



theatre notes

ellerslie theatrical society inc. - october/november 2018

The Lady in the Van

by Alan Bennett
directed by David Blakey

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



8 TO 17 NOVEMBER 2018

written by **Alan Bennett** , directed by **David Blakey**

"One seldom was able to do her a good turn without some thoughts of strangulation."

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 lived in a battered van on his driveway for 15 years. Miss Shepherd was a promising concert pianist between the wars, drove an ambulance during World War II, then was twice rejected from becoming a nun and developed mental health issues. Well-educated, cantankerously articulate and deeply religious, she lived in a succession of vans around Camden until moving into his driveway in 1973. The Lady in the Van is based on his own recollections of the indomitable Miss Shepherd and is, as you would expect from Bennett, a beautifully observed, sharply intelligent and wonderfully witty drama.

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 8 November, Gala, 8pm
Friday 9 November, 8pm
Saturday 10 November, 8pm
Sunday 11 November, Matinee, 2pm
Monday 12 November - no show
Tuesday 13 November, 8pm
Wednesday 14 November, 8pm
Thursday 15 November, 8pm
Friday 16 November, 8pm
Saturday 17 November, 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 8 November.

Pre-booking is recommended to guarantee your seat.



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Ellerslie Theatrical Society Inc

40 Michaels Avenue, Ellerslie, Auckland 1051 Phone 525 3336

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



ETS 2019 PLAY TASTER—Saturday 24th of November at 8pm

Come along to the Stables Theatre on Saturday the 24th of November and be tempted by four tantalising tasters of the four plays being presented by ETS in 2019. 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. The doors open at 7.30pm with the presentation starting at 8pm.



Review by Rex Steele

This is a gutsy, economically written play which captures the realism, the pain and the practical necessity of living in conditions of continual challenge.

Set in a Hardingly photogenic, grimy, plausibly weathered distressed tenement, Austin’s subtle lighting range captures the essence of its grimy realism.

It is effectively inhabited by a disparate collection of characters honestly reflecting the mores of the period and contributing equally to the powerful statement that love comes in an infinite variety of forms. While the young speak a different language and reflect modern mores (Cicero noting this 2000 years ago), love is recognisable in its infinite variety. And yes, it is beautiful. Would that I was still not only young at heart.

Dominic delicately and understatedly moulds the role of Tony into a forlorn and finally transient companion, while Lauren grasps the scared, insecure but overconfident Leah and delivers her with unflagging energy.

Luca and Matthew, as Jamie and Ste gradually enrich their respective roles as they move together, gathering strength, maturity and confidence from each other in their search for understanding and acceptance.

Katie, as brash mother Sandra delivers continuing reserves of quiet strength and wisdom, while holding the lives of all the others together.

Director Bruce has taken a connectedly disconnected handful of individuals, evocatively crafted by the author, and sculptured them all into a memorable, uninhibited, occasionally explosive, but always genuine ‘family’.

Written by Jonathan Harvey , Directed by Bruce Brown

Jamie ~ Luca Samios **Sandra** ~ Katie Fullard **Tony** ~ Dominic Gorski **Leah** ~ Lauren Bartley **Ste** ~ Matt Smith

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR RAFFLE WINNER FOR BEAUTIFUL THING

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

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

The Bach—2019

Saturday 16 February
Saturday 23 February
Saturday 2 March
Saturday 9 March

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

NEWSLETTER— READ ALL ABOUT IT

We have three options to read the ETS newsletter either online, via email or by post. We need to update your preferences to ensure you are receiving our messages.

Via Email – please add newsletter@ellerslietheatre.co.nz to your address book to ensure future emails will bypass your spam and junk mail filters.

Please let us know how you would like your newsletter delivered and provide us with updated contact details.

Subscribing to the newsletter via email helps ETS reduce administration costs enabling us to continue producing high quality theatre for you to enjoy.

We really appreciate your support.

CHRISTMAS FLOAT

From float construction to parade participants get into the Christmas spirit with ETS. The Ellerslie Business Association's Santa Parade is the perfect way to start the festive season.

Save the date - Sunday 2 December 2018

If you would like to be part of our entry to the Santa Parade please contact Rona **09 525 3336**



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 10 November at 1.30pm

The Bach

written by Stephen Sinclair
directed by Annie Whittaker

14 TO 23 MARCH 2019

THE BACH, by Stephen Sinclair, resonates with that most Kiwi of things: spending the summer at a bach at the beach. Many of us will remember that experience growing up – sometimes it seemed like entire towns uprooted after Christmas and headed for the Coromandel for their summer holiday!

THE BACH brings two Kiwi brothers together whilst grappling with the death of their father. It explores family as they deal with death of a parent, death of a marriage and accepting your siblings for who they are outside the bounds of a shared childhood and shared memories. Add in one wife and one budding Maori radical struggling to come to grips with her heritage and THE BACH is a New Zealand play for our times.

About the director

Annie Whittaker has been involved in the performing arts in one way or another since high school where she started out performing in musicals. Since then she did a bit of acting before starting a lengthy career in stage management and theatre teaching, for both community and professional theatre. Annie started directing in 2009 with a short play at Dolphin Theatre, and has since directed A FEW GOOD MEN and THE GOD OF CARNAGE at Dolphin, THIS IS HOW IT GOES at Mairangi Players, KINGS OF THE GYM at Titirangi, SURE THING at Ellerslie and most recently BASKERVILLE at Dolphin Theatre.

Rehearsals

Commence Sunday 6 January 2019, Tuesdays and Thursdays each week from 7.30pm, Sundays from 12.30pm

Season

Thursday 14 to Saturday 23 March 2019 - 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.

Play Setting

The play takes place at Simon and Michael's family bach in the Coromandel in early 2000.

Characters

Simon

The older brother, late 30's to 40's. Simon is the responsible older brother, a lawyer

Michael

The younger brother, the one who got away from New Zealand and has been living in London.

Sally, Simon's wife

A movie producer, glamorous, late 30's to 40's.

Hana, Sally's p.a.

Hana is a millennial and a budding Maori radical just starting to explore that part of her heritage.

Contact Details — Annie Whittaker

Contact Annie to get a copy of the play and find out which pieces to focus on for the audition.

email: annie.whittaker@icloud.com

telephone: 027-277-9727

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 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.

what's on at other theatres

Dolphin Theatre	www.dolphintheatre.co.nz	Nell Gwynn by Jessica Swale — season: 16 Nov to 8 Dec
Howick Little Theatre	www.hlt.org.nz	I'll leave it to You by Noel Coward — season: 10 Nov to 1 Dec
Titirangi Theatre	www.titirangitheatre.co.nz	Shirley Valentine by Willie Russell — season: 20 Nov to 1 Dec
Mairangi Players	www.mairangiplayers.co.nz	Sir Percival and the Quest for the Holy Grail — season: 7 to 15 Dec
Company Theatre	www.companytheatre.co.nz	Last Legs by Roger Hall — season: 17 Nov to 1 Dec