



Spotlight

August 2012

Volume 8 issue 3

Wednesday 8th August for special meeting in the Theatre

Auditions
Sunday 23rd
Sept
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Exciting and revolutionary times! So be there to hear the latest in the developing story of Titirangi Theatre.

As you'll read on page 3, Duncan will tell you exactly where we are in our restructuring, with news too about the redevelopment of the existing theatre space.

Reports of the proposed new venue are very positive. Programming for next year 2013 is sounding very positive too with a mixture of new and familiar directors planning to make exciting use of the new performance area.

Enough to say at this stage that the 2013 pro-

gramme will continue the stimulating selection of plays that has marked our Titirangi theatrical history.

So see you on Wednesday, 8th August, in the Theatre, Lopdell House, at 7.30pm!

“The Merchant of Venice” delivers

It was our last Shakespeare in our 'home' theatre for a while, and with Liz at the helm, once more it proved to be a triumph.

“Merchant”, although well known with many famous quotes, is a difficult play for our times, but Liz's cast carried it off with energy and imagination.

Choosing 1930's Venice for time and place, brought a fresh perspective to the

play and with its deceptively simple, beautifully managed set, lighting and staging, “Merchant” pleased both Shakespeare fans as well as those new to the bard.

Special mention must be made of the two leads, Ian Harvey as Shylock and Jenny Parham as Portia, both creating believable characters who involved and intrigued us

especially in the powerful courtroom scene.

It is no easy task to make Shakespeare so accessible and the plot and conversations readily understood by the audience, so congratulations to Liz and to a fine ensemble of players.

Scribbler

Spotlight

Neil La Bute's "some girl(s)" is next play in 2012 season

"some girl(s)" opens its two weeks season on Tuesday 4th and runs till Saturday 15th September.

It's the story of Guy, a writer whose career is blossoming. His beautiful young fiancée can't wait to get married.

His reaction? A nervous calling up of his old girlfriends.

And so begins a single man's odyssey through four hotel rooms as he goes in search of the perfect woman (whom he's already broken up with!)

By turns humorous and serious, this contemporary play casts a hilarious, truthful light on a typical American male as he wanders on his journey.

It's a fitting finale to our present time in Lopdell House.

Director Richard Purro writes:

The cast and I have come to feel quite passionate about the play.

At first, it seems like a simple little story, 4 scenes, each examining a different type of romantic relationship.

As we've begun to dig into it during rehearsals, though, we've discovered a compelling and complex group of characters who don't always know how and why they sabotage themselves, and prevent themselves from finding fulfilment.

I'm constantly reminded of a Russian doll, with each lie and

excuse hiding another, and the rehearsal process so far has been a joy of discovery.

La Bute's writing is masterful, and in the course of 25 or so pages he conjures up fully realized, three-dimensional, living breathing human beings.

I have no doubt that there will be gasps of recognition from the audience throughout the play. It's been a lot of fun, and we're all looking forward to presenting it.

PS "some girl(s)" is not a typo, but the correct title of this intriguing La Bute play.



Committee

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Titirangi Theatre looks to a bright future

"Nor cast one longing lingering look behind" - why not!

We've had a number of venues, haven't we. Macandrew Hall, the Titirangi Beach Hall, Lopdell House, and now off to New Lynn.

Each had its special idiosyncrasies. Macandrew Hall, with its impossibly low roof line for hanging lights, the lighting box housed just below the stage level, the dressing rooms plastered with Ethylwyn Geddes's programmes. I directed the

last play there in 1982, Brian Friel's "The Loves of Cass McGuire".

Then 3 years at the Titirangi Beach Hall, scene of some memorable shows, including an Elizabethan festival.

In 1985 we moved back up the hill to the garage of Lopdell House.

Heather Mogridge and Jill Norris led a formidable fund-raising team

We planned the auditorium and staging with movable rostra so the space could be flexible.

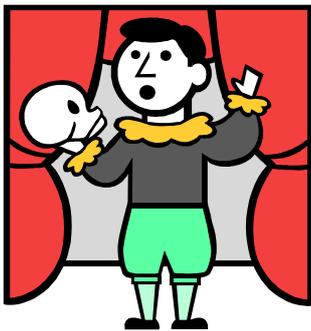
But this didn't happen often, most effectively for "The Gut Girls", by Sarah Daniels, Adrian Moore's fine production. I directed the first play, Dürrenmatt's "The Visit", not, I have to admit, a very successful exploration of a traverse stage.

It's a nice piece of symmetry that the first play in this era will be directed by Christine Nash.

The best is yet to come!
Lindsay Nash

President Duncan brings you up-to-date with theatre plans

The next few months will be a busy but exciting time for Titirangi Theatre. We have largely finalised plans for the theatre refit, and we are very excited about the creative possibilities that the new layout will provide.



And certainly the new front of house spaces will provide a much improved audience experience.

Meantime, we have to be out of the theatre by Sunday 30th September, so your committee has been working hard to find alternate accommodation for the Theatre for the two year building period.

We have been looking at warehouse spaces in New Lynn, and we are hopeful that we will soon be able to announce an exciting solution.

We are very grateful to Auckland Council for their support in this process, and for the

funding which enables us to carry on.

But here we are in early August, and we have to be out by the end of September! So the next couple of months will be staggeringly busy, and we will all need to do all we can to make the move a success.

And in between, we have our next production, "some girl(s)" by Neil la Bute, directed by Richard Purro, from the 4th to the 15th Sept.

And then we will have "The Mousetrap" directed by Christine Nash as the first production in the new theatre, in late November - so there's another deadline!

So please come to the meeting on the 8th August at the Theatre. We'll show you the proposed plans for the Theatre refit, and with any luck we'll be able to show you our plans for the temporary theatre in New Lynn.

And we will certainly want to talk to you about how you can help - we'll need you and your skills, so please let us know if you're a plumber or an electrician, but also if you've got an afternoon

to spare packing props into cardboard boxes. And actually, we'll need some cardboard boxes!



And lastly, don't forget our AGM coming up on the 26th September, which will be followed by a glass of wine and a farewell gathering as we celebrate more than 25 years of live theatre with the last ever theatre event in the "Old Theatre".

See you there!

Duncan Milne
President,
Titirangi Theatre
Lopdell House,
Titirangi



We enjoyed visiting Waitemata Theatre in their new space at Corban's Estate. It's housed in one of their sheds, a flexible area, but at the moment rather cold! Congratulations to Bob Jessop and his team.

**Book at
Tgn Pharmacy
817-7658
or online www.titirangitheatre.co.nz**



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Committed to
presenting high
quality live theatre in
a unique and
intimate setting

AUDITIONS
September 23rd

for

“The Mousetrap”

***Agatha Christie’s classic
mystery thriller***

directed by Christine Nash

Cast required:

3 women (20s, 30s and 50s up)

5 men (20s, 30s, middle age and elderly)

**This will be our first production in
our new venue!**

Season:

27th November to 8th December.

Audition venue to be announced.

Please phone Christine

817 1419 / 027 24 24 772.

Changes of address &
membership:

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Titirangi Theatre presents

“some girl(s)”

by Neil La Bute

Directed by Richard Purro

Season: Tuesday 4th to Saturday 15th September

Bookings at Titirangi Pharmacy ph 817-7658

or online www.titirangi.theatre.co.nz