

BACKCHAT

News from THEATRE NEW ZEALAND
Te Putoi Whakaari o Aotearoa

Patrons Jennifer Ward-Lealand CNZM Rawiri Paratene ONZM

April/May 2021 Vol.44 Issue 2

Meritorious Awardees 2020 – See Page 4

Gregg Perkins



Pat Barr-McLeod



..... Doug Buchanan



Don Blackmore

News from the National Executive

Te Rau Winterburn - Christchurch. National Executive Cultural Advisor



Te Rau has joined the *Theatre New Zealand* committee to support and guide culturally responsive practices as well as contribute to the committee's future endeavours and growth aspirations within the NZ performing arts sector.

Te Rau is currently the Head of Kaupapa Māori at the *NZ EdTech* company (curriculum aligned teaching and learning platform) - Education Perfect. He has iwi affiliations to Ngāi Tahu, Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga and Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa.

Te Rau trained in primary teaching and has a degree specialising in Level 1 immersion (Māori-medium). He has taught and contributed to the revitalisation of Te Reo Māori in all levels and areas of education (Early Childhood to University). Te Rau is a second language speaker of Te Reo Māori but has dedicated his life to becoming highly proficient in Te Reo and Tikanga and sharing this cultural knowledge with like-minded educators, groups, professionals and organisations.

In addition to Te Rau's teaching and advising, he is an accomplished bilingual author, singer and songwriter - he has written and produced numerous original songs and also contributed literary works to a number of School Journals and Māori publications throughout the years.

Te Rau is an accomplished thespian and performer. His stage show credits include lead roles in; *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Les Miserables*, *Joseph*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Grease* and *Oklahoma!* Te Rau was also an announcer for the South Island Iwi radio station *Tahu FM* and has had a number of appearances on television including a guest role on *Shortland Street*.

Within the NZ music industry, Te Rau was one of 5 members of the R&B group, Aaria. Aaria's songs '*Kei a Wai Rā Te Kupu*' and '*Cry No More*' reached Platinum and Gold status in NZ respectively and were also nominated for Single of the Year and Best R&B video of the year.

Te Putoi Wakaari o Aotearoa embraces the Kinship and Company of Theatre in Aotearoa New Zealand

The youngest member of National Executive reports in:

Sam Lewis: The obvious next chapter!



All my life, I've had a passion for Theatre and performance, so when I got fed up with working in an office last year, I realised the next logical step in my life was to pursue a career in acting. So, I auditioned at Te Auaha, to aim for a diploma of Creativity in Drama.

The three-year course started on the 23rd of February. My experienced tutors are also in the industry, thus creating an ever modern, ever-changing course. These tutors include Ricky Dey, Carmel McGlone, and Tess Jamieson-Karaha, and for a time Peter Hambleton.

The class is made up of just 22 students from all over New Zealand. It is a very collaborative environment in which we all work together to expand our skills, each bringing our experience and knowledge to the table. We are often referred to as being one big family. We share some classes with the year 2s and 3s and this results in them passing their knowledge and experience down to us, creating a fun and supportive environment.

The course obviously has its challenges and pushes me past my comfort zone, but I've only been there 5 weeks and I'm already starting to see the positive effects that it's having. One of the classes especially, Play (which is all about playing around in acting and exploring new ideas), consistently builds on the idea of leaving your comfort zone and connecting with the audience. We do this by playing many games that some may see as frightening or potentially embarrassing (including trying to make the whole class laugh as a means to move across the stage). But they build a supportive environment, in which there's no such thing as failure, only a learning opportunity.

I would highly encourage all youth in Theatre to take the jump into a performing arts school. It is very daunting, but as a student of only 5 weeks, I've already noticed the positive effects this course is having on me and my dramatic ability. You wouldn't regret the decision and it will take you far. I can't recommend Te Auaha enough.

Welcome!

A warm welcome is extended to three new members from the Westcoast; Kay Williams (Individual, Greymouth Operatic Society and Reefton Operatic and Repertory Society.

Meritorious Awardees 2020 as pictured on the first page
Congratulations to them all for their wonderful 25 year plus, plus service!

Gregg Perkins has been involved with community theatre since the 1970s, first with the Country Players in Wakefield, since 2005 he's been Pahiataua Repertory. He's also been TNZ treasurer along the way. He's acted directed, been a secretary, a president, worked on lighting, sound, set building etc. He's currently treasurer of the Drama Development Trust.

Pat Barr-McLeod started working in community theatre in 1953 in BDL days followed by 6 years on NZTF's National executive. After a stint in USA she founded Onstage Productions Westport in 2002 and also returned for a time to the National Executive.

Doug Buchanan is pictured on the set of Hutt Repertory's *Waiting for God* with their President Ruth Sarratt and David Cox behind on right. Doug has been with Rep for over 40 years and in that time has been involved with at least 70 productions covering every imaginable theatrical facet from director to scriptwriter, designer to choreographer, cast to crew, prompt to make-up & more.

Don Blackmore was honoured by New Players with support from Porirua Little Theatre, Stagecraft and Wellington Repertory before he died at the end of March 2020. Don was a founding member of New Players in 70s while he was still at school. He became the essential techie across the region in whose name Wellington District will present an award at their annual Antionettes. He's pictured here with Anne Megget, New Players President (obscured) and David Cox, District President.

How to Find an Audience for Your Creative Work a workshop at Howick Little Theatre Saturday 17 April and Saturday May 15 from 1pm to 5 pm. *Alison Mudford writes:*

All community and musical theatres and arts organisations have been badly hit by the Covid-related lockdowns. We at Howick Little Theatre are no exception. That is why we decided to organise an arts-related marketing workshop, "How to Find an Audience for Your Creative Work", with two experts in this field to give you a helping hand to get back on track and attract more audiences using the latest online and offline approaches to marketing and promotion.

For just \$60, this opportunity is limited to 24 people aged 18 and over and will be held on Saturday April 17, 1pm-5pm, and Saturday, May 15, 1pm-5pm, at Howick Little Theatre.

The course, delivered as two four-hour interactive workshops, focuses on **arts marketing in the digital age**. Participants will learn how to use storytelling, community engagement and design to connect with diverse audiences, whether they are known lovers of the arts or not. The workshop series will be firmly situated in Auckland's creative ecology.

Each workshop will actively engage with questions and issues posed by participants. Several case studies will also be presented drawn from contemporary Auckland examples. Participants will also learn how to produce and activate planning and briefing documents for a creative project they are producing or are close to, including online and offline approaches to promotion and marketing.

TUTORS:

Paris Kirby is a creative entrepreneur from Tāmaki Makaurau with specialist skills in public arts programming, placemaking, project management, arts marketing and community development. She is an artist, consultant and founding director of start-up organisation 'Social Ritual'. Her practice focuses on designing experiences that engage people in meaningful relationships with place. Her process often incorporates principles and frameworks that empower people through collaboration, co-design and participation.

Elisabeth Vaneveld MNZM has led organisations, designed programmes, devised productions, managed tours, organised festivals, pioneered projects, developed partnerships, built networks and activated change. Her major projects in recent years include The Big Idea | Te Aria Nui, ART Venture Programme, Hauraki Gulf Watershed and FutureMakers. She is currently Director: Creative Entrepreneurship @ The University of Auckland, Faculty of Creative Arts and Industries.

Devon Williamson, Playwright



Devon Williamson is a Tauranga based playwright and member of Theatre New Zealand. With over 135 productions of his plays staged, his plays are premiered in New Zealand and then produced across the country, as well as in Australia, USA, Canada and the UK. His plays are loved by producers, actors and audiences alike.

Recent works include *Mad Sisters*, *Murder on the Menu*, *The Jailhouse Frocks* and *The Wedding of the Century*. Devon has a passion for community theatre. He is represented in New Zealand by The Play Bureau.

Devon recently provided some script advice for the 24 Hour Play Challenge in Hamilton. Among his notes were the following snippets of advice...

Write to your story - not to find your story. You'll save a lot of time and frustration if you figure out what your story is and then write it.

Raise the stakes for your characters and give them a lot to win or lose.

Anything can happen in your story so long as you can justify it happening.

Contrasting characters create opportunities for humour, conflict and engagement.

Every character should have a motivation - no matter how small their part may be in the story. Be clear, right from the start, about your ending so that your story is constantly pushing towards that final moment.

Be imaginative, and practical, and remember that you are not just writing for yourself - you are writing for the actors, the director, the crew and the audience too.

Hilarious COMEDY PLAYS

By Devon Williamson

Mad Sisters
6 Female | Two Acts
Daphne adores her sister Anne. To Daphne, Anne is beautiful, successful and smart - all the things Daphne longs to be. Anne on the other hand wants nothing to do with her sister and is intent on working her way into a small clique of indulgent and pretentious wealthy women. When Daphne's wacky friends convince her she can be like Anne if she tries, Daphne sets off on a madcap adventure to do the impossible and win her sister's acceptance. Mad Sisters is an uplifting and joyful comic romp that reminds us just how wonderful and truly mad our sisters can be.

Murder on the Menu
5 Female, 3 Male | Two Acts
Sophia has been conned into buying a derelict theatre. Now with crushing bank loan payments to make and no money, the jobless Sophia decides to defy the odds and dig her way out of her financial mess by reopening the theatre as a cafe. Her already dire situation worsens, when she soon discovers that the theatre is inhabited by the pompous ghosts of dead Shakespearean characters who are hell bent on keeping their home just as it is. By chance, Sophia discovers that the only way to get rid of the ghosts is to murder them as they were killed in their original plays. At Sophia's cafe, Murder is now on the menu.

Also available... The Jailhouse Frocks, The Wedding of the Century, The Supermarket Sisterhood, The Old People Are Revolting, Twas the Fight Before Christmas... and many more!

For perusal scripts contact The Play Bureau
Phone 03 455 9959 Email: info@playbureau.com

Here is a sampler of the wide selection of plays we have on offer at Playmarket. Become a subscriber at playmarket.org.nz for \$40/year and receive access as many manuscript titles as you like.

2021 Adam Award

& SONS by Emily Duncan (1w, 1m)

This is a play about pathologic patriarchy; how it is upheld, wreaks damage, and might be razed. Ed has recently assumed directorship of the Shields & Sons shoe factory from his father. His first job is to dismiss his father's assistant, Sandra, who is also the mother of Ed's half-sister. Winner - 2021 Adam NZ Play Award.

THE ETERNAL by Angie Farrow (1w, 1m)

Shortlisted. A memory guru persuades his partner to keep revisiting events of their past in order to reinforce the power of their love. But when their obsession with what has gone before overwhelms the present, it threatens to destroy their relationship.

THE WHITE QUEEN by Allan O'Leary (2w, 2m)

Shortlisted. A burnt out film producer comes back to the town which she grew up in after the death of her father. She decides to stay, seeking a simpler life. But life in a small town turns out to be complicated.

CUCKOO by Olga Nikora (4w, 3m)

Caught up in deceit, betrayal and failing moments of violence, the everyday stories of four teenage school friends and their families are swept up in the larger economic implications of a global recession.

HOMEMADE TAKEAWAYS by Ben Wilson (2w, 2m)

A Dunedin based drummer suddenly uproots his job and city; a recently dumped self-help expert is self-destructing; a primary school teacher wants to write violent children's fiction; and a thirty-one year old, skateboarding, Emma Thompson obsessed man-child is sleeping on the couch.

UNBELIEVABLE by Joe Musaphia (1w, 2m)

This funny and sharp farcical play is set in the Covid 19 lockdown and is about an older couple who are continuously peevish with each other. When they are visited by an alleged nephew, who turns out to be a criminal wanted by the police, they are distracted from their complaints about each other.

From Page to Stage

THE ACB WITH HONORA LEE by Kate De Goldi.

Adapted by Jade Waddell (4w, 2m)

A charming exploration of kindness, patience and acceptance. The play is about an unconventional relationship that develops between nine-year-old Perry and her Gran; one that is tender, funny and touching.

THE GREAT GATSBY by Ken Duncum

(5-12w, 3-15m) A smart and sympathetic adaptation of F Scott Fitzgerald's classic novel. Set in America's 1920s Jazz Age, the play opens with narrator Nick Carraway drawing from the shadows the ghosts of wealthy and indulgent lives lived in and around Jay Gatsby's Long Island mansion.

Memorable Musicals

BROADWAY OR BUST by Paul Kalburgi (5w, 3m)

In the storeroom of a carpet store, community theatre company The Plush Pile Players are spitting tacks! When resident director Jan trips on a toaster and breaks her ankle, all hopes of staging the Off-Off-Broadway flop, Broadway Giltz - the company's last-ditch attempt to save their theatre - seem impossible. That is until a lifeline comes in the unlikely shape of bona fide Broadway director, Percy Scott. However, Jan's eccentric ensemble soon learn that their new messiah may not be all he seems. They must unite to save the show... and the theatre.

BRAINDEAD by Stephen Sinclair and Fran Walsh.

Music by Mark Austin and Neil Duncan.

(5-8w, 4-9m, 1-4 any) A zombie musical comedy. "The idea of turning Peter Jackson's lunatic film into a musical is inspired. It's got all the elements: greed, lust, horror, love ... it's fun" - Sunday Star Times; "Braindead provides bloody fun and music with a pulsating beat and bizarre spectacle." - The Dominion

Our Latest Publications

Purchase at www.playmarket.org.nz/bookshop

TWO COMEDIES: THE PINK HAMMER / FLAGONS & FOXTROTS

In *The Pink Hammer* by Michele Amas, four women sign up for a carpentry workshop to find the tutor has absconded with their fees and left behind Woody, her disgruntled husband. *Flagons and Foxtrots*, by Alison Quigan and Ross Gumbley, recreates New Zealand's Saturday night dance-hall era of the 1960s. \$24

PURAPURAWHETU by Briar Grace-Smith (2w, 3m)

The town of Te Kupenga has been tainted by a tragedy that happened 30 years ago. Tyler is an outsider who wants to fit in. As Tyler helps weave the tukutuku panel for the new wharehau, new faces and old demons haunt Te Kupenga. Tyler must weave together the secrets of the past in order to save his town from collapsing all over again. \$26

Playwrights Association of New Zealand Inc PANZ Play Competition 2021

Adjudicators:

Emily Duncan(10 minute play)

Emily is the winner of this year's Adam Playwriting Award: see Playmarket scripts p 7

Jamie McCaskill (one act)

Jamie was the winner of the Bruce Mason Playwriting Award in 2013.

Rules:

1. Only members of PANZ may enter the competition. Membership is open to any person who lives in New Zealand or who is a New Zealander. The annual fee is \$25. To join see newzealandplaywrights.wordpress.com or email playwrightsnz@gmail.com.
2. There is no additional entry fee for the competition.
3. A member may submit one 10 minute play (7 -10 minutes running time) and /or one One Act Play (20 - 40 minutes running time)
4. The name of the author(s) and /or their contact details must not appear anywhere on the script.
5. The play must not have been performed in front of a paying audience before 1st July 2021.

Instructions:

Entries open 1st July and close 31 August 2021

Send entries to playwrightsnz@gmail.com with the script as an attachment.

Prizes:

10 minute play: 1st prize \$100; 2nd prize \$50

One Act Play: 1st prize \$200; 2nd prize \$100

All entries will receive brief feedback.

2021/2022 Subscriptions

National Treasurer David Cox has emailed invoices and these are now due. Please pass them onto your treasurer.

As well as making a bank deposit do please send back the form filled in with your details so that our records can be kept up to date.

Thank you.

Authentic Looking Blood - try this!

Mix dry ingredients together and then add liquids

10 oz icing sugar

8 oz flour

8 fl oz water (240 ml)

1 oz red cochineal (1/2 bottle)

What's On in April and May 2021

Otamatea Repertory	<i>Suessical the Musical</i> Jnr Stephen Flaherty/Lynn Ahrens	April 30 - May 9
Howick Little Theatre	<i>The Girl on the Train</i> adpt. Rachael Wagstaff /Duncan Abel	May 8 - 29
Tokoroa Little Theatre	<i>By Degrees</i> by Roger Hall	April 20 - 24
Detour Theatre, Tauranga	AUDITION <i>How to Train Your Husband</i> Devon Williamson	early April
Napier Repertory Players	<i>Threads of Life</i> by John Cocking	April 6 - 10
	AUDITION <i>Peter & Alice</i> by John Logan	April @1pm
Dannevirke Theatre Company	<i>The Book Club</i> by Roger Hall	May 6 - 15
	AUDITION <i>The Addams Family</i> created by Charles Addams	May 1&2
Masterton Theatre Company	<i>Princess and the Pea</i> by Paul Percy	April 8 - 11
	<i>The Drowning Girls</i> by Charlie Tomlinson/Daniela Vlaskalic	May 20 - 29
Hawera Repertory	<i>Through the Decades (75 years of Rep history)</i>	April 10 - 16
	AUDITION <i>Love Begins at 50</i> by Raymond Hopkins	April 27 @7pm
Foxton Little Theatre	<i>Wait Until Dark</i> by Frank Knott	April 2 - 17
Levin Little Theatre	<i>Calendar Girls</i> by Tim Firth	April 16 - May 1
Kapiti Playhouse	<i>Desperate Huttwives</i> by Louise Proudfoot	April 15 - 24
Mana Little Theatre	AUDITION <i>Murdered to Death</i> by Peter Gordon	April 11@2pm
Khandallah Arts Theatre	AUDITION <i>The Adventures of Tom Sawyer</i> by Mark Hudson	April 11 & 18 @1.30pm
	<i>A Potpourri of Plays: three one acts, various</i>	May 14-16
Drama Christi	<i>Bubble Trouble</i> by Members	April 8- 11
Stagecraft Theatre	<i>Julius Caesar</i> by William Shakespeare	May 19 - 29
Wellington Repertory	<i>Captain Corelli's Mandolin</i> adpt. Rona Munro	to April 10
Hutt Repertory	<i>Central</i> by Dave Armstrong	April 7 - 17
Boathouse Theatre, Marlborough	<i>The Pink Hammer</i> by Michele Amas	May 19 - 29
Riccarton Players	<i>Boys in the Band</i> by Mat Crowley	April 21 - May 1
Canterbury Repertory	<i>Wyrd Sisters</i> by Terry Pratchett	May 19 - 29
Princess Margaret Hospital Players	<i>Wanderlost Round the World for Forty Years</i> by Members	April 28-May 8
South Canterbury DL	<i>Footloose</i> Jnr adpt. Dean Pitchford/Walter Bobbie	April 14 - 24
	<i>Heathers the Musical</i> by Laurence O'Keefe & Kevin Murphy	May 14 - 29
Clyde Theatre	<i>The Pink Hammer</i> by Michele Amas	to April 4
Remarkable Theatre, Queenstown and Wanaka	<i>Print Sized Plays</i> various	April 30 - May 2

Please send information about productions in June & July to

info@theatrenewzealand.co.nz

Editor Margaret Robertson
Technical Assistance Morris Robertson

Deadline for June/July Backchat
20 May 2021

Send Theatre New Zealand communications to info@theatrenewzealand.co.nz

www.theatrenewzealand.co.nz



Local TheatreFests

Northland

Date - 31 July/1 August
venue - [Dargaville](#) Little Theatre
Contact - Deborah Steele -
wayne.deb.steele@gmail.com
Adjudicator - Fiona Armstrong, Auckland
Closing Date for Entries - Friday 9 July

Auckland

Date - 14/15 August
Venue - [Howick](#) Little Theatre
Contact - [Ewen](#) Coleman -
theatrefest.nz@gmail.com
Adjudicator - Johnny [Givins](#), Auckland
Closing date for Entries - Friday 30 July

Waikato/Bay of Plenty

No TheatreFest planned as yet

Hawkes Bay

Date - 14/15 August
venue - The Little Theatre, Napier Repertory
Players
Contact - Adrienne Hurley -
ahurley@temata.school.nz
Adjudicator - Hilary Norris, Wellington
Closing Date for Entries - Friday 30 July

Taranaki

Date - 24/25 July
Venue - Cue Theatre, Inglewood
Contact - Andy Priest -
winterspread@gmail.com
Adjudicator - Ron [Ormsby](#), Wellington
Closing date for Entries - Friday 9 July

Manawatu/Whanganui

Date - June 11- 13
Venue - Globe Theatre, Palmerston North
Contact - Graeme Johnston -
manawatutheatreinc@gmail.com
Adjudicator - Jillian Carpenter, Wellington
Closing date for Entries - Friday 28 May

Wellington/Wairarapa

Date - 7/8 August
Venue - Majestic Theatre, Masterton
Contact - Paul Percy - wep@percy.co.nz
Adjudicator - Phil [Peleton](#)
Closing Date for Entries - Friday 23 July

Top of the South - Marlborough/Nelson

Date - 3/4 July
Venue - Havelock Town Hall, hosted by
Havelock Theatre Company
Contact - Ian Cameron -
ianc.cameron@xtra.co.nz
Adjudicator - Bryan Aitken, Christchurch
Closing Date for Entries - Friday 18 June

West Coast/Buller

Date - 16/17 July
Venue - NBS Theatre, Westport
Contact - Lyn [Doncliff](#) -
lyn.doncliff@xtra.co.nz
Adjudicator - Pam Logan, Blenheim
Closing Date for Entries - Friday 2 July

Canterbury

Dates - 7/8 August
Venue - [Rangitapu](#) Girls School
Contact - Mandy Perry -
mandy.perry@xtra.co.nz
Adjudicator - Annette Thomson,
Christchurch
Closing Date for Entries - Friday 23 July

Otago

Date - 7/8 August
Venue - The Playhouse, Dunedin Repertory
Theatre, Dunedin
Contact - Diane [DuPres](#) -
diane.dupres@lphs.school.nz
Adjudicator - David Chambers, Christchurch
Closing Date for Entries - Friday 23 July

Southland

No TheatreFest planned as yet

Useful Links

[TheatreFest](#) entry form -
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfDZtWrpN2C4HkgGkphXmUiyWREYFD-E-Cn7-wO7XgLiikxg/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1>

General Information about TheatreFest -

<https://www.theatrenewzealand.co.nz/index.php/theatrefest/general-information>

Conditions of Entry

<https://www.theatrenewzealand.co.nz/index.php/theatrefest/conditions-of-entry>

Queries to theatrefest.nz@gmail.com