



BACKCHAT

News from THEATRE NEW ZEALAND
Fostering Community Theatre in Aotearoa

October/November 2015, Vol. 38 Issue 5



National TheatreFest Winners of the Book of Honour

For *Bang Bang You're Dead* by William Matrosimone

A jubilant Wakatipu High School with their director, Kate Moetaua, lower right.

Presidents Message

TheatreFest has come and gone for another year and the celebration of theatre continues in all its forms. The spread of awards across the country was most gratifying and the number of New Zealand plays reinforced the investment by Theatre New Zealand in new playwrights, new players and directors. It was also great to see some seasoned practitioners at National Finals. We hope the South island will help celebrate this iconic event by attending the National Finals and Conference next year in Invercargill!

We also congratulate those who received long service awards from the National Executive. Their names will be published in the next Backchat.

The Christchurch Arts Festival 27 August - 20 September brought many extraordinary new works to our broken city, many staged in the Spiegelhaus, erected in a quad at The Arts Centre. They were short but sharp pieces of theatre with a lot of New Zealand content. Most were in the 60-75 minute time-slot and it reminded me of how succinct and apposite good writing can be. This set me to thinking about the emerging writers in our membership. Do your young and new playwrights need a workshop in structure and character or plot development? Along with all the other practical skills on offer - playwriting is an area where Theatre New Zealand can help you find a tutor. Get in touch through our website.

Bryan Aitken

National President

Theatre New Zealand

TheatreFest National Final and Conference Weekend

Congratulations and thank you to Lorna Ashton and her team at Hamilton Playbox Repertory Society for a successful weekend of theatre. Riverlea Theatre was an ideal venue as it has an intimate theatre, separate dressing rooms, a large foyer with table seating for meetings, dinners or workshops, a big studio space and a commercial kitchen.



Keynote speakers included Cathy Knowsley, the Health and Safety Act and Emma Fleetwood APRA. Devon Williamson, Detour Theatre, Tauranga presented workshops on script writing and acting. Congratulations and thank you too to all the teams who gave the audiences much to think about in their diverse presentations





Theatrefest Results 2015

Theatre New Zealand Book of Honour
Selecon Design/Technical Award for Best Technical
Production
and Bryan Aitken Award for Best Youth Production
All won by Wakatipu High School - **Bang Bang You're Dead**

Kate Moetaua, Director



Ewen Coleman Award
for Best Adult Production
Riccarton Players – **A Wee Problem**

Denise Walsh Award for
Best Production of a New Zealand Play
Bewilderbeest Inc - **Apocalypse Incoming**

Theatre New Zealand Award for
Best Actor Female
Nicole Domett,
Hamilton Playbox Society – **Earwigs**



Theatre New Zealand Award for Best Actor
Male, Colin Palmer Greytown Little Theatre –
Life Sentence

The Drama Development Trust Award for
Best New Director Award for first time Directing
Rita Ann Pennale-Cashmore,
Greytown Little Theatre – **Life Sentence**



Jannat Aitchison Memorial Award for Distinctive Emerging Talent



Thomas Koloi, Dargaville
Little Theatre – **Blind / Hope**



Victoria Boulton, Wakatipu High School
Bang Bang You're Dead

Ivan Siemonek, Bewilderbeest Inc – **Apocalypse Incoming**

Olga E Harding new NZ Playwriting Award
John ten Velde, Tokoroa Little Theatre –
Mum's Fate

David Brockett Award for Backstage
Achievement - Sue Miller
Wellington Repertory



Annual General Meeting

At the 45th Annual General Meeting Bryan Aitken was re-elected for his third year as President, Steven Arnold became Vice President, and Blair Kershaw will continue as Treasurer and Margaret Robertson as Secretary

The National Executive is confirmed as Lorna Ashton (Hamilton), Ewen Coleman (Wellington), Anne Corney (Napier), Phillie Holmes (Invercargill), Anne McAuley (Blenheim) and Mark Perry (Hamilton).

Amongst the apologies received was one from Barry Grant, Past President 1978 - 1980, who wrote the play **A Wee Problem**, winner of this year's Best Adult production. Forty years ago this play reached National Finals too and co-incidentally the Finals were in Hamilton. He was very sorry that he couldn't travel from Christchurch.

Votes of thanks were recorded to our Patron Ray Henwood ONZM and Honorary Auditor, Barry Meyers.

Those present at the AGM were asked if they had looked at Theatre New Zealand's new website and very few had. So what will you find there if you do look at it?



www.theatrenewzealand.co.nz

Our history and who's who, past and present

Everything you need to know about TheatreFest from how to enter to results and photos from the latest festival

What we do to serve our members and that includes Backchat, facilitation of workshops and recognition of service

Click on links to cognisant organisations like Playmarket, ANZDA etc.

Downloads of all our forms and a direct contact link with us.

Poster and Programme winners were announced by the designer who works for Seasons Magazine. Winners were Wellington Repertory's poster of **Carpe Jugulum** designed by Emily Haydon and Porirua Little Theatre's programme for **Voices from the Front** designed by Theresa Savory and Amanda Stone. Both groups were given \$100 Warehouse Stationery vouchers.

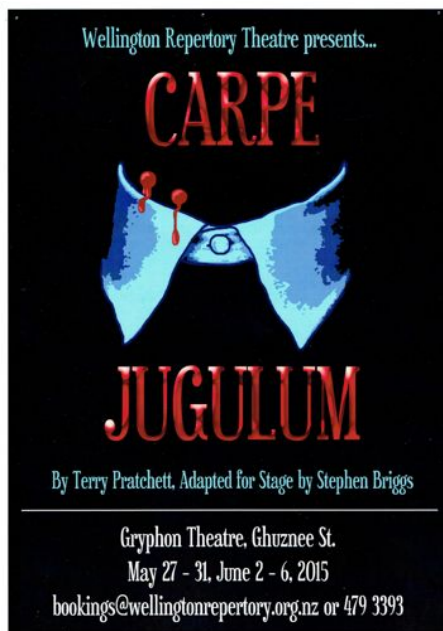
Carol, the judge, commented on what makes a good poster:

good visuals from a distance

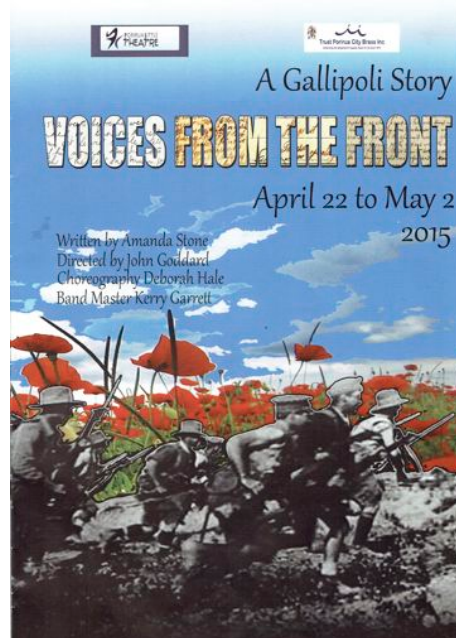
eye-catching text

relevant use of colour

simple, clear layout



Carpe Jugulum



Voices from the Front

Her choice of PLT's twelve-page full colour programme was because it had liberal use of cast and band photos with an appropriate Union Jack wash behind. It appealed to her as a souvenir, one that could be kept for a long time.



This month we bring you wide range of New Zealand plays, some drama, some comedy, some for adults and some for kids.

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.

A GOOD IDEA AT THE TIME by Roger Hall (1w 2m)

Two men win a competition to attend the World Cup as a married couple. A reality television programme that is being filmed of the lead up to the trip causes a great deal of unexpected tension. ONE ACT.

THEN COMES LOVE by James Griffin (1w 1m)

Love is a complicated business, particularly when you fall in love with someone you shouldn't. This smart two-hander comedy from the writer of *Outrageous Fortune* and *The Almighty Johnsons* follows Jane and John through a series of exchanges and a love affair that muses on why we do the things we do.

WAR HERO by Michael Galvin (5m)

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

SEED by Elisabeth Easther (4w 1m)

IVF isn't foolproof and IUDs aren't failsafe. iPhones come with ovulation apps and being married doesn't mean you have to breed. *Seed* follows four women as they try to get pregnant, stay pregnant or become un-pregnant – the dilemmas of modern reproduction. *Seed* is a drama that'll have you laughing till tears run down your face, and a comedy that'll make you cry. Winner of the 2014 ADAM NZ PLAY AWARD.

THE MERCY CLAUSE by Philip Braithwaite (1w 2m)

Tom is a young lawyer with a new client: a young man who killed his father. Was it a mercy killing? The details keep changing, and Tom is forced to constantly revise his opinion. Tom and his wife Rachel are having their own problems. The two bleed into one as the lives of all three become inextricably bound. Winner of the 2013 ADAM NZ PLAY AWARD.

LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD by David McPhail and Jon Gadsby (1-3w 2-5m)

The traditional fairy tale gets a makeover in this adult pantomime from the masters of NZ comedy.

THE LOLLY WITCH OF MUMULAND by Lauren Jackson and Lolo Fonua (4-5w 3-4m)

Two innocent children go on a journey to save their family, stumble across a house made of lollies and end up in the clutches of a hungry witch ... sound familiar? On this adventure they enlist the help of talking pigs, racing snails, magical fairies, and the hilarious Auntie Sila as they go head to head with an eccentric zumba-dancing witch. Will Haanz & Gorette sing and dance their way out of trouble or end up as the Lolly Witch's next sweet treat?

CAVE OF WINDS by Elspeth Sandys (1-5w 1-5m)

Crete. May 1941. The Germans have invaded. The defeated Allies are retreating. Two soldiers from the Maori Battalion - the badly wounded Lieutenant Somerset and Private Wiremu Kingi, having missed their chance at embarkation, are holed up in a cave in the mountains. What follows is a struggle for survival, the story of a friendship and a love story as Wiremu falls for Sofia, daughter of the local resistance leader.

REMAIN IN LIGHT by Stephen Sinclair (large cast)

One morning the sun refused to rise. And then the morning after that. And the morning after that. Perhaps it was tired of what it saw, day after day, down on the sinful earth. People were puzzled, then frightened, then panicked.

This is an account of events that occurred in a time out of mind before the records began, events that befell our distant ancestors. Or are they events that belong in the future, a prophesy of what awaits our children's children's children? One or the other; perhaps they are one and the same. Regardless of when, the sun has stopped shining and groups of surviving humans hunt for food, warmth and, above all, light. Great for youth companies.

SISTER ANZAC by Geoff Allen (4w 2m)

In 1915, from Kaitaia to Bluff, community groups made crafts, organised cake stalls, and donated goods to help rebuild and supply New Zealand's first hospital ship, *The Maheno*. thirteen nurses were handpicked from the best around the country. They were unwanted by the male officers, and their honorary officer rank ignored - but they stood, on the deck, within sight, and bullet range of the killing hills of Anzac Cove. More importantly, the Kiwi soldiers fighting and dying above could see their "angels from home," waiting to save them.

BIGGLES FLIES UNDONE by Mike Isle (3w 3m)

A ripping 2-act comedy in the *Boys Own Annual* mould. Biggles, Algy and chums are confronted by their most perplexing challenge yet - a woman.

TWO FISH 'N' A SCOOP Carl Nixon (1-3w 1-11m)

Jason works in a Chinese-owned fish and chip shop, he also has a blossoming romance with Rhea, the owner's daughter. Their love, however, is threatened by cultural and racial divides as well as pressure from family and friends. There are plenty of comic moments, and a dose of young love, with a look at some of the darker aspects of Kiwi culture and a hefty dose of comic moments and young love.

What's On in October, November, December

Dargaville Little Theatre	<i>Material Girls 2: Together Again</i> Deborah Steele	Oct 3 - 17
Phoenix Theatre	AUDITION <i>Move Over Mrs Markham</i> by John Chapman/Ray Cooney	Dec 6 @2pm
Ellerslie Theatre	<i>The Playboy of the Western World</i> by J.M.Synge	Nov 5 - 14
Howick Little Theatre	<i>The Leaf Jar</i> by Alex Glead	October 7- 10
	<i>Seven Year Twitch</i> by David Lewis	Nov 14 - Oct 5
Dolphin Theatre	<i>A Piece of my Heart</i> by Shirley Lauro	to October 10
	<i>Last of the Summer Wine</i> by Roy Clarke	Nov 14 - Dec 5
Hamilton Playbox	<i>The Vicar of Dibley</i> by Richard Curtis	October 3 -17
Rotorua Little Theatre	<i>Improbable Fiction</i> by Alan Ayckbourn	Nov 6 - 21
Katikati Theatre	<i>Dr Joe</i> by Di Logan, Julie Thomas, Francis Young	Oct 3 - 10
Detour Theatre,	Tauranga <i>T'was the fight before Christmas</i> by Devon Williamson	Nov 11 - 28
Tauranga Repertory	<i>Joyful and Triumphant</i> by Robert Lord	Nov 25 - Dec 5
Theatre Whakatane	<i>Beauty and the Beast</i> Disney version	Oct 23 - Nov 7
Gisborne Unity Theatre	<i>Shirley Valentine</i> by Willy Russell	Nov 13 - 21
Napier Rep Players	<i>Kings of the Gym</i> by Dave Armstrong	Oct 28 - Nov 7
	AUDITION <i>An Inspector Calls</i> by JB Priestley	Nov 22 @1pm
Theatre Hawke's Bay	<i>A Night in Vegas-Cabaret</i> Review	Nov/December
Performing Arts Taumarunui	<i>Oliver!</i> by Lionel Bart	Nov 6 - 21
Cue Theatre,	Inglewood <i>Becky's New Car</i> by Steven Dietz	October 3 - 17
	AUDITION <i>Fox on the Fairway</i> by Ken Ludwig	Nov 29 @11am
Kapiti Playhouse	<i>Book Ends</i> by Roger Hall	Nov 25 - Dec 5
Mana Little Theatre	<i>Season's Greetings</i> by Alan Ayckbourn	Sept 2 - 12
Porirua Little Theatre	<i>Evita</i> by Andrew Lloyd Webber/Tim Rice	Nov 7 - 22
Tawa Community Theatre	<i>From Berlin to Burlesque</i> Peter McKenzie	Nov 19 - 28
Wellington Repertory	<i>Take a Chance on Me</i> by Roger Hall	Nov 18 - 28
Stagecraft Theatre	<i>The Crucible</i> by Arthur Miller	Oct 28 - Nov 7
Khandallah Arts Theatre	<i>The End of the Golden Weather</i> by Bruce Mason	
	Company version by Raymond Hawthorne	October 8 - 17
Hutt Repertory	<i>A Christmas Carol</i> by Christopher Schario	Nov 9 - Dec 5
Butterfly Creek,	Eastbourne <i>Animal Farm</i> adapted by Peter Hall	Oct 22 - 31
Greytown Little Theatre	<i>Unoriginal Sin</i> by David Tristram	Nov 4 - 14
Limelight Theatre,	Carterton <i>The Sex Fiend</i> by Stephen Sinclair and Danny Mulheron	Nov 25 - Dec 5
Harlequin Theatre,	Masterton <i>T'was the fight before Christmas</i> by Devon Williamson	Dec 2 - 12
		to 3 October
Havelock Theatre,	Marlborough <i>The Last Heart</i> by Rick Edmonds	Nov 25 - Dec 6
Marlborough Rep	<i>You Can Always Hand Them Back</i> by Roger Hall	to 10 October
Elmwood Players,	Christchurch <i>Sex Cells</i> by Anna Lonaretti	to 10 October
	<i>Pirate Pandemonium!</i>	Nov 13/14
	<i>Time After Time Music Through The Ages</i>	
South Canterbury Drama League		
	Repertory <i>Netballers</i> by Alison Quigan and Lucy Schmidt	October 9 - 17
	Mill Theatre <i>The Vicar of Dibley</i> by Richard Curtis	Nov 12 - 28
Invercargill Repertory Theatre	<i>The Vicar of Dibley</i> by Richard Curtis	Nov 2 - 7

Send information about your upcoming productions to
info@theatrenewzealand.co.nz

TheatreFest 2016

Local TheatreFests will be held late July, early August
Upper North Island Regional 19/20 August venue TBA
Lower North Island Regional 26/27 August at Theatre Hawke's Bay, Hastings
Lower South Island Regional 19/20 August venue TBA
Upper South Island Regional 26/27 August venue TBA
National TheatreFest 9/10 September at Centre Stage, Invercargill

Top of the South Regional Roundup

Havelock Theatre Company's *The Last Heart*, written and directed by local playwright Rick Edmonds from the Marlborough Sounds, opened 23 September to a full house. A Department of Conservation ranger finds an unknown plant in the Sounds. Scientists identify it as a silphium, prized in Ancient Rome for its medicinal uses and special seasoning qualities. The plant's extinction occurred about the same time as the giant eruption at Lake Taupo in the second century AD. The play shows how events from the past can influence our lives today.

Marlborough Repertory's summer production is Roger Hall's comedy *You Can Always Hand Them Back* opens 25 November at the Boathouse Theatre, Blenheim. *The Full Monty*, directed by Bryan Aitken for Blenheim Musical Theatre opens 5 November.



Editor: Margaret Robertson
Designer: Morris Robertson

Deadline for December Backchat

18 November 2015

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or

or PO Box 2585 Christchurch 8140