



Ted's Bottle, the d'Auvergne legacy by Bryan Aitken
Read about this new play on page 8

President's Column

Dear Members,

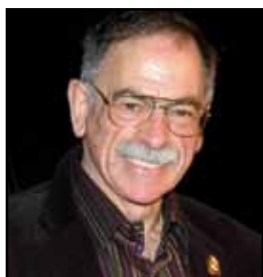
The next three months will be the busiest period for the NZ Theatre Federation as it is Festival time. Having moved the festival dates to later in the year to relieve pressure on organisers early in the year when the Festival was in June it seems that the expected increase in Festival participation has not been as great as hoped for. However it is encouraging to note that of those entered a large number are youth entries. The ideals of the Festival in providing participating groups an assessment of their work, offering constructive feedback, helping the audience appreciate theatre and encouraging friendship, learning, sharing and communicating still hold true for those participating. This is especially so for the youth teams entering as they are the life blood of our theatre future.

The National Final weekend being organised by Wellington District Theatre Federation at Te Whaatea: Dance and Drama Centre in Wellington is shaping up as an exciting weekend of theatre. Not only will the finalists in the Festival of Community Theatre be performing on the Friday and Saturday nights but a number of great theatre workshops are planned on the Saturday afternoon. It is also the Federation's Annual General Meeting and while there has to be a certain amount of formality with set items of business this meeting will give members an opportunity to have their say in an open forum.

This year is also a very special one for NZ Theatre Federation as it is 40 years since it's establishment and to commemorate this we plan to have a 40th Birthday celebration at midday on the Saturday where we hope as many past and present people involved with NZ Theatre Federation will meet and mingle and share in this with us.

So brush off the winter blues, get out and support your local District Festival of Community Theatre and start planning for your trip to Wellington in September where I hope to catch up with many of you.

Ewen D Coleman
National President NZTF



New Members

We welcome the following new members:

Groups:

Bayview Theatre Company, Napier
Fiordland Players
Hamilton Playbox
New Plymouth Little Theatre
Otamatea Repertory Theatre, Maungatiroto
Paeroa Little Theatre
Lincoln High School
St Bede's College Christchurch
Wainuiomata Little Theatre

Individuals:

Terry de Cuba, Wellington
Melissa Fergusson, Auckland
M.Potter, Taupo

And a note to last year's members –

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR SUB?

Invoices (\$100 for a group and \$40 for an individual member) were sent 4 months ago and you may now be in arrears. We do want you to continue to be part of the NZTF family.

It is most important the you fill in all fields of the membership form anew. Our records from former years are very out of date with the changing of postal codes, phone and email contact addresses. And please remember to tick whether you would like to receive Backchat by email as well as through the post.

Contents

President's Column/New Members	2
Annual General Meeting	3
Dale Hendry, Regional Adjudicator	3
District Festivals of Community Theatre	3
Criteria for David Brockett Award	4
NZTF Sheilah Winn Award	4
Plays for 2011	4 - 5
Theatre in the Bush	6
What's On	7
<i>Ted's Bottle</i>	8

Annual General Meeting

Notice is given that the 40th Annual General Meeting of The New Zealand Theatre Federation Inc will be held at Te Whaea: National Dance and Drama Centre, 11 Hutchison Rd, Newtown, Wellington on Saturday 18 September at 10am.

Nominations for President, Vice-President and Treasurer are called for. A nomination form is enclosed and should be returned to NZTF Box 329, Palmerston North 4440 by August 13th.

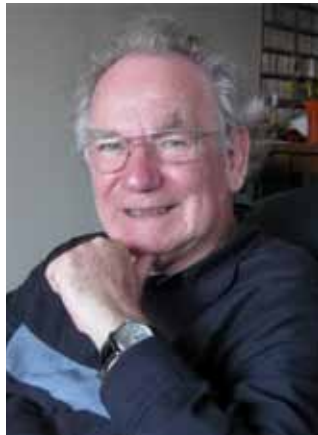
Remits are also called for by the above date.

A reminder too that forms for the Meritorious Service Award were sent out with the May issue of Backchat. These are also due back by 13th August.

Dale Hendry, Regional Adjudicator

Actor, Director, Tutor and this year's Regional Adjudicator of the Festival of Community Theatre.

Dale is a founding member of ANZDA and a past President of that organisation. He has adjudicated in schools, at Sheilah Winn Shakespeare Festivals, NZTF full length and one act festivals both regionally and nationally. As a Drama and Theatre Tutor he has worked in all levels of the education system, kindergarten, primary, secondary and tertiary working with students and teachers. Formerly he was a Drama and Theatre Adviser working on Ministry of Education contracts to introduce the Drama Curriculum in schools.



Dale Hendry. LTCL, TTC, Advanced Diploma of Teaching, ANZDA (Accredited)

NORTHERN REGIONAL
27/28 August Pahiatua Repertory

SOUTHERN REGIONAL
3/4 September NBS Theatre, Westport

Festival of Community Theatre

DISTRICT FESTIVALS

Hawke's Bay 30/31 July

- *The Interview* by Jean-Claude van Itallie: HaBYT
- *AWOL* by Peter Berry: Theatre Hawke's Bay
- *The Seventy-Fifth Day* by Phillip Bentley: Napier Repertory Players
- *Soldier's Song* by Campbell Smith: Napier Repertory Players
- *The Girl Who Eats Fish* by Peter Berry: Theatre Hawke's Bay

Manawatu 31 July

- *A Social Networking Tale* by Karla Croft: Year 13 Drama FAHS Feilding High School
- *What Shall We Do With The Body* by Rae Shirley: Pahiatua Repertory Society
- *The Private War of Colonel Cooper* by John Broughton: Land D Productions

Top of the South 7 August

- *Tent of War or Apres La Guerre* by Marjorie Kemp Baker: Dramatix Theatre Development Trust
- *Wedding Party* by TJ Ramsay: Dramatix
- *Complete Idiot's Guide to Grunge* by Scott Frater: Dramatix Theatre Development Trust
- *Armageddon War Party* by Scott Frater: Dramatix
- *In the Absence of Love* by Scott Frater: Dramatix
- *How to bury a Funeral* by Scott Frater: Dramatix
- Canterbury/West Coast 21 August
- *Ophelia Thinks Harder* (excerpts) by Jean Betts: Aranui Theatre Company
- *The Secret Life of Girls* by Linda Dougherty: Lincoln High School

Otago

- *In the Blood* by Helen Wyngard: St Hilda's
- *Myth Makers* by Denise Walsh: Park Players
- *Play Safe* by Denise Walsh: Park Players
- *What's Your Poison* by Denise Walsh: Park Players

Southland

- *The Package* by Trevor Norman: Pegasus Southland Boys HS
- *The Problem* by AR Gurney: Invercargill Repertory Society
- *Naomi in the Living Room* by Christopher Dunning: Invercargill Repertory Society

NATIONAL FINAL WEEKEND

September 17/18

Wellington District are working hard to bring you an exciting weekend of theatrical experiences. See the attached/enclosed flyer.

ON40
STAGE 10
2010

The David Brockett Award for Backstage Achievement

Donated by the Brockett Family, Christchurch

A reminder that nominations for this new award are also due 13 August.

Send to NZTF Box 329 Palmerston North 4440.

Here are the criteria again - first published in March.

- 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 nominee's 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 returned for the next recipient

NZTF Sheilah Winn Award 2010

Shakespeare Globe Centre New Zealand

This year we changed the focus of our award to a student directed piece and asked that it be given for Innovative Interpretation.

We are pleased to congratulate Kristin College, Auckland as the worthy winners of the shield and book. They gave a very strong performance of *Macbeth* and two of their students have been selected for the SGCNZ's National Shakespeare's Schools Production.

Programming 2011

The calendar is being turned upside down next year because of the Rugby World Cup.

If you can't beat 'em why not join them?

Here are some suggestions from Playmarket.

1981 1w 2m by John Broughton

An exploration of the 1981 Springbok rugby tour and protest action from the point of view of one Maori family. Faith, the law student protester; Rusty, a member of the police red squad and Ben, farmer and rugby fan.

THE BOOK OF FAME 4m by Carl Nixon

Adapted from the Lloyd Jones novel *Book of Fame* tells the story of an unlikely bunch of lads heading to the UK in 1905 as All Blacks in the tour that made the team famous in New Zealand and around the world.

C'MON BLACK solo piece by Roger Hall

Join Dickie Hart on a supporter's tour with the All Blacks in South Africa during the Rugby World Cup.

CONVERSATION PIECES 3w 7m (ONE ACT)
by Duncan Sarkies

Conversations involving Dave and his friends and family centred around theatre, Christmas and the Rugby World Cup.

FINDING MURDOCH 1w 6m by Margot McRae

A woman journalist takes on the job of tracking down infamous All Black rugby player Keith Murdoch and is faced with a terrible choice.

As she takes us through Murdoch's true story, the play examines the power of the media, the right of privacy and how legends are made.

FORESKIN'S LAMENT 2w 7m by Greg McGee

The play catches Foreskin at a point of crisis. With one foot in the rarified world of the university and the other in the playing fields of his hometown rugby club, Foreskin (a rugby nickname) begins to find the two worlds unmarrigeable.

He admires the people in the team for their raw vitality but when these qualities begin to be undermined by personal and team ambition at the sacrifice of the individual and the spirit of the game, Foreskin finds himself unable to move with these changing values.

Programming 2011

THE GODS OF WARM BEER 3w 7m by Peter Hawes

"Sex, violence, religion, sport, politics, history, all leavened with conversational, and often, burlesque humour, make for fascinating theatre," writes Richard Mays of Peter Hawes' new play. Hawes has written with insight and authority about an insular community steeped in a rugby, racing and beer culture, and harbouring ingrained prejudices. This is Westport 1951, where Catholic are versus Protestant, union versus Government, and rugby union versus rugby league.

HOMICIDAL POST PUBESCENT CHEERLEADERS

8w 3m (ONE ACT) by Shane Boshier

An American exchange student wreaks havoc in 80s small town New Zealand when she introduces cheerleading to the local high school and is accused of re-defining the term 'motivating team spirit.' Three deaths, a cross-dressing captain of the school rugby team and an unusual choice for prom queen.

JUBILEE 5w 7m by Campbell Smith

Johnny Mathers has been invited back to his home town to celebrate the jubilee of his old club, Wakefield Old Boys. He was the town's rugby hero during the years of the Ranfurly Shield. His return brings out resentment and opens old wounds. It's not quite the party it was going to be.

KIKIA TE POA 4m by Matthew Saville

Based on real events, Kikia Te Poa is the story of John Cook - a half cast Maori who ventures into the Anglo-South African War to prove himself and the value of his people to a changing New Zealand. John enlists in a white man's war to prove himself. Through the horror of war, and his contact with the enemy, he learns that self-respect is not found on the battlefield.

The Boer War saw birth of the concentration camps, New Zealand's status as a warrior nation, and also of international rugby. Most importantly it saw the beginning of a rivalry between two countries that would last one hundred years — on the rugby field, and in the politics of two very different nations.

PACK OF GIRLS 6w 2m by David Geary

Pam Hooper's husband Tom spends more time recovering from playing rugby than thinking about her, so she decides to fight fire with fire and forms a women's rugby team, the Kurinui Bushwackers. Their first encounter is against the Evergreens. An hilarious comedy from a leading playwright.

PENALTIES, PINTS AND PIROUETTES 1w 6-7m

by Neil Troost

In small-town, rural, New Zealand the town of Maungakaka is in a recession, partly brought upon by the prosperity of the neighbouring town, Hillcrest. Their respective rugby clubs mirror this phenomenon. The once successful Maungakaka Rugby Club has been approached by their arch enemies, Hillcrest, to amalgamate and create one very strong club.

Despite initial reluctance from Maungakaka, the players gradually realize that they must put aside their own personal grievances against Hillcrest in order to do the best for the future of rugby in the area.

Along this comic and chaotic journey, the guys come to terms with the fact that maybe rugby isn't the backbone of the community that it once was. They find that community strength and spirit can be found in the least likely place, namely the production of a male ballet in a fundraiser for the local school.

PLAYING THE GAME 2w 5m by Jeffrey Thomas

A look at the political intrigues of a rugby club during a Monday night committee meeting and a Friday night 'do' when the hired stripper refuses to strip. Beneath the comic surface of the play runs a more serious exploration of attitudes towards women, blacks and other minority groups in this male dominated society.

THE RUGBY POET 8w 8m by Charles Harter

A musical play which traces the fortunes of a fairly unsuccessful rugby team through its 1988 season. A comedy, but like the rugby poet himself the play has a serious side.

TOUCH SEVENS 16w 16m by Mark Casson

Competition to play in the national finals is fierce between the girls' and boys' touch seven rugby teams. Off-field antics ensure on-field anxiety with unexpected results. Game is played among the audience with lots of students supporting both teams.

WHITEMEN 3w 8m by Greg McGee

The Rugby Council meets to decide whether the All Blacks should tour South Africa. Targets for comic satire en route include protestors, the Rugby mentality, political rhetoric, Maori pride, gay men, colonialism.

Perusals from NZTF May Ives Library

Theatre in the Bush One Act Play Festival

Contributed by Lesley Coutney.

Contact: Pahiatua Repertory Society, Box 91, Pahiatua

This year 10 plays competed in our one act play festival in Pahiatua. Inaugurated in 2008 this is the third year we have run the festival and each year it has grown.

'Theatre in the Bush' is named after Pahiatua's geographical position within the old 70 mile bush area. It was developed to give theatre societies another avenue to pursue one act plays and build relationships that will endure. The festival is also timed to work as a build up to the NZTF festival. As long time enthusiasts and entrants in the Festival of Community Theatre we want to encourage groups to give one acts and festivals a go. They are an excellent learning ground and with the adjudication process, we have learnt from experience, you gain from every festival entered, whether you succeed in winning or not.

Our festival is separated into youth and adult categories and sponsorship allows us to offer a prize pool of over \$2000 - for best productions and acting in both categories. This year our adjudicator, Kurt Lerps from Brisbane, did a wonderful job, for both the teams and the audience, and had a hard job on his hands selecting from entries from Napier, Hastings, Pahiatua, Palmerston North and Levin.

Tararua College took out the top youth prize with *The Wicked Web We Weaved* a play written by Year 12 & 13 students. Best adult production was awarded to Pahiatua Repertory for *A Game* against very strong competition.

Once again this was a great festival. We were so well supported by the teams that entered and our local community that all the hard work was worth it. We would encourage other groups to try this too. It really is not too big a challenge if you have a dedicated team of enthusiastic people to organise and run with the idea.

Now we look forward to hosting the Regional Final for the Festival of Community Theatre in late August!

Recognising Amateur Theatre

I would like to express my thanks to all those who sent messages of congratulation on my award of a QSM in the Queen's Birthday Honours list. I was particularly proud that it recognised the role of amateur theatre in the community and that it came at the time my own group, Khandallah Arts Theatre had just been celebrating its first fifty years.

Sine joining KAT some 45 years ago I have been privileged to have experienced nearly every theatrical task both on stage and backstage. However, it was my introduction to the wider theatrical scene which gave me insight into theatre's place in so many communities.

In 1982, when Olga Harding was presiding firmly over the NZ Theatre Federation I was approached to join the Standing Committee, who met once a month. Before I knew it I was spending one day per week organising the library, a task which continued until it was moved to Christchurch in 1991. Since then I have continued to enjoy the company of dedicated amateur theatre practitioners on the Wellington District Committee and the National Council/ Executive. I have now been editor of Backchat for 10 years and through participation on the Drama Development Trust I have been pleased to help develop new talent.

Most people who join a theatre do so to act but theatres do not survive on actors alone. We also need dedicated back stage supporters and, of course, our audiences. Amateur theatre in New Zealand can only grow and thrive if members of individual theatres are willing to look beyond their own groups and participate in the wider scene to the ultimate benefit of the whole theatrical community.

*Margaret
Robertson*



What's On July/August/September 2010

Howick Little Theatre	<i>Kevin's Bed</i> by Bernard Farrell	July 17 – Aug 7
Gisborne Unity Theatre	<i>Cymbeline</i> by William Shakespeare	July 27 – 31
Hamilton Playbox	<i>'Allo 'Allo</i> by Jeremy Lloyd & David Croft	August 14 – Sept 4
Detour Theatre	<i>The Merchant of Venice</i> by William Shakespeare	September 1 – 18
On-Stage Te Kuiti	<i>When the Reaper Calls</i> by Peter Colley	July 28 – 31
Levin Little Theatre	Audition <i>Hansel and Gretel</i> by Norman Robbins	August 8
Kapiti Playhouse	<i>A Bench in the Sun</i> by Ron Clark	August 19 – 28
Mana Little Theatre	<i>The Wind in the Willows</i> by Alan Bennett	Aug 25 – Sept 4
Khandallah Arts Theatre	Audition <i>A Month of Sundays</i> by Bob Larbey — phone 479 2436	August 8, 4.30pm
Stagecraft Theatre	Audition <i>Silly Cow</i> by Ben Elton — phone 475 8434	August 7 – 8
Wellington Repertory Theatre	<i>The Diary of Anne Frank</i> adapted by Wendy Kesselman <i>Trick of the Light</i> by Ken Duncum Audition <i>Black Adder 11</i> by Richard Curtis/Ben Elton — phone 394 1413	July 28 – Aug 7 September 16 – 25 September 4
Hutt Repertory Theatre	<i>Peter Pan</i>	Sept 27 – Oct 2
Wainuiomata Little Theatre	<i>All Shook Up</i> (mixing Shakespeare and The King)	Sept 29 – Oct 9
Elmwood Players	<i>Kiss Me Like You Mean It</i> by Chris Chibnall	Sept 29 – Oct 9
Top Dog Theatre	<i>Popcorn</i> by Ben Elton	Aug 27 – Sept 11
SC Drama League	<i>Ted's Bottle: The d'Auvergne Legacy</i> by Bryan Aitken <i>Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dream Coat</i> by Lloyd Weber/Rice	August 6 – 14 September 17 – 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!

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 girly 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 25 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 woman seizes 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 Oriana Crescent, Tauranga 3110

www.plays.co.nz

Ted's Bottle, the d'Auvergne legacy

Written and directed by Bryan Aitken

A new light shines on one of Canterbury's sons

Timaru Little Theatre presents the world premiere in August of *Ted's Bottle, the Auvergne Legacy*.

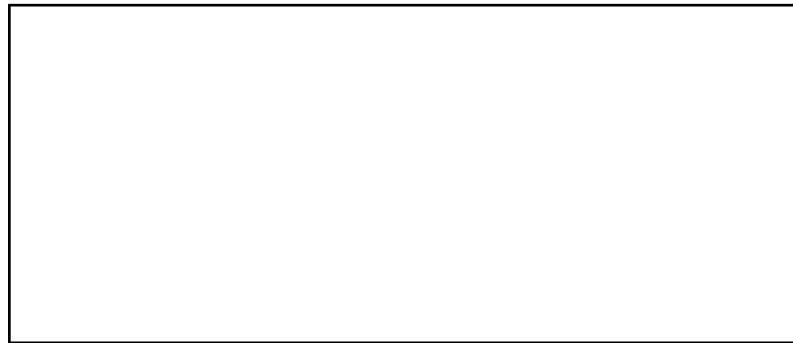
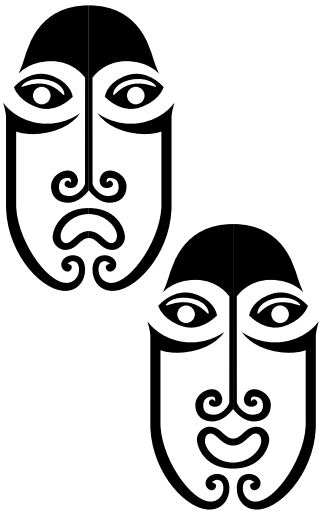
Seventy years ago, one of Canterbury's sons sailed from Lyttelton with his regiment, to fight the war against Hitler and Fascism. La Tour Mollet 'Ted' d'Auvergne, was of French and Channel Island heritage. A second generation New Zealander, he was born in Rangiora, but farmed at Waihao Forks, South Canterbury. Educated at Kapua School, and Timaru Boys' High, Ted d'Auvergne was a remarkable man. An athlete and inventor, whose humour ingenuity and understanding of Honour and Service, has resonated down the years. But who was he really?

From published articles and army anecdotes, from family remembrance and district reverence, comes a play that draws together for the first time, these diverse threads. A dramatisation, which breathes life into the man and the legend.

Ted's Bottle — a bottle of beer placed on the top shelf of the bar in Waihao Forks, at 7.20am on the 4th of January 1940, to be opened upon his return, awaits him still....

Ted's Bottle — a play about us. A story for all time.

Bryan Aitken is a former Associate Artistic Director of The Court Theatre, Christchurch and original company member. He has devised and staged several Musical Theatre tributes and Educational Theatre programmes. This is his first full-length play.



Postage
Stamp

Editor: Margaret Robertson
Designer: Matt Norrish

Deadline for next issue of Backchat
August 13 2010

Contributions please to:
nztflibrary@xtra.co.nz
or PO Box 329, Palmerston North 4440