



New Players News

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New Players — for quality community theatre

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Everyone is welcome to contribute to *New Players News*. A big "thank you" to our contributors this month: Justin Blakie, Marie Thomson, and Marjorie McKee.

LAST FEW DAYS FOR TAKE A CHANCE ON ME



Top: Fleur (Pauline Pyefinch) and Tim (Steve Gracie) in their "separate beds". Bottom: Derek Pierce and Maree McGregor introduce Loraine (Irene Miller, centre) to Bill (who is a bit of a dummy). Right: TACOM mascot, Ireve Griller.

Take A Chance On Me by Roger Hall closes on 4 August.
Bookings to 4 78 78 78 or www.newplayers.org.nz.

Picture removed: too hard to rearrange and send by pdf.

LACK OF ONE ACTS MEANS CANCELLATION, RELOCATION

No entries were received for the Festival of Community Theatre for Wellington District. The competition that was to have been held at Khandallah Arts' "home" on 2 August has been cancelled.

We understand that there were only enough entries from the North Island to fill one 3-day programme, which was held in Feilding, ending on 21 July. Therefore, the North Island Final will comprise only the plays presented at Feilding and it will not be held at Porirua Little Theatre as originally scheduled, but back at Feilding Little Theatre, on 25 August.

Feilding High School's *Lest We Forget*, devised from World War II letters of former Feilding Ag High School pupils, written and directed by Karla Crofts, won the Sheridan Hickey Youth Award, an award for best ensemble production, an award for creditable characterisation, and was the overall winner.

Runners-up were Awatapu College with Brian Marshall's *Blah Blah Blah*, and the Feilding Little Theatre production of *The Cook Tapes* by André SurrIDGE directed by Dan Mateer (who won "best director"). Those three plays and *Wonderland* by Wanganui High School go forward to the regional competition.

INSIDE ...

... we sympathise with William Gaunt, there is information about the **Adam Playreading Series**, reunions (Mana Little Theatre and Drama Christi), **courses and workshops** on stage and screen acting, and something from the Ed.

Regular features are that we tell you about New Players people who are **Out and About**, there are a **crossword**, a list of **websites of interest** and a **Theatre Calendar**. There is no "featured playwright".

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

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the Ed's column



Well, no-one has been clamouring for more in the Playwright's series, and there has been very little information from anyone this month. Thanks to Justin for the photographs, and to secret agent Marie Thomson, who is our special reporter in Tawa at present.

And thanks to Ralph Lenton for his contributions from across the ditch. Because of a lack of content I had to hold them over this month or make up a page and a half of filler. Sorry, Ralph, they will be in the September issue, for sure.

Cheers

Barry

Adam Playreading Series 2007

This month sees the start of this playreading series, which is designed to present plays that are ready for production to Wellington professional theatre companies. This, the eleventh series, is presented by Playmarket, Downstage Theatre Society and Downstage Theatre with sponsorship from the Adam Foundation.

The public are welcome and the cost is usually around \$6 per play. You won't see a full professional production, but you will see professional actors, acting the play, script in hand, after around a day's rehearsal with a professional director. One play is presented on each day.

The plays are:

The Trial, adapted by Dean Parker from Franz Kafka's classic story. Josef wakes one morning and finds he's arrested - no one however will reveal what his crime is. Given the current international political climate, *The Trial's* politics of paranoia have contemporary charge in this vital and daring adaptation.

The Curative, adapted by Tony McCaffrey from the novel by Charlotte Randall. William Lonsdale is chained to the wall of a filthy room in the "incurables wing" in London's infamous Bedlam at the turn of the 19th century. He doesn't know how he got there or if he will ever get out. This play is peopled with vivid and unforgettable characters.

Caustic by Thomas Sainsbury. A major, provocative work by one of this country's most exciting new playwrights. Dark and funny, set in a 1950s-inspired future dystopia of enforced consumerism and government-by-corporation. This has been performed in Auckland with much trumpeting about how brave the producers were to present it.

The Love Wrangler by Ryan McFadyen. Written at the turn of the millennium, it is set in a future post-greenhouse affected city, where water levels have risen to leave the inhabitants of an apartment building marooned. Love arrives to fulfill a promise to Hope, however Hope has already given up and committed suicide. Enter the Love Wrangler.

Adam Playreading Series 2007, Downstage Theatre, 26 August - 16 September, Sundays at 3 p.m.

New Players Reviews

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NEW PLAYERS PEOPLE OUT AND ABOUT

As well as publicising Wellington Gilbert and Sullivan's North Island tour in September/October of *Tales of Hoffman*, **Marjorie McKee** is publicist for *Part of Me* by Kelly Kilgour, directed by **Danny Mulheron** at BATS this month, and for *Shining City* by Conor McPherson to be directed by Danny Mulheron at Circa in September / October.

Ewen Coleman is directing *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller for Wellington Repertory Theatre. **Barry Lakeman** is in the cast.

Appearing in Tawa Community Theatre's *Are You Being Served?* this month (and until 8 September) are **Marie Thomson** as Mrs Slocombe, **Margaret Potter** as a shopper, **Ross Conland** as Mr Grace, **Mike Boag** as Mr Granger, **Peter MacKenzie** as Mr Rumbold and **Jamie Najbert** (who sang in our last Panto) as Nurse.

Barry Lakeman spent a day in Linton military camp last month, acting in a TV commercial for the NZ Army, and has been offered a role in a film, *Garage Sale*.

Are you, or someone you know, doing something that might interest other New Players people? Tell us about it.



Bill the plumber (Dave Adams) is berated by his lawyer (Derek Pierce) in *Take A Chance On Me*.

All *Take A Chance On Me* photos
by Justin Blakie.

AUG

2007

THEATRE CALENDAR

OPEN NOW

Take A Chance on Me by Roger Hall, dir: Brent Dawson, des: Don Blackmore. New Players Theatre Company, the Innkeeper, Newlands, with Maree McGregor, Derek Pierce, Irene Miller, Dave Adams, Pauline Pyefinch, Kim Smith, Paul Langham & Steve Gracie. Website: www.newplayers.org.nz. Bookings: 4 78 78 78. To 4 Aug.

Monarchy, The Musical by Paul Jenden and Gareth Farr, dir: Paul Jenden. Unpicks the rich tapestry of royal history, laying bare the lives of all the great monarchs, their infamous consorts, lovers and rivals. Circa One to 25 August.

Dead Man's Hand by Seymour Matthews, dir Stephen Fearnley for Stagecraft at the Gryphon to 4 August.

Part Of Me by Kelly Kilgour, dir: Danny Mulheron, with Tania Nolan, Steve Tamarapa, Holly Shanahan & Phil Vaughan. Is it worth holding onto friendships that have experienced hardships? BATS to 11 August.

The Hunting of the Snark (return season). BATS to 4 Aug.

Falling In Love Again with Jennifer Ward-Lealand as Marlene Dietrich, Downstage to 4 August.

OPENING IN AUGUST

- 1 **King Lear** by Shakespeare, dir: David Lawrence at Te Whaea Theatre (NZ Drama School), a Fortune Theatre (Dunedin) prod., with Edward Petherbridge. To 5 Aug.
- 4 **The Cape** by Vivienne Plumb, dir: Conrad Newport. 1994 road trip of four 17 year olds to Cape Reinga. Circa Two to 1 September.
- 6 **Go Solo 2007** by NZ Drama School : Toi Whakaari students, dir: Jade Eriksen, des: Paul Tozer & Claudia Tolusso. A move away from the biographies of previous years to a compositional focus of inquiry about how NZers express identity through storytelling. Bookings: 381 9253. Te Whaea National Dance & Drama Centre to 19 Aug.
- 7 **Nuclear Zephyr**, dir: L'hïbou Hornung. "No snowflake in an avalanche ever feels responsible." Music created by Matthew Mitchell. A mixture of classic theatre, interactive, voice and dance that represents the voice of our youth. Participate in NZ Peace Week. BATS to 11 August.
- 9 **Danny Bhoj**, the top selling comedian at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival Opera House. And 10 August.
- 9 **The Caretaker** by Harold Pinter. A 1960 modern classic. A homeless vagrant is taken in by two brothers, welcomed, ridiculed and threatened with seemingly random acts of charity and aggression. Levin Little Theatre, to 18 August.
- 11 **King Lear** by William Shakespeare, dir: Trevor Nunn, with Ian McKellen, William Gaunt, Sylvester McCoy, Monica Dolan etc. St James. To 13 August.
- 14 **The Seagull** by Anthon Chekhov, dir: Trevor Nunn, with Ian McKellen as Sorin. St James.
- 14 **The Crucible** by Arthur Miller, dir: Ewen Coleman for Wellington Repertory Theatre at the Gryphon on Ghuznee. Cast includes Barry Lakeman. "A classic American Tale of witchcraft, mass hysteria and retribution". Bookings: 385 4247. To 25 August.
- 15 **Off The Hook** by Derek Benfield, dir: Ruth Sarratt for Heretaunga Players to 25 August. [I have different information about this show: maybe it opens on 21 July. - Ed.]
- 15 **The Countess** by George Murphy, dir Venessa Park. A drama based on the Victorian era's most notorious sex scandal, set in 1854. To 25 August Venessa 586 2092
- 16 **Sexual Perversity in Chicago** by David Mamet with Allan Henry, Martyn Wood, Laurel Devenie and Amy Waller. A wicked comedy: the lives of 2 men and 2 women in the world of dating in 1970s Chicago directed to integrate with the site. San Francisco Bathhouse to 25 Aug.

- 16 **Laughing At Gravity**, by Circus Oz, the modern circus show, St James. To 19 August.
- 18 **Who Needs Sleep Anyway?** by Roger Hall & Pip Hall dir: Susan Wilson, des: John Hodgson, Lisa Maule, Zoe Fox with Jennifer Ludlam, Jane Waddell, Peter Hambleton, Mel Dodge, Paul McLaughlin, Nick Dunbar. Comedy about bringing up babies. Downstage to 22 September.
- 21 **Off The Hook** by Derek Benfield, dir: Ruth Sarratt for Heretaunga Players to 30 July. [I have different information about this show: maybe it opened on 15 July.- Ed.]
- 21 **The Venetian Bride** ad. by Robert Tripe from story by Maurice Shadbolt, dir: Rachel More, des: Jennifer Lal, Gareth Farr, with Helen Moulder, Grant Tilly, Carol Smith, Phil Peleton, Robert Tripe & Bjorg Halldosdottir. BATS to 1 September.
- 22 **Twelfth Night**, dir: Vanessa Byrnes for NZ Drama School: Toi Whakaari. Shakespeare's classic comedy performed by 22 second year actors supported by design, technical, management and costume students. Bookings: 381 9253. Te Whaea Theatre to 1 September.
- 23 **Pig Hunt** by Brian Hotter, dir: Kerryn Plamer, des: Brian King, with Jason Whyte, Jamie McCaskill & Rapai Te Hau. Fancy the scent of bush in their nostrils? www.paralleluniverse.org.nz. BATS to 1 September.
- 23 **Are You Being Served?** a BYO cabaret show by Tawa Community Theatre. Comic musical from the TV series. Department store staff on holiday in Spain are abducted by guerillas. Cast includes Marie Thomson, Margaret Potter, Ross Conland, Mike Boag, Peter MacKenzie and Jamie Najbert. Bookings 232 3711. To 8 September.
- 25 **Festival of Community Theatre**, North Island (Regional) Final, at Feilding Little Theatre. See front page for more.
- 25 **Sammy!** Traces the transformation of young Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi from a naïve tongue-tied lawyer into a Mahatma or Great Soul and then to his assassination. World Tour. The Opera House.
- 26 **Adam Playreading Series**, Downstage. Sundays to 16 September, at 3.00 p.m. See page 2 for more information.
- 30 **The King And I**, Coasters Musical Theatre, 15 Hinemoa Street, Paraparaumu, to 8 Sept. See www.coasters.org.nz.

AUDITIONS

- 18 **The Weekend** by Michael Palin, dir: Iona Anderson for Stagecraft. Season: 7 to 17 November, the Gryphon. Need 3M, 40's to 60's; 1M, 30's; 2F, 40 to 50; 1F, 30's; 1F, late teens. Auditions: 18 & 19 August, 10.30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m., Wellington Arts Centre, Abel Smith St. A "riot of a comedy with an ever-present dark side". For information, audition times etc. call Iona, 4785 8434.
- 19 **Crackle** or **How to make a Devil** and **3 x 10 minute plays**. The 10 minute plays are by Barry Lakeman (*Echoes*, *Waiting For Jim* and *Just Add Water*), 2 of which have only been performed in Australia, and *Crackle* or *How to make a Devil* is a devised / collaborative piece with the theme of what factors add to a individual/group to act in a destructive manner, with an emphasis on debilitating the mental faculties of people so that they are unable to function freely, directed by Darrell Haddon: For season end October/early November at Newtown Community Centre. Auditions will be held at the Newtown Community Centre, at 7.00 p.m. Contacts: Darrell: 021 456 562; Barry: 0274 433 680.

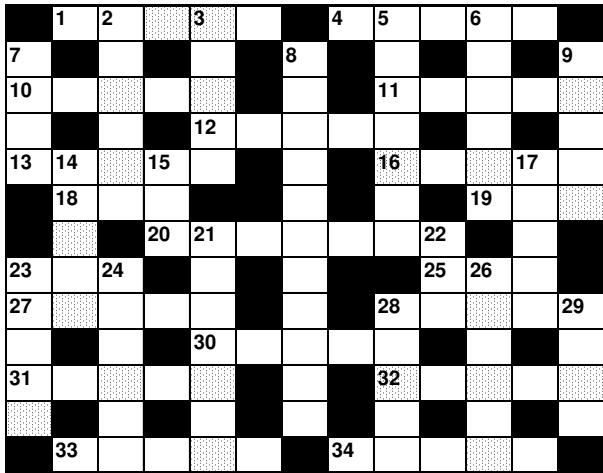
If you know of (or especially if you are involved in) a show that could be listed here, please let the editor know.

Drama Christi: 60th Anniversary on Labour Weekend (20 to 22 October). Contact: 4759562 or e-mail info@dramachristi.org.nz.

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

CROSSWORD

by Barry Lakeman



ACROSS

- 1 New, a man comes before a gift from heaven.
- 4 Entered: pivotal little newspaperman.
- 10 Entertain a mouse, running around loveless.
- 11 Bike not on in a whirlwind.
- 12 Screw constant repetition.
- 13 Almost sounds like a dinosaur on long walks.
- 16 Sufficient current precedes the French.
- 18 Consumed at the end.
- 19 Fish come back out of the wind.
- 20 Reg mute, confused, in Koala's favourite place.
- 23 Droop caused when gas flows back.
- 25 The French Mills or Dawson.
- 27 Pam disorganised after church is a little series winner.
- 28 Takes recipe for ice glider.
- 30 Stupid returns for Mr Amin.
- 31 Right! Go back before little queen for acknowledgement.
- 32 Croat disorganised on stage.
- 33 Sewed alterations for widow's clothing.
- 34 Risk it! Confused, I go for a short dress.

Websites of Interest

Reviews:

www.theatreview.org.nz contains reviews of New Zealand theatre of all types by various reviewers such as John Smythe (who used to be with the National Business Review), Ewen Coleman (Dominion Post), Lynn Freeman (Capital Times).
www.lumiere.net.nz/reader/: film and theatre review site.

Theatre community:

www.theatrecomrades.co.nz is a non-profit website for theatre.
www.nzlive.com cultural website by the Ministry of Culture and Heritage linking information and links provided by NZ sites.
www.thebigidea.co.nz an online community for NZ creative practitioners, producers and organisations. Updates daily.

Play directories:

www.doollee.com is an online database for playwrights and plays.
www.scriptmagnet.com Prospectively, a script library for New Zealand writers.
www.buddybuddy.com run to promote gay and lesbian theatre throughout the world. It includes a list of such plays.
www.youtube.com. You Tube has video extracts of performances of plays by playwrights such as Beckett, Miller and Chekhov.
www.playmarket.org.nz Lists of New Zealand plays for which they hold the rights.
www.playbureau.com Lists of New Zealand and international plays for which they hold the rights.
www.bardwire.gut.edu.au The world of Shakespeare.

DOWN

- 2 Charm Ma back with smashed lute.
- 3 Requires Eden's chaos.
- 5 Clean Victory in Europe is muddled for a territory enclosed within another.
- 6 Eastern space stirred for get away.
- 7 Trap round for role.
- 8 Finding one's bearings in chaotic Eastern nation riot.
- 9 Lever up for an extravagantly good time.
- 14 Ha! Container stands up for Indian ruler.
- 15 A thousand, for example, make a barrel.
- 17 Steal around for the minimum.
- 21 Ensured fair play when ripe mud stirred up.
- 22 Moose appears from the Spanish 1,000.
- 23 Loud, after mark of wound brings a muffler.
- 24 Bubble liquid in the throat when rag rolls up over broken leg.
- 26 A steer cooked for a Christian festival.
- 28 Right in confused task is severe.
- 29 Listeners in bearskins.

The first four across answers might remind you of Circa's main production at present. The shaded squares can be rearranged to find the names of the two creators (4, 6 & 6, 4).

ANSWER TO LAST MONTH'S CROSSWORD

T	H	U	M	B	U	R	G	E	N	T		
R		N		E	N	A		O		S		
O	V	E	N		H	I	S	S		E	V	E
L		N		A	O		O	W	L		C	
L	E	D		D	E	N	I	M			T	O
	M	I	C	A		M		E	A	A	T	N
S	U	N		P	L	E	A	T		R	E	D
P		G	O	T		E		E	T	O	N	
O	R			A	C	T	O	R		M	A	R
O		S	I	T		I	S			B		E
N	O	T		I	N	N	S		T	O	B	E
S		O		O		G		O		N		D
	S	P	E	N	D	S		N	E	E	D	S

The first four across answers could remind you of the title of a play. The letters in the shaded squares can be arranged to find the name of the title character and the lawyer: **ANTONIO** and **PORTIA**.

BUT WHAT ABOUT William Gaunt?

There will be a third performance of the Royal Shakespeare Company's *King Lear* on Monday 13th August. "The first two shows have sold out and there has been a lot of pressure to extend the season," says RSO CEO Celia Walmsley. "As the company is committed to their Auckland season, the only way we could fit in another *King Lear* was to replace the first performance of *The Seagull*". This means Wellington audiences will get to see Sir Ian McKellen in all three performances of *King Lear*, as well as playing the part of Sorin in *The Seagull* on Tuesday 14th August.

While this is great for Sir Ian, think about the effect on William Gaunt's ego. This means that the performance of *The Seagull* with him in the lead role has been cancelled.

COURSES AND WORKSHOPS

So You Think You Can Act, a course on stage technique by **Rob Ormsby**. First 3 weekends in August, 10.30 to 3.00 at Porirua. \$60.00. 10 - 12 persons. Contact Rob at 234 7273.

Screen acting classes by **Miranda Harcourt**. Group classes: 10 participants, master-class. \$45 plus GST. 6.00 to 8.00, week-night, Toi Whakaari. Also one-on-one coaching. \$90 plus GST (and venue cost of \$20 plus GST per hour). Minimum 1-hour. **Contact:** mirandaharcourt@actrix.co.nz or 021 484 776.