



BACKCHAT

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

August/September 2015 Vol 38 Issue 4



The Sheilas versus the Old Devils in action in *A Pack of Girls* by David Geary at Te Puke Repertory's September production.

Norfolk Island Theatre Festival

This year the dates are 29 September - 4 October and the adjudicator is Barbara Lowing of Brisbane, performer, director and playwright of over 40 works for the Australian stage. An entry in our TheatreFest would transfer very well to this festival as local teams have discovered in the past. You'll find more details on their website by [clicking here](#).

President's Report

So here we are again celebrating *TheatreFest*.

I love this time of year because it brings forth new playwrights, plays, directors, actors designers - everyone connected with theatre in a joyous (even though a little competitive) celebration of sharing and bonhomie.

The 2015 AGM/Conference has been scheduled also and all the associated **workshops** with it. There is something for everyone - identify what you and your society needs and help to reinvigorate your district.

Auckland, Waikato, Taranaki and Bay of Plenty especially, here is your opportunity to attend partake and share in the experience. Hop in those cars and get to Hamilton, friends!

The North Island is strong on entries this year, with 16 Regional finalists having vied with the South Island for a position in the **National Finals September 11/12**.

**BRYAN AITKEN, President
Theatre New Zealand**

Shakespeare Globe Centre New Zealand

National University Sheilah Winn Shakespeare Festival 2015

Three of our school groups did exceptionally well at this festival in June collecting awards in specific areas for ability, skills and excellence and we congratulate them.

LOGAN PARK HIGH SCHOOL: Outstanding Student-Directed Costume/Design for *Love's Labour's Lost*; Very Courteous and Cooperative School Award; Best Voice Projection (Whole Cast) Award for *Othello*; Outstanding Performer Reva Mereaira Grills in *Othello*; and Most Thought Provoking Performance for the cast of *Othello*.

NAPIER GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL: Outstanding music/Song for *Othello*; Best Understanding of Sound and Silence Award for *Othello*; Outstanding Individual Tragedy Role Tayla Westman in *Othello*

WANGANUI HIGH SCHOOL: Most Elizabethan Production *The Taming of the Shrew*; The Two Actors Who Showed the Strongest and Most Truthful Connection Between Them for Connor Bourne and Larissa Hutchins in *Taming of the Shrew*.

Our Theatre New Zealand Award for Most Innovative Interpretation (Student Directed) went to Waimea College for *As You Like It*.

TheatreFest National Final and Conference Weekend

at the Riverlea Theatre, Hamilton September 11 and 12

with Adjudicator Lindsay Nash

Notice is given that the **45th Annual General Meeting** of the New Zealand Theatre Federation Inc will be held at the Riverlea Theatre, 83 Riverlea Road, Hamilton on Saturday 12 September at 1pm.

Nominations for Officers (President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary) and National Executive, 6 members, are called for. Forms are available by clicking here: [Officer Nomination](#) and [National Executive](#).

Both should be returned to Box 22 249 Wellington 6441 by 4 September

The **registration** form for the weekend in Hamilton is also available by [clicking here](#). Return it to Hamilton Playbox Box 24043 Abels, Hamilton 3253 by Friday 4 September.

It's that time of year too when you should be thinking of honouring your hardest workers either with a nomination for the **David Brockett Award for Backstage Achievement** over this last year or a nomination for a **Meritorious Service Award** for someone who has served your group faithfully for over 25 years. Nomination forms are available by clicking here: [Backstage Achievement](#) and [Meritorious Service](#), to be returned to Box 22 249 Wellington 6441 by Friday 4 September.

But wait there's more! There will be a **poster and programme competition** again this year and entry forms are available here: [Poster Entry](#) and [Programme Entry](#). You will need to send 2 copies of each poster and 2 of each programme with appropriate entry form to Hamilton Playbox Box 24043 Abels, Hamilton by Tuesday 1 September. Prize winners will receive a \$100 gift voucher and certificate.



Riverlea Theatre, 83 Riverlea Road Hamilton

11 and 12 SEPTEMBER 2015

Hosted by **Hamilton Playbox**

PERFORMANCES START FRIDAY AT 7PM

2ND NIGHT STARTS SATURDAY AT 7PM

WORKSHOPS DURING THE DAY OPEN TO PUBLIC

9.30 am - 10.30 am (repeated at 2 to 3 pm)

- **Jocelyn Kerr** presents a discussion and demonstration on basic theatre make up and ageing.
- **Robyn Winder** presents an introduction to costume designing.
- **Devon Williamson** presents an informative discussion based session on his experience as a playwright and producer.

10.30 am - 11.30 am (Once only, no repeat).

- **Devon Williamson** presents finding a character's emotion and physical action in a scene.

11.30 am to 12.30 pm Key Note Speakers

APRA and One Music

Lunch

13.00 pm NZTF AGM

2.00 pm - 3.00 pm Morning Workshops repeat, plus:

- **Cathy Knowsley** presents Health and Safety in Theatres Forum

COST

Performances: \$20 per night includes supper.

Workshops: \$15 per workshop

Lunches: \$10

Friday night dinner: \$20 per head.

BOOKINGS Riverlea Theatre: 0800 800 192

ENQUIRIES theatrefest@playbox.org.nz

TheatreFest Nationals

Here are the teams that have been selected to perform at the National TheatreFest Final. They will be adjudicated by Lindsay Nash.

DARGAVILLE LITTLE THEATRE

Blind Hope by Eryn Wilson-Collins

Directed by Eryn Wilson-Collins

HAMILTON PLAYBOX REPERTORY SOCIETY

Earwigs by Brian E. Turner

Directed by Lorna Ashton

GREYTOWN LITTLE THEATRE

Life Sentence by Mark Seaman

Directed by Rita-Ann Penhale-Cashmore

BERWILDERBEEST

Apocalypse Incoming by Ivan Siemonek

Directed by Ivan Siemonek

MARLBOROUGH REPERTORY PLAYERS

Fred and Bob by Marianne Gaston

Directed by Bruce Weston

RICCARTON PLAYERS

A Wee Problem by Barry Grant

Directed by Doug Clarke

WAKATIPU HIGH SCHOOL

Bang, Bang You're Dead by William Mastrosimone

Directed by Kate Moetaua



The cast and director Kate Moetaua from Wakatipu High School.

Welcome to New Members

We're delighted to welcome the following new members, many of whom appeared at a Regional level of TheatreFest. Many have plays written and directed by one or more members of their team. Welcome Bewilderbeest (Wellington), Canterbury Repertory Theatre, Dargaville High School, Dannevirke Theatre Company, Karamu High School (Hastings), Napier Girls High School and Trident High School, (Whakatane).

And welcome back to Dramatix Theatre Development Trust (Wellington/Nelson)

Subscriptions

Reminders were sent in July to members who haven't paid yet. We look forward to receiving your subscription; please action it.

Drama Development Trust

Workshops, Capital Projects, Personal Development

Grants are available from the Drama Development Trust for members of Theatre New Zealand. Do you need a subsidy for a tutor, money towards a piece of equipment or help to attend a training course?

Send for application forms for a group activity, capital funding or an individual scholarship to margaretr@vodafone.co.nz or

Drama Development Trust

Box 22 249

Wellington 6441



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!

What's On

- **Dargaville Little Theatre** *Material Girls 2: Together Again* (Deborah Steele) OCT 3 - 17
- **Phoenix Theatre** *Blackadder 2 The Tudor Years* (Richard Curtis/Ben Elton) SEP 10 -19
- **Titirangi Theatre** *Abelard and Heloise* (Ronald Miller) SEP 15 - 26
- **Ellerslie Theatre** *Festival of One Act Plays* AUG 20 - 29
- **Howick Little Theatre** *Mary's Wedding* (Stephen Massicotte) SEP 12 - OCT 3
- **AUDITION** *Seven Year Twitch* (David Lewis) SEP 6 @ 11am
- *A Piece of my Heart* (Shirley Lauro) SEP 19 - OCT 10
- **Hamilton Playbox** *The Vicar of Dibley* (Richard Curtis) OCT 3 -17
- **Detour Theatre, Tauranga** *Othello* (William Shakespeare) SEP 9 - 26
- **Tauranga Repertory** *Snip and Bonking James Bond* (April Phillips) AUG 26-SEP 12
- **Te Puke Repertory** *Pack of Girls* (David Geary) SEP 1 - 12
- **Centre Stage, Taupo** *All This Intimacy* (Rajiv Joseph) AUG 26 - SEP 5
- **New Plymouth Repertory** *On Golden Pond* (Ernest Thompson) AUG 18 - 29
- **Cue Theatre, Inglewood** *Becky's New Car* (Steven Dietz) OCT 3 - 17
- **Wanganui Repertory** Improv Night AUG 29 @ 7.30
- **Mana Little Theatre** *Misconceptions* (David Lewis) SEP 2 - 12
- **Tawa Community Theatre** AUDITION *From Berlin to Burlesque* (Peter McKenzie) SEP 6 @ 2pm
- **Wellington Repertory** AUDITION *Take a Chance on Me* (Roger Hall) SEP 6 @ 2pm
- **Stagecraft Theatre** *After the Dance* (Terrence Rattigan) SEP 9 - 19
- **Khandallah Arts Theatre** *The End of the Golden Weather* (by Bruce Mason in a company version by Raymond Hawthorne) OCT 8 - 17
- **Hutt Repertory** *Deathtrap* (Ira Levin) SEP 16 - 26
- **Butterfly Creek, Eastbourne** *Animal Farm* (adapted: Peter Hall) OCT 22 - 31
- **Limelight Theatre Carterton** *Once on Chunuk Bair* (Maurice Shadbolt) SEP 6 - 15
- **Elmwood Players, Christchurch** *Sex Cells* (Anna Longaretti) SEP 30 - OCT 10

- Rangiora Players *Saucy Jack and the Space Vixens* (music: Charlotte Mann) SEP 16 - 26
- South Canterbury Drama League Musical Theatre *Evita* (Andrew Lloyd Webber/Tim Rice) SEP 18 - 26
- Repertory *Netballers* (Alison Quigan and Lucy Schmidt) OCT 9 - 17

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

New Plymouth Repertory Society
is proud to present
the award winning play

On Golden Pond
By Ernest Thompson
Directed by Nicci Smith
18th to 29th August 2015
At Repertory Theatre, Broadmore Street

Starring: David Rohe, Glenys Horsfall, Nigel Colless,
Selina Mackie, Jeff Lowe & Tom Oates

Tickets are \$19 and are available from the Ticketek box
office at the TSB Showplace or www.ticketek.co.nz
A booking fee may apply

"On Golden Pond is a work of rare simplicity
and beauty, and in Thompson our theatre has
found a fresh new voice" - The New York Daily
News

"... a new and memorable theatrical experience..."
- Variety

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Tauranga

www.taurangatheatre.co.nz
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BONKING JAMES BOND

26 AUG - 12 SEPT
WRITTEN BY APRIL PHILLIPS • DIRECTED BY MERV BEETS

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