

THEATRICAL

News from The New Zealand Theatre Federation Inc.
www.theatrenewzealand.co.nz



Rachel Burt plays Helene Hanff in Stagecraft's February production of *84 Charing Cross Road*.

There's a reference to this group's enduring success on page 6.

President's Column

Dear Members,

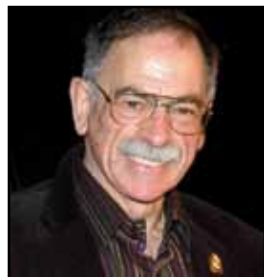
The year is well started and scanning through the What's On it's interesting to see the variety and range of productions coming up. But we need to hear from more of our members to get a bigger picture of what is on around the country. To this end we are planning changes to our website to allow Districts to have their own websites as an off-shoot of our NZTF one. The new facility will also allow groups to uplift their events directly to the website without having to email them through to someone first.

The Executive has had its first meeting of the year and is well into planning for the coming months in this the 40th year of NZTF's existence. The Festival of course is a major part of this; see details page 3. I hope Districts and local areas are thinking about their own festivals; with the National Final now much later in the year there should be plenty of time to organise a District or local festival in August. This year we have a new award for a person nominated by a group, in honour of our long serving Treasurer David Brockett who passed away last year. As well as being National Treasurer David worked tirelessly on Front of House for Canterbury District and this is what the award is for: an unsung worker who is an integral part of any production or festival working backstage or front of house. We thank the Brockett family for their generous donation.

We plan to celebrate NZTF's 40th birthday with various activities during our Finals weekend (September 17/18) and it would be good if past Presidents and Executive members could come to Wellington to help us celebrate this milestone of New Zealand theatre.

So lots coming up, and hopefully I will be able to see much of what is going on and meet with those involved in theatre as I make contact with the wider membership of NZTF in my role as National President.

Ewen D Coleman
National President NZTF



GST

National Treasurer Sharon Saxton writes

NZTF is changing; we are continually looking for new ways to add value for our members and reviewing what we are doing. We have decided effective 28 February to deregister for GST. As we aim to keep costs below income (and our income is below \$60,000 p.a.) we feel this is the right decision for us.

If you are registered for GST you may also wish to consider whether this might be right for you, particularly if your income comes mostly from people who are not registered for GST. Remember if you choose to deregister, you cannot charge GST on top of your membership fees and you can no longer claim GST on your expenses (you can keep your membership at the current level i.e. but you must remove any reference to GST).

Thus when NZTF subscriptions are sent out at the end of March this year they will be for a total of \$100 with no added GST.

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Festival of Community Theatre 2010

Regional Final North Island

27/28 August
Venue to be advised
Adjudicator Dale Hendry

Regional Final South Island

3/4 September
NBS Theatre, Palmerston St Westport
Adjudicator Dale Hendry

National Final

17/18 September
Te Whaea, Newtown Wellington
Adjudicator Pam Logan

Awards at Regionals

- Certificates of Appearance
- Selecon Design/technical Award
- Best Male & Best Female Actors
- Best Youth Production
- Best Production of a NZ Play
- Best Overall

Awards at the National Final

- Certificates of Appearance
- David Brockett Award *see opposite*
- Best New Director from Regional level
- Jannat Aitchison Award for Emerging Talent(3)
- NZTF Award Best Male/Best Female Actors
- Selecon Design/Technical Award
- Olga E Harding Playwriting Award
- Bryan Aitken Award for Best Youth Production
- Best Production of a New Zealand Play
- Ewen Coleman Award for Best Adult Play
- NZTF Book of Honour for Overall Winner

The assessor for the Olga E. Harding Award will once again be Elizabeth O'Connor, Literary Manager at the Court Theatre.

You will notice that there are two new awards being instigated at National Finals, one for Best Adult Play which is self explanatory but means that the overall winner will come from one of three best productions. The criteria for the other award in memory of David Brockett.

The David Brockett Award for Backstage Achievement

Donated by the Brockett Family, Christchurch

- For theatre practitioners working backstage and/or front-of-house, including Designers
- The award is not limited to NZTF Festival of Theatre Productions, but any Society productions
- Presented annually at the NZTF Festival of Theatre, National Finals
- To be awarded for work in the year between Festivals
- Society nominates their person by due date, one month prior to National Finals, with covering letter and details of the nominees work
- This award is for current practitioners, not a life-time achievement award as they are covered in other awards
- An NZTF Executive sub-committee selects the finalist (3 member panel)
- If unsuccessful, individuals can be re-nominated again. Applications must be re-submitted annually. Winners not excluded from being re-nominated
- The nominee is not informed of their nomination
- Winner receives a Certificate for perpetuity, but the award is passed on each year

ANZDA Accreditation Seminars, May

The seminars announced for February in the December issue of Backchat have been postponed to May.

Christchurch 22/23 May contact Bryan Aitken
bryanaitken@paradise.net.nz

Wellington 8/9 May contact Ewen Coleman
edcoleman@xtra.co.nz

Canterbury/West Coast Workshop

Pete Doncliff reports on a theatre weekend

Facilitators Bryan Aitken, assisted by Laurence Wiseman, willingly shared their expertise to make this January workshop experience an enjoyable one for all who participated. Both actors and directors were put through their paces, and shown how to improve their techniques.

The very successful weekend was attended by some who had very little theatrical experience, and others who had made National Finals on numerous occasions. Ages ranged from 17 to 60+, proving that it is never too late to learn more of the craft. Anyone who gets a chance to attend one of these workshops in the future should take advantage of the opportunity, as I think we could all do with some refreshing regardless of age or experience.

Thanks to Bryan and Laurence for travelling to the West Coast, also to Canterbury/West Coast Executive for arranging the weekend. Thanks also to the Buller Community Arts Council for their assistance in obtaining a Creative NZ grant to make this workshop possible.

Editorial Comment: if you hear of a workshop in another district, go where the action is! There will be information on how to plan a workshop in another issue of Backchat.

Norfolk Island Theatre Festival 25 September – 2 October

The Travel Centre, Norfolk Island is promoting this festival with an inclusive holiday package.

Enquiries to:

0800 0088 10 or deniser@travelcentre.nf

June Allen of PANZ says that playwrights are being catered for this year as well, with two writing workshops.

Harlequin Theatre of Masterton are participating for the first time and taking seven actors and seven supporters.

Obituaries

Brian Overend 1950–2009



Brian Overend lived for Hawkes Bay theatre. Over his lifetime he was involved in nearly 130 productions either as actor, singer or director. He will be remembered for the diversity and the superb quality of his portrayals. His favourite playwright was Shakespeare whose words he was able to say with

great depth of passion.. He was also keen on Gilbert and Sullivan and his performance of their patter songs brought much laughter. His other forte was performance in pantomime where his imagination came to the fore.

Brian shared his 40 years theatre experience with others. He was always helpful to young players. He became a master of stage make-up and also shared this talent with others.

His desire for perfection was always evident. He often said "There are no small parts — just small actors". And he proved this often by making small cameo roles something special.

The theatre public in Hawkes Bay will be much poorer for his loss.

Compiled from information supplied by Gavin Garner and Wayne Lister

Laurie Swindell — NZTF Life Member

Another recent passing that needs acknowledgment is that of Laurie Swindell. Laurie was involved with Napier Repertory Theatre almost from the beginning. She acted, directed and was a critic for the local paper. She was also a life member of NZTF and an accredited member of ANZDA, the Association of New Zealand Drama Adjudicators.

Our condolences to the families of both these dedicated theatre practitioners.



The Copyright Act

As communicated by Gail Denver of Maverick Musicals and Plays

Of special importance to teachers this act specifies that a 'reasonable portion' of a work or periodical publication can be copied or communicated for educational purposes.

For **hardcopy – to – digital** copies, a reasonable portion of a copyright work (other than periodical articles) is defined as:

- 10% of the number of pages in a work or if the work is divided into chapters, one chapter;
- more than the above limit can be copied if the work is out of print;
- the whole or part of a literary or dramatic work in a published anthology if not more than 15 pages;
- 10% of a piece of notated music;
- an artistic work if it is not separately published or is unobtainable in a reasonable time;
- an artistic work which accompanies a literary or dramatic work for the purpose of explaining or illustrating text that is already being copied under a licence.

For **digital – to – digital** copies, a 'reasonable portion' of a work (other than periodical articles) is defined as:

- 10% of the number of words in a work or if the work is divided into chapters, one chapter;
- 10% of a piece of notated music;
- more than 10% of an electronic literary, dramatic, or musical work can be copied if the work is not available in electronic form within a reasonable time at an ordinary commercial price;
- the whole of an artistic work may be copied from the Internet and communicated via ECMS* without any requirement to confirm its availability or cost.

**Enterprise Content Management Systems(ECM) are the strategies, methods and tools used to capture, manage, store, preserve, and deliver content and documents related to organizational processes.*

All performances in a public situation require an application for performance rights and normally a royalty is payable whether you are charging for tickets or not. If there are some royalty-free titles or instances, publishers advise you when an enquiry is made.

Pania Stevenson, Office Manager of Playmarket makes further comment on the Copyright Act in reference to teachers and schools.

Allowed to: Make a single copy for instruction purposes.

Limitations: Copying must be done by or on behalf of a teacher, no more than one copy on one occasion (does not permit multiple copying!) and you are not allowed to communicate the copy (ie place the copy on intranet or email to students)

Allowed to: Make a handwritten copy of the whole work by teacher or student for instruction purposes.

Allowed to: Make multiple copies of small extracts for educational purposes.

Limitations: This covers copying for students. Limited to 3% or 3 pages whichever is the greater. The work you copy from must not be copied again at the institution within 14 days and no charges can be made to students. Finally you are not permitted to communicate copies to students (i.e. place a copy on intranet or email to students).

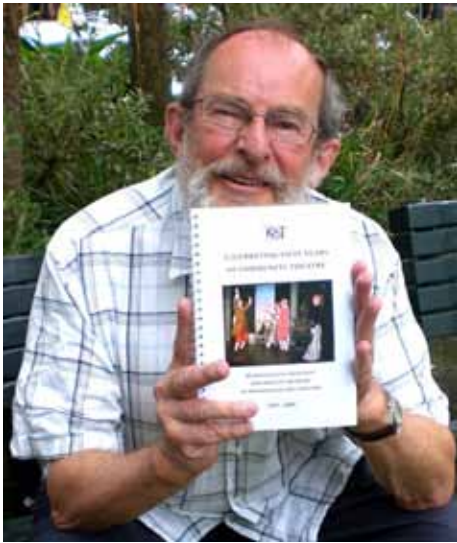
Allowed to: make copies for performance by students for instruction purposes.

Limitations: Only allowed before an audience of students or staff at an educational establishment. Parents/Guardians excluded. Performance before a paying of public audience is not permitted.

Playmarket can give schools a photocopy licence for out of print or unpublished plays for only \$2 a copy: info@playmarket.org.nz

Use of a Playmarket script where there is no live performance for paying or nonpaying audience is free but copies must be paid for.

Bruce Attwood



Amateur theatre veteran Bruce Attwood's favourite Shakespeare is *Twelfth Night* and here he holds Khandallah Arts Theatre's 50th Jubilee book featuring their production of this play last year. He came to Wellington in February from London especially to renew theatre connections, sad though that he hadn't been able to be present for KAT's Jubilee.

Fifty years ago Bruce was a special needs teacher at Newtown School with a passion for theatre. He trained at the drama school of the NZ Theatre Company under Tony Grosser — two terms of fencing, ballet, speech and acting 4 nights a week. Then he worked with KAT where one of the productions he remembers being in was *JB* a verse play on the Book of Job set in a circus and he also acted for Unity Theatre in, amongst others, *The Lower Depths*, Maxim Gorky's 1902 masterpiece directed by George Webby. Stagecraft and Nola Miller's New Theatre were also around and interestingly he thought of the four, KAT and Stagecraft would be the groups that didn't survive: KAT was being much too ambitious, he said, mounting huge plays in the University Little Theatre and Stagecraft seemed at that time to be just a small exclusive group. They of course are the two groups to have reached 50.

Nowdays Bruce is an integral part of London's Hackney Players, an amateur group in their 40th year now with a core membership of twelve. For the last 14 years he has been their Production Advisor and he much prefers directing to acting. He credits his directing style to Nola Miller, who, although he found intimidating, got results by making actors think for themselves. On his return home he is looking forward to seeing the only Shakespeare he hasn't seen — *Henry VIII* which is scheduled at the Globe this summer.

Members' News/Production Tales

Napier Repertory

Wednesday to Come by Renee was Napier's choice this year for Art Deco weekend and they report great audiences. Next up will be a March 26 club night featuring the reading of one act plays. A season of them will follow May 13-22.

FAHS (Feilding)

Karla Crofts has *Food and Farce* on at the high school at the end of March. There will be two short comedies, live music and a buffet dinner and dessert. Sounds as though the whole school is involved. Tickets from the school office.

Detour Theatre (Tauranga)

My Husband's Nuts by Devon Williamson is a new hilarious Kiwi comedy. Barbara's husband is missing on the family farm. When Jack finally returns he is a nervous wreck and will not leave the house... he is suffering from Agriphobia (the fear of agriculture) and is convinced that he is Hiroo Onoda — a Japanese soldier holding out on an island after World War Two. Barbara's husband is nuts. How will she and her collection of crazy country friends, restore Jack's mind without the help of the medical profession... or common sense? Who is really insane?

Heretaunga Players (Upper Hutt)

Gosforth's Fête is being organised by publican Gosforth to raise funds for a new village hall but there's bad personal news from stalwart Milly Carter over the public-address system. Cubmaster Stewart Stokes discovers alcohol and Councillor Mrs Pearce gets severely dishevelled. And that's before the rain strands most of the local Amateur Dramatic Society on the wrong side of the bridge. Gosforth and his cohorts are pressed into service and step into the vacant roles for the Greek tragedy *Oedocles, King of Thebes* by Michael Green (known for his several "Coarse Acting" plays) — with mixed results. *Gosforth's Fête* starts as a drama, develops into well-choreographed chaos and climaxes as full-blown farce.

New Players (Wellington)

RolePlay demonstrates one of Ayckbourn's greatest skills that of mixing the accidental and the improbable with the inevitable and realistic... The writing is as funny, nimble and lethally observant as ever." *From a review of the original production.*

What's On March/April 2010

New Plymouth Repertory	<i>Night on the Tiles</i> by Frank Vickery	March 18 – 27
Detour Theatre (Tauranga)	<i>My Husband's Nuts</i> by Devon Williamson	March 9 – 27
FAHS School Theatre	<i>Food and Farce</i>	March 25 – 27
Foxton Little Theatre	Annual General Meeting <i>Butterflies are Free</i> by Leonard Gershe	March 21 at 2pm April 16 – May 1
Levin Little Theatre	<i>Goon, Spike</i> by Peter Hawes & Nick Gibb <i>The Wind in the Willows</i> by Alan Bennett	March 12 – 14 April 9 – 17
Kapiti Playhouse	<i>Trick of the Light</i> by Ken Duncum	April 14 – 24
Harlequin Theatre	<i>The Prime of Miss Brodie</i> from Muriel Spark <i>My Brilliant Divorce</i> by Geraldine Aron	March 18 – 26 April 28 – May 3
Mana Little Theatre	<i>Steel Magnolias</i> by Robert Harding	April 14 – 24
Porirua Little Theatre	<i>Curtains</i> by Rupert Holmes, music John Kander	April 7 – May 1
Tawa Community Theatre	<i>The Sound of Their Music</i> by Kevin Rush	May 13 – 22
New Players	<i>RolePlay</i> by Alan Ayckbourn	May 6 – 15
Khandallah Arts Theatre	Annual General Meeting	March 16 at 7.45pm
Stagecraft	<i>Macbeth</i> by William Shakespeare	May 5 – 15
Wellington Repertory	Annual General Meeting	March 29 at 7.30pm
Heretaunga Players	<i>Gosforth's Fête</i> by Alan Ayckbourn	March 19 – 28
Hutt Repertory	<i>The Lion in Winter</i> by James Goldman	March 17 – 26
South Otago Theatrical Society	<i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i> by Oscar Wilde	April 21 – 25

Do you send your newsletters by email? If so please include the Backchat editor in your listing.
margaretr@vodafone.co.nz

Looking for a New Zealand Play?

Order your perusal script today!

The image shows four promotional posters for plays by Devon Williamson. Each poster features a group of actors and a brief synopsis of the play. The plays are: 'Understanding Women', 'Crazy Ladies', 'Menopause Made Me Do It', and 'Lost for Words!'.

What theatres and critics are saying about Devon Williamson's plays...

"Hilarious, dramatic, insightful. Williamson's plays are winners for the audience and producer alike".

Stuart Gunn
Artistic Director Absolute Theatre

"Ideal comedy for the Repertory Theatre!"

Gregory Brownless
Past President Tauranga Repertory Theatre"

"A superb show!!!!"

Louise Dean,
The Radio Network Tauranga

"Brilliant fast moving script.... Fun to stage, hilarious to watch..."

Toni Henderson
Director for Tauranga Musical Theatre"

"Quick, witty dialogue... fast-moving... real Kiwi comedy that is sure to appeal and entertain..."

Whakatane Beacon

"Looking for a NZ play that will pull in the crowds? This is it!"

Phil Ormsby
Artistic Director Flaxworks Theatre

For perusal scripts and information contact: | Email: info@plays.co.nz | Ph: 07 5710752
Post: Detour Theatre Trust, 1 Oriana Crescent, Tauranga 3110

www.plays.co.nz

Playwriting Competitions

The Manawatu International One Act Play Competition

The theme of the biennial festival this year is 'Back to Earth' and Massey University, the Palmerston North City Council and Library are calling for **10 – 20 minute plays** that explore this theme experimentally, in a theatrical manner with 2 – 6 characters. The winning plays (6) will receive full production at the October festival and varying amounts of cash from \$1000 downwards.

See <http://ems.massey.ac.nz>

PANZ

Join the Playwrights Association of New Zealand and you can enter their **one act play competition**. Plays must be 'new' ie not have received a production, reading or workshopping and must be 20 – 40 minutes in length.

Entries close 13 August.

Contact PANZ President June Allen
june.all@xtra.co.nz

TV3 'Spotlight'

There's to be a new weekly current affairs programme on TV3 named *The Nation* and there's an opportunity for arts organisations to promote their events in a 'Spotlight' segment. at the end. This will showcase arts performances, among other arts.

The Nation will broadcast at 11am Saturday and be repeated at 8am Sunday starting March 20. Media release to:
info@frontpage.co.nz

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Designer: Matt Norrish

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