



The Book of Honour in the hands of Gussie Johnson for *A Talk in the Park*, her winning production for Invercargill Repertory Society.

It was presented to her by Christine Hatton in the middle. As General Manager of MediaWorks Nelson MoreFM, Christine was a major sponsor of the festival.

Adjudicator Natalie Ellis-Wilson is on the right

President's Column

Dear Members,

The Festival of Community Theatre is a major event in NZTF's calendar. The success of the Festival system and its benefits are borne out by the increasingly high standard of presentations appearing at these Festivals and this year was no exception. In a first for a National Final 8 presentations were performed over two nights in the wonderfully refurbished Theatre Royal in Nelson. The range and diversity of presentations, in both style and content was as wide as could be imagined and provided an excellent weekend of theatre.

As well as the plays NZTF held its AGM and the organisers ran 4 very successful workshops on Saturday afternoon. It was a full-on weekend, very well organised and attended and everyone came away from Nelson buzzing about not only the performances but the positive way NZTF is moving forward.

It is no mean feat to organise such a weekend, and NZTF and all those in Nelson for the National Final are indebted to the organisers, Dramatix Theatre Trust and Top Of The South District Theatre Federation, for the time and effort they put in to making the weekend such a success. Thank you very much indeed.

This year's AGM was the first held under our new constitution. NZTF now has an Executive elected from the membership rather than having District representatives. Their names are opposite; some are from the previous Executive and some new and all of them are full of enthusiasm and lots of ideas which augers well for the future governance of NZTF.

An exciting new initiative announced is that NZTF will provide funding to bring tutors into an area to run workshops. This is not for just one theatre group but a number in an area who have a need for specific types of workshops and who can apply to NZTF to assist with getting the workshops off the ground, sourcing tutors and funding their travel..

Membership renewal this year is lower than in previous years. We have sent out reminder notices and hopefully you will renew your membership especially as there are increasing advantages of being a member of NZTF.

The future for NZTF is very bright indeed and so we want as many groups as possible to be part of this.

Ewen D Coleman
National President



41st Annual General Meeting

A new National Executive was elected according to the new constitution which can be seen online at www.societies.govt.nz,

President: Ewen Coleman
Vice President: Bryan Aitken
Secretary: Margaret Robertson
Treasurer: Gregg Perkins

Committee: Lynn Bushell, Anne Corney, Jade Gillies, Anne McAuley, Sue Miller with power to co-opt one other.

Joan Ford, Frank Hartley, Sheridan Hickey, Sharon Saxton and Nanette Wright who stepped down from the Executive were thanked for their good services to NZTF over a cumulation of years.

The meeting was informed that the new website is near completion, that a new Memorandum of Understanding has been worked out with Playmarket and that the Federation is now emphasizing subsidised area workshops. See page 3 and enclosed form. The 2012 Festival will again have a Regional adjudicator in each Island saving teams' travel costs. See proposed dates on page 3.

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Festival of Community Theatre 2012

You are invited to attend the National Final next year **September 14–15** at the Lowe Family Performing Arts Centre, Lindisfarne College, Pakowhai Rd Hastings.

Regional Dates in both Islands:
August 24–25 and **August 31–September 1**

Entry level festivals will take place late July or early August. Will you organise one?

NZTF's Educational Outreach

Workshops are being set up where there is a need and the first one will be centred in Rotorua covering directing, lighting and acting before the end of the year.

Local people identify a need, offer a venue, date and an administrator. NZTF undertakes to find appropriate tutors and is responsible for their transport costs and sending out registration forms to all other groups within a radius of 1–2 hours drive. An administrator is required to prepare and keep to a realistic budget of participants' fees covering the tutor's accommodation if necessary (not billeting), catering and administration costs.

Non members are welcome but will be required to pay a premium to participate.

A database of tutors of all things theatrical is to be assembled. Do you know of anyone who would be suitable? Please send their names and contact details: info@theatrenewzealand.co.nz

These workshops are being subsidised by NZTF and The Drama Development Trust who gave \$1000 to the federation at the Finals.

Here Ewen speaks about the use of DDT Chairman, Jim Barr's gift.



Introducing the National Executive

ANNE CORNEY, NAPIER

Anne has been involved in theatre for almost 40 years. Before moving to Hawke's Bay in 1987 she was involved with Cue Theatre, Inglewood and the New Plymouth Repertory, Little Theatre and Operatic Societies.



Anne has worked in all areas of theatre working for Napier Repertory Players, Napier Operatic Society and Theatre Hawke's Bay, Hastings. She is currently Administration Manager for Green Room Theatre, a mobile theatre group based in Napier. She is also the President of the NZTF Hawke's Bay District Committee and is the organiser of the 2012 National Festival of Community Theatre. Her passion is theatre and her dream is to work full time in the Performing Arts industry.

SUE MILLER, WELLINGTON



Sue has been actively involved in community theatre for over 40 years, in Tauranga, Whangarei and Wellington.

In her earlier years she sometimes appeared on stage but now directs, does wardrobe, lighting, props, or whatever else needs to be done.

She is mainly associated with Mana Little Theatre in Pimmerton and Wellington Repertory Theatre (where she is currently president), but also helps occasionally with Tawa Community Theatre and Stagecraft. She is a member of the Wellington District Theatre Federation, returning a couple of years ago after a break of about 15 years. With her husband Ross, who also acts, directs, does sound and lighting etc, they run a public relations company from their home in Camborne, Wellington.

More profiles next issue



Congratulations to the winners!

Book of Honour and the Ewen Coleman Award for Best Adult Production:



A Talk in the Park by Alan Ayckbourn directed by Gussie Johnson for Invercargill Repertory

Bryan Aitken Award for Best Youth Production:

Henry VIII by William Shakespeare directed by Julie Radice and Amber Grace for Tolaga Bay Area School and Kuranui. (No photo available)

Denise Walsh Award for Best Production of a New Zealand Play:



A Resident Evil written and directed by TJ Ramsay for Dramatix Theatre Trust.

NZTF Award Best Actor Female:



Shared between **Lesley Courtney** (left) as Robin in *Me and My Friend* for Pahiatua Repertory Society and **Ariana Manning** (right) as Jo Garrett in *Thistle Blossoms* for Napier Repertory.

NZTF Award for Best Actor Male:



Shared between **George Hollinsworth** as Le Marquis de Sade in *A Resident Evil* for Dramatix Theatre Trust and **Milton Munro** as Arthur in *A Talk in the Park* for Invercargill Repertory.

People's Choice Awards — one for each night

Cod of War written and directed by Scott Frater of Dramatix Theatre Trust and *A Talk in the Park* by Alan Ayckbourn, directed by Gussie Johnson of Invercargill Repertory Society.



Scott Frater receives the People's Choice Award a wooden dice from Anne McAuley, the Master of Ceremonies.

Best New Director as chosen by Regional adjudicators:

Aisha Williams who directed *If I Said You Have a Heavenly Body* by Andre Surridge for Invercargill Repertory Theatre.

David Brocket Memorial Award for Backstage Achievement:

Annette Elkins of Napier Repertory Society.
(Neither Aisha nor Annette were able to be present to receive their awards)

Selecon Design/Technical Award:



Cod of War written and directed by Scott Frater for Dramatix Theatre Trust. Here Nigel Gibbs and Robbie Burns receive the hook lamp award.

Olga E Harding new New Zealand Playwriting Award - mounted pounamu presented by Nanette Wright:



Alan Williamson for *Fixation* performed by Theatre Whakatane at the Bay of Plenty District Festival.

Jannat Aitchison Memorial Awards for Distinctive Emerging Talent:

Chosen by Nanette Wright on behalf of Joan Ford and Denise Walsh as well.



Awarded to two actors in *Henry VIII*; **Tangiwai Moran** (above) who played multiple roles and **Te Ao O Hinepe-hinga Rauna** (below), dancer for Tolaga Bay Area School and Kuranui.



The third award went to **Amy Crepin**, actor in *Thistle Blossoms* of Napier Repertory Players.



**NEW ZEALAND PLAYWRIGHTS
PLAYMARKET.ORG.NZ
AGENT. ADVISOR. BOOKSHOP**

If any of these plays interest you we can email you the script, and if you have any particular requirements we can also make other suggestions — please contact scripts@playmarket.org.nz with your queries.

AUNT DAISY

Peter Hawes (7w 3m)

NZ during the birth of broadcasting 1910 to 1960. A wildly uplifting musical about a woman who became a legend in her own lifetime. This Downstage commissioned play, with music composed by the Six Volts, was a premiere hit. Large chorus possible.

THE MOTOR CAMP

Dave Armstrong (3m 3w; amateur licence available for 2013)

From the award winning writer of *Le Sud* and *Niu Sila* comes the perfect play for summer. Two couples, two caravans, two teenagers arrive at a motor camp and have to park next to each other. As both families try to enjoy their holiday and keep their hormonal teenagers apart, a hilarious series of events unfolds. The Motor Camp is a glorious celebration of our annual Kiwi camping rituals.

SHEEP

Arthur Meek (4w 2m)

Sheep is a series of seven cleverly and affectionately linked snapshots of New Zealand life linked by family and the journey of wool from sheep's back to wearable product. Spanning three countries and 150 years, Sheep is about products and people and the tangled relationship between technology and biology. All the characters are between 14 and 25 years old, themes and content are mature.

DESPERATE ANTICS

Kevin Keys (10 – 20 cast – great for youth)

Something is rotten in the State of Fad. Pet Economies are eating their owners; Gym machines are working their users to death; the President is being visited by ghosts and despite the assurances of the 'Corporate Angels' it seems the stock of Fad is plummeting... Desperate, the people of Fad come together demanding to see the great Fad himself, with hilarious consequences.

DRINKING GAMES

Damien Wilkins (4m)

Back in school they enjoyed vodka tonics for lunch at Gary's mum's place until Steve threw up in a beaker at science class. These days, stretching the tenuous ties of the decades, Gary, Steve, Dave and Tim meet once a month to play tennis which serves as a foreplay to drinking. But the things that brought the men together now seem less potent than what is driving them apart.

THE GOD BOY

Ian Cross (3-5w, 4-6m)

Ian Cross's adaptation of his classic novel. Jimmy Sullivan recreates the events that led to his placement in an orphanage.

KEEPING ON THE RAILS

Rosalie Carey (even m&w up to 20 +)

A documentary concerning Ruth Page, Sonia Davis and other women attempting to save the Nelson rail line in 1955.

LADIES A PLATE

Geri Brophy & Beatrice Joblin (2w)

A series of stories and poems inspired by afternoon tea and the recipes passed down from one generation to another... mother to daughter.

PARTY GIRLS!

Pinky Agnew, Geri Brophy & Lyndee Jane Rutherford (3w)

The Pinny Party Girls are campaigning for us to tickle their boxes in election year - and yes, that's the sort of humour we're dealing with! + political satire. An excellent concept and wicked humour.

THE SPY WHO WOULDN'T DIE AGAIN

Tim Spite & Gabe O'Donnell (1w 3m)

1985..America listens to 'We Are the World' and watches WrestleMania, the French plan to bomb a ship in the South Pacific and in Soviet Russia, Mikhail Gorbachev sets about dismantling the apparatus of the state and installs spare parts in his Lada. Meanwhile, in a quiet Kiwi shed, a backyard inventor makes a break through that could revolutionise the energy industry...

THE BOOK OF FAME

Carl Nixon (4-13m)

Adapted from the Lloyd Jones novel it tells the story of an unlikely bunch of lads heading to the UK in 1905 as All Blacks in the tour that made the team famous in NZ and around the world.

THE BUTCHER AND THE BEAR

Michellanne Forster (1w 3m)

Great for small children. Bear and bird get into big trouble when spring arrives, and hungry, they venture into the village to find some food. They annoy the butcher, get caught by the gypsy, and have a terrible job getting free.

HEAVEN HELP US!

Tim Hambleton (3w 3m)

Set in the waiting room of Heaven with the Pearly Gates being renovated in the background. Angela, is filling in for St Peter who is away on leave, and contrary to popular belief it is Angela, not God, who is responsible for making the final selection of those who make it into the waiting room. A great new comedy.

What's On September/October/November 2011

Titirangi Theatre	<i>Terra Nova</i> by Ted Tally <i>The Women</i> by Clare Boothe Luce	June 7–18 September 6–17
Avondale College	<i>Oliver</i> by Lionel Bart. Bookings 820 1731	September 6–10
Howick Little Theatre	<i>Heroes</i> by Gerald Sibleyras trans Tom Stoppard	September 3–24
Hunua Youth Theatre	<i>Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs</i> trad	November 25–27
Waihi Drama Society	<i>Oklahoma!</i> by Rogers and Hammerstein	November 4–19
Hamilton Playbox	<i>Solid Gold Christmas</i> , annual Riverlea Christmas Show	Nov 25–Dec 17
Performing Arts, Taumaranui	<i>'Allo 'Allo</i> by Jeremy Croft & David Lloyd	September 24–28
Katikati Theatre	<i>Gallaher</i> self-devised about first All Black Captain	October 18–22
Tauranga Repertory	<i>Flint Street Nativity</i> by Tim Firth	Nov 23–Dec 10
Detour Theatre, Tauranga	<i>Much Ado About Nothing</i> by William Shakespeare <i>The Mouse Trap</i> by Agatha Christie	September 1–17 Nov 16–Dec 3
Te Puke Repertory	<i>Brief Encounter</i> a tribute to Noel Coward	November
Rotorua Little Theatre	<i>Are You Being Served?</i> by Jeremy Lloyd&David Croft	Nov 18–Dec 3
New Plymouth Little Theatre	<i>The Sex Fiend</i> Sinclair /Mulheron	Nov 16–Dec 3
Inglewood Dramatic Society	<i>Four Flat Whites in Italy</i> by Roger Hall	November 12–26
Hawera Repertory Society	<i>Nunsensations!</i> by Dan Goggin	November 19–26
Napier Repertory Players	<i>Play On</i> by Rick Abbot	November 10–19
Theatre Hawkes Bay	<i>Brassed Off</i> by Paul Allen from Mark Herman's screenplay	Nov 24–Dec 3
HaBYT, Hastings	<i>Once a Catholic</i> by Mary O'Malley	Sept 21–24, Oct 5–8
Pahiatua Repertory Society	<i>Beverley Hillbillies</i> by Henning/Rogers	Nov 24–December 3
Limelight Theatre Co, Carterton	<i>The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas</i> by Larry King/Peter Masterton	November 9–19
Levin Little Theatre	<i>Pirates</i> by Sharon Hulm	Nov 16–Dec 3
Mana Little Theatre	<i>My Husband's Nuts</i> by Devon Williamson	Oct 27–Nov 12
Porirua Little Theatre	<i>Cinderella</i> by Amanda Stone	Nov 17–Dec 3
Stagecraft Theatre	<i>In the Next Room or the Vibrator Play</i> by Sarah Ruhl <i>Nosferatu, Vampyre of the Night</i> by Simon Boyes and Mary Coffey	September 7–17 November 9–19
Wellington Repertory	<i>Wryd Sisters</i> by Terry Pratchett	Nov 26–Dec 10
Hutt Repertory Theatre	<i>The Velveteen Rabbit</i> by Scott Davidson <i>The Wedding Party</i> by Fiona Samuel	October 10–15 December 8–18
Heretaunga Players	<i>A Kick in the Baubles</i> by Gordon Steel	Nov 23–Dec 3
Butterfly Creek Theatre Troupe, Eastbourne	<i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i> by Oscar Wilde	September 15–24
Elmwood Players	<i>Middle Aged Spread</i> by Roger Hall	October 12–22
SC Drama League, Timaru	Musical Theatre <i>All Shook Up</i> by Joe DiPietro Repertory <i>Cat, Rat & Granny Mac</i> by Carol England Mill Theatre <i>The Good Old Days Music Hall</i>	September 16–24 October 7–15 Nov/December

Do you send your newsletters by email? Please include Backchat editor margaretr@vodafone.co.nz

The Olga E Harding Award for new New Zealand Playwriting

This year the award went to Alan Williamson for *Fixation*. Alan says, "it is a black comedy that deals with people's fixation with doggedly retaining what they own despite everything failing around them, like a marriage. Sometimes it takes an outside event to make one move on. It was inspired by some of the stories I heard coming out of the Christchurch disaster."

Alan is a Playmarket client who has written some 30 plays, TV, film and radio scripts. He wrote winning NZTF playwriting scripts also in 1989 *Elephants* and 1990 *Duty*.

Looking for a New Zealand Play for your Theatre?

new release!

How to Train Your Husband

Five menopausal women are lured to a motel by a kidnapper who has seriously underestimated his prey. A weekend of madness and mayhem ensues as the women seize control and marry the kidnapper off to one of their group.

Menopause Made Me Do It!

Five menopausal women are lured to a motel by a kidnapper who has seriously underestimated his prey. A weekend of madness and mayhem ensues as the women seize control and marry the kidnapper off to one of their group.

My Husband's Nuts!

Barbara's husband is missing on the family farm. When Jack finally returns he's convinced that he is a Japanese soldier holding out on an island after World War Two. Barbara's husband is nuts. The only people she can trust with this information is the new vet and the village idiot. How will they restore Jack's mind without the help of the medical profession... or common sense?

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 girly magazines and a holy book they are going to "understand women". What they discover is not quite what they expected. Understanding Women is a comedy play for both sexes!



Lost for Words

Can a BBC announcer, a mute receptionist, a heel clicking German and a white guy who's convinced he's Jamaican, convert their Auckland classical music station to reggae?

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.

"Looking for a NZ play that will pull in the crowds? This is it!"
Phil Owersby, Artistic Director
Flamewalks Theatre

"Hilarious, dramatic, insightful. Williamson's plays are winners for the audience and producer alike!"
Stuart Gunn, Artistic Director
Absolute Theatre

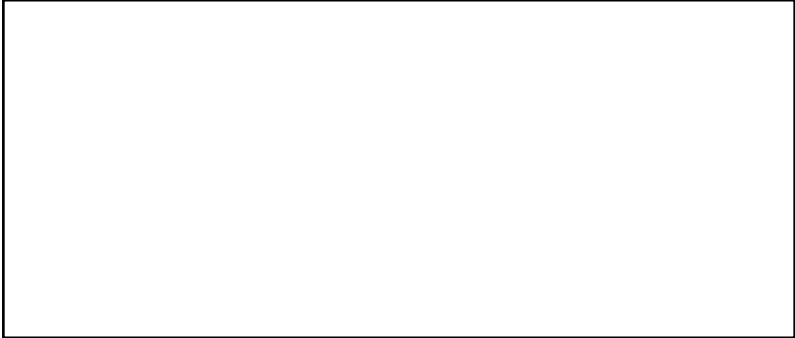
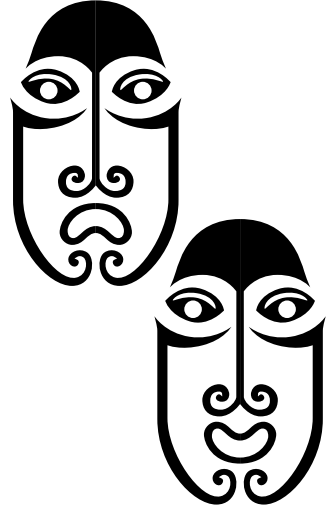
"Quick, witty dialogue... fast-moving... real Kiwi comedy that is sure to appeal and entertain!"
Whakatare Beacon

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

Productions staged in Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, Tauranga, Waikato, Taranaki... it's time to stage one at your theatre!

By Devon Williamson Order perusal scripts at Play Bureau!

For perusal scripts and information contact: The Play Bureau Phone: (06) 757-3103 E Mail: play.bureau.nz@xtra.co.nz



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Send NZTF communications to
info@theatrenewzealand.co.nz
or PO Box 329 Palmerston North 4440