

THEATRICAL

News from The New Zealand Theatre Federation Inc.
www.theatrenewzealand.co.nz



Napier Repertory Players start the year with *The Mousetrap* (see page 5).

Snow bound with other guests at Monskwell Manor are Major Metcalf (David Moore) and Mrs Boyle (Helen Ball), a critical woman who complains about everything.

Editorial

Best of the Season to all members of The New Zealand Theatre Federation.

Hopefully you have had a great Christmas New Year break and are ready for another stimulating year of theatre. NZ Theatre Federation certainly is and it will be a most exciting year for theatre activities within the Federation.

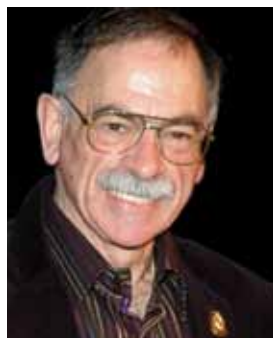
We are keen to pursue our offer to fund workshops in a geographical region. Theatre groups need to establish a common need, make their request to the Federation and we will bring in outside tutors to cover the various topics of stagecraft requested for all the local theatre groups in your particular area or region. Please note that this offer is not to help just one theatre group. We hope that with the start of the year groups will communicate with each other and make an application. The first of these workshops will be one for directing fundamentals in Rotorua on February 18th and 19th February with myself as tutor at Shambles Theatre 8 Amohau St, costing \$60 (for members of a NZTF society). Contact Lesley Hubbard speclite@ihug.co.nz for more details.

Festivals are a major part of the Theatre Federation's calendar and the National Executive has spent considerable time revising the Festival Handbook and Entry Form and developing an Organisers Handbook. This will be sent out to all groups in due course and will be available on the website.

There are two exciting developments with this year's Festival of Community Theatre; we are very pleased to announce a substantial grant from the Drama Development Trust to help fund teams to the National Final of the Festival of Community Theatre. As the National Final this year is in Napier the National Executive has decided that the most appropriate and productive use for the grant is to subsidise teams travelling from the South Island. Details will be released later. The other exciting news is that we have invited an overseas adjudicator to adjudicate this year's National final in Napier. He is Mr Larry McCluskey from Ireland (see page 3) and as well as adjudicating the National Final he will be running Master Classes in Christchurch and Wellington. Details of these will follow and we hope that individual members from our member groups will take advantage of this unique opportunity for top class theatre tuition.

So, an exciting year ahead for all those involved in theatre and one which we all hope you find stimulating and rewarding.

Ewen D Coleman
National President



Congratulations!

Past President **Bob Cater** 1986 - 1988 was awarded a QSM for services to the Porirua community in the New Year's honours list. We know that he has also served amateur theatre nationwide and continues to serve at District level three decades later. We salute his achievement and congratulate him on a well deserved honour.

Congratulations too to the following who have been awarded a Meritorious Service Award for their over 25 years service to their clubs. They are **Barbara Hay** of Hutt Repertory, **David Latham** of Levin Little Theatre and **Roger Linkhorn** also of Hutt Repertory. The awards were announced at the Federation's AGM in August but kept secret until presentations could be made in person to the recipients.

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NZTF National Final of the Festival of Community Theatre 2012

The Hawke's Bay Festival of Community Theatre Committee invites you and your teams to attend the 2012 NZTF National Festival of Community Theatre to be held on 14th and 15th September at the Lowe Family Performing Arts Centre, Lindisfarne College, Hastings.

The Performing Arts Centre includes a purpose built Theatre which seats approximately 350 people and state of the art lighting and sound equipment. The 42nd Annual General Meeting, workshops and social function will be held within the complex. Green Room and bar facilities will be available.

Situated on Pakowhai Road, Hastings, Lindisfarne College is easily accessible whether travelling from the north or south. It is approximately 30 minutes drive from the Hawke's Bay Airport, which receives regular flights from Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch. There are several motels and restaurants in close proximity to the college.

The NZTF Executive has appointed Larry McCluskey from Ireland, to adjudicate this Festival and our committee will be appointing qualified tutors to facilitate the various workshops.

The 2012 National Festival of Community Theatre will be one not to miss. For any further information, do not hesitate to phone Anne Corney on (06) 843-9197 or email at theatreworld@clear.net.nz.

We look forward to seeing you and your teams in Hawke's Bay.

And if you are a South Island team chosen to appear at the national final remember you will have the bonus of subsidised travel to Hastings, courtesy of the Drama Development Trust — Editor

National Final Adjudicator



Larry McCluskey, MEd. Member of GIDA
(Guild of Irish Drama Adjudicators)

Larry has directed, designed, lit and acted in plays since studying at the Abbey Theatre in Dublin. He has reached All-Ireland Finals in the 1960's, 70's, 80's & 90's winning Best Actor, Director, Set and Lighting Awards there. He was the Director of All-Ireland one act winners in 1978/9.

For the last 33 years he has been the Artistic Director of Drumlin Players presenting plays at home and abroad including appearances at Edinburgh Fringe Festivals. He has also represented Ireland at international festivals in the USA, Canada, South Korea, Japan (twice) and India.

Larry was a member of the Irish Arts Council 1989–1993. He's a founder member of Garage Theatre, Monaghan, Ireland and has been a Board Member of the Tyrone Guthrie Centre for Artists for ten plus years.

He has recently retired from a distinguished career in education in Africa and Ireland where he was CEO of two Education and Training Boards for 28 years. He now has more time for theatre, writing and the occasional bit of broadcasting.

Another Member of National Executive

Introducing Jade Gillies

For over a decade, Jade has been involved with several theatrical groups in various roles onstage and behind the scenes in Invercargill.



Last year to celebrate his tenth production with the Invercargill Musical Theatre Company, Jade took on a leading role of the Emcee in *Cabaret*. Other musical theatre highlights include the 2001 production of *Les Miserables*, *Cats* in 2008, and *The Rocky Horror Show* in 2007, in which he played a Transylvanian and understudied Dr Frank 'n Furter.

Jade is a trustee for the Shakespeare in the Park Charitable Trust, and has played a variety of leading roles since the Trust's inception eleven years ago including Mercutio in *Romeo and Juliet*, Claudius in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and Lysander in the most recent version of the Dream.

For the Invercargill Repertory Society, Jade starred as Leclerk in *Allo Allo* and Tama Te Tonga in *Le Sud*.

By day, Jade is an Event Manager who has coordinated some of Southland's biggest events. These include the Bluff Oyster Festival, the annual Bert Munro Challenge motorcycle rally, and most recently a festival showcasing the region to Rugby World Cup visitors called 'A Taste of Southland'.

Jade is grateful for the opportunity to provide a southern voice on the New Zealand Theatre Federation Executive Committee, and in particular looks forward to an exciting 2012 Festival.

Have you heard of these plays?

Bold, Moore and Whitman by Liam Hagan New Zealand.

Te Puke Repertory Society will give this play its world premier in February. Playwright Liam says of it: an hilarious comedy set in the smoke-and-mirrors world of advertising. Isaac Moore, Rae Whitman and Matthew Bold run the most dysfunctional advertising agency in the world. Amidst insults and fist fights, the three executives (with the help of their receptionist, Chris) try and design a campaign for their big client, Mr. Oak, whom they suspect is cheating on his wife with a younger woman... The play culminates in a showdown at the office where nobody is who they seem and some interesting truths are revealed.

Peeping at Tom by Pamela Pope from Jasper Publishing.

This fast moving comedy is set in middle class modern day England. Mark arrives home from a long photography shoot to find a baby in his flat with a note that tells him it is his turn to look after his baby. But which of his three current girl-friends has left it there? There's a diverting sub-plot involving a relationship between one of the young man's girlfriends and his own father.

On-Stage Te Kuiti chose this play to involve young people and it'll be on in March.

Cosi by Louis Nowra, an acclaimed and prolific Australian playwright and writer.

Marlborough Repertory Society open *Cosi* in March. It is 1971 and Lewis, a young director, agrees to stage a production of Mozart's *Cosi Fan Tutte* with a cast of patients from a mental institution. There is no orchestra, no one can sing and the theatre is nothing more than a burnt out shell. Beyond the walls of the institution, citizens march against their government's involvement in a war and Lewis' relationship falters. As the production lurches forward, Lewis realizes it doesn't hurt to be a little bit crazy.

What's On in February/March 2012

Titirangi Theatre	<i>Four Flat Whites in Italy</i> by Roger Hall	March 13 – 24
Howick Little Theatre	<i>The Priory</i> by Michael Wynne Audition <i>As You Like It</i> by Shakespeare –May/June	March 3 – 24 Feb 12 @ 1pm
Hamilton Playbox	<i>Don Quixote of La Mancha</i> adapted by Arthur Fauquez	March 17 – 31
Tauranga Repertory	<i>RolePlay</i> by Alan Ayckbourn	March 14 – 31
Detour Theatre, Tauranga	<i>The Old People are Revolting!</i> by Devon Williamson	March 15 – 31
Te Puke Repertory	<i>Bold, Moore and Whitman</i> by Liam Hagan	Feb 28 – March 3
On–Stage Te Kuiti	<i>Peeping at Tom</i> by Pamela Pope	March 7 – 11
Cue Theatre, Inglewood	<i>The Great Gatsby</i> adapted by Ken Duncum	March 20 – 31
Napier Repertory Players	<i>The Mousetrap</i> by Agatha Christie	Feb 16 – March 3
Theatre Hawkes Bay	<i>By Degrees</i> by Roger Hall	March
Pahiatua Repertory Society	<i>Beverley Hillbillies</i> by Paul Henning/David Rogers at the Globe Theatre Palmerston North	March 6 – 9
Wanganui Repertory Theatre	<i>Are You Being Served</i> by Lloyd & Croft	March 23 – April 1
Porirua Little Theatre	<i>Shirley Valentine</i> by Willy Russell	March 8 – 24
Khandallah Arts Theatre	<i>Sleeping Beauty</i> by Andy Mackintosh Audition <i>The Constant Wife</i> by Somerset Maugham	Feb 11 – 19 Feb 12 @ 7pm
Stagecraft Theatre	<i>The Wife Who Spoke Japanese in Her Sleep</i> by Vivienne Plumb	March 21–31
Butterfly Creek Theatre Troupe	<i>Comedy of Errors</i> by Shakespeare	Feb 28 – March 3
Heretaunga Players	<i>Trick of the Light</i> by Ken Duncum	March 21– 31
Marlborough Repertory Society	<i>Cosi</i> by Louis Nowra	March 21 – 31
Christ's College with Rangī Ruru	<i>Shake, Ripple n' Roll</i> by Jenifer Toksvig	March 21– 23
Top Dog Theatre Christchurch	<i>As You Like It</i> by William Shakespeare	Feb 10 – 18
Elmwood Players	Audition <i>What Katydid</i> by Lucy O'Brien in April	Feb 25 – 26
South Canterbury Drama League	<i>The Mousetrap</i> by Agatha Christie	March 9 – 17

Do you send your newsletters by email? Include Backchat Editor info@theatrenewzealand.co.nz

The Mousetrap

After 60 years Agatha Christie's *The Mousetrap* has been released for amateurs. Detour Theatre had a sellout season before Christmas and Napier Repertory Players' Art Deco weekend performances in February are also sold out. SCDL should be prepared for bumper houses in March.

It premiered in Nottingham in 1952 with Richard Attenborough in the cast and was initially deemed an 'Adults Only' play because of a central theme concerning the fate of unwanted children. Agatha Christie had a very clear understanding of the human condition, especially its baser side. So what's the plot? In true murder mystery form, a group of strangers are

stranded in a boarding house during a snow storm, one of whom is a murderer. Suspects include a newly-married couple who run the house and whose suspicions nearly wreck their perfect marriage, a spinster with a curious background, an architect who seems better equipped to be a chef, a retired Army major, a strange little man who claims his car has overturned in the drift, and a woman who makes life miserable for everyone. Into their midst comes a policeman, travelling on skis. He probes everyone's background and rattles a lot of skeletons. The climax is a famous Agatha Christie switch finish and audiences are traditionally asked not to divulge the identity of the murderer.

The Wedding Singer

by Chad Bequelin and Tim Herlihy — music by Matthew Sklar

Gabrielle Barr of Taranaki is very enthusiastic about this 80s musical which is raising money for Hospice Taranaki with performances February 10 – 18. A Broadway show with exuberant dancing and singing, colourful wardrobe and bouffant hairstyles of the time, it's one that would appeal to a young vibrant cast. Gabrielle is voice coach for the cast of 78 and about 500 costumes are being created for them that will be available for hire afterwards.

Gabrielle believes it would make a great production for theatre groups who don't usually do musicals. An added bonus she says is that the royalties are lower than big name shows.

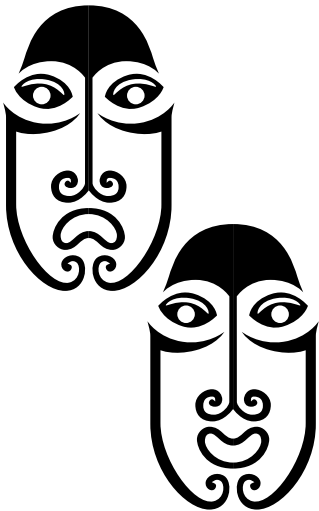
More details from jim.gabrielle@clear.net.nz

Public Liability

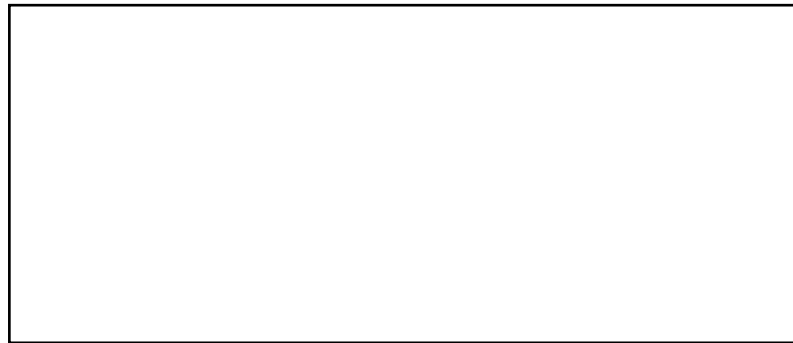
Does your theatre group have Public Liability? NZTF as a national body does but this does not cover our member groups. Member groups should have their own insurance and local organisers of festivals should take out a policy if they hiring a theatre/hall that is not their own.

Creative New Zealand

There are two schemes of use to theatre groups. Applications can be made through the Creative Communities Scheme to your local authority or district council (over 3 million dollars is available annually) or applications can be made directly to CNZ's Quick Response and Arts Grants scheme. There are 3 rounds of funding annually and the next closing date is 3 February 2012. See CNZ website www.creativenz.govt.nz



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