



Sarah Coursey as Sylvia Lomax and Louisa Stewart as best friend Yvonne in *Sylvia's Wedding* by Jimmie Chinn.  
Directed by Brian Sullivan and Garry Thomas.

April 20 – 30 at Elmwood Players, Christchurch.

After ten years of courting, Gordon proposes to Sylvia and throws both families into turmoil. Sylvia's parents are hardly the sort of people Gordon's pompous father wants his family connected with and the feeling is mutual. In addition, Sylvia's best friend is all too ready to deflate Sylvia with her cynical, world-weary comments. Against the odds, the two warring families co-operate in the wedding preparations and all looks set for success — but Fate intervenes.

Read about our Christchurch members on page 3.

## President's Column

Dear Members,

Although it is now nearly two months since the devastating earthquake in Christchurch there are still news reports and articles about its aftermath that make it the focus of many people's attention. Many communities have rallied around to assist and help with fund raising, not the least of which is the arts and cultural communities with many fund raising events being organised around the country, one example being Stagecraft Theatre in Wellington giving one performance of their current production as a fund raiser for theatres in Christchurch. Great work Stagecraft.

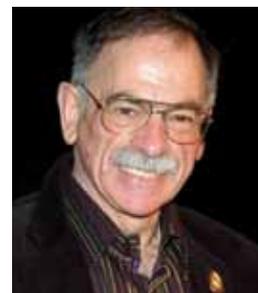
On a brighter note it is very pleasing to report the success of our Special General meeting held in early April where the revised and updated Constitution was approved. The biggest and most significant change was to the governance structure of the Federation to take place from this year's Annual General Meeting. The Officers and Executive of the Federation are now elected representatives from members of the Federation. This means that all theatre groups and societies around the country who are members of the Federation have the opportunity to both nominate someone and to then vote those nominated onto the National Executive. Nomination forms are included with this newsletter so it is hoped that all members will give this serious consideration at their next committee meeting and that we will receive nominations of a diverse collection of people from around the country for the National Executive.

As well as considering the governance of NZTF it is also hoped that members are seriously thinking about this year's Festival of Community Theatre within their region. The closing date for entries at local level is 31 May and entry forms are available on the Federation's web site. It is very pleasing to note the possibility of a Festival in Whakatane this year to cater for not only the Bay of Plenty region but also from across the Waikato. The Festival is a great way of bringing theatre groups within a region together and it is hoped that the re-emergence of a Festival in the BOP region will be a stimulus for such Festivals in other areas in the future. It is also very gratifying to know that Canterbury/Westcoast are considering a Festival in Christchurch. The Regional Festival that was to take place in Christchurch has understandably been moved to Nelson. Planning for the other Regional Festivals and for the National

Final in Nelson is well under way but more on that in the next newsletter.

So till then wishing all theatre groups the very best as we move into winter, a time that is often seen as the height of activity in a theatre groups calendar.

Ewen D Coleman  
National President



## Annual General Meeting

Notice is given that the 41st Annual General Meeting of The New Zealand Theatre Federation Inc will be held at the Theatre Royal, 78 Rutherford St, Nelson on Saturday 6th August at 11am.

Nominations for President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer are called for and for six National Executive members. Two different green forms are enclosed and should be returned to NZTF Box 329 Palmerston North 4440 by July 1st.

Remits are also called for by the above date.

Enclosed with this newsletter are several more forms:

- Subscriptions are now due: if you are filling out the pink form on behalf of a group please include an email address belonging to the group, the president or secretary. Include a name and phone number (it does not need to be your own).
- Meritorious Service Award. Return by July 1st
- David Brockett Award for Backstage Achievement. Return by July 1st.

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# Festival of Community Theatre 2011

## District Festivals

Closing date May 31st

### SOUTHLAND/OTAGO

1/2 July at Repertory House in Invercargill with adjudicator David Chalmers.

Contact Jade Gillies jadegillies@woosh.co.nz

### CANTERBURY/WESTCOAST

17/18 June Aranui Performing Arts Theatre with adjudicator Debbie Davids.

Contact Lyn Doncliff nztfc.canwest@xtra.co.nz

### TOP OF THE SOUTH

1/2 July in The Playhouse, Mapua, Nelson with adjudicator Dawn Sommerville.

Contact Anne McAuley mattmc@xtra.co.nz

### WELLINGTON

25 June at the Cochran Hall Cashmere Ave School, Khandallah with adjudicator Nerissa Moore.

Contact Sue Miller kotuku.media@xtra.co.nz

### MANAWATU

24/25 June at Feilding Little Theatre with adjudicator Nanette Wright

Contact Joan Ford mtd.mj.ford@actrix.co.nz

### HAWKES BAY

8/9 July at Napier Little Theatre with adjudicator Ewen Coleman.

Contact Anne Corney BARKK@xtra.co.nz

### BAY OF PLENTY

2/3 July at Whakatane Little Theatre with adjudicator Colleen Bassett.

Contact Alan Williamson alwill@xtra.co.nz

It is with great excitement that we welcome the Bay of Plenty back into the Festival. This part of the North Island and a couple of Waikato based groups have got involved thanks to the very hard work of Anne Corney of Napier and the enthusiasm of Alan Williamson now of Whakatane Little Theatre. Twenty years ago Alan's own plays entered Wellington District Festivals to much acclaim. We wish this new Festival every success.

## Regionals

South Island adjudicated by Lindsay Nash.

### LOWER SOUTH ISLAND

15/16 July Fiordland Events Centre, Te Anau.

### TOP OF THE SOUTH

23/24 The Playhouse Mapua, Nelson. 

North Island adjudicated by Denise Walsh.

### NORTH ISLAND REGIONAL

23/24 July Theatre Hawkes Bay, Hastings

### NATIONAL FINAL

5/6 August Theatre Royal, 78 Rutherford St. Nelson.

Adjudicated by Natalie Ellis-Wilson.

*Correction: a written report on plays entered in the Olga E Harding Award costs an extra \$30 not \$60.*

## Christchurch Members

- Aranui High School: Our heartfelt sympathy goes to Robert Gilbert HOD Drama whose son Jamie was killed in the earthquake. Robert advises that his production of Hamlet for Canterbury Repertory Theatre is going ahead in the Aurora Centre May 5 - 7.
- Christ's College's English block has been demolished and replaced with temporary classrooms.
- Elmwood Players: their venue stood firm and their AGM has been rescheduled to May 1st. The workshops for directors and actors have been postponed.
- St Bedes College have postponed their Centennial celebrations and opened their campus to a sister school to use in the afternoons.
- Top Dog Theatre's Derek Doddington writes that they were very fortunate to complete a wonderful sunny run of Open Air Summer Shakespeare's Taming of the Shrew just 2 days before the quake. Their thoughts are with everyone in Christchurch especially now that theatrical forces need to be joined to rebuild theatre venues. (Riccarton Players 4 storey brick theatre, the Mill, is condemned as is Canterbury Repertory. The Court Theatre remains cordoned off in the Arts Centre precinct.)
- Unlimited Paenga Tawhiti school's roof caved in. They lost computers and resources and are now operating in Halswell.

If any of these plays interest you we can email you the script, and if you have any particular requirements we can also make other suggestions- please contact [scripts@playmarket.org.nz](mailto:scripts@playmarket.org.nz) with your queries.

#### **THE PERFUMED GARDEN**

**Dean Parker** (2w 3m)

Cain was buried there. The ancient Greeks came there. The British marched in there, in triumph. The hippies came, from the ends of the earth. Then the Russians came. And finally the New Zealanders. Afghanistan, that stony hell-hole, that perfumed garden.

#### **THE DAYLIGHT ATHEIST**

**Tom Scott** (1m)

From one of New Zealand's most respected writers and satirists, this is a funny, fierce and profoundly moving one-man play invoking the colourful past and extraordinary cast of one man's lifetime. From Irish boyhood to World War II airman to New Zealand immigrant, he retraces a life of profane exploits and irreverent adventures.

#### **SUITE SIXTEEN**

**Jon Gadsby & David McPhail** (4m 2w – up to 20 characters)

An hilarious comedy – with a hint of black drama – from the well known comic duo. Seven separate plays set in a single accident-prone motel room with a manager who is a cross between Reginald Perrin, Basil Fawlty and an East German spy.

#### **BAGHDAD, BABY!**

**Dean Parker** (2w 4m)

An exotic tragi-comic epic with romantic overtones, this is a perfect balance of humour, politics, broken hearts and outrage. However, this is primarily a play about people, our common humanity; how, when faced with violence and our need for love and security, we all want the same fundamental things.

#### **BEAUTIFUL LOSERS**

**Mike Hudson** (2m)

In their pursuit of the ultimate high, writer Jack Kerouac ('On the Road') and con artist/car thief Neal Cassady leave New York for Mexico, accompanied by a soundtrack of cool Jazz, conversation, drugs and booze. A comedy/drama about their crazed and inspired relationship and the birth of the Beat Generation.

#### **CENTRAL OTAGO MAN**

**Justin Eade** (4w 5m)

The ravages of political correctness have left Tryfen Gribilco entirely untouched in his native Otago environment and he has successfully managed to remain completely unreconstructed. However his encounters with a range of worldly wise travellers challenge him to take a journey of discovery.

#### **CUTS BOTH WAYS**

**Peter Griffin** (1w 4m)

When Sarah walks into Monte's jaded "gents-only" barbershop looking for a number 2 buzz-cut, it becomes ground zero in a battle of the sexes, of youth versus wisdom, of the old versus the new. No one is left unscathed in this cutting social commentary inspired by true events.

#### **SELF DEFENCE**

**Denis Edwards** (1w 1m)

This bittersweet play follows the ebb and flow of power in a relationship. It is set in a downmarket boxing gym, where the only make up in the place is the Vasoline on the boxer's eyebrows. One morning Sally arrives wanting to learn boxing for self defence. Something is wrong - she doesn't look right for this place - it's also clear she has an agenda of her own.

#### **THE WIFE WHO SPOKE JAPANESE IN HER SLEEP**

**Vivienne Plumb** (3w 3m)

A housewife with ordinary quarter-acre dreams one night inexplicably begins speaking Japanese in her sleep. Immediately the wheels are set in motion for her transformation from suburban housewife into sleep-talking media megastar.

#### **AUNT DAISY**

**Peter Hawes** (7w 3m)

NZ during the birth of broadcasting 1910 to 1960. A wildly uplifting musical about a woman who became a legend in her own lifetime. This Downstage commissioned play, with music composed by the Six Volts, was a premiere hit. Larger chorus possible.

#### **WHEELER'S LUCK**

**Nigel Collins, Toby Leach, Damon Andrews** (2m – 50+characters)

Local landowner Nora Cox dies, leaving her prime coastal property to the people of the small town of Bell End. This gift leads to a profusion of hilarious tensions and rivalries as the colourful townspeople battle over how to best handle her gift.

#### **FLAGONS AND FOXTROTS**

**Alison Quigan & Ross Gumbley** (4m 3w)

Newbury Hall, 5kms out of Palmy, 1965 is the setting for the Jenkins family story and a lot more. A glimpse of life before pubs, techno and dance raves – a very popular romantic comedy.

#### **GREAT EXPECTATIONS**

**Dean Parker** (6+w 6+m up to 20 cast)

An adaptation of the Charles Dickens classic.

#### **KNOT A PROBLEM**

**Malcolm Murray** (1m)

An ingenious one man play exploring relationships, life and the meaning of everything, illustrated with an extraordinarily imaginative series of knots, all tied onstage.

## What's On May/June/July 2011

Titirangi Theatre	<i>Terra Nova</i> by Ted Tally	June 7 - 18
Howick Little Theatre	<i>Ice Glen</i> by Jan Saussey	May 7 - 28
	<i>Some Girls</i> by Neil LaBute	July 9 - 30
Rotorua Little Theatre	<i>Four Flat Whites in Italy</i> by Roger Hall	July 15 - 30
Performing Arts Tauramanui	<i>A Mixed Platter - 2 one acts &amp; G&amp;S's Trial by Jury</i>	May 18 - 22
Detour Theatre Tauranga	<i>Fawlty Towers</i> by John Cleese & Connie Booth	May 25 - June 11
On-Stage Te Kuiti	<i>Peter Panto</i> by Peter Webster	July 8 - 15
Napier Repertory	<i>Trick of the Light</i> by Ken Duncum	May 26 - June 3
Theatre Hawkes Bay	<i>West Side Story</i> by Sondheim/Bernstein/Laurents	July 7 - 16
Hawera Repertory Society	<i>Twelve Angry Men</i> by Reginald Rose	July
Feilding Little Theatre	<i>Players The Memory of Water</i> by Shelagh Stevenson	May 6 - 21
Mana Little Theatre	<i>A Christmas Carol</i> by David McGillivray & Walter Zerlin	June 22 - July 2
Porirua Little Theatre	<i>Stiff</i> by April Phillips	June 23 - July 9
	<i>Jack and the Beanstalk</i> by Amanda Stone	July 26 - 29
Khandallah Arts Theatre	<i>A Month of Sundays</i> by Bob Larbey	May 5 - 14
Stagecraft Theatre	<i>Foreskin's Lament</i> by Greg McGee	May 18 - 28
	<i>The Rise and Fall of Little Voice</i> by Jim Cartwright	July 6 - 16
Wellington Repertory	<i>Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead</i> by Tom Stoppard	June 4 - 18
Hutt Repertory Theatre	<i>Are You Being Served?</i> by Jeremy Lloyd & David Croft	June 22 - July 2
Wainuiomata Little Theatre	<i>West End Girl</i> by Mikayla Paterson	July 28 - 31
Butterfly Creek Theatre Troupe	<i>Eastbourne, Oleanna</i> by David Mamet	June 23 - July 2
Heretaunga Players	<i>Outside Edge</i> by Richard Harris	May 18 - 28
Elmwood Players	<i>Agnes of God</i> by John Pielmeier	June 2 - 11
SC Drama League Little Theatre	<i>Harem Scarem @ Theatre Restaurant</i>	June 16 - 25
	<i>Situation Comedy</i> by Johnnie Mortimer & Brian Cooke @ Playhouse	May 13 - 21
Clyde Theatre Group	<i>A Taste for Murder</i> by Angela Lanyon	May 14 - 20

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 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 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 Oriana Crescent, Tauranga 3110

[www.plays.co.nz](http://www.plays.co.nz)

## Workshops after the SGM

*Contributed by Michelle Hall of Gisborne Unity Theatre*

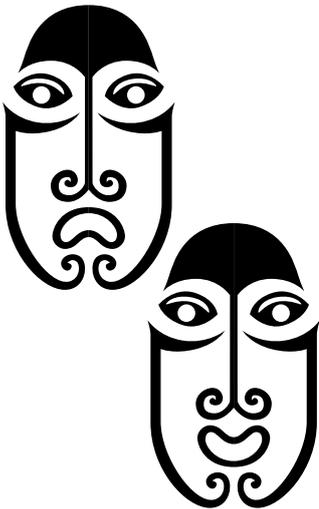
Dave and I both had a fabulous time attending the workshops offered after the recent SGM.

D'Arcy Smith, from Toi Whakaari the New Zealand Drama School, ran a connecting text workshop that covered aspects of delivering lines to the audience to convey meaning and develop characterization. Through poetry and Shakespeare we looked at word meanings and linking physical actions to them. The concept of runs and tension were played with and practical techniques for developing tension on stage were practised.

Directing 101 offered practical advice to budding

directors. Ewen Coleman, NZ Theatre Federation's president, took participants through script analysis and how to structure rehearsals. By breaking scripts up into manageable units actors can develop a sense of the different energy levels in the play. This is a powerful way for directors to get the most out of actors. Participants also looked at how to choose plays and research them to develop performances to the intention of the author.

Both courses added to our current knowledge and created contacts in the Theatre Federation organization and we strongly advise anyone interested in theatre to attend future workshops.



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