

BACKCHAT

News from THEATRE NEW ZEALAND
Fostering Community Theatre in Aotearoa

February/March 2020

Vol.43 Issue 1

One Man, Two Guvnors by Richard Bean



Thomas Barker playing Francis Henshall, the ‘One Man’ desperately serving two bosses from the end of this month at the Gryphon Theatre, Wellington for Stagecraft Theatre.

www.theatrenewzealand.co.nz

Introducing Sam Lewis TNZ National Executive



When I was age four, after seeing my sister and mum both participate in Speech and Drama competitions, I

asked to compete. I walked onto a small stage in Westport, while it was pouring with rain outside and making a whole lot of noise on the tin roof. I then proceeded to project my voice across the whole room for all to hear. Ever since that moment, I have had a passion and a drive for the performing arts, which has led me right to where I am now. I am so incredibly honoured to be an executive member of Theatre New Zealand.

I was born and raised in Marlborough, and I've always been found close to a stage. The theatre and acting have always been one of the biggest drives in my life. I've always felt comfortable on stage, and I've been told that I come alive in front of an audience.

Despite my absolute adoration for acting, last year I got the opportunity to participate offstage as a director, thanks to TheatreFest. It felt odd at first, being in the director's seat, and not being on stage performing. But to me, it felt right, and I hope to continue to expand my skills as a director.

I have developed a fondness for Shakespeare, ever since going to a local production of *Much Ado About Nothing* in 2014. I was absolutely

fascinated with this man named William Shakespeare. I then got the opportunity to participate in the SGCNZ Marlborough Regional UOSWSF (Shakespeare Festival) in 2016, and I have participated every year since. I am lucky enough through this to have been given the opportunity to be a part of the SGCNZ Young Shakespeare Company, and in July I am going over to London for 3 weeks and will be performing at The Globe Theatre, with 23 other students from across New Zealand.

Being just out of college, I am delighted to bring a youthful perspective into the Theatre New Zealand committee. I hope by being a part of this committee I can help push Theatre further around New Zealand, and make it more welcoming and open to more youth than it already is.

TheatreFest Regional Dates

North Island
8/9 Majestic Theatre, Masterton
15/16 August Riverlea Theatre
Hamilton

South Island
8/9 Wakatipu High School,
Queenstown
15/16 August NBS Granity Theatre,
Westport.

TheatreFest National Final
4- 6 September, the Court Theatre
Christchurch



To help you celebrate **2020Vision** - 80 years of the One-Act-Play Festival System, *Theatre New Zealand* is clarifying the criteria for the ***TheatreFest National Final Awards***. (*denotes New Awards in 2020.)

Certificates of Participation & Drama Development Trust Vouchers for all teams appearing in the National Final

Olga E Harding Playwriting Award: New NZ Play

This play must be entered in *TheatreFest*, with the production being its premiere and is chosen by the *TheatreFest* Dramaturg. Sponsored by Playmarket NZ.

***He Pito Aronui Award (*The Seeding of Creative Potential*)**

This award is incentivising new writing, for a production which must be created by and contain Māori or Pasifika content featuring a culturally appropriate cast. Entries in this category are also eligible for all other appropriate categories. Donated by The Court Theatre Christchurch, who will additionally consider the option of helping develop it into a full-length play

Drama Development Trust Award

Best New Director, entering *TheatreFest* for the first time, chosen by Adjudicators at Regional Level

Jannat Aitchison Award for Distinctive Emerging Talent

Three awards, chosen by past & present Executive National Presidents

***Michael Norris Award**

For use of Original and/or Live music

***APRA Award**

Best use of sound-scape and sound-effects including recorded music

***Steven Arnold Award for Overall Design**

Total visual concept and execution

Theatre New Zealand Award: Excellence in Acting

Two awards regardless of gender

Denise Walsh Award

Best Production of a New Zealand Play. This production is written by a New Zealand playwright, regardless of setting or content

Bryan Aitken Youth Theatre Award

Best Youth Production. This category is for teams aged between 13 and 19 years. May be awarded at Regional Level if no Youth Production Finalists

Ewen Coleman Award

Best Adult Production

Theatre New Zealand Book of Honour

Best overall production

****See website for rules of entry to TheatreFest***

Two Sponsored Playwriting Awards 2020!

The Court Theatre is sponsoring a new playwriting category for Maori/Pacificas with the incentive of its being developed into a full length. The Olga E Harding Playwriting Award will be sponsored by Playmarket. This means that all entries will receive a written report for their entry fee, lowered this year to \$30 for adults and \$20 for students who have a valid ID. As well TNZ will give the winner of the Olga E Harding Award \$250. We're encouraging NZ entries. Get writing!

2019 Meritorious Service Awards

Congratulations to the following awardees of this prestigious award, all of whom have served their group for well over the stipulated 25 years.

Recognised locally in the Te Puke Times, **Dianne Leach** and **Colin Cooper**, both Life Members of Te Puke Repertory Society are pictured being congratulated by Michael Jones on the right, for their continuing involvement. Diane has served on the committee for 32 years (secretary and president) and she's directed, covered wardrobe, managed productions, and encouraged youth theatre. Colin has been on the committee for 46 years and has done set building, painting, lighting, sound and technical management.



Marj Lawson of Khandallah Arts Theatre, was surprised to receive the Meritorious Service Award at the Antoinettes, the annual wrap up of the Wellington District Full Length Play Festival in December.



Marj joined the committee 30 years ago and has been involved ever since: she's acted, done publicity, painted, gathered props, production managed and very importantly taken responsibility for Front of House. *Marj is pictured centre with David Cox, District President and Jillian Carpenter, Artistic Director of Khandallah Arts Theatre.*

News from round and about **Howick Little Theatre** are staging the NZ Premiere of a Canadian play called *Stag and Doe*, the name given by two couples to the event they hold to raise funds to pay for their weddings. It's billed as a "hilarious look at small-town weddings gone wrong"



Cue Theatre, Inglewood have chosen *Like a Virgin* by Gordon Steele for their first production of the year in April. It's a "coming of age play of sex, love, ambition and despair".

Devon Williamson of **Detour Theatre** has written a new comedy called *Mad Sisters*. It's an up lifting and joyful comic romp that reminds us just how wonderful and truly mad our sisters can be.

Napier Repertory Players report that their Art Deco production of *And Then There Were None* is selling out fast.



Stop Creative Waste!

Do you find your theatre group building sets and furniture and then through lack of storage space, just dump it at the tip?

The Court Theatre, Christchurch, and *Theatre New Zealand* are collaborating on a new project of creating a central repository/forum/website to post your set pieces, flats and furniture which may be reused or re-cycled into other productions you are planning.

Perhaps your community theatre group/school/company, are looking at staging the same or a similar type of production and instead of spending time and money on your own structure, you could uplift a previously designed, constructed and painted piece of set. All you would need to do is look at The Court's subscription series online to see what they are doing - register your interest in advance and ask to view the designs, to see if you want to proceed further.

This project could be of particular interest to South Island groups who just need a car and trailer or have a friendly transporter in their membership.

If you think this is a good idea, or could be of particular interest to you - let *Theatre New Zealand* know first, before we proceed to putting this in place with The Court Theatre and creating a website.

Theatre New Zealand and The Court Theatre, Creative Collaborators, Sharing Expertise and Stopping Waste.

www.theatrenewzealand.co.nz
www.courttheatre.org.nz

Levin Little Theatre (Trash and Treasure) and **Riccarton Players** (Rummage) are into recycling. Both groups have been clearing out their storage areas this summer. Gold coins and up were exchanged for vintage clothing, evening wear, uniforms, suits, accessories, household items etc.

Opportunities On Stage Overseas

Norfolk Island Amateur Theatre Festival September 26 - October 1

Workshops during the day and one act plays at night. Open to all amateur theatres from New Zealand and Australia. Find out more from Norfolk Island Travel Centre; free call 0800 0088 10

Liverpool International Theatre Festival

Biannual event in Nova Scotia, Canada. October 15 - 18

A personal invitation has been sent to TNZ for a 30 - 50min presentation, travel and accommodation within Nova Scotia paid for but unfortunately the deadline for registration is 3rd February.

Worth looking at their website anyway www.litf.ca

Shakespeare In Italy English Summer School in Cagli Theatre, Le Marche, Italy

June 26 - July 4

Tutors Dame Janet Suzman on *As you Like It* and Emma Lucia Hands on *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

For ages 18 plus; one of endorsements given is from a 92 year old Australian!
shakespeareinitaly.eu@gmail.com



Here is a sampler of the wide selection of plays we have on offer at Playmarket. Become a subscriber at playmarket.org.nz (\$40) to download one copy each of as many manuscript titles as you like. To purchase a published script or a hardcopy of a manuscript see our online bookshop. For queries email our new Script Coordinator, Nathan Mudge - nathan@playmarket.org.nz

Climate-related plays

THE RIVER by Angie Farrow. 18-50+. A large-scale play about a river that has been subject to pollution and the effects of intensive farming. It follows the people, past and present, who have lived off the river's bounty and died in its arms. *Published.*

BROKEN RIVER by Ralph McCubbin-Howell. 5f, 5m. A controversial irrigation scheme threatens to transform the landscape of a South Island township and a local farm is spearheading the conversion. *Downloadable.*

WHY DO WE DO WHAT WE DO? by Ken Mizusawa. 6f, 7m. A critical yet comic exploration of the complex and contradictory nature of our appetites and actions, what it means to eat meat (or refuse to) and, ultimately, why humans do what we do. *Downloadable.*

For younger...

BADJELLY THE WITCH by Alannah O'Sullivan. Cast 5-17. Based on Spike Milligan's beloved story. Tim and Rose have lost their cow Lucy and set out to find her. They are captured in an enchanted forest by Badjelly. Will Badjelly make them into boy girl soup? *Published.*

RAPPER GNOMES by Gaelynn Pound. Cast 25. The Gnomes lead an uneventful life in the Gnomery at the Public Gardens. Barry Gnome goes for a walk and meets the Knight Owlz. Their lives will never be the same again. *Downloadable.*

For older...

ROMEO AND JULIET by Geraldine Brophy. 5f, 6m. Romeo is an independent Villa resident. Juliet is a permanent assisted-care resident with early onset dementia. Romeo and Juliet fall in love and wish to marry, spending their twilight years together. *Downloadable.*

UGLY CUSTOMERS by Joe Musaphia. 3f, 3m. An elderly couple hold up a bank, demand money, and conduct a refresher course on customer service and manners. As the armed defenders squad surrounds the bank, the elderly couple spring into action. *Downloadable.*

Kiwi farces

HOT STUFF by Christina Stachurski. 4f, 4m. A comedy about sex, drugs, violence, revenge and true love. When Rosie, Tracey and Penelope sign on for telephone sex training at Fifi's, also a massage parlour, they don't expect their partners to turn up. *Downloadable.*

HOT WATER by Roger Hall. 4f, 4m. To a Taupo bach during the Christmas holidays come holiday visitors – welcome and unwelcome – relatives, neighbours, a Rotary student from the US, Granny from the UK, a honeymoon couple, and deer poachers. *Downloadable.*

THE THIRTY-NINE STEPS by Ross Gumbley. A fast-paced whodunit based on John Buchan's classic spy novel and the Alfred Hitchcock film. Protagonist Richard Hannay tells the story, while a trio of actors play a dazzling array of support roles. *Downloadable.*

Our latest publication

101 NEW ZEALAND MONOLOGUES FOR YOUTH. This is a comprehensive and contemporary toolbox for young performers. With a local focus and celebration of diversity, these monologues explore a broad range of genres. This is an invaluable tool for drama students, teachers and actors preparing for auditions. \$22. *Purchase at our online bookshop.*

What's On in February and March 2020

Dargaville Little Theatre	AUDITION <i>Prepare to Meet Thy Tomb</i> by Norman Robbins	February 4
Howick Little Theatre	<i>Stag and Doe</i> by Mark Crawford	Feb 29-March 1
Te Aroha Little Theatre	<i>Steel Magnolias</i> by Robert Harling	March 15 - 27
Hamilton Playbox	<i>The BFG</i> adapted by David Wood	March 21 - April 4
Detour Theatre, Tauranga	<i>Mad Sisters</i> by Devon Williamson	March 19 - April 4
Te Puke Repertory	<i>Once Upon a Time</i> - Simply Short Play Festival	March 26-28
Rotorua Little Theatre	AUDITION <i>Caramba's Revenge</i> William Norfolk	Feb 11 @ 7pm
Tokoroa Little Theatre	AUDITION <i>Exit Laughing</i> by Paul Elliott	February 2 @2pm
Napier Repertory Players	<i>And Then There Were None</i> by Agatha Christie	Feb 20 - March 7
Dannevirke Little Theatre	AUDITION <i>Steel Magnolias</i> by Robert Harling	Feb 9 @ 2pm
Pahiatua Repertory Soc	AUDITION <i>Cinderella's Slipper</i> by Vera Morris & Bill Francoeur	February 16
Hawera Theatre Soc	AUDITION <i>Bugsy Malone Junior</i>	February 16
	<i>God of Carnage</i> by Yasima Reza	March 20 - 28
Foxton Little Theatre	<i>Things My Mother Taught Me</i> by Katherine diSavito	March 27 - April 11
Levin Little Theatre	AUDITION <i>The Vagina Monologues</i> by Eve Ensler	Feb 10@7.30
Kapiti Playhouse	<i>I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change</i> by Jo Di Pietro	March 26 - 29
Mana Little Theatre	<i>Death and Taxes</i> by April Phillips	March 25-April 4
Porirua Little Theatre	AUDITION <i>Brassed Off</i> by Paul Allen	February 2
Khandallah Arts Theatre	<i>Mean Jean the Pirate Queen</i> by Michelanne Forster	Feb 22 - March 1
Stagecraft Theatre	AUDITION <i>Ophelia Thinks Harder</i> By Jean Betts & WM Shakespeare	Feb 22 & 23 @9am
	<i>One Man, Two Guvnors</i> by Richard Bean	Feb 26 - March 7
Wellington Repertory	<i>Ladies in Black</i> by Carolyn Burns	March 28 - April 9
Butterfly Creek TT	<i>Othello</i> by Shakespeare	March 3 - 7
Heretaunga Players	AUDITION <i>Social Climbers</i> by Roger Hall	Feb 9 @ 12pm
Havelock Theatre	<i>Heroes</i> by Gerald Sibleas	Feb 1 & 2
	<i>Permitted Activity</i> by Kevin Parker	March 25-April 4
Marlborough Rep Society,	<i>Boeing Boeing</i> by Marc Camoletti	March 25-April 4
SC Drama League, Timaru	AUDITION <i>Easy Money</i> by Roger Hall	February 8
	<i>Curtains</i> , the musical juniors high school by Holmes, Kander Ebb	March 25 - April 4
Invercargill Repertory	<i>Last Legs</i> by Roger Hall	March 25 - 28

Send information about 2020 productions to info@theatrenewzealand.co.nz

Friday 27th March is World Theatre Day - let's celebrate!

Did you know that playwright Bruce Mason CBE was born 100 years ago come 2021?
His name is now associated with the Bruce Mason Centre in Takapuna
and every Christmas morning it's a tradition that the Christmas scene from his
The End of the Golden Weather is performed on the beach there by a solo actor.

The Last Word



National Executive, 'Face to Face' in the Board Room at the Court Theatre
From left: Sam Lewis, David Cox (Treasurer), Paul Piercy, Mandy Perry (SM for TheatreFest), Deb Steele, Bryan Aitken (President), Te Rau Winterburn (Te Reo advisor) Margaret Robertson (Secretary), Steven Arnold, Ewen Coleman (TheatreFest Admin).



Editor Margaret Robertson
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Deadline for April/May Backchat
20 March 2020

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