



JANUARY 2010 NEWSLETTER

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Happy New Year to one and all and we know this is going to be a GREAT year for us all at the theatre!!
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OWL AND THE PUSSY CAT:

The decision to cancel this show at the end of last year was one of the most difficult decisions the committee had to make and it is the biggest fear of any theatre group to have to make that call. A lot of very hard work and cost had gone into the production but a number of things were not coming together and we felt to protect our reputation, we had to make that decision. Our logo states – “Harlequin, The Home of Good Theatre” That’s what we strive to deliver and what our patrons expect to receive.

We would like to acknowledge all the hard work put in by so many people who were involved with the production.

We would also like to thank all of our patrons, although disappointed, were very understanding of the situation.

Refunds for purchased tickets have been processed and we would like to thank those who donated the cost of their tickets back to the theatre and those who decided to retain their tickets to exchange for the next production. This has helped our cash flow.
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SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Subscriptions for 2010 are now due and a renewal notice is attached.

Our financial situation at present is very dire indeed and we do ask that you pay these subscriptions as soon as possible to help our cash flow.

We had a lot of costs involved with Owl and the Pussy Cat and with no income from that show, things are desperate.

As much as we hate begging, we also ask if you are in a position to make a small donation we would be most grateful. There is a facility on the renewal for you to include a donation. We understand if this is not possible, but we can only ask!
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NEXT PRODUCTION:

Our next production is The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie, which will be performed 18-27 March. Rehearsals start Sunday 31 January and director Maria Hinton is delighted with her very large cast, who are.

*Jean Brodie – Liz Marrow
Monica Douglas – Adelaide McClusky
Mary Macgregor – Alice Marett
Sandy Stranger – Sinead Morgan
Jenny Gray – Amy Schwerk
Sister Helena – Cathy Leonard
Gordon Lowther – Mark Hinton
Mr Perry – Danny Clenott
Miss Mackay – Jancis Potter
Teddy Lloyd – Stefan van Trig
Form Girls – Lucy France, Lily Moore,
Caitlyn Stallard, Winter Pengelly, Amber Leonard, Georgia Barnett, Renee le Fleming*

We know it is going to be a wonderful play and hope you will support it. Tickets will be available for sale from early February.

JUNIOR HARLQUIN:

We are delighted to advise that after a recess, Junior Harlequin will be recommencing when school starts. The committee have appointed Mrs Hettie Arends as the new Junior Tutor and we are delighted to have her on board. Hettie has many years experience teaching drama to children and we know she will be a real asset to the theatre.

Classes for Primary and Intermediate Age Children starts at 3.30pm on Tuesday the 9th of February and for Secondary School, 4.00pm on Wednesday the 10th of February. For further details please contact Hettie on 3708003 or email her on actup.drama@gmail.com.

Our Junior Theatre has a proud history and it will be great to hear the tinkle of little voices around the theatre again.

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CONGRATULATIONS:

Our Front of House Manager, Pat Smith and Don Kendall were married on Saturday the 19th of December in Carterton.

The wedding was a very elegant affair held at home of Pat's daughter. It was a beautiful sunny afternoon and it was wonderful to see Pat with her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, celebrating her special day. Don is real gentleman and they make a great couple. We wish them many years of happiness together.

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MY BRILLIANT DIVORCE:

If you saw the outstanding performance by Margaret Jesson in The Glass Menagerie in Greytown late last year, you will not want to miss this show. This one-woman show is about Angela, whose husband has left her for a younger woman and so she recounts her journey back to happiness. Very, very funny. This will be held in the lounge 28 April – 01 May. More details to follow.

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THEATRE GARDEN:

The garden at the front of the theatre is in a complete shambles at the moment. The committee already work hard enough for the theatre and it would be very unfair to ask them to do the gardens as well. Surely there is someone out there who could spend a bit of time tidying them up for us and planting something that is low maintenance and colourful. Does anyone have any ideas or some time? Please contact Graeme Burnard on 3770139 or email graemeb@unitedtravel.co.nz

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NORFOLK ISLAND THEATRE COMPETITION:

The Annual One Act Play competition is held in September in Norfolk Island and this year Harlequin Theatre will be competing. Theatres from New Zealand and Australia compete against each other. We have a group of 14 people booked to go – made up of 7 “actors” with supporters.

If anyone is interested in joining us please contact Graeme at United Travel. There are 1 week and 2 week packages available. It will be a real fun time together.

The “actors” are meeting on the 12th of February to discuss what play they will enter, so we will let you know more in the next newsletter.

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OUR SYMPATHIES:

Dan Simonsen who passed away recently was an old stalwart of Harlequin. He spent many years out the back in the workshop building sets for us and at the same time his wife, Margaret was helping front of house. Even though Dan hasn't been involved now for some years, he always came to our “oldies nights” Our Sympathy goes to Margaret and her family.