

THEATRICAL

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



More details about our weekend in Nelson on page 5

President's Column

Dear Members,

Festival time is here again and it is very pleasing to report that there will be 37 presentations performed over the next six weeks, the largest number for many years.. It is particularly pleasing to see 9 entries in Invercargill and 9 also in Christchurch. We welcome the Bay of Plenty Festival of Community Theatre with 4 presentations. Let's hope this generates further interest for another Festival there next year. See details page 4-5.

Read about the National Final weekend in sunny Nelson 5/6 August on page 5. The AGM will be the first under the new constitution with officers and executive of NZTF elected from member groups and where proxy votes will be allowed. I hope that all members (groups, schools, individuals and Life Members) have given consideration to the nominations with the possibility of nominating someone from their area and if unable to attend the AGM they will give their proxy vote to another member who is attending.

The 7 District Festivals, 3 Regional Finals and the National Final would not be possible without the support of groups assisting with the organising of these Festivals and the individuals within these groups who put in many hours work running them, all voluntarily. I would like to give a great big heartfelt thanks to these people as without their time and effort Festivals would not be possible and teams would not experience the fun and excitement of participating in a Festival.

But Festivals are not all the Executive of NZTF has been concerning itself with of late. Following our library's sad closure we have been working with Playmarket to ensure that any of their client based scripts that weren't in their online catalogue now are. Hard copies of scripts from our Library that weren't clients of Playmarket are being held by them in the May Ives Collection and a catalogue of these will be on NZTF's web site. And work is progressing on updating our web site. Plans are exciting and innovative and it is hoped to be able to launch the new website at the AGM.

To all the teams participating in the various rounds of this year's Festival of Community Theatre may I wish you all well and may you all get out of the Festival as much as you put in.

Ewen D Coleman
National President



New Members

We welcome the following new members

Groups:

Kaiapoi High School
Katikati Theatre Inc
Limelight Theatre Company, Carterton
Marlborough Girls College
Tolaga Bay Area School
Waihi Drama Society

Individual:

Sherilyn Hellier, Oamaru

And a note to other members - HAVE YOU PAID YOUR SUB?
Invoices (\$100 for groups and \$40 for individuals) were sent out with the April Backchat.

Whether you pay by cheque or direct credit please take time to fill out the form ensuring legibility. Fill in all the fields as we want our records up to date and post it to PO.Box 329 Palmerston North 4441 straight away.
Thanks.

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Te Puke Repertory Society Profile

Material supplied by Pam Chapman

Te Puke Repertory has been a very active and successful theatre group in Te Puke since 1952.

For many years meetings and rehearsals were conducted in private homes waiting for opening night at the Memorial Hall or High School Hall preceded by a great rush to build a set just a day or two beforehand.

In 1968 Te Puke High School Principal and enthusiastic member Lionel Litt, decided that a surplus classroom at the primary school should be donated to the local theatre group and he had it transported to his school grounds. The building called Litt Park Theatre is owned by the High School with Rep as long-term leaseholders and it has served our theatre ever since.

We have always set a high standard of production. We hold workshops with top facilitators such as Miranda Harcourt. We have held Directors' workshops and have participated in many area festivals in the past. A one act play is a great starting point for a novice director or for an experienced director who wants to try something different.

Our next production is *Little Red Riding Hood* in July. An enthusiastic all age cast of nearly 30 members is having fun bringing the story to life.



Entertaining our community with high quality performances is our first priority but making everyone comfortable is also very important. We have recently installed insulation in the ceiling, purchased new heaters and our next project is to acquire more comfortable seating.

Litt Park Theatre is like Te Puke, small but with heart – it has character and a comment often heard is 'we love the atmosphere'.

You are very welcome to visit us any time.

Paeroa Little Theatre Profile

Material supplied by Leanne Smith

The Paeroa Little Theatre was inaugurated in 1945, so like the "Lemon & Paeroa" drink that made this rural town famous, we have been around 'since ages ago'. Back in those days the theatre was an amalgamation of all theatrical pursuits from magic shows, music, contortionists, vaudeville, singing and dancing as well as acting.

Membership was strong up to the nineties and our theatre building was purchased and built in 1991. Unfortunately since 1994 our numbers have decreased and today it is much quieter — but with just as much enthusiasm. Our small band of players and committee members endeavour to produce one play a year.

Last November we produced a local panto, *The Pirate that Jumped* an interactive show for ages 8 years and under, that was enjoyed immensely by 580 local children.



We keep our regular audience happy by sprinkling a few traveling theatre shows and readings throughout the year, as well running very popular silent movie nights – we have a talented local pianist who plays the original score, along with sound effects from the 1920's.

This year we are working on a production of *The Odd Couple* (women's version) and are scheduling a silent movie for the children, to offer them a totally new experience without the technology of today.

Entries in Festival of Community Theatre 2011

OTAGO / SOUTHLAND DISTRICT

Swagga Sistaz:

Kick Ya Swag by Ana Notoa and Lesae Tagamoa.
Dir. Pauline Smith. A contemporary Pacific Island comedy.

Southland Boys' High School (Pegasus):

I Read The News Today by Willy Russell.
Dir. Gussie Johnson. Black Comedy.

Columba College:

The Rosenberg Sisters by Michelanne Forster.
Dir. Erina Caradus. Drama.

Invercargill Repertory Society:

If I Said You Have A Heavenly Body by Andre Surridge.
Dir. Aisha Williams. Comedy.

Invercargill Repertory — Lizzie's Group:

Mourning Calls by Troy Shearer.
Dir. Lizzie Dawson. Comedy.

Invercargill Repertory: A Talk in the Park by Alan Ayckbourn.

Dir. Gussie Johnson. Comedy.

Invercargill Intermediate Repertory:

Bonds by Allan Mackay. Dir. Alex Shaw.

Invercargill Intermediate Repertory:

In the Blood by Helen Wyngard. Dir. Lindsay Rodmell.

Invercargill Intermediate Repertory:

All My Love Paul by Allan Mackay Dir. Charlotte Shaw

CANTERBURY / WEST COAST DISTRICT

Kaiapoi High School:

Othello by Shakespeare.
Dir. Brent Morrison and Rebecca Swanson. Drama.

Pierrot Theatre:

Jigsaw by Bruce Goodman. Dir Dinie Bevers. Drama.

Pierrot Theatre:

Ritual For Dolls by George MacEwan Green.
Dir. Dinie Bevers. Drama.

Lincoln High School:

A Rose So Red by Samantha Ryder (Dir). Drama.

Lincoln High School:

Math for Actors by Emily C A Snyder.
Dir. Alicia Wichman. Comedy.

Lincoln High School:

Chook Chook by Fiona Farrell.
Dir. Kathryn Amyes. Comedy/Drama.

St Bede's College:

Twelfth Night by William Shakespeare.
Dir. Ruth Sullivan. Comedy.

Elmwood Players:

Dead Man Talking by Deborah Makarios.
Dir. Colin McKinney and Aimee Borlase. Comedy.

Elmwood Players:

Horst Buchholz and Other Stories by Matthew Wilkien.
Dir. Maria-Jane Scannell. Comedy.

TOP OF THE SOUTH DISTRICT

Marlborough Repertory and Marlborough Girls' College:

Bar and Ger by Geraldine Aron.
Dir. Mariette Dodd. Poem/Play.

Dramatix Theatre Development Trust:

Cod of War by Scott Frater (Dir). Comedy.

Dramatix Theatre Development Trust:

White Noise by TJ Ramsay (Dir). Thriller.

Dramatix Theatre Development Trust:

Resident Evil by TJ Ramsay (Dir). Play.

Dramatix Theatre Development Trust:

Nylons and Knicker Elastic by TJ Ramsay (Dir). Play.

Dramatix Theatre Development Trust:

The Essence of Grey by Scott Frater (Dir). Drama.

WELLINGTON DISTRICT

Khandallah Arts Theatre:

Night Bird by Clare Kelso.
Dir. Peter Clemerson. Drama.

MANAWATU DISTRICT

Feilding High School:

Adapt devised by Karla Crofts (Dir) & Yr 13.
Drama/Physical Theatre.

Wanganui High School

Cow by Jo Randerson. Dir. Catherine Richardson.

HAWKE'S BAY DISTRICT

Keirunga Homestead Theatre – The Drama Workshop:

Ivy Shambitt and the Sound Machine by Daniel Evans.
Dir. Juliet Cottrell. Drama.

Pahiatua Repertory Society:

Me and My Friend by Gilliam Plowman.
Dir. Peter Lea. Drama.

Napier Repertory Players:

Andrea Karras by David Moore (Dir). Drama.

Napier Repertory Players:

Shadow Self by Andre Surridge. Dir. Ian Claridge. Drama.

Napier Repertory Players:

Living Work of Art by Philip Bentley. Dir. Ian Claridge. Drama.

Napier Repertory Players:

Thistle Blossoms by Roseanna Beth Whitlow.
Dir. Anne Corney. Drama.

BAY OF PLENTY DISTRICT

Tolaga Bay Area School and Kuranui:

Henry VIII by Shakespeare. Dir. Julie Radice. Drama.

Kawerau College Drama Group:

The Least Offensive Play in the Whole Darn World by Jonathan Rand. Dir. Morehu Solomon. Drama.

Theatre Whakatane:

Fixation by Alan Williamson (Dir). Kitchen Sink Drama.

Theatre Whakatane:

Welfare by Alan Williamson. Dir. Morehu Solomon. Drama.

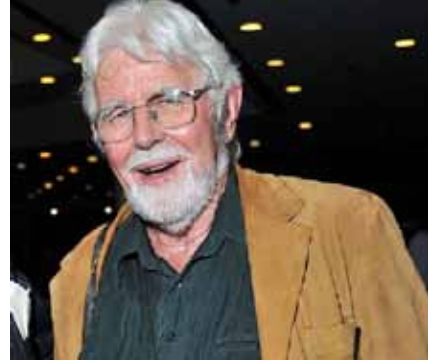
Regional Adjudicators



Denise Walsh adjudicates the North Island Regional 23/24 July at Theatre Hawkes Bay in Hastings.

Denise writes:

“Adjudicators are strange creatures — love them or hate them — it does add to the richness of our theatre practicing. I know how vulnerable you all feel as I’ve been on the receiving end from most of our adjudicators and even when I didn’t always agree with them whole heartedly I always (especially on reflection) learnt things and lifted my game. I hope I can add something to your experience. Besides adjudicating in New Zealand I have experience at three Japanese Festivals and Norfolk Island which means I have stepped out of my comfort zone. Remember, I come with an open mind, I want to see the best in your work and I trust I will be supportive to all of you. You are special because you are willing to put yourself out there away from the security of your home crowds. I look forward to sharing with you.”



Lindsay Nash adjudicates the South Island Regionals: Te Anau’s Fiordland Events Centre 15/16 July and The Playhouse in Mapua, Nelson 22/23 July.

Lindsay tells us that he has acted directed, examined, tutored and adjudicated widely from Kaitia to Invercargill.

“I remember being in *An Evening at Nero’s* a one acter for the Auckland British Drama League Festival in about 1952, with Max Cryer as Nero and me as Seneca. I don’t think we shone”. But he has directed several award-winning plays since, including taking Paul Zindel’s *Man-in-the-moon Marigolds* to the 1987 Theatre Federation National Final. Formerly head of English at Lynfield College. he now teaches speech and drama from his Titirangi studio, is an examiner for the New Zealand Speech Board, and is an accredited adjudicator for ANZDA. Lindsay says he’s looking forward to seeing the energy and imagination shown by directors, casts and crews in the Regionals. Winning is important, but even more important is sharing in a creative community theatrical experience and letting enjoyment spill out to the audience.

National Final in Nelson 5/6 August

The registration form will be ready at the beginning of July but plans are in place. We will be hosted at the Theatre Royal 78 Rutherford St; performances will start at 7pm both nights with a free supper on Saturday. The AGM is timed for 10am on Saturday and after lunch at 1pm there will be a choice of 4 workshops. Topics cover Developing Character in Playwriting with Elizabeth O’Connor, the judge of the Olga E. Playwriting Competition, Lisa Norris on Body in Space-theatre technique and improvisation, Grant Ellis on Special Effects and a final one on the Voice.

Make your travel plans now!

Regionals 2012

We’re looking for groups to host North and South Island Regionals next year.
Can you make an offer at this year’s AGM?
National Finals will be organised in the Hawke’s Bay.

**NEW ZEALAND PLAYWRIGHTS
PLAYMARKET.ORG.NZ
AGENT. ADVISOR. BOOKSHOP**

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 with your queries.

A LOVE LIKE OURS

Joe Musaphia 3m 3w

Madeline is dead but at her funeral around her coffin all sorts of secrets come unraveled as her lovers and beloved gather to send her off. A very funny comedy that suggests that love like a book should never just be judged by its cover.

BADJELLY THE WITCH

Alannah O'Sullivan 4w 4m

A lively adaptation of Spike Milligan's popular children's story, now with great new music.

TELLING STORIES

Michelanne Forster 3w 5m

The story of a young Jewish woman's affair with Mikhaly Kertesz (aka Michael Curtiz) that all too quickly becomes a disaster. Michael relates his mother's slide down the razor blade of life with wry Jewish humour and compassion. In turn sentimental, improbable and funny, this play reveals a true and little known aspect of iconic Hollywood and its strange connection to New Zealand.

BACKWARDS IN HIGH HEELS

Stuart Hoar 2w 2m

To rekindle their fading passion a couple turn to dance. A mystery woman introduces them to the fascinating world of tango, which has a surprising effect on their comfortable lives. The tango – 'Sexy and syncopated, paired, promiscuous and predatory...'

FATHER FAMILIAR

Branwen Millar 1w 1m

Sam is a piano teacher and lover of culture. She never made it professionally as a pianist. Roy is her father, a cosmetic surgeon and a lover of women. Yet to make it professionally as a father. A thoughtful and moving exploration of a complex relationship, over twenty years.

FAT CHANCE

Ellie Smith 6w

Two teams compete in the Wellington annual women's triathlon. The Fit Femme's trim, tight physiques belie the chaotic lives of these uptight women. The Raging Hormones are the epitome of "fat and happy". An energetic show, with song and dance and a lot of mishaps on the way to the finish line. Most of all, it is a comedy about friendship.

EROS

Caroline Lark 3w 3m

Natalie discovers that her friends Julia and Reuben have decided to divorce. Hoping to save their marriage, she reveals that she's involved in polyamorous relationships. She is just responding to a trio's ad for a fourth member.

CONFESSIONS OF A CHOCACHOLIC

Geraldine Brophy

Karen is a self-confessed chocoholic. She can't get enough of its delicious, rich, velvety, sumptuous pleasure. This luscious play by highly acclaimed New Zealand actress and playwright Geraldine Brophy plumbs not only the depths of 'Nana's magic chocolate mud pudding', but also the pain and grief of lost love.

THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR AVENUE

Geraldine Brophy 4w 6m

Loosely based on Shakespeare's *Merry Wives of Windsor*. Its chief concerns - the poaching of wildlife, both animal and human, and political manoeuvring, in order to lose or gain reputations - are an attempt to see in a modern context how far we haven't come. The play is set in the present, in the home of the American Ambassador in Wellington.

SERIAL KILLERS

James Griffin 4w 3m

The storyliners and writers of popular soap opera, Heart of Hearts, find themselves in a desperate situation when one of their characters starts creating his own plot twists. The writers of the TV hospital soap Heart of Hearts are under pressure from falling ratings and vent their frustration by 'killing off' a bad actor. But this is only the beginning...

THE VIAGRA MONOLOGUES

Geraldine Brophy 3m

What right does a woman have to depict men and their sexuality in all its vulnerable glory? You decide. Geraldine Brophy's script traverses territory from the tragic to the sublime.

WAR HERO

Michael Galvin 5m

In 1916 Archibald Baxter refused to be drafted in to the NZ Expeditionary Force fighting The Great War in Europe. For the next eighteen months he was tortured. This tells the story of that time, using as its primary source Baxter's own remarkable book on his ordeal: *We Will Not Cease*.

WELL HUNG

Robert Lord 1w 4m

A farce set in a small country town, where the police are investigating a murder – recently revived very successfully for a season at Auckland Theatre Company.

THE BIRTHDAY BOY

Carl Nixon 3w 2m

A hit comedy, *The Birthday Boy* has been described as a contemporary kiwi comedy of modern manners, following two couples and the life choices they make over 25 years. What happens to friendships when life takes the friends in completely different directions?

What's On June/July/August 2011

Titirangi Theatre	<i>Terra Nova</i> by Ted Tally	June 7–18
Howick Little Theatre	<i>Some Girl(s)</i> by Neil LaBute	July 9–30
Hunua Theatre Club	<i>My Husband's Nuts</i> by Devon Williamson	August 4–13
Waihi Drama Society	Pre-audition gathering for <i>Oklahoma</i>	June 26 @ 1:30pm
Paeroa Little Theatre	<i>Sherlock Jr</i> , a silent movie. Brett Lowe on piano <i>Big Bang Puppet Show</i>	July 1 @ 7:30pm July 9 x 2
Hamilton Playbox	<i>It's My Party (and I'll Die if I Want To)</i> by Elizabeth Coleman	August 6–20
Katikati Theatre	<i>Playing With Your Food</i> Dinner Theatre	July 7,14, 21, 28
Tauranga Repertory	<i>Four Flat Whites in Italy</i> by Roger Hall <i>Some Girl(s)</i> by Neil LaBute	June 1–18 Aug 17–Sept 3
Te Puke Repertory Society	<i>Little Red Riding Hood</i> by Tina & Robert Burbidge	July 20–30
Rotorua Little Theatre	<i>Four Flat Whites in Italy</i> by Roger Hall	July 15–30
On-Stage Te Kuiti	<i>Peter Panto</i> by Peter Webster	July 9–15
Theatre Hawkes Bay	<i>West Side Story</i> by Sondheim/Bernstein/Laurents	July 7–16
Greytown Little Theatre	<i>Something Old Something New and a Little Bit of Luck Too</i> Musical	July 27–Aug 6
New Pymouth Repertory Theatre	<i>My Boy Jack</i>	June 6–18
New Plymouth Little Theatre	<i>Wait Until Dark</i>	July 21–30
Inglewood Dramatic Society	Audition <i>Four Flat Whites in Italy</i> by Roger Hall	June 11 @ 1:00pm
Hawera Repertory Society	One Acts: <i>Mary Stuart</i> by John Drinkwater, <i>One Careful Owner</i> by H. Connolly	August 2–6
Feilding High School	<i>Verbatim</i> by Miranda Harcourt & William Brandt and <i>That Time That Place</i> by Ken Mizusawa <i>Antigone</i> by Sophocles	June 29–30 July 5–6
Foxton Little Theatre	<i>If The Shoe Fits</i> by Matt Thompson, Matt Chiorini & Dan Vermette	August 5–20
Levin Little Theatre	<i>Inspector Drake and the Black Widow</i> by David Tristram	June 23–July 9
Kapiti Playhouse	<i>Black Comedy</i> by Peter Schaffer	July 28–Aug 6
Mana Little Theatre	<i>A Christmas Carol</i> by David McGillivray & Walter Zerlin Audition <i>Child of the Sun</i> by Andre Surridge	June 22–July 2 June 26 @ 7:30pm
Porirua Little Theatre	<i>Stiff</i> by April Phillips <i>Jack and the Beanstalk</i> by Amanda Stone	June 23–July 9 July 26–29
New Players Theatre	<i>Company Deckchairs</i> by Jean McConnell	July 21–30
Khandallah Arts Theatre	<i>Intruders</i> evening of short plays	June 17 & 18
Stagecraft Theatre	<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 Audition <i>The Velveteen Rabbit</i> by Scott Davidson	June 22–July 2 July 10 @ 1:00pm
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
Pierrot Theatre, Rangiora	One Acts: <i>Jigsaw</i> by Bruce Goodman and <i>Ritual for Dolls</i> by George MacEwan Green	June 12–13
Elmwood Players	<i>Agnes of God</i> by John Pielmeier <i>3 piece SWEET!</i> one acts	June 2–11 June 22–25
Christ's College	<i>The Book of Fame</i> by Carl Nixon	June 28–30
SC Drama League Little Theatre	<i>Butterflies are Free</i> by Leonard Gershe <i>Harem Scarem</i> by Jane Rothnic	August 5–13 June 16–25
South Otago Theatrical Society, Balclutha	<i>The Wizard of Oz</i> by L. Frank Baum	August 3–6

Do you send your newsletters by email? Please include Backchat editor margaretr@vodafone.co.nz

Congratulations

NZTF Life Member, Bill Sheat OBE, has been made a Honorary Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit (CNZM, one step away from a Knighthood) for services to the arts. We congratulate him! Congratulations too to Chilton St James, Wellington, for winning our award at the Sheilah Winn Shakespeare Festival for Innovative Interpretation of a student directed excerpt. They performed a scene from Cymbeline. The girls were interviewed by Lyn Freeman on national radio and spoke proudly of receiving our shield.

ETNZ Conference

Entertainment Technology NZ

This organisation recognises and supports the technicians, craft persons and designers working in the entertainment industry in New Zealand. Their conference is 19 – 21 June at the Pacific Events Centre, Manukau.

www.etnz.org

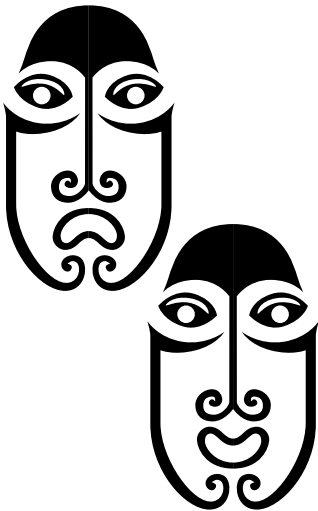
National NZTF Treasurer Needed

Our treasured Treasurer, Sharon is moving on and we need a replacement. Do you know of anyone who would like to get involved and be appreciated for doing a very worthwhile job? It doesn't matter where the treasurer lives but a background in accounting is essential. Nominations for the position are sort before 1 July. Sharon has kindly sent in a job description:

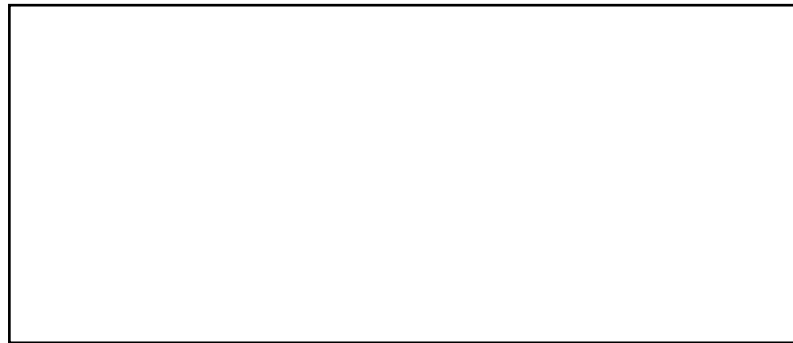
Objective: To maintain financial records and ensure the executive committee is informed of the financial position and membership status.

Key Tasks:

- Clear the mailbox (weekly)
- Bank funds received through mail (primarily memberships April – June approximately 90 cheques per year)
- Monitor cash balances and investments
- Participate in meetings to inform and advise
- Prepare accounts for meetings (approx quarterly)
- Present audited annual accounts to AGM
- Payments (approximately 50 cheques per year)



Postage
Stamp



Editor: Margaret Robertson
Designer: Matt Norrish

Deadline for next issue of Backchat
August 7th 2011

Send NZTF communications to
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or PO Box 329 Palmerston North 4440