



theatre notes

Ellerslie Theatrical Society Inc. - Apr/May/June 2017



BASED ON THE AWARD WINNING DANISH FILM
'THE CELEBRATION'

FESTEN

By THOMAS VINTERBERG, MODENS RUKOV and BO. HR Hansen
Adapted for the stage by DAVID ELDRIDGE | Directed by DAVID BLAKEY

8 - 17 JUNE 2017

FESTEN

Written by **Thomas Vinterberg,
Mogens Rukov & Bo Hr. Hansen**

In an adaptation by **David Eldridge** Directed by **David Blakey**
Presented by arrangement with **Nordiska ApS, Copenhagen**

Based on the award-winning Danish film 'The Celebration'. Festen sees family and close friends gather to celebrate Helge's 60th birthday. Rocked by the recent death of his twin sister Linda, Christian, the eldest son, raises the first toast. His shocking exposure of a dark family secret deals a staggering blow to their veneer of respectability, tolerance and discretion. Like a Greek tragedy, no character is left unaffected; no reaction predictable. Dark, explosive and powerful, this award winning play promises to shock and enthrall.

'Festen is an embodiment of what theatre should be' ~ Paul Taylor, The Independent
'Electrifying, shocking and profoundly moving... a thrilling modern tragedy' ~ Sunday Times

8 to 17 June 2017 @ 8pm

Matinees Sunday 11 and Saturday 17 June at 2pm

No evening performance Sunday 11 June

No performance Monday 12 June

Tickets \$25 evening, \$23 evening discount
\$18 matinee, \$16 matinee discount

A discount to members, gold card holders, bookings of 10 or more, and Community Services card holders. Please note that only one of these discounts can be claimed on any one ticket.

HOW TO BOOK



BOOK ONLINE AT

www.iticket.co.nz

or phone 09 361 1000

or 0508 484 2538 if calling from outside Auckland
NO booking fee/delivery fee

BY POST (cheque/credit card only)

Send to: ETS, PO Box 11432, Ellerslie, Auckland 1542.

IN PERSON (cash/cheque/credit card/Eftpos)

Booking office opens forty five minutes before performance.

Pre-booking is recommended to guarantee your seat.



OPENING NIGHT GALA

Thursday 8 June from 7.30pm

A complimentary glass of méthode champenoise, or juice, and snacks will be served on the opening night. The show starts at 8pm.

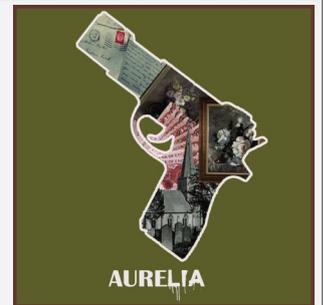
Early Bookings advisable 09 361 1000 or www.iticket.co.nz

INFORMAL PLAY READING EVENING

Wednesday 21 June at 7.30pm at the home of Shelagh Coop, 2/38 Awatea Road, Parnell

This informal group meets periodically to give members the opportunity to read or listen to plays. New participants are welcome and play suggestions are also invited. There are plenty of parts for readers and listeners are also most welcome. The reading will be 'Aurelia' by Robert Thomas.

RSVP for numbers to Jocelyn McQuaid telephone 09 626 3070 email jossmcq@slingshot.co.nz. Taking a little something to augment supper would be appreciated. Contact Jocelyn if you can't make it but would like to receive regular updates about this group.



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Ellerslie Theatrical Society Inc

P O Box 11 432, Ellerslie, Auckland 1542 Phone 525 3336 Fax 579 7604

Stables Theatre (Ellerslie War Memorial Community Centre), Cnr Main Highway & Arthur Street, Ellerslie

email: info@ellerslietheatre.co.nz or newsletter@ellerslietheatre.co.nz website: www.ellerslietheatre.co.nz

BOYS AT THE BEACH

Directed by David Charteris, Reviewed by Rex Steele

Is it easy to envy the boys at the beach for their normal, relaxed, uncomplicated approach to life? Thrown together by chance their loud, opinionated, constantly lubricated commentary softens life's complexities and reduces it to the few basics that make young men's lives easier to traverse. Loosely paralleling the era's cricket ebbs and flows, (on the underarm... "Where's an Australian? I wanna thump someone") this play sits easily and happily with audience members who grew up kiwi, but may occasionally bewilder those who did not.

Jono captures the impetuous Bully, Andrew N envelopes the larger than life Den, while Jo places an iron fist around Julie. Junior, as Coop leads by default, Andrew C powerfully controls Skeen, and Laurene fluidly evokes Francie the versatile matriarch. Jamie, through Eva provides a quiet contrast to the relentless uninhibited flow of the others. The scene with the youngsters could put anyone off having children...forever.

An evocative, evenly lit set encloses relentless bluster, beery, and basic one liners, plastering the confidence of youth over a half g quarter acre shagging paradise. With "just a bit more authority round the eyes" Director David has knitted an excellent cast into a dynamically paced, nostalgic, pastiche of an enviable era of our own, alas, not so recent past.



Coops <i>Junior Misimoo</i>	Francie <i>Laurene Dearlove</i>
Den <i>Andrew Norman</i>	Julie <i>Jo Olsen</i>
Bully <i>Jono Smith</i>	Jamie Waters <i>Eva Allan</i>
Skeen <i>Andrew Craik</i>	Set Designer <i>Keith Harding</i>

AGM Annual General Meeting

Held on 10 April 2017. Committee and officers were elected as follows:

Executive: President—Anna Adam, Vice President—Bruce Brown, Secretary—David Blakey, Treasurer—Rona Colbert

Management Committee: Jocelyn McQuaid, Charlotte Taylor, Helen Thomas, Lucy Flavell

Appointments: Patron (continuing)—Desley Simpson, Honorary Accountant—Bryan Mott

Extract from the report presented by Anna Adam—President 2016:

Budgets & Expenditure: Production and administration costs have remained static since 2014 however with audience numbers down the ticket and bar sales were well down on 2015.

In addition to grants we are exceptionally fortunate to get discounts and support from Brian Mott, Harcourts, Soar Print and Speedy Signs. ETS is extremely grateful to these people and organisations for their support. We are also certain our Patron, Desley Simpson, is instrumental in facilitating much of our Council support.

Volunteers and Membership: The number of financial members remains static. The income received from subscriptions provides a small contribution towards the costs of sending out newsletters and publicity material. The committee has discussed, on several occasions, the option of reducing the number of posted newsletters to bring these costs down. While we have been reluctant to stop this physical reminder, it would appear, from the declining response to newsletters, diminishing audiences and fewer audition attendees, that the money could be better spent. We will review this for 2017.

Publicity & Marketing: An aim of the committee for 2016 was to finalise the 2017 programme early enough to present a *Taster Evening* before the year end. With little time to spare after the programme was set, five tasters were cast and presented to a small but appreciative audience. We have received a number of confirmed Playhouse Night bookings as a result.

Summary: Ellerslie Theatrical Society Inc. continues to be very healthy. Some hard work and important decisions will be required by the committee

this year to maintain this status. Thank you to everyone involved with the productions and management of the society in 2016 as without you Ellerslie would not have a theatre.

Presentations: The Management Committee are recommending two members for Life Membership this year. This is not taken lightly by the committee and is in special recognition of the outstanding contribution from an individual and the impact of their membership of the society.

Paul Gapper was relatively new to ETS when he took on the role of President to give John Charlton some breathing space. In addition to chairing the society he also set up guidelines for the Stage Managers and created job descriptions for this role and those of the Bar Manager. He was also instrumental in creating production budgets and reviewing ways of reducing general expenses.

Renee Palmer has been a long-standing member of the society. She has been on stage numerous times and supplied her beautiful and vast wardrobe for many productions, sometimes making the costumes as well. Additionally, she has created and produced many of the annual Christmas Floats entered as part of the Ellerslie Business Association parade. The society has been awarded many 'First Prizes' for Best Float as a result.

On behalf of the committee I am going to make a presentation to two members.

Roger Sawtell will soon be moving out of Auckland. He has been involved with the theatre and the committee for over 11 years and has more recently been the Technical Manager responsible for the electrical assets of the society. Roger has designed and operated the lighting for many productions, assisted at set builds and has been a member of the Executive as Vice-President of the society. His pragmatism and calm considered approach to issues will be missed. The committee has pleasure in awarding Roger with an Honorary Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of his services to the society.

Sue Spurling has given her notice to resign as a member of the society. Sue has been a loyal member and active committee member until last year when she relocated from Auckland to Raglan. She continued as the Front of House and Hospitality Manager for ETS and commuted for special events and each play season. In addition to ensuring the cast were watered and fed during rehearsals she also catered for the cast and crew dinner for each play, managed a team of volunteers for kitchen and FOH duties, organised the wrap party and cast gifts for presentation, and created many of the displays for each play including the odd quiz. The committee has pleasure in awarding Sue with an Honorary Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of her services to the society.

The full Presidents Report is available on www.ellerslietheatre.co.nz.

COME AND PLAY WITH US

DIRECT 2018 & 2019

Applications are invited from Directors who would like to present a play, or selection of plays, to be considered for the Ellerslie Theatrical Society 2018 & 2019 season. Applications for 2018 close on 24th of June. Tentative dates are:

Main Bill 1 - 2018	Season 15 to 24 March	Audition Saturday 11 Nov 2017—Rehearsals start Tuesday 9 Jan 2018
Main Bill 2 - 2018	Season 7 to 16 June	Audition Saturday 17 Mar 2018—Rehearsals start Tuesday 3 April 2018
Main Bill 3 - 2018	Season 23 Aug to 1 Sept	Audition Saturday 9 June 2018—Rehearsals start Monday 19 June 2018
Main Bill 4 - 2018	Season 8 to 17 November	Audition Saturday 25 Aug 2018—Rehearsals start Tuesday 4 September 2018
Christmas Float - 2018	Sunday 2 December	
Main Bill 1 - 2019	Season 14 to 23 March	Audition Saturday 10 Nov 2018—Rehearsals start Sunday 6 Jan 2019

An application form and general information can be downloaded as a PDF from the Contact Us section of www.ellerslietheatre.co.nz.

SAVE THE DATE for TASTER NIGHT Saturday 25 November 2017

Prepare to be tempted by four tantalizing tasters of the plays being presented in 2018. There will be four 5-10 minute rehearsed reading morsels from each play. If you are interested in booking to see a play, auditioning for a role or want to get involved in one of the productions this is the perfect opportunity to find out a little more and meet the team. There is no entry fee and there will be a cash bar. The doors will open at 7pm with the show starting at 7.30pm. It runs for around one hour.

For more information contact Rona Colbert on 09 525 3336.

ETS NEWSLETTER

Do you love getting our newsletters to read about upcoming plays, auditions, opportunities and special events? You can help us save on postage by opting to receive email updates instead. You will still receive the annual play guide, membership renewal form and AGM notice by post.

To change over to email only communications, just send an email to info@ellerslietheatre.co.nz and ask to receive email updates and we will do the rest.

SET BUILDS

The dates for set builds for 2017 are listed below.

You don't need tools – though it could help if you can bring a battery-powered drill and any other small tools you own. You do need a willingness to do two things: first, to work on producing high-quality stage sets; and, second, to join in discussions and to put forward your own ideas on how best to achieve our aims.

The set builds are on Saturdays, starting from 9am and going on to around 5pm. You don't have to work all those hours. Any time you can put in is great, although you should know that we generally stop around 12:30pm for lunch prepared and supplied by ETS, so you won't want to miss that.

We're a friendly bunch of people with varying skill levels, and the set builds are both challenging and fun. If you can come, email David Blakey davidblakey@gmail.com or text/call 027 495 3794 in advance, so that we can plan the day – and include you in the lunch.

FESTEN - Saturday 20 May, Saturday 27 May, Sat 3 June, Sunday 4 June, Pack-out Sunday 18 June

FESTIVAL - no set builds

THE 39 STEPS - Saturday 14 October, Saturday 21 & Sunday 22 October, Saturday 28 October, Saturday 4 November, Pack-out Sunday 19 November

THEATRE CONTACTS FOR VOLUNTEERS

Bar	David Charteris	sparkledarling@hotmail.com 0210 832 5160
Box Office	Rona Colbert	09 525 3336
Committee	David Blakey	info@ellerslietheatre.co.nz 027 495 3794
Crew	Charlotte Taylor	stagecrewellerslie@gmail.com 0211 020 8389
Hospitality	Ros Stewart	rosalynde.s@hotmail.com 021 182 8109
Membership	Bruce Brown	brucebrowndirect@gmail.com 027 530 5813
Newsletter	Charlotte Taylor	stagecrewellerslie@gmail.com 021 102 8389
Production	Anna Adam	annajadam@gmail.com 021 137 4936
Properties	Helen Thomas	aitcht@xtra.co.nz 021 040 1804
Set Construction & Technical	David Blakey	info@ellerslietheatre.co.nz 027 495 3794
Informal Play Readings	Jocelyn McQuaid	jossmcq@slingshot.co.nz 09 626 3070
Submissions	Bruce Brown	brucebrowndirect@gmail.com 027 530 5813
Wardrobe	Lucy Flavell	lucyflavell@gmail.com 021 174 9346

STABLES WINNER'S CIRCLE Membership Draw - Janice Chandler Boys at the Beach Raffle - David Charteris

AUDITIONS



The Ellerslie Festival of One-Act Plays 2017

Saturday 10 June 2017 from 10:00 am

Stables Theatre, Ellerslie Season - 24 Aug to 2 Sept

(Rehearsals start the week commencing 19 June 2017)

The festival has provided playwrights with an opportunity to see their work leap from page to stage and new directors the chance to be mentored through the production process. This year six plays have been selected from a number of submissions with three plays being performed at each show. The one-acts contain multiple themes, each accomplishing its own story with efficient use of dialogue and technical elements. The result is a journey of emotions, making for a tremendously entertaining festival. Six plays have been selected with four requiring cast.

Auditions are as follows. Ages specified are guidelines only. If you are outside the age range but feel you are right for the role then we encourage you to come along to the audition. **For more information about these auditions visit www.ellerslietheatre.co.nz.**

PERFORMING - a comedy - premiere

Audition at 10.00am

Written by David Blakey and directed by Daryl Wrightson

Description:

Community theatre brings many people together.... this isn't always a good thing.... Egos, Envy, Love, Lust, Missed Lines, Mishearing and Mayhem unfold back stage.

Daryl's contact details:

darylwri@yahoo.co.nz - 027 662 5890

Rob - male - 50 to 60

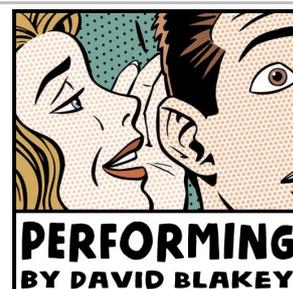
Jane - female - 30 to 40

Dave - male - 30 to 50

Stage Manager - male/female - any age

Carl - male - 20 to 25

Noreen - female - 20 to 25



WHILE THE CIRCUS PASSES

Audition at 10.00am

Written by Isobel Lowman and directed by Jocelyn McQuaid

Description:

From the past comes a letter, a temptation, a chance to recapture lost love - if she's brave enough.

Jocelyn's contact details:

jossmcq@slingshot.co.nz - 09 626 3070

Myself (the wife) – female – 25 to 30 - pleasant, tense

My Habitual Self – female – older – grim, forbidding martinet

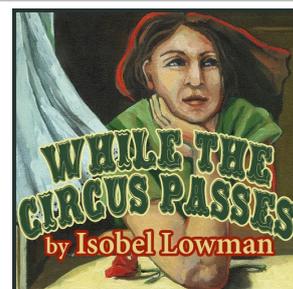
Myself-when-young – female – teen to 25 - determined

My Secret Self - 25 to 30 - a 'doer', very attractive. Need to sing 'The Raggle Taggle Gypsies'

My Unborn Self - teen to 25 - anxious to be free

My Timid Self - 25 to 30 - unsure, jittery

Sam (the husband) - 40 to 50 - 'pink and pompous'



CHOOK CHOOK - a comedy

Audition at 10.00am

Written by Fiona Farrell and directed by Chrissy Hodkinson

Description:

In a battery farm for hens, Valmai, Chrissy, Georgia and Bron live in 'compartments' and eat the same food day after day under the same continuous 'sun'.

Chrissy's contact details:

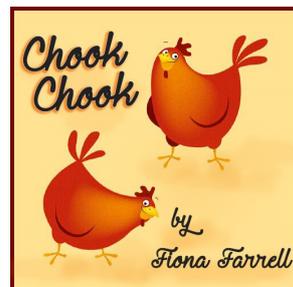
hoddies465@hotmail.com - 027 664 4261

Valmai – female - 30s to 50s - the eldest, 'Infomercial Queen', shy, reticent, sensitive, emotional and receptive

Chrissy – female - 20s - the youngest, thin, full of instinctual longing

Georgia – female - 30 to 40 - the sensible one, likes structure and organization

Bron - female - 30 to 40 - the rebel, high energy, 'suffragette', adventurous



HER STORY - premiere

Audition time by request (from 12.30pm)

Written and directed by Mary Granfors

Description:

Hazel, a strong-willed, feisty resident of Bedford Manor Nursing Home strikes up a relationship with a mysterious angel who is the key to helping her carry out her deepest wish.

Mary's contact details:

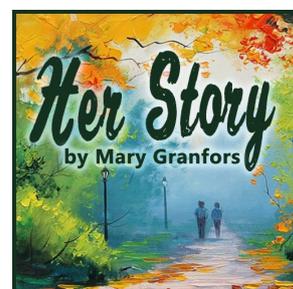
mary.gforce@gmail.com - 021 781 962

Hazel - female - 65+ - smart, strong-willed, not afraid to speak her mind. American accent.

Maddie - female - 65+ - big personality, feisty and lovable. Strong American southern accent.

Nurse - female - 25+ - Perky, positive, big-hearted caregiver. Irish accent.

Kai - male - 30+ - newly resettled refugee. Witnessed horrendous brutalities but is calm, gentle, loving and wise. Think: Nelson Mandela.



what's on at other theatres

Dolphin Theatre	www.dolphintheatre.co.nz	The Cripple of Inishmaan by Martin Donagh — season: 28 Apr to 13 May
Centrestage	www.centrestagetheatre.co.nz	Blood Brothers by Willy Russell — season: 10 to 24 June
Howick Little Theatre	www.hlt.org.nz	Our Man in Havana adapted by Clive Frances — season: 6 to 28 May
Titirangi Theatre	www.titirangitheatre.co.nz	Ghosts by Henrik Ibsen — season: 6 to 17 June
Mairangi Players	www.mairangiplayers.co.nz	Lady Windemere's Fan by Oscar Wilde— season: 23 June to 1 July