



New Players News

PO Box 26-097, Newlands, Wellington

24 Hour Answerphone: 4 78 78 78

Website: www.newplayers.org.nz

New Players — for quality community theatre

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477 0960

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N P News:
Barry Lakeman
970 1339

A big "thank you" to our contributors this month.

the Vice column



Hi,

Planning for our next production *The Memory of Water* by Shelagh Stephenson is well under way. We are thrilled that Ewen Coleman is our director and he will be holding auditions at the beginning of December for production dates in April. It's a fantastic play with four very strong women's roles and two integral male roles. A script is available if you would like to see what it's all about. Just get in touch with me. The audition date will be advised in the next newsletter but will be either 2 or 9 December.

Take a Chance on Me had a great season with fantastic feedback from our audiences. Well done everyone - you all worked extremely hard with some crew and cast taking on multiple jobs! Many thanks to Brent for his inspirational directing and his unflagging enthusiasm. I'm very pleased that he will be directing for us again next year. The cast were thrilled when Derek received his "supporting actor" Antoinette at the awards evening and everyone agreed it was very well deserved. The adjudication noted some points that we will have to be aware of for future productions but, that's what an adjudication is all about - determining where we can improve and then doing so.

Our Christmas Party is on 1 December and the committee and I are looking forward to catching up with everyone before the holiday season. Hope to see you all there with your glad rags on!

Spring is in the air! Had a lovely visit to the Botanical Gardens and took lots of photos of the fantastic tulips on display for the Spring Festival. There is just nothing to beat Wellington on a great day!

Regards,

Irene

October clubnight: YES!!

There is a clubnight this month.

A quiz night will be hosted by Barry Lakeman at Churton Park School on Wednesday 17 October at 7.30 p.m.

There is no need to get a team together beforehand - you can just turn up and sort teams out when you get there.

As usual, the emphasis will be on having fun. And also as usual, you are welcome to B.Y.O. anything you like - drink, nibbles, and so on.

WANTED

Stage Manager and Front of House Manager for *MIND OUT OF TIME*, Newtown Community and Cultural Centre, 30 October to 3 November. Contact Barry Lakeman at 0274 433 680.

Christmas party

Our next Christmas Party will be held on 1 December at 7 p.m. More details will be provided soon. If you would like to do an item in the traditional fashion, you can start preparing it now.

CONGRATULATIONS

to our Antoinette winner, **Derek Pierce**, for his role as "Eric" in our production of *Take A Chance On Me* by Roger Hall.

And to New Players person **Paulette McIndoe** for the two certificates awarded to her for her portrayal of "Sally" in *Mothers and Fathers* by Joe Musaphia for Porirua Little Theatre.

The full listing of the winners of certificates and Antoinettes is on page 3.

FRINGE DEADLINES

1 October: Proposals for a season at **BATS theatre** in the Fringe. Contact james@bats.co.nz.

15 October: Registration for **Fringe 08** and for **Kakano New Works Funding**. Contact wel-come@fringe.org.nz.

E-mail: General correspondence: committee@newplayers.org.nz.

Membership enquiries: membership@newplayers.org.nz; **Bookings:** bookings@newplayers.org.nz

Other enquiries: president@newplayers.org.nz, vicepresident@newplayers.org.nz, webmaster@newplayers.org.nz.

THEATRE CALENDAR

New Players
News

is published monthly by the

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fax 9701339, e-mail: lakeman@paradise.net.nz.

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Editor in Chief: Don Blackmore.

OPEN NOW

The Winslow Boy by Terence Rattigan, dir: Ross Jolly. Let Right be Done! Circa One to 6 Oct.

Shining City by Conor McPherson, dir: Danny Mulheron, with Jason Whyte, Emmet Michael Kennedy, Sean de Burca & Miranda Manasiadis. "Seeing something is one thing but.... it's how it makes you feel, isn't it? What it does to you is the reality." Circa Two to 13 Oct.

Improv Idle by The Improvisors. The audience are judge, jury and executioner. Sundays, Circa Two to 21 October.

The Hollow Men, ad. Dean Parker from book by Nicky Hager, dir: Jonathon Hendry, des: Brian King, Jennifer Lal & Steve Gallagher. Politics up close. BATS, to 11 October.

Angels in America Part I: Millennium Approaches by Tony Kushner, dir: Willem Wassenaar, des: Daniel Williams, Karl Jenkins, Pat McIntosh, with Bryan Coll, Colleen Davis, Dan Musgrove, Sophie Roberts, Maria Rose MacDonald, Anya Tate-Manning, Asalemo Tofete, Matt Whelan and Martyn Wood. Downstage, to 6 October.

Rumpelstiltskin ad. & dir: Bea Lee Smith for Kapital Kids Theatre, WPAC, to 6 October. Bookings: 934 4068.

OPENING IN OCTOBER

4 **Ladies Who Lunch** by Tudor Gates, dir: Ewen Coleman for Khandallah Arts Theatre. A sophisticated comedy set in London, Sydney and New York: an English woman, an American and an Australian illegally play the stock market to raise funds for charity. Cast includes **Paul Langham**. Tickets: Khandallah Pharmacy or 972 6180. Cochrane Hall, Cockayne Road, to 13 October.

5 **The Happiest Days of Your Life** by John Dignam, dir: **Chris Fisher**, Drama Christi's 60th anniversary production at their Studio, 75 Taranaki St. Cast includes **Jeff Osborne** and **Dave Adams**. Bookings: 475 9562. To 14 October.

5 **Butterfly Creek Theatre Troupe 20th Anniversary Celebrations**. To 7 October.

10 **Six O'clock Swill** Monthly one act plays: *Cow* by Jo Randerson, *On Story* by Bill Wrubel, dir: Stephen Whiting and *Magnum: The Lost Episodes*. With Phil Darkins, Lorraine Ward, Heather O'Carroll, Ben Fransham, Kate Conaglen, Jasmine M'Nijel, Jon Devine, Nathan Green, Krista Thomson, Walter McGinnis, Daniel Price, **Barry Lakeman**, Jennifer Thompson, Thom McGrath and Melissa Billington. 6 p.m., \$5, at Mighty Mighty, Cuba Mall, to 11 October.



12 **50 Minutes With Ivanja Dabrowska!** performed by Ciara Mulholland, with Tony Wyeth and James Coyle. Returns after the International Comedy Festival. BATS, to 13 Oct.

13 **Homeland** by Gary Henderson, dir: Jane Waddell. "A mature, beautifully crafted work that will transfix New Zealand audiences for many years to come classic New Zealand drama." Circa One to 10 November.

13 **I'm Not Rappaport** by Herb Gardner, dir: Steven Ray, des: Brian King, Lisa Maule, Gillie Coxhill, with George Henare, Ray Henwood & Rima Te Wiata. Downstage to 10 November.

14 **the Kreutzer**, dir: Sara Brodie, des: Andrew Brettell, Piet Asplet, Kath Tyree, with Tom McCrory, dancer Nina Baeyerz, Catherine McKay (pno), Donald Armstrong (vln) and the Nevine String Quartet. Combines dance-theatre, live classical music and interactive audio-visuals, based on The Kreutzer Sonata by Beethoven. BATS, to 24 November.

17 **Quiz night, hosted by Barry Lakeman for New Players Theatre Company at Churton Park School at 7.30 p.m. See front page for more information.**

20 **settling**, dir: Leo Gene Peters, des: Steve Gallagher, Tracey Monastra, with Vaughan Slinn, Aaron Cortesi, Rachel Forman, & James Ashcroft. A funny, provocative new work set in Wellington, 2005 to 07. BATS to 3 Nov.

22 **Drama Christi 60th Anniversary celebrations** to 22 October. Contact: 475 9562 or info@dramachristi.org.nz.

23 **Thomas and Friends Live! on stage: Thomas Saves The Day**. "Spectacular stage musical". It had better be: up to \$40 a seat, unless you are under 1 year old and get a \$1 "lap ticket"! TSB Events Centre to 24 October.

30 **Time Out Of Mind**: 3 short plays by and directed by **Barry Lakeman** (*Waiting For Jim*, *Echoes*, and *Water, Just Water*) and **Crackle**, a devised work led by director **Darrell Haddon**. Des: **Don Blackmore**. Cast includes Anna Beccard, **Belinda Clarke**, **Barry Lakeman**, **Marjorie McKee**, Tom Martin, **Pauline Pyefinch**, Steve Wakeem, **Darrell Haddon** & Craig Watson. Newtown Community and Cultural Centre, 8.00 p.m., to 3 Nov.

REGULAR

Wednesdays: Comedy in The Pit at 9.00 p.m., Pit Bar at BATS Theatre, 1 Kent Terrace.

Sundays: Poetry Studio, open mike at the Bluenote, Cuba / Vivian Sts, 3.00 p.m.

Thursdays: Wellington Comedy Club, San Francisco Bath House.

Last Tuesday of the month: Writers international meeting, Old Town Hall Council Chamber Foyer, 6.30 p.m.

First Tuesday of the month: Wellington Storytellers Café, Wellington Arts Centre, 7.30 p.m.

First Monday of the month: *Howltearoa* by The Word Collective. Open Mike Poetry at the Southern Cross, 8.00 p.m. 934 8177 wordcollective@gmail.com

AUDITIONS

Princess Kate and The Dragon (the play in the park) dir: May Collie-Holmes for Khandallah Arts Theatre. Details not known. Try Paul Langham 232 7206 or Margaret Walls 479 3654 for more information.

If you know of (or especially if you are involved in) a show that could be listed here, please let the editor know.

BJL

NEW PLAYERS DATES

17 October Quiz night, 7 p.m..

1 December Christmas Party, 7 p.m.

2 or 9 December Auditions for *Memory of Water*.

A Spotlight On The History Of NZ Theatre

Victoria Continuing Education and the NZ Theatre Archive will present a seminar in Wellington, **Plays, Players And Places**, on Saturday 13 October at Rutherford House. Speakers are: Peter Downes (on his 20-year search for this 19th century theatrical 'family'), Sarah Gaitanos (on her biography of Nola Millar), Adrienne Simpson (on Billy Hoskins and his link to Henry Irving); and Bill Sheat (on the history of the State Opera House). The day will conclude with a discussion, chaired by Laurie Atkinson, on the importance of NZ theatre history in theatre today. Contact: (04) 463 6556 or www.vuw-ceed.ac.nz.

ANTOINETTES



The Antoinettes are the Wellington District Theatre Federation's "Oscars" for plays performed between April and September each year. All the plays in the competition are judged by one adjudicator; this year it was Ewen Coleman. The awards ceremony was held on Saturday 15 September at Porirua Little Theatre.

The productions entered in this year's competition were:

Butterfly Creek Theatre Troupe: *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare, directed by Florence McFarlane, and *Six Characters in Search of an Author* by Luigi Pirandello, directed by John Marwick.

Heretaunga Players: *The Business of Murder* by Richard Harris, directed by Venessa Park and *Off the Hook* by Derek Benfield, directed by Ruth Sarratt.

Hutt Repertory Theatre: *Rattle of a Simple Man* by Charles Dyer, directed by Arthur Williams and *The Countess* by Gregory Murphy, directed by Venessa Park.

Mana Little Theatre: *Belles* by Mark Dunn, and *The French Lieutenant's Woman* by Mark Healy, adapted from the novel by John Fowles, directed by Ross Miller.

New Players Theatre Company: *Take a Chance on Me* by Roger Hall, directed by Brent Dawson.

Porirua Little Theatre: *Chicago*, book by Fred Ebb and Bob Fosse, music by John Kander, lyrics by Fred Ebb, directed by Merlyn Criscillo with musical direction by Catherine Norton and choreography by Deborah Hale and *Mothers and Fathers* by Joe Musaphia, directed by Pat Knight.

Tawa Community Theatre: *Are You Being Served?* by Jeremy Lloyd & David Croft.

There are two levels of awards: **Certificates**, which went to:

Mana Little Theatre and Butterfly Creek Theatre Troupe for producing unusual and / or innovative plays:

Heretaunga Players for the creative way they adapt plays to suit their venue.

Florence McFarlane, director of *A Midsummer Nights Dream* (Butterfly Creek Theatre Troupe) for a unique interpretation and concept of a Shakespearean play.

John Marwick, for not only directing *Six Characters in Search of an Author* (Butterfly Creek Theatre Troupe), but also translating it from the original Italian and adapting it for their production.

Paulette McIndoe as Sally in *Mothers and Fathers* (Porirua Little Theatre), for portraying not only a realistic and very believable drunk but also a woman in the final stages of pregnancy.

Outstanding Couples Awards went to:

- Gary Hollier ("Bernard") & **Paulette McIndoe** ("Sally"), *Mothers and Fathers* (Porirua Little Theatre).
- Steve Bell ("Percy") & Nicole Smith ("Cyrene"), *Rattle of a Simple Man* (Hutt Repertory Theatre).
- Michael King ("Everett Millias") & Sarah Williams ("Euphemia Ruskin"), *The Countess* (Hutt Repertory Theatre).

The statuettes, the "**Antoinettes**" were presented to:

For Outstanding Performance in a Supporting Role:

- Joseph Mika-Hunt ("Hallett"), *The Business of Murder* (Heretaunga Players).
- Gary Mills ("Amos Hart"), *Chicago* (Porirua Little Theatre).
- Martin Brown ("Billy Flynn"), *Chicago* (Porirua Little Theatre).
- Rose Hudson ("Mrs Poulteney"), *The French Lieutenant's Woman* (Mana Little Theatre).
- Colin Bleasdale ("The Writer/Dr Grogan"), *The French Lieutenant's Woman* (Mana Little Theatre).
- Heather O'Brien ("Mrs Fletcher-Brewer"), *Off The Hook* (Heretaunga Players).
- **Derek Pierce** ("Eric"), *Take A Chance On Me* (New Players Theatre Company).

Outstanding Performance in a Leading Role:

- Stephen Falloon ("Stone"), *The Business of Murder* (Heretaunga Players).
- Truman Macarthy ("Charles"), *The French Lieutenant's Woman* (Mana Little Theatre).
- Amber Baldock ("The Step-daughter"), *Six Characters in Search of an Author* (Butterfly Creek Theatre Troupe).
- Fiona Koning ("Sarah"), *The French Lieutenant's Woman* (Mana Little Theatre).

Best Technical Production: Mana Little Theatre: *The French Lieutenant's Woman*.

Merit Award - Runner Up to Best Production: Porirua Little Theatre: *Mothers and Fathers*.

Best Production – Joint Award

- Heretaunga Players: *The Business of Murder*.
- Mana Little Theatre: *The French Lieutenant's Woman*.

The Finals: New Zealand Theatre Federation's Festival of Community Theatre

Last month we previewed the National Final, to be held on 7 and 8 September in Dunedin. We haven't found the official results, but we understand that Feilding High School won 3 of the 10 prizes: best play, best NZ play and the Youth Award. Feilding Little Theatre won the Selecon Award for Best Design and Technical.

New awards instigated this year were for Distinguished Emerging Actor: two of these went to Feilding Little Theatre. Aranui High School in Christchurch won the Best Male Actor

and the third Emerging actor and Logan Park High in Dunedin the best female actor.

Feilding High School's *Lest We Forget - FAHS War Years* was an ensemble tribute devised by director Karla Crofts and year-13 drama students around World War II letters from former pupils.

Feilding Little Theatre's play, *The Cook Tapes*, directed by Dan Mateer, was the premiere production of a script by André Surridge, an unusual perspective on Captain James Cook's first voyage to New Zealand.

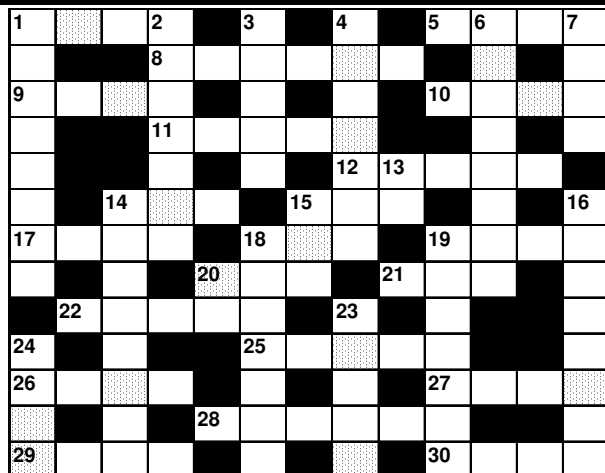
Date changes for the Festival of Community Theatre

It was decided at the NZTF AGM and announced at the Antoinettes night that for next year, the North Island Regional Final will be held on 6 / 7 June, the South Island Regional Final on 13 / 14 June, and the National Final on 27 / 28 June, in Wellington. As far as we know, the District dates are not changed. This replaces the long, drawn out process that took these events out to September each year.

CROSSWORD

by Barry Lakeman

NEW PLAYERS PEOPLE OUT AND ABOUT



ACROSS

- 1 As written, a thousand become ill.
- 5 Southern vehicle makes sign of old injury.
- 8 Croats disorganised on stage.
- 9 Taverns in two directions.
- 10 Encourage genetic engineering behind old city.
- 11 Teamster's union leader, hat off, missed tea, ran around.
- 12 Thorn arrangement gives direction.
- 14 Dry when I am in accounts receivable.
- 15 Quiet in sewing requisite.
- 17 Row sounds like drop.
- 18 End of pieces turned around to dry.
- 19 Entreat quiet poisonous fish.
- 20 Immediate past president is Oxford professor.
- 21 Donkey's south as before.
- 22 Stupid man right in satellite.
- 25 Jelly snake in charge.
- 26 Keen when diva turns around.
- 27 Brave man is nothing to her.
- 28 I'm, alas, going back for Italian sausage.
- 29 Loser from stirred salt.
- 30 Singer Johnny had ready money.

DOWN

- 1 Lest Tito went mad, made a thin-bladed knife.
- 2 His mark swapped for wool.
- 3 Very loud! It's backward, but unbending.
- 4 Natural in cargo mix-up.
- 6 Our carts arranged for exhibition custodians.
- 7 Deer returns for clarinet.
- 13 Not off: in condition.
- 14 Awful bio scare causes a type of exercise.
- 15 Cage a writer.
- 16 The Maori toy hoe modified to be an upper chopper.
- 18 So Santa crashed - made music.
- 19 I, quiet and shy, mingle with two hundred: who would have foreseen this.
- 20 ACT party
- 23 Horrify accounts payable friend.
- 24 Gloom when friend gets left.

The first 8 across answers might remind you of the title of a play from the 1920's that examines the relationships between playwright, his creations, the director and the actors. The shaded squares can be rearranged to provide the author's name (5, 10).

Mana Little Theatre is holding its 50th anniversary in 2008. Barbara Heath, who is compiling a history, requests any relevant anecdotes, photos, etc.: Please send to e.b.heath@xtra.co.nz.

Melodramatic Murder and Mayhem at Moore Manor by **Margaret Potter** and **Marie Thomson**, directed by **Margaret Potter**, was successfully cast last month for Tawa Community Theatre. **John Wise** will be playing piano, and it is rumoured that **Irene Miller** is in the cast. There will be more news next month: it opens on 22 November.

Ewen Coleman is directing *Ladies Who Lunch* by Tudor Gates for Khandallah Arts Theatre, which takes the stage this month. The cast includes **Paul Langham** (lately from our production of *Take A Chance On Me*). More details are on page 2.

Darrell Haddon and **Barry Lakeman** have joined forces to provide a 5 night season of plays at the Newtown Community Centre from 30 October. Cast includes **Belinda Clarke**, **Barry Lakeman**, **Marjorie McKee** and **Pauline Pyefinch**. Most design elements are by **Don Blackmore**. Darrell is driving a devised work, while Barry is directing three of his 10 minute plays, 2 of which have been performed in Australia. More details are on page 2.

Barry Lakeman has a minor role in the cast of the first of the series of *6 o'clock Swill*, one act plays to be performed at Mighty Mighty on 10 and 11 October. The details are on page 2 in the Theatre Calendar.

Jeff Osborne and **Dave Adams** are rehearsing for director **Chris Fisher** for a Drama Christi "period piece", *The Happiest Days of Your Life* by John Dignam, to be performed from 5 to 14 October.

Seen at the opening of Wellington G & S Light Opera's *The Tales of Hoffman* on 19 September were **Don Blackmore** running sound, **Andrew Bartle** running a camera team that included **Tanisha Fearon**, and, attending to last minute publicity duties, **Marjorie McKee**.

Speaking of **Tanisha**, she and **Stu** will be holidaying in Vietnam for most of November. Tanisha hasn't seen anything of Asia, and it will be Stu's first trip overseas.

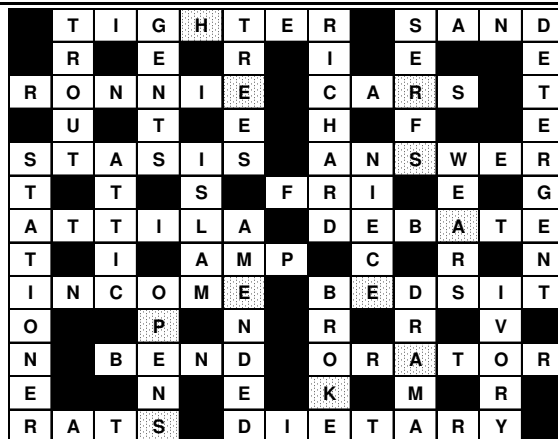
Seen at BATS theatre at *The B Side*, a forum for independent theatre practitioners on 15 September, were **Barry Lakeman** and **Marjorie McKee**.

A last minute addition to Tawa Community Theatre's *Are You Being Served?* (and therefore not reported earlier) was a flamenco dance by **Susanna Leask**.

We hear on the grapevine that **Don Blackmore** is the lighting designer for Porirua Little Theatre's production of *Seussical, The Musical*, directed by Bob Cater, which will be staged from 15 November.

Are you, or someone you know, doing something that might interest other New Players people? Please let the editor know.

ANSWER TO LAST MONTH'S CROSSWORD



The first four across answers might remind you of the title of a play at the Gryphon. The shaded squares can be re-arranged to provide the surname of the author: **Shakespeare**.