

# BACKCHAT

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

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Summer is here and an annual tradition at Khandallah Arts Theatre is their “play in the park”, playing 17/18, 24/25 February. This year it’s a new version of *Beauty and the Beast* by David Tayler. Belle’s sisters Ding and Dong (Sophia Bouliers and Eva Gibson) are tempted to accept a free present for their sister from wicked Spanish witch with a lisp (Chris Girven)

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

**Mark Perry, TNZ Webmaster, writes**

I joined the Theatre New Zealand Nat Exec in 2014 to implement a major update to the website. Since then there have been other technological changes at TNZ including conducting our teleconference meetings via Skype or Zoom and the introduction of online TheatreFest entry forms. I have also taken on the running of the Facebook page, an aspect of social media I had not encountered before; you never stop learning.

I first got my taste for theatre at Piopio College, a rural high school in the King Country when I was allowed to help with the operation of the lights for a school play under the supervision of a senior student. I only had one slider to operate and I still managed to mess it up. I was far too enthusiastic and jumped the cues while the stage crew were still changing the set. Not a popular move!

My cue timing improved with the two or three subsequent school plays before moving to Hamilton for tertiary education and a career in electronics. I became involved with Hamilton Playbox in 1991 with the play *Stepping Out* as a stage hand. This was a big step up from school productions and I learned much from the experienced and extreme personalities in the production; I thought they were extreme at the time, but of course they were just “theatre people”, and I am now one of them ☺

After that first production things kind of snowballed and I got fully drawn into the theatre life and was fully hooked. I started out being a helper and now, 27 years later, I am extensively involved with lighting design, sound design, digital scenery design, serving on the Playbox Committee since 1997 and Riverlea Board Committee since 1999. I was president of

Hamilton Playbox for four years and am a life member of Hamilton Playbox and Musikmakers Hamilton. In 2012 I received a Merit Award from MTNZ (nominated by Musikmakers Hamilton) and in 2016 Hamilton Playbox nominated me for the TNZ David Brockett Memorial Award for Backstage Achievement (which I had no idea about until I was called up onstage in Invercargill). My most recent recognition was to be awarded a Hamilton City Civic



Award for services to the arts and the community in December 2017. I gave a short speech and shook the mayor’s hand and joined all the other recipients being honoured on that day. It was quite surreal.

One aspect of community theatre I love is giving people a chance to have a go, seeing them grow in confidence and thrive. Whether it is acting the perfect scene on stage, executing a fast change during a blackout or getting the sound playback cues precisely timed, the sense of relief and elation gives me great satisfaction. TheatreFest is one of those events. It gives groups and individuals a chance to try new material, experiment with different types of theatre and to meet and mingle with other groups from around the country.

Over the years I have picked up skills and hobbies that ultimately end up benefiting theatre in some way: electronics, audio recording, photography, videography, YouTube, web design, Facebook, desktop publishing, PhotoShop and networking to name but a few. There are very few jobs around the theatre that I have not done and acting is one of them. It’s not really my thing, I far prefer to be behind the scenes rather than in front of them.

## A Guide to Funding

with thanks to Ewen Coleman

Sourcing funding from Gaming Machine Societies (who own pokie machines) can be very lucrative and while some theatre groups regularly apply many don't when they could and should, even if they have surplus funds in the bank. Sports organisations get millions (about 85%) compared to the few thousands that arts groups get.

Applying is easy and takes about 10 minutes once all the relevant paper work has been gathered together.

1. Go to the **Department of Internal Affairs** website, and read up about Gaming Machine Societies and Grant applications -

<https://www.dia.govt.nz/Services-Casino-and-Non-Casino-Gaming-Funding-For-Community-Groups>

- Look for Gaming Machine Societies in your area and the ones appropriate to apply for funds as listed in this link
- Groups need to be registered with the Charities Commission and some, like the Lion Foundation, require groups to be incorporated as well
- Assets in the bank over \$50K may have to be declared in some applications but if you specify this is a "building fund" they accept that.
- Up to three quotes are usually asked for but for many applications like the cost of royalties there is only one supplier so only one quote is needed.
- Grants are not given retrospectively so they must be applied for well in advance and must be some form of written quote, not an invoice
- The type of activities associated with a production that you can seek a grant towards are; royalty payments; cost of hire of scripts, musical material; cost of performance venue;

cost of rehearsal space; cost of advertising, both print and radio; cost of printing posters, flyers (quotes from 3 printers are required here); cost towards commissioning a playwright to write a play; cost of a musician to compose original music.

2. Some **Local authorities** also have funding schemes, which groups can apply for either once or twice a year. Some of these though require groups to supply their strategic or 5-year plan.

3. Local authorities also have a **Creative Community** scheme which is funded from Creative NZ and has two grant rounds each year.

Groups serious about applying for funding should have a committee member designated as the Grants Organiser whose job it is to gather all the relevant information together and send in the applications. Some groups make 4 - 5 applications per production.

### For Sale

Invercargill Repertory have their set used for *Calendar Girls* for sale



Contact  
[repertory.invercargill@gmail.com](mailto:repertory.invercargill@gmail.com)



This month we bring you a wide selection of short plays. 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 [claire@playmarket.org.nz](mailto:claire@playmarket.org.nz) with your queries.

#### **HOTEL**

by Thomas Sainsbury (2-8w, 1-4m) Six short plays set in and around a hotel. The cleaner thinks he's being ousted by an influx of cheaper immigrants. Obsessive Arina wins a date with her pop star idol. Conservative Nancy has hired a prostitute as an anniversary gift for her husband. A lonely guest pesters the highly-strung concierge. Best friends almost break up. And the receptionist and the bellboy fall in love, live out their relationship, and break up in the space of ten minutes.

#### **TIGGY TIGGY TOUCH WOOD**

by Renée (3w, 1m) Tig, mentally injured after a sexual assault, relies totally on her lover Missy for survival, while Missy suffers the consequences of this grueling role as care giver. **Available in the anthology *Playlunch: Five Short New Zealand Plays*, \$30.00 from Playmarket**

#### **MARGARET THATCHER HITS NEW ZEALAND**

by Rex McGregor (2w, 2m) The 13th Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh in 1986 were a disaster – 32 countries stayed away. Now in 1990, the 14th Games in Auckland look set to be a success. Nearly every eligible country is taking part. But that's not enough for Margaret Thatcher – she wants more.

**THE DOLL'S HOUSE, THE GARDEN PARTY and AT THE BAY** by Kevin Boon (all large cast) Three separate short stage adaptations of Katherine Mansfield's short stories of the same names. Each can be licensed separately.

#### **WINGS**

by Jess Sayer (3w) Three estranged sisters are together again in a car too small for a decade's worth of baggage. They're heading back to the one place they swore they'd never go again: home. Sometimes when you're going through hell, it's better to just keep going. **Finalist: Theatrefest 2016**

#### **THREE PLAYS BY ANGIE FARROW:**

**BREAKING NEWS** (5w) Five actors all play Joeline, an ambitious newsreader who finds herself entering the story she is reading. A play about the relationship between celebrity and responsibility, and where we place our focus in times of global news overload.

**ESTHER** (large female cast) A young female is delivered to a community. She identifies as Esther, a young girl who went missing three years previously. Inspired by a true story, this play explores the significance of the stranger in times of rapidly shifting populations. **Winner: Teenage category, Plays for the Young 2016.**

**AUGUST MOON** (5w, 1m) One day August Moon loses her mother, a Member of Parliament who has been awarded an Order of Merit from the Prime Minister for her services to the community. And when a mother of great significance goes missing, it is imperative that she be found. **Finalist: 8-12s category, Plays For The Young 2017.**

#### **TREADING THE BOARDS: EIGHT SHORT**

**PLAYS \$18.00 from Playmarket** This collection of award-winning NZ plays from members of the Playwrights Association of New Zealand includes... **CROSSWORDS** by Tim Hambleton (1w, 1m) A married couple argue as they complete a magazine crossword together. **BEGGARS CAN'T BE CHOOSERS** by Sean McMahon (large cast) Begging on the streets of Wellington City can be an ethical dilemma.

## What's On in February and March 2018

Dargaville Little Theatre	AUDITION <i>The Mad Hatter</i> , A New Musical Adaptation by Julianne Parkinson	February 18 @3pm
Howick Little Theatre 17	<i>Cruise Control</i> by David Williamson	Feb 24 - March
Te Aroha Little Theatre	<i>Snake in the Grass</i> by Alan Ayckbourn	March
16th Ave Theatre, Tauranga	<i>The Perfect Murder</i> by Peter James	March 9 - 24
Detour Theatre, Tauranga	<i>Jailhouse Frocks</i> by Devon Williamson	March 8 - 24
Te Puke Repertory	Simply Short Play Festival	March 22 - 24
Putaruru Theatre Players	AUDITION <i>The Amorous Ambassador</i> by Michael Parker	Feb 14
Rotorua Little Theatre	AUDITION <i>Glide Time</i> by Roger Hall	March 1 and 7
Gisborne Unity Theatre	AUDITION <i>Pop Corn</i> by Ben Elton	February 4
Napier Repertory Players	<i>The Ghost Train</i> by Arthur Ridley	Feb 21 - March 3
Dannevirke Theatre Co.	<i>The Vicar of Dibley</i> by R Curtis and P Mayhew	to Dec.9
Pahiatua Repertory Soc.	AUDITION <i>Starblaze</i> by Shade Smith, John Reynolds	March 3
Greytown Little Theatre	<i>Star Child</i> by Oscar Wilde	to February 4
Hawera Repertory Soc.	AUDITION <i>The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe</i> adapt Glynn Robbins	March 4 @10.30am
Foxton Little Theatre	<i>Mothers and Fathers</i> by Jo Muasphia	March 29 - April 7
Mana Little Theatre	<i>Red Riding Hood</i> by Roger Hall	March 14 - 24
New Players Theatre Co. version	AUDITION <i>The Vicar of Dibley</i> new adpt. from Ian Gower	Feb 27 - March 3
Khandallah Arts Theatre	<i>Beauty and the Beast</i> by David Tayler	February 17 - 25
Stagecraft Theatre	<i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i> by Oscar Wilde	Feb 28 - March 10
	AUDITION <i>Bronte</i> by Polly Teale	March 3 and 4
Butterfly Creek, Eastbourne	<i>Trials and Tribulations- Bard in the Yard</i>	Feb 27 - March 3
Havelock Theatre	<i>Murder at Checkmate Manor</i> by David McGillivray & Walter Zerlin	to February 3
Elmwood Players	AUDITION <i>Always a Bridesmaid</i> by Jones Hope Wooten	February 17
Riccarton Players	AUDITION <i>Kings of the Gym</i> by Dave Armstrong	February 18
Top Dog Christchurch	<i>The Winter's Tale</i> by William Shakespeare	February 14 - 24
South Cant. Drama League	AUDITIONS <i>Darling Buds of May</i> by H.E. Bates	Feb 10, 17, 24
	<i>Menopause The Musical</i> by Jeanie Linders	March 12 & 14
	<i>The Amorous Ambassador</i> by Michael Parker	March 22 - 29
Clyde Theatre Group	<i>Daughters of Heaven</i> by Michelanne Forster	March 17 - 24
Globe Theatre, Dunedin	AUDITION <i>The Devil and Mr Mulcahy</i> by James K Baxter	Feb. 11 @ 2pm
	<i>Wyrd Sisters</i> by Terry Pratchett & Stephen Briggs	Feb 22- March 3

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

### Apologies received from Playwrights Association:

the list of PANZ Short Play Winners published in the December/January Backchat contained an error. The correct writer of *Once More with Feeling* is Dolly Varden-Chambers (Matamata) rather than the pseudonym supplied.

## National Executive February Face to Face Meeting

Random points of some of the topics nine of us covered:



- We are now officially called Theatre New Zealand Inc (NZTF is no more)
- Wouldn't it be good if our groups had a line in their programmes saying "*name of theatre* is a member of Theatre New Zealand" *Will your group do it?*
- Do you have a separate account for travel - to participate in festivals?
- Do our members remember that there's part of the website just for them and a password is needed to access it? Contact [mark.ross.perry@gmail.com](mailto:mark.ross.perry@gmail.com)
- Wouldn't it be good if members clicked 'like' on our Facebook.
- Sadly, the summer school in Dunedin had to be cancelled due to lack of numbers. Other directions will be explored.
- TheatreFest Regionals will be 17/18 and 24/25 August. More info to come
- The Book of Honour is full and a new one is to be ordered.
- Theatre Archives New Zealand will be emailing theatres a digital survey to establish a record of what and where their archives are being stored.



Editor Margaret Robertson  
Technical Assistance Morris Robertson

Deadline for April/May Backchat 20 March 2018

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