

BACKCHAT

News from THEATRE NEW ZEALAND
Fostering Community Theatre in Aotearoa

June/July 2017, Vol.40 Issue 3

Props Featured
See What's On for more details



Objects in *Beauty and the Beast* at Hawera Repertory



Weapons ready for *Murder at the Prop Table*
at Te Puke Repertory



Hard at work in *The Pink Hammer*
at 16th Theatre, Tauranga

New to National Executive

Kia ora from the deep south! I'm Hannah, TNZ representative for Southland. I'm passionate about theatre, and so pleased to be involved in Theatre New Zealand. I really believe that theatre is such an important cornerstone of our communities, and I spend a lot of my spare time trying to help make it happen.

I'm not a native New Zealander. I was born in the UK and have lived in a few different parts of the world before I came to make Invercargill my home. I've now lived here for three years and couldn't be happier! I'm lucky in that Invercargill has a thriving theatre scene, and I've been welcomed in generously.

Still, as a relative newcomer one thing I hope I can give is a little bit of an outsider's perspective on community theatre here. I remember when I first arrived, I got involved with Invercargill's annual Shakespeare in the Park. I saw the ad in the local paper and thought I'd go along and audition. I had done a lot of theatre at school and at university, but had taken a several year break while I thought I wanted to be a lawyer (spoiler alert: I didn't). Still, I was fortunate to be cast and voilà! The theatre bug was back with a vengeance.

So here I was, new to town and suddenly very keen to get back into the theatre world. I started looking around and googling "community theatre". I found Invercargill Repertory fairly quickly, but for some reason I simply didn't hear about Theatre New Zealand or TheatreFest. At all. It took a while (and getting more involved in different productions) before I finally did hear about it, just last year, when I was persuaded to give directing a go. I'm so glad I did. My experience and the feedback I got as a new director was invaluable. I wish I'd known about it sooner!

It got me to thinking how we can better market ourselves and how we can connect with our communities. It would be fantastic if anyone who was keen to give the boards a tread could use TNZ and TheatreFest as a resource to help get them

there. They can of course, but not if they don't hear about it. I'm not saying it's not for lack of trying - I expect our members are all involved in TNZ for the same sorts of reasons. We all love what we do, and want to share that with our communities. I simply hope that we can continue efforts to spread the net and get the word out there, reaching anyone and everyone who might be interested. TheatreFest is such a fantastic opportunity to reach a wide and potentially new group of theatre lovers. It's a great way for people to get involved and hopefully, through it, connect with their community theatre groups.

So here's to TheatreFest 2017. With any luck it will be as full of "newbies" as "old hats", and our New Zealand community theatre whānau can continue to grow, diversify and strengthen our local and national ties. After all, isn't that what it's all about?



Hannah Kennedy

Welcome to New Members

We welcome Scott Frater, Dramatix Theatre, Nelson, co-opted to National Executive to represent the Top of the South.

New Individual Members:

Paul Percy, Hayden Rogers, Lynda Scott all from Wellington region; Sue Goldsmith of Taupo.

Group Members

Nelson Youth. Theatre; St Bede's College Christchurch has re-joined as have Dramatix Theatre Development Trust.

Subscriptions

\$100 Group or \$40 Individual overdue.
Payment welcome now, thanks.

Local TheatreFests

Auckland date, venue, organiser TBA*

Bay of Plenty date, venue, organiser TBA*

Hawke's Bay 4/5 August
at Playhouse theatre, Hastings
Organiser Anne Corney
theatreworld@clear.net.nz
Adjudicator Nanette Wright ANZDA

Manawatu 21/22 July
at Feilding Little Theatre, Stafford St.
Organiser Joan Ford mjoanford@gmail.com
Adjudicator Sheridan Hickey ANZDA

Wellington 4/5 August at the Cochran Hall
Cashmere Ave School
110 Cashmere Ave, Khandallah
Organiser David Cox and committee
wellingtonfestivals@theatrenewzealand.co.nz
Adjudicator Rob Ormsby ANZDA

Top of the South 4'5 August Wakefield Village Hall
Whitby Way Wakefield
Organiser Jen Amosa and committee
jjamosa@kinect.co.nz
Adjudicator David Chambers ANZDA

Canterbury/West Coast 5/6 August
at St Andrews College Christchurch
Organiser Mandy Perry mandy.perry@xtra.co.nz
Adjudicator Steven Arnold ANZDA

Dunedin 5 August at the Globe Theatre
Organiser Brian Byas theroadie@clear.net.nz
Adjudicator Natalie Ellis-Wilson ANZDA

Invercargill 6 August Repertory
Organiser Hannah Kennedy
hannahkenedy@gmail.com
Adjudicator TBA

*offers to theatrefest.nz@gmail.com

Regionals

Adjudicator North Island, Bryan Aitken
Upper North Island 25/26 August
Venue Riverlea Theatre Hamilton Organiser Lorna
Ashton lornaaston@clear.net.nz
Lower North Island 18/19 August
Venue Regent Theatre Organiser Gregg Perkins
pahiatuarep@gmail.com

Adjudicator South Island, Phil Peleton
Upper South Island 18/19 August
Venue St Andrew's College Christchurch.
Organiser Mandy Perry mandy.perry@xtra.co.nz
Lower South Island 26 August
Venue Wakatipu College Queenstown Organiser
Jade Gillies invers.jade@gmail.com

**Deadline for entries to Theatrefest is Saturday
1st July.**

Register on line (optional).
No minimum performance time – maximum time
limit 50 minutes.
Fee for every entry is \$140.

**National Conference and Finals 16/17
September - Programming update.**

Due to the unavailability of Hilary Norris the
National Adjudicator will now be Jon Pheloung
ANZDA

There will be four 3 hour workshops held twice at
Whitirea over the course of Saturday 16th from
9.30am – 4.30pm on Freeing the Voice,
Improvisation, Script/Character Analysis for actors
and Stage Fighting.

Sunday morning 17th at the Hannah Playhouse
has been set aside for the AGM at 9.30am, Open
Forum 10.30am and Key Note Speaker at
11.30am.

Afternoon performances will start at 1pm.
Afternoon tea will be served while the Adjudicator
makes his judgments.



New Zealand Theatre Month September 2018 Celebrating and Elevating New Zealand Theatre

Theatre New Zealand is very enthusiastic to support New Zealand Theatre month in September next year. We recognise and endorse that the aim is to support the performance of work originating in New Zealand.

This special month is timed to coincide with our National Final of TheatreFest 2018 and we will acknowledge works of New Zealand Theatre in our programme. We already have an award for Best Production of a New Zealand play in our category listings, named in honour of Past National President and playwright, Denise Walsh.

We encourage members to consider productions of New Zealand origin for performance from 1 – 31 September 2018. Those that select a 'New Zealand' work will be duly recognised and supported in the New Zealand Month. It is however each group's decision to self-select to be part of Theatre New Zealand Month or not. And we will continue to encourage entries in TheatreFest written by other playwrights, Shakespeare excerpts via the Sheilah Wynn festival for example.

Comment from Bronwyn Elsmore, Playwrights Association of New Zealand (PANZ)

Back in 2003 a Playwrights Association of New Zealand initiative was "Year of the New Zealand Play". The committee put a lot of time into organizing this. We gained the support of Creative NZ, Playmarket, and Play Bureau all of which helped us publicize it, but Playwrights Association did, and were happy to do, the great part of the work.

In advance of the year, we wrote to theatres around the country urging them to include NZ plays in their seasons – in those days it was a great rarity to see ourselves portrayed on stage! We offered certificates of appreciation to all who joined in the challenge. Quite a few theatre groups took it up, and received these. I sent them out and recall that some theatres, including Centrepoint Theatre in Palmerston North, displayed theirs proudly in their foyers.

*PANZ President Peter Thomas included this paragraph in his report for the year –
"...in this Year of the New Zealand Play we have made positive progress.... The Year of the New Zealand Play...has been an unqualified success. I can say this with confidence as we have received numerous letters of support and requests to do it again."*

*The competition judge's (Brian Staniland – ANZDA- ed) report for the year includes –
"This is the Year of the New Zealand Play, and it was heartening to see that of all the entries, a good number of you rose to the challenge to come up with a distinctly New Zealand theme."*

The good news is that the NZ theatre scene has altered since 2003. I like to think that Year of the New Zealand Play can take some of the credit for pushing along the change in attitude.

Bronwyn Elsmore



It's Back

By popular demand – the return of the **Adult Residential Summer School**

Some years ago, a few of us are old enough to remember, Theatre New Zealand held an annual summer school at Lincoln University.

Adults young and not-so having survived Christmas, New Year and the family camp/holidays, travelled to the Garden of Eden Campus, that was Lincoln College. There for an extraordinary week, 'Theatre' was the word. Courses covering the essentials for Community Theatre actors, directors, youth-inspirers, met with teachers, promising professionals and those in need of an artistic infusion. Theatre practitioners wanting to change the direction of their skills joined with those needing that 'something extra'.

The flow-on effect from the attendees, into schools and theatre groups across the country was enormous. Well – it's coming back! You are receiving advance notice of this event, being revived this coming summer.

For five days and six nights live, breathe, eat, practise your craft. Net-work, revitalise and just 'get away from it all' and focus on YOU.

Budgets are being finalised. Course contents honed. The finer details are coming to hand....

Quote: *"Like most actors moving into directing, I copied the techniques – good and bad – from directors I had worked with. This intensive course helped me to develop my own style with the language I needed, to communicate with the production team and empower my actors."* Joy Crawford.

Quote: *"Summer School was my change-maker: opening my mind, validating my passion, endorsing and growing my confidence and competence, completely changing my career! It changed my life – and I would not have it any other way."* David Chambers.

Dates: January 14-20. 2018
Venue: Unicol, Otago University, Dunedin & Allen Hall
Accommodation: Onsite, single bed rooms, 3x meals per day
Tutors: *Directing.* Lara Macgregor
Acting. Bryan Aitken
**Youth Theatre.* Laurence Wiseman
**for those tutoring or directing youth*

Pre-register your interest now at: bryanaaitken@paradise.net.nz

This month we bring a selection of one act plays, many as short as ten minutes. If any of these plays interest you we can email you the script, FREE, unless otherwise noted. If you have any particular requirements we can also make other suggestions - please contact clientpromotion@playmarket.org.nz with your queries.

JUST LOOKING

by Tim Hambleton (2w 1m)

A furniture store salesperson chats to a friend as she waits for a customer. She must urgently make a big sale and tries to start a relationship with a wealthy and vulnerable customer at the same time. 10 mins.

THE POLICE INTERVIEW

by Tim Hambleton (3m)

A man is at a police station for a job interview. He believes he is to be interviewed for a position in the watch-house as a jailer. The Detective Senior Sergeant interviewing him is under the mistaken belief he is interviewing the man as the main suspect in an arson investigation. The officer's inept sidekick is a probationary constable who quickly establishes himself as more of a hindrance than a help. 10 mins.

MARGARET THATCHER HITS NEW ZEALAND

by Rex McGregor (2w 2m)

The 13th Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh four years ago were a disaster. 32 countries stayed away. Now in 1990 the 14th Games in Auckland look set to be a success. Nearly every eligible country is taking part. But that's not enough for Margaret Thatcher. She wants more.

THE CURATOR OF BAGHDAD

by Paul Maunder (1m 2e)

The play is set in Guantanamo Bay. The authorities have allowed a prisoner, Yassif, to tell his story to delegates from a human rights organisation. He sits in his cage with the audience sitting around the outside and begins to tell his story.

VIRTUAL REALITY

by Susan Battye (2w, 1m)

When her anniversary weekend flight is cancelled, a disappointed Gina finds herself alone in her apartment with only her virtual friend, Lucy for company as a person she presumes to be the Capitol Strangler comes calling. 10 mins

#THE WATCHLIST

by David Geary (1 w/m – large cast)

A selection of conversations or blogs from the Deep

Homeland Security. There are several different characters' voices and sections of dialogue. They could all be performed by a virtuoso solo artist or as large a cast as you like.

TOIL AND TROUBLE

by Paul Maunder (1w-7m)

1931. Blackball is in uproar as the secretary of the communist party turns scab. A tense conversation between a miner and the scab's wife, in which fundamental issues in revolutionary politics are explored...

PINK

by Christina Stachurski (5 – 21 w)

A one act protest play about breasts and cupcakes. Comic and tragic, *Pink* is fun to rehearse and exciting to stage. A quick series of thematically linked monologues and short scenes provide scope and a challenge for actors, director and designer.

BRIDGET AND IAIN

by Norelle Scott (5 – 21 w)

This play explores the rift that occurs between a mother and a son when another relationship or force intervenes. The play marks a turning point in the character's relationship, which may be the beginning of end or a new beginning. In many ways it is a maturation piece, a mother letting go, a son walking away. Winner of the People's Choice Award at Short + Sweet Hollywood 2016.

BREAKING NEWS

by Angie Farrow (5w)

Joeline Mitchell has been nominated Newsreader of the Year and everyone knows that she will win. However, on the day of the award ceremony, something weird happens to her. Instead of simply reading a story of a genocide in the Middle East, she finds herself entering the story. She walks into a strange, devastating and haunting universe and an experience that will change her life. An ensemble piece for five actors about the relationship between celebrity and responsibility and where we place our focus in times of global news overload..

REVENGE! AT DITCHWATER FALLS

by Philip Mann (2w 6m)

A comedy set in the Wild, Wild West where gold has been struck, cowboy heroes are real, damsels are in distress and villains lurk around every corner!

What's On in June and July 2017

Titirangi Theatre	<i>Ghosts</i> by Richard Eyre	June 6 - 15
Ellerslie Theatrical Society	<i>Festen</i> by Thomas Vinterberg	June 8 - 17
Howick Little Theatre	<i>Punch and Judy: The Real Story</i> by Debbie Isitt	to June 3
	<i>The Great Gadsby</i> by Ken Duncum	July 8 - 29
Waihi Drama Society	<i>The Last Resort</i> by Judith Prior	July 21-30
Katikati Theatre	<i>Building Bridges</i> by Colin Calvert- Dinner Theatre	June 27 - July 6
16th Ave Theatre, Tauranga	<i>The Pink Hammer</i> by Michelle Amas	June 14 - July 1
Detour Theatre, Tauranga	<i>Murder on the Nile</i> by Agatha Christie	June 14 - July 1
Te Puke Repertory	<i>Murder at the Prop Table</i> by Ed Basset	June 9 - 24
Te Aroha Dramatic Soc.	<i>Caught in the Net</i> by Ray Cooney	July 26 - Aug 5
Hamilton Playbox	<i>Cosi</i> by Louis Nowra	July 8 - 22
Rotorua Little Theatre	<i>Barefoot in the Park</i> by Neil Simon	July 21 - Aug 5
Tokoroa Little Theatre	<i>Onesies</i> - one act plays	June 28 - July 1
Napier Repertory Players	<i>Whatever</i> by Terry Coyle	June 21 - July 1
	AUDITION <i>Snow White and the Seven Drag Queens</i> Jonathan Smith	July 22 - 23
Pahiatua Repertory Soc.	<i>Star Quest</i> a children & youth talent contest	June 24
Greytown Little Theatre	<i>I Will Fly</i> by Jessica Buckham	June 17-18
	<i>An Unseasonable Fall of Snow</i> by Gary Henderson	July 5 - 9
Hawera Repertory Society	<i>Disney's Beauty and the Beast</i>	to June 3
Feilding Little Theatre	<i>The Government Inspector</i> by Nikolai Gorgol	June 9 - July 1
Levin Little Theatre	<i>The Game's Afoot or Holmes for the Holidays</i> by Ken Ludwig	July 21 - Aug 2
Kapiti Playhouse	<i>Homeland</i> by Gary Henderson	to June 3
Mana Little Theatre	<i>Social Climbers</i> by Roger Hall	June 14 - 24
	AUDITION <i>Hobson's Choice</i> by Harold Brighouse	June 18 @7pm
New Players Theatre Company	<i>The Supermarket Sisterhood</i> by Devon Williamson	July 27-Aug 5
Khandallah Arts Theatre	<i>The Wind in the Willows</i> by Alan Bennett	July 20 - 29
Stagecraft Theatre	<i>Lord of the Flies</i> by William Golding apt.	June 28 - July 8
Wellington Repertory	AUDITION <i>Nell Gwynn</i> by Jessica Swales	June 17 @1pm
Hutt Repertory	<i>Robin Hood</i> by Tim Kelly	July 10 - 15
Butterfly Creek Theatre Troupe,	<i>Half a World Apart</i> by Julia Stuart. Free entry	July 20 - 29
Nelson Youth Theatre	<i>The Surprising Tale of the Three Little Pigs</i> by Linda Daugherty	June 2 - 3
Elmwood Players	<i>The Thrill of Love</i> by Amanda Whittington	June 8 - 17
Riccarton Players	<i>Riccartonian Palace of Varieties</i>	June 7 - 17
	AUDITION <i>Value Added Plus</i> by Barry Grant	June 18
	AUDITION <i>Daydreams</i> by Doug Clarke	June 18
	AUDITION <i>Footloose</i> (Musical) by Pritchard & Bobbie	July 8
Top Dog Theatre, Lyttleton	<i>Up 'n Under</i> by John Godber	July 12- 22
The Big Little Theatre, Ashburton	<i>Children of Eden</i> by John Card/Stephen Schwartz	July 14 - 16
South Canterbury Drama League Timaru,	<i>Showstoppers 2: hits from the musicals</i>	July 20 - 22
Globe Theatre, Dunedin	<i>Finding Murdoch</i> by Margot McRae	June 29 - July 8
Fiordland Players	<i>Cheshire Cats</i> by Gail Young	July 6 - 8

Send information about upcoming productions to info@theatrenewzealand.co.nz

Norfolk Island's Festival in Paradise: 20th Anniversary, October 1- 6.

Hilarious Comedy Plays by Devon Williamson!

The Wedding of the Century 7 Female, 2 Male | Two Acts
Dorothy is a 99 year old nun who has just decided she wants to find a man and get married on her 100th birthday next week. Enlisting the help of her madcap friends at the rest home, and a teenage girl who has come to interview her for a class project, Dorothy is determined to complete her bucket list and have the wedding of the century! A hilarious comedy where the surprises and laughs just keep on coming, and with an ending guaranteed to melt even the hardest heart.

The Supermarket Sisterhood 7 Female, 3 Male | Two Acts
As if the daily skirmishes with farcical customers and the dim-witted men in their lives, wasn't enough, the women who operate the checkouts at the Discount Co supermarket are now facing a new boss and the prospect of losing their jobs due to newly installed automated checkout aisles. If the women are going to endure these challenges they're going to have to fight together and take things to a whole new level. Hilarious, madcap humor to tickle your funnybone and stir your heart.

'Twas the Fight Before Christmas! 4 Female, 2 Male | Two Acts
Think your family is complicated? Meet the most dysfunctional family you can imagine as they try to navigate Christmas. Peace on earth and good will to all men? Not likely! Ever since her husband died, Mary's horrible adult children have been ruining Christmas. This year, with the help of a suicidal French psychiatrist, Mary is determined to take Christmas back. Hilarious and uplifting Christmas comedy.

The Old People Are Revolting! 5 Female, 2 Male | Two Acts
Hilarious comedy about seniors seeking revenge! The residents of the Sunshine Retirement Village have had enough: they're revolting! Bursting with eccentric characters and crazy shenanigans the play is great fun to stage and a huge audience pleaser.

My In-laws are Outlaws!

4 Female, 2 Male | Two Acts
Annie discovers her in-laws are outlaws... and her mother-in-law has hired a mad group of assassins to kill her! How will Annie, a mild-mannered Librarian, outwit the best of the Italian, Russian and Irish contract killers? This is outrageous, laugh out loud comedy at its best.

Over Paid, Over Sexed and Over Here!

4 Female, 5 Male | Two Acts
It's mid 1942 and New Zealand is at war. As our able-bodied men fight overseas a sleepy seaside Kiwi town is about to experience an invasion by the Americans. The arrival of the yanks brings much needed excitement for the ladies, but for the local lads there are three big problems with the visitors... they're over paid, they're over sexed, and they're over here!



For perusal scripts contact
The Play Bureau
Phone: 03 455 9959
Email: info@playbureau.com



Editor Margaret Robertson, with assistance from Morris Robertson

Deadline for August/ September newsletter **20 July 2017**

info@theatrenewzealand.co.nz or Box 14041, Panmure, Auckland 1741