



BACKCHAT

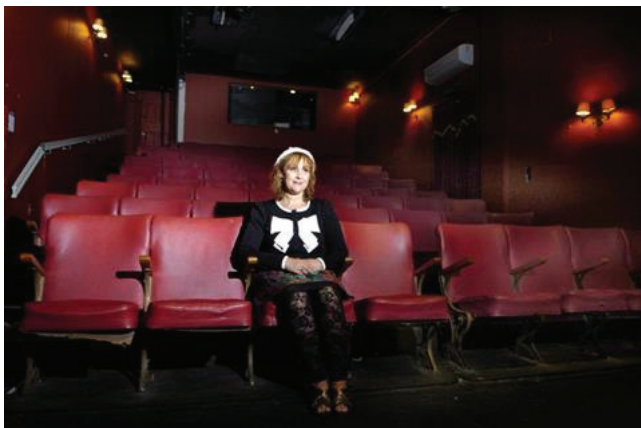
News from THEATRE NEW ZEALAND, *Fostering Community Theatre in Aotearoa*

June/July 2015 Vol 38 Issue 3



The battle scene from *King and Country*, by Dave Armstrong, produced in April by Marborough Repertory Society. Photo courtesy of Jim Tannock.

The Globe featured



Have you seen the Winter edition of Heritage magazine (issue 137)?

Be sure to read the excellent article about Dunedin's Globe Theatre.

Built in 1961 by Patric and Rosalie Carey, the Globe started as a 30-seat auditorium in the living room of their house, later became 80 seats, and has recently seen a much needed refurbishment. Check it out!

President's Report

Winter is now upon us, with the solstice on June the 21st - but I never let the shortest day fool me into thinking that winter is half over! We South Islanders know that July and August can be tough. So we keep ourselves busy.

TheatreFest 2015 is becoming the executive's focus and teams all over the country are in preparation for their local Festival. See dates in the *TheatreFest* article.

Registrations close July 4th.

Are you thinking of entering? Have you formally registered yet?

With our new website up and running, you can now enter online. Visit our new site, it is well worth a trawl; vital, dynamic and informative.

TheatreFest is an admirable way for societies to give new actors and new directors and even playwrights a 'test run', before offering them a 'main stage' production.

It introduces audiences and theatre-goers to a variety of genre in the one evening. The adjudication process helps to sharpen and hone not only a presentation, but for their skills to be taken forward into future productions as well.

Aligned to the *TheatreFest* National Finals, September 11th /12th, is the Conference and Annual General Meeting. Hamilton is hosting us this year - make sure you send representatives to the Finals and Workshops. This is your event! Participate. Stimulate. Motivate.

Many times I have talked about passing on the baton - mentoring and revitalising our theatres and organisations. I am currently involved in a youth project with *Theatre Whakatane*, directing and tutoring. Every department has a youth representative being mentored by an experienced adult. There are only five cast members - but the production involves around thirty people!

Go Whakatane!

BRYAN AITKEN, President
Theatre New Zealand

Remembering Gabrielle Barr



Today we send condolences to Jim Barr and his family on the passing of his wife Gabrielle.

Gabrielle was a force in theatre in Taranaki and further afield. She was a director and tutor of some standing and a great vocal coach, always prepared to find new ways of extending herself and those she worked with.

She was a valued member of ANZDA also, working alongside us all to create better and deeper works and in the magic of what we call Theatre!

TheatreFest '15

Entries for TheatreFest '15 close in two weeks: **Saturday, 4th July.**

Please enter on-line at

<http://www.theatrenewzealand.co.nz/index.php/theatrefest/theatrefest-entry-read-me-first> or post your entry form, script and payment details to: TheatreFest National Administrator, 14 Corbett Place, Onekawa, Napier 4110.

Please note that late or incomplete entries will not be accepted.

TheatreFest '15 is open to all schools and theatre groups. The presentation may be mime, dance, musical theatre, Sheila Winn entry, comedy or drama. The presentation must be at least 15 minutes and no longer than 50 minutes. There must be at least two actors. There is no maximum number of actors.

Enter now and be part of a fabulous theatrical experience.

For more information, please contact Anne Corney, National TheatreFest Administrator on (06) 843-9197 (evenings) or your local TheatreFest Organiser.

Local TheatreFests

NORTHLAND

Dargaville Little Theatre
24th and 25th July
Adjudicator: Stephanie Cooke
Organiser: Deborah Steele
dargavillelittletheatre@gmail.com

WAIKATO

Riverlea Theatre, Hamilton
24th and 25th July
Adjudicator: Michael Switzer
Organiser: Lorna Ashton
theatrefest@playbox.org.nz

BAY OF PLENTY

Shambles Theatre, Rotorua
22nd and 23rd May
Adjudicator: Claire Marsh (ANZDA)
Organiser: Robyn-Ann Rumney
lyall.ra@xtra.co.nz

HAWKE'S BAY

Aubyn Live Theatre, Hastings
31st July and 1st August
Adjudicator: Ken Keys
Organiser: Anne Corney
theatreworld@clear.net.nz

MANAWATU

Feilding Little Theatre
30th and 31st July and 1st August
Adjudicator: Steven Arnold (ANZDA)
Organiser: Joan Ford
Mtd.mj.ford@actrix.gen.co.nz

WELLINGTON

Gryphon Theatre, Wellington
31st July and 1st August
Adjudicator: Sandra Bartlam
(ANZDA) Organiser: Ross Foubister
ross.foubister@paradise.net.nz

TOP OF THE SOUTH

Havelock Town Hall, Havelock
25th July
Adjudicator: Ewen Coleman (ANZDA)
Organiser: Anne McAuley
anne.mcauley@outlook.com

CANTERBURY/WEST COAST

NASDA
31 July- 2 August
Adjudicator: Bryan Aitken (ANZDA)
Organiser: Michelle Histen
histenone@xtra.co.nz

BOTTOM OF THE SOUTH

Repertory House, Invercargill
1st August
Adjudicator: Lara Macgregor
Organiser: Jade Gillies
oneactfest@gmail.com

Regional Finals

UPPER NORTH ISLAND

Te Kuiti Little Theatre
14th and 15th August
Adjudicator: Deborah Davids
(ANZDA) Organiser: Rob Blamires
info@on-stagetekuiti.org

LOWER NORTH ISLAND

Regent Theatre, Pahiataua
21st and 22nd August
Adjudicator: Deborah Davids
(ANZDA) Organiser: Lesley Courtney
contactlesley@vodafone.co.nz

UPPER SOUTH ISLAND

The Boathouse Theatre, Blenheim
21st and 22nd August
Adjudicator: David Chambers
(ANZDA) Organiser: Anne McAuley
anne.mcauley@outlook.com

LOWER SOUTH ISLAND

Wakatipu High School, Queenstown

15th August

Adjudicator: David Chambers

(ANZDA) Organiser: Jade Gillies

oneactfest@gmail.com

National Final

Riverlea Theatre, Hamilton

11th and 12th September

Adjudicator: Lindsay Nash (ANZDA)

Organiser: Lorna Ashton

theatrefest@playbox.org.nz

Regional Round-up

Wellington District

Mana Little Theatre *Farndale*

Avenue Housing Estates Production

of *Macbeth* by David McGillivray &

Walter Zerlin Jnr, 24 JUNE - 4 JULY

Stagecraft Theatre *39 Steps* by

Patrick Barlow, 24 JUNE - 4 JULY

Porirua Little

Theatre *Cinderella* by Amanda

Stone, 14 - 17 JULY

Heretaunga Players Inc *Last Tango*

in *Little Grimley* & *Last Panto* in

Little Grimley by David Tristram, 1 -

11 JULY

Butterfly Creek Theatre

Troupe *Pygmalion* by George

Bernard Shaw, 1 - 11 JULY

Hutt Repertory Theatre *Aladdin* by

William Glennon, 6 - 11 JULY

New Players Theatre Company *'Allo*

'Allo by Jeremy Lloyd and David

Croft, 16 - 25 JULY

Khandallah Arts Theatre *The Big*

OE by Alison Quigan and Ross

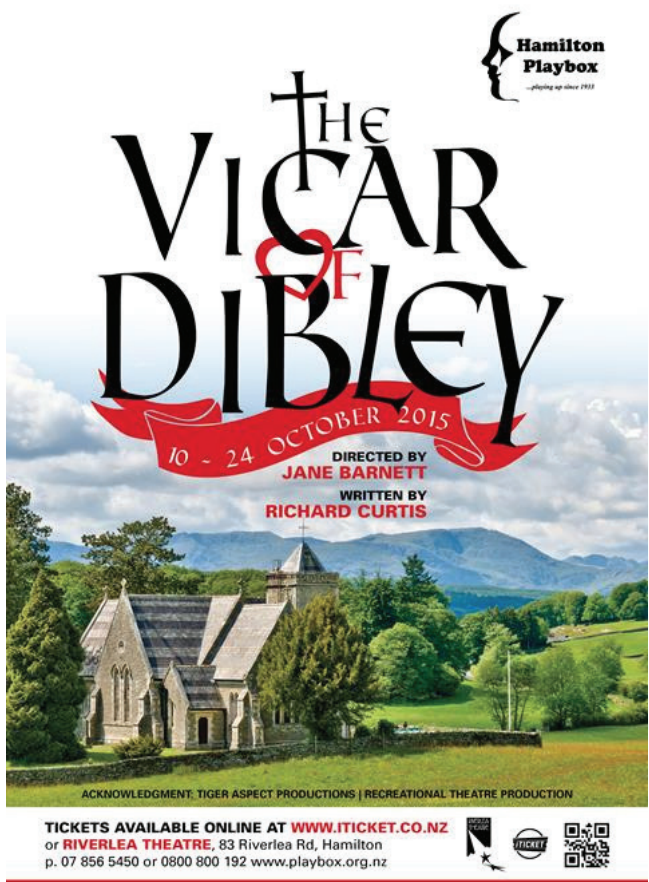
Gumbley, 16 - 25 JULY

Kapiti Playhouse *Secret*

Bridesmaids' Business by Elizabeth

Coleman, 29 - 8 AUGUST

Waikato



Hawke's Bay

Theatre is alive and well in Hawke's Bay.

Napier Repertory Players have just finished its season of *Swansong*, a family drama written and directed by Havelock North man, David Moore. The play received an outstanding review by Amanda Jackson, Hawke's Bay Today.

This is an extremely well-written play with three women and one man and with a simple set and costuming, this play could easily be staged by any theatre group.

Napier Operatic Society is rehearsing *The Adams Family* which opens on 7th July. Their show is directed by Rob Hickey. NOS also recently held auditions for their youth theatre production of *The Wizard of Oz* with close to 200 children auditioning.

Theatre Hawke's Bay is rehearsing *Love off the Shelf*, written by Roger Hall and directed by Wendy Revell. The show opens on 23rd July.

Waipukurau Little Theatre are producing *Middle Age Spread*, written by Roger Hall and directed by Cefyn Gauden. The show opens in early August.

Iona College and Lindisfarne College students are performing *Godspell* on 19th to 21st June.

Napier Boys and Napier Girls High School production of *Little Shop of Horrors* opens on 14th August.

Canterbury

A busy time in the region, with Riccarton Players having completed their season of *ARPOV (A Riccartonian Palace Of Varieties)* and Elmwood Players staging the adult drama, *Proof*.



Elmwood also held two workshops - acting and directing - facilitated by Dan Pengelly and Bryan Aitken, which were both well attended and well received.

Both Riccarton and Elmwood, along with Repertory, are preparing plays for the upcoming TheatreFest in August. A number of High Schools have also signalled their intention to enter, so this year is looking to be even more very full-on than last year: So much so that we have a second weekend in reserve, should it be needed.

Top Of The South

Marlborough Repertory's April production was Dave Armstrong's powerful World War One play, *King and Country*. Presented in association with the Marlborough District Brass Band, *King and Country* was well received. Back projection of pictures of young men, many of whose families still live in Marlborough, brought a lump in the throat and a tear to the eye of many. The poignancy was intensified in the final scene when the young descendants of men lost in both wars came onto the stage to stand with the actors.

Havelock Theatre

Company's forthcoming production, *The Last Heart*, is a fun family production written and directed by Rick Edmonds. With a cast of 20, the play is initially set in modern day Havelock, but somehow finds its way to Ancient Rome and then back to Havelock. Performance season is mid- September in the Havelock Town Hall. Congratulations to Rick who was recently made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit for his services to the arts and the community in Marlborough. He is the principal playwright and director for the Havelock Theatre Company, and is best known for his paintings,

Picton Drama Society held a Director's workshop 25/25 April, facilitated by Pam Logan from Blenheim. The course was funded by the Marlborough District Council. The participants contributed fully in discussions and practical sessions with one person keen to put her knowledge to good use with a production for the Waikawa Primary school in Term 3.

Southland

Andrew Lloyd Webber's *The Phantom of the Opera* will take to the stage at Invercargill's Civic Theatre from 10-25 July, courtesy of Invercargill Musical Theatre. The show will be the biggest local theatrical production ever staged.

Gore Musical Theatre will present *Hairspray* at the St James Theatre in Gore from 31 July - 8 August.

On 1 August, the southernmost *TheatreFest* heat will take place at Repertory House in Invercargill.

Teams from as far afield as Dunedin and Queenstown will compete.



Hilarious New Zealand Comedies!

By Devon Williamson www.plays.co.nz

Over Paid, Over Sexed and Over Here!

Cast: 4 Female, 5 Male **Length:** Two Acts

The outrageous comedy about the Yanks 1942 invasion of NZ!

As our 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!

My Inlaws are Outlaws!

Cast: 5 Female, 2 Male **Length:** 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.

The Old People Are Revolting

Cast: 5 Female, 2 Male **Length:** Two Acts

An 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.

Other plays include: My Husband's Nuts, Menopause Made Me Do It, Crazy Ladies, Understanding Women, and Lost For Words.



**For perusal scripts and information
contact The Play Bureau**

Phone: 03 455 9959

Email: info@playbureau.com

Over 60 productions staged by theatres across NZ and Australia!