



New Players News

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New Players — for quality community theatre

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

Paulette McIndoe,
Don Blackmore,
Irene Miller and
Marie Thomson

Auditions

2 December
The Memory Of Water
by Shelagh Stephenson
directed by Ewen Coleman

in the lounge at The Terrace Centre, Johnsonville
Uniting Church, Doctor Taylor Terrace, at 2.00 p.m.
For more details, and directions to The Terrace
Centre, see page 3.

NEW PLAYERS PEOPLE OUT AND ABOUT

Richard Bywater reported that Matthew Ryan Bywater was born at 3:11 p.m. on 30 October 2007. He weighed in at 3.46kg (that's 7 pounds 10 ounces for the people who work in the old system) and both he and mum are doing well.



Helle Rosenberg has been accepted by Toi Whakaari : NZ Drama School for a two year full time course on costume construction.

We have heard a strong but unconfirmed rumour that **Brent Dawson** (who directed *Take A Chance On Me* by Roger Hall for us this year) will direct our July production: which may be *Flagons and Foxtrots* by Alison Quigan.

More OUT and ABOUT on page 3

DON'T READ THIS

- if you received an invoice in this envelope with your New Players News, or
- if you are a life member.

Otherwise, please read on.

If you didn't receive an invoice in the envelope with this issue and you are not a life member, then you aren't a Current Financial Member. That means that you have been getting New Players News for free for some time. New Players are a kind, loving, sympathetic society who hate to lose their friends.

But they can't keep this up forever. So, if you want to continue to receive this excellent publication in 2008, please contact our Membership Secretary, Pat Moran and sort out your membership situation.

Barry says: I like to think that as many people as possible will be reading this every month. But it's not fair on the people who pay, is it?

You can now receive *New Players News* by e-mail as a pdf file instead of by post. The files will be less than .5 Mb. To make the change, e-mail lakeman@paradise.net.nz.

INSIDE ...

... there are a number of items on *The Memory of Water*, and some quotes.

Regular features are that we tell you about New Players people who are **Out and About**, the **crossword**, and a **Theatre Calendar**.

CHRISTMAS PARTY 8 December

Our next Christmas Party will be held on 8 December at 7.00 p.m. at St Andrews Church, Trebann Street, Newlands. As usual, this is a B.Y.O. affair, which includes the entertainment.

It is not compulsory, but it would be very welcome, if you would like to perform something in the traditional fashion. If you require an accompanist, please contact Irene Miller.

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.

THEATRE CALENDAR

OPEN NOW

- Suessical The Musical** by Lynn Ahrens & Stephen Flaherty, dir: Bob Cater for Porirua Little Theatre to 1 December. Cast includes **Paulette McIndoe**. Lighting by **Don Blackmore**.
- Melodramatic Murder and Mayhem at Moore Manor** by Margaret Potter and Marie Thomson, dir: Margaret Potter for Tawa Community Theatre at Linden Social Centre. **John Wise** on piano, and cast includes **Marie Thomson, Ross Conland, Irene Miller & Margaret Stevens**. To 1 December.
- Mean Jean the Pirate Queen** by Michealanne Forster at Kapiti Playhouse to 3 December
- Shakespeare Revue**, various authors, dir: Sue Miller with Pam Alderton, Ashley Borden, Felicity Bunny, Fiona Couchman, Pam Greenlee, Rebecca Parker, Brian Hudson & Ross Miller. Includes sketches and songs, some specially written, in loving mockery of the bard. Wellington Repertory at the Gryphon Theatre, Ghuznee St. Bookings: 385 45247. To 7 Dec.
- 'Allo 'Allo** by by Jeremy Lloyd & David Croft, at Greytown Little Theatre to 8 December.
- Urinetown The Musical**, by Mark Hollmann & Greg Kotis, dir: Catherine Downes, mus. dir: Tim Solly, des: Phillip Dexter & Nic Smillie with George Henare, Rima Te Wiata, Kristian Lavercombe, Jason Ward Kennedy, Julian Wilson, Amy Straker, Brooke Williams. Downstage to 22 December.
- A Streetcar Named Desire** by Tennessee Williams, dir: Willem Wassenaar, Circa Two, to 22 December.
- Jack and the Beanstalk, The Pantomime** by Roger Hall, songs by Paul Jenden & Michael Nicholas Williams, dir: Susan Wilson. The creative team for *Cinderella* and *Aladdin*. A panto Dame, topical jokes, great fun for everyone. Circa One to 22 December.
- Note: Unoriginal Sin** by David Tristram, Heretaunga Players, did not proceed as it was not able to be cast.

OPENING IN DECEMBER

- 6 **Revue**, Butterfly Creek Theatre Troupe, at Muritai School, to 8 December.
- 6 **They Came From Mars and Landed Outside the Farndale Avenue Church Hall in Time for the Townswomen's Guild Coffee Morning** by McGilivray and Zerlin, Harlequin Theatre, Masterton, to 14 December.
- 7 **Miriam Margolyes: Dickens' Women** by Miriam Margolyes and Sonia Fraser. The lives of the women in Charles Dickens' life, both real and fictitious. 23 different characters. Opera House, to 9 December.
- 8 **Christmas Party, New Players Theatre Company, 7.00 p.m., at St Andrews Church, Trebann Street, Newlands.**
- 11 **Six O'clock Swill** at Mighty Mighty, Cuba Mall, at 6 p.m. Ususally 3 plays: not known.
- 13 **The Totally Awesome Christmas Show** by Rob Ormsby, Dave Wellington and Sandy Brewer. Carols and Christmas songs for the whole family. Proceeds to The Salvation Army. Porirua Little Theatre. To 15 December.

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,

New Players

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Editor in Chief: Don Blackmore.

Cuba / Vivian Sts, 3.00 p.m.

Thursdays: Wellington Comedy Club, San Francisco Bath House, Cuba Mall.

Last Tuesday of the month: Writers international meet, 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: *Howltearora* by The Word Collective. Open Mike Poetry, the Southern Cross, 8.00 p.m. 934 8177 wordcollective@gmail.com

AUDITIONS

- 2 **The Memory of Water** by Shelagh Stephenson, dir: Ewen Coleman for the New Players Theatre Company for performances in April 2008. 2.00 p.m. in the lounge, The Terrace Centre, Johnsonville Uniting Church, Dr Taylor Terrace. For more information, please see page 3.
- 8 **Oliver!** dirs: John Goddard and Sandy Brewer, mus dir: Matthew Nidek for Porirua Little Theatre, for season 12 March to 5 April. Required: large cast of adult & children performers. Auditions will be split to Principals, adult chorus & children's chorus. Group auditions for chorus. Call Rowena 970 1301 for an audition time or e-mail blueandjg@paradise.net.nz.
- 15 **Summer End** by Eric Chappell, dir: Christine Hunt for a Stagecraft season from 19 to 29 March. Required: 2F in their 70's; F late 20's - 30's; F late 40's - 50's; M 50's. Ring beforehand: Christine Hunt 973 8240 or Leigh Cain 387 8400 or e-mail bartlettcm@paradise.net.nz. And on 18 December.
- ?? **See You Tonight** by Dave Smith, dir: Mary Collie-Holmes for Tawa Community Theatre. Performance dates: 10 to 19 April. This is very probably a great play, and it wasn't cast last time as no-one turned up to auditions. Watch their website (tawatheatre.wellington.net.nz) for updates. Currently it is advertising *Are You Being Served?*

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

BJL

December clubnight:

There is a Christmas party this month.

COURSES AND WORKSHOPS

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.

NEW PLAYERS DATES

- 2 December Auditions: *The Memory of Water*, 2.00 p.m. in the lounge, The Terrace Centre, Johnsonville Uniting Church, Dr Taylor Terrace.
- 8 December Christmas Party, 7.00 p.m., at St Andrews Church, Trebann Street, Newlands.

DEC



2007

The Memory Of Water by Shelagh Stephenson

AUDITIONS

for the play, to be directed by Ewen Coleman for the New Players Theatre Company for a season in April 2008, will be held in the lounge at The Terrace Centre, Johnsonville Uniting Church, Dr Taylor Terrace, at 2.00 p.m. on Sunday 2 December. Copies of the script are available from Irene Miller.

CAST REQUIRED (ages are a rough guide):

- Teresa** – 40's – although seemingly content with her second marriage and health food business is an obsessive neurotic and an over-organizer.
- Mary** – 30's – is a successful doctor and though quite abrasive has a dry sense of humour, seemingly far more in control of her life than the other sisters although hers is the biggest skeleton in the cupboard.
- Catherine** – 20's – also neurotic, is the youngest and most immature of the three who binges on shopping for inappropriate clothes, go-nowhere love affairs, and drugs.
- Vi** – 40's - 50's – the ghost of the Mother who persistently contests the memories of her daughters.
- Mike** – 30's – Mary's married lover, also a doctor who is weak, whimpish and selfish.
- Frank** – 40's – Teresa's put-upon, long suffering husband.

CREW NEEDED

Irene Miller is putting together a crew for the show. She would like to hear from anyone new who wants to give it a go as well as old hands.

Training will be given to new people for all aspects of crewing the show, for jobs from Production Manager to Stage Hand.

Directions:

by train: Go to Johnsonville station. Opposite the station is a short street called Wanaka Street. The Terrace Centre is at the end of it.

by car from Wellington: Use the Johnsonville exit from the motorway on SH1 (at the top of the Ngauranga Gorge). Go left at the first set of traffic lights, go ahead at the next, and go right immediately into Dr Taylor Terrace. The Terrace Centre is near the other end, where there is a junction with Wanaka Street.

by car from the north: use the Johnsonville exit from the motorway on SH1. Ignoring the entrance to KFC, take the second exit at the roundabout (which is almost a straight ahead) and go second right into Wanaka Street. The Terrace Centre is across the end of it.

For more information:

To read director Ewen Coleman's take on the play, see page 3 of our last (November) issue.

For a biography of author Shelagh Stephenson, see page 5 of our last (November) issue.

For quotes about the play from critics and Shelagh Stephenson herself, see the front page of this issue.

WHAT CRITICS SAID

"*The Memory Of Water* is dotted with stimulating observations. It has a raw spontaneity that captures perfectly the idea of what normal people do in abnormal times" - NY Times.

"This touching and hugely entertaining comedy provides an insight into the lives of three sisters who are reunited for their mother's funeral. A neurotic maternal type, a paranoid doctor and a brattish youngest sibling recall their childhood, but find that personal grievances have coloured their memories, which differ greatly and cause immense friction" - The Independent.

"This is a lovely piece, full of humour and heart. Where the play works best is in its satisfying mixture of sardonic humour and deep emotion. Excellent jokes give way to festering resentments, booze and dope-fuelled hilarity to sudden glimpses of buried secrets and aching pain." - The Telegraph.

"Shelagh Stephenson [is] a dramatist with a sharp eye and a gift for quirky dialogue to match." - London Times.

".... a deeply felt, richly funny study of the pervasive power of the past" Michael Billington, the *Guardian*.

Quote

These things don't mean much. We can have no idea of what is going to last for posterity, because we will all be dead by then. Plays are ephemeral things and there is nothing I can do about that. It was an absolute fluke that this one was a hit.

Shelagh Stephenson, referring to *The Memory of Water* winning Britain's Olivier Award for best new comedy and being performed around the world.

NEW PLAYERS PEOPLE OUT AND ABOUT

Continued from front page.

Melodramatic Murder and Mayhem at Moore Manor by **Margaret Potter** and **Marie Thomson**, directed by **Margaret Potter**, opened last month for Tawa Community Theatre. The cast includes **Marie Thomson**, **Ross Conland**, **Irene Miller** & **Margaret Stevens**. **John Wise** is on piano. It closes on 1 December.

Sneak peek at the Fringe Festival 08: **Marjorie McKee** is in *The Beckoning of Hope* by Michael Burton, a work for solo actress and solo cellist (Sebastian Morgan-Lynch), at BATS from 12 to 16 February. The Production Manager is **Barry Lakeman**.

Meanwhile, **Barry** is in *Familiar Strangers*, another one of those odd bits of theatre driven by James Hadley, whereby the audience walks around and sees the actors, like his *Lovers of Central Park* last year. This year's piece of theatre will be about homeless people in and around Courtenay Place, and will be performed from 12 February to 1 March.

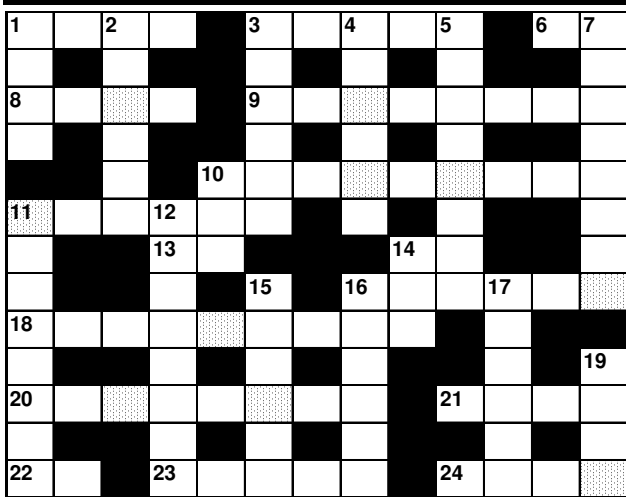
We haven't heard from **Tanisha Fearon** and **Stu** who have been holidaying in Vietnam in November. Maybe they stayed there?!

Paulette McIndoe is in, and **Don Blackmore** is the lighting designer for, Porirua Little Theatre's production of *Seussical, The Musical*, directed by Bob Cater, which began last month.

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

CROSSWORD

by Barry Lakeman



ACROSS

- 1 Wild fade: can't hear.
- 3 Not heavy and can banish the dark.
- 6 Little black light from inside a duvet.
- 8 Firstly, do I really know it's a knife?
- 9 Coco runs around for a French crowd.
- 10 Heavenly when lice tales mixed up.
- 11 Bog ran around university city in Gwynedd.
- 13 In short, information technology is the thing.
- 14 Little queen of England.
- 16 Eastern runes shaken to make certain.
- 18 Blew up when Mandy tied in a tangle.
- 20 Fair gift smashed. The writing is on the wall.
- 21 Hubs rolled into a US political family.
- 22 ACT party.
- 23 More sensible when south and north are confused.
- 24 Monster appears when gore smeared.

DOWN

- 1 Party, party! Bird extinct!
- 2 Fliers remain confused.
- 3 Angry, I clear. More like woven thread.
- 4 Goose! Danger! In crisis!
- 5 Feet, to test Rolls Royce, tripped up.
- 7 Cooked veal in S. E. results in petroleum jelly produced by Unilever.
- 10 Baby bed is, initially, creased over trousers.
- 11 Bang! Dead! Shot to pieces. Treated with strips of cloth.
- 12 Wild fig fears make an animal.
- 14 Death in blender.
- 15 Ape-like is main confusion.
- 16 Re Irene: loses direction and turns back. It's stranger.
- 17 UN guns reorganised, not acknowledged.
- 19 Hose coiled to make footwear.

The first five across answers should remind you of the name of a New Zealand duo that have made a name for themselves internationally. The shaded squares can be rearranged to provide the first names of the two members (7 and 4). Oh, except that there is a "J" missing. So here it is:

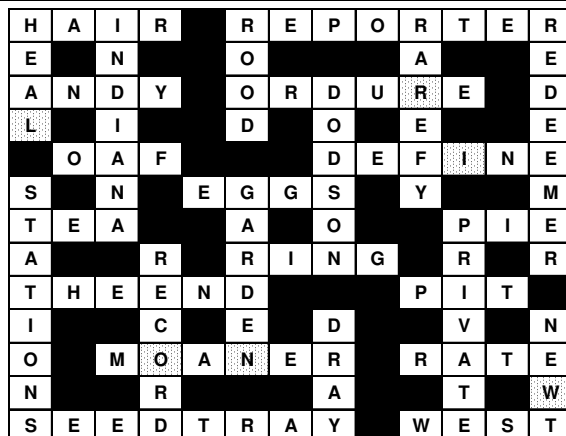
J

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.

QUOTES you might like

- My father taught me to work; he did not teach me to love it.
- Abraham Lincoln
- My grandfather once told me that there were two kinds of people: those who do the work and those who take the credit. He told me to try to be in the first group; there was much less competition.
- Indira Gandhi
- There are only three kinds of people in the world - those who can count and those who can't.
- Unattributed
- Nothing defines humans better than their willingness to do irrational things in the pursuit of phenomenally unlikely payoffs.
- Scott Adams
- If you would be a real seeker after truth, it is necessary that at least once in your life you doubt, as far as possible, all things.
- Rene Descartes
- Intelligence is not the ability to store information, but to know where to find it.
- Albert Einstein
- Outside of a dog, a book is a man's best friend. Inside of a dog, it's too dark to read.
- Groucho Marx
- There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle.
- Albert Einstein
- Truth comes out of error more readily than out of confusion.
- Francis Bacon
- I don't know the key to success, but the key to failure is trying to please everybody.
- Bill Cosby
- The only way to keep your health is to eat what you don't want, drink what you don't like and do what you'd rather not.
- Mark Twain
- A jury consists of twelve persons chosen to decide who has the better lawyer.
- Robert Frost
- Man will occasionally stumble over the truth, but most times he will pick himself up and carry on.
- Winston Churchill
- Who are you going to believe, me or your own eyes?
- Groucho Marx
- One of the symptoms of an approaching nervous breakdown is the belief that one's work is terribly important. - Bertrand Russell
- Don't worry about people stealing your ideas. If your ideas are any good, you'll have to ram them down people's throats.
- Howard Aiken
- When one door closes another door opens; but we often look so long and so regretfully upon the closed door that we do not see the ones which open for us.
- Alexander Graham Bell

ANSWER TO LAST MONTH'S CROSSWORD



The letters in the shaded squares can be arranged to find the surname of NZ's Prime Minister from 6 September 1974 to 12 December 1975. **ROWLING**