

THEATRICAL

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



*Art by Yasmina Reza at Detour Theatre
see What's On — page 7*

Left to right: Devon Williamson, Gregory Brownless, Stuart Gunn.

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May 2010

President's Column

Dear Members,

With the new financial year upon us subscription notices have been distributed to all theatre groups, schools and individuals and within a month we already have nine new and returning theatre groups as members as well as many renewing their subscriptions. Many are also returning the survey forms which will help us develop our membership data base and profiles. To receive such positive reaction from our initial mail out is very heartening, showing that support for New Zealand Theatre Federation is steadily growing.

As we fast approach the middle of the year — only a month to the shortest day — most theatre groups will have mounted their first production and be preparing for their next. We hope many are also considering plays for this year's Festival of Community Theatre. Details of the festivals, have been distributed around the various Districts (see details page 3). The Festival is a great learning ground for new directors and actors as well as allowing groups an opportunity for productions to be put on that might not otherwise see the light of day. It is also an excellent vehicle for playwrights to see productions of their plays. Festivals also bring together theatre groups from within an area that might not otherwise have the opportunity to meet. Any group that has not received entry forms or who are in areas of the country where there isn't a District Festival but who would like to take part should contact the Festival Coordinator (see details page 3).

And remember also our National Final weekend in September in Wellington at Te Whaea: National Dance and Drama Centre — the home of the NZ Drama School — and our 40th Annual General meeting celebrations. Members of Wellington District Theatre Federation have already begun planning for this auspicious occasion and hope to release a flyer very shortly outlining what is planned for the weekend. It will include a number of exciting and stimulating workshops.

So there is a lot to look forward to in the coming months to distract us from the long winter months ahead.

Ewen D Coleman
National President NZTF



Subscriptions 2010/2011

Invoices for the new low group subscription (\$100) have been sent out. Have you paid? A reminder too to individuals (\$40) to respond.

Support the cause of amateur theatre and stay in touch. Neither subscription has GST added.

Read about Pahiatua's new membership fee page 6.

We welcome the following new (and returning) members and hope you enjoy your association with us. This year we celebrate 40 years as a national organisation serving amateur theatre:

Balfour Theatre Company
Clyde Theatre Group
Howick Little Theatre
Invercargill Repertory Society
Kaitia Dramatic Society
Putaruru Theatre Players
Rotorua Little Theatre
Tauranga Repertory Society
Waipawa Musical Dramatic Club

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Festival of Community Theatre

National closing date July 15

District Dates & Venues

Otago/Southland

18/19 August at Logan Park High School, Dunedin
22 August at SOTS, Balclutha

Canterbury/Westcoast

19–21 August at Aranui Performing Arts Centre

Top of the South

7 August at Boathouse Theatre, Blenheim

Wellington

13/14 August at Linden Social Centre, Tawa

Manawatu

29–31 July at Feilding Little Theatre

Hawkes Bay

30/31 July at Playhouse Theatre, Hastings

Regional Finals

Northern

27/28 August at Pahiatua Repertory

Southern

3/4 September at NBS Theatre, Westport

National Final, AGM & Workshops

17/18 September at Te Whaea Newtown, Wellington

Festival Coordinator

Nanette Wright
Apt D 509 14 West Quay
Ahuriri, Napier

Phone: 06 835 2016

Email: bry.nan@xtra.co.nz

Meritorious Service Award

Enclosed with this Backchat is a form for the award of Meritorious Service to a person who

1. has been an active member of one or more Federation societies for at least 25 years.
2. has been active in society productions either on stage, backstage, front of house or administratively.

A society may make only one nomination a year.
Send the nomination form and nominee's CV to:

National Executive c/o PO Box 329
Palmerston North 4440

APRA/PPNZ

Australasian Performing Rights Association
Phonographic Performances New Zealand

New Zealand copyright law makes songwriters and composers the exclusive owners of their original music and lyrics. Nobody else can use their work without getting their permission first, and if necessary, paying a royalty for this use. This is where APRA steps in. www.apra.co.nz APRA is a not-for-profit organisation that collects royalties on behalf of its 50,000 members including over 6,000 New Zealand members, and by agreement, for all the copyright owners around the world.

In the past NZTF had an arrangement with APRA to cover our members for the use of overture, entrance and exit music but things have changed and we no longer have this cover. Negotiations with them are being undertaken.

In the meantime PPNZ www.ppnz.co.nz have approached us and talks with them are in progress. PPNZ, also a not-for-profit organisation, administers the rights of local and international record labels and recording artists in the New Zealand territory. They are responsible for licensing and collecting income from the **broadcasting and public performance of sound** of the rights owners it represents; distributing this income back to them.

What does this mean for theatre groups? Foyer music in a theatre or venue should require two licences, one from APRA, which covers the artist/composer and one from PPNZ which covers the use of the recording. The licences are the responsibility of the venue owner and an annual fee should be paid to both APRA and PPNZ to cover this.

For music played as part of a performance — including entr'acte music - it would appear that again two licences are needed, one from APRA and one from PPNZ — these have to be applied for by the group putting on the play and for each production. There is no annual fee. NZTF is making representation to these bodies for a simplified system.

NZTF is making representation to these bodies for a system that will cover our members



Planning for a Weekend Workshop

Adrienne Hurley of Napier Repertory writes

Holding an acting workshop weekend is one of the best things you can do for your society. It will inject new ideas, give your actors a chance to step outside their comfort zone and generally enrich everyone, especially in their confidence and ability to perform.

Napier Rep has run three workshops over the last three years. We have had two acting workshops with Bryan Aitken and a directing workshop with Nanette Wright.

Here's a summary of the process:

1. Canvas members and local societies for interest.
2. Choose tutor and arrange weekend date.
3. Arrange suitable venue
4. Send out application forms for the course.
5. Find sponsors for tutor's accommodation, airfares and other expenses
6. Ensure there is someone to help over the weekend eg make tea, provide food.

And here are some extra notes on weekend workshops adapted by the editor from a 1980 Federation newsletter:

1. When advertising make sure you include a lively resume of what the course will involve as well as comment about the tutor and his qualifications.
2. Get the fees from participants before they arrive. This gives you a surer idea of numbers and almost guarantees attendance.
3. Point out that a weekend school is just that and people who cannot attend all sessions would be better not to come at all.
4. Make the venue as attractive as possible. The hall should be warm and clean for each session. Cups should be washed and needs of tutor and participants met satisfactorily.
5. Provision of good technical requirements eg CD player (in 1980 it was a record player!).
6. Make everything ready before first session.
7. It is not only courteous to introduce the tutor officially to the group it is good 'theatre'.
8. Prepare name tags for everyone, organisers too.
9. Establish tutor's accommodation preference -

billeting, motel, hotel

10. Settle the final timetable for the course before the tutor arrives so the class and those left at home know when to expect meal breaks.
11. It is a good idea for those running the school to see it in terms of a production, with the tutor as the director, the class as the cast and (perhaps most important) with the committee acting as an efficient backstage crew. The committee's work is not finished once the idea for the course has been set in motion. The group needs to analyse carefully its motive for the workshop, what they hope to achieve, to publicise this effectively to members, and to ensure that all has been done to help the tutor make the workshop a success.
12. After the event a full report needs to be sent to sponsors and the tutor. The tutor needs feedback on success or failure so his/her work can be tailored to the next venture.

Finally, Adrienne says "Have a fantastic weekend!"

NZTF Website

www.theatrenewzealand.co.nz

Wellington District is now covering the cost of the national website. They have linked their own website to this website and offer to link in other districts as well. Contact webmaster Hayden Rogers hrogers@xtra.co.nz so that there can be a one stop shop for all things theatrical in New Zealand.

Drama Development Trust

Applications for individual scholarships, group activity and capital funding are now available.

Send for details (include your email address) to :

Drama Development Trust

PO Box 22 249

Wellington 6441

South Otago Theatrical Society

Information supplied by Stephanie Bowden

The South Otago Theatrical Society is located in Balclutha on the banks of the mighty Clutha River. Membership comes from the town and surrounding rural areas of Waiholo, Milton and Owaka, Clinton, Clydevale and Lawrence.

The Society evolved from the Balclutha Drama Club 1936 and the 1966 South Otago Musical Society. In 1968 these two groups merged to form a society that has continued to perform plays, music hall, pantomimes, theatre restaurant as well as large scale musicals.

The original rehearsal rooms were at separate times an old house and Tearooms. In 1987 a Trader/Joinery building was purchased and over the years this has been converted into a good space for rehearsals, intimate theatre, set and property storage with kitchen facilities. Another building was brought on site and with many hours of devoted labour from members, now proudly houses our extensive wardrobe.

Our annual programme usually involves one-act plays, with a play/comedy/theatre restaurant production at the end of the year and on alternate years a major musical held in the Balclutha Memorial Hall. Last year the plays *STIFF* and *Dad's Army* were very well received and we also made national news coverage joining with the local Historical Society to re-enact the notorious 'Amy Bock' story. This was part of a series of commemorative events marking 100 years since the trickster Amy posed as 'Percy' to marry local girl Agnes Ottoway to make off with her fortune. Needless to say he/she was found out, but after the wedding took place!



Over the years SOTS has enjoyed a long involvement with the NZTF Festival of Community Theatre, having had plays reach regional and national finals.

Our adult membership is around 80 with children being included as the need arises. We will be running a workshop-style week in the July holidays for school students with drama, dance and singing, working towards public performances.

We have just concluded five successful performances of *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde.



Miss Prism with that "handbag".

The future looks bright for The South Otago Theatrical Society. We have dedicated people on and off the stage who are able to maintain good working committees. We are always on the look out for directors to bring us new skills, methods and enthusiasm as we constantly work to improve our craft and facilities.



Members' News

New members **Invercargill Repertory Society** report that their production of *Outside Edge* by Richard Harris last month was filmed by CUE TV and will be screened on Channel 110 on Digital TV before they run a successful British TV series of the same play.



Actors Craig Waddell (Kevin) and Ian Reeves (Roger) watch intently as their team-mate is about to score a golden duck.

CUE TV's film of the production is to be screened at Centrestage Theatre, Invercargill on May 28, a World Premiere no less!

Another premiere is scheduled at **Napier Repertory Players** at the beginning of July. A British prize winning play *Let It Be Me* by Carey Jane Hardy will have its New Zealand Premiere at the beginning of July. Timed to precede Alzheimer's Awareness Week the play concerns a woman's devotion to her aunt whose memories are slowly being lost. Director Anne Corney is working closely with the Alzheimer Society to ensure that the content of the play is treated sensitively and with respect and dignity.

Pahiatua Repertory Society have an innovative approach to subscriptions. It was decided at the AGM that for 2010 they will set membership fees at **\$1 per year**. Yes that's \$1, not a typo. Subscriptions are now due, and invoices will be sent out soon (including the option to pay online). They welcome the dollar but are also offering the opportunity to make a donation to the Society at the same time.

Hawera Repertory Society is mounting *Oliver* next month. They aim to sell 4,000 seats in a town of less than 8,000. That's the equivalent of 500,000 Aucklanders buying tickets for a show.

A Theatre is a Dangerous Place

Contributed by Barry Lakeman, editor of New Players' newsletter



Barry Lakeman was once told that "if you want to kill someone or commit suicide, it is easiest in a theatre when rigging or de-rigging".

A document that should be read by everyone involved in theatre is The Guide For Safe Working Practices, a new version of which has just been released. The guide was prepared by a committee of Stephen Blackburn (Capital E National Theatre for Children), Phil Conroy (Shand Shelton), Nick Kyle (Royal NZ Ballet). Rob Peters (Theatre Systems & Design Ltd) with the assistance of Alan Barrett of the Department of Labour.

It is especially relevant when one considers that the Health and Safety Act covers volunteer workers, even if they are not involved in a commercial enterprise, that audiences are deemed to be employees under the act, and that **heavy fines and imprisonment can be imposed on incorporated amateur societies and their officials if accidents occur because safety standards are not adhered to.**

The guide covers such areas as general risk & hazard management, Front of House responsibilities, fire safety and retardance, working at heights (including use of scaffolds and ladders) and in the performance space, set construction, lighting and electrical, noise/sound, wardrobe, productions using children and animals, the use of items (such as lasers, firearms, weapons, pyrotechnics, dry ice and smoke effects), and contains a handy "Theatre Health & Safety Check List".

The GUIDE FOR SAFE WORKING PRACTICES, Version 11, is now available from www.etnz.org, the ETNZ website.

What's On May/June/July 2010

Detour Theatre (Tauranga)	<i>Art</i> by Yasmina Reza	May 18 – 29 – 27
Napier Repertory	<i>Let It Be Me</i> by Carey Jane Hardy	July 1 – 10
Theatre Hawkes Bay	<i>The Mikado</i> Gilbert and Sullivan	July 8 – 17
Feilding Little Theatre	<i>Nonsense!</i> by Dan Goggin	May 28 – June 12
FAHS School Theatre (Feilding)	<i>Children of the Poor</i> by Mervyn Thompson	June 16 – 17
	<i>Joyful and Triumphant</i> by Robert Lord	June 22
	<i>Daughters of Heaven</i> by Michelanne Forster	June 23
Pahiatua Repertory	<i>Bedside Manners</i> by Derek Benfield	May 13 – 22
Foxton Little Theatre	<i>A Fly in the Ointment</i> by Derek Benfield	July 2 – 17
Levin Little Theatre	<i>Four Flat Whites in Italy</i> by Roger Hall	July 22 – Aug 7
Mana Little Theatre	<i>Imaginary Lines</i> by Reggie Oliver	June 23 – July 3
Porirua Little Theatre	<i>Don't Dress for Dinner</i> by Marc Camoletti	June 17 – July 3
New Players (Newlands)	<i>RolePlay</i> by Alan Ayckbourn	May 6 – 15
Khandallah Arts Theatre	<i>Honour</i> by Joanna Murray-Smith	July 15 – 24
Stagecraft (Wellington)	<i>The Family</i> by Jill Shearer	June 23 – July 3
Wellington Repertory	<i>The French Lieutenant's Woman</i> adapted by Mark Healy	May 26 – June 5
Hutt Repertory Theatre	<i>Who's Under Where?</i> by Marcia Cash/Doug Hughes	June 16 – 26
Butterfly Creek (Eastbourne)	<i>One Flesh</i> by Fiona Samuel	July 6 – 10
Heretaunga Players	<i>Blithe Spirit</i> by Noel Coward	July 1 – 10
Greytown Little Theatre	<i>Hay Fever</i> by Noel Coward	June 30 – July 10
SC Drama League Rep	<i>Four Flat Whites in Italy</i> by Roger Hall	May 14 – 22
(South Canterbury) Mill	<i>High School Spoof-ical</i>	June 17 – 26
Balfour Theatre (Gore)	<i>Sailing South</i> by Judith Prior	June 25 – July 3
Invercargill Repertory Society	<i>Face to Face</i> by David Williamson	July 26 – 30
Invercargill Repertory Youth	One acts: Drama Starters, Juniors & Intermediates	June 24 – 26

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

Attention School Drama Teachers

Want to lift the standard of your student's work?
Have their work adjudicated by an outsider?

Then enter the NZTF Festival of Community Theatre, a one act festival
and extend yourself and your students.

You will be preparing work during the year - give it another airing
even use it as an opportunity for a re-sit for some of the students.

Get your subscription (\$100) in and belong to a proactive organisation
(Festival venues and dates on page 3 and entry forms available on the website)

Looking for a New Zealand Play?

Order your perusal script today!

Outrageous NZ Comedy!
 "Another winner from the writer of Crazy Ladies!"
Understanding WOMEN
 Mike, Dave and Julian spend a weekend in a garden shed determined to break an age old mystery. Armed with a case of beer, a box of girle magazines and a holy book they are going to understand "women". What they discover is not quite what they expected.
 By Devon Williamson

Hilarious NZ Comedy!
crazy Ladies
 An outrageous comedy! Five school friends stage their own reunion after 22 years apart. Friendships are rekindled, secrets are revealed, a janitor is kidnapped! Hilarious and uplifting.
 By Devon Williamson

Hilarious, sidesplitting, comedy
MENOPAUSE MADE ME DO IT
 Five menopausal women are lured to a motel by a kidnapper who has seriously underestimated his prey. A weekend of madness and mayhem ensues as the women "seize control" and marry the kidnapper off to one of their group.
 By Devon Williamson

Hilarious NZ Comedy!
Lost for Words!
 Can a BBC announcer, a mute receptionist, a heel clicking German and a white guy who's convinced he's Jamaican convert their Classical Music station to Reggae?
 By Devon Williamson

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

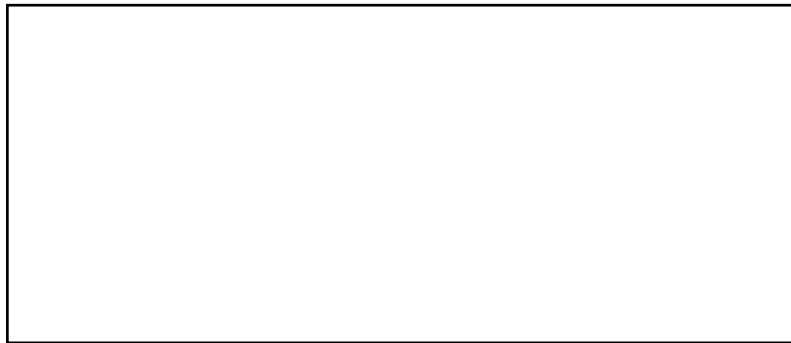
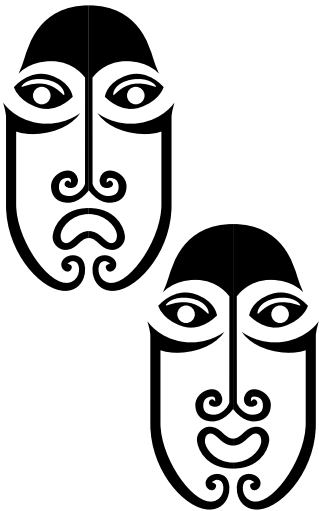
"Ideal comedy for the Repertory Theatre!"
Gregory Brownless
Past President Tauranga Repertory Theatre
"A superb show!!!"
Louise Dean,
The Radio Network Tauranga

"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 Orlana Crescent, Tauranga 3110
www.plays.co.nz



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Editor: Margaret Robertson
Designer: Matt Norrish

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Contributions please to:
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or PO Box 329, Palmerston North 4440