



**Nanette Wright, adjudicator of the 2007 NZTF Festival of Community Theatre congratulates Karla Crofts, Director and Playwright of the winning play—
"FAHS War Years"**

President's Column:

Dear People out there,

We have had our National Finals and saw some wonderful work. What I do want you to think about is entries from adults. You wonderfully experienced directors have moved on and perhaps it is time for groups to come together to apply for funds for a workshop for beginning directors. Festivals are a great starting place for our new directors. This is where they can hone their skills but they do need some support to get going. WE TREASURE OUR ADULT TEAMS AND WANT THEM IN OUR FESTIVALS.

We have rescheduled the festival system earlier in the year as we have been told that it gets in the way of end of year productions.

Now, what else can we do to help you? We have built up the strength of our Youth and want to add the quality, maturity and experience of our adults. Clubs and societies are all about mentoring and we want you to help us help you.

To get funds apply to your Community Arts Council (CAC) or Local Creative Communities Funding Scheme. You should be eligible for up to \$1000. This would give you a good start. We are happy to supply the details of good workshop leaders.

BUT DO APPLY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO YOU CAN GET UNDERWAY

Looking forward to your initiative in this area,

Best regards,

Denise Walsh
President



NZ THEATRE FEDERATION—DIARY 2008

National Executive Meeting - Wgtn Feb 2/3
2008 NI Regional Festival - June 6/7
2008 SI Regional Festival - June 13/14
2008 National Final (Wgtn) - June 27/28

New Festival Secretary



Nanette Wright, QSM (LTCL, TTC, RTSCA, ANZDA (accred)) of Napier has been appointed to a new position of "Festival Secretary" for the 2008 Festivals.

Nanette has a wide experience in many facets of theatre, from musical to straight, youth theatre and recently site presentations. She has adjudicated for the New Zealand Theatre Federation at District, Regional and National Finals and at National level for C.W.I. and for Sheila Wynn Shakespeare festivals. Nanette has directed in Canterbury, South Canterbury, Otago and Hawkes Bay.

She was made a Paul Harris Fellow for community involvement in cultural arts and youth affairs. Nanette

Address: Apartment D509
14 West Quay
Ahuriri
NAPIER

Phone/Fax: (06) 835 2016

Email: bry.nan@xtra.co.nz

Page BACKCHAT INDEX

1	Cover—Karla Crofts is congratulated by adjudicator Nanette Wright on winning the NZTF Book of Honour for 2007
2	Editorial Festival & Meeting Dates New Festival Director
3	Drama Development Trust Report
4 & 5	NZTF National Final 2007—Results & photos
6	May Ives Library Update Sheilah Winn Festival news Script Amnesty
7	"What's on" Advertising
8	Websites of Interest

DRAMA DEVELOPMENT TRUST REPORT

Contributed by Margaret Robertson, Secretary, Drama Development Trust

This year the Trust has helped theatre in New Zealand in a number of ways. Funding was given to ANZDA for their Professional Development Seminar held in May. Napier Repertory Players held a weekend workshop for actors in August and their application for funding was successful. As you know the May Ives Library has been moved to Palmerston North and the DDT were able to help NZTF with the moving costs. Finally all the teams that reached the National Final were once again given vouchers for \$75 for use in the library.

Last year one of the recipients of a scholarship for tuition was Toni Rowe of Stratford and here is her report on her experience with the Young Shakespeare Company.

One Experience, So Many Rewards!

How many eighteen olds from New Zealand can say they have performed Shakespeare's works on the Globe Theatre stage in London? Not many. But I am privileged enough to say that I have!

From June 30 till July 17 I represented New Zealand as a member of the Young Shakespeare Company 2006 and what an amazing eighteen days it truly was! The company was made up of 22 talented actors and actresses from NZ secondary schools. After eight months of fundraising, preparing and simply waiting we were all bursting at the seams to be at the Globe Theatre.

From the minute we arrived we were into tutorials and workshops. The Globe Theatre has a well developed education system full of talented, willing and fantastic directors who made each session challenging, unique and of course fun! Each day was packed with a number of workshops to keep us on our feet. Our group director was Tom Cornford who ran a few workshops but mostly he ran rehearsals training us up for our performance of *Antony and Cleopatra*. Tom is a very confident, enthusiastic and professional director who after spending ten days with, taught me in depth that acting is playing truth in an imaginary situation. Exploring this concept through many exercises and experiments, it shone a whole new light on Shakespeare and acting.

My most memorable workshop was taken by Patrick Spottiswoode who is the Director of Globe Education. He gave us our first viewing inside the Globe Theatre. WOW! As I walked in a speechless silence came over me as there was so much to take in. It really is a sensational space to just stand in! I've seen pictures and photos of the Globe Theatre many times but nothing beats the real deal. There is a very magical atmosphere inside that theatre and there is no description to do it justice. Whether you are standing in the empty theatre, watching theatre or performing you know this is not just another theatre.



**SHAKESPEARE'S
GLOBE THEATRE**

LONDON



NZTF Festival of Community Theatre 2007

Quote from the recent National Final programme:

"Although the theatre is not life, it is composed of fragments or imitations of life, and people on both sides of the footlights have to unite to make the fragments whole and the imitations genuine."

Brooks Atkinson (1894-1984) - Theatre Critic for the New York Times from 1925—1960. In his obituary the Times called him "the most important reviewer of his time."

**WINNER OF THE NZTF
BOOK OF HONOUR**

FAHS Fielding High School "Lest We Forget—FAHS War Years" - Director Karla Crofts

**SELECON TECHNICAL
AWARD**

Feilding Little Theatre "The Cook Tapes"
by Andre Surrige - Director: Dan Mateer

NZTF BEST ACTOR (FEMALE)

Anri Kang (Park Players)

NZTF BEST ACTOR (MALE)

Pana Hema-Taylor (Aranui High School)

**BRYAN AITKEN AWARD FOR
BEST YOUTH PRODUCTION**

FAHS Fielding High School "Lest We Forget—FAHS War Years" - Director Karla Crofts

**BEST PRODUCTION OF A NEW
ZEALAND PLAY**

FAHS Fielding High School "Lest We Forget—FAHS War Years" - Director Karla Crofts

**JANNAT AITCHISON MEMORIAL AWARD
- Distinctive Emerging Player**

Andrew Bolitho (Aranui High School)

**JANNAT AITCHISON MEMORIAL AWARD
- Distinctive Emerging Player**

Megan Andrews (Feilding Little Theatre)

**JANNAT AITCHISON MEMORIAL AWARD
- Distinctive Emerging Player**

Tom Wardle (Feilding Little Theatre)

Olga Harding Playwriting Award

The 2007 Olga Harding Playwrighting award was won this year by Dinie Bevers of Waimate, South Canterbury, for her wonderfully satirical play "The Third Floor".

The play was entered in the Canterbury/West Coast District festival as a Youth entry and performed by Il Scapino.

Synopsis: A global decision to change the logistics and strategy of future warfare has resulted in the selection - by computer - of two unwilling citizens. Rafeef Hakeem is a US tertiary student of Iraqi/Syrian descent currently studying at Vic University, Wellington. He lives in a flat with his girlfriend Azmia Bishara, also a US student and of Israeli parentage.

Marlborough Repertory at Finals

At technical rehearsals on the Saturday afternoon a member of Marlborough Repertory's award winning team suffered an unfortunate accident and ended up in hospital in agony. Sydney Lehman, co-writer and actress, twisted her leg and was taken to hospital in absolute agony. Pumped full of painkillers she was unable to continue and the team had to be withdrawn.

Our best wishes go to her for a speedy recovery and also to the other members of the team - Abby Jameson (co-writer and actress) and Heather Jameson (Director).

It would be great to see the play "Cut" at a competitive level again next year.



FAHS Feilding High School

WINNERS OF THE BOOK OF HONOUR

FAHS Feilding High School was a very worthy recipient of the Book of Honour this year for *Lest We Forget – FAHS War Years* directed by Karla Crofts. This play was written by Karla Crofts and Year 13 Drama Students.

The ensemble cast of 22 built up a compelling drama from letters sent back from past pupils of FAHS who fought in World War II, some never to return. The audience were drawn into their “imitation of life” and the fragments became whole and the imitation genuine.



Anri Kang, Sibby Foster & Kajsa Louw
(Park Players)



Feilding Little Theatre



Aranui High School - ChCh



OnStage Productions - Westport

District Festivals in MAY Next Year!

We hope that District Festival organisers will encourage lots of participation for this earlier time slot. Festivals need to be revamped. Perhaps entrants would rise to the challenge of performing only in blacks without a set. This would concentrate effort on direction, acting and technical aspects. Have you thought of awarding certificates for magic moments, prizes for a two hander or best NZ play? Can you get sponsorship to give out monetary awards? At the National Final this year three new awards were made for emerging actors; could there be an award for this at your District Festival?

Each District is free to set its own individual criteria for a vibrant festival so go for it!

Update on May Ives Library

Joan Ford writes: The library was packed and sent off from Christchurch at the beginning of the July holidays. Unfortunately it did not arrive for some weeks due to a mix up of contact numbers and the removers did not contact Christchurch again to check on address of its destination. The library was delivered in August but alas Manawatu were busy with District Festival and organising a Regional Festival.

However last weekend Sheridan Hickey, Joan Ford, Peter Doherty and other society members made lots of progress. Nearly half the library is unpacked, processed and shelved (shelves had to be remade and resized). Bryan Aitken is busy organising applications for funding for a new computer and copier. When we have the technology the phone lines will be connected.

We have a number of people very keen to come and work at the library and we also have access to an archivist who will be cataloguing some of our historical books.

We apologise for all the delays and frustrations and we know that some members have had to seek play scripts elsewhere. In the meantime keep sending requests to:

The National Administrator
NZ Theatre Federation Inc.
C/- 3 Coates Street
Westport

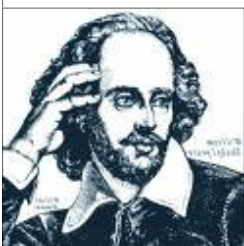
or alternatively email your request to: NZTFNat@xtra.co.nz

Lyn Doncliff is always available to answer your queries or pass on requests to the library.

BUT WATCH THIS SPACE :

NEW CONTACTS WILL BE PUBLISHED AS SOON AS THEY ARE AVAILABLE.

National Sheilah Winn Festival of Shakespeare in Schools'07



NZ Theatre Federation's shield awarded for Outstanding Production went this year to Queen Margaret College of Wellington. They performed a piece from Richard III which garnered them an award for Outstanding Presentation from a History as well as performance awards for two of the actors.

The girls performed with "power, command and emotional commitment to rival that of professional theatre", so the post-performance report noted.

Script Amnesty

The Library is offering an amnesty to all those members and past members who may have inadvertently filed our scripts away safely, to return the said scripts free of penalties and with no questions asked.

We are sure there are scripts out there that we could use in our library.

Just pop them in an unmarked envelope/parcel and send them back to:

NZ Theatre Federation
C/- 3 Coates Street
Westport

THANK YOU

“What’s on in the Theatre Scene”

Gisborne Unity Theatre	<i>The Turn of the Screw</i> by Ken Whitmore	Oct 9 –13
Butterfly Creek	20 th Anniversary Celebration	Oct 5- 7
Heretaunga Players	<i>Unoriginal Sin</i> by David Tristram	Nov 22–Dec 1
Hutt Repertory	<i>Anyone for Breakfast</i> by Derek Benfield	Nov 14 - 24
Kapiti Playhouse	<i>Mean Jean the Pirate Queen</i> by Michelanne Forster	Nov 12–Dec 3
Khandallah Arts Theatre	<i>Ladies Who Lunch</i> by Tudor Gates	Oct 4 - 13
Levin Little Theatre	<i>Trouble in Pantoland</i> by Sharon Hulm	Nov 15 – 24
Porirua Little Theatre	<i>Seussical The Musical</i> by Lyn Ahrens & Stephen Flahery	Nov 15–Dec 1
Stagecraft Theatre	<i>The Weekend</i> by Michael Palin	Nov 7 - 17
Tawa Community Theatre	<i>Melodramatic Murder and Mayhem at Moore Manor</i> by Margaret Potter and Marie Thomson	Nov 23–Dec 1
Wellington Repertory	<i>Shakespeare Revue</i>	Nov 28–Dec 7

What’s the rest of the country up to? For inclusion on this page do send in your newsletters - name the playwright, and give dates of your production.

Drama Development Trust

Applications for individual scholarships and group activity funding are now available for next year. Send for details to:

Drama Development Trust
PO Box 22 249
Wellington 6441.

ADVERTISING IN BACKCHAT

Advertising rates for this publication are: \$50 +GST per 1/2 page (advert supplied) - other sizes negotiable.

Contact: NZTFnat@xtra.co.nz

Looking for a New Zealand Play for 2008?

Order a Perusal Script Now!

"Brilliant fast moving script.... Fun to stage, hilarious to watch..."
Toni Henderson
Director for Tauranga Musical Theatre"

"Looking for a NZ play that will pull in the crowds? This is it!"

Phil Ormsby
Artistic Director Flaxworks Theatre

"Ideal comedy for the Repertory Theatre!"

Gregory Brownless
Past President Tauranga Repertory Theatre"

"Hilarious, dramatic, insightful. Williamson's plays are winners for the audience and producer alike".

Stuart Gunn
Artistic Director Absolute Theatre

Outrageous NZ Comedy!

"Another winner from the writer of Crazy Ladies!"

Understanding WOMEN

Mike, Dave and Julian spend a weekend in a garden shed determined to break an age old mystery. Armed with a case of beer, a box of girlie magazines and a holy book they are going to "understand women". What they discover is not quite what they expected.

By Devon Williamson

Hilarious NZ Comedy!

Crazy Ladies

An outrageous comedy! Five school friends stage their own reunion after 25 years apart. Friendships are rekindled, secrets are revealed, a janitor is kidnapped! Hilarious and uplifting.

By Devon Williamson

For perusal scripts and information contact: | Email: info@plays.co.nz | Ph: 07 5710752

www.plays.co.nz

Websites of Interest

Theatre Reviews

www.theatreview.org.nz contains reviews of NZ theatre of all types by various reviewers and forums of interest to theatre people generally

www.lumiere.net.nz/reader film and theatre review site

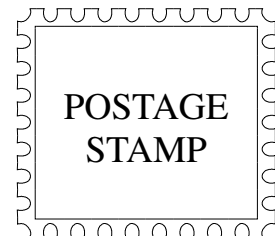
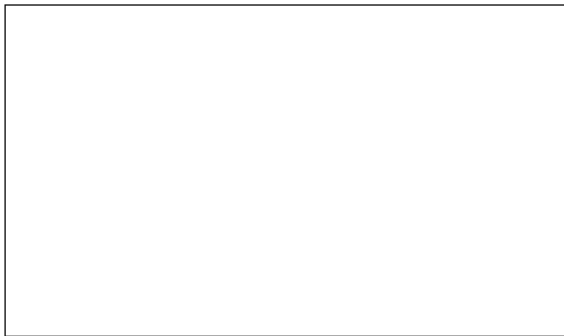
www.theatrecomrades.co.nz is a not for profit website for theatre

www.nzlive.com cultural website by Ministry of Culture and Heritage

www.thebigidea.co.nz an online community for NZ creative practitioners, producers and organisations. Updates daily.

<http://atlanticsource.org/wap> Wellington Actors Practice, a play reading group for actors

(Thanks to Barry Lakeman, New Players newsletter Sept '07 for this useful list.)



Deadline for next issue of Backchat

Dec 11, 2007

Contributions please to New Zealand Theatre Federation
email NZTFadmin@xtra.co.nz www.theatrenewzealand.co.nz

Fax 03 789 7122

**C/- 3 Coates Street
WESTPORT**