

Backchat



October 2013 Volume 36 Issue 5



AUDITIONS

Calendar Girls

Based on the Miramax motion picture

Sunday 13 October at 7.30pm

Repertory House, Collins Street, Hawera

6 main female roles, 4 smaller female roles
plus 4 males (all aged between 20 and 70)

Character descriptions and information on the 'nude'
Calendar photoshoot aspect of the play can be found on
our website www.hawerarep.org



Performances 15-22 February 2014

For audition material email
hawerarepitory@gmail.com
or contact the Director
Samantha Turner 027 311 7334

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The phenomenon that is Calendar Girls: see What's On column for productions taking place over the next two months. According to our records this show has already been seen at Theatre Hawke's Bay, Limelight Theatre, Masterton, Wellington Repertory and 16th Ave Theatre, Tauranga.



President



Another **TheatreFest** and AGM has come and gone – with it comes new award winners and new members on the Executive.

A big thank you to Ewen Coleman, Immediate-Past President, who has dedicated many years to Theatre in New Zealand.

The in-coming Executive is charged with continuing to refresh **Theatre New Zealand** to make it a vital leader, a proactive educator, a supportive parent body.

I sometimes feel those who involve themselves in theatre in this country, are still like pioneers. Even though we have been practising our craft here for over a century in some form or other, it frequently seems to be a struggle. Whether it be audience attendance, mounting the production, casting it adequately – it still takes a team. And that team isn't always readily available. But on we go, inciting, cajoling, inspiring and teaching.

As I travel around as a director and tutor, I am frequently amazed at the fortitude and sheer chutzpah of some communities who won't let go of their vision. Not just in mounting the immediate production, but also in creating a future for the next generation of theatre practitioners.

Theatre New Zealand was founded on these very principles. To foster Community Theatre in Aotearoa. Whether it be new playwrights, directors, actors or designers. We are here to support YOU – as an individual, or as a group.

So remember that practical workshops, mentoring, or support in any way is just an email away. We can give advice, lead you to the right resource, provide tutors, and help fund those training enterprises that you need support with. If something isn't working – try something new. Innovation is the foundation this country was built on.

Bryan Aitken
National President

43rd Annual General Meeting

Elected for 2013/14

President: Bryan Aitken

VP:

Treasurer:

Secretary: Margaret Robertson

National Executive: Steven Arnold (Auckland) Lorna Ashton (Hamilton), Ewen Coleman (Wellington), Anne Corney (Napier), Jade Gillies (Invercargill), Anne McAuley (Blenheim), Garry Thomas (Christchurch)

There is a gap temporarily for Vice President and for Treasurer. Our treasurer, Gregg Perkins, who has served us so well over the last 3 years did not seek reelection and would like to hand over the job before Christmas. Can you help find someone with accounting skills to keep the books in order? THIS IS URGENT. Please contact us by emailing:

info@theatrenewzealand.co.nz

We hope to fill the VP position from within the ranks of the National Executive.

Ewen spoke to four points in his final Annual Report. He encouraged members to embrace Theatre New Zealand, our new name, grow the membership, set up area-wide President Forums where there is no district committee structure and take the initiative in organising regional workshops as funding is available.

At the end of the AGM, Meritorious Service Awards were announced and Ewen Coleman outgoing National President, nominated by Wellington District, was amongst the recipients. His badge and certificate were presented to acclamation. The complete list will be published in the December Backchat.

Rosemary Collier followed, speaking briefly about archiving. She sold copies of the book *Caring for your Theatre Archives* \$15. This is available from Ewen edcoleman@xtra.co.nz

Then Jonathon Hendry Senior Acting Tutor at Toi Whakaari took us on a personal journey of his life in theatre. This traced the changes that have evolved over the last three decades to the next 'big thing' which is to incorporate or accommodate the digital age in some way.

National Conference & TheatreFest 14

Plans are made for our next gathering and for a second year running Wellington District will be our host. It will again be held at Te Whaea, Newtown, Wellington. Note the dates - the weekend of **12/13 September 2014**. Look out for a key note speaker after the AGM and exciting workshops in the afternoon.

The Regionals dates in both islands will be **August 15/16 and 22/23**.

Local Festivals can take place early August or late July. Will your group organise one?

Many thanks to this year's Wellington team for organising a successful weekend of theatre.

Wanganui Repertory Theatre

Every two years Whanganui holds a Literary Festival so, timed for the 2015 festival and centennial commemorations of World War One, Wanganui Repertory is calling for playwrights to tell Wanganui stories on stage.

Information and guidelines and inspiration from April Pearson aprilp@clear.net.nz

Profile



Garry Thomas

Garry (Gaz) Thomas is one of the new members of National Executive. He has been involved in the Christchurch theatre scene for some 25 years, directing a number of productions for various groups, such as Rangiora Players, Riccarton Players and Elmwood Players.

Currently Gaz is President of Elmwood Players and he also has his own small production group, A Little Box At The Top Of The Stairs, along with a weekly music programme, "Detox Man!ion" on Plains FM radio.

Previous productions Gaz has directed include the South Island premiere of the award winning NZ play *Katydid*, along with *Be My Baby*, *Veronica's Room*, *Summer Of The 17th Doll*, *Gasping*, *Extremities* and many others.

By day he works as a Senior Human Resources Advisor at CPIT - Christchurch Polytech.



Hilarious Comedies!

By Devon Williamson www.plays.co.nz



My Inlaws are Outlaws! - Latest Release!

Cast: 5 Female, 2 Male **Length:** Two Acts

Annie discovers her in-laws are outlaws... and her mother in-law has hired a mad group of assassins to kill her! How will Annie, a mild mannered Librarian, outwit the best of the Italian, Russian and Irish contract killers? This is outrageous; laugh out loud comedy at its best.

The Old People Are Revolting

Cast: 5 Female, 2 Male **Length:** Two Acts

An hilarious comedy about seniors seeking revenge! The residents of the Sunshine Retirement Village have had enough: they're revolting! Bursting with eccentric characters and crazy shenanigans the play is great fun to stage and a huge audience pleaser.

How To Train Your Husband

Cast: 5 Female, 2 Male **Length:** Two Acts

Three generations of the Smith family attempt to turn their men into fully trained members of the opposite sex. Nothing quite goes according to plan and the result is a hilarious comedy with plenty of unexpected twists and turns.

My Husbands Nuts

Cast: 3 Female, 2 Male

Length: Two Acts

Barbara's husband is missing on the family farm. When Jack finally returns he's convinced that he is a Japanese soldier holding out on an island after World War Two. Barbara's husband is nuts. The new vet and the local village idiot are charged with restoring Jack's sanity before the upcoming A & P Show.

Also available...

- ★ Menopause Made Me Do It!
- ★ Understanding Women

- ★ Crazy Ladies
- ★ Lost for Words

For perusal scripts and information
contact The Play Bureau

Phone: 03 455 9959 E Mail: play.bureau.nz@xtra.co.nz

TheatreFest 13

Congratulations to the Winners!

Winner of the **Book of Honour** for a second year in a row is **FAHS Feildling High School** with extracts from *Oedipus the King* by Sophocles directed by Karla Crofts. They also won the Bryan Aitken cup for **Best Youth Production**. There is no photo of the team of ten, including 2 musicians, with their trophies as the school ball called them back to Feilding the night of the awards.



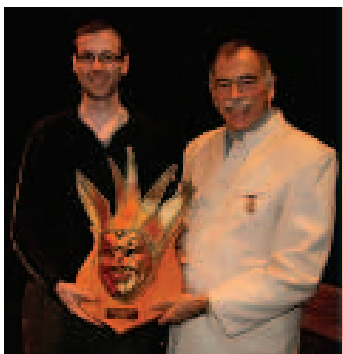
A scene from *Oedipus the King* (extracts) presented by FAHS Feilding High School



Ewen Coleman Award for Best Production of an Adult Play - Napier Repertory Players with *Cecily* by Gillian Plowman, directed by Anne Corney.



Denise Walsh Award for Best Production of a New Zealand Play - Marlborough Girl's College with *Cut* by Abby Jameson and Sydney Lehman, directed by Heather Jameson.



Theatre New Zealand Award for Best Actor Male won by **Sam Primrose** as Kenneth in *New Quixote* by Michael Frayn directed by Sarah Coursey for Elmwood Players.



Theatre New Zealand Award for Best Actor Female won by **Lee Stuart** 'Girl' and **Nerys Udy** 'Mind' in *Cut* by Abbey Jameson and Sydney Lehman directed by Heather Jameson for Marlborough Girls' College.

TheatreFest 13

Jannat Aitchison Memorial Awards for Distinctive Emerging Talent



Nanette Wright presented acting awards to **Eve Fuller**, Napier Repertory Players, the Dunedin Repertory Youth team of **Perry Goldsmith-Monk**, **Bene Stewart**, **Jordon Dixon**, and **Orion Carey-Clark**. FAHS Feilding High School student **Elliott Maddox** as Oedipus was also awarded.



Best Poster September '12 - '13 went to Clayton Foster designer of *Abigail's Party* by Mike Leigh for Wellington Repertory Theatre.



David Brockett Award for Backstage Achievement - Peter Hurley from Napier Repertory Players



The Olga E Harding New NZ Playwriting Award went to the Waiheke Playwrights Collective, a group of ten and Colin Beardon accepted the award on their behalf.

The Drama Development Trust Award for First Time Directing chosen at Regional level went to Sean Collier who directed *Leaving Tommy* by Mark Seaman for Napier Boys' High School



Charles Harter *One for the Road* holds the **Selecon Design/Technical Award** hook clamp from Stuart Mitchell of Philips Selecon as announced by Adjudicator Claire Marsh

On Saturday afternoon four successful workshops were held: participants in playwriting said that Dave Armstrong was brilliant, those in acting with Perry Piercy were inspired, singers with Jane Keller learnt how to 'make sense' of a song and there was lots of laughter at Allan Henry's physical workshop.

This month we bring you a selection of new and well-loved New Zealand plays.

If any of these plays interest you we can email you the script, FREE, unless otherwise noted. If you have any particular requirements we can also make other suggestions - please contact clientpromotion@playmarket.org.nz with your queries.

MARY SCOTT: QUEEN OF THE BACKBLOCKS by Hannah McKie (16w 4m)

Mary Scott: Queen of the Backblocks brings back to the stage the vibrancy and enthusiasm of the plays, players and practitioners of NZ's One Act Play heyday from 1930 -1945. Mary Scott, Ngaio Marsh, and Nola Millar all challenge for the nation's top prize purse while a dramatic end no one expects waits just around the corner. **Winner of the 2013 Adam NZ Play Award for Best Play by a Woman Writer.**

TIGERS OF WRATH by Dean Parker (3w 1m)

Following Trish, Pauline and Oliver from a student trip to Beijing in the 70s to parliamentary intrigue in the 90s and finally to an Auckland pub in the 21st Century, *Tigers of Wrath* is an intriguing play about the strange twists of fate, hopes, dreams and relationships, and how one comes to terms with life.

THE BACH by Stephen Sinclair (2w 2m)

Michael and Simon are two middle-aged brothers meeting for the first time in years at their family bach in the Coromandel. They arrive to discover that the regional council has erected a public toilet right next door. Bruised by career disappointment, burned by relationship failure, battered by identity politics, the two brothers decide it's time to make a stand. **"Terrific entertainment ... intellectually daring ... darkly funny."** NZ Listener

MY INNER ORC by Allen O'Leary (2w 3m)

Karl arrives in Croydon for a *Lord of the Rings* convention with nothing but dreams of making it big and a 'she'll be right' attitude. An hilarious spoof set around the Peter Jackson movies and their indomitable fans.

MOTEL by April Phillips (4w 4m)

From the writer of the hit shows *STIFF*, and *Death & Taxes* comes *Motel*, a series of vignettes set in the same dingy motel room. Jenny needs the room to have sex with a stranger. Pearl and Harry need the room for peace. A travelling salesman who sees the world through rose tinted glasses is changed forever when he meets the motel manager. Annabel needs the room for a casual affair, but then she meets the housekeeper from Hell. **"We laughed-out-loud, we cried and at times we even gasped."** theatrescenec.co.nz [RESTRICTED AVAILABILITY IN 2014]

SCARLET HEELS by Rachel McAlpine (3-28w)

Twenty-six stories about sex and all its many hilarities and complications, and very amusing many are, too; but what gives them real quality is that each is about sex as it is experienced by women, and furthermore, several are about older women recalling their very surprising youthful adventures.

LEGLESS by Stephen Sinclair and Anthony McCarten (2w 7m)

When New Zealanders Don and Gay visit their relative, The Earl of Wedgecumbe, the classic country house murder mystery is turned on its head. There's English upper-class decadence, a legless corpse, talk of ghosts, DIY renovating and a barbeque.

WAY TO GO by Joe Musaphia (2w 4m)

A real estate agency's sales staff attend a conference and are confronted by a bed of red-hot coals. The idea is they walk on it barefooted as 'a team-building exercise.' They balk, management insists, they suffer. Another great comedy from Joe Musaphia.

TRUE by Stuart McKenzie (2w 2m)

Simon and Nicky are very much in love. When they spend time in the Marlborough Sounds with Nicky's old school friend Patricia and Patricia's father Alexander, the past begins to intrude on the present. A play about truth and lies, dreams and reality and the lies we tell each other and ourselves. **"Compelling... beautifully crafted... impressive"** The Dominion Post

THE BEANSTALKERS by Sarah Delahunty (Large Cast)

The reality television show *Wish Upon a Star* grants people – and possibly animals – their greatest wishes. To be a Prince, to kiss a Princess, to be rich or respected - or young again. Only when she meets a human-sized talking fish does the show's celebrity host, the Fairy Godmother, get a glimpse of life beyond this constant grasping for more. Ideal for young companies.

THE PROPHET by Hone Kouka (3w 3m)

Five teenage cousins have returned to their 'home' on the East coast for another cousin's unveiling. Over the next three days, they deal with the new roles they must accept as adults. With the backdrop of basketball, cool urban sounds and the beautiful East Coast of the North Island, *The Prophet* is moving, funny and definitely unforgettable.

CHERISH by Ken Duncum (2w 2m)

Who has the right to have children? Maeve and Jess are a couple and mothers to two daughters. Tom, a gay friend, is the father of both daughters and Jess is pregnant again to Tom - only this time, it has long been agreed, Tom and his partner William will raise the child on their own. However, Jess realises this time she can't give the baby away. **Winner of the 2003 Chapman Tripp Award for Outstanding New NZ Play.** Published by Victoria University Press and available from our Bookshop for \$25.00 RRP.

What's On in October and November

(Consult society websites on www.theatrenewzealand.co.nz/links for more details)

Otamatea Repertory	<i>The Scandalous Maungaturoto Licensing Affair</i> by Peter Flower	Oct 31 - Nov 3
Titirangi Theatre	<i>Who Wants to be 100</i> by Roger Hall	Nov 19 - 30
Ellerslie Theatrical Society	<i>The Dining Room</i> by A.R.Gurney	November 7 - 16
Papakura Theatre	<i>A Trip Across the Universe</i> music and lyrics of the Beatles	to October 5
Howick Little Theatre	<i>Kiwifruits</i> by Carl Nixon and Craig Cooper	November 9 - 30
Dolphin Theatre	<i>ONEHUNGA Memory of Water</i> by Shelagh Stephenson	to October 19
	<i>Calendar Girls</i> by Tim Firth	Nov 16 - Dec 7
Waihi Drama Society	<i>Radio Daze</i> variety show	November 13 - 23
Katikati Theatre	<i>Come into the Parlour</i> by Di Long/Francis Young/Julie Thomas	October 3 & 5
Hamiilton Playbox Theatre	<i>Social Climbers</i> by Roger Hall	October 11 - 26
DeTour Theatre	<i>TAURANGA Appointment with Death</i> by Agatha Christie	November 13 - 30
16th Avenue Theatre	<i>TAURANGA Are You Being Served</i> by Jeremy Lloyd/David Croft	Nov 27 - Dec 14
Theatre Whakatane	<i>Chicago</i> by Fred Ebb/Bob Fosse/ John Kander	Oct 25 - Nov 9
Rotorua Little Theatre	<i>Calendar Girls</i> by Tim Firth	November 8 - 23
Napier Repertory Players	<i>Last of the Summer Wine</i> by Roy Clarke	October 9 - 19
	AUDITION <i>The Great Gatsby</i> by Ken Duncum	Nov 9th @ 1pm
Theatre Hawkes Bay	<i>Dick Whittington and His Cat</i> Ben Crocker	Nov 28 - Dec 7
Pahiatua Repertory Soc	<i>'Allo 'Allo</i> by David Croft and Jeremy Lloyd	Nov 26 - Dec 7
Cue Theatre	INGLEWOOD <i>Murdered to Death</i> by Peter Gordon	Oct 16 - Nov 9
Hawera Repertory Theatre	AUDITION <i>Calendar Girls</i> by Tim Firth	Oct13 at 7.30pm
Wanganui Repertory Theatre	<i>A Christmas Carol</i> adapt. by Mark Rayner	Nov 29 - Dec 7
Butterfly Creek Theatre	EASTBOURNE <i>A Life in Theatre</i> by David Mamet	Nov 22 - 30
Heretaunga Players	<i>Posthorn Gallop</i> by Derek Benfield	November 20 - 30
Hutt Repertory Theatre	<i>Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs</i> Tom Kelly/Bill Fancoeur	to October 5
	<i>Forget-Me-Knot</i> by David Tristram	Nov 27 - Dec 7
Levin Little Theatre	<i>The Christmas That Almost Wasn't</i> Linda Buckley	Nov 21 - 30
Kapiti Playhouse	<i>Taking Off</i> by Roger Hall	November 20 - 30
Porirua Little Theatre	<i>Calendar Girls</i> by Tim Firth	Oct 25 - Nov 9
Khandallah Arts Theatre	<i>Entertaining Angels</i> by Richard Everett	October 10 - 19
Wellington Repertory	<i>Some Canterbury Tales</i> adapted by Ken Pickering	Nov 17 - Dec 7
Stagecraft Theatre	<i>Anne Boleyn</i> by Howard Brenton	November 6 - 16
Nelson Repertory	<i>Calendar Girls</i> by Tim Firth	November 22 - 30
Marlborough Repertory	<i>Calendar Girls</i> by Tim Firth	Nov 27 - Dec 7
Elmwood Players	<i>Well Hung</i> by Robert Lord	October 2 - 12
Riccarton Players	<i>Whistle Down the Wind</i> by Andrew Lloyd Webber	October 3 - 12
Top Dog Theatre	<i>Kvetch</i> by Steven Berkoff	October 16 - 26
SCDL	TIMARU <i>Granny Mac is Back</i> by Carol Angland	October 4 - 12
	<i>Robin Hood</i> by Roger Hall, Paul Jenden & MN Williams	Nov 21 - 30
South Otago Theatrical Soc	<i>Calendar Girls</i> by Tim Firth	November 13 - 23
Invercargill Repertory Society	<i>Social Climbers</i> by Roger Hall	November 16 - 23

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www.facebook.com/theatrenz

Welcome

A warm welcome to Dolphin Theatre of Onehunga www.dolphintheatre.org.nz

Established in 1962 they now have about 1000 members, they own their own theatre and separate rehearsal hall and mount six shows a year that run for three weeks each.

Earlier this year Dolphin Theatre was honoured to receive a special Merit Award at the 2013 New Zealand Fundraising Excellence Awards Dinner. They found themselves competing in a field of professional fundraisers - the winner of which, Auckland University raised over \$200m. Their project run by volunteers was to raise money to extensively renovate the main foyer, bar and toilet area as part of their 50th year celebration. One of the judges said "The strength of the Dolphin Theatre award was a true grass-roots fundraising appeal that, despite many setbacks and some adversity, succeeded and succeeded superbly".



Editor: Margaret Robertson

Designer: Jade Gillies

Deadline for December Backchat

November 13th 2013

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