \$10 and the Library Opening \$10 (see page 4).

More Festival News

District Festivals

The month of May will see festivals held in 5 or 6 places around the country. We're very pleased that after a break of some years once again there will be a festival in Hawkes Bay: they are expecting 6 entries. And at the other end of the country in Otago there is a flurry of interest with 6 or 7 competing teams.

Regional Festivals

South Island Regional June 5-6

Logan Park High School
76 Butts Rd Dunedin North

North Island Regional June 12-13

Little Theatre, Napier
76 McGrath St Napier

Regional Adjudicator - Natalie Ellis-Wilson

Natalie is a teacher of Speech and Drama at Columba College in Dunedin. She is also an Examiner for the NZ Speech Board and an accredited adjudicator for ANZDA and for Performing Arts Competitions. She has adjudicated previously for our Festival at both Regional and National levels.



Passionate about all forms of theatre Natalie has directed opera, musicals and plays for all major companies in Dunedin and acted in over 50 productions. At present she is directing *When We Are Married* by JB Priestley

Natalie is looking forward to seeing a wide range of theatre at the North and South Island Regionals.

National Final Weekend June 26-27

Library Opening

3pm Saturday 27, June

Evelyn Rawlings Room, Level 1 Square Edge

There is to be a function to officially open our new library. It will take place in the same room used for the AGM at 11am just along from the library. There will be entertainment, cake cutting and an opportunity to view the library.

Come and see for yourselves how the May Ives Library, which over the years has traveled from Cuba St Wellington to two locations in Christchurch, is now happily settled in Palmerston North.

Cost \$10

Bookings essential

Phone: 03 356 5565

Email: nztlibrary@xtra.co.nz

Need a Place to Sleep?

These places are within walking distance of the Globe Theatre and Square Edge and have free parking:

Palmerston North Motel 66 Linton St
0800 225 692 or www.pnm.co.nz
studio \$90-\$105, 1brm \$95-\$125, 2brm \$135

Camelot Motor Hotel 295 Ferguson St
06 355 4141 Tariff \$105 plus

Bentleys Motor Inn cnr Linton and Chaytor Sts
06 358 7074 Tariff \$135 plus

Kingsgate Hotel 110 Fitzherbert Ave
0800 804 111 Standard rooms \$141

Olga E Harding Playwriting Award

Elizabeth O'Connor, Literary Manager at the Court Theatre, will be the adjudicator. She has 25 years experience as a playwright, director, dramaturg and actor.

National Final Adjudicator

Bryan Aitken.

Profile Foxton Little Theatre

Contributed by Carl Terry, President

Formed in 1945 the Foxton Little Theatre is one of the oldest amateur theatre societies in the country with a continuous performance programme. While the society started with three act play readings in members homes and annual one act play productions it has evolved to where today three full productions are staged each year in its own intimate theatre.



The theatre was purchased by the society in 1972 from the Presbyterian Church, and is the town's oldest building. After extensive remodeling the theatre was opened to a full house of local dignitaries and guests with a programme of three one act plays; *The Late Mrs. Cordell*, *The Vagabond* and *Crock Cove*.

Like all amateur societies its success and longevity has been due to a small band of enthusiastic and dedicated

volunteers. The Foxton Little Theatre has seen many come and go through the years but perhaps the person who was the principal driver behind its progress was Daphne Hunt, known to many in the amateur theatre world and who was the Little Theatre's President and Director of many productions for over forty years.

We have been fortunate that our small community values its "Little Theatre" always anticipating our next production and supporting it with good houses and usually positive feedback.

Kicking off this year's programme is the Alison Quigan/Lucy Schmidt play *Sisters*, opening on May 1st for a six night season. While some of our more senior patrons may find the content a little hard to handle we think we need to push the boundaries occasionally

.....certainly the old church would never have seen or heard the likes!

To keep up with the comings and goings at the Foxton Little Theatre, check out our web site at <http://foxtonlittletheatre.webs.com>.

Greytown Little Theatre Backstage



Late March I visited the Wairarapa and was delighted to discover Greytown Little Theatre down an alley off the main street. I learnt that about 8 years ago the society converted a retail space into a theatre with room for 100 chairs on a flat floor in front of a step-up stage. Colin Jupp was working there on Graeme Gray's set for the April production by George Eiby of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* by Tim Kelly.

Backstage there is good access to separate, small male and female dressing rooms and a store for the props of the current play. I was told building materials are out in

the country elsewhere. In the dressing rooms wardrobe mistress Jean Mullany had laid out suitable costumes of the period for trying on from the enormous, well organised, comprehensive wardrobe she has upstairs. Jean even has a Sherlock Holmes curly pipe if one is called for.

Margaret Robertson

Drama Education in Schools Conference 19 - 21 February 2010

The Centre for Drama Education of Bosnia and Herzegovina, member of IATA, the world theatre organisation we are affiliated to, is preparing the 12th International Theatre Conference on the above topic.

It will take place in Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina and explore the possibilities and the power of drama education in the educational process in schools. With this Conference they wish to direct attention towards the fact that drama education is the right of all, and not the privilege of talented individuals.

The Conference is intended for those

who believe that drama education has power to influence the behaviour of individuals, who believe that by changing individuals we can change the world, who want to change the world with other people from their environment. who believe that there are no strict limits which cannot be overpassed by the power of human mind

Email your interest by **1st September '09** to:
cdo@bih.net.ba

Playwrights Assoc of New Zealand Competition for Full Length Plays, 2009

Registrar June Allen, 86A Lynn Rd, Bayview, North Shore City 0629 june.all@xtra.co.nz

1. Prizes: First \$300, and two of \$100 each.
2. The winner will be awarded the PANZ engraved silver tray trophy.
3. The competition is for a full length act play, 70 min to 120 min playing time. The entries must be suitable for stage production.
4. Entries are entirely anonymous, and must only be submitted using a pseudonym
5. The entry fee is \$30, and a further \$35 payable if a detailed critique is requested. Members may submit more than one play.
6. The adjudicator is Simon O'Connor, a professional actor and playwright
7. Closing date is **Sat 1st September 2009**. Entries must be posted to the Registrar, at above address. Please do not send entries till after 21st May.

See www.playwrights.org.nz/competitions.htm for rules and conditions and membership details (\$25)

King and I Costumes



Full set (including 10 wives, 24 children)
Handmade masks for ballet costumes
Beautifully made, clean

For Sale \$2000 or Hire \$1000
or by negotiation

Call: (09) 372 9333

Library News

Library Manager Sheridan Hickey reports that it's all systems go in the library: the phone is working, members are becoming familiar with the new email address, Broadband has been installed and the catalogue is ready for uploading to the website.

She is readying herself to handle Festival Final bookings nztlibrary@xtra.co.nz and putting finishing touches to the library in readiness for its grand launch to members on Saturday 27 June at 3pm.

Denise Walsh reports that currently the play *Emma* adapted from Jane Austen is running at Dunedin's professional theatre. Three of the six cast are former members of Park Players and all have been in plays at the finals of the Festival of Community Theatre. Through being involved with Theatre Federation and its festivals, many young people start to gain from the advice and see the reality of what is needed to work professionally.

What's On

Morrinsville Little Theatre	<i>Opportunity Knocks</i> by Katlin & Bernstein	June/July
Detour Theatre	<i>Lost for Words</i> by Devon Williamson	May 19 - June 5
Te Puke Repertory	Audition - A Bolt from the Blue by David Tristram	May 10 at 3.30pm
Napier Repertory	Hosting District & Regional Festivals	May 15/16 & June 12/13
New Plymouth Repertory	<i>Audacity</i> by Simon Mawdsley	May 19 - 30
Feilding Little Theatre	<i>Social Climbers</i> by Roger Hall	May 1 - 16
Foxton Little Theatre	<i>Sisters</i> by Alison Quigan & Lucy Schmidt	May 1 - 16
	Audition - Look No Hans by Chapman & Pertwee	May 24 at 2pm
Kapiti Playhouse	<i>Bazaar and Rummage</i> by Sue Townsend	June 3 - 13
Mana Little Theatre	<i>Lettice and Lovage</i> by Peter Shaffer	June 17 - 27
Porirua Little Theatre	<i>I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change</i> music by Jimmy Roberts, lyrics Joe DiPietro	June 10 - July 4
Tawa Community Theatre	<i>From Shakespeare to Churchill</i> , 2 short plays	May 14 - 16
Khandallah Arts Theatre	<i>Twelfth Night</i> by Shakespeare	July 16 - 25
Stagecraft Theatre	<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> by Shakespeare	May 27 - June 6
Wellington Repertory	<i>The Darling Buds of May</i> by HE Bates	June 17 - 27
Hutt Repertory	<i>An Inspector Calls</i> by JB Priestley	July 1 - 12
Butterfly Creek	<i>A Day in the Death of Joe Egg</i> by Peter Nichols	June 25 - July 4

For inclusion in this column send in your newsletters.

Remember to include the name of the **production**, the **playwright** and the **dates**.

Do you send out your newsletters by email?

If you do please include the Backchat editor on your list: [c/- nztflibrary@xtra.co.nz](mailto:c/-nztflibrary@xtra.co.nz)

Looking for a New Zealand Play?

Order your perusal script today!

Outrageous NZ Comedy!
"Another winner from the writer of Crazy Ladies!"
Understanding WOMEN
Mike, Dave and Julian spend a weekend in a garden shed determined to break an age old mystery. Armed with a case of beer, a box of girle magazines and a holy book they are going to "understand women". What they discover is not quite what they expected.
By Devon Williamson

Hilarious NZ Comedy!
crazy Ladies
An outrageous comedy! Five school friends stage their own reunion after 25 years apart. Friendships are rekindled, secrets are revealed, a janitor is kidnapped! Hilarious and uplifting.
By Devon Williamson

Hilarious, sidesplitting, comedy
MENOPAUSE MADE ME DO IT
Five menopausal women are lured to a motel by a kidnapper who has seriously underestimated his prey. A weekend of madness and mayhem ensues as the woman seize control and marry the kidnapper off to one of their group.
By Devon Williamson

Hilarious NZ Comedy!
Lost for Words!
Can a BBC announcer, a mute receptionist, a heel clicking German and a white guy who's convinced he's Jamaican, convert their Classical Music station to Reggae?
By Devon Williamson

What theatres and critics are saying about Devon Williamson's plays...

"Hilarious, dramatic, insightful. Williamson's plays are winners for the audience and producer alike".

Stuart Gunn
Artistic Director Absolute Theatre

"Ideal comedy for the Repertory Theatre!"

Gregory Brownless
Past President Tauranga Repertory Theatre

"A superb show!!!"

Louise Dean,
The Radio Network Tauranga

"Brilliant fast moving script.... Fun to stage, hilarious to watch..."

Toni Henderson
Director for Tauranga Musical Theatre

"Quick, witty dialogue... fast-moving... real Kiwi comedy that is sure to appeal and entertain..."

Whakatane Beacon

"Looking for a NZ play that will pull in the crowds? This is it!"

Phil Ormsby
Artistic Director Flaxworks Theatre

For perusal scripts and information contact: | Email: info@plays.co.nz | Ph: 07 5710752

Post: Detour Theatre Trust, 1 Oriana Crescent, Tauranga 3110

www.plays.co.nz

Wellington Region Heritage Month

Since 1993 the Wellington Region Heritage Promotion Council has organised and promoted an annual Heritage Month to celebrate the heritage our ancestors Maori and European have left us. Past topics have been as varied as love, education, the military, music, work and play. This year the annual theme being promoted is Theatre and Drama Heritage. 10,000 brochures are being printed listing activities and displays and groups who wish to be part of the programme can contact Philip Vallance, Chair, email alison.vallance@wise.net.nz

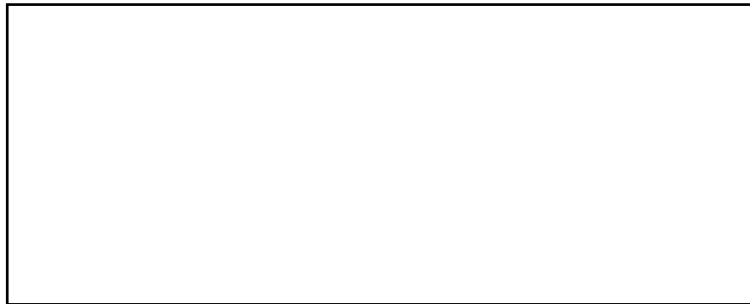
Mana and Porirua Little Theatres are working together on a display of photos, props, memorabilia and costumes at Pataka Bottle Creek Gallery in Porirua for the month of June. A little stage with curtains will be set up and Maureen Aitken of Mana says that preparation for this showing will help towards her society's 50th birthday July celebration as

mentioned in the last issue of Backchat. The other theatre in the Wellington District having a golden jubilee, Khandallah Arts Theatre is in rehearsal for a production of *Twelfth Night*, the very first Shakespeare that they produced. Photos from that production in 1975 will be on display for comparison during this year's version.

Orsino and Viola:
"She never told her love"



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Editor: Margaret Robertson
Designer: Matt Norrish

Deadline for next issue of Backchat
June 5 2009

Contributions please to:
nztflibrary@xtra.co.nz
or PO Box 329, Palmerston North 4440