



Spotlight

August 2015

Volume 12 issue 2

Elaine Murphy's "Little Gem" is a stunning award winner

Inside this issue:

Travellers' Tales	2
President	3
Auditions	4

AGM
Monday
19th Sept
7.30pm
Auditions
Saturday
17th Sept
2pm

Titirangi Theatre's 2016 season continues with, indeed, a little gem. Plays with an Irish lilt have featured strongly in our past repertoire, and this play is a brilliant addition.

Director Liz Watkinson writes:

This no holds barred Irish comedy tells it how it really is for three generations of one family; grandmother, mother and daughter.

Heavily into alcohol and drugs, Amber, the youngest, is a troubled young woman searching for a love to replace the father who abandoned her.

Lorraine, her mother, is seriously OCD, constantly cleaning and tidying where ever she happens to be. Maybe it's the only way she can feel that she is exercising some control over a life that is a sad

disappointment to her.

Kay, the grandmother, is 61 and not yet ready to give up on the sensual aspects of life. Only trouble is her man is terminally ill and she feels that her life is falling apart.

Not much to laugh about here you think – well think again! The way they tell it will, at times, have you rolling in the aisles.

Amber: Samantha Carruthers

Lorraine: Teena Speedy

Kay: Georgie Monro

Thanks, Liz.

She's gathered a balanced and talented cast. Georgie has featured in a number of plays for Auckland theatres, including a time with Theatre Corporate.

Teena has a long association with Lopdell House as director of the Upstairs Gallery, and she made her

first appearance on stage here in Roger Hall's "A shortcut to happiness." Remember her Russian accent? Now hear her Irish!

Sam's association with Titirangi Theatre is quite lengthy too, but mainly in the lighting box.

However, from her early years she was an actor and her father even formed a theatre company in Nelson to cater for his family and other interested youngsters.

The season runs 23rd August to Saturday 2nd September, with a matinee 2pm Saturday 27th and 4pm show on Sunday 28th August.

See Theatre website for pricing details and booking.

“Letter from America” from two Titirangi Theatre travellers

The Grand Canyon, the Empire State Building, the Statue of Liberty. Think America, think of these wonders of the modern world.

But think too of some of magnificent cultural items. The Met in New York, one of the greatest museums in the world, the Getty museum, the Frank Lloyd Wright building, the LA Museum of Modern Art

Yes, we were lucky enough to see them all. And along the way we saw plays too.

In New York Eugene O’Neill’s 4 hour masterpiece “A long Days Journey into Night, was sold out for months ahead. But in LA we saw a very assured production his lesser known work “A touch of the poet.”

It’s a fairly sombre drama with some alleviating touches of humour, performed by a small professional company in a very small theatre in a LA suburb. It was a , finely shaped presentation.

Off then to the drama of the canyon country, the Grand Canyon, Bryce and Zion. Breathtaking.

After Salt lake City and the Tabernacle choir, we flew to New York.

There we saw the musical “Fantastics”, promoted as the longest running musical in the world.

“Longest playing” maybe, but it’s a slight piece, charming with its small cast and notable for striking performances from the older cast members.

You’ll remember its two major songs, “Try to remember” and “Soon it’s going to rain”.



Much more interesting was our visit to the Lincoln Centre to see “War”, an experimental play by Brandon Jacobs-Jenkins, a playwright apparently well know for his fund of imaginative ideas.

In its final stages of rehearsal, some of the characters used scripts at times, not obtrusively, and we had been warned.

There were strong racial and evolution themes, clearly in need of firm handed editing.

Off Broadway we saw “Blackbird” by David Harrower, a play produced a while back in Auckland.

It’s an intense two hander, with Jeff Daniels playing the male lead. We found this a totally engrossing play, where the man’s love affair with the young girl is revisited

in quite graphic terms. It was brilliant theatre.

Then it was off to San Francisco where we saw another stunning production, “Red Velvet” by British playwright Barry David Horowitz.

What a powerful play! It related the true and tragic story of a black actor, Ira Aldridge, who was called in to replace a sick Edmund Keen in Shakespeare’s “Othello”.

Till then black characters like Othello were always played by white actors suitably “blacked”.

It was a most moving production, and afterward several of cast on stage to answer questions and join in discussion.

This happened every night, with different cast participants. We thought it a great idea, something Indian Ink here in New Zealand sometimes practise.



Many major productions are booked out months in advance, but there’s a booth on Times Square where late cancellations are available. There’s such a lot to see and do! But then, back home we could say the same. See our president’s page!

Lindsay Nash

Committee contact:

President:

Jerome Scott

President@titirangi

theatre.co.nz

President Jerome has news of Titirangi's exciting coming events

I would like to start by paying tribute to the entire cast and crew of *Messiah On The Frigidaire*. This was a wonderful production and Duncan Milne and his team should be very proud of themselves. I was stopped in the village for weeks afterwards by people commending the production.

Playwright John Culbertson who came all the way from South Carolina to see the show was given a typically warm welcome at the theatre and hosted a lively Q&A after one of the performances.



Now we are (at time of writing) less than a week away from the next production, *Little Gem*. Directed by Liz Watkinson.

This is a change from the originally planned *Compleat Female Stage Beauty* which we hope to produce in the near future. In the meantime *Little Gem* promises to be another fine production from Liz with some great acting talent on display.

You can get your tickets online at www.titirangitheatre.co.nz or at the Titirangi Pharmacy.

Since the last Spotlight we had our first Cushion Theatre with a variety of performances ranging from poetry to plays, to rehearsed readings. Lindsay Nash, Liz Watkinson and Tony Forster very kindly gave their time to provide feedback and lead a discussion with the audience afterwards.

In the couple of months since then we have not had enough performance submissions to put on another Cushion.

If you would like to perform or would like to trial a work in progress please do get in touch via contact@titirangitheatre.co.nz

We also sadly had to cancel our youth production *Daughters Of Heaven* as we were unable to cast the play.

We do, however, have a youth outlet in the upcoming pantomime *Red Riding Hood and the Three Pigs*. It's written and directed by our own Chris Lane.

The auditions will be on Sunday 4th September at 2pm at the theatre. The website will soon have details of the roles available.

It is also time to be thinking about our programme for next year. We have already had some great submissions, so if you would like to direct a play, please get

in touch as soon as possible.

It is helpful if you have a couple of plays in mind so we can pick the one that best fits the season we are putting together.

In other exciting news, Michael Hurst's *No Holds Bard* will be playing at the theatre on September 16th and 17th.

Michael has agreed to do a Q&A after the Saturday performance for members of Titirangi Theatre, so another great reason to become a member or renew a lapsed membership!

You will be able to buy tickets through the theatre website in due course so stay tuned!



This will be the last Spotlight before the AGM which will be on Monday September 19th at the theatre at 7.30pm. Due to commitments taking me out of the country, I will be resigning as president at the AGM.

Taimi Allan will unfortunately also be stepping down from committee and while her energy, integrity and ideas will be missed, she will still be highly involved with the theatre and there will be exciting news (continued back page)

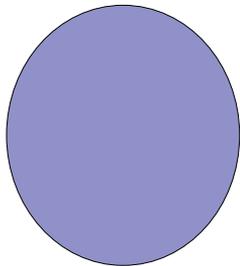
**Book at
Tgn Pharmacy
817-7658
or online www.titirangitheatre.co.nz**



Titirangi Theatre
Lopdell House
418 Titirangi Rd
PO Box 60-092
Titirangi

Phone: 817-5951
www.titirangitheatre.co.nz
Editor: Lindsay Nash
PO Box 60-122
Titirangi
Ph 817-1419
landcnash@pl.net

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



***Have you re-
newed your
membership?
\$35—free tickets
for all shows!***

**AGM
Monday
19th Sept
7.30pm**

Auditions

“Robin Hood and the Three Pigs”

a traditional pantomime written and directed by Chris Lane
from 2pm Sunday 4th September
at Titirangi Theatre, Lopdell House

Season: 22nd Nov—3rd December

There are so many in the family that poor old Mum has to call them by what they are wearing – such as 'Little Red Riding Hood' and older sister 'BIG Red Riding Hood'. To make things worse the neighbours are three pigs who have just finished building their own 'Grand Design' homes next door, Grandmother has taken to her bed and has to have meals delivered – and now there is a wolf who is always hungry and will eat anything – and anyone.

And on top of this the Royal Palace want to redevelop the whole area – but the Prince IS rather handsome! Maybe not all bad news?

2PM ALL YOUTH CAST

2.30PM ALL ADULT CAST:

GRANNY HUBBARD: Possible “dame” role. Well-meaning idiot. Uses misremembered Cliches.

(MOTHER HUBBARD: Very stressed business-woman

RED RIDING HOOD: Teenage or 20s female. The romance interest for the Prince. Good singer.

LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD: Small girl - saves Granny.

HAMMO, SPAMMO, GAMMO 3 Pigs, Male or female

POMPOUS PORTLY PIG: Brick-house builder. Male or female

WOLF: Possibly Victorian villain / English actor 'luvvy', frustrated 'star'. Even Elvis wannabe!

PRINCE: Very nice fellow. Good singer. Same age as RRH. CAN be male or female!!

Theatre folk say “Good bye” to home on the hill

The beautiful old Geddes villa in Rangiwai Road has been sold.

It's the end of an era for Titirangi Theatre: anytime furniture was wanted for a show off we would go up the hill to gratefully borrow from the

Geddes home

And many of us remember the theatre garden parties in the picturesque grounds, and carol singing in the parlour. It was good to meet so many of the Geddes family at the farewell party

Congratulations to John Gouge and his team for a lively presentation of “Saturday Night Fever” at the Glen Eden Playhouse.

The energy and enjoyment of the cast spilled out into the appreciative audience.

President Jerome's final words as he quits the chair

(continued from page 3)
about the Green Room at the AGM.

I am delighted to say that many of the existing committee are staying for another year. However, we do need a president, treasurer, marketing manager and a ticketing / member-

ship manager, so please do consider standing for the theatre committee at the AGM.

With that I leave you to the delights of *Little Gem* and look forward as ever to seeing you at the theatre soon.

TheatreFest one act festival is alive and kicking. The Northern Regional Final was held last weekend at Dargaville, and the final will be in Invercargill Sept 9 and 19 adjudicated by Phil Peleton from Auckland