



# Spotlight

November 2013

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## Help!

**Back-stage,  
props, lighting,  
sound, stage  
management  
Marian 817-6675**

## Hall comedy perfect finale for Titirangi 2013 year

Our last show for 2013 – but not our last show at Titirangi Theatre on Portage—is another from Roger Hall’s remarkable stable of comedies, “Who wants to be 100?”

There’s a marvellously strong cast: Paul Norell is Charles an ex-University Professor of English Literature, Max Golding is Edwin, ex-lawyer, Drew

Dallaston is Leo. ex-All Black. And Richard McFadgen is Alan - ex-potter with signs of Alzheimers. Linda Pudney multi tasks as the The Carers and Caroyln Gibson similarly is The Visitors. A hilarious mix!

Set in a typical retirement home, the play has Hall’s usual sure finger on the NZ pulse, an eye for com-

edy with a shrewd observation of human nature.

Director Sian Davis comes to Titirangi after a string of productions around Auckland, both NZ and classical plays. She’s had a long involvement as an actor too.

The play opens on Tuesday 19th November for a two week season. See back page for full details.

## Brilliant re-interpretation

For this writer and many other theatre-goers, the recent “Measure for Measure” was a delight: a high octane, polished and raunchy production that leapt off the stage.

Opinion seemed divided over a few aspects: some felt the all woman cast though talented, detracted from the gender conflict of the play, others decided it worked well.

Director Rita Stone’s concept of the 20’s prohibition era was exciting and innovative

and as the plot unfolded, the dance sequences were superbly executed on a deceptively simple, very effective set which was beautifully lit.



Unfortunately on one of the nights the lights failed and the production proceeded under house lights, so although the cast gave it their

best shot under difficult circumstances, the audience saw the play not at its best.

Attendance was not so good over the three week season, which was such a shame for the director, cast and crew who had lent this production so much energy and creativity. I felt that WS himself would have approved.

Congratulations, Measure for Measure!

*Scribbler*

# President Duncan brings AGM up to date with theatre events

It is an understatement to say that the last year has been an interesting one for Titirangi Theatre. It is hard to believe that the last AGM was held in the partially stripped shell of the Green Room at Lopdell House, and it is equally difficult to imagine that the next AGM will be in the refurbished theatre back in Lopdell House

But what a lot has happened in a year! For a start, we have built ourselves a temporary home to be proud of. This was a challenging and difficult process, which has only recently been completed. It took many hours of volunteer labour, as many of you can personally attest.

It was also necessarily an expensive process which was only possible because years of cautious management of the theatre had enabled a significant cash reserve to be put aside for this very purpose.

**We would also not have been able to move into our temporary home without the very generous support of the Waitakere Ranges Local Board, who paid our rent for this property. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank and acknowledge you all for your many hours of hard work. Thank you.**

First up last year, we opened our temporary home with a very suc-

cessful production of "The Mousetrap", ably directed by Christine Nash. This was a very successful and highly enjoyable production of a classic play, and really introduced our new venue in fine style.

Next was "Sweeney Todd", directed by Lindsay Nash, which reminded us all of the pleasures of melodrama as we hissed and cheered through a fun evening of theatre.

This was followed by "On Golden Pond", directed by Liz Watkinson, who gave us a delightful retelling of this moving and thoughtful play which sadly did not attract the audience it deserved.

Most recently we have just finished "Measure for Measure" directed by Rita Stone. This was Rita's first outing with Titirangi Theatre and she did not disappoint, with a stylish and dynamic retelling of Shakespeare's work which attracted very positive comment but again did not attract the audience it deserved.

**Low audience numbers seem to be a problem across all areas of theatre.**

Next up (and last for the year) will be "Who wants to be 100?" by Roger Hall, which is in production now and directed by Sian Davis. We expect this to be

very successful and I urge you all to book early to go see it.

Elsewhere, Lynn and the wardrobe team have successfully moved into a new (and we hope, permanent) home in the Treasure House.

While there are more things to be done there, the place is looking great and I encourage you all to visit, particularly in their extended opening hours of Saturday morning.

Looking now to the future, I am able to advise that the first production next year will be here in New Lynn, with the second production back in Lopdell House. We envisage moving during March/April, although this has yet to be confirmed as the building is planned to be ready from January!

**The move back will be much easier than the move out was, as we will be returning to a brand new theatre so much of what is here does not need to return.**

There are two major questions yet to be answered. The first is what will happen to this place when we return. I am working on this and there are several interested parties considering options to see this theatre continue as a performing arts venue, but it may be that we will end up stripping every-

Committee

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President:

Duncan Milne

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Secretary

To be announced



# Questions still to be answered about Lopdell House future

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thing out and returning it to being a warehouse.

To my mind this would be a shame and a lost opportunity, but all we can do is try our best to find a new owner.

The other unanswered question is about what our status will be on return to Lopdell House. I have had a verbal reassurance from the Waitakere Ranges Local Board (who are leading the project) that it will be our theatre on broadly similar terms as we have had in the past.

***This is reassuring, but I will not relax until we have this in writing. You will have heard the concerns that we might be just one of a number of users. I do not think this will happen, but I expect to have confirmation of the terms soon and I will keep you informed.***

Rest assured that I will not be prepared to accept any outcome that does not serve the best interests of live theatre in West Auckland.

The other big event of this year has been the closure of Waitemata Theatre and subsequent welcoming of their members into Titirangi Theatre, and in some cases, onto the committee. While this process has not been without its challenges for all concerns, I am confident that this has been signifi-

cantly positive for Titirangi, with an influx of new members and new enthusiasm.

So there has been a lot going on, as you will be aware, and I want to take a moment to acknowledge the many many people who have worked so hard in the last year. I have been moved by the commitment to Titirangi Theatre demonstrated by so many in the last year. I can't mention everyone by name, but I particularly want to mention the committee, who do an enormous amount of work behind the scenes.

Some members of the committee are sadly unable to make themselves available for this coming year, so we have to thank them for their work and commitment: Janet Kirwan, Mark Towl, Sonia McLean, Patricia Wichman and Ian Harvey.

***All of these people have held significant roles and their departure leaves large holes in the committee.***

And I'd really like to recognise the hard work and commitment of those who are able to stay on and offer themselves for re-election - Graeme Heap who has done a sterling job as treasurer despite his understandable reluctance to do at the theatre what he does for his day job; Mac McIver and Karen Soulje; and from

the late Waitemata Theatre, Bob Jessopp, Carolyn Gibson, Karen Kluit and Graeme Douglass.

They have borne the brunt of the transition to a new team, and they have faced the challenges with determination and grace. All of these people deserve your appreciation.

Lastly I would like to make a pitch for you here tonight to consider offering yourself for committee. We are short some key positions, notably secretary, technical manager and membership secretary.

We also need people off committee for roles such as theatre hire and so on. Please consider helping out, to whatever extent you are able to commit to.

Finally I would like to declare that I am willing to serve as President for one more year, but I do not envisage standing again in a year's time - so please give some thought to who you'd like to see in this role.

In closing, I would like to thank all of you for your support and active participation this year. Without you, there is no theatre and all our hard work is meaningless - so on behalf of the outgoing committee, our grateful thanks to you all.

*Duncan Milne, President  
2nd October 2013*

**Auditions**  
**1st Dec, 1pm**  
**Kings of the Gym**  
**NZ comedy**  
**2m (20s 40-50)**  
**2w (20s, 50s)**  
**anniewhittaker**  
**@gmail.com**  
**ph 027-277-9727**

**Book at**  
**Tgn Pharmacy**  
**817-7658**  
**or online [www.titirangitheatre.co.nz](http://www.titirangitheatre.co.nz)**





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presenting high  
quality live theatre in  
a unique and  
intimate setting

Changes of address &  
membership:

Marian and Michael Allen  
817-6675  
Tamarind@yahoo.com

Noticed and notable—  
June Britton soon in  
“Calendar Girls” at Dol-  
phin; John Goudge with  
a stunning production of  
“Hamlet” at Musgrove,  
also with Ian Harvey and  
Anna Stillaman.

## Sparkling play mix for 2014 to mark our return to Lopdell House

What a year we have for Titirangi Theatre in 2014! Some outstanding scripts, directors both new and familiar, and a brand new theatre space in Lopdell House.

Opening March 11<sup>th</sup>: “Kings of the Gym”, a great NZ comedy by Dave Armstrong. Conflict and crisis at Hautapu High, a big-hearted, satirical look at sport and education, themes close to every NZ heart. (Note that content may offend.) Directed by Annie Whittaker, her first time at Titirangi after experience at Dolphin and Mairangi, and a long involvement in Auckland theatre

Opening 3rd June, first production back at Lopdell House, “God of Carnage” by Yasmina Reza. Described by director Syd Mannion as “a cautionary tale of civility, conciliation, conflict and clafoutis,” the much acclaimed play won 2009 Olivier award for best new comedy.

Director Syd is a widely experienced man of the theatre, familiar to Titirangi from his last play here, “Bouncers.”

Opening 4<sup>th</sup> September, “Faulty

Towers” Selected favourite episodes from this much-loved, manic comedy, directed by John Goudge and Kathy Lowe, both very familiar to Titirangi and wider Auckland audiences, both on stage and directing.

Opening 26<sup>th</sup> November “Cinderella”, Pantomonium is on its way! This 2012 script of Cinderella by Ben Crocker has all the well loved and expected elements of Panto with a few new twists. Directed by Ted Bryant, another familiar name, with great theatrical experience both here and overseas.

### Booking details for “Who wants to be 100?”

Nightly at 8pm Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November, with matinées on Saturdays 23rd and 30th at 2pm, and Sunday show 24th at 4pm.

Tickets are \$20, concession \$15, Wednesday Gold card \$5, matinées, \$12. Book at the Titirangi Pharmacy 817-7658 or on online at titirangitheatre.co.nz  
Bookings are filling fast!

### AGM hears of ups and downs of last 12 months

The usual staunch band of followers were at the AGM on 2nd November. They heard with interest the various reports presented and there were some lively discussions.

The president’s report reflected the huge amount of work involved in moving out of Lopdell House and establishing the temporary home in Portage Road. Special thanks were given to Duncan for his leadership.

Graeme Heap’s treasurer’s report had some sobering figures about the costs of this move. We also heard the good and not so good news about income and attendance figures.

There was some lively discussion about the effect of the new membership deal. It was decided to call a special general meeting in the new

year to review policy in this area.

The new committee is:

Duncan Milne (president), Graeme Heap (Treasurer), Liz Malcouronne (Minutes Secretary), Marian Allen (Volunteers, front of house), Michael Allen (membership, ticketing), Bob Jessopp (Marketing), Linda Earle (fundraising), Carolyn Gibson (fundraising), Karen Kluit (fundraising), Karen Soulje (keys, workshops), Tony Dunn (technical), Mac Mclver (photos / website), Graeme Douglas.

Warm thanks were recorded for the outgoing committee members, Patricia Wichman, Ian Harvey, Sonia McLean, Janet Kirwan and Mark Towl.