

BACKCHAT

News from THEATRE NEW ZEALAND
Fostering Community Theatre in Aotearoa

August/September 2017 Vol.40 Issue 4

World Premiere at Taumarunui Little Theatre



Fleeced is the latest creation from home-spun playwright Lynelle Kuriger. A flock of singing, dancing sheep take centre stage, alongside two hapless farm mutts who are baffled by their woolly antics.

Fleeced is pure Seventies disco. The flares are wide, the glitter ball spins and the white woolly afros are ENORMOUS and the large cast in this hilarious musical comedy have been rehearsing for months under the experienced directorship of Marion Johnstone. There will be 8 shows August 4 - 12. Adults \$30, students \$15

Pictured are sheep dogs Gyp and Meg played by Niklas Mend (left) and Erin Wood (right). Sheep Juliet, Barb and Flock as pictured are played by Toni Ilesm Astrid Bolten and Chrissy Power. <https://www.iticket.co.nz/events/2017/aug/fleeced>

New to National Executive



I started in theatre while at High School. As a child I was always fascinated with the technical side of things. I spent hours listening to shortwave stations and also enjoyed creating things with colour. These interests led me to lighting and sound as I love trying to create as real a looking scene as possible.

Through the 80s I worked in amateur theatre in Christchurch & then early 90s I began doing outdoor Shakespeare productions each summer, between shows, working with local heavy rock bands locally & on the road. I also worked as house technician at the Christchurch Town Hall for 5 years and fitted in the Canterbury Theatrefest. After the Christchurch earthquakes I moved my family to Dunedin in 2012 and by chance reconnected with people I had worked with at Theatre Fest back in the 90s and so the journey began again.

Since 2014 I have been technical manager to the Globe Theatre in Dunedin where I have instigated a training programme for young technicians still at school to learn what I like to call “real Theatre” is all about. My wife and I have also introduced a children’s theatre format to the Globe providing opportunities for younger actors & crew to work on a show in an amateur theatre environment.

I have got the Globe involved in TheatreFest, & this year they will host again and also compete for the first time.

I hope to continue to grow TheatreFest in Dunedin over the next few years and continue to do shows as my “second wind” continues.

Brian Byas

Welcome to New Members

From Christchurch, **St Andrews College, Riccarton High School** and Individual members **Laurence Wiseman** and **Geoff Diggs** are now members. **Country Players** in Wakefield, **Top of the South** are welcomed back. **Napier Girls High School** and **Riverlea Theatre** in Hamilton have also joined. A warm welcome to you all.

Can you help?

We’re trying to trace a new member called **Arthur Krishnam**. He’s paid his sub but we have no contact details for him. Please ask him to get in touch info@theatrenewzaland.co.nz.

Notice of AGM

Notice is given that the 47th Annual General Meeting of Theatre New Zealand will take place in the Hannah Playhouse foyer, Courtenay Place Wellington at 9.30am on Sunday 17 September.

Nominations

Nomination forms for **Officers** (President, VP, Treasurer and Secretary) and **National Executive members** (6) are called for. Nominations are also called for Service Awards: **Meritorious Service** and the **David Brockett Backstage Award** Download forms from website and scan to info@theatrenewzealand.co.nz or post to Box 22 249 Wellington 6441.

All nominations due by 31 August

Adult Residential Summer School
January 14 - 20, @018
Unicol, Otago University & Allen Hall, Dunedin

Have you decided to come to Summer School yet?
Five days and six nights living and breathing all things theatre.
You have a choice of registering for Acting, Directing or Youth Theatre.

Acting with Bryan Aitken

Gain performance skills: an actor's tool kit for musical theatre, comedy and drama.

Content: creative co-operation, script analysis, subtext, character analysis, sustaining silence, inner action/outer action, status playing, using action verbs, comedy - determining genre, stage fighting.

Directing with Lara Macgregor

Collaboration serving the playwright, acting as a conduit to all the actors, designers and technicians to bring their brilliance to the fore.

Content Before the Rehearsal: choosing the play, conceptualisation, preparation, research, communicating your vision, choosing your team, the design process, auditions and casting, scheduling.

Content Leading the Rehearsal Process: first read-through, table work, analysis, identifying rhythms/beats, reading the room, mapping, communicating with actors, elements of staging, identifying and moving through obstacles, production week.

Youth Theatre with Lawrence Wiseman

For those working with youth: youth today are worldly and have experienced more levels of emotive reaction than the generations before them.

Content: accessing the talent, breaking down inhibitions, challenging prejudices of teacher learner, pedagogy, methodology and approaches to text, pushing parameters/material selection, classroom devised work, process versus product.

www.theatrenewzealand.co.nz and click on 2018 Adult Residential Summer School for Tutor biographies and the registration form. Single room accommodation, three meals a day plus tuition all for the Early Bird registration of \$750 if paid before 1st November.

Subscriptions

\$100 Group or \$40 Individual

Download membership form from website under Resources/Downloads.

Have you paid your subscription yet? It was due on 1st April. Please check!



Local TheatreFest Entries

Waikato

An Incident by Leonid Andreyev Dir. Robyn Chappell **Riverlea Theatre**
Timbuktu by Brian Turner Dir Lorna Ashton
Hamilton Playbox Theatre

Hawke's Bay

Doggs Hamlet by William Shakespeare
Dir Matt Brebner **Havelock North High School**.
Also dir Matt Brebner
The Crucible extract Arthur Miller

Manawatu

Miscommunication by Chris Stead Dir Valerie Ottaway. **Feilding Little Theatre**

Wellington

An Incident at the Border by Kieran Lynn Dir TJ Ramsay **Dramatix Theatre**
Bittersweet Love by TJ Ramsay Dir Cameron Lines **Dramatix Theatre**
Ten/Two by Lindsay Price Dir Jo Matheson
Newlands College

Top of the South

An Affair of the Art script and Dir Rick Edmonds
Havelock Theatre

Three from Wakefield Country Players

Husband Murderers' Support Group
by Hugh O'Brien Dir Bruce Weston
I Never Saw Another Butterfly by Celeste Raspanti Dir John Amosa
In the Tank by Rosemary Frisino Toohey Dir Hayley Gibbs

Eight from Nelson Youth Theatre Co.

Beasts by Ernie Nolan Dir Olivia Murray
Blondes by Jon Jory Dir Alex Jensen
Ernie's Incredible Illucinations Alan Ayckbourn
Dir Sarah Eynon
Freshman Orientation by Jon Jory
Dir Ella Dickson
Ladies of the Tower Tom Kelly and Ruth Perry
Dir Rhianna Cavit
No TV Ric Averill Dir Matthew Edgar
Reunion on Gallows Hill by Tim Kelly
Dir Michaela Carruthers
What's for Pudding? By David Tristram
Dir Liam Brennan

Canterbury

Ain't Nothing But A Game script/Dir Harry Wilkinson **St Andrews College**
An Unseasonable Fall of Snow Gary Henderson
Dir Kate Stedman & Ruby Richards **Riccarton High School**
First Light script and Dir Wayne Doyle
South Canterbury Drama League
Rules of Play script & Dir Paris Porter
St Andrews College
Shuddersome by Lindsay Price
Dir Robyn Peers **Christ's College**
Surrender to the Sky by Bryan Aitken
Dir Laurence Wiseman **7.1 Productions**
Three from Elmswood Players
The Death of Ellen Moore script
& Dir Jon Amesbury
The Real Problem by Bruce Kane
Dir Sonya Cameron
Top This script & Dir Emillia Harriott
Value Added Plus script & Dir Barry Grant
Riccarton Players

Dunedin

Two from Logan Park High School
According to Sarah by Pippa Chang and Charlotte Dickie Dir Annabelle Vaughan.
Falling by Angie Farrow Dir Pania Throp

The Better Half Noel Coward Dir Paul Elliott
Friends of the Globe Theatre

Invercargill

Two from Invercargill Repertory
All My Love Paul by Alan Mackay
Dir Gussie Johnson
Naomi in the Living Room Christopher Durang
Dir Ben Knowles

Can You Keep A Secret? By Winsome Pinnock
Dir Kate Moetaura **Wakatipu High School**
Adventures of Sherlock Holmes Eddie Braben
Dir Gussie Johnson
Southland Boys High School

Regionals

Upper North Island Hamilton 25/26 Aug.
Lower North Island Pahiataua 18/19 Aug.
Upper South Isl. Christchurch 18/19 Aug.
Lower South Isl Queenstown 25/26 Aug.

NATIONAL FINAL



Spotlight '17, National Finals and Conference

Wellington September 16 - 17

Hannah Playhouse, Courtenay Place and Whitiriria Performing Arts Centre, 25 - 27 Vivian St Wellington

Saturday 16 September

9am Registration desk opens Whitireia

9.30 - 12.30 Workshops - see registration form for a choice of four: Stage Combat, Freeing the Voice, Analysing the Text and Improvisation,

12.30 - 1.30 participants purchase lunch from outlets in vicinity

1.30 - 4.30 Repeat of morning workshops

3pm ANZDA AGM - Foyer/Bar, Hannah Playhouse

6pm bar and ticket box opens Hannah Playhouse

7.30 Welcome and Official Opening by his Worship the Mayor Justin Lester of the first night of the National Final of TheatreFest, Adjudicator Jon Pheloug ANZDA

Sunday 17 September

9:30am - Theatre NZ Annual General Meeting

10:30am - Open Forum

11:30am - Key Note Speaker - Peter Hambleton, My Life in Theatre and Film

12:00pm - Lunch - participants to provide own

1.00pm Second session of TheatreFest National Final, including

Guest performance from winner of Queensland's 2017 Sunshine Coast TheatreFest prior to presentation of the Awards. Also present, Roger Hall of New Zealand Theatre Month.

Selection of Accommodation: Book ASAP!

Hotels: Cambridge Hotel, CQ Hotel 223 Cuba St and Rowena's 118 Brougham St

Motels: Apollo Lodge 49 Marjoribanks St, Halswell Lodge 21 Kent Tce The Setup on Manners Serviced Apartments 57 Manners St

Backpackers: YHA 292 Wakefield St, Base Wellington Backpackers 21 Cambridge Tce, Wild Zebras 58 Tory Street. Wellywood Backpackers 58 Tory St.

Poster Competition

Do you have a poster worthy of national recognition?

Send posters designed since September 2016 with

Entry form attached here or source on website. www.theatrenewzealand.co.nz



This month we bring you a wide selection of plays, and two new musicals. 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

FALLOUT: THE SINKING OF THE RAINBOW WARRIOR

by Bronwyn Elsmore (large cast)

Two blasts disturbed the winter night and a ship dedicated to peace lay submerged in Auckland Harbour. This play commemorates an event that changed a nation. [Basement Theatre 2015]

SHAKESPEARE'S POWDER

by Geoff Allen (large cast)

Hearing of a Gunpowder Plot to blow up Parliament in 1605, the plotters' wives try to stop their husbands' terror act but they are being shadowed by a spy who may have other motives. The washer girls of Shakespeare's Globe are drawn into things when they try to save the princess from being kidnapped as part of the plot, and the Bard himself is left to clear his name by writing a new play about a Scottish king. History and fiction intertwine in this large cast re-imagining of the circumstances surrounding the event, which made Guy Fawkes famous. Great for schools or youth.

A TIME LIKE THIS

by Jackie Davis (2w 4-7m)

The touching, tender, yet at times horrific story of 88-year-old Douglas Chapman, a WW1 veteran, living in a rest home. It is ANZAC Day 1984 and Douglas has marched in the ANZAC parade. He is lonely and sad that his life has become so small and empty. He drinks too much, and as he drinks, he recalls his life in the final weeks of WW1. Premiered at Gisborne Unity Theatre in 2017.

THE STREAKER

by Gregory Cooper (3w 3m)

Ron Hewlett's lost his job, his mortgage is overdue and his family's on the brink of revolt. So when a local radio station offers a million dollars to anyone willing to streak naked at the Super Rugby final, Ron's got nothing left to lose – except his pants. How far will Ron go for his family? And how far will he get? Premiered at The Court Theatre 2016.

THE GIFT OF TONGUES

by Michelanne Forster (3w 3m)

Dell Woods, a retired American Missionary who spent his life in Japan, sneaks away from California with his wife, Daisy, to complete a final mission of faith in Japan. His elder daughter is horrified as she knows her parents are barely coping with daily life, much less international travel. She and her brother meet in Tokyo to plan a "sensible" future for their zealous parents but Dell's final mission to the banks of the Toyama River, changes the game plan for everybody.

WHETHER I FALL

by Jackie Davis (3w)

Three women discuss their deliveries and partnerships in a post-natal room in a hospital. They bond through realising none of them has it easy, and despite outward appearances, each is facing her own challenges with the new baby. One Act.

THE PINK HAMMER

by Michele Amas (4w, 1m)

Four very different women answer a flyer for "The Pink Hammer Workshop" – a ladies-only woodwork class. They turn up expecting empowerment and sisterhood from the advertised tutor, Maggie Taylor.... but when they arrive, Maggie's gone AWOL. Maggie's husband Woody certainly doesn't want a bunch of crazy women playing with his tools, but he doesn't have a choice!

TWO NEW, LARGE-CAST MUSICALS:

THE QUEEN OF TARTS

book by Paul Percy, music by Michael Vinten

A thief has stolen the Queen's own made tarts! Although the audience knows it is the Three Blind Mice, the evidence unearthed by the King and Knave of Hearts, and the army generals, the Dukes of Pork points to Humpty Dumpty being the thief. After a search throughout the land, during which we meet other Nursery Rhyme characters, Humpty is arrested and put on trial. Eventually his innocence is proven and the chase begins to catch the real culprits.

ROSIE AND MR PINSTRIPE

book by Paul Percy, music by Michael Vinten

Set in Prohibition-era New York City, this colorful, swinging musical features the likes of Fast Eddie, a local mob boss, Rosie the dancer who's just returned from Hollywood and is about to open her own club called The Ritz, and Jimmy the Gentleman, aka Mr. Pinstripe, who's just gotten out of jail. Dreams are at stake but there's no honour among thieves... who will get their happy ending?

What's On in August and September 2017

Otamatea Repertory Theatre	<i>The Jungle Book</i> by BB Coster & Toby Hulse	August 4 - 20
Dargaville Little Theatre	AUDITION <i>'Twas the Fight before Christmas</i> by Devon Williamson	August 13 @7.30
Ellerslie Theatrical Society	<i>Festival of One Act Plays</i>	Aug 24 - Sep 2
	AUDITION <i>The 39 Steps</i> adapt by Patrick Barlow	August 26
Howick Little Theatre	<i>Dial M for Murder</i> by Frederick Knott	September 9 - 30
Hunua Theatre Club	<i>How to Train Your Husband</i> Devon Williamson	August 17 - 26
Te Aroha Dramatic Soc.	<i>Caught in the Net</i> by Ray Cooney	August 3 - 12
16th Ave Theatre, Tauranga	<i>The Lady Killers</i> by Graham Lineham	Aug 30 - Sep 16
Detour Theatre, Tauranga	<i>Kitchen Witches</i> by Carrollne Smith	September 7 - 22
Te Puke Repertory	<i>Tarnished Frocks and Divas 2017</i>	Aug 30 - Sep 2
Hamilton Playbox	Upper North Island Regional of TheatreFest	August 26
	<i>Noises Off</i> by Michael Frayn	Sep 30 - Oct 14
Putaruru Theatre Players	<i>Nonsense</i> by Dan Goggin	August 3 - 11
Rotorua Little Theatre	<i>The Games Afoot or Holmes for the Holidays</i> by Ken Ludwig	Aug 23 - Sep 2
		Sept. 13 - 17
Tokoroa Little Theatre	<i>Green Ginger</i> adpt by Doug Blair	Sept. 13 - 17
Gisborne Unity Theatre	<i>Macbeth</i> by William Shakespeare	August 18 - 25
Napier Repertory Players	<i>After the Accident</i> by Julian Armitstead	August 8 - 12
Pahiatua Repertory Soc.	Lower North Island Regional of TheatreFest	August 18 - 19
Performing Arts Tauramanui	<i>Fleeced, a eweiscal comedy</i> by Lynelle Kuriger	August 4 - 12
New Plymouth Repertory	<i>Key for Two</i> by John Chapman	August 10 - 19
	<i>Mr Wonderful</i> by James Robson	Aug 30 - Sep 9
Foxton Little Theatre	<i>Things My Mother Taught Me</i> by Katherine Di Savino	Aug 4 - 19
Levin Little Theatre	<i>The Game's Afoot or Holmes for the Holidays</i> by Ken Ludwig	to August 5
Mana Little Theatre	<i>Hobson's Choice</i> by Harold Brighouse	Aug 23 - Sep 2
	AUDITION <i>Bums on Seats</i> by Michael Snelgrove	September 10
Porirua Little Theatre	AUDITION <i>Rock of Ages</i> book by Chris D'Arienzo	August 18 - 19
New Players Theatre Company	<i>The Supermarket Sisterhood</i> by Devon Williamson	to August 5
Drama Christi	<i>Parfumerie</i> adpt EP Dowdal play by Mikos Laszio	August 17 - 27
Wellington Repertory	<i>Peninsula</i> by Gary Henderson	August 2 - 12
	<i>Nell Gwynn</i> by Jessica Swales	Sept. 20 - 30
Stagecraft Theatre	<i>Wonderland</i> by Kira Josephine/ Bruno Marshall Shirley	Aug 30-Sep 9
	AUDITION <i>Mr Foote's Other Leg</i> by Ian Kelly	Aug 12 - 14
Hutt Repertory	<i>Secret Bridesmaids Business</i> by Elizabeth Coleman	Aug 30 - Sep 9
Heretaunga Players	<i>George's Corporate Jungle</i> by Andrew Tait	to August 5
Harlequin Theatre Masterton	<i>Kitchen Witches</i> by Caroline Smith	Aug 31 - Sep 9
St Andrews College	Upper South Island Regional TheatreFest	August 18 -19
Elmwood Players	<i>Mix 'n' Match</i> Four one act plays with Riccarton Players	August 10
South Canterbury Drama League	Timaru, <i>Last of the Summer Wine</i> by Roy Clarke	Aug 4 - 11
	<i>Avenue Q</i> a musical by Robert Lopez & Jeff Marx	September 1- 19
Globe Theatre, Dunedin	<i>The Better Half</i> by Noel Coward	August 4 - 5
Wakatipu High School	Lower South Island Regional TheatreFest	August 25 - 26
Invercargill Repertory	<i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i> by Tennessee Williams	August 16 - 19

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



NZ Theatre Month September 2018

Roger Hall writes:

I am delighted that New Zealand Theatre Month is going to be launched officially at the Theatrefest National Final in Wellington on September 17th. This will be recognition and tribute to the

amazing work done by Community Theatres throughout the country.

It would be good to be able to announce the number of Community Theatres who plan to present a NZ work sometime during September next year. **If your theatre does intend to take part, please let me know no later than September 10th.** If possible include the name of the work.

Thanks. rogerhallnz@gmail.com

Drama Development Trust

Help with Workshops, Capital Projects, and Personal Development.

Grants are available from the Drama Development Trust to members of Theatre New Zealand. Do you need a subsidy for a tutor, money towards a piece of equipment or help to attend a training course? Send for application forms for a group activity, capital funding or an individual scholarship to margaretr6t@gmail.com or Drama Development Trust, Box 22 249 Wellington 6441



Editor Margaret Robertson
Technical Assistance Morris Robertson

Deadline for October/November Backchat **20 September 2017**

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