

# BACKCHAT

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

June/July 2018 Vol.41 Issue 3



Local playwright Julianne Parkinson has given *Alice in Wonderland* a new twist with her panto *The Mad Hatter* for Dargaville Little Theatre. The Mad Hatter (Nikolai Puharich) greets Alice (Mia Adams) against a backdrop of the Queen of Hearts (Kassidy Kinvig) and her citizens.

[www.theatrenz.co.nz](http://www.theatrenz.co.nz)

## George Hollinsworth, Nat Exec.

*George writes:* I didn't get into theatre until my forties but as soon as I stepped on stage I loved it. My wife and I began our own theatre company because we wanted to produce original, New Zealand theatre works but finding people and existing groups with such courage was difficult. We set up the Dramatix Theatre Development Trust in 2000 and have produced countless new theatre pieces of all genres. The Trust also produced an ANZAC Experience which over seven years grew to a huge, living history event in Nelson over a fortnight. Eventually this brought over ten thousand visitors through Founders Park and the associated Education Programme involved approximately 800 schoolchildren from throughout the Nelson/Tasman area.

I have a strong belief in community theatre, and its power to transform lives. I also believe theatre needs to work harder to remain relevant. Keeping the costs of participation as well as ticket prices down is vital. We have to provide a reason for people to turn off Netflix and Lightbox, get in their cars, drive to a theatre and walk in. Making that expensive doesn't help.

I worry about the future of TNZ and its struggle to remain relevant to financially struggling theatre groups. I believe the Executive need to be brave and willing to take on the responsibility of being the leaders for change. Change can be frightening but we don't evolve without it. Our greatest challenge is listening to what groups are saying to us and having the courage to act on what they need.

Theatre brings good people together to do amazing things. TNZ needs to encourage and guide that energy.

## New Members: Welcome!

CSJ Drama from Chilton St James College, Lower Hutt and Nelson Repertory Theatre

## Technical Advice Offered

Through TNZ contacts, Tokoroa Little Theatre is receiving help from Hamilton Playbox members on set construction, painting and lighting.

If you live down south see the offer of technical advice on page 3.

TNZ is here to help. Contact us [info@theatrenewzealand.co.nz](mailto:info@theatrenewzealand.co.nz)

## Recognition Awards

Forms attached

Have you a member who has worked tirelessly for your group for over 25 years? Do you want them to receive the recognition they deserve? Nominate them for a **Meritorious Service Award**.

Maybe you have a person who over this past year has shown exceptional qualities *backstage*? They could be eligible for nomination for the annual **David Brockett Memorial Award**. Every year David worked very hard behind the scenes at his local festival and he was also national treasurer of TNZ for many years.

## Helpful Copyright Information

The paper attached lays out the facts. TNZ takes no responsibility for what your group does with the information. Thanks to **David Cox** for his work.

## Subs 2018/19

Thank you to the 50% of members who have paid their membership fees. The form/invoice was emailed on 7<sup>th</sup> April and a copy can be found on the website under Resources: Downloads.

## Local TheatreFests 2018

### Important deadlines

Final day for TheatreFest entries: **1 July 20**  
(for Nelson/Marlborough: **Friday 1 June**)

Final day for Olga E Harding entries: **20 July** (for Nelson/Marlborough: **Friday 1 June**)

Register on line, *see link below*. This year the entry fee is \$150, an increase because ANZDA have put up their charges.

**Northland** - 3 & 4 August,  
Dargaville Little Theatre 241 Victoria St  
Organiser Deborah Steele  
- [dargavillelittletheatre@gmail.com](mailto:dargavillelittletheatre@gmail.com)  
Adjudicator - Phil Peleton, Auckland

**Waikato, Bay of Plenty** - 3 & 4 August,  
Centre Stage Taupo, 2 Matai St, Tauhara,  
Organiser - Denise Edmonds  
- [denise.edmonds@gmail.com](mailto:denise.edmonds@gmail.com)  
Adjudicator - Steven Arnold, Auckland

**Hawkes Bay** - 3 & 4 August,  
Venue - Napier Little Theatre, Napier  
Organiser - Adrienne Hurley - [pj\\_hurley@xtra.co.nz](mailto:pj_hurley@xtra.co.nz)  
Adjudicator - Rob Ormsby, Wellington

**Manawatu** - 3 & 4 August,  
Venue - Feilding Little Theatre  
Organiser - Peter Doherty  
- [peteranddonnadoherty@gmail.com](mailto:peteranddonnadoherty@gmail.com)  
Adjudicator - Jillian Carpenter, Wellington

**Wellington** - 3 & 4 August,  
Venue - Cochran Hall, Khandallah, Wellington  
Organisers - District Committee -  
[wellingtonfestivals@theatrenewzealand.co.nz](mailto:wellingtonfestivals@theatrenewzealand.co.nz)  
Adjudicator - Sandra Bartlam, Wellington

**Top of the South** - 15 & 16 June,  
Venue - Nelson Intermediate School, Nelson  
Richard Carruthers - [nelsonytc@gmail.com](mailto:nelsonytc@gmail.com)  
Adjudicator - Lara McGregor, Christchurch

**Canterbury** - 4 & 5 August  
Venue - Merivale Lane Theatre, Rangi Ruru College.  
Organiser - Mandy Perry - [mandy.perry@xtra.co.nz](mailto:mandy.perry@xtra.co.nz)  
Adjudicator - Shannon Tubman, Wellington

**Otago/Southland** - 3 & 4 August  
Venue - Logan Park High School, Dunedin  
Organiser - Diane Dupres, HoD Drama  
- [diane.dupres@lphs.school.nz](mailto:diane.dupres@lphs.school.nz),  
Adjudicator - Laurence Wiseman, Christchurch

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeT9TjeEjTLzuemBh4hAXp2KFxfcdDv5lqfO1uC6ecHkpld5w/viewform?c=0&w=1>

## Regional TheatreFests

**Upper North Island Regional Festival** - Friday 17 August and Saturday 18 August,  
Venue - CentreStage, Taupo,  
Adjudicator - Claire Marsh, Morrinsville

**Lower North Island Regional Festival** - Friday 24 August and Saturday 25 August  
Venue - Fielding Little Theatre, Feilding  
Adjudicator - Pam Logan, Blenheim

**Upper South Island Regional Festival** - Friday 24 August and Saturday 25 August,  
Venue - The Boathouse Blenheim, Marlborough Repertory Theatre  
Adjudicator - Jonathan Hendry, Dunedin

**Lower South Island Regional Festival** - Friday 17 August and Saturday 18 August  
Venue - Globe Theatre, Dunedin,  
Adjudicator - Jonathan Hendry, Dunedin

## National Finals and Conference

Wellington, Te Whaea: National Dance and Drama Centre in Newtown - Finals on Saturday night 15 & Sunday afternoon 16 September 2018

Adjudicator Hilary Norris

The TNZ Conference will offer four workshops on Saturday afternoon and these will appeal to actors and directors. The AGM will take place on Sunday followed by a key note speaker and an open forum. More information to follow.

## Technical Training and Advice Offered

TNZ is piloting a scheme out of **Dunedin** to bring a technician to you and your venue for venue/equipment specific training. Every community theatre venue is different and often generic theory does not apply.

- Lighting/ sound design advice tailored to your venue & equipment.
- Lighting / sound and operator-training for the control equipment specific to your venue.
- Advice on what to use for particular effects etc.

**Brian Byas**, a technician with years of experience in community theatre venues of all shapes and sizes will travel to your venue and meet your technical staff to offer advice and training on site. The cost to you will be petrol money and the provision of food & accommodation if overnight stay necessary. Interested? [info@theatrenewzealand.co.nz](mailto:info@theatrenewzealand.co.nz)



This month we bring you a wide selection of popular full-length plays. We can email these as perusal scripts for no charge. If you have any particular requirements we can also make other script suggestions.

Email [claire@playmarket.org.nz](mailto:claire@playmarket.org.nz).

**HUDSON & HALLS LIVE! by Kip Chapman with Todd Emerson & Sophie Roberts.** 1f, 3m. (Available 2019)

And we're live! The oven's caught fire, David is drinking and Peter has bad news. In the closet with the door wide open, Peter Hudson and David Halls were New Zealand's original great gay love story – and two of our greatest entertainers. Prepare to be transported to a 1980s television studio for big laughs, rum-fuelled showdowns, and some very questionable cooking.

**THE STREAKER by Gregory Cooper**

3f, 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?

**MY DAD'S BOY by Finnius Teppett**

1f, 2m

A young man writes a play about his father. Part way through the writing, his own girlfriend gets pregnant and he is faced with fatherhood himself.

**FOOL TO CRY by Steven Page**

3f, 4m

A comedy that follows the members of the organising committee in the days leading up to an anniversary gala concert. As the big night approaches, unwanted memories resurface about what happened on the night of the Rolling Stones concert and how it shaped their lives.

**DRACULA by Claire Ahuriri-Dunning**

5f, 7m, 3 either gender. Cast can expand.

A group of actors encounter the text of Bram Stoker's *Dracula*, warts and all. With campy and amateurish fervour, they start telling the tale, with singing and narration by the three emancipated brides of Dracula.

**CENTRAL OTAGO MAN by Justin Eade**

3f, 4m

Tryfen Gribilco is a Central Otago farmer who runs a bungy jump platform with his young, by-the-book offside, Marty Wellings. Tryfen is perfectly untouched by the ravages of political correctness and has an opinion on just about everything which he freely shares with his high profile clients – an urbane Australian senator, and an uptight German UN delegate. But Tryfen is about to get a lesson of his own!

**BLIND EYE by April Phillips**

2f, 2m

Wally and Vera are a salt of the earth couple in their golden years. They have lived on the same street their entire lives. They have kept to themselves and led decent lives. Or have they? A malicious attack on the old man results in two strangers entering their lives, who gradually unravel a long-held and shameful secret with devastating consequences.

**LAST LEGS by Roger Hall**

4f, 2m

*Last Legs* is set in an upmarket retirement community, the Cambridge, with a cast of recognisably funny characters. Outside of happy hour, bridge and mah-jong, our well-to-do seniors indulge in greed, jealousy, love and lust... not to mention their share of gossip, backstabbing and scandal! A (cardio) arresting comedy packed with hypertensive hilarity.

**For schools and youth groups:**

**IN OUR SHOES by Emily Duncan**

11f. Cast can expand.

A diverse group of feisty young women grapple with the legacy left to them by women who have walked in their shoes before, settle scores with the demands and threats thrown at them in the present, and celebrate and declare their hopes for the future.



## What's On in June and July 2018

Otamatea Repertory Theatre	<i>Into the Woods</i> (Musical)	July 14 - 29
Dargaville Little Theatre	<i>The Mad Hatter</i> by Julianne Parkinson	June 8 -23
Howick Little Theatre	<i>The History of Pandas Told by a Saxophonist Who Has a Girlfriend in Frankfurt</i> by Matei Visniec trans Saeed Mallak	May 30 - June 2
Howick Little Theatre	<i>Good People</i> by David Lindsay-Abaire	July 7 -28
Hamilton Playbox Theatre	<i>Peter Pan</i> by J.M.Barrie	July 7 - 21
Te Aroha Little Theatre	<i>Peter Pan-the Panto</i> by Pinky Agnew/Lorae Parry	June 27 - July 7
Waihi Drama Society	<i>Curtain Up!</i> By Peter Quilter	to June 10
Detour Theatre, Tauranga	<i>Blithe Spirit</i> by Oscar Wilde	June 20 - July 7
16 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, Tauranga	<i>Dirty Dusting</i> by Ed Waugh and Trevor Wood	June 15 - 30
Katikati Theatre	<i>Family Spirit</i> by Pat Wollaston	June 26 - July 5
Rotorua Little Theatre	<i>The Vicar of Dibley</i> adapt Ian Gower/Paul Carpenter	July 27-Aug 11
Centre Stage Taupo	<i>The Perfect Murder</i> by Peter James	June 13 - 23
Napier Repertory	<i>Entertaining Angels</i> by Richard Everett	June 20 - 30
Pahiatua Repertory Soc.	<i>Starblaze</i> by Shade Smith and John Reynolds	June 21 - July 1
Greytown Little Theatre	<i>The Lion in Winter</i> by James Goldman	June 20 - 30
	<i>Green Eyes, or No Sight Would be Worth Seeing</i> by Tennessee Williams	
	<i>I Bring You Flowers</i> by William Lang	July 28 -29
Hawera Repertory	<i>The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe</i> C.S. Lewis	June 22 - 30
Levin Little Theatre,	<i>HYPE James and the Giant Peach</i> adpt David Wood	July 22-Aug 5
Kapiti Playhouse	<i>Motherhood the Musical</i> by Sue Fabisch & Johnny Rodgers	July 25 - Aug 4
Mana Little Theatre	<i>Radium Girls</i> by D. W. Gregory	to June 2
Porirua Little Theatre	<i>Art</i> by Yasmina Reza	June 20 - 30
New Players Theatre Co	No, No, No, No, Yes! <i>The Vicar of Dibley Too</i> by Damien Reid	July 25 - Aug 4
Khandallah Arts Theatre	<i>The Pink Hammer</i> by Michele Amas	July 19 - 28
	AUDITION <i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i> by Tennessee Williams	July 8
Stagecraft Theatre	<i>Bronte</i> by Polly Teale	to June 1
	<i>King Lear</i> by William Shakespeare	June 27 - July 7
Drama Christi	<i>Potted Austens</i>	July 20 - 29
Hutt Repertory Theatre	<i>The Vicar of Dibley</i> by Ian Gower & Paul Carpenter	July 4 - 14
Nelson Youth Theatre	<i>Holy Moses</i> by Bob Kolsey, <i>Kickass Plays for Women</i> by Jane Shepard	
	<i>This is a Test</i> by Stephen Gregg, <i>Wake Up Call</i> by Stephen Gregg,	
	<i>The Music Lovers</i> by Georges Freydeau	June 8 - 16
Country Players, Wakefield	<i>A Talk in the Park</i> by Alan Ayckbourn	June 8- 9
Marlborough Repertory Soc.	<i>Pack of Girls</i> by David Geary	June 20 - 30
Riccarton Players	<i>I thought I Saw a Pussycat</i> by Callum Lewis	July 14 - 22
South Cant. Drama League	<i>Menopause the Musical</i> by Jeanie Linders	June 22 - 30
Globe Theatre, Dunedin	<i>The Devil and Mr Mulcahy</i> by James K Baxter	June 8 - 10
	<i>Riders to the Sea</i> by John Synge	June 27 - 29
	<i>Sylvia</i> , Sylvia Plath's poetry dramatised by Barry Kyle	July 27 - 29
Fiordland Players	<i>The Jungle Book</i> (Maverick Musical) adapt Mike Carter	July 5-7
Invercargill Repertory	AUDITION <i>Blackadder Goes Forth</i>	June 17
Youth	<i>The Copy</i> Richard Tulloch, <i>Split</i> Bradley Haywood	June 29 - 30

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

## New Zealand Theatre Month Update:

Ewen Coleman is now assisting with the coordination of events for New Zealand Theatre Month which runs September 1 - 30. He would like to know of any group producing a NZ play during this month and/or undertaking any other activities related to NZ theatre. Even if a group doesn't have such a production they can still organise play readings of NZ plays, discussion evenings or seminars about NZ theatre, display posters of previous NZ plays the group has performed and advertise September as New Zealand Theatre Month in their programmes and newsletters. Details would be appreciated - [edcoleman@xtra.co.nz](mailto:edcoleman@xtra.co.nz)



Which June production is illustrated by this photo?  
Consult the What's On page and it should be obvious!

Editor Margaret Robertson  
Technical Assistance Morris Robertson

Deadline for August/September Backchat 20 July 2018

Theatre New Zealand communications to [info@theatrenewzealand.co.nz](mailto:info@theatrenewzealand.co.nz)  
Or PO Box 22249 Wellington, 6441