



Spotlight

July 2013

Volume 9 issue 3

2013 programme continues with stimulating show

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Shakespeare just won't lie down and die. From London's Globe Theatre through to New Zealand's Sheila Wynn Festival for Secondary Schools his plays continue to stir excitement, imagination, and even controversy.

"Measure for Measure" is not one of his best known stories, but Rita Stone's

interpretation looks set to give the play relevance and high interest.

Having an all female cast is an unusual and challenging choice, but it's working extremely well as rehearsals go on.

There's imagination and creativity in Rita's design concepts too. Just wait and see!

There's a change in the

pattern of performances. The play opens on a Wednesday rather than a Tuesday, and runs for three weeks, Wednesday to Saturday 4th—21st September, with Sundays at 4pm and matinees 7th and 21st at 2pm.

See inside for more background on our production of Shakespeare's "Measure for Measure".

Golden Pond sparkles

It is extraordinary to find that 35 years ago Ernest Thompson was only 28 years old when he penned this heart-felt drama which remains relevant and real today.

"On Golden Pond" was brought to vivid life under the sure direction of Liz Watkinson with a cast of seasoned actors who obviously relished every moment of their performances.

Bryan and Rosemary Moore

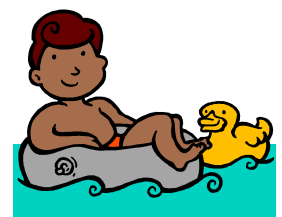
as the aging Norman and Ethel Thayer brought warmth and humour to their roles, and captivated audiences with their true-to-life characters and inter-action both with each other and the supporting cast.

The thoughtfully designed set invited us into the Thayer home, and Malcolm Dale's superbly painted backdrop of lake and mountains conjured

the image of place which plays such an integral part of the text.

A production indeed to be proud of. Congratulations to Liz, her cast and team.

Scribbler



Spotlight

Dedicated performers shine in a moving recital at the Theatre

It was a gem shining in the darkness of winter, "A Wednesday in June" at the Titirangi Theatre on Portage. But unfortunately this very special event was all but ignored by our membership.

The programme was a sequence of poems composed and presented by Hayley Baines and Vikki Cottingham, following parallel events in their lives, both loves and losses. The small but

enthusiastic audience gave the pair a standing ovation.

"It was a fine display of talent," one member reported. It was a beautifully balanced programme, carefully prepared, and moving the receptive audience to both laughter and tears. This is a belated but heartfelt tribute to the team; their combined talents did indeed shine.

An Apology

The non-publicising of "A Wednesday in June" in our last Spotlight was entirely my fault, and this is a public apology.

Patricia had sent me an email with the relevant information well in advance, but very carelessly I had posted it in the wrong folder and completely forgot about it when I began assembling the copy. It is not the committee's fault but mine.

The event was advertised in the Fringe theatre column.

Lindsay Nash, Ed

Committee

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NZTF stretches its wings

Recently I had the opportunity to attend one of a series of meetings sponsored by the NZ Theatre Federation.

The aim of the meeting was to get the Auckland theatre groups talking to each other, and it certainly achieved that!

There were representatives from many community theatre groups, and it was heartening both to hear that other groups have similar challenges to our own, but

also to see the goodwill regarding the sharing of resources and information.

We need to see other groups as colleagues not competitors, and these meetings are leading this process.

Thanks also to the Dolphin Theatre for hosting this meeting, and congratulations of your recently extended space.

We're very jealous!
Duncan Milne

2014 Programme shows promise

The programme team of Duncan Milne, Graham Douglas, Jane Burrage and Christine Nash have been busy with the 2014 programme.

Fortunately there is no shortage of directors as we had several making applications from our info on the website.

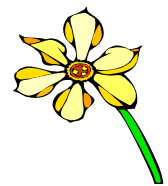
Our task at present is deciding on the plays,

and this is not made easier by the fact that we will probably be moving back to Lopdell early in the year.

As we have not seen the stage, our first play there will need to be a simple set and not too large a cast, but will still of course need to be "bums on seats" as we acclimatise ourselves to

the new space and encourage our audiences to come and see our first production there.

We hope to be ready shortly to recommend a 2014 programme to the general committee, and from then if all goes well, hopefully it will be announced by the end of September.



President Duncan reports on busy happenings off-stage

Dear friends of Titirangi Theatre,
What a busy few months it has been! We have just finished a delightful run of "on Golden Pond", and what a great job Liz Watkinson and her team did.

There were plenty of laughs, but some thoughtful moments too and a very moving climax. Well done to all involved.

And rehearsals for Shakespeare's "Measure for Measure" are well under way, with Rita Stone and her all female cast. Look out for more info in our next newsletter.

The play selection committee has been hard at work, so look out for next year's programme to be announced soon.

Meantime, we have been

advised that works are progressing well back in Lopdell House. We have been told that the theatre should be ready for our return in late January or early February next year.

Auckland Council has very generously supported us to stay in the Portage Rd theatre until we are able to move, which is currently planned to be after our first production next year.



So look forward to our opening, to opportunities to help out with shifting, and to attending our inaugural production in our beautiful refurbish-

ed home in June next year! It looks great on the plans - I can't wait to see it in real life.

But while we are all excited about returning to Lopdell House, I have heard lots of praise for our current space in New Lynn. So rest assured that we are working hard to find a new owner for this space when we return to Titirangi. Nothing is sorted yet, but I hope to be able to announce some plans for the space in the next few months!

Until then, thank you as always for your support of live theatre in West Auckland - it couldn't happen without you
Duncan Milne

President,
Titirangi Theatre

AGM
Late Sept

Book at

Tgn Pharmacy
817-7658

or online www.titirangitheatre.co.nz

But not yet!

Volunteers recognised at Friday event

Winter outside but warm and welcoming in the theatre foyer as the Titirangi Theatre recognised all those who worked as volunteers off—stage.

A lively group of over 20 was greeted by a trio of char ladies AKA Carolyn Gibson, Karen Kluit and Linda Earl. Posies were presented to all and photos taken.

The foyer was brightly set up with sparkling decorations organised by Carolyn, Karen, and

Bob Jessopp, who also took the pics.

Karen also ran a wine tasting competition and quiz. This led to some



outrageously wrong answers from some of the tasters present, but a comprehensive victory for connoisseur of the night, Graham Douglas.

Entertainment also included competition for the best dressed guest. This led to some intensive lobbying, but there was no doubt about the winner, Karen Soulje. We believe a protest has been lodged. Warmest thanks to the organising team and to Coopers Creek, who gave us a special deal on the very classy wine provided for tasting.





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

Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure* features as our next production

Cast List:

Jenny Parham as the DUCHESS
VINCENTIA

Jessica Manu as the LADY ES-
CALA

Chelsea McEwan Millar as the
LADY ANGELA

Lisa Fothergill as LUCIA

Jess Sayer as ISABELLA

Jenna Weinberg as MISTRESS
OVERDONE

Tatiana Hotere as POMPEY

Hazel Buckingham as CLAUDIA

Val Carroll as the PROVOST

Jenny Freed as SISTER PETRA

Kalisha Wasasala as MARIANA

Alice Pearce as JULIET

I sat in briefly for a recent re-
hearsal. It was still early days, but
already you could sense the team-
work and sensitive interaction. Rita
has some notes on several of the
cast:

Tatiana and Jess are graduates of
the new Actor's Program, set up
by Michael Hurst, Jennifer Ward-
Lealand and others. Jenny Freed
and I trained together at UNITEC
in the mid nineties.

Jenna Weinberg is a native of New
York, in NZ on a working visa.

She's done a lot of professional
shows in the States. Kalisha Wasa-
sala is our youngest cast member:
17 years old and in year 13 at Kai-
para College.

Jenny Parham will be remembered
for her role as Portia in Merchant
of Venice at Titirangi last year.

"Wonderful treats and surprises
come out of rehearsals each day,"
says Rita, "that reflect our female
cast, that would never have hap-
pened if we had cast men in the
roles."



Setting the action in the 1920s,
complete with gangsters, corrup-
tion and hedonism, leads to some
exciting possibilities too. You'll see
the theatre space imaginatively re-
shaped.

We'll have more on "Measure for
Measure" next issue.

Changes of address &
membership:

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Titirangi Theatre

Auditions

Roger Hall's Comedy

"Who wants to be a 100"

Directed by Sian Davis

Sunday 15th September

1.30pm at the Titirangi Theatre on Portage

Cast: 4 (aging) men and 2 women

For more information please phone Sian on 4834245
or email pigflopper@clear.net.nz