

BACKCHAT

News from THEATRE NEW ZEALAND
Fostering Community Theatre in Aotearoa

August/September 2018 Vol.41 Issue 4



Foxton Little Theatre's *Taking Off* by Roger Hall is the story of the travel diaries of four New Zealand women who just need to get away. Frankie (Stephanie Thomas) has won Lotto, dumped her husband and is partying on the other side of the world. She uses a cell phone to relay her adventures. Jean meanwhile, (Lisa Collinson) records the tally of cathedral visits and ponders her family tree in her diary.

Is your group celebrating New Zealand Theatre Month?

www.theatrenewzealand.co.nz

Challenging Times for Community Theatre

Never has community theatre more needed stable, strong leadership with an extensive skills set.



Skills for governance are legion. Has your group signed up for internet banking, have you established an online booking system, do you offer EFTPOS at the door,

have you kept up to date with changes of signatories since your last AGM, have you tried to change an investment when original signatories are long gone? Having a presence on both Facebook and a website is essential but skilled people are needed to set them up and commitment is needed from others to help keep the information up to date.

Constitutions need simplification to reflect the times now that an Auditor is unnecessary and half a membership cannot be expected to constitute a quorum at an AGM. Licences must be sought for performances and the serving of liquor and Health and Safety issues need to be addressed at all times. All these jobs and many others must be the concern of a governing body. Not to forget all the extra responsibilities if you own your own building.

Meanwhile 'members' take their opportunities and move on or come back as it suits, depending on the production that takes their fancy. The committee must decide how to "engage" them. Do you ask that they help with the less glamorous duties as well as act? Do you charge a payment fee per production or stipulate that a full year's membership is to be paid? Do you reward members with discounted tickets or do you automatically give everyone involved with a production one ticket to encourage further sales?

Governance is hard work but it's worth it for the buzz. Being part of a team working together towards a common goal brings its

rewards. I enjoy being part of a production crew attending the first meeting with lots of skilled people; I get a buzz when publicity material gets published; I enjoy being on Front of House; when I went on stage I'd get a special buzz during early rehearsals being part of a developing picture; I get a buzz being in the audience (especially as a groundling at the Globe in London) and it's fun being at opening nights as well as being part of a pack-out team.

There are just so many skills that one can learn in theatre and the end product makes it all worthwhile.

Margaret Robertson
Secretary

New Members, Welcome!
Whangaroa College (Northland),
Tauhara College (Taupo), Napier Boys
and Napier Girls High Schools,
Harlequin Theatre (Masterton again),
Kee Wee Productions (Christchurch)
All these groups have entered
TheatreFest and we wish them well.

Notice of AGM

Notice is given of the 48th Annual General Meeting of Theatre New Zealand will take place at Te Whaea, Newtown, Wellington at 9.30am Sunday 16th September

Nominations

Nomination forms for **Officers** (President, VP, Treasurer, Secretary) and **National Executive Members (6)** are called for.

Download forms from website (under downloads) and scan to info@theatrenewzealand.co.nz or post to Box 22 249 Wellington 6441

Remember - Nominations for Merit and Brockett Awards

All nominations due by 31st August

New ANZDA Adjudicators

Lara McGregor, Dunedin, Christchurch and Auckland - *adjudicated Top of the South*



Lara has worked as an actor, director and acting coach in NZ, Australia and the US. After 10 years performing in the U.S, she completed a Post Grad Diploma in Directing from N.I.D.A in Sydney, became Associate Artistic Director at The Court Theatre in Christchurch 2008-2010, then Artistic Director at Fortune Theatre in Dunedin 201-2015. Lara currently works in theatre, TV, and film throughout the country including: SPP, ATC, Centrepoint Theatre, The Court Theatre, Fortune Theatre, The Actors' Program, NASDA, and Otago Theatre Studies.

Annette Thomson, Christchurch



Annette is a passionate theatre educator and practitioner. She has extensive in a variety of schools and in amateur and semi-professional theatre. Annette has had leadership roles as Head of Department or sole charge, setting up Drama departments and with developing Curriculum strategies. She is chairperson of Canterbury Drama NZ and is on the National Executive. Annette also organises the Shakespeare Festival in Canterbury and has adjudicated as well as developing programmes for the youth in Canterbury including student directing courses. Annette is currently working with youth and enjoys the collaborative nature of Drama in New Zealand.

Laurence Wiseman, Christchurch - *this year's adjudicator for Otago Southland*



Laurence is an educator and theatre practitioner. Having worked in various high schools around Christchurch, he is currently Head of Drama and Dance at St Andrew's College. As an experienced actor, director and teacher in a wide range of theatrical forms his particular passion lies in enabling people to develop their theatrical abilities, exploring what is possible and pushing creative boundaries. Laurence has had an association with Theatre New Zealand and Festivals for the past ten years as both participant and adjudicator.



THEATREFEST

Northland 4 August

Dargaville Little Theatre

The Rumour written and dir by Deborah Steele;
Waiting for God...Only Knows What by Anne-Marie Russon and also written and directed by Mike Collins.

Whangaroa College

Medea by Euripedes directors T. Reed/A Davidson/Manaakitia Hemara

Auckland 10th August

Diocesan School for Girls

2b or not 2b by Sarah Delahunty dir Emily Clelland; *Blind Date* by Sarah Delahunty dir Merrin Fagan; *Hard to Swallow* by Mark Wheeler dir Rebekah Brady.

Hawke's Bay 4th August

Napier Boys High School *Lawsuit Pending* by Chris Palace dir Emma Smith

Napier Girls High School *Tiggy Tiggy Touchwood* by Renee dir Amy Edwards

Napier Repertory *Brothers in Arms* by John Cocking dir Sharyn Hildreth

Tauhara Colege *Henna Night* by Amy Rosenthal directed by Eva Simmonds & Mereana Smythe

Wellington 4th August

Harlequin Youth Theatre

King John by Paul Percy dir Linda Voice

Khandallah Arts Theatre

Follow, Follow Follow by Angie Farrow directed by Mary Collie-Homes

Newlands College

Falling by Angie Farrow dir Jo Matheson

Top of the South 15th & 16 June

Nelson Youth Theatre

Seven entries
The Music Lovers by Georges Feydeau dir Dania Buckley; *Wake Up Call* by Stephen Gregg dir Caitlin Brennan: three plays dir Richard Carruthers- *Peter Pan* extract 1 by J.M.Barrie; *Peter Pan* extract 2 by J.M.Barrie; & *Holy Moses!* by Bob Kolsby

And these two, directed by Richard Carruthers, were chosen to go to Regionals:

This is a Test by Stephen Gregg and *Nine* by Jane Sheppard.

Canterbury 4th & 5th August

Keeping Good Company

Bad Form by David Winfield dir Elizabeth Grubb and *Dominico Hall* by David Winfield directed by Charles Grubb

Kee Wee Productions *No Strings Attached* written and dir Wayne Doyle

Lincoln College *Scenes from Almost, Maine* by John Carian dir Sandra McLean

Lincoln College *Scenes from Almost, Maine* by John Carian dir Sandra McLean

Rangi Ruru Girls School *Girls Like That* by Evan Placey dir Peter Rutherford

Riccarton Players

The Child by Olwen Wymark dir Doug Clarke; *Cecily* by Celia Alison & written and directed by Barry Grant

South Canterbury Drama League

Seasonal Reductions by Lizzie Dawson directed by Gail Tatham

St Andrews College

Ain't Nothing but a Game written and directed by Harry Wilkinson

Green Grass written and directed by Jackson Page

Otago/Southland 4th August

Invercargill Repertory *Avatar* by Mark Lucas directed by Gussie Johnson

Logan Park High School *The Worker* by Walter Wykes directed by Tyler Proctor

Queenstown 11th August

Wakatipu High School

Tiggy Tiggy Touchwood by Renee directed by Kate Moetaua & Izzy Jack

Regionals

Upper North Island Taupo 18/19 August.
Lower North Island Feilding 24/25 August
Upper South Island Havelock 25/26 Aug.
Lower South Island Dunedin 17/18 August

Consult website for more details

NATIONAL FINAL



Centre Stage '17, National Finals and Conference
Wellington September 15 - 16
Te Whaea, National School of Dance and Theatre Centre
11 Hutchison Road, Newtown, Wellington

Saturday 16 September

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|----------------|--|
| 9am | Registration desk opens |
| 9.30 - 12.30pm | Team rehearsals |
| 1.30 - 4.30pm | Choice of four workshops. Each one will last 3 hours and cost \$30 covering Character, Breathing and Voice, Physical Theatre & Mime and Set Design |
| 6pm | Bar opens in central gathering place |
| 7.30pm | Welcome and Official Opening and the first night of the National Final of TheatreFest. Adjudicator Hilary Norris ANZDA |

Sunday 17 September

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| 9:30am | Theatre New Zealand Annual General Meeting |
| 10:30am | Open Forum |
| 11:30am | Keynote Speaker |
| 12:00pm | Lunch |
| 1.00pm | Second session of TheatreFest National Final |
| 4.30pm | Awards, including NZ Theatre Month winner of poster competition. Close of TheatreFest National Final and the TNZ Conference. |

Fostering Community Theatre in Aotearoa

Participate - Educate - Innovate

OUR VISION:
A STAGE FOR EVERY AGE

A national body for community theatre groups

WE OFFER:

- Fellowship & networking
- Workshops
- Annual TheatreFest
- Backchat Newsletter
- Dramaturgy

www.theatrenewzealand.co.nz



This month we bring you a wide selection of popular plays of all lengths. We can email these as perusal scripts for no charge. If you have any particular requirements we can also make other script suggestions. Email claire@playmarket.org.nz.

28 DAYS: A PERIOD PIECE by Abby Howells. 6f.

Set at the final dress rehearsal for "28 Days", a fictional show about menstruation that will tour around schools, the woman performing the show are less than impressed with the show's misinformed content, they decide to devise a new show based on their own experiences with periods.

Appropriate for young adults.

HE REO AROHA by Miria George and Jamie McCaskill. 1f, 1m.

The love story of childhood sweethearts Kaia and Pascoe told through beautiful original waiata by Hone Hurihanganui.

THE MERCY CLAUSE by Philip Braithwaite. 1f, 2m.

Tom is a young lawyer with a new client: a young man who killed his father. Was it a mercy killing? The details keep changing and Tom is forced to constantly revise his opinion. Meanwhile, problems in his own life bleed in.

CHARLOTTE BADGER by April Phillips. 8f, 6m.

Inspired by a true story, "Charlotte Badger: Miscreant, Mother, Mutineer!" is an epic, historic, high-seas adventure with ballads and poetry.

67 OFF 52 by Justin Eade. 6m.

A dramatic cricket comedy featuring two Black Caps batsmen with a long-standing feud, a sledging Aussie wicketkeeper, a long-suffering Sri Lankan umpire, absurd mid-pitch arguments and a TV audience of one billion people. It's a combustible mixture threatening to explode!

SEX DRIVE by Lorae Parry and Pinky Agnew. 5f, 2m.

Life, love, lust and Lotto. A fast-paced comedy about three women who get a small win in Lotto and decide to start a small business – a mobile sex shop!

ONE PERFECT MOMENT by Ellie Smith. 2f.

Pammie, menopausal, uptight and bored with her suburban life in Auckland, sets off on a comical European trip with her sulky teenage daughter, Angel. The journey bonds them closer as they discover colourful characters and moments of real joy.

LONG AGO, LONG AGO by Cassandra Tse. 2f, 1m.

After introverted anthropology student Audrey has her flat damaged in a storm, she is forced to move in with her estranged older sister, Ella. A poetic meditation on grief and siblinghood.

THICK AS THIEVES by Tim Hambleton. 3f, 6m.

Two small town criminals must get their hands on some drugs. Their search takes them to the surgery of an off the wall doctor in financial difficulties. What was meant to be a simple robbery becomes a complicated affair and the crooks find themselves barricaded in the doctor's office with a number of his wacky patients.

NEW SHORT PLAYS:

EBOOK MEETS TREEBOOK by Rex McGregor. 2f, 2m.

When an ebook tablet is left on a park bench, an old-fashioned paperback comes to the rescue.

FLIGHT OF THE COWS by Rex McGregor. 2f, 1m.

Two cows lead an idyllic life. They have a field of succulent grass—and humans to relieve them of their milk. What more could they possibly want?

CROSSBOW CAT by Abby Howells. 1m, 1 either gender.

Wesley arrives home to find a cat from his past waiting for him, seeking revenge.

What's On in August and September 2018

Howick Little Theatre	<i>Matthew, Mark, Luke and Joanne</i> by Carl Nixon	Sept. 8 - 29
Detour Theatre, Tauranga 16 th Avenue, Tauranga	<i>Driving Miss Daisy</i> by Alfred Uhrey <i>The 39 Steps</i> by Patrick Barlow	September 13-29 September 7 -22
Rotorua Little Theatre	<i>The Vicar of Dibley</i> by Ian Gower/Paul Carpenter	to August 11
On-Stage Te Kuiti	AUDITION <i>Teechers</i> by John Godber	August 16 & 19
Performing Arts Taumarunui	<i>The Wedding of the Century</i> by Devon Williamson. <i>Calendar Girls</i> by Tim Firth	to August 4th August 25 - 29
Gisborne Unity Theatre	<i>The Shadow Box</i> by Michael Cristofer	August 17 - 24
Napier Repertory	AUDITION <i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i> by Oscar Wilde YOUTH <i>Animal Farm</i> adpt by Nelson Bond <i>An Unseasonable Fall of Snow</i> by Gary Henderson and <i>Brothers in Arms</i> by John Cocking	Aug 5 August 10 - 17 September 4 - 8
Pahiatua Repertory Soc Greytown Little Theatre	AUDITION <i>Don't Dress for Dinner</i> by Marc Camelotti <i>Table Manners</i> by Alan Ayckbourn	Aug. 5@7pm September 19 - 30
New Plymouth Repertory Hawera Repertory	<i>The Actress</i> by Peter Quilter <i>The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe</i> C.S. Lewis.	August 21 - Sept 1 June 22 - 30
Feilding Little Theatre Foxton Little Theatre Levin Little Theatre, Kapiti Playhouse	<i>Four Flat Whites in Italy</i> by Roger Hall <i>Taking Off</i> by Roger Hall HYPE <i>James and the Giant Peach</i> adpt David Wood <i>Motherhood the Musical</i> by Sue Fabisch & Johnny Rodgers	August 31-Sept 15 August 3 - 18 to August 5 to August 4
Mana Little Theatre	<i>The Hound of the Baskervilles</i> adpt. Steve Canny/John Nicholson	Aug 29 - Sept 8
Porirua Little Theatre	AUDITION <i>Joseph and the Amazing Technicoloured Dreamcoat!</i> by Andrew Lloyd Webber	August 11 - 12
New Players Theatre Co	<i>No, No, No, No, Yes! The Vicar of Dibley Too</i> by Damien Reid	to August 4
Stagecraft Theatre	<i>Yes, Prime Minister</i> by Antony Jay/Jonathan Lynn AUDITION with Wellington Repertory <i>Wolf Hall</i> & <i>Bring up the Bodies</i> by Hilary Mantel	Aug 29 - Sept 8 August 13 - 15
Wellington Repertory	<i>Breaking Up is Hard to Do</i> , Songs of Neil Sedaka	August 1 - 11
Butterfly Creek Havelock Theatre Marlborough Repertory Soc.	<i>Taking Steps</i> by Alan Ayckbourn <i>Wakamarina Gold</i> by Don Edwards <i>Middle Aged Spread</i> by Roger Hall	August 2 - 11 September 13 - 22 September 12 - 22
Top Dog Theatre St Bede's College South Cant. Drama League	<i>The ACB of Honora Lee</i> by Kate De Goldi <i>Michael James Manaia</i> by John Broughton <i>Voices from the Front</i> by Amanda Stone <i>Disney's Beauty and the Beast</i>	September 5 - 15 September 18-19 August 17 - 24 September 21 - 29
Globe Theatre, Dunedin	<i>Blood of the Lamb</i> by Bruce Mason	September 20 - 30
Invercargill Repertory	<i>Blackadder Goes Forth</i> by Richard Curtis/Ben Elton	September 5 - 8



The month opens with a tribute to Bruce Mason on September 1st at Takapuna's Bruce Mason Centre and will be officially launched at Parliament by the Hon Grant Robertson Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage on 3rd September.

Ewen Coleman, who is co-ordinating the poster competition, reports that there have been 72 entries from professional companies and 22 from Community Theatres. Names of the 5 finalists in each category will be announced on the NZ Theatre Month website which is due to go live on 1st August. In the meantime there's their Facebook to like and a newsletter to read, as attached.



Editor Margaret Robertson
Technical Assistance Morris Robertson

Deadline for October/November Backchat
20 September 2018

Send Theatre New Zealand communications to
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