

# BACKCHAT

News from THEATRE NEW ZEALAND  
*Fostering Community Theatre in Aotearoa*

**February/March 2016, Vol. 39 Issue 1**



A montage of production shots from a play created this summer on a native American theme at the end of a very successful week long Youth Theatre School run by Otamatea Repertory Theatre, in Maungataroto Kaipara.

Read about another summer school enjoyed by three students from Pahiatua Repertory  
page 3

## President

“Chch changes.....”

Not only a tip of the hat to David Bowie, but also to announce that Theatre New Zealand is expanding its **TheatreFest** capabilities.

Since its inception, entries have needed to be between 15 and 50 minutes playing time, regardless of performance genre – play, musical or physical theatre. We’ve also had the ‘new play’ Olga E. Harding Award, supporting new playwrights entering the festival; something for everybody, the Theatre New Zealand maxim being Participate, Educate, Innovate.



So, listening to your comments and feedback over the past couple of years, plus wanting to accommodate the ‘short, sharp and pithy’, we have decided to introduce a new category for performance: **Under 15 minutes**. This new category will pave the way for you to create innovative theatre, in a concise and succinct way. You may wish to speak to us in play form – but equally well you may wish to use dance-drama, or even inter-connecting songs on a theme, to make your observation. The possibilities are endless. Theatre on the edge is exciting stimulating and challenging to us all.

Aligned to this – ANZDA adjudicators are having a professional development weekend in Wellington early March to refresh criteria, content, standards of approach, marking, skills and assimilation of new trends in theatrical approach. Read about ANZDA on page 4.

Innovative theatre at this level (one-act performance) can easily lead on to major works of inspiration. Seize the day – the conditions of entry are still the same in this new section – **a minimum of two players** and this new category is **open to all the existing awards**.

### Stop Press!

**You don’t even need to be part of a ‘local festival system’** to enter. If you wish to enter TheatreFest at any time between October and July because it suits your theatre programming better or you are too far away from a proposed local theatreFest destination, simply register your interest with the National Administrator and arrange to be adjudicated. If the production is deemed to be of ‘Regional TheatreFest standard’ you simply enter then at that level and continue through the process according to the national scheduled programme.

**Participate, Educate, Innovate.**

*Bryan Aitken*

National President,  
Theatre New Zealand

# TheatreFest 2016

This year we say a very big thank you to Anne Corney who is stepping down from her role as National Administrator of TheatreFest. Anne has held the position for the past four years and has done a sterling job, one to which she has been totally committed. Anne has been a very efficient administrator and we are sorry to lose her. However we are pleased to report that she will find time to mentor her replacement and continue to serve on the National Executive. Thank you, Anne!

The new National Administrator is **Steven Arnold** of Auckland who currently is also our Vice President. He will shortly be sending out a TheatreFest Stop Press newsletter explaining this year's exciting new initiatives in detail.



**Local Festivals** will be held in Northland, Waikato, Hawke's Bay, Wellington, Top of the South, Canterbury and Invercargill and there may be others.

## Regional Finals

North of North Island 19/20 August host and venue TBC

South North Island 26/27 August, hosted by Theatre Hawke's Bay  
at The Playhouse, Alexandra St, Hastings

Top of the South 26 or 27, 28 or 29 August hosted by South Canterbury Drama League  
at the Playhouse, Timaru

Bottom of the South 19/20 August hosted by Bryan Byas  
at The Globe Theatre, Dunedin

## Regional Adjudicators:

**Claire Marsh** ANZDA will adjudicate the North Island

**Ewen Coleman** ANZDA will adjudicate the South Island



**National Final** 9/10 September hosted by Invercargill Repertory  
at Centrestage 33 Don St Invercargill

National Adjudicator: **Phil Peleton** ANZDA, pictured.

## Summer Schools

Otamatea was just one of a number of groups who organised summer schools this year. Centrepoint in Palmerston North held one for students aged 12 - 18 and three students from Pahiatua Repertory attended with assistance from the Drama Development Trust.

Katelyn Coogan writes: the week consisted of acting, singing and dance. I learnt some new singing techniques and most of all I enjoyed the dance. We had to work hard as we only had 5 days to learn two dance routines, two songs and two acting scenes out of various musicals. A great time was had by all.

I'd like to thank the Pahiatua Repertory Society and the Drama Development Trust for making it possible for me to attend.

# The Association of New Zealand Drama Adjudicators (ANZDA)

Material supplied by **Ewen Coleman** , Secretary, ANZDA

The Association of New Zealand Drama Adjudicators (ANZDA) was founded in 1980 to improve the standards and consistency of adjudication of non-professional theatre. Its members can be relied upon to adhere to a set of principles that maintain a uniformity of adjudication practices.

ANZDA's Mission Statement is:

To promote and foster a high standard of non-professional theatre in Aotearoa/New Zealand, through the adjudication of theatrical presentations, including Festivals and through informed greenroom discussions and written reports. To maintain a uniformity of adjudicating standards.

Any type of production or presentation can be adjudicated by an Accredited ANZDA member. This can include straight theatre, musical, mime, dance, improvised theatre etc and can be full length. These can occur in Festivals such as TheatreFest, Sheilah Winn Shakespeare Festivals or Full Length Play Festivals.

An adjudication covers three main areas which are;

The Essence of Adjudication which is a Knowledge and understanding of the medium used and Objectivity – Evaluation – Education – Improvement – Growth.

The Process of Adjudication which is to assess objectively, give constructive evaluation and to inform the audience, performers, directors and production team.

The Outcome of Adjudication which is to encourage performers, directors and production teams, affirm positive aspects of the work presented, give constructive pointers for improved theatrical presentation and foster audience appreciation of the medium.

ANZDA maintains its standards by undertaking professional development seminars for its members and peer assessments and regards the role and responsibility of an Adjudicator as being able to assess with objective integrity, without prejudice or bias and to conduct themselves in a professional manner.

## Hilarious NZ Comedies!

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

**NEW!** **Twas the Fight Before Christmas!** Cast: 4 Female, 2 Male Length: Two Acts  
Think your family is complicated? Meet the most dysfunctional family you can imagine as they try to navigate Christmas. Peace on earth and good will to all men? Not likely! Ever since her husband died, Mary's horrible adult children have been ruining Christmas. This year, with the help of a suicidal French psychiatrist, Mary is determined to take Christmas back. Hilarious and uplifting Christmas comedy.

**Over Paid, Over Sexed and Over Here!** Cast: 4 Female, 5 Male Length: Two Acts  
The outrageous comedy about the Yanks 1942 invasion of NZ!  
As our men fight overseas, a sleepy seaside kiwi town is about to experience an invasion by the Americans. The arrival of the Yanks brings much needed excitement for the ladies, but for the local lads there are three big problems with the visitors... they're over paid, they're over sexed, and they're over here!

**My Inlaws are Outlaws!** 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.

*Other plays include: My Husband's Nuts, Menopause Made Me Do It, Crazy Ladies, Understanding Women, and Lost For Words.*

**70 productions staged by theatres across NZ and overseas!**

**For perusal scripts and information contact The Play Bureau**  
Phone: 03 455 9959  
Email: [info@playbureau.com](mailto:info@playbureau.com)



## What's On in February and March 2016

<b>Otamatea Repertory</b>	Murder at Cafe Noir by David Landau (various locations)	March 4 - 19
<b>Dargaville Little Theatre</b>	AUDITION The Rookie: Black, White and Shades of Grey Julianne Parkinson	February 14 @ 3pm
<b>Ellerslie Theatre</b>	The End of the Golden Weather by Bruce Mason	March 10 - 19
<b>Howick Little Theatre</b>	The Central Otago Man by Justin Eade	Feb 27 - March 19
	AUDITION Crave by Sarah Kane	Feb 20 @11am
	AUDITION The Perfect Murder adapted by Shaun McKenna	Feb 27 at 11am
	That Face by Polly Stenham in HLT Studio	March 23 - 26
<b>Dolphin Theatre</b>	One Man, Two Guvnors by Richard Bean	February 26 - March 19
	AUDITION Crimes of the Heart by Beth Henley	February 14 @ 1.30pm
<b>Waihi Drama Society</b>	AUDITION Murder at Mouldstone Manor by (unknown)	February 14/15
<b>Detour Theatre,</b>	Tauranga Checkout Chicks by Devon Williamson	March 30 - April 16
<b>16th Avenue Theatre</b>	Tauranga Mixed Doubles by various playwrights	March 15- 24
<b>Theatre Whakatane</b>	AUDITION Jack and the Beanstalk	February 6
<b>Tokoroa Little Theatre</b>	AUDITION Dirty Dusting by Ed Waugh & Trevor Wood	Feb 14, 16
<b>Napier Rep Players</b>	An Inspector Calls by JB Priestley	Feb 24 - March
	AUDITION Eugenia by Lorae Parry	March 13
<b>Hawera Repertory Soc.</b>	AUDITION Duets by Peter Quilter	February 7 @ 7pm
<b>FAHS Feilding High School</b>	War Years-Lest We Forget by Karla Haronga	March 9 - 11
<b>Pahiatua Repertory Society</b>	AUDITION Funny Business by Derek Benfield	February 15 @ 7pm
<b>Greytown Little Theatre</b>	Take a Chance on Me by Roger Hall	March 30 - April 9
<b>Mana Little Theatre</b>	Under Milk Wood by Dylan Thomas	March 30 - April 9
<b>Tawa Community Theatre</b>	AUDITION Will-Full Murder by M Potter/M Thomson	Feb 21@2pm
<b>New Players, Wellington</b>	AUDITION Oh, What a Lovely War by Theatre Workshop	March 20
<b>Khandallah Arts Theatre</b>	The Gingerbread Man by Sarah Delahunty	February 13 - 21
<b>Stagecraft Theatre</b>	Kafka's Dick by Alan Bennett	March 16 - 26
<b>Butterfly Creek, Eastbourne</b>	The Tempest by William Shakespeare	March 1 - 5
<b>Havelock Theatre,</b>	Marlborough Double Bill Comedy	to 6 February
<b>Canterbury Repertory</b>	AUDITION A Streetcar Named Desire Tennessee Williams	Feb. 12
<b>Riccarton Players</b>	AUDITION Hamlet Dies in the End by Gavin McGibbin	February 14
<b>Elmwood Players,</b>	Christchurch AUDITION Jumpy by April de Angelis	February 20
<b>Top Dog</b>	Christchurch Hamlet by William Shakespeare in Mona Vale Gdns	February 10 - 20
<b>South Canterbury Drama League</b>		
	Little Theatre A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens	March 2 - 12
	The Playhouse AUDITION Mama Mia book by Catherine Johnson, music by Benny Andersson and Bjorn Ulvaeus	February 27 - 28
<b>Invercargill Repertory Theatre</b>	Equus by Peter Shaffer	March 2 - 5

Send information about your upcoming productions to [info@theatrenewzealand.co.nz](mailto:info@theatrenewzealand.co.nz)

### Theatre in the Bush June 24/25

Pahiatua Repertory Society are welcoming all comers to their Theatre in the Bush precursor to a local TheatreFest at the Regent Theatre Pahiatua and there's prize money to win! Contact Lesley Courtney 06 376 7405 or [contactlesley@vodafone.co.nz](mailto:contactlesley@vodafone.co.nz)

### Norfolk Island Festival October 4 - 8

This year's adjudicator is Robert Gilbert, inspiring head of drama at Aranui High School Christchurch until 2011. You may remember his exciting productions reaching the National Finals several times.

## Proposed New Incorporated Societies Act

Is your group an incorporated society? There are to be 25 free consultative seminars in eight cities from March to May. The seminars will be a great opportunity for people involved in Incorporated Societies to hear what the key issues are, to give feedback on the spot, and the information gained at these seminars will enable you to make your own submission.

Go to [www.eventbrite.co.nz/e/consultative-seminars-on-the-proposed-new-incorporated-societies-ac](http://www.eventbrite.co.nz/e/consultative-seminars-on-the-proposed-new-incorporated-societies-ac)



NEW PLAYERS THEATRE  
COMPANY  
NEWLANDS, WELLINGTON

40<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

11<sup>TH</sup> and 12<sup>TH</sup> March 2016

Expressions of interest to:

[secretary4newplayers@gmail.com](mailto:secretary4newplayers@gmail.com) / 04 478 78 78

Proposed programme:

Friday night – drinks and nibbles, production displays.

Saturday afternoon – the in-depth tour of Weta

Workshop and afternoon tea at The Roxy Cinema.

Saturday evening - dinner with light entertainment from our former Splinters Variety Group.

Please spread the word amongst fellow-thespians – both current or ex-members - via word-of-mouth, society newsletters and/or Social Media

Many thanks!

[www.newplayers.org.nz](http://www.newplayers.org.nz)



Editor Margaret Robertson  
Designer: Morris Robertson

Deadline for April Backchat  
**18 March 2016**

Send Theatre New Zealand communications to  
[info@theatrenewzealand.co.nz](mailto:info@theatrenewzealand.co.nz)

or

**PO Box 2585 Christchurch 8140**