



Promotion with a Difference

Mana Little Theatre promoted their rural play, *My Husband's Nuts* recently at a Flower Festival in the local church. The theatre stool sports a gumboot with an arrangement that includes flowers made of muffins from the play. The soft toy cow eyes the handbill which has a picture of an inquisitive cow on it.

See What's On for more details.

President's Column

Dear Members,

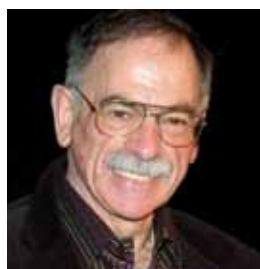
At the time of writing this New Zealand is in the grip of Rugby World Cup fever, with the All Blacks having just won the cup and about to tour the country after an extraordinarily huge street parade in Auckland. And even for those not overly taken with all the hype that has surrounded the RWC there is no denying that it has certainly created an amazing sense of occasion and celebration throughout the country over the last six weeks. And while the arts are often portrayed as the poor relation to sport, in this instance much of the festivities surrounding the RWC games, especially in the provinces, have involved the arts and in particular theatre with many rugby associated theatre productions occurring up and down the country. And when one looks at all the excitement, fun, drama and conflict associated with the games one realises that in fact they are not far removed from a theatrical performance and those participating and watching experience what many of us have been experiencing for years, the sheer joy and excitement of participating in theatre because, of all the art forms, theatre is the one that embraces so totally all aspects of life.

So as we move towards the end of another year and theatre groups are gearing up for their end of year productions it is hoped that the excitement of the RWC can continue, and that you all have as much success with your productions as the All Blacks did with theirs.

At the end of this month the new National Executive is having an all day meeting to formulate activities for the coming year, planning next year's Festivals and regional workshops. We are very pleased to be able to confirm dates and venues for all 4 Regional Festivals next year (see opposite) and following our National Executive meeting there may be some exciting news regarding the 2012 Festival but more on that later. We plan to launch our newly designed web page as well which, by all indications, will be bold and innovative and will give NZTF a very creative and exciting shop front on the internet.

There is much to look forward from NZTF in the coming year and no doubt many theatre groups will have by now set their programmes for 2012 with what is hoped will be exciting and innovative theatrical productions mixed with the tried and true that you will be able to read about in Backchat and on our new web site in the coming months.

Ewen D Coleman
National President



Welcoming New Members

Groups

Columba College, Dunedin

Keeping Good Company, Christchurch

Swagga Sistaz, Invercargill

Individual

Penelope Couper, Mosgiel, Dunedin

Festival of Community Theatre 2012

Regional Dates:

Upper North Island

24/25 August at Theatre Whakatane.

Lower North Island

31 August/ 1 Sept at Pahiatua Repertory Society.

Upper South Island

24/25 August at Aranui Performing Arts Theatre, Christchurch.

Lower South Island

31 August/ 1 Sept at Centrestage Theatre, Invercargill.

National Final Weekend

Sept 14/15 at Lowe family Performing Arts Centre, Lindisfarne College, Hastings.

Workshops in Rotorua Postponed

Contact by email, post and telephone was made with 21 theatre groups, 7 musical theatre groups and 42 schools from Hamilton to Gisborne, from Thames to Tauramanui but sadly to no avail. Workshops in directing and acting were offered, the tutors were ready but timing was obviously not right as very few registered. The workshops will be offered again in the new year.

Watch out for the date.

Introducing Further Members of National Executive



**Gregg Perkins, Pahiatua
National Treasurer**

Gregg started at the Mattie Gibson School of Speech and Drama in Northampton, UK at the tender age of 8, and has stayed with theatre ever since. He spent 30 years with Country Players in Wakefield, including time on Marlborough/Nelson NZTF committee, and is now involved with Pahiatua Repertory Society. During

this time he's run the gamut from acting, directing, lighting, sound, to backstage and administration.

He lives with the financial struggles and the hard work that is always part of the small theatre groups, and is looking forward to working with the national body and gaining more insight into this problem.



Anne McAuley, Blenheim

Anne is a long time member of Marlborough Repertory, the Marlborough Performing Arts Society and is a registered teacher of Speech and Drama. She is Secretary of the Top of the South District and has been the District Festival organiser of several festivals.

Her contribution to community theatre includes several years as President of Marlborough Repertory, marketing many productions, acting, theatre administration and organising several NZTF Top of the South District Festivals.

She's looking forward to working with the NZTF National Executive team.

Looking for a New Zealand Play for your Theatre?

**new
release!**

How to Train Your Husband

Training your husband? Sound impossible? Not when you have a legendary husband trainer living right next door! Three generations of women in the Smith family attempt to turn their men into fully trained members of the opposite sex. The result is an hilarious 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 Auckland classical music station to reggae?

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 women seize control and marry the kidnapper off to one of their group.

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.

My Husband's Nuts!

Barbara's husband is missing on the family farm. When Jack finally returns he's convinced that he is a Japanese soldier holding out on an island after World War Two. Barbara's husband is nuts. The only people she can trust with this information is the new vet and the village idiot. How will they restore Jack's mind without the help of the medical profession... or common sense?

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

*Phil Ormsby, Artistic Director
Flaxworks Theatre*

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 girly magazines and a holy book they are going to "understand women". What they discover is not quite what they expected. Understanding Women is a comedy play for both sexes!

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

*Stuart Gunn, Artistic Director
Absolute Theatre*



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

Whakatane Beacon

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

*Toni Henderson,
Tauranga Theatre
Director*

**Productions staged in Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, Tauranga, Waikato, Taranaki...
it's time to stage one at your theatre!**

By Devon Williamson Order perusal scripts at Play Bureau!

For perusal scripts and information contact: The Play Bureau Phone: (06) 757-3103 E Mail: play.bureau.nz@xtra.co.nz

If any of these plays interest you we can email you the script, and if you have any particular requirements we can also make other suggestions - please contact scripts@playmarket.org.nz with your queries.

BONKING JAMES BOND April Phillips (2m 2w; 1 act)

A warm hearted comedy about Betty who, having just discovered her husband is having an affair, will do anything to save her marriage even if it means dipping into fantasy and enlisting the help of a secret agent. By the end of the play she has developed self-esteem and strength and realises that she doesn't need her marriage in order to be happy.

FOOTROT FLATS Roger Hall (4m 4w)

Murray Ball's comic strip style is retained within the story involving the claims of town versus country as Cheeky tries to lure Wal away from the farm. The familiar characters of Wal, Dog, Cheeky, Aunt Dolly, Horse, Cooch, Prince Charles, Dolores and others provide between them two hours of music and laughter. Music by Phillip Norman.

JOYFUL AND TRIUMPHANT Robert Lord (5m 2w)

A modern NZ classic. The history of the Bishop family - Dad, Mum, Rose, Ted, Ted's wife Brenda and their children - is told in a series of scenes set on Christmas Day over a period of forty years. By concentrating on the minutiae of family life Lord paints an authentic portrayal of New Zealand culture from 1949 - 1989.

MEET THE CHURCHILLS Paul Baker (2w 3m)

Very funny family comedy - fresh from successful Circa season.. Randolph Churchill holds a luncheon party to celebrate the 88th birthday of his admired but estranged father, Sir Winston, and there is unfinished business in his deeply dysfunctional family. His sister, the alcoholic Sarah, flaunts her quite unsuitable new relationship with a much younger black man. Clementine fails to maintain decorum ...

SEXY BUDDHA Geoff Allen (1m 1w)

So a Buddhist walks into a bar . . . It sounds like the start of a joke but is in fact the point when this play gets really interesting. Sexy Buddha is an intriguing juxtaposition of bar room philosophy and eastern religion set in a late night bar on K' Road on a rainy Tuesday night. In a slightly orchestrated version of life imitating art, this is exactly where you view it, Pull Bar to be exact. A bartender and a Buddhist nun.

THE SECRET LIFE OF A BELLYDANCER Geoff Allen (4w 4m)

After a failed marriage to an Egyptian, Janice Barker, now Jamila Said, starts work in her father's mini mart. One night the checkout girls witness her bellydancing her way out of the tedium of shelfstacking. They persuade Jamila to teach them...

THE FAMILY WILDER Tom Sainsbury (3w 2m [or 2w 3m])

When Clive is employed as biographer for ruthless capitalist, Bill Wilder, he enters a world of decadence, deceit and disappointment. As he researches Bill's life and gets to know his children and housekeeper, he soon realizes things are not as they first appear . . . Or is it Clive that's not as he first appears . . .

CRIMS Tom Sainsbury (1-5w, 2-7m) 1 act comedy

When Willy gets caught shoplifting his life is plunged into one of lies, deception and hiding from the pigs. During community service he meets Louis. Another doofus? Or a criminal mastermind? Either way, Willy and Louis are in for a bumpy ride.

PATUPAIAREHEREHE Robert Gilbert (2w 4m)

Inspired by the Grimms' tale this delightful version of 'Rumpelstiltskin' is set in New Zealand. When the local chief, Te Arahi, hears of Hinetahi and her abilities, he shuts her away until she can weave harakeke into pounamu. The mischievous Patutupaiareherehe solves Hinetahi's problems ... but at what price?

KICK YA SWAG Ana Notoa and Lesa'e Tagamo'a (6w 3m)

Boys. Breasts. Racism. Reality. High School. Hormones. Friendships. Fob mother: welcome to Sieni's world and her attempt to kick up her swag, Invercargill styles. (Special Mention, Plays for the Young Competition, 2011)

UP NORTH Pip Hall (2w 1m)

Rural New Zealand. The 1950s. A childless couple live on a farm in the middle of nowhere. Financially stretched, they agree to foster a pregnant unwed teenager who has been shipped 'up north' to await the birth of her unplanned baby. Each are social outcasts in their own way, and they all harbour secrets and shattered dreams...

BADJELLY THE WITCH Adapt by Alannah O'Sullivan (4m 4w)

A lively adaptation of Spike Milligan's popular children's story. Tim and Rose go off in search of their cow Lucy who has been stolen by the wicked Badjelly and her giant servant Dulboot. On the way they meet many characters including Binklebonk, the tree goblin, Silly Sausage, a barking grasshopper, Mudwiggles the super strong worm and the very polite Dinglemouse who was once a banana!

A LOVE LIKE OURS Joe Musaphia (3w 3m)

Madeline is dead but at her funeral around her coffin all sorts of secrets come unraveled as her lovers and beloved gather to send her off. A great, poignant comedy that suggests that love like a book should never just be judged by its cover.

I'VE GOT A DINOSAUR IN MY BACKYARD Kath Bee and Gaeleynne Pound (4-9w, 5-9m)

A great play for children. D.J discovers that he has a "bitser" dinosaur, called Rex, in his backyard. With the help of his friends, they help Rex find his way home. During their adventure, the children overcome different fears. As they do, Rex transforms from a "bitser" dinosaur into a diplodocus. Special Mention in Plays for the Young Competition, 2011.

What's On November/December 2011

Titirangi Theatre	<i>My Three Angels</i> by Samuel & Bella Spewack	Nov 22 – Dec 3
Howick Little Theatre	<i>Backstage</i> by Roy Smiles	Nov 12 – Dec 3
Hunua Youth Theatre	<i>Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs</i> trad.	Nov 25 – 27
Waihi Drama Society	<i>Oklahoma!</i> by Rogers and Hammerstein	Nov 4 – 19
Tauranga Repertory	<i>Flint Street Nativity</i> by Tim Firth	Nov 23 – Dec 10
Detour Theatre, Tauranga	<i>The Mouse Trap</i> by Agatha Christie	Nov 16 – Dec 3
Te Puke Repertory	<i>Brief Encounter</i> , a tribute to Noel Coward	Oct 27 – Nov 5
Rotorua Little Theatre	<i>Are You Being Served?</i> by Jeremy Lloyd & David Croft	Nov 18 – Dec 3
Inglewood Dramatic Society	<i>Four Flat Whites in Italy</i> by Roger Hall	Nov 12 – 26
Hawera Repertory Society	<i>Nunsensations!</i> by Dan Goggin	Nov 19 – 26
Napier Repertory Players	<i>Play On</i> by Rick Abbot	Nov 10 – 19
Theatre Hawkes Bay	<i>Brassed Off</i> by Paul Allen fr Mark Herman's screenplay	Nov 24 – Dec 3
Pahiatua Repertory Society	<i>Beverly Hillbillies</i> by Henning/ Rogers	Nov 24 – Dec 3
Limelight Theatre Co, Carterton	<i>The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas</i> by Larry King/Peter Masterton	Nov 9 – 19
Foxton Little Theatre	<i>Three Viewings</i> by J Hatcher	Dec 2 – 10
Levin Little Theatre	<i>Pirates</i> by Sharon Hulm	Nov 16 – Dec 3
Kapiti Playhouse	<i>Glide Time</i> by Roger Hall	Nov 16 – 26
Mana Little Theatre	<i>My Husband's Nuts</i> by Devon Williamson	Oct 27 – Nov 12
Porirua Little Theatre	<i>Cinderella</i> by Amanda Stone	Nov 17 – Dec 3
Stagecraft Theatre	<i>Nosferatu, Vampyre of the Night</i> by Simon Boyes and Mary Coffey	Nov 9 – 19
Wellington Repertory	<i>Wryd Sisters</i> by Terry Pratchett	Nov 26 – Dec 10
Hutt Repertory Theatre	<i>The Wedding Party</i> by Fiona Samuel	Dec 8 – 18
Heretaunga Players	<i>A Kick in the Baubles</i> by Gordon Steel	Nov 23 – Dec 3
Marlborough Repertory Society	<i>Cabaret</i> by John Kander and Fred Ebb	Oct 26 – Nov 12
Elmwood Players	Audition <i>The Emperor's New Clothes</i> by J Henry & M Davenport	Nov 4 – 5
SC Drama League, Timaru	Mill Theatre <i>The Good Old Days</i> — Music Hall	Nov 24 – Dec 4
South Otago Theatrical Society	<i>Understanding Women</i> by Devon Williamson	Nov 24 – Dec 4
Invercargill Repertory	<i>Are you Being Served?</i> by Jeremy Lloyd & David Croft	Nov 1 – 5

Do you send your newsletters by email? Please include Backchat editor margaretr@vodafone.co.nz

ScriptSwap, the eBay of the play script world: www.script-swap.com

Have you heard about this new service? ScriptSwap is a FREE service for anyone who has original scripts they no longer need or want, those wishing to loan or sell scripts and those looking for scripts without paying too much.

Membership is entirely free and scripts can be traded in the New Zealand/Australia region.

The Script Swap Shop introduces those who have to those who want. They cannot vouch for the quality of the scripts, nor can they undertake to resolve any disputes between buyers and sellers —

All they do is effect an introduction and therefore they expect both parties to behave responsibly. Sellers are free to name their own prices and conditions, but buyers should at least expect to pay postage and packing.

You need to register with a user name and password to be able to use the site. Make money, save money - you have NOTHING to lose and a lot to gain.

Go to www.script-swap.com

Activities Here and There

Hamilton Playbox are already planning for 2013. One of the plays they are considering is *Footrot Flats* by Roger Hall, Philip Norman and AK Grant. Auditions for two of next year's plays will be scheduled shortly: *Don Quixote of La Mancha* and *Dad's Army*.

Te Puke turn 60 next year and are calling for recipes and theatrical anecdotes for a publication to mark the birthday.

Hawke's Bay Theatres were invited to a Combined Theatre Society Pot Luck Dinner this month hosted by the Hawke's Bay District Committee of NZTF at the Playhouse in Hastings. It was a chance for groups to get together and socialise, share ideas and stories.

Foxton Little Theatre is appealing to the community to people their three hander. The director wants to line the

auditorium walls with photos of twenty plus local people posing as characters from the world of the play. Children, creepy salesmen, crazy aunts, Italian mobsters etc are wanted.

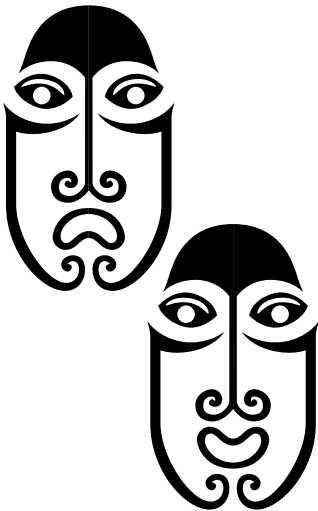
Marlborough Repertory Society recently had an evening of readings from Dylan Thomas.

Scapino Theatre in Waimate has decided sadly to disband.

Invercargill Repertory Society are celebrating 75 years and their website is right up to the minute.

See www.invercargillrepertory.co.nz for a 1.06 minute YouTube promotion of their next production. Have you thought of putting an animated snippet on the web?

NZTF Website — our new website is launched. www.theatrenewzealand.co.nz Check it out!



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