

BACKCHAT

News from THEATRE NEW ZEALAND
Fostering Community Theatre in Aotearoa

Patrons

Jennifer Ward-Lealand CNZM Te Atamira and Rawiri Paratene ONZM

December'20/January'21 Vol.43 Issue 6



The Pantomime season is back and Rotorua Little Theatre's *Santa in Space* opens next week.

Santa has been kidnapped by Vileun the Vile and taken to planet Varbos. His gormless sidekicks Null (Linda Long on right) and Void (Mike Long on left) here take hold of Dame Dangle (Liz Carrington in middle) in their bid to help their master conquer the universe.

There's over 20 in the cast all ages and stages and there'll be fun for one and all!

www.theatrenewzealand.co.nz

***Self-Discovery Through Performance*™** **Paul Percy (Playwright/Director)**

Are you are looking to make a difference for your youth group? Paul's scripts have been performed by over 18000 students throughout Australia, Hong Kong, New Zealand and Singapore. They have been written with three important elements in mind:

1. A strong narrative (storyline) and clearly defined characters
2. Every student receives a meaningful role with dialogue
3. Roles are written (graduated) so that students with less experience or ability can be nurtured while those with more, can be extended



A full range of colourful costumes has been custom made for every play in sizes ranging from children's size 6 to size 16. We have tried to make sure that for every role there are at least 3 size options.

Paul's career has included international directing and playwriting assignments across all mediums of theatre. His plays and musicals now number over fifty, covering many genres.

If you are looking to make a difference for your group, then contact Paul on paul@actingnatics.com Director skills training is also available.

Susan Battye (Teacher/Playwright)

My interest in playwriting began when I was working at *Greymouth High School* in the 1970's and co-wrote with Thelma Eakin *The Shadow of the Valley*, about the Brunner Mine Disaster. We were fortunate to have that play published by *Oxford University Press*. The motivation was to meet curriculum needs - and today I can say that 'nothing's changed'.

Over the years I have published a number of plays for young people, informed by a career as Head of Drama at *Epsom Girls Grammar School*. I recently discovered however that published short plays that are both readily accessible to students and teachers and which meet curriculum and assessment demands, were in very short supply. Then last year I was lucky enough to gain the support of **User-Friendly Resources** for an ambitious project; to simultaneously publish two anthologies of short plays and two accompanying resource books designed to encourage upper primary and junior secondary teachers and students, to 'jump into drama'.

Fast forward to September 2020 and much to my astonishment the resulting, *Dramatic Shorts* series, appears to be meeting a demand for plays that are both humorous and thought provoking.

More: <https://userfriendlyresources.co.nz/blog/2020/09/28/dramatic-shorts-by-susan-battye/?v=d76c77a873e2>

What's On in December 2020 and January 2021

Howick Little Theatre <i>A Christmas Carol</i> by Michael Paller	to December 12
Hamilton Playbox AUDTION <i>Get Smart</i> adpt Christopher Sergel	December 5-6
16 th Ave Theatre, Tauranga <i>Last Legs</i> by Roger Hall	to December 6
Rotorua Little Theatre <i>Santa in Space</i> by Paul Reakes	December 10-19
Feilding Little Theatre <i>Family Trust</i> by Richard Prevett	to December 5
Foxton Little Theatre <i>The Jailhouse Frocks</i> by Devon Williamson	to December 5
Levin Little Theatre <i>Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs</i> by James Barry	to December 5
Mana Little Theatre <i>Blackadder the Third</i> by Ben Elton	to December 5
Hutt Repertory Theatre <i>Waiting for God</i> by Michael Aitkens	to December 5
Havelock Theatre <i>A Bunch of Amateurs</i> Nick Newman & Ian Hislop	January 20-30
South Canterbury Drama League <i>Motherhood the Musical</i> Sue Fabisch	to December 5
Remarkable Theatre <i>The Bright Side of Life</i>	January 29-31

Please send information about 2021 productions to -
info@theatrenewzealand.co.nz

Allison Horsley: Dramaturg

Hello playwrights and producing theatre companies, from a friendly South Island-based script advisor/dramaturg! Just letting you know I'm here and would love to work with you. Here are some folks who find a script advisor/dramaturg helpful:

- playwrights struggling to translate what's in their head to what's on the page
- playwrights wanting feedback on their latest work, or help applying feedback they have already received
- playwrights who need to "talk out" or bounce their ideas with someone
- theatre companies wanting objective, constructive feedback or research on productions or season programming

For over 20 years, I've worked in new play and musical development in my native USA and in New Zealand. I would be happy to meet with you over Zoom/phone or in person, or even come to your local and lead a playwriting workshop or a "how to read a play" bootcamp. Let me know how I can help!

AllisonAHorsley@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/year) to access as many manuscript titles as you like.

Lots of laughs

MAKEOVER by Craig Thaine (3w, 4m)
Glenys arranges a reality TV show garden makeover for her husband and then sends him off fishing for the weekend. The cast and crew arrive and create mayhem as their larger-than-life egos collide.

THE GEARBOX REVOLUTION by Joe Musaphia (3w, 3m)
In a futuristic “democratic” republic, an egomaniacal president/dictator commissions an artist to make statues of him. To the artist’s horror, the revolutionaries have infiltrated the president’s guard and humorously sabotage each statue at its unveiling.

Short and Sweet

DESTINY by Angie Farrow (1m)
A man explains why he couldn’t make it to the altar on the day of his marriage. *Winner - 2020 Playwrights Association of New Zealand 10-Minute Playwriting Competition.*

INTERRUPT-ABLE by Helen Vivienne Fletcher (3w, 2m)
A pompous man makes a fool of himself when he patronises a woman in a wheelchair. *3rd - 2020 Playwrights Association of New Zealand 10-Minute Playwriting Competition.*

LOVE AND ACOUSTICS by Rex McGregor (1w, 1m)

A Māori legend tells how Tūtānekai played his flute on Mokoia Island, serenading Hinemoa on the shore of Lake Rotorua. Today, two lovers plan to recreate the experience. *Commended - 2020 Playwrights Association of New Zealand 10-Minute Playwriting Competition.*

Endearing drama

WHERE ARE YOU MY ONLY ONE? by Vanessa Rhodes (2w, 1m)
Bob is a lonely Waikato farmer whose wife has left him for another bloke. Yulia is a secretary from the heart of Moscow, with a mother who would try the patience of a saint. When Yulia joins a Russian ‘Mail Order Bride’ agency these two courageous souls meet.

THE BEES AT THE END OF THE WORLD by Amy Wright (3w, 1m)
A family struggling on the edge of an unforgiving land must make a decision about how to survive. Gram wants to stay put. Jocelyn dreams of moving away. Honey counts the bees. The bees are dying. And the circle goes on.

Fresh Off the Page

JANE EYRE by Tony McCaffrey (12w, 3m)
A radical staging of Charlotte Bronte’s novel for a large female cast, which follows the experiences of its eponymous heroine, including her growth to adulthood and her love for Mr. Rochester, the brooding master of Thornfield Hall.

DRACULA by Claire Ahuriri-Dunning (5w, 7m, 3 any)
A group of actors encounters the text of Bram Stoker’s *Dracula*, warts and all. With campy fervour, they start telling the tale of Dracula’s attempt to find new blood and spread the undead curse.

To request any plays and/or musicals, contact our Script Coordinator /Kaiwhakahaere Whaka Nathan Mudge Nathan@playmarket.org.nz

Playmarket's newest Playseries on sale now

Two Comedies: The Pink Hammer and Flagons and Foxtrots



Playmarket's newest volume dives into traditional Kiwi settings, both old and new, while critiquing a problem relevant in today's world: gender norms.

The Pink Hammer mines the deep caves of humour created when four strong, independent women take woodworking classes from a gruff soon-to-be divorcee, and their complex characters are brought to life through the subtle art of carpentry.

In *Flagons and Foxtrots*, join the Archie Moore Trio, a band trying to reach the heights of fame while navigating the trials and pitfalls of 60s' courtship rituals. Just as their chance to make it big rears its head, so do the complications of adult life and parenthood.

With both drama and hilarity in spades, these two tales involve a cast of loveable characters facing the troubles of life and love and explore the conflict of

Kiwi gender roles in the classic Kiwi environments of the 60s' dancehall and the sacred territory of the man cave.

Email: Playmarket@whitireia.ac.nz Phone: +64 4 382 8462

Editor Margaret Robertson
Technical Assistance Morris Robertson

Deadline for February/March Backchat, 20 January 2021

Theatre New Zealand communications to info@theatrenewzealand.co.nz

