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Pantomonium is on its way! Cinderella with a twist

Chris Lane (who appeared in Fawlty Towers) re-writes and directs this Panto especially for the cast and for local audiences. See Chris's bio elsewhere.

Like all pantos it's a mix of absurdity, slapstick, music and fairy-tale romance and it's suitable for all ages. It has gorgeous costumes and awesome effects and one of the wildest slapstick scenes you'll ever see.

And working with Titirangi's ingenious set-builders, Chris has devised an innovative way of

changing out the multi-scenes. You'll see many familiar faces and new ones play-

your bookings. Show dates: Tell your friends.

Opening night Wed 26th

Nov 7pm.

Shows Thurs, Fri 7pm. Sat 29th

2pm and 7pm

Sun 30th 11.30am and 3.30pm

Wed-Fri 7pm

Sat 6th 2pm and 7pm.

Tickets are all \$12 except for

Opening Night

Book a group to raise funds for your

organisation: email titirangipresident@gmail.com



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ing all the favourite panto characters.

This is definitely laugh-out-loud fun for your pre-Christmas family get-together - so make sure of

A reminder about our "treasures" - costume hire

Have you visited our new wardrobe space yet? Lyn Cottingham, Barbara Butland and helpers have shifted all our costumes

into the "Treasure House", the hall in the car park behind Lopdell House. They are open for business. The wardrobe is

open Wednesdays 4 to 6pm, Fridays 5-7pm, and Saturdays 10am to 12 noon.

There are several events taking place in Titirangi on Sunday 30th November.

Parking, always something of a problem in Titirangi, will be at a premium.

There are hourly buses from Glen Eden and South Titirangi and a half-hourly service from New Lynn which will get you to the theatre. (Exact times may be obtained from

AT.govt.nz or phone 366 6400). You might also like to make a day of it and take in the Christmas Market and the evening 'Glow' Festival of Light & Sound (see www.bliv.co.nz for details.)

Spotlight

Writer/director of our final 2014 production tells his story

Directing a panto at night and being commissioned to paint large landscapes for other people's homes and offices by day was not in any way what Chris Lane had in mind when he moved from England to New Zealand in July 2013.



His wife Norma was offered the position of Executive Clinical Director of St John Ambulance NZ, and he could work anywhere in the world as he is the author of comedy novels, all of which have been in the Amazon comedy bestseller list with three making the number-one slot. His plan was to continue as an author. Following advice from NZ publishers, he wrote

'SkyTower', set around Titirangi and, of course, the SkyTower.

85,000 words later he contacted the publishers to let them know it was finished. They wouldn't look at it, saying: "NZ people will not read books set here; they prefer books set in Scandinavia." and "There is no market for comedy novels here".

Rather surprised, he published it in England and within a week was at number 20 so not too upset. (Folk in NZ can download it from Amazon if they disagree with the NZ publishers!)

Being a little discouraged by this local reaction he decided to stop writing books for a while and be an artist. so he bought all the gear and turned their dining room in Laingholm into a temporary studio.

A month later he had four on display in a gallery, and quickly sold one, then soon had two more hanging in an office

building in the city, with commissions for two more.

Just when this new career was starting to look promising, Titirangi Theatre discovered that Chris also wrote award-winning pantomime scripts, so they requested him to rewrite and direct the panto Cinderella so that it fitted their cast resources and the fantastic new theatre in Lopdell House. A challenge not to be turned down!

The dining room was returned to its original purpose, the paints put away for a while, and script rewriting began. Ironically as soon as rehearsals started there was such a flood of people wanting to be in it that the rewrite in fact had to cope with the enlarged cast!

Chris is thoroughly enjoying his role as writer/director and looks forward to seeing members at the show.

Committee

contacts:

President:

Duncan Milne

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Membership

Michael Allen

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Fawlty Towers, directed by John Goudge and Kathy Lowe

This broke all box office records for the theatre, being completely sold out before opening!

Audiences loved being in the new theatre and the response to the play was fantastic each night.

A huge debt of gratitude to John and Kathy who not only had the usual directorial tasks, but also

the challenge of moving back into the new theatre at the same time and finding the stage space to re-create the hotel in Torquay!

Congratulations to the highly talented performers, all the hotel guests and a special mention for the remarkable leads Basil, Manuel, Sybil and Polly.

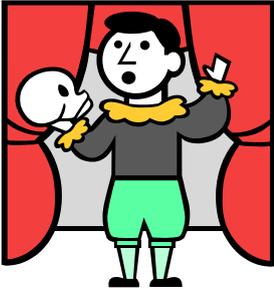
Thank you John and Kathy, who together with a highly able and creative production team made this all happen.



Challenges ahead as Titirangi establishes a new theatre

This article was in Fringe – Duncan's notes about the new theatre.

We're back home and Titirangi Theatre members have enjoyed getting to know the new space during our sell out season of Fawlty Towers. The feedback from audiences is that the new foyer and auditorium is a welcome improvement, and the new seats are very comfortable.



But in the background, as with any new building, there have been many minor issues to sort out, ranging from installing lighting and sound equipment to figuring out what the light switches do, and where our "older" audience members can sit in the foyer. **One of the biggest issues still outstanding is that of the nature of Titirangi Theatre's tenancy in the new space.** Previously the theatre was the sole tenant and

operated autonomously in the space. But with the new space, people are understandably wanting to ensure that this resource is available to all performing arts users.



Theatre president Duncan Milne is working closely with Council and the Lopdell House Development Trust to ensure that these objectives can be met, and good access for all can continue, without dispossessing or disadvantaging Titirangi Theatre.

"Titirangi Theatre has a long history of welcoming other users, and supporting their access. We have operated for many years, and in that time, many other groups have used the theatre, ranging from music to film and comedy, and many more besides," explains Duncan.

"Every single event was supported by us - we

made them all happen.

So we are confident that Council will recognise our expertise and track record in welcoming others in."

He goes on to say, "We're not seeking exclusive access. We want the theatre to be busy and vibrant.

So what we want is to be an equal partner in the management of the theatre space, sharing our skills and resources for the good of the whole precinct."



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

Thank you!

The original director of our Christmas Pantomime Ted Bryant withdrew from the production due to various circumstances.

We owe him our thanks for all his pre-production work.

Looking ahead to 2015 in the theatre

The play selection team has been busy and the 2015 suggested programme is now before the Committee. This should be announced very soon. However, we can

announce our first play of the year, a joyous new comedy from New Zealand's best loved playwright, Roger Hall's "A short cut to happiness", subject to rights. Cast: 5

women 35 and 40-60s, 3 men 40-60. Phone director Lindsay Nash 817-1419 for more. Auditions probably Sunday 14th Dec 1pm. Watch website for details.

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presenting high
quality live theatre in
a unique and
intimate setting**

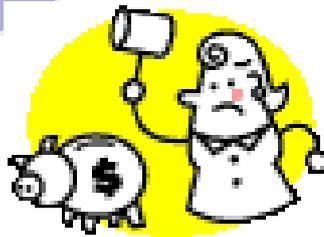
Highlights from our Titirangi AGM held 22nd September 2014

Thank you to outgoing committee members for their work: Carolyn Gibson, Linda Earl, Karen Kluit, Karen Soulje.

President Duncan Milne was re-elected, agreeing to stay one more year to see the new process of working with the Council to its completion.

New Committee Members elected: Phoebe Falconer, Taimi Allan.
2014/15 Committee elected: Duncan Milne (Pres) Graeme Heap (Treas) Michael Allen (membership and ticketing) Marian Allen (FOH and volunteers) Tony Dunn (technical manager) John McIver (website and email alerts) Liz Malcouronne (minute secretary) Graham Douglas, Phoebe Falconer, Taimi Allan (marketing)

Finances are in much better shape after the success of Fawlty Towers. The Treasurer recognised the previous good stewardship of the finances so that there was enough money to finance the move and setup of theatre in Portage Road plus the expenses of moving back to Lopdell House.

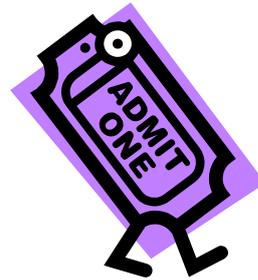


Link to the Graeme Heap's Treasurer's presentation is at:
http://www.titirangitheatre.co.nz/documents/2014_finance.pdf

Lynn Cottingham reported that wardrobe has picked up considerably and they are very happy to be in their new premises in the 'Treasure House'. A new heat pump has been installed and is

most effective for comfort and for reducing mould.

Membership and Ticket Prices. Michael Allen made an excellent presentation showing charts which demonstrated that the new system of free tickets with membership actually increased the number of people in the audience and was not a financial burden on the Theatre.



We are aiming to get all membership and ticket purchases available online but this is experiencing some problems at present.

Our main problem is not in giving free tickets, but not selling enough of the remaining tickets, and our main business is putting good theatre in front of people.

See Michael Allen's report:

http://www.titirangitheatre.co.nz/documents/2014_agm.pdf

A suggestion which met with favourable agreement was to appoint a committee member to approach charitable organisations needing to fundraise by booking the theatre for a night. We sell tickets at cost to them and they on-sell them to their supporters.

Two motions were put and passed: THAT we use a rolling membership i.e., 12 months from date of joining, not an annual fixed term. THAT subscriptions remain unchanged for the coming year.