



theatre notes

July 2017



THE ELLERSLIE FESTIVAL OF ONE ACT PLAYS 2017 24 AUGUST TO 2 SEPTEMBER 2017

Comedy . Tragedy . Suspense . Romance

You might find all these genres in this sixth season of the Ellerslie One Act Play Festival. This biennial festival has become a highly-coveted event for playwrights to submit original works and as a mentoring event for new directors. 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. Set in cabaret style seating, the festival is a more relaxed way of seeing the plays and is suitable for group bookings. Book for two shows to see all plays.

TICKETS

Group A

Thursday 24 Aug –Gala Evening 8pm Saturday 26 Aug– 8pm
Wednesday 30 Aug– 8pm Friday 1 Sep –8pm Saturday 2 Sep-8pm

Tickets \$25 evening
Tickets \$18 matinee

Book for both shows together to receive a discount.

Evening group A&B \$36.00 Matinee group A&B \$32.00

A discount to members, with bookings of 10 or more and to Community Services card holders. Only one of these discounts can be claimed on any one ticket.

Group B

Friday 25 Aug –Gala Evening 8pm Sunday 27 Aug– 2pm
Tuesday 29 Aug– 8pm Thursday 31 Aug –8pm Saturday 2 Sep-8pm

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)

Box office opens forty five minutes before the performance.

Opening Night Galas

A complimentary glass of méthode champenoise, or juice, and snacks will be served on the opening night performances of each group.

Pre-booking is recommended to guarantee your seat.



Thank you to our sponsors and supporters:



Ellerslie Theatrical Society Inc

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

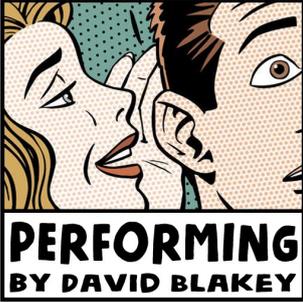
Stables Theatre (Ellerslie War Memorial Community Centre), Cnr Main Highway & Arthur Street, Ellerslie

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

GROUP A

PERFORMING

written by David Blakey, directed by Daryl Wrightson

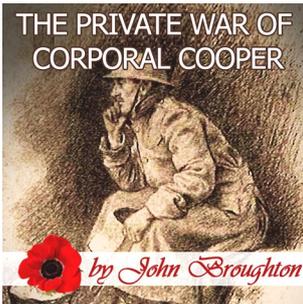


Community theatre brings many people together. This isn't always a good thing. We pull back the curtain to meet the real personalities within. Egos, envy, love, lust, mishearings, missed lines and mayhem all unfold backstage during a performance as the actors show their true characters behind the make-believe.

premiere

THE PRIVATE WAR OF CORPORAL COOPER

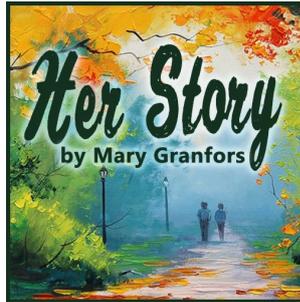
written by John Broughton, directed by Jocelyn McQuaid



Sister Bartholemew knits socks for New Zealand soldiers in World War 1. In one pair she leaves her name and address, and a correspondence ensues when Corporal Johnny Cooper replies.

HER STORY

written and directed by Mary Granfors



Life's always pretty much the same at Bedford Manor Nursing Home. Bedford's grumpiest resident, Hazel, has a secret she is not ready to share with anyone. A new janitor arrives – Kai, a resettled refugee, who has witnessed horrific violence in his home country – and strikes up an unlikely friendship with Hazel.

premiere

SURE THING

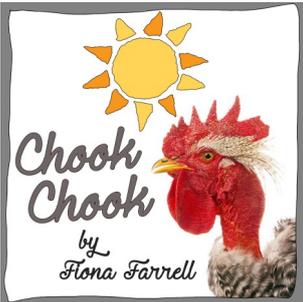
written by David Ives, directed by Annie Whittaker



This short, comic one-act contains all the essential conflicts associated with dating. You meet someone in a café. You're interested. What next? How many ways are there to stuff it up? *Sure Thing* catalogues them all.

CHOOK CHOOK

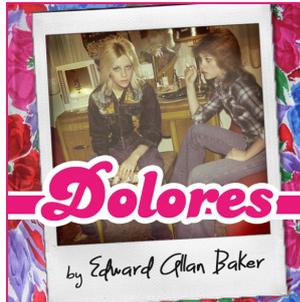
written by Fiona Farrell, directed by Chrissy Hodkinson



In a battery farm, Valmai, Chrissy, Georgia and Bron refer to their cages as 'compartments' and eat the same food day after day under the same continuous 'sun'. This comedy confronts us with the life of a battery hen and forces us to consider the ethics of battery farming.

DOLORES

written by Edward Allan Baker, directed by Carl Drake



Although they have taken different paths in life, sisters Dolores and Sandra discover they have more in common than genes. They have a desire to make a meaningful life. Along the way, they encounter sibling rivalry and domestic violence in an experience which is moving and provocative as they are locked in a struggle to retain their last strands of dignity.



One Act Play Festival Quiz Night

Tuesday 29 August - 8pm

Team up with friends and book a table for eight or join another table for a night of fun testing your general knowledge whilst you enjoy three marvellous plays from group B.

Book your tickets on Tuesday 29 August for a fun packed evening.

Group B plays are Her Story, Sure Thing and Dolores

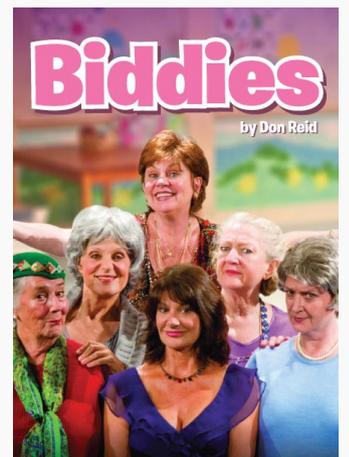
INFORMAL PLAY READING EVENING Wednesday 27 September at 7.30pm

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 *Biddies* by Don Reid. 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.

Five ordinarily marvellous women find themselves back in their infants school classroom plying their needles in a good old-fashioned session of "stitch and bitch". Their confessions are frank, their rivalries intense and their jokes outrageous. Accidentally locked in the classroom, with nothing but ingenuity, Adora Cream Wafers and a bucket to get them through the crisis, unknown reserves come to the fore.





FESTEN a review by Rex Steele

People to whom nothing has ever happened cannot understand the unimportance of events. T.S.E.

“It’s Daddy’s Birthday!” Your wife and children have gathered to help you celebrate. Christian and Michael set the scene with a brotherly wrestle, while Michael dares everyone to wash his mouth out with soap. Conflicting sibling relationships are quickly established through slick scene changes as skeletons emerge. While the bed plays host to a fluid menage a six we can be a little confused, partly by the time slides, as to who are factotums, and who not.

Clearly disparate characters are well delineated, with Helge and his sons rendered as a powerfully acted trio. I wish I was as thick skinned. The women are not, by their smaller roles, so able to develop their characters, though wives and sister wear, but hide, their inner suffering extremely well.

And so we move on to “Dinner for Twelve”. If we haven’t torn each other quite to pieces yet, let’s do it now. Helmut, valiant M.C. does his best, Poul, human but lamenting his brokenness struggles, Christian, we are told, mixes fact and fantasy, while Else bears it with resignation but bravely escapes in the end. Grandfather delights us with his deftly misplaced enthusiastic observations and Helene delivers her dead sister’s letter with deftly controlled skill.

Throw in an imaginary friend “Snoot” and then an exotic boyfriend Gbatokai and we are challenged by a racist rant. Blaming each other for the tragic suicide of sister Linda, is very revealing...when Daddy takes a bath. The scenes of violence and loathing are particularly well rendered, drawing us in to the fear and disgust.

Great to see a natural and innocent performance by young newcomer Zach.

Director David takes a challenging play and with an excellent cast gives us a tense, vibrant and powerful evening. As Kate Hepburn says in “The Lion in Winter” film, “What family doesn’t have its ups and downs?” And I thought Victor Borge was the epitome of Danishness.

Cast

Christian—Kristof Haines
Else—Rae Ryan
Mette—Jenevieve Longhurst
Kris—Zach Mole

Michael—David Steadman
Helmut—David Burchall
Grandfather—Max Golding
Gbatokai—Tharma Prasath Saminathan

Helene—Ksenia Khor
Poul—Alan J. Thomson
Kim—Stephanie Wallis

Helge—Des Smith
Pia—Kate Davison
Lars—Kashan Preston

Written by **Thomas Vinterberg, Mogens Rukov & Bo Hr.Hansen** In an adaption by **David Eldridge** Directed by **David Blakey**
Presented by arrangement with **Nordiska ApS, Copenhagen**

HELP AROUND THE STABLES

Join us behind the scenes, on stage or in front of house. For more information see the website or contact our team.

Membership & Bar—Rona **09 525 3336** *Hospitality*— Ros **021 182 8109** hospitality@ellerslietheatre.co.nz
Crew—Charlotte **021 102 8389** stagecrewellerslie@gmail.com *Set Build*— David **027 495 3794** davidblakey@gmail.com

Set Builds - Main Bill Four - Saturday 14 October, Saturday 21 October, Saturday 21 & Sunday 22 October, Pack-out Sunday 19 November

Members who volunteer for crew roles receive two complementary tickets to the production and one to the next show.

RAFFLE WINNER’S CIRCLE - congratulations Lina Cardona

AUDITIONS — 26th of August at 1.30pm

9 to 18 November 2017

THE 39 STEPS

adapted by Patrick Barlow from the novel by John Buchan and from Alfred Hitchcock's film directed by James Bell

One part epic spy-tale, one part madcap comedy extravaganza.

The 39 Steps follows innocent bystander Richard Hannay as he races cross-country from London to Edinburgh and back to solve a mysterious crime: before it's blamed on him! Featuring car chases, plane crashes and a sturdy pair of handcuffs.

This is a physical, fast-paced, high-energy comedy and a lot of fun to perform. All actors need to be versatile with abilities in physical comedy, and be willing to have a go at accents (working-class English, Scottish, cultured British and German).

Richard Hannay, male, 30+

A dashing leading man entangled in the adventure of a lifetime, as he becomes a fugitive on the run to save his own life and foil the spy ring that is trying to silence him. Often quite bewildered by what going on around him.

Pamela/Margaret/Annabella, female, 25+

A versatile actress is needed to play three roles. Annabella is a mysterious alluring German spy; Margaret is young, shy, sheltered, wife of an older country farmer; Pamela is our spunky, independent, and very beautiful young British heroine.

Clowns x 2, any age, any gender

Two actors share the remaining roles. From a Scottish innkeeper to a bemused sheep you'll be extremely versatile, creative, and playful with excellent verbal and physical comic timing. The clowns work as a team to create all manner of situations for our hero to find himself in.

About the Director – James Bell

Involved in theatre for nearly 30 years, James has been a director, producer, technician, stage manager and writer. He's inspired by creative and innovative storytelling and believes in casting smart, passionate actors who want to contribute.

Having directed a range of works from Shakespeare to new writing over the last 13 years James has developed a collaborative approach to storytelling that encourages actors to be creative, playful and experimental as the script is explored together.

Contact

Email nzjamesb@gmail.com or phone 021 637 687

Audition process

Because teamwork and collaboration are essential for this production, it will be a group audition. There will be some cold reading and some improvisation exercises. The focus will be on you as an actor and how you work with others. There is no need to prepare anything – just come ready to have fun. The audition should take 60-90 minutes depending on numbers.

Rehearsals

Commence Tuesday 5 September 2017, Tuesdays and Thursdays each week from 7.30pm, Sundays from 12.30pm

Season

Thursday 9 to Saturday 18 November 2017 - 10 performances including 2 matinees

what's on at other theatres

Dolphin Theatre	www.dolphintheatre.co.nz	Gasping by Ben Elton — season: 4 to 19 August
Centrestage	www.centrestagetheatre.co.nz	Singing in the Rain Jr. by Willy Russell — season: 18 to 22 July
Howick Little Theatre	www.hlt.org.nz	The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald — season: 8 to 30 July
Titirangi Theatre	www.titirangitheatre.co.nz	Birthrights by David Williamson — season: 22 Aug to 2 Sept
Mairangi Players	www.mairangiplayers.co.nz	Dracula based on the novel by Bram Stoker— season: 15 to 23 Sept