



# theatre notes

October 2017



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## TICKETS

- 9 to 18 November 2017 at 8pm
- Matinees Sunday 12 and Saturday 18 November at 2pm
- No evening performance Sunday 12 November
- No performance Monday 13 November

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

*A discount to members, with bookings of 10 or more and to Community Services card holders.*

*Please note that only one of these discounts can be claimed on any one ticket.*

### BOOK ONLINE AT

[www.iticket.co.nz](http://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 Gala

*A complimentary glass of méthode champenoise, or juice, and snacks will be served on the opening night performance Thursday 9 November.*

Pre-booking is recommended to guarantee your seat.



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Ellerslie Theatrical Society Inc

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

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

email: [info@ellerslietheatre.co.nz](mailto:info@ellerslietheatre.co.nz) or [newsletter@ellerslietheatre.co.nz](mailto:newsletter@ellerslietheatre.co.nz) website: [www.ellerslietheatre.co.nz](http://www.ellerslietheatre.co.nz)



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

### GROUP A — REVIEWED BY JENNY SODEN

This was a most interesting night of theatre. If you did not see these performances, you missed a great night at the theatre.

#### PERFORMING

Firstly, we had David Blakey's "Performing" directed by Daryl Wrightson. The wisely chosen cast offered us plenty of laughs as we were entertained with the antics backstage at an "unknown" theatre.

#### THE PRIVATE WAR OF CORPORAL COOPER

Secondly, we were greatly moved by John Broughton's "The Private War Of Corporal Cooper" directed by Jocelyn McQuaid. This took us back to France and Dunedin during World War 1, where a young soldier dreams of the girl he will one day marry and a Nun dreams (perhaps) about a son she might have had. The ending was spine chillingly moving.

#### CHOOK CHOOK

Thirdly, we had Fiona Farrell's "Chook Chook" directed by Chrissy Hodkinson. Whilst being a comedy, there were several moral issues discussed and we were given an insight into the individual reactions of the personalities. The costuming was brilliant and the energy expended a joy to watch. The Directors of these three plays must all be congratulated and, whilst all cast members were excellent, special mention must be made of Ruth Flynn's tour de force in playing two such diverse characters one after the other.

### GROUP B — REVIEWED BY REX STEELE

#### HER STORY

In a delicately handled snippet of plausible reality, reflecting a scenario all too common amongst a few of the vulnerable elderly of our society. Hazel languishes, abandoned and lost. As she wallows in her hopelessness, not even an optimistic nurse or a muddle headed friend can stir her from lethargy. Enter a doctor refugee, plausibly reduced to the position of janitor, but with intellect, compassion and judgement intact, as an unlikely catalyst for change. His effect on her is dynamic, and her indifference dissolves, but her focus on bringing an end to her own life indicates that the change is only a means to an end. I was left wishing that this play had been longer, allowing greater development of the fleeting relationship.

#### SURE THING

Honed down to basics with superb timing, this gimmicky, crisp, pithy and energetic take on an ended relationship was just the right length. Adroit, funny changes of direction were captured precisely by the actors who delivered the results of intense rehearsal beautifully. Gradual muting of the gong through the play might have spared us a little of its relentless dominance.

#### DOLORES

With an explosive start quickly capturing the audience's attention, two voluble actors drew us immediately into the chaos that was the normality of their character's lives. As they progressed however, it became apparent that they lived on the edge of shallowness and talked frequently past each other. Snippets of sordid life delivered with the energy of empty vessels making the most noise, left me wondering if they ever thought of what they could give to a relationship. Specific incidents were very well handled and the quieter moments were excellent with the suggestion of impropriety of their father subtly implied. A play for selective audiences with excellent hearing, unfazed by the unconvincing handling of a gun, and not deterred by Tom Lehrer's reflection that, "if people can't communicate the least they can do is shut up."

### Call for Directors 2019 and 2020

Applications are invited from Directors who would like to present a play, or selection of plays, to be considered for the Ellerslie Theatrical Society 2019 and 2020 seasons. Applications close on Saturday 22 June 2018. Expressions of interest are also invited to direct the Christmas Float in 2019 and the first play of 2020. Tentative dates are:

<b>Main Bill 1 - 2019</b> Season 14 to 23 March Audition Saturday 10 November 2018 Rehearsals start Sunday 6 January 2019	<b>Main Bill 2 - 2019</b> Season 6 to 15 June Audition Saturday 16 March 2019 Rehearsals start Sunday 31 March 2019	<b>Christmas Float 2018</b> Sunday 2 December  <b>Christmas Float 2019</b> Sunday 1 December
<b>Main Bill 3 - 2019</b> The Ellerslie Festival of One Act Plays 2019 Season 22 to 31 August Auditions Saturday 8 June 2019 Rehearsals start Monday 17 June 2019	<b>Main Bill 4 - 2019</b> Season 7 to 16 November Audition Saturday 24 August 2019 Rehearsals start Tuesday 3 September 2018	<b>Main Bill 1 - 2020</b> Season 12 to 21 March 2020 Audition Saturday 9 November 2019 Rehearsals start Sunday 5 January 2020

If you wish to direct a play at ETS, please email [info@ellerslietheatre.co.nz](mailto:info@ellerslietheatre.co.nz) for more information.



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for payment and more information.



**SAVE THE DATE - ETS 2018 Play Taster Evening  
Saturday 25 November 2017 at 7.30pm**

Come along to the Stables Theatre on Saturday 25 November and be tempted by four tantalising tasters of the four plays being presented by ETS in 2018. There will be four 5-10 minute rehearsed reading morsels from each play. If you are interested in seeing a play, auditioning for a role, or wanting to get involved in one of the productions this is the perfect opportunity to find out a little more.

There is no entry fee and there will be a cash bar with EFTPOS available. If you would like to attend just **RSVP to Rona Colbert** on **09 525 3336** or email [info@ellerslietheatre.co.nz](mailto:info@ellerslietheatre.co.nz). The doors open at 7.30pm with the presentation starting at 8pm.

***Ellerslie Santa Parade 2017***

**Sunday 3 December 2017**

Spread the Christmas cheer and join in with the  
Ellerslie Business Association's Santa Parade.

Come and support ETS as we traverse the main highway  
or perhaps even help us build our festive float.

Contact **Rona Colbert** for more information **09 525 3336**.

**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](mailto:hospitality@ellerslietheatre.co.nz)

*Crew* — Charlotte **021 10208389** [stagecrewellerslie@gmail.com](mailto:stagecrewellerslie@gmail.com)

*Set Build* — David **027 495 3794** [davidblakey@gmail.com](mailto:davidblakey@gmail.com)

**Set Builds** - Main Bill Four - Saturday 14 October, Saturday 21 & Sunday 22 October, Saturday 28 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.**

**THE 39 STEPS — RAFFLE WINNER'S CIRCLE** - congratulations Mandy Clarke

## AUDITIONS – SUNDAY 19 NOVEMBER AT 1.30PM



# The WITCHES

BY ROALD DAHL ADAPTED BY DAVID WOOD  
DIRECTED BY DARYL WRIGHTSON

*"To me you smell of raspberries and cream.  
But to a witch, you would smell  
absolutely disgusting."*

### THE WITCHES

by Roald Dahl adapted by David Wood, directed by Daryl Wrightson, presented by arrangement with Play Bureau NZ

#### Synopsis

Luke, a British boy, goes to live with Helga, his Norwegian grandmother, after his parents are killed in a car crash. Helga tells Luke stories about real witches. As specified in the parents' will, Luke and Helga have to return to England.

They stay at a seaside resort, where Luke meets and befriends a gluttonous but friendly boy, Bruno Jenkins. Also staying at the hotel are a convention of witches, masquerading as the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

Luke inadvertently discovers the witches while playing with his pet mice inside the ballroom, where the witches hold their meeting. The Grand High Witch unveils her latest weapon: a formula to turn children into mice, which they will use on confectionery products in sweet shops and candy stores to be opened using money provided by the Grand High Witch. Bruno is lured into the room, having already been given chocolate laced with the formula a couple of hours earlier. He turns into a mouse. Luke attempts to escape but is also captured and turned into a mouse, though he avoids being squashed. He finds Bruno and reunites with Helga who recovered while Luke was adventuring.

Luke devises a plan and sneaks into the Grand High Witch's room to steal a bottle of formula. Luke manages to drop the bottle into a pot of cress soup destined for the witches' dinner tables. The formula turns all the witches into mice, just after Bruno speaks up to tell his father that he is really a mouse.

#### About the director

Daryl is an award-winning comedian and performer. He is well known for his unique character comedy and has performed in a number of festivals, including the Edinburgh, Auckland, Wellington and Dunedin Fringe, Auckland Pride, and the NZ International Comedy Festival.

He has featured and assistant directed a number of the Young and Hungry productions produced by The Auckland Theatre Company.

Daryl has a degree in performing arts and has also studied at the John Bolton Theatre School.

He has vast experience in Directing, devising and producing a number of shows including musicals. He also tutors and runs performance workshops.

#### Rehearsals

First read-through Sunday 3 December 2017 at 1.30pm.

Rehearsals start the week commencing 8 January 2018.

Rehearsal times are evenings from 7.30pm through the week and Sunday afternoons from 12.30pm.

#### Season

Thursday 15 March to Saturday 24 March 2018.

10 performances including two matinees.

#### Cast required

We are looking at ten principal actors playing a number of roles. There are also a number of non-dialogue roles for Witches and Diners. Roles may be changed around to accommodate the actors cast.

Actor 1 – Boy (15+ yrs)

Actor 2 – Grandmother

Actor 3 – Display Witch/Witch One/Voice of Maid

Actor 4 – Lawyer/Hotel Doorman/Head Waiter

Actor 5 – Sailor/Doctor/Mr Jenkins/Head Chef

Actor 6 – Tree-House Witch/Mrs Jenkins/Witch Two

Actor 7 – Bruno Jenkins/Frog/Second Chef (15+ yrs)

Actor 8 – Grand High Witch

Actor 9 – Nurse/Waitress

Actor 10 – Waiter/Puppeteer

Fifteen or so Witches (no individual lines)

Three or four Diners in the restaurant (can be doubled by Witches)

A Musician

#### Contact

For more information, a copy of the script and audition preparation details please contact Daryl Wrightson email: [darylwr1@yahoo.co.nz](mailto:darylwr1@yahoo.co.nz).

### what's on at other theatres

Dolphin Theatre	<a href="http://www.dolphintheatre.co.nz">www.dolphintheatre.co.nz</a>	Lady Susan by Jane Austen — <b>season:</b> 10 Nov to 2 Dec
Centrestage	<a href="http://www.centrestagetheatre.co.nz">www.centrestagetheatre.co.nz</a>	Chitty Chitty Bang Bang by Ian Fleming — <b>season:</b> 28 Oct to 18 Nov
Howick Little Theatre	<a href="http://www.hlt.org.nz">www.hlt.org.nz</a>	Book Ends by Roger Hall — <b>season:</b> 11 Nov to 2 Dec
Titirangi Theatre	<a href="http://www.titirangitheatre.co.nz">www.titirangitheatre.co.nz</a>	Three Days of Rain by Richard Greenberg — <b>season:</b> 21 Nov to 2 Dec
Mairangi Players	<a href="http://www.mairangiplayers.co.nz">www.mairangiplayers.co.nz</a>	James and the Giant Peach by Roald Dahl — <b>season:</b> 1 to 9 Dec