



New Players News

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New Players — for quality community theatre

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You can get *New Players News*

by e-mail as a pdf file instead of by post. (Files are less than .5 Mb.)

To change, please e-mail the editor

Thank you to our contributors:
Marie Thomson,
Irene Miller &
Marjorie McKee.

ANZDA Accreditation Seminars: There's still time

Last month we told you that the Association of New Zealand Drama Adjudicators will be holding accreditation seminars in Wellington in February. Well, you are not too late: they have been postponed until May.

If you have over ten years consistent experience as an actor, director or teacher/tutor, and would like to seek accreditation, or you would simply like to learn more about the process and criteria of adjudication, email Bryan Aitken, the ANZDA President, bryanaaitken@paradise.net.nz, as soon as possible.

ANZDA recognizes the need to refresh the gene pool. If you are accredited, you will join a band of specialist practitioners who will mentor you through your first experiences.



REVIEWERS WANTED

The Wellington District Theatre Federation has a place on its website for reviews of plays, and it has heard that the Dominion Post may now have space for reviews of our productions in its Thursday Arts Section.

Are you interested in making yourself available to review local theatre? You will not be paid but an independent assessment in print and on the web would be appreciated by many.

So that District members can contact the Federation for the services of a reviewer, send your name and details to info@theatrefed.wellington.net.nz.

Dead Man's Cell Phone, by Sarah Ruhl, directed by Susan Wilson.

A captivating new comedy from the award-winning Sarah Ruhl, *Dead Man's Cellphone* traces one woman's accidental quest to make a few people feel just a little bit better about themselves. Jean is sleepwalking through her life until she answers a dead man's cell phone. It turns out to be a wake-up call that sends her on a date with the dead man's brother, a drinking binge with his wife, and a mysterious rendez-vous with his mistress. In this quirky modern adventure, Jean re-connects to her own spirit and learns that life is for the living.

To go with the New Players group, call Irene Miller on 972 8876 by 5 March.

PLAY VISIT
11 April, Circa One

INSIDE:

are Marie's Manifest, details about courses, information about the Festival of Community Theatre and the Full Length Play Competition, and our regular features: New Players people Out and About, the Crossword and the Theatre Calendar.

AUDITIONS

6.00 p.m. Sunday 28 February

RolePlay

RolePlay by Alan Ayckbourn, to be performed between 6 and 15 May at the Newlands Recreation Centre, will be directed by Ewen Coleman. Auditions will be at the Newlands Community Centre. Full details were in our last two issues.

More in our *Theatre Calendar*, page 3.

Character quick reference (ages approximate only)

3 Males: about 30, early 40s, and late 50s.

4 Females: early 20s, late 20s, late 40s, and 50s.

TECHY STUFF

Technical News Sources

The Musical Theatre New Zealand website has technical news relating to new products, seminars and safety issues, at www.musical.org.nz/technical.htm. The newsletters from ETNZ (the Entertainment Technology New Zealand society) are available there, too, though a little difficult to find: it is at, for example, "February news from ETNZ ... More".



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, webmaster@newplayers.org.nz.

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Greetings, all!

There have been some exciting developments with the WCC - come along to the Auditions on Sunday, and find out!

We can tell you the date for the AGM is Friday, 9 April at 7.30 p.m., for Coffee and Dessert. As usual, every position is available for anyone to stand for, although there are a few of us who would be prepared to stay on ...

Irene is arranging a visit to Circa on 11 April, for the comedy *Dead Man's Cell Phone* by Sarah Ruhl. Please call her on 972 8876 by 5 March

Things have been so busy around here, I'm hard-pushed to remember what happened 5 minutes ago, let alone over the last month, but I do know we're going to have a wonderful first production in our new venue, so make up your minds now, to be a part of setting History! Participate in whatever area in which you have a little skill or much enthusiasm!

This month's Lori-ism: when I said I was going to the Chemist to pick up my medicine, Lori asked, "G'anma, why did you drop your medicine in the Chemist?"

See you at Circa, the AGM and 'RolePlay'.

God Bless,

Marie

LEARN STUFF Philips Selecon - Stage Lighting Workshop

This seminar, to be held at Toi Whakaari : NZ Drama School, 11 Hutchison Road, Newtown, Wellington from 9.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. on 3 March, will focus on design techniques, light intensity, colour, gobos (patterns) and effects, and will include a tour of the facilities with lighting professional and all-round marvellous person Lisa Maule. The afternoon will be an opportunity to do some hands on exercises and experiment with new skills with professional equipment. Numbers will be limited.

The cost is spot on \$45.00 including gst (refreshments & lunch not included). Refreshments & lunch will be available at the in-house café.

For registration and information contact:
Abby.Clearwater@philips.com or (09) 481 0100 or
Stuart.Mitchell@philips.com or

(09) 4810 113 or 021 799 621. MAR 2010

New Players News

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NEW PLAYERS PEOPLE OUT & ABOUT

The *Play With your Food* team, which now includes **Don Blackmore, Belinda Clarke, Andrew Edgar, Barry Lakeman, Marjorie McKee, Paulette McIndoe** and **Jeff Osborne** are coming to Johnsonville on Saturday 27 March. The performances, in aid of the Salvation Army missions, will be at the Salvation Army theatre. See our *Theatre Calendar* for details.

Paulette McIndoe is a *Weekend Warrior* again. This is an opportunity for musicians to get together, pick their songs, rehearse a lot and then perform for the public—this time her performance will be at 3.00 p.m. on 28 March at the San Francisco Bath House, Cuba Street.

Tanisha Wardle is in *Steel Magnolias* by Robert Harling at Mana Little Theatre, which gets on the boards in April.

Mike Pyefinch has been cast in his first play since he and Pauline moved to Wanganui: *Once on Chunuk Bair* by Maurice Shadbolt for Wanganui Repertory, playing Sergeant Frank. Mike says that the character is "a war weary, bad tempered, hard arse", and that he has been type-cast again! It is a great story of World War I military incompetence and comradeship under extreme conditions, portions of which will also be filmed and shown on a back screen.

Are you, or someone you know, doing something that might interest other New Players people? Do you have photographs of performances? Please tell the editor.

NEWS Theatreview launches the NZ Performing Arts Directory

Theatreview, New Zealand's premier website for reviews, forums and theatre news (with 790,230 hits in the month of November 2009), has launched the NZ Performing Arts Directory. All performing arts practitioners, organisations and supporters can be part of it.

When someone in the directory is mentioned anywhere on the Theatreview site, their name is linked to their membership page, to show the contact details that they have chosen to make public, for access by directors and producers. The details may be updated at any time. It costs \$36 per annum for an individual.

Further information can be found from the Theatreview Home page: click on "NZ Performing Arts Directory - join!".

WORKSHOPS 2010

If you have any suggestions for topics for workshops or seminars to be run by the District Federation, please contact Sue Miller.

Sue is at kotuku.media@xtra.co.nz or 233 1842.



THEATRE CALENDAR

OPEN NOW

Fringe Festival, which runs to 6 March. There are lots of things to see, in many different venues. Some of them are listed here. For more information, see www.fringe.org.nz.

New Zealand International Festival of the Arts. Some events are listed here. Various venues to 21 March.

The Immortals by Martin Amis. Dan Slavin plays an unusual adaptation of the story every Thursday. Fringe at The Pit Bar, BATS to 11 March.

A Love Tail by Aroha White, Matariki Whatarau & Kate McGill (NZ). Fringe at BATS to 3 March.

Sometimes I Don't Like Yellow (NZ). Fringe at BATS to 2 March.

Sound of Silence by New Riga Theatre / Latvia, Dir: Alvis Hermanis. A play without words set to the soundtrack and narrative of Simon and Garfunkel. A colourful, humorous, and exuberant portrayal of human existence. TSB Bank Arena to 5 March (NZIFA).

Apollo 13: Mission Control. (NZ) Winner of 2 2008 Chapman Tripp Awards. 3 astronauts are trapped in space. Audience members seated in an authentic 1970s replica of Mission Control must make the decisions needed to bring them home. Downstage to 9 March (NZIFA).

Mary Stuart by Friedrich Schiller, ad. by David Harrower, dir: Ross Jolly. The relationship between Mary Queen of Scots and her cousin, Elizabeth I of England. Circa One to 3 April. (NZIAF to 21 March, when ticket prices will probably drop). *Start times for this production appears to weave in and out of the performance times for "The Letter Writer": check show times carefully!*

OPENING IN MARCH

- Pink lighter** by Jonathan Riley (NZ), dir: Patrick Graham. 2 dysfunctional households and a lighter. Fringe at BATS, to 5 March.
- Inside Out** by Cirkus Cirkör, Opera House to 8 March. (NZIFA).
- Garry Trotter and the Philosopher's Whatchamacallit**, The Improvisers. Fringe at Circa Two to 6 March.
- Ruby Tuesday**, by/dir:/performed by Isla Adamson and Josephine Stewart Tewhiu. Hit show, "Best of Auckland Fringe 09". Fringe at BATS to 13 March.
- Blind**. All the sweeping drama of *The English Patient* packed into 25 minutes. Includes DIY vibrator-making workshop. Fringe at The Pit Bar, BATS Theatre, to 6 March.
- The Crimson Club's Whirlwind Worldwide Wellington Tour**. (NZ) Cutting edge cabaret. The Andrews Sisters, Edith Piaf and The Soggy Bottom Boys all rolled into one. Fringe at BATS to 6 March.
- Register for the Play visit to Dead Man's Cell Phone** by Sarah Ruhl, dir: Susan Wilson, on 11 April at Circa One. To go with the New Players group, call Irene Miller on 972 8876.
- The Letter Writer** by and dir: Juliet O'Brien (probably NZ). Circa One to 21 March. (NZIFA). *Start times for this production appears to weave in and out of the performance times for "Mary Stuart": check show times carefully!*
- Angel**, dir: Lucette Hindin, with Olli Ricken (NZ). Clown theatre in the tradition of *Slava's Snow Show*. Fringe at BATS to 13 March.
- He Reo Aroha** by Miria George & Jamie Caskill, dir: Hone Kouka. Soundings, Te Papa. (NZIFA) Plus regional tour.
- Eleven and Twelve** by Amadou Hampate Ba, ad. Marie-Helene Estienne & Peter Brook, dir Peter Brook. St James to 14 March. (NZIFA.)
- The Arrival** by Julie Nolan & Kate Parker, dir: Julie Nolan. Opera House to 14 March. (NZIFA.)
- 360** by Carl Bland, Ben Crowder & Peta Rutter (NZ), des: John Verryt, Brad Gledhill & Elizabeth Whiting. A prodigal son story with the stage around the outside of the audience. Te Whaea National Dance & Drama Centre. To 21 March. (NZIFA.)
- T. E. O. R. E. M. A. T.** by and dir: Grzegorz Jarzyna. TSB Bank Arena to 19 March. (NZIFA)
- Mark Twain and Me in Maoriland** by David Geary (NZ), dir: Anna Marbrook, des: John Gibson, Kasia Pol & Jessica Sanderson. Soundings, Te Papa, to 21 March. (NZIFA) Plus regional tour.

- Grumpy Old Women**, by Jenny Eclair and Judith Holder, dir: David McPhail with Geraldine Brophy, Pinky Agnew & Lyndee-Jane Rutherford, Genesis Energy Theatre, Expressions, Upper Hutt.
- The Tragical Life of Cheeseboy** by Finegan Kruckmeyer Capital E to 21 March. (NZIFA) Plus regional tour.
- The Walworth Farce** by Enda Walsh, dir: Mikel Murfi. Opera House to 21 March. (NZIFA)
- The Lion in Winter** by James Goldman. Hutt Repertory to 26 March.
- The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie** adapted from Muriel Spark. Harlequin Theatre to 27 March.
- Gosforth's Fete** by Alan Ayckbourn, dir Teena Cleary. Heretaunga Players to 28 March. See separate box.
- Pick of the Fringe**. Two stand-out shows are selected from the Fringe to appear at Downstage, to 27 March.
- Play With Your Food**. 4 bite-sized plays by & dir: Barry Lakeman, des: **Don Blackmore**: *Waiting For Jim, Reunion in Columbus, The Boarder Part 1 and The Boarder Part 2*, with Anna Beccard, **Belinda Clarke, Andrew Edgar, Marjorie McKee, Paulette McIndoe, Kim Smith and Jeff Osborne**. Performances in aid of the Salvation Army missions, at the Salvation Army Auditorium, Johnsonville, which will be converted to a café — a light meal at 6.00 p.m. with snacks and coffee available "during". Plays start at 7.00 p.m. Full details will be on www.playwithyourfood.co.nz. Bookings to 477 4853.

AUDITIONS

- 28 February *RolePlay* by Alan Ayckbourn, dir: Ewen Coleman, 6.00 p.m. at the Newlands Community Centre. The season for this New Players production is 6 to 9 and 13 to 15 May. Contact details for the director: 027 428 849 or edcoleman@xtra.co.nz.
Late February / early March **The French Lieutenant's Woman** by John Fowles, ad. Mark Healy, dir: Sue Miller for Wellington Repertory Theatre for season 26 May to 5 June.

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

oddSPoT Ayckbourn's Gosforth's Fete

This is a performance, directed by Teena Cleary for Heretaunga Players between 19 and 28 March.

According to some information (like the District Theatre Fed. website), this is an audition, but according to www.Heretaungaplayers.wordpress.com, their website, it is a production.

WANT
TO
HELP?

If you have some free time to help to keep New Players ticking along, call Marie Thomson on 478 4305.

LEARN
STUFF

More from Philip Mann

More Philip Mann Workshops are planned this year. The Advanced Actor's Workshop was scheduled for 27/28 February, and a Directors' Workshop is planned for 27/28 March. The workshops, costing around \$35 to \$50, are for Stagecraft members only. For more information, the contact is sam.perry@brandons.co.nz.

CROSSWORD by Barry Lakeman



ACROSS

- 1 Conceal tanned skin.
- 3 Stupid mare made into paper.
- 6 Palindromic father.
- 9 Made right confused vision.
- 10 Cue Ron and James Bond's technology expert to win.
- 12 But came back for a bath.
- 13 Madly bend lady? It won't finish well (3, 5).
- 15 Continental tautology, like D = D!
- 16 Toot, Ma! Crazy for something to eat.
- 17 Toot, Pa! Crazy for something to eat.
- 19 Blam! Shattered a little sheep.
- 21 Stupidly, I go "Tip me!" and get a superficial bacterial skin infection.
- 24 Very all right, confused to become a tree.
- 26 Stupidly going opposite directions to find heads.
- 27 Indian capital left in a collapsed hide.
- 28 Utter in essays.
- 29 Dies, crushed, for the team.
- 30 Tour round to find defeat.

DOWN

- 1 Silly Nan tilted shed to discover unexpected skills (6, 7).
- 2 Dead right in fear.
- 4 Does better than most spreadsheets.
- 5 Where coins are made, not always with a hole in the middle!
- 6 As bud turns, blotches appear.
- 7 Has ugly mild garotte, so finds a skin specialist.
- 8 Mame falls about for novel by Jane Austen.
- 11 James Bond's technology expert got a turtle, and since learner left is able to put together a music group.
- 14 Bang! Abe falls about and can be used as a substitute for a chair.
- 18 Stir mud sea to be entertained.
- 20 A cat appears when a mogul's beginnings end with hitting the front of a gyrocopter.
- 22 Send around to the finishes.
- 23 Ice house built from one logo.
- 25 For osculation, German storm troopers follow a thousand and one.

The first four across answers might remind you of a song title that was a best-seller near the end of 2009. The letters in the shaded squares can be rearranged to form the name of the singer (5, 5).

LAST MONTH'S CROSSWORD

W	H	E	T	H	E	R		W	H	I	L	E
A		M		O		O		E		N		X
T	H	I	N	K		C	Z	A	R			T
E		N		I	N	K		K		T	O	I
R	E	E	D			E		N		R		N
B		M		G	A	T	H	E	R	I	N	G
O				A				S				U
A	C	C	I	D	E	N	T	S		B		I
R		O		G		A			P	A	T	S
D	A	D		E		P	E	A		N		H
I				S	T	O	P		R	O	G	U
N		P		R		E			I		L	R
G	R	I	M	Y				D	R	A	P	E
												S

The first four across answers might remind you of the title of a film. The letters in the shaded squares can be rearranged to form the name of the person who wrote the book: Maurice Sendak

Full Length Play Competition 2010

The Full Length Play Competition is for plays produced by members of the Wellington District Theatre Federation, and culminates in the Antoinette awards that are presented annually, usually in September.

The competition this year will be for plays performed between 1 March and 31 August. The adjudicator will be Jillian Carpenter. The festival manager is Hayden Rogers, and the entry fee for the competition is \$110.

Festival of Community Theatre 2010

The New Zealand Theatre Federation runs this festival, which usually consists of one act plays.

District competition

Wellington District Festival: in August. Adjudicator: Nerissa Moore.

Regional Finals

North Island: 27/28 August venue to be advised

South Island: 3/4 September in Canterbury

National Final: 17/18 September at Te Whaea: National Dance and Drama Centre, Newtown, Wellington.

Celebrations for NZTF's 40th Birthday

At the National Final/AGM weekend 2010, which will be held at Te Whaea: National Dance and Drama Centre, Newtown, Wellington, the NZTF plan to have as many past Presidents, Administrators and those associated with NZTF in attendance as possible.

Included in the celebrations will be an exhibition of memorabilia and a cake cutting ceremony at the AGM, followed by an Open Forum / Q and A session with a panel of highly qualified speakers covering Promotion, Advertising and Marketing. A number of workshops are planned to run concurrently on various aspects of theatre and stagecraft.

AUDITIONS: 6.00 p.m. Sunday 28 February at Newlands Community Centre.
RolePlay by Alan Ayckbourn. More details on page 3.