

# BACKCHAT

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

October - December 2016, Vol.39 Issue 5



Finalists mix it up: *Addisyn*, *Brown All Round*, *Carol and Nev*,  
*Knitting*, *Measure for Measure*, *Profound Moments*.  
*The Dumb Waiter* and *Wings*. See p4

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## THE PRESIDENT'S PEN



As we reflect on the passing of yet another exciting Theatre Festival it is timely to pause and consider what theatre is all about.

Before that though, I want to thank the outgoing executive including: Anne McCauley in Blenheim who contributed in a regional capacity for 15 years, and whose commitment and talent will be missed; Blair Kershaw who kept our financial records and whose contributions are so valuable and also Phillie Holmes, Invercargill for her time on the National Executive.

We thank Bryan Aitken (Christchurch) as he steps down from the role of president, after a considerable service, and we reiterate the thanks and warm wishes presented to him as he received Life Member status. Thankfully Bryan opts to continue on the National Executive as Vice President. We are grateful too for the continuing service of Ewen Coleman (Wellington), who regales listeners with stories of his 4 decades of service. Anne Corney (Napier) who continues in her commitment to theatre in New Zealand; Lorna Ashton (Hamilton) found time to enter a play, and was a finalist this year. We also have Mark Perry (Hamilton) recently awarded the David Brockett Award for his long term commitment back stage at the Invercargill Finals night, who has been seconded back onto the Committee to continue services to the Website. And (thankfully) Margaret Robertson (Wellington) continues in her role as Secretary.

We welcome Nik Rolls (Auckland) as treasurer, David Cox (Wellington), Hannah Kennedy (Invercargill), and Brian Byas (Dunedin) to their new roles on the Executive.

As incoming president I shall be chairing a hui in Wellington, February 2017 as an open forum to discuss our future. What could our future look like? Your responses will be recruited via survey and indeed live submissions at this hui. Details will emerge later.

I was backstage recently, in the quiet moments before going on stage. The actor prepares. The vocal and physical warm up. The consideration of the other actors, and stage manager. I had checked that my props were in order. My costume had been put on right. The lines raced through my head - anything to remember from last night? That's right I should remember to.....

A familiar preparatory feeling for us all; a fellow actor quips "I wonder why we do it - this strange hobby of ours - but I am so glad that we do". I tended to agree. It can be high stress. Time expansive. Physically draining, night after night of late nights, questionable diets, doubtful fitness and exercise; slips and shortcuts at work. Challenging to time for family and other relationships. Open to critique, and general criticism. Psychologically bruising to be part of a review that was challenging. Generally Intense and, OH SO ADDICTIVE.

**But what a high. When it works. Wow!**

Even if it doesn't there's a joy in supporting each other, so the audience won't notice a thing. Friendship. Teamwork. Pretend. Perseverance. Passion. All of us have a role to play. The Actors. The Backstage crew. The Committee. The audience. We all keep live theatre alive.

My cousin is a journalist and she said "Democracy cannot work without journalism". I believe that the same applies "Society can't work without theatre". Telling stories is more than entertainment, dressing up, being silly. It forms a commentary on society. It can provide a catharsis for trauma. It becomes a historical record. Live theatre becomes a mirror of how we wish to be seen. Which in turn shows insight into the human state.

So yes, to the applause. Yes, to the parties. Yes, to the friends - enduring often from show to show, separated sometimes by up to decades apart. Yes, to the costumes, Yes, to the lights, Yes, to the panic and ultimate relief. And yes also to the stories.

**Here's to the Theatre. The Art that we love.**

Take care

*Steven Arnold*

President (Auckland) 0201824482 [Steven.arnold.Moss@gmail.com](mailto:Steven.arnold.Moss@gmail.com)

## Annual General Meeting of Theatre New Zealand held 10 September 2016

**National Officers** elected: President Steven Arnold, Vice President Bryan Aitken, Treasurer Nik Rolls, Secretary Margaret Robertson

**National Executive:** Lorna Ashton, Brian Byas, Ewen Coleman, Anne Corney, David Cox, Hannah Kennedy. Mark Perry was also co-opted to Executive.

Theatre New Zealand continues to move forward as reflected in outgoing President Bryan's report attached with this newsletter. Another step along the way is to formalise our change of name in the constitution. It was moved by the National Executive that:

1. That wherever in the constitution the words "The Theatre Federation of New Zealand INC" appears that this be changed to Theatre New Zealand and that wherever in the constitution the words "the Federation" appears that this be changed to Theatre NZ
2. That in Clause 11 (i) "two months" be replaced by "six weeks"

### 11. NOMINATIONS AND REMITS:

- (i) Nominations for the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and six Executive Members and remits for consideration are to be delivered to the Secretary at least six weeks before the date of the Annual General Meeting and the Secretary will then give notice of such nominations and remits to all Members at least one month before the date of the Annual General Meeting.
- (ii) And that in clause 12 (i) "three months" be replaced by "two months"

### 12. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

- (i) All Members will be given at least **two months'** notice of the date, time, and place fixed for an Annual General Meeting.
  3. That in Clause 12 (i) (d) "an Auditor" be replaced by "a Financial Reviewer"
  - (ii) (d) Appointing a Financial Reviewer as in clause 20 (iii) below.
- And that in Clause 20 (ii) "audited" be replaced by "reviewed" and "an Auditor" be replaced by "a Financial Reviewer"

### 20. ACCOUNTS AND REPORTS

- (ii) Theatre NZ is to have the accounts of each financial year **reviewed** by a **Financial Reviewer** appointed in accordance with sub-clause (iii) below.
- And that in Clause 20 (iii) and (iv) "Auditor" be replaced by "Financial Reviewer"
- These proposals were carried and will be ratified at the next Annual General Meeting.*

Eight Meritorious Service Awards were announced and their names will be published at a later date once their groups have honoured recipients with their award.

Our weekend in Invercargill was expertly organised by Jade Gillies and his team. As well as the AGM, there were eight splendid performances to enjoy and the three workshops held on Saturday covering The Text in Action, Special Effects Makeup and Improvisation for Rehearsals were well attended. Thank you very much for great Southland hospitality.

We welcome new member **St Kentigern College**. It is noted that three schools welcomed in the last issue went through to TheatreFest national finals and all three won awards!

**Erratum:** Apologies to Violet Donovan wrongly identified as 'Donaldson' on August cover photo of Napier Reps' *Eugenia*.



National Finals 2016

Congratulations to the Finalists. In order of appearance they were:

*Addisyn* by Campbell Wright NZ directed by Campbell Wright,  
Cashmere High School

*The Dumb Waiter* by Harold Pinter directed by Sonya Cameron,  
Elmwood Players

*Carol and Nev* by Phil Ormsby NZ directed by Barry Gibbons & Joy Ramsay,  
Clyde Theatre Company

*Wings* by Jess Sayer NZ directed by Jillian Carpenter,  
Khandallah Arts Theatre

*Measure for Measure* by William Shakespeare directed by Matt Brebner,  
Havelock North High School

*Brown All Round* NZ written, directed and acted by Albert Latailskepa & Manasae  
Taulanga  
St Patrick's College, Silverstream

*Knitting* by Brian Turner NZ directed by Lorna Ashton,  
Hamilton Playbox Repertory Theatre

*Profound Moments* by Johnny Grim directed by Christina Stachurski,  
Riccarton Players

Phil Peleton Adjudicator ANZDA decided on the following awards:

**Book of Honour  
Best Youth and  
Distinctive Emerging Talent Award**

*Brown All Round*  
Albert Latailskepa & Manasae Taulanga

St Patrick's College



**Best Adult Production and  
Best Production of a New Zealand Play**

*Carol and Nev*

Barry Gibbons and Joy Ramsay  
with their Denise Walsh NZ Play trophy,  
Phil Peleton and Bryan Aitken.  
Clyde Theatre Company



**Theatre New Zealand Awards for Best Actors, Male and Female**



**Duncan Matchett** as Addyson  
Cashmere High School



**Joy Ramsay** as Carol  
Clyde Theatre Company

**Jannat Aitchison Memorial Award for Distinctive Emerging Talent**



Incoming President Steven Arnold with **Bianca Kirk**, Havelock North High School,  
**Albert Latailakepa** and **Manase Taulanga**, St Patrick's College, Silverstream and  
**Campbell Wright**, Cashmere High School

**Selecon Design Technical Award  
Havelock North High School**



Phil Peleton with Molly Power

**David Brockett Award for  
Backstage Achievement**



Mark Perry, Hamilton Playbox with  
Margaret Robertson TNZ Secretary

This month we bring you some of our currently most popular success for community theatre.

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](mailto:clientpromotion@playmarket.org.nz) with your queries.

#### **PENINSULA**

by Gary Henderson (2w 3m)

Ten year old Michael lives at the edge of the ancient flooded crater now known as Akaroa Harbour on Banks Peninsula. Inspired by a new year and a new teacher, Michael sets out to map his home ground, charting his own history in the sheltering hills and bush. But not all volcanoes are extinct. Not everything is above ground. Rumbles in the adult world encroach into Michael's life, erupting, and throwing his universe into a chaos that will change him forever. **"Destined to become a classic."** National Business Review

#### **SOCIAL CLIMBERS**

by Roger Hall (6w)

A group of female teachers, plus one reluctantly accompanying daughter, embark on a weekend of bushwalking in the mountains to get away from it all! Torrential rains trap them in a hut together. Will the rain ever stop? Will the resident hut ghost get them in the middle of the night? Will they all get simultaneous PMT and scratch each others eyes out? Or will they find out what true friendship really means? An insightful situation comedy about truth, consequences and unexpected revelation. As fresh today as when it was written.

#### **THE MOTOR CAMP**

by Dave Armstrong (3w 3m)

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. A glorious celebration of our annual Kiwi camping rituals.

#### **PRIDE AND PREJUDICE**

by Joy Hellyer and Amy Whiterod (8w 5m)

A sparkling and witty adaptation of Jane Austen's classic novel that was a massive hit for Wellington's Stagecraft Theatre in 2013. This captivating period drama follows the lives and loves of a family of five unmarried daughters in Regency England.

#### **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!

#### **STAG WEEKEND**

by Dan Bain and Brendon Bennetts (4m)

A stag party in a West Coast cabin for four over-confident and under qualified city boys becomes increasingly hilarious (and dangerous) as they fumble towards the truth of what it means to be a New Zealand man in the age of the metrosexual. Limited availability in 2017.

#### **THE ADVENTURES OF TOM SAWYER**

adapted by Mike Hudson (large cast)

Tom Sawyer is a force of nature with an unquenchable thirst for action and excitement. Mark Twain's immortal classic about growing up in a small town on the banks of the Mississippi is a joyous leap into the great river of time and memory. Conjuring all the mystery and magic of childhood, this famous coming-of-age story is full of twists and turns and adventures for the whole family.

#### **MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE AND JOANNE**

by Carl Nixon (1w 2m)

In the midst of a mid-life crisis, Matthew has a cosmic - and spiritual - experience in the Organic, Ethnic and Gluten Free aisle of his local supermarket. This profound change cannot be accepted by Joanne, his wife and Mark, his best friend and business partner. A sophisticated and sparkling new comedy. Limited availability in 2017.

#### **WHEELER'S LUCK**

by Nigel Collins, Toby Leach, Damon Andrews (any size cast of all ages)

Meet the locals of Bell End, a small kiwi beach town facing a big problem. An old spinster's untimely fall down a long drop opens the door for some drastic changes in this little corner of Godzone. With property developers rolling into town, the possible end to the annual Bareback Festival, and ready access to explosives, a divided community begins to ask questions. "Where will all the Tarkahays live? What the heck's a Tarkahay? And can you eat them?" A New Zealand favourite

**BADJELLY THE WITCH** adapted by Tim Bray from the book by Spike Milligan (2-4w, 2-4m)

Spike Milligan's all-time favourite story comes to life in this version by Tim Bray. Share Tim and Rose's madcap adventure through the great black forest and into Badjelly's castle to rescue Lucy the Cow.

## What's On in October, November and December 2016

Dargaville Little Theatre	<i>Jack and the Kumara Vine</i> A-M Cutts & M. Collins	Nov 18-Dec 4
Phoenix Theatre Belmont,	<i>She Stoops to Conquer</i> by Oliver Goldsmith	Oct 6 - 15
Ellerslie Little Theatre	<i>Waiting in the Wings</i> by Noel Coward	Nov 3 - 12
Titirangi Theatre	<i>Red Riding Hood and the Three Pigs</i> by Chris Lane	Nov 22-Dec
Howick Little Theatre	<i>The Operative</i> by Nathan Hey	October 5 -8
	<i>The Lady Killers</i> by Graham Lineham	Nov 12 - Dec 3
Hamilton Playbox	<i>The Comedy of Errors</i> by William Shakespeare	October 8 - 20
Waihi Drama Society	<i>Petits Fours</i> BITE-sized pieces of NZ Theatre	October 7 - 16
Te Aroha Dramatic Soc	<i>Festive Capers</i>	Nov 17 - 19
Katikati Theatre	<i>A Christmas Pudding-Celebrating Christmas</i>	Nov 24 - 26
16th Ave Theatre, Tauranga	<i>Waiting in the Wings</i> by Noel Coward	Nov 11 - 12
	<i>One Man, Two Guvnors</i> by Richard Bean	Nov 23 - Dec 10
Detour Theatre, Tauranga	<i>Nana's Naughty Knickers</i> by Katherine DiSavino	Nov 16 - Dec 3
Theatre Whakatane	<i>Evita</i> by Tim Rice & Andrew Lloyd Weber	Oct 19 - Nov 5
Rotorua Little Theatre	<i>The Supermarket Sisterhood</i> by Devon Williamson	Oct 7 - 22
Putaruru Theatre Players	<i>Jersey Girls: Farmed and Dangerous</i> Lynelle Kuriger	Nov 2 - 11
Gisborne Unity Theatre	<i>The Motor Camp</i> by Dave Armstrong, Based on a story by Danny Mulheron	Nov 25 - Dec 3
Napier Repertory Players	<i>Lysistrata</i> by Aristophanes	Oct 5 - 15
	AUDITION <i>Verdict</i> by Agatha Christie	Nov 5
Pahiatua Repertory Soc.	<i>Disney's Beauty and the Beast</i>	Nov 17 - Dec 3
Harlequin Theatre, Masterton	<i>Exit Laughing</i> by Paul Elliott	December 1 - 10
Greytown Little Theatre	<i>Same Time, Next Year</i> by Bernard Slade	Nov 23 - Dec 3
New Plymouth Repertory	<i>Moonlight and Magnolias</i> by Ron Hutchinson	Nov 8 - 19
Cue Theatre, Inglewood	<i>Forget-Me-Knot</i> by David Tristram	Oct 26 - Nov 5
Hawera Repertory Soc.	<i>Bombshells</i> by Joanne Murray-Smith	Nov 4 - 19
Marion Players	<i>The Fox on the Fairway</i> by Ken Ludwig	Nov 24 - Dec 3
Foxton Little Theatre	<i>Dad's Miracle Christmas</i> by Pat Cook	Nov 18 - Dec 3
Levin Little Theatre	<i>Aladdin</i> by Peter Quartermain	Nov 11 - 26
Kapiti Playhouse	<i>Heaven Help Us!</i> by Tim Hambleton	Nov 23 - Dec 3
Mana Little Theatre	<i>Death by Fatal Murder</i> by Peter Gordon	Nov 9 - 19
	AUDITION <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> adpt by Jon Jory	Nov 20 @ 7pm
Porirua Little Theatre	<i>Aladdin</i> by Amanda Stone	Oct 4 - 7
	<i>Ladies Night 2 Raging On</i> by Anthony McCarten	Nov 16 - Dec 4
Khandallah Arts Theatre	<i>Shakespeare in Hollywood</i> by Ken Ludwig	October 6 - 15
Stagecraft Theatre	<i>The Comedy of Errors</i> by William Shakespeare	Nov 16 - 26
Wellington Repertory	<i>Brassed Off</i> by Paul Allen	Oct 19 - 29
Hutt Repertory	<i>On the Shore of the Wild World</i> Simon Stephen	Nov 23 - Dec 3
Butterfly Creek, Eastbourne	<i>A Little Hotel on the Side</i> by Feydeau & Desvalliers	Oct 20 - 29
Heretaunga Players	<i>A Fete Worse than Death</i> by Richard James	Nov 24 - 3 Dec
Marlborough Repertory	<i>The Fox on the Fairway</i> by Ken Ludwig	Nov 23 - Dec 3
Riccarton Players	<i>The Addams Family Musical</i> by Lippa, Brickman,	Elice to Oct 8
	<i>Blue Sky Boys</i> by Ken Duncum	Nov 9 - 12
Elmwood Players	<i>Holes</i> by Tom Basden	to October 8
Canterbury Repertory	<i>Noises Off</i> by Michael Frayn	Nov 16 - Dec 3
South Canterbury Drama League Timaru,	<i>Walking Across Egypt</i> by Catherine Bush	to Oct 8
Invercargill Repertory	<i>Bad Jelly the Witch</i> by Spike Milligan	Nov 8 - 13

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

## 1971 - Those Were the Days

London Airport re-routed more than 200 international flights away from the main runway for four nights from 7.45 to 10.15pm. The reason? The airport's Drama Society was performing *Dark of the Moon* by Howard Richardson and William Berney in a building at the end of the 12,000 foot runway.

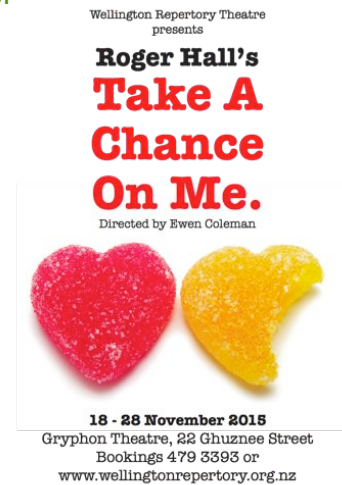
British Airport Authority said it was something the air traffic people would try to do for anyone if they could.



## Poster Design Winner Clayton Foster

Praised for its eye-catching simplicity, reflecting the play's contents.

(Clayton won for Wellington Rep. last year too!)



Editor Margaret Robertson  
Technical Assistance Morris Robertson

This is the final issue for the year

Deadline for February/March Backchat  
**20 January 2017**

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

New Box Number to be advised