



theatre notes
 ellerslie theatrical society inc. - july/august 2018



written by **Jonathan Harvey** directed by **Bruce Brown**

A glorious urban love story set on a London housing estate telling the story of teenager Jamie's relationship with classmate and neighbour, Ste. Together the two boys find comedy, warmth, and the music of Mama Cass through their loud-mouthed next-door neighbour, Leah, along with Jamie's mum, Sandra (the local barmaid) and her neo-hippy boyfriend, Tony. Jonathan Harvey (*Gimme, Gimme, Gimme; Coronation Street*) combines comedy with drama in his critically acclaimed award-winning play. *Beautiful Thing* truly captures what it is to be a teenager and to fall in love.

Jamie ~ Luca Samios

Sandra ~ Katie Fullard

Tony ~ Dominic Gorski

Leah ~ Lauren Bartley

Ste ~ Matt Smith

TICKETS

Tickets

\$25 evening, \$23 evening discount
 \$20 matinee, \$18 matinee discount

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

Shows

Thursday 23 August, Gala, 8pm
 Friday 24 August, 8pm
 Saturday 25 August, 8pm
 Sunday 26 August, Matinee, 2pm
 Monday 27 August - no show
 Tuesday 28 August, 8pm
 Wednesday 29 August, 8pm
 Thursday 30 August, 8pm
 Friday 31 August, 8pm
 Saturday 1 September, Matinee at 2pm, Final show at 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, 40 Michaels Avenue, Ellerslie, Auckland 1051.

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 23 August.

Pre-booking is recommended to guarantee your seat.



Thank you to our sponsors and supporters:



Ellerslie Theatrical Society Inc

Postal Address: 40 Michaels Avenue, Ellerslie, Auckland 1051 Phone 525 3336

Venue: Stables Theatre (Ellerslie War Memorial Community Centre), 138 Main Highway, Ellerslie

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



A new play is always a challenge – for both director and actors. Written by expat New Zealander Ruth Mayo, the play explores the lives of eight former actors, now down on their luck and needing a helping hand. This is offered by Angela (the Angel) who, through a fortunate bequest, is in a position to invite some of her old theatrical chums to join her in a comfortable house in which to begin a secure retirement.

With a wide range of temperaments, of course, cracks begin to show early on in the seemingly harmonious group. But common-sense prevails. A few petty likes and dislikes surface – the typewriter’s clacking is annoying, and a personal hygiene problem is confronted, and quickly resolved.

A very attractive set depicted the living/dining area, complete with a good-sized dining table, on which sits a jigsaw. Comfortable chairs, a coffee table, a china cabinet, attractive drapes and good rugs completed the decor. There was a set of French doors opening onto a garden – a very realistic backdrop showed a truly stunning vista. Hanging on the back wall was a life-size portrait (we understand he is a well-known actor!).

Sian Davis is to be commended for her choice of play, and her willingness to work with actors of mature years and a range of experience. Costumes were appropriate for each character, and the cast appeared comfortable with them.

All in all, a pleasant couple of hours. Well done to Ellerslie Theatrical Society for their support of this new play.

Reviewed by Jocelyn McQuaid

Written by Ruth Mayo and Directed by Sian Davies

Helen Lynn Webster
Wystan Kerr Inkson
Gabe Barrie Graham
Gwen Angela Reading

Ollie Malcolm Beazley
Angela Lesley Reihana
Jack Ferooz Afshar
Binnie Ruth Flynn

MULLED WINE HAMPER RAFFLE WINNER - Cameron Wright

Playhouse Nights

Fund Raising Opportunity

Buy the house, 100 seats, for a selected show for \$1500 (\$15 per seat) and sell tickets to your social or community group at your selected price. For example tickets sold at the regular price of \$25 will raise \$10 per seat. If all tickets were sold this would raise \$1000. You could, of course, charge a higher fee and raise even more.

For more information contact Rona Colbert on 09 525 3336.



Ellerslie One Act Play Festival 2019 - 22 to 31 August 2019 - Invitation to Directors

The ETS One-Act Play 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. Submissions are now open for the seventh biennial Festival in 2019. ETS is now inviting applications from experienced and new directors, and for new works, for the Ellerslie One Act Play Festival 2019. Application forms and criteria can be downloaded from our website www.ellerslietheatre.co.nz on the Contact Us page.

ENTRIES CLOSE 23 FEBRUARY 2019. Send your entry to the OAPF Secretary, Ellerslie Theatrical Society, 40 Michaels Avenue, Ellerslie, Auckland 1051 or email secretary@ellerslietheatre.co.nz.

COME AND PLAY WITH US

ETS MEMBERSHIP

As a member you will:

- Receive regular newsletters and audition notices.
- Be able to participate in ETS plays and social functions.
- Receive a discount on ticket purchases.
- Support your local, non-profit, theatrical society.

Membership forms can be found on the 'Contact Us' page on the **website** or by calling Rona on **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

Design Team—Anna 021 137 4936
newsletter@ellerslietheatre.co.nz

Crew—Charlotte 021 10208389
stagecrewellerslie@gmail.com

Set Build—David 027 495 3794
construction@ellerslietheatre.co.nz

SET BUILD DATES

Beautiful Thing

Saturday 28 July
Saturday 4 August
Saturday 11 August
Saturday 18 August
Pack-out Sunday 2 September

The Lady in the Van

Saturday 13 October
Saturday 20 October &
Sunday 21 October
Saturday 27 October
Saturday 3 November
Pack-out Sunday 18 November

Members who volunteer for crew roles receive two tickets to the show.



**NZ
Theatre
Month
September**

Dolphin Theatre

On each Monday in September, Dolphin Theatre is hosting an evening of NZ theatre, with a series of rehearsed play readings.

ETS members have been invited to attend any (or all) of these evenings, and they will replace our usual informal play reading evening. We ask only for a gold coin koha.

For further information, please contact Jocelyn McQuaid on 626 3070, or by email to jossmcq@slingshot.co.nz.

LOVE MUSIC OR LIKE MAKING NOISE?

WE ARE LOOKING FOR A

RESIDENT SOUND DESIGNER

Join us behind the scenes to create the soundscapes and scores of our future productions.

For more information please contact

Charlotte 021 102 8389 stagecrewellerslie@gmail.com



SET BUILDS

We're a friendly bunch of people with varying skill levels, and the set builds are both challenging and fun. You don't need tools or skills just a willingness to pitch in.

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 is appreciated we stop for lunch around 12:30pm supplied by ETS, so you won't want to miss that!

For more information or to join the team contact David Blakey construction@ellerslietheatre.co.nz or text/call 027 495 3794

AUDITIONS — Saturday 25 August at 1.30pm

The Lady in the Van

by Alan Bennett
directed by Des Smith



8 TO 17 NOVEMBER 2018

This amateur production of *The Lady in the Van* is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH LTD and NEW ZEALAND PLAY BUREAU LTD.

THE LADY IN THE VAN, adapted by Alan Bennett from his memoir, tells the true story of his unlikely friendship with Miss Shepherd, a homeless elderly woman who took up residence on Bennett's street in a broken-down van, until parking regulations changed. Bennett, in a moment of misguided generosity, offered her a temporary park in his driveway in 1973, where she stayed for the next 15 years. Miss Shepherd, a promising concert pianist between the wars, who drove an ambulance during World War II, was twice rejected from becoming a nun and developed mental health issues. Well-educated, cantankerously articulate and deeply religious, she had lived in a succession of vans around Camden.

Bennett recounts the strange life of Miss Shepherd and her van, which was overstuffed with decades' worth of old clothes, oozing batteries, and kitchen utensils still in their original packaging. A mesmerizing portrait of an outsider with an acquisitive taste and an indomitable spirit, this biographical essay is drawn with equal parts fascination and compassion and is, as you would expect from Bennett, a beautifully observed, sharply intelligent and wonderfully witty drama.

About the director

Des is delighted to be returning to the theatre company he calls home. Having acted in several plays with ETS over the years, ETS took a leap of faith giving Des his directorial debut with *The Weir* in 2007. The play went on to win best production in the annual ACTT awards. Des followed this with *The History Boys*, also by Alan Bennett, in 2010 (ACTT best comedy) and *Travels with My Aunt* in 2012. Des's directorial style is to give the actors a solid framework and vision to work within and then work in a creative and fun environment. This allows all members of the team from the actors to the technical crew to contribute and discuss ideas that work within the overall vision. *'When people are allowed to give of their creativity and ideas freely without fear, the journey is an experience everyone will remember with pleasure. The result is something that an audience can feel the energy and love of what has been created by all involved.'*

Contact Details — Des Smith

Contact Des Smith to get an e-copy of the play and to find out which pieces to focus on for the audition.

email: des.smith1966@gmail.com

telephone: 021 323 513

Rehearsals

Commence Tuesday 4 September 2018, Tuesdays and Thursdays each week from 7.30pm, Sundays from 12.30pm

Season

Thursday 8 November to Saturday 17 November 2018 - 10 performances including 2 matinees

Audition Address

Stables Theatre, 138 Main Highway, Ellerslie, Auckland

Cast Required

* The ages are only suggestions and should only be treated as guidelines. If you are outside of this age range but feel you are perfect for the role, please come along to audition.

* English accents are required and will vary according to the Character. For the purpose of the audition it will be necessary to attempt an accent.

Play Setting

The action of the play takes place in Alan Bennett's house and garden and the street outside, in Camden, London between 1974 and 1989.

Characters

Miss Shepherd mid 60s

Eccentric elderly lady living in a broken-down van, first of all on the street, then in Bennett's garden, of unsocial and disgusting personal habits. Deranged in a very logical manner! A Catholic, lapsed or otherwise!

Alan Bennett (1)

The younger Bennett, who generously (and unthinkingly) gives Miss S. space to park in his garden. Yorkshire accent, probably broader than the older Bennett.

Alan Bennett (2)

The older Bennett, looking back on the incidents which occurred during her "tenure" in his garden.

Rufus and Pauline

Upwardly mobile inhabitants of the area, inhabited by people such as Harold Pinter, Ursula Vaughan Williams & others of the intelligentsia.

Social Worker

Well-meaning and concerned, but utterly at sea with Miss S.'s eccentricities.

Underwood

A run-down elegant figure still with remnants of his "better days" hanging about him. A resident of Arlington House, a hostel for the tramps of the area.

Mam 60 +

Bennett's mother. The opposite of Miss S. House proud, cleanliness an obsession. The background to Bennett's whole life. Suffers (progressively as the play goes on) from dementia of some kind. Yorkshire accent.

Leo Fairchild

Brother who turns up near the end and explains some things.

Several small roles

Characters are adaptable and can be added to or removed.

what's on at other theatres

Dolphin Theatre	www.dolphintheatre.co.nz	Baskerville-A Sherlock Holmes Mystery by Ken Ludwig — season: 10 to 25 Aug
Howick Little Theatre	www.hlt.org.nz	Matthew, Mark, Luke and Joanne by Karl Nixon — season: 8 to 29 Sep
Titirangi Theatre	www.titirangitheatre.co.nz	An Ideal Husband by Oscar Wilde — season: 28 Aug to 8 Sep
Mairangi Players	www.mairangiplayers.co.nz	Home Fires by M.J Milburn — season: 28 Sep to 8 Oct
Company Theatre	www.companytheatre.co.nz	The Importance of being Earnest by Oscar Wilde — season: 11 to 25 Aug