

BACKCHAT

News from THEATRE NEW ZEALAND
Fostering Community Theatre in Aotearoa

April/May Vol.42 Issue 2



A backdrop of a Californian valley vineyard sets the scene for the comedy *Sideways* at Mana Little Theatre opening 3rd April.

Jack (Chris Balm) B rate Hollywood actor says to Miles (Alistair Smith) sensitive wannabe author “Do not tell them I’m getting married!”

Sideways is slang for soused which leads to dishonesty and infidelity leaving one with a broken heart and other with a broken nose.

www.theatrenewzealand.co.nz

Introducing Deborah Steele

I am honoured to have been co-opted to the Theatre New Zealand National Executive. I love all things theatre and have done so since I was quite young. I am excited to be working with such a talented group of like-minded people.

Born and raised in Dargaville in the winterless north, I have returned here to re-establish my roots and raise my own family after 10 years exploring New Zealand and the world. I am a second generation theatre enthusiast - my parents long time members of our local community theatre, Dargaville Little Theatre. I remember falling in love with theatre when my Dad was in the musical *Joseph and the Technicolour Dreamcoat*. I was around 4 or 5 at the time and allowed to sit in rehearsals. Something about it caught me and since then, I have been involved on and off the stage in many capacities. My love for musicals has not waned and one can usually find me on stage or directing or musical directing at Dargaville Little Theatre.

As well as the occupation of a full time mum to 2 little girls I am an educator. I teach drama, music (and a plethora of other subjects when needed) at a local secondary school and I love passing on my passion to the next generation. Somehow, no matter what subject I was originally employed to teach, I always end up promoting the arts in the schools that I have worked in, whether it be providing drama for the first time to a school in Tanzania or starting A Capella vocal groups in a school in Auckland.

I have a particular interest in playwriting, more recently plucking up the courage to enter my scripts into competitions*. What started as a need to 'fill a gap' now has turned into a real hobby, one that I enjoy immensely. I love telling a story and get a real kick when audiences are moved by my work.

I love my local community theatre and am passionate about seeing grass roots theatre in New Zealand grow. We may not have big budgets or a large pool of people, but we have tireless volunteers who love theatre and love bringing stories, laughter and

thought provoking messages to our communities. Theatre is such an important platform for ideas to be shared and reflected upon as well as a place for people to connect and feel a sense of belonging. I will continue to help this platform thrive and survive in any way I can.



Deb won the Olga E Harding Award for Best New Playwriting 2018 for her script The Rumour, seen at the Regional Final in Taupo.

New Zealand's Darkest Day

We have all been shocked and saddened by the horrific attacks in Christchurch 15th March. The response nationwide and internationally has been uplifting and we must all undertake to be inclusive and keep on reaching out. As Deb says "theatre gives people a place to connect and feel a sense of belonging" and we as an organisation belong to IATA (International Amateur Theatre Assoc) and here is a message we received from Sweden:

*Dear Theatre New Zealand,
We have been told of the terrible terrorist attack that has hit your country. We want to express our deepest sorrow and compassion. Our deepest condolences.*

*Warm greetings. Mats Wenlöf,
Swedish Amateur Theater Council/ The National Association of Amateur Theater*

Welcome to New Members

We look forward to having the involvement of:

Remarkable Theatre, Queenstown
Granity Theatre, Westport

Subscriptions Now Due for year 2019/20

Groups pay \$100 and Individuals pay \$40. Remember to return the membership form, attached herewith.

Members' News

Hutt Repertory Theatre celebrates 75 years with works by Shakespeare (*Antony and Cleopatra*) and Sheridan (*The Rivals*) and a play for children (*Pinocchio*). During the year they will host an evening with the Bard (mulled wine and nibbles), offer free workshops on character makeup, mask making, creating a set and puppet making; there will also be a drama class for children and improvisation for older members. They are hosting a local TheatreFest and will round off the year with a dinner out.

Canterbury Repertory Theatre have chosen to perform Alan Ayckbourn's *A Chorus of Disapproval* in May. It has a good-sized cast (6m 7f) of different age groups. It has a play-within-the play, musical numbers and combines comedy with more dramatic content. In fact they say, something for everybody. Check it out.

Otamatea Repertory Theatre chose *Beauty and the Beast Jr* as they have a lot of young members - a growth area due to the success of Youth Theatre programmes. They thought it might appeal to theatregoers too.

Te Puke Repertory Society held an interesting event in March, a Pecha Kucha presentation (of Japanese origin) Fifteen speakers shared their stories (from DNA testing and yarn bombing to Te Puna Quarry Gardens and Women on Wheels) in 20 images and spoke for 20 seconds on each image.



They also plan an April holiday programme for children, a rehearsed reading in May and a cultural drama festival to celebrate their community's diversity and unity later.

Detour Theatre's latest play from Devon Williamson is *Murder on the Menu*.

Sophia has been conned into buying a derelict theatre. Now with crushing bank loan payments to make and no money, the jobless Sophia decides to defy the odds and dig her way out of her financial mess by reopening the theatre as a cafe. Her already dire situation worsens, when she discovers that the theatre is inhabited by the pompous ghosts of dead Shakespearean characters who are hell bent on keeping their home just as it is. By chance, Sophia discovers that the only way to get rid of the ghosts is to murder them as they were killed in their original plays. At Sophia's cafe, Murder is now on the menu.



Rotorua Little Theatre's *Welcome to Our Village Please Invade Carefully* is a very funny radio play by Eddie Robson, about an alien invasion of a small English village. Aliens have control and have placed a force field over the village preventing anyone getting in or out. The story mainly follows the efforts of the village's Resistance Movement, as they attempt to foil the aliens in their preparation for a full invasion of the rest of the Earth.

Since it is designed as a radio play, to create a vision for the piece they say is wonderfully challenging. A team has been set up to provide all the sound effects live on stage: from the simple act of using a keyboard to the sound a large object makes as it crashes into the force field.



Here is a sampler of the wide selection of plays we have on offer at Playmarket. We can email these as perusal scripts for no charge. Please email us any other script requirements you might have on: holly@playmarket.org.nz

Plays set in small towns

TRICK OF THE LIGHT by Ken Duncum. 1f, 2m. A play about parents, children, puzzles, marriage, murder, the Arthur Allan Thomas murder case and the claustrophobia of motel rooms.

THE PEACE MONSTER by John Smythe. 4f, 3m (expandable). A small, remote and wounded post-war community is befriended by a lone dolphin who becomes a huge tourist attraction. The true story of Opo.

THE NIGHT MECHANICS by Mīria George. 3f, 1m. Set in a dystopian future Aotearoa, a small drought-stricken Māori community in the becomes the catalyst of resistance against The Water Company – a multi-national that is more powerful than the government.

Plays under an hour

THE KATHERINE MANSFIELD TRIO by Kevin Boon. Three short stage adaptations of three favourite stories by Katherine Mansfield – *The Garden Party*, *At the Bay* and *The Doll's House*. For casts of 5 – 13.

FATHER FAMILIAR by Branwen Millar. 1f, 1m. Sam is a piano teacher and a lover of culture, who has never quite managed to make it professionally as a pianist. Her Dad, Roy, is a cosmetic surgeon and a lover of women, who has never quite managed to make it professionally as a father.

THE FIRST TIME by Courtney Rose Brown. 5f. First love. First blood. First base. First time. Five young women on the cusp have their first dates with adulthood. The story of our sisters, friends, daughters and lovers.

Plays about love

ACHE by Pip Hall. 2f, 2m. Told through a series of vignettes, *Ache* follows the lives of two urban professionals as they navigate their way through their romantic relationships. Achingly sad and achingly funny in equal amounts.

THEN COMES LOVE by James Griffin. 1f, 1m. This smart two-hander comedy follows Jane and John through a series of exchanges, a love affair and a collection of musings on why we fall in love with the people we fall in love with.

MIKE AND VIRGINIA by Kathryn Burnett and Nick Ward. 3f, 2m. Both single. Both competitive. Both lecturers in film studies. Her specialty is romantic comedy. His is monster movies. She thinks he's an arrogant knuckle-dragger. But they might just fall in love anyway. A play for lovers and cynics alike.

Plays for young or old

BOWLED OVER by Kathryn Burnett. 8f, 5m. Plans for the Balmoral Bowling Club's 100th anniversary party are crushed when an obsequious council bureaucrat, Rhys Van de Camp, deems them in violation of several council bylaws. The committee will do anything to get Rhys off their backs. Suitable for an older cast.

BIRDBRAIN by Fatcat & Fishface. Flexible cast. This 40-minute show can be adapted by performers to suit. Meet the smart kea, the nest-invading cuckoo, the lonely albatross, the dancing penguins and other bird friends. The performance is accompanied by music from the award-winning outlaws of New Zealand children's-music Fatcat & Fishface.

MAUI MAGIC by Albert Belz. 3m, 2 either. Two fantastical adventures of Maui. Children and their parents alike will enjoy this Jack-Black-esque Maui as he takes on the Ocean Taniwha with his awesome karate moves and dances with his drag queen Auntie Mahuika, Goddess of Fire.

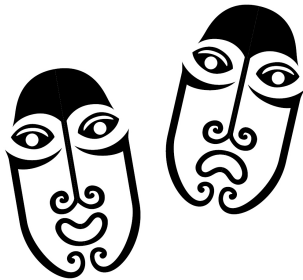
What's On in April and May 2019

Otamatea Repertory Theatre	<i>Disney's Beauty and the Beast Jnr</i>	April 26 - May 5
Dargaville Little Theatre	<i>The Sound of Music</i> by Rodgers and Hammerstein	May 11 - 26
Howick Little Theatre	<i>The Spirit of Annie Ross</i> by Bernard Farrell Ireland	May 4 - 25
Hamilton Playbox Theatre	AUDITION <i>The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe</i> by C.S. Lewis	April 6 - 7
	<i>Frankenstein</i> by Bo List	to 13 April
	24 Hour Challenge	April 26 - 27
Waihi Drama Society	<i>Bugsy Malone Jnr</i>	May 16 - 26
16 th Avenue, Tauranga	<i>Ladies Day</i> by Richard Harris	to April 13
Detour Theatre, Tauranga	<i>Murder on the Menu</i> by Devon Williamson	to April 13
	AUDITION <i>My Husband's Nuts</i> by Devon Williamson	April 7
Gisborne Unity Theatre	<i>Romeo and Juliet</i> by William Shakespeare	April 25 - May 3
Putaruru Theatre Players	<i>Ali Baba and Forty Thieves</i> by Stuart Arden	May 9 - 18
Rotorua Little Theatre	<i>Welcome to Our Village, Please Invade Carefully</i>	
	a radio play in 3D by Eddie Robson	May 1 - 11
Tokoroa Little Theatre	<i>Snip</i> by April Phillips	April 3 - 7
On-Stage Te Kuiti	<i>Last Panto in Little Grimley</i> by David Tristram	April 2 - 6
	<i>Last Tango in Little Grimley</i> by David Tristram	April 30 - May 24
Performing Arts, Taumarunui	<i>The Vicar of Dibley</i> by Curtis and Mayhew-Archer	April 6 - 13
Dannevirke Theatre Company	<i>Disney's Beauty and the Beast</i>	May 23 - June 1
New Plymouth Repertory	<i>The Vicar of Dibley</i> by Curtis and Mayhew-Archer	April 30 - May 4
Cue Theatre, Inglewood	<i>The Ladykillers</i> by Graham Lineham	April 27 - May 10
Feilding Little Theatre	<i>On Golden Pond</i> by Ernest Thompson	to April 13
Foxton Little Theatre	<i>Butterflies are Free</i> by Leonard Gershe	April 5 - 20
Levin Little Theatre	<i>Dreamworks: Shrek the Musical</i>	May 17 - June 1
Kapiti Playhouse	<i>Motherhood the Musical</i> by Sue Fabisch	April 3 - 13
Mana Little Theatre	<i>Sideways</i> by Max Pickett	April 3 - 13
	AUDITION <i>Black Adder II</i> by Richard Curtis & Ben Elton	April 14
Porirua Little Theatre	<i>Weighing In</i> by Lucy Schmidt	April 10 - 14
New Players	AUDITION <i>Four Flat Whites in Italy</i> by Roger Hall	May 19 @2pm
Khandallah Arts Theatre	AUDITION <i>Zero Inn</i> by Bruce Mason	April 27 @2pm
	<i>At the Bay</i> by Kevin Boon, <i>Benedict Cumberbatch Must Die</i>	
	by Abby Howells and <i>the Dreaming</i> by Richard James	May 3, 4, 5
Stagecraft Theatre	<i>Next to Normal</i> by Brian Yorkey	May 1 - 11
Wellington Repertory	<i>The Royal Hunt of the Sun</i> by Peter Shaffer	April 3 - 13
Hutt Repertory Theatre	AUDITION <i>Pinocchio</i> adpt William Glennon	April 6 @2pm
	<i>Antony and Cleopatra</i> by William Shakespeare	April 24 - May 4
Chilton St James Lower Hutt	<i>CSJ to Broadway</i>	April 9 - 10
Butterfly Creek Eastbourne	AUDITION <i>And Then There Were None</i> by Agatha Christie	May 5 @2pm
Nelson Youth Theatre	<i>Four musicals: Disney The Aristocats & Disney The Jungle Book</i>	
	<i>The Ghost Musical, Chicago High School Edition</i> by Kander and Ebb	April 8 - 27
Boathouse Theatre, Blenheim	<i>It's My Party (and I'll Die if I Want to)</i> by Elizabeth Coleman	April 3 - 13
Riccarton Players	<i>The Men's Room</i> by Patrick Evans	April 10 - 20
Canterbury Repertory Theatre	<i>A Chorus of Disapproval</i> by Alan Ayckbourn	May 8 - 18
SC Drama League, Timaru	<i>Cinderella</i> by Rodgers and Hammerstein	April 11 - 14
	<i>Last Legs</i> by Roger Hall	May 10 - 17
Remarkable Theatre, Queenstown	Pint-Sized Plays at Sherwood	May 3 - 5
Clyde Theatre Group	<i>Stiff</i> by April Phillips	to April 5
Globe Theatre, Dunedin	<i>Richard II</i> by William Shakespeare	May 30 - June 8
Invercargill Repertory	<i>Venus in Fur</i> by David Ives	April 24 - 27

Send information about 2019 productions to info@theatrenewzealand.co.nz

THINGS WE SAY TODAY, WHICH WE OWE TO SHAKESPEARE:

"KNOCK, KNOCK! WHO'S THERE?" "HEART OF GOLD"
"IN A PICKLE" "SET YOUR TEETH ON EDGE" "GOOD RIDDANCE"
"FAINT HEARTED" "SO-SO" "SEND HIM PACKING"
"LIE LOW" "FIGHT FIRE WITH FIRE" "BAITED BREATH" "COME WHAT MAY"
"WEAR YOUR HEART ON YOUR SLEEVE" "THE GAME IS UP"
"NOT SLEPT ONE WINK" "FULL CIRCLE" "OUT OF THE JAWS OF DEATH"
"WHAT'S DONE IS DONE" "NAKED TRUTH" "TOO MUCH OF A GOOD THING"
"LAUGHING STOCK" "BREAthed HIS LAST" "BREAK THE ICE" "WILD GOOSE CHASE"
"HEART OF HEARTS" "VANISH INTO THIN AIR" "SEEN BETTER DAYS" "MAKES YOUR HAIR STAND ON END"
"DEAD AS A DOORNAIL" "FOR GOODNESS' SAKE" "LOVE IS BLIND"
"GREEN EYED MONSTER" "FAIR / FOUL PLAY / PLAY" "OFF WITH HIS HEAD"
"THE WORLD IS MY OYSTER" "BRAVE NEW WORLD" "BE ALL / END ALL" "A SORRY SIGHT"



Editor Margaret Robertson
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Deadline for June/July Backchat
20 July 2019

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