



A few of the Imagine Theatre cast of *The Voyage of the Jumblies*
From left Jimi Ward, Charlie Thain, Georgia Chapple and Ella Dot

The Voyage of the Jumblies an original, highly imaginative play
by Philip Freeman Sayer, is based on characters from Edward
Lear nonsense poems.

Read about the activities of Imagine Theatre, a new NZTF member on page 4

President's Column

Dear Members

No sooner do we all put our feet up after the final production of the year looking forward to rest and relaxation over the Christmas New Year period than it's February and theatre groups are gearing up for yet another year of activities. It is interesting to note the number of groups having auditions in December or late January for their first production, a sign of the changing mores of NZ society in that the big "kiwi shut down" that used to occur over the summer now appears to no longer exist.

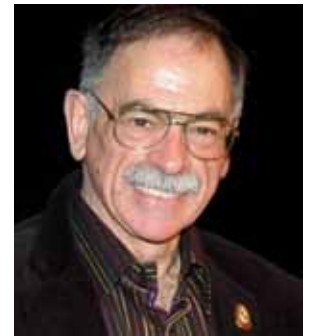
And NZTF is no different in that preparations are under way for this year's activities. First up is the Special General Meeting in April to change the constitution making the governance of NZTF more democratic. We are also running workshops that day and so it is hoped members can make their way to Wellington for this important event. Then there are this year's Festivals and we are pleased to be able to publish in this newsletter what is planned so far. A change of format for this year should be noted: there will be two Regional Festivals in each Island, with each island having its own adjudicator. After the final Regional Festival these two adjudicators will confer to sort out those productions being selected to go forward to the National Final. And this year's National Final is in sunny Nelson where the Top of the South organisers have promised us a superb weekend of theatre and theatrical activities all in the wonderfully restored and refurbished Theatre Royal, NZ's oldest performance venue. It is hoped many of you will start planning a weekend in Nelson for the National Final.

Following last year's National Final I took off for a month's holiday to Europe and Britain. While in London I was very fortunate to get to the Globe Theatre on London's South Bank and have a personalised tour on-stage and back stage by the Friends' and Patron's Manager. Following this I was then invited to watch a most delightful production of *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, after which I spent a couple of hours with the Manager discussing amateur theatre in our respective countries. This was a most unexpected bonus as she is an active member of The Questors Theatre in Ealing, North London, one of the largest and oldest amateur theatres in Great Britain. Not only do they stage up to 20 productions a year, (admittedly they have a studio as well as a main stage), but they also run a youth theatre and day time and evening drama classes throughout the year and regular club activities. (They also staged NZ playwright April Phillip's play *Stiff* in June 2009!)

It was also interesting to learn of the current state

of the amateur theatre scene in Great Britain. Competitive Festivals are nowhere near as popular as they used to be with regions now preferring to hold weekend regional conferences of workshops and seminars involving theatre groups from specific geographical areas hosted by one of the groups. The British Theatre Guild, the equivalent of NZTF, also produces Grey Papers for its members. These are user friendly guides to changes in legislation applicable to theatre groups and funding guides. These were two particularly useful ideas which could be considered by NZTF for its members. So after a very stimulating day at the Globe Theatre I came away with many ideas for theatre here in New Zealand at both a local and national level.

Ewen D Coleman
National President



Contents

Editorial	2
Special General Meeting	3
Norfolk Island	3
Festival '11	3
Olga E Harding Award Criteria	4
Imagine Theatre	4
Lois Paynter	5
Gavin Garner	5
Survey	5
Playmarket Scripts	6
What's On, Devon Williamson	7
Pierrot Theatre	8

Special General Meeting

Notice is given that a Special General Meeting of The New Zealand Theatre Federation Inc will be held on Saturday 2 April 2011 at 10am in Wellington at Newtown Community Centre.

The meeting is to consider an updated draft of the constitution. If this is approved it will be presented at the AGM for ratification in Nelson on 6 August. The quorum for this meeting as set out in the old constitution is 10 persons entitled to vote. It is noted that the number required to make a quorum under the new constitution will be 15, including proxies, so that could be a challenge in the future! *We need you there on 2 April at 10am.*

Wellington District is hosting the occasion and workshops in directing and acting will be held in the afternoon from 1 - 5pm. Ewen Coleman will tutor Directing 101 which will be very suitable for people wishing to enter the Festival of Community Theatre. The tutor for actors is to be advised as is the cost to the participants. Please pre-register with Margaret Robertson info@theatrenewzealand.co.nz

Further information will be sent out as soon as possible but mark your calendar now.

Funding Source for Travel

Too expensive to come to Wellington for a meeting? If you are travelling with the purpose of upskilling at a workshop then Pub Charities may look kindly on an application for help. Keep this in mind too when you plan to attend the NZTF National Final in Nelson if workshops are included in the programme.

2011 Norfolk Island Theatre Festival 25 September – 2 October

“Theatre in Paradise” is a one act play competition run by NATS, the Norfolk Amateur Theatrical Society.

Entry costs AUS\$100 and plays must be between 20 and 45 minutes long and have a minimum of 2 actors.

Details: www.nats.nlk.nf/theatre_paradise.html

Festival of Community Theatre 2011

Closing date May 31st
Register online using one streamlined form for all levels of the festival

NATIONAL FINALS AUGUST 5TH – 6TH

Organised by Dramatix Theatre
Theatre Royal, Nelson
Adjudicator Natalie Ellis-Wilson

REGIONALS CONFIRMED

Theatre Hawkes Bay July 22nd – 23rd
Adjudicated by Denise Walsh

Fiordland Events Centre, Te Anau July 15th – 16th
Adjudicated by Lindsay Nash

Our website is going to be modernised — it will take a couple of months but watch out for it.

THE OLGA E HARDING AWARD FOR NEW PLAYS

This award is an important part of the NZTF's Festival of Theatre. It is awarded annually at the Festival for the best new script of a play featured in the Festival. The play is adjudicated separately from its production, and the winner of the award is not announced till the final night of the Festival of Community Theatre.

Elizabeth O'Connor, Literary Manager and Dramaturg at The Court Theatre, Christchurch, has been the assessor for the past two years, and will judge again in 2011. She has national standing in this area and also works for Playmarket, assessing and developing scripts and taking playwriting workshops.

We urge all new playwrights to not only enter this category (\$30 entry fee) but to also seek a written report/feed back on it (an extra \$60). These charges are extremely reasonable.

Plays need to be performed in the Festival for the first time to be eligible - but the process doesn't stop there, as the better your work becomes, the more likely it is to be performed again and therefore you can gain an income from royalties!

Olga E Harding Award Judge's Criteria

Judge's criteria for assessing plays entered in the new playwrights' section of the NZTF Festival of Community Theatre.

- **Character** — Are the characters clearly distinguished, well-developed, consistent and interesting?
- **Story Structure** — Is the story well set-up, developed and resolved? Is the identity and goal of the protagonist clear? Is his or her journey plausible, surprising and engaging?
- **Theatrical Potential** — Is there action (including character interaction) or just exposition? Are elements of set, lighting, sound and/or movement suggested which will support the story? Will a live audience feel involved?
- **Imagination** — Has the writer created a world worth looking at? Has the writer been novel or brave in selecting elements of that world? Does the writer seek to take the audience on a journey beyond everyday experience? Or deeper into everyday experience?
- **Ideas and Intentions** — What message/question does the writer wish to convey? What themes is he or she exploring? How well does he or she do this?

Meritorious Service Award — Thanks

Here's a letter received from Meritorious Service award recipient Jeanette Ogg towards the end of last year:

Please convey to the Federation my thanks for the Meritorious Service Award. I was surprised delighted and humbled to receive it. The Performing Arts Tauramanui committee presented it to me at our pre-Christmas pot-luck dinner, together with a lovely bouquet of flowers. I have loved being part of the theatre scene in our town and have had much fun over the years. I've learned a great deal, had some great experiences and developed wonderful friendships. It has been a pleasure to be part of a team that promoted the performing arts in Taumaranui.

Jeanette Ogg

Imagine Theatre Incorporated

Contributed by Trish Taylor

Imagine Theatre is a small community theatre in Motueka serving the Tasman District. It was founded in 2006 to enable people of all ages to become involved in the dramatic arts.

We are a small but enthusiastic group of about 60 and are based in an old scout hall. We are currently heavily involved, with the generous support of our local council, in renovating the building in the hope of creating a performance space that will be an asset to the community.

We attempt to stage at least three performances a year to cater for all our members. Our largest show, aimed at our younger actors, can involve up to forty children. It is the highlight of the year for us as it requires participation from all our members. We usually have five performances and are lucky to have a supportive community who come along to watch and encourage. *Alice in Wonderland*, *Pinocchio* and *The Voyage of the Jumblies* have been our most recent shows.

Our youth theatre was formed in 2008 as some of our children became young adults and wanted more challenging material. Over the last two years they have had great success staging *The Cagebirds* and *Daughters of Heaven*. We are so proud to see the development of their stagecraft. The theatre has created some fine young actors and directors.

Our most recent adult production, *Anyone for Breakfast*, had the audience treated to drinks, nibbles and a great evening's entertainment.

2011 will be busy for us as we continue with renovations and planning for upcoming shows. We are starting the year, hoping to attract all the fantastic talent that we know is out there, by staging a variety show, then on to a youth theatre production, adult production in the winter and our main show at year's end.

We send best wishes to these new members Ed.

Lois Alberta Paynter 1928 – 2011

Contributed by Peter Pratt

Suddenly On 9 January 2011

Life Member of NZTF (Backchat Oct'10 p3)

Lois was born in Remuera, attended Epsom Girls Grammar School and started her working life as a metallurgist in Auckland. She sailed to England for a year to see theatre and attend week and weekend drama schools. On her return she became a tutor at the John Thomson Studio in Auckland, married Charles Paynter in 1948 and lived in Mairangi Bay thereafter.

Lois was a founding member and the first Vice President of Mairangi Dramatic Society, a position she held from 1952 -1964 . She later became President for 8 years. She was also a member of the British Drama League which merged into the NZ Theatre Federation. She became a long standing member of NZTF and served on the National Executive.

Lois was familiar to many theatre groups from her adjudications over the years as she travelled the length and breadth of the country attending and adjudicating at Regional and National Finals and school festivals. Often she would travel late in the night along back country roads to reach her destination, and had many entertaining stories of the billets she was assigned along the way. She was a tutor and facilitator at many workshops and weekend schools including the Central Theatre where she took weekly and holiday classes.

Her experience as a Speech and Drama tutor at the John Thomson Studio and her interest in Shakespeare and Greek Theatre enabled her to pass on valuable experience to drama clubs and schools throughout New Zealand.

Lois was also a prolific director of plays, mainly for Mairangi, but she also directed for other clubs. She especially enjoyed directing Shakespeare, Greek, Costume Plays, and plays for children with youth and adult casts. Alice in Wonderland was one of her favourites. She was an accomplished actress appearing in a wide variety of roles from Shakespeare, Greek, Lorca, Ionesco, Giles Cooper, Frank Marcus to Tennessee Williams, and tackled drama and comedy with equal panache. Being in a Lois Paynter play was in itself a learning experience, whether she was directing or acting alongside, and those lucky enough to have been directed by her often went on to success in the theatre both at a professional and community level.

She was a dedicated theatre attender and in the course of her life saw thousands of plays both in NZ and overseas. Lois continued to work as a Speech and Drama Teacher until the day she passed away, taking on a limited clientele in later years.

Her contribution the NZ theatre over the years has been significant. Anyone who met Lois will never forget her. She was a small of stature but always made a big impact.

She will be greatly missed.

Gavin Garner

Tribute is also paid to Gavin Garner, long time treasurer of Hawkes Bay District and delegate to New Zealand Theatre Federation's National Executive

Results of the Survey

- We received responses from 26 groups (37%)
- 26 societies have 1497 members (721 active, 588 non active)
- 56 plays were given 381 performances to 2,4900 people
- Casts numbered 880 and crew 729
- 3 societies paid a director, 1 paid a musical director
- 10 societies own their own theatre, 5 hire their theatre out
- 14 hire out their wardrobe
- 5 societies run a junior theatre
- 8 bought set and paint from Mitre 10 or Mitre Mega, 5 from Caters, 5 use Resene, 4 Bunnings
- 11 societies bought costume materials from Spotlight
- 20 groups spent \$61.061 on advertising and \$44.517 on royalties. 16 spent \$9,005 on script hire. 8 used a ticket agency.

NEW ZEALAND PLAYWRIGHTS PLAYMARKET.ORG.NZ AGENT. ADVISOR. BOOKSHOP

If any of these plays interest you we can email you the script, scripts@playmarket.org.nz

THE BACH (2m 2w)

Stephen Sinclair

In this satirical dissection of middle class New Zealand we join two middle-aged brothers meeting for the first time in years at their family bach in the Coromandel. They arrive to discover that the regional council has erected a public toilet right next door. Bruised by career disappointment, relationship failure and identity politics, the two brothers decide it's time to make a stand.

THE HEAD OF THE HOUSE (3w 5m)

Dean Hewison

Head of the House is a black comedic farce, winning its writer Outstanding New Playwright of the Year.

After a group of flatmates find their landlord's severed head in the washing machine, their initial shock soon turns to suspicion of each other. While they all protest their innocence, as their stories emerge it is revealed that everybody has something to hide – and maybe the potential for murder.

THE CUP (2w 7m)

Dan Cleary

It's going to be a cracker! It's the 2011 Rugby World Cup, but Baldie Foot has too much on his mind. He's got to choose the right anti-skid grass turf; there's human remains, defecting players and no accommodation for 85,000 screaming fans - never mind the Maori land claim, and a hole at halfway ... Baldie must stop everyone panicking to prevent a country wide anxiety attack.

FOUR FLAT WHITES IN ITALY (3w 3m)

Roger Hall

Venice! Rome! Tuscany! With a copy of Lonely Planet and an Italian phrase book, recently retired librarians Adrian and Alison feel prepared to face the excitement of Italy ... This is OE for the over-fifties, when tensions can arise from sharing everything from the bathroom to the bill. Has broken box-office records all over the country.

WAY TO GO (2w 4m)

Joe Musaphia

A real estate agency's sales staff attend a conference. They are confronted by a bed of red-hot coals. The idea is they walk on it barefooted as 'a team-building exercise.' They balk, management insists, they suffer...!

IN YOUR FACE (2w 2m)

Joe Musaphia

A 'famous artist' creates a work entitled 'Rubbish.' The art gallery's cleaner does his job and creates something else. Two more great comedies from prolific Joe Musaphia.

HAPPY COUPLING (2w 3m)

Ross Gumbley

If this stag party is anything to go by then it doesn't bode well. Can Digby's luck really be this bad? And what about the hen's night on floor below? Set in a hotel that had a lot of money spent on it in the 1980s, this comedy is based on eternal themes – love, sex and mistaken identity. An hilarious look at the night before the morning after with great opportunities for cross-gender casting.

LE SUD (3 m 3w)

Dave Armstrong

Just made available for amateur production:-

This hit comedy assumes that the French successfully colonised the South Island in 1839 and South Zealand - or Le Sud - became an independent French-speaking nation. Today Le Sud is a prosperous socialist country where people work only 30 hours a week, enjoy long wine-fuelled lunches, and the Prime Minister, Francois Duvauchelle, is a womaniser.

SUNDAY ROAST 2 (1m 1w) – 10 (5m 5w)

Thomas Sainsbury

Hilarious and ever so slightly risqué comedy/thriller... the Giles family is inviting you for dinner. The beast is fattened and ready for the slaughter. Father's on carving duty. Mother's on vegetables. Feuding daughters have dessert covered; son-in-law Francois is in charge of looking good. The prodigal son, Anthony, just wants to be left alone. Adopted son, Rupert? He just wants everyone to have a good time...

CENTURY'S TURN (4w 2m)

Elspeth Sandys

In the course of the action the darkness at the heart of society is laid bare, but against that vision stand love, friendship, music, and several quirky kinds of faith. Set at the close of the 19th century, Century's Turn tells the story of three out of work music hall actors who conspire to carry out a daring scam.

NETBALLERS (6w 3m)

Alison Quigan and Lucy Schmidt

A popular comedy about an eclectic group of women who play for the Red Hot Mamas' Social Club Netball Team. Another loss on court is followed by a club room brawl when a feud between team players gets out of hand, and players quit and join the rival team. The end of the season's match between the two teams is about to heat up, with spiked cointreau oranges, a pregnant player and a revelation.....

Enclosed in this Backchat you will find a flyer with information about Playmarket services for you to file.

What's On February/March/April 2011

Titirangi Theatre	<i>And the Winner Is...</i> by Mitch Albom	March 15 – 26
Papakura Theatre Company	<i>Crumpy, Life and Times</i> by Carl Nixon	Late March
Howick Little Theatre	<i>The Birthday Boy</i> by Carl Nixon	March 5 – 26
Hamilton Playbox	<i>Are You Being Served?</i> by Jeremy Lloyd & David Croft	April 2 – 16
Detour Theatre	<i>How to Train Your Husband</i> by Devon Williamson	March 16 – April 2
Hawke's Bay District	AGM at The Playhouse Hastings	Feb 28 @ 7.30pm
Napier Repertory	Art Deco Season: <i>Shadow Self</i> by Andre Surridge & <i>Come into the Garden Maude</i> by Noel Coward	February 17 – 26
Theatre Hawkes Bay	<i>The Way You Look Tonight</i> by Niall Williams	March 29 – April 2
TET Cue Theatre Inglewood	<i>The Ghost Train</i> by Arnold Ridley	April 3 – 16
Hawera Repertory Society	<i>Crazy Ladies</i> by Devon Williamson	April 8 – 16
Foxton Little Theatre	<i>Steel Magnolias</i> by Robert Harling	March 25 – April 9
Wellington District	AGM 112 Pope St Camborne Mana Ph 233 1842	March 6 @ 11am
Levin Little Theatre	<i>Weighing In</i> by Lucy Schmidt	March 31 – April 16
Kapiti Playhouse	<i>Steaming</i> by Nell Dunn	March 23 – April 2
Mana Little Theatre	<i>Men at Arms</i> by Terry Pratchett	April 6 – 16
Porirua Little Theatre	<i>The Wizard of Oz</i> by L. Frank Baum	April 13 – 30
Khandallah Arts Theatre	<i>The Ugly Duckling Strikes Back</i> by Carl Nixon Audition <i>A Month of Sundays</i> by Bob Larbey Ph 479 2436	February 5 – 13 February 20 @ 4.30
Stagecraft Theatre	<i>A Doll's House</i> by Henrik Ibsen <i>That Face</i> by Polly Stenham	February 16 – 26 April 6 – 16
Wellington Repertory Theatre	Old Tyme Music Hall	April 14 – 21
Hutt Repertory Theatre	<i>Doubt</i> by John Patrick Shanley	March 17 – 26
Butterfly Creek	<i>Much Ado About Nothing</i> by William Shakespeare	March 1 – 5
Elmwood Players	<i>The Truly Remarkable Puss-in-Boots</i> by Patricia Clapp <i>Sylvia's Wedding</i> by Jimmy Chinn	Jan 21 – 30 April 20 – 30
Top Dog Theatre Christchurch	<i>The Taming of the Shrew</i> by Shakespeare	Feb 12 – 20
Lincoln High School	<i>Blood Brothers</i> by Willy Russell	April 4 – 7
SC Drama League Little Theatre	<i>Death and Taxes</i> by April Phillips Junior Section <i>Robin Hood</i> — Self Devised	March 11 – 19 April 14 – 16
Invercargill Repertory Society	<i>Four Flat Whites in Italy</i> by Roger Hall	April 9

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 girls 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 hired 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 89C announcer, a mute receptionist, a heel kicking 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

Pierrot Theatre

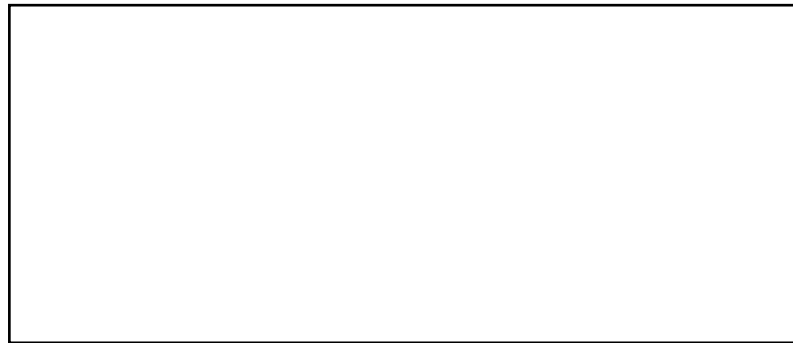
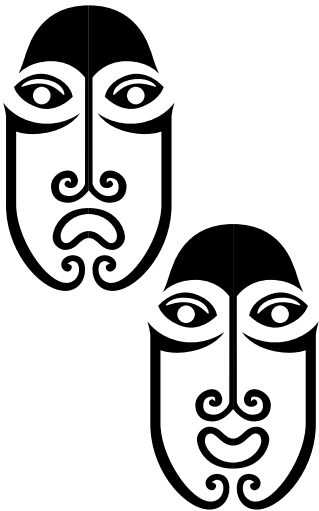
Dinie Bevers and husband Wim moved to Rangiora, Canterbury last year and have started a new theatre group called Pierrot Theatre which is a name derived from Commedia Dell'Arte. One of its characters was Pedrolino, which evolved into the modern Pierrot. Dinie has left behind Scapino, another Italian character, the theatre group she started in 2000 in Waimate.

She writes that the aim of Pierrot Theatre is to enable students and young people in Rangiora to participate in the performing arts and the NZTF Festivals as these she says are a great way for actors to gain experience and grow personally. As she is a teacher of Speech and Drama, she will also use the name Pierrot Theatre for her studio and plans to run workshops in drama and

related activities, such as clowning, Theatre Sports, Commedia Dell'Arte and Shakespeare's Fools. Rangiora has an active musical society and a small repertory group and Dinie envisages working alongside these local organisations with workshops and performances for adults in the future.

She says "With Scapino we were very successful involving young people, hopefully we will be able to achieve the same results in this area. We have plans galore to promote the thespian activities we all so enjoy, but they will remain in the ideas box for now. No doubt you will hear more from Pierrot Theatre!"

Good luck to Dinie with her new venture Ed.



Postage
Stamp

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Designer: Matt Norrish

Deadline for next issue of Backchat
April 6th, 2011

Send NZTF communications to
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