

B A C K C H A I

News from the New Zealand Theatre Federation Inc.



SEASONS GREETINGS

President's Column:

Dear People,

By now you will have had a flyer giving you the dates for next year's festivals. The holidays will be a good time to reflect on how you are going to fit festival in and what you are going to do.

I hope your Christmas shows all went well and you have spotted some new directing talent as well as acting talent. I do admire the work you all put in and the caring and sharing that happens in the name of drama.

Looking ahead to 2009 we would like to have two long weekend workshops at Easter – one in the North and one in the South for new and experienced people to get some new ideas and skills. We are looking at the Easter break as it would be a good chance for you to come and work and bring your families along so they can holiday!

My grateful thanks for all the help that has been given by the Feilding people to the library. The District has really got in behind Joan and Sheridan and it is appreciated.

Each year seems busier, so make sure you do wind down and have some reflection time so you can enjoy next year.

Yours in Theatre

Denise Walsh
President



NZ THEATRE FEDERATION—DIARY 2008

**National Executive Meeting - Sat, Feb 9
at Medical School, Mein St, Newtown, Wgtn**

**2008 NI Regional Festival - June 6/7
2008 SI Regional Festival - June 13/14
2008 National Final (Wgtn) - June 27/28**

ADJUDICATORS FOR 2008

**Adjudicators have now been appointed for the
NZTF Festival of Community Theatre 2008
and are as follows:**

**Regionals - Ewen Coleman
National Final - Claire Marsh**

**See our next issue for profiles of these
adjudicators.**



FESTIVAL SECRETARY

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ARANUI HIGH SCHOOL EXCELS



What a year Aranui High School has had in 2007. Since our report in last Backchat the team led by Robert Gilbert has taken “Romeo & Juliet” to the International Festival on Norfolk Island. Robert sent the following email:

“I am pleased to tell you that at the International Theatre Festival held in Norfolk Island last week our kids did extremely well. They won the hearts of the island community and of all the competitors at the festival as well.

There were a total of nine plays from Australia, New Zealand and Norfolk Island - all except ours were performed by adult groups. Andrew Bolitho won an Adjudicator's Award for his role as Friar Laurence, we also picked up Best Director, and the Trans-Tasman Trophy for Best Production!!

My humble thanks for your support this year, I know our kids have appreciated it.”

Robert Gilbert 
HOD Drama / Year 11 Dean
Aranui High School

ARANUI HIGH SCHOOL AWARDED

On Saturday, 1st December, thousands flocked to Wainoni Park, Christchurch for the 6th annual “Affirm the Aranui Family Festival”. The Aranui High School’s drama department was presented with a community award by Labour Party MPs Ruth Dyson and Lianne Dalziel. The drama department won best production and best director at the International Festival of Theatre on Norfolk Island in October.

NZTF Canterbury/West Coast District members

From Festival to Pantomime

What does a production group do after the festivals are over and it's time to rest? They put on a Christmas Pantomime of course!

OnStage Productions have reached the Nationals Finals every year since 2003, when they won the Book of Honour with "The Miners Lullaby" by Rae Reynolds, and every year they have returned home to stage a major Christmas production. Everyone in the group gets a part and it is a particularly exciting time for OnStage Little Theatre when the youngsters get a chance to take to the stage and show what they have learnt for the year.

Pat Barr-McLeod directed perhaps her last play in New Zealand with "Puff the Magic Dragon" by Carl Nixon. Pat is now in the United States spending time with her family and is looking for a new direction in her career.



Puff (Daniel Tipping) and Jacky Paper (Amy Murphy).



Little fishes waiting for their cue.

Puff's wonderful costume and the stage sets were designed, once again, by OnStage's brilliant set designer, who incidentally also played the part of the gorgeous Belinda Blunderbuss, Ken Hill.

Costume designer and makeup artist, Pauline Ensor excelled with costumes for this production. She had been waiting for a production to make the little fish costumes for and they were wonderful.

The entire community gets behind OnStage Productions for all their endeavours, but Christmas is such a special time and everyone loves a pantomime. Then just to round out the year OnStage takes part in the annual Santa Parade in Westport.



Some of the 40 strong cast for "Puff the Magic Dragon"



Puff and 1st Mate Gumbly (Pete Doncliff)



NZTF Canterbury/West Coast District members

Manawatu (NZ) International Playwriting Competition 2008

DO YOU WANT YOUR ONE-ACT PLAY PROFESSIONALLY DIRECTED IN 2008....?

...then read on - and tell all your friends and colleagues.

The Manawatu (NZ) International One-Act Playwriting Competition 2008 is being co-hosted by Massey University, Palmerston North City Council, Palmerston North City Library and Centrepoint Theatre.

Entry is NZ\$20 and the 6 winners will have their plays professionally directed at the Manawatu (NZ) Festival of New Arts being held in October 2008.

Don't miss this exciting opportunity - contact Carol Seelye full details and we look forward to receiving your entries.

Carol Seelye

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Drama Development Trust

Applications for individual scholarships and group activity funding are now available for next year. Send for details to:

Drama Development Trust
PO Box 22 249
Wellington 6441.

District Festivals in MAY Next Year!

We hope that District Festival organisers will encourage lots of participation for this earlier time slot. Festivals need to be revamped. Perhaps entrants would rise to the challenge of performing only in blacks without a set. This would concentrate effort on direction, acting and technical aspects. Have you thought of awarding certificates for magic moments, prizes for a two hander or best NZ play? Can you get sponsorship to give out monetary awards? At the National Final this year three new awards were made for emerging actors; could there be an award for this at your District Festival?

Each District is free to set its own individual criteria for a vibrant festival so go for it!

May Ives Library, Square Edge Arts Centre Palmerston North

Despite having been incredibly busy with their own shows Manawatu District are pleased that they are now making progress towards a grand re-opening of the library in its new location in the new year. Shelving has been erected, scripts unpacked and the room set up for volunteers to run the library. An interim computer is being installed and funds for a new computer, printer and photocopier are being applied for. The catalogue is also being upgraded.

This is the time of the year when the library is traditionally closed. So while the rest of NZTF starts to relax Manawatu will be flat out getting everything ready. Watch out for the flyer announcing the library's opening and the new contact details; the flyer will be sent to all schools as well as all our members.

In the meantime script requests should continue to be directed to NZTF's National Administrator, **Lyn Doncliff** NZTFNat@xtra.co.nz or C/- 3 Coates St Westport. The amnesty for 'discovered' scripts to be returned with no penalty is still on.

Script Amnesty

The Library is offering an amnesty to all those members and past members who may have inadvertently filed our scripts away safely. Return the said scripts free of penalties with no questions asked.

We are sure there are scripts out there that we could use in our library.

Just pop them in an unmarked envelope/parcel and send them back to:

NZ Theatre Federation
C/- 3 Coates Street
Westport
THANK YOU



ADVERTISING IN BACKCHAT

Advertising rates for this publication are:
\$50 +GST per 1/2 page (advert supplied)
- other sizes negotiable.

Contact: NZTFnat@xtra.co.nz

“What’s on in the Theatre Scene in 2008”

Napier Repertory Players *Bell, Book and Candle* by John van Druten 14 to 29 February 2008

Porirua Little Theatre *Oliver* by Lionel Bart 12 March to 5 April 2008

Mana Little Theatre *Taking Off* by Roger Hall 10 to 19 April 2008

Stagecraft *Summer End* by Eric Chappell 19 to 29 March 2008

Khandallah Arts Theatre *Princess Kate & the Dragon* by Lisa Duggan 6 to 16 February 2008

What’s the rest of the country up to?
For inclusion on this page do send in your newsletters -
name the playwright, and give dates of your production.



Mask making now fits in *one* suitcase!

The "Multimask" by Maskworx...

A wonderful new concept for making masks, using a moulded, *paper* faceshape based on a classic venetian style



- Suitable for all types of embellishment
- Simple, safe and speedy to use
- Made in New Zealand
- Smooth and comfortable to wear

Check out our unique 9-step Multimask System and other Maskmaking Resources at

www.maskworx.co.nz

Looking for a New Zealand Play for 2008?

Order a Perusal Script Now!

"Brilliant fast moving script.... Fun to stage, hilarious to watch..."
Toni Henderson
Director for Tauranga Musical Theatre"

"Looking for a NZ play that will pull in the crowds? This is it!"
Phil Ormsby
Artistic Director Flaxworks Theatre

"Ideal comedy for the Repertory Theatre!"
Gregory Brownless
Past President Tauranga Repertory Theatre"

"Hilarious, dramatic, insightful. Williamson's plays are winners for the audience and producer alike."
Stuart Gunn
Artistic Director Absolute Theatre

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 girlie 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

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

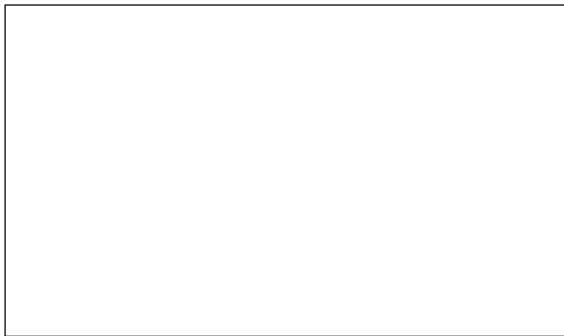
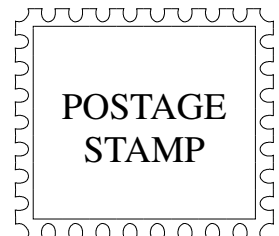
www.plays.co.nz

ANZDA SEMINAR

Association of NZ Drama Adjudicators (ANZDA) Accreditation Seminar March 1 - 2, 2008
9.30am - 4.30pm in Wellington, venue to be advised.

The Saturday workshop is for everyone who is interested in theatre and will cost \$20. If you are interested in going through accreditation then the cost will be \$40 which covers a ticket to Gryphon Theatre on Saturday night and the Sunday assessment session.

Please register your interest with
Ewen Coleman President ANZDA
edcoleman@xtra.co.nz
Phone 04 384 1413
or PO Box 16048
Wellington South



Deadline for next issue of Backchat

February 13, 2008

Contributions please to New Zealand Theatre Federation
email NZTFadmin@xtra.co.nz www.theatrenewzealand.co.nz

Fax 03 789 7122

**C/- 3 Coates Street
WESTPORT**