



SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2009
NEWSLETTER:

MEMBERS CHRISTMAS PARTY.

On Saturday the 21st of November we will be holding a special evening for our members and friends.

This will be in the form of a "Blind Auction" and we are using this opportunity to raise funds for the theatre. For \$10.00 per person you will be given an envelope with some funny money called QUINS – (from HarleQUIN) and this will give you the chance to bid on items that are concealed in a box. You will not know what you are bidding on until the successful bidder has opened the box – however, there will be some clues given out as to what is in the box. You can buy as many envelopes as you like for \$10 a pop. The bar will be open and supper will be provided. We are also hoping to have some live entertainment.

So, get your friends together and ring and make a booking now. Tables seat 6 people or we can match you up with others. It should be a real fun night.

Ring Graeme Burnard on 3770139 for bookings or email him on graemb@unitedtravel.co.nz

CHRISTMAS SHOW:

Director, Barbara Knight has been busy looking for an alternative play since we were unable to cast Dads Army.

She has chosen a play by Bill Manhoff called "The Owl and the Pussy Cat"

It has a cast of one male and one female preferably aged 20-40 . It is the story of a man, Felix, who is awakened in the middle of the night by hammering on his door. It is the woman from upstairs with all her belongings. She has been evicted from her flat because Felix has doxed her in to the landlord for her "nightly activities". As she has nowhere to go, Doris has decided to move in with Felix as it is his fault she is homeless – mayhem ensues!! Auditions will be held at the theatre, Sunday the 11th of October at 2.00pm and scripts are available from United Travel. Any enquiries to Barbara Knight on 3773414.

"THE EXORCISM"

Our recent production "The Exorcism" was very poorly patronised which was very disappointing considering the huge amount of hard work by the cast and crew.. There were a lot of other things on around the district at the same time and we feel the name may have put some people off. We did try to make sure that our advertising indicated this was not a scary head spinning horror story with blood and guts but more a ghost story. Those who did see it enjoyed it however, and it was a great vehicle for the cast to get their teeth into some meaty roles.

Congratulations to director Margaret Jesson who had the vision and to the cast of Mark Hinton, Maria Hinton, Graeme Burnard and Yvonne Way who played very convincing characters. A special acknowledgement should be made to Maria Hinton for her wonderful 5 page soliloquy at the end of the play and a special thanks to Jill Thompson who did a splendid job with props and to Diana Boulton who was kept very very busy as prompt during rehearsals. Also a big thanks you to Carol

Buck and Robert Gray who did a wonderful job with lighting and sound – both integral aspects of this production.

IN SYMPATHY:

We would like to offer our sympathies to Marie Connell on the recent passing of her husband, Peter. Both Peter and Marie have been long time supporters of Harlequin and attended many of our productions. Peter was a real gentleman.

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JUNIOR HARLEQUIN:

We are delighted to announce the appointment of our new director of Junior Harlequin, Hettie Arends.

Hettie has taken over from Lorraine McDonald who retired from Junior Harlequin earlier in the year. Hettie has vast experience in teaching children acting and drama skills and we are very fortunate that she was available to take over the reins. Hettie will be commencing classes in the new year and any enquiries should be directed to her on 370 8003 or email her on actup.drama@gmail.com

We would like to also acknowledge the many years that Lorraine McDonald looked after our junior department with great success. Her productions were always top notch and some of her students have gone on to greater things, for example Sinead Morgan who was a winner at the Theatre federation Awards only this last weekend for her portrayal as Sophie in our recent production of Homeland.

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CONGRATULATIONS:

To Ray and Ros New who are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on the 24th of October.

Ray is a life member of Harlequin and spends countless hours painting and decorating our sets. A private function will be held in our foyer on the 24th.

Congratulations to you both and Ros.... You deserve a medal!!

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THEATRE FEDERATION AWARDS

The annual Wellington Theatre Federation Awards (the Antoinette's) were held at Porirua Little Theatre on Saturday the 26th of September.

Our production of Homeland was entered into the competition and the event was attended by the entire cast and crew of Homeland and the President, Graeme Burnard. 12 plays from around the district were entered and from the excerpts we saw from 5 of the plays, a very high calibre of acting was evident.

Competition was fierce but we triumphed with Sinead Morgan winning the best young actress award, Ray Coats winning the best male actor award for a drama and the production winning best 21st century drama. It was a wonderful night and our warmest congratulations to those who received awards. You did us proud!

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PROPOSED 2010 PROGRAMME:

“THE PRIME OF MISS JEAN BRODY”

By Jay Presson Allen from the novel by Muriel Spark

Directed by Maria Hinton

Auditions – 07 November 2009 – 2pm

Playing Dates – 18-27 March

Cast required – 4 females, 4 males and 13 girls aged 11-14

Set in the Marcia Blaine Conservative School for girls and relates the relationship between Miss Jean Brodie and her “crème de la crème” – the four “Brodie” girls.

It investigates the influences on those girls and on Brodie herself.

FUNCTION IN THE FOYER

DETAILS TO BE ADVISED

29 April – 04 May

“SEX, DRUGS, RICK ’N’ NOEL”

By David Tristram

Directed by Diana Boulton

Auditions – 07 March – 2pm

Playing Dates 3-12 June

Cast required – 2 males, 2 females

A funny poignant story of two mature students studying history, (and a whole lot else) at University. Starts with a hint that a happy ending awaits!

Rick (Richard Branson) closes his diary and states “and they all lived happily ever after” The day to day existence of Richard Branson’s life is far removed from the fairy tale of his famous namesake. Richard’s wife of 22 years leaves him for her lesbian lover, he loses the only job he has ever known at the foundry, and his brother dies. This all happens in less than two weeks.

To regain some sort of control of his life, he writes to an English University to apply for admission as a mature-age history student and reinvents himself as Rick. There, he meets Noel Edmonds, (again not THE Noel Edmonds) who takes him under his wing. The contrast of Rick and Noel create a partnership that is exploited to its fullest, resulting in a script that is very funny and cleverly written. (What else would you expect from David Tristram).

There are also two women, one is Maxine who is a history professor, and Helen and Rachel – identical twins played by the same person.

THEATRE SPORTS

26 – 29 JULY

“I HATE HAMLET”

Written by Paul Rudnick

Directed by Graeme Burnard

Auditions – 18 April – 2pm

Playing Dates – 26 August – 04 September

Cast required – 3 males, 3 females

A young and successful television actor relocates to New York, where he rents a marvellous, Gothic Apartment. With his television career in limbo, the actor is offered

the opportunity to play Hamlet onstage, but there is one problem. He hates Hamlet! His dilemma deepens with the entrance of John Barrymore’s ghost, who arrives intoxicated and in full costume to the apartment that once belonged to him. The contrast between the two actors, the towering dissipated Barrymore whose Hamlet was the greatest of his time, and Andrew Rally, hot young television star, leads to a wildly funny duel over women, art, success, duty, television, and yes, the apartment itself.

JUNIOR HARLEQUIN PRODUCTION

Details to be advised

Directed by Hettie Arends

Playing dates – 02 – 10 October

FUNCTION IN THE FOYER

Details to be advised

28-30 October

CHRISTMAS SHOW

Details to be advised

Directed by Marilyn Bouzaid

Auditions – 26 Sep – 2pm

Playing dates – 02-11 December

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AUDITIONS:

Auditions for our first production of the new year, “The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie”, directed by Maria Hinton, will be held at the theatre at 2pm on Saturday the 7th of November.

We are looking for the following cast:

Miss Jean Brodie – teacher, in her prime

Sister Helena – sister of Poor Clare’s order

Miss Campbell – gym teacher

Mr Perry – reporter (American)

McCready – gardener

Sandy, Jenny, Monica and Mary Macgregor – the 4 Brodie girls

Miss Mackay – headmistress, austere, conservative

Gordon Lowther – music teacher – romantic link to Brodie

*Teddy Lloyd – art teacher, romantic link to Brodie
Girls – 11-14 years, little or no speaking.*

Scripts will be available shortly from United Travel.

Playing dates are 18-27 March and rehearsals start 31 January.

Any enquiries to director Maria Hinton on 3787006

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A PLEA FROM THE PRESIDENT.

Goldfish wanted!!!

Graeme Burnard has just lost over 60 goldfish after a shag emptied his pond. Apparently this is not uncommon at this time of year and Graeme has heard of one person who watched a heron trying to take off after cleaning their pond out, and it was so full, it could hardly take off.

Graeme has one fish left and it is in total stress mode at the moment and needs company.

If anyone has an abundance of fish and needs to get rid of some please give Graeme a call on 3770139 or email graemeb@unitedtravel.co.nz. He and the surviving fish would be most grateful.

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DON'T FORGET TO BOOK FOR THE CHRISTMAS FUNCTION – 21 NOVEMBER