



The Play Bureau Newsletter

July 2017

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The year is getting away on us and it won't be long until you are auditioning for your end of year production. Scary as that thought may be, at least we will be heading into warmer weather.

NZ Play Bureau will be closing for Christmas on December 15th and re opening on January the 15th.

Letting you know early so you can be organised!

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Kind Regards

Helen

What's New?

HOT OFF THE PRESS!!

Sleighed to Death

By Peter Gordon

Christmas Comedy Thriller

4 M 4 F

For Peter Gordon Fans prequel to 'Murdered to Death' 1930s England, it's Christmas Eve in the manor house of the bumbling aristocrat, Sir Walton Gates and his wife Grace. His daughter Emma from a previous marriage arrives from town with her new companion in tow, the dashing James Washington and added to the mix is Sir Walton's estranged brother Archie, recently returned from years spent in Australia, bringing with him an appetite for mischief and a dodgy accent.

Enter England's most confused police officer, Sergeant Pratt, who unwittingly kicks a hornet's nest of English gentility and the evening soon descends into chaos with hilarious consequences. Magic tricks will fail miserably, shots will inadvertently ring out and identities will be confused but can Pratt identify the individual with murderous intent before a body is found? Probably not . . . In the new prequel to the Inspector Pratt Trilogy, Sleighed to Death takes us back to the ignominious start of Inspector Pratt's career and we discover that his early life as a policeman is no less hilarious!

And Then There Was Nun

By Bruce W Gilray & Richard T Witter

Comedy

11 F or M

Take one foreboding mansion on a secluded island, throw in ten whacked-out members of The Holy Order of the Sisters of San Andreas, stir in their unseen and mysterious leader, add an assortment of the sharpest tongues this side of Hollywood and Vine; then infuse with a healthy dose of some of the most famous lines in cinema (slightly warped). Roast well in a preheated treasure trove of movie facts, trivia, legends and gossip for two acts, sit back and savour. ...And Then There Was Nuns a treat for movie buffs and non-movie buffs alike.

And Then There Was Nun is written in the style of a classic 1940's murder mystery; and is a blend of humour and who-dun-it as the actors emulate iconic movie stars of the past.

Penny Black

Play with music

By Rob Wellington music by Rob Wellington

4M 5F Dinner Theatre

A great rollicking spoof in Sherlock Holmes style - Musical Comedy. Penny Black is set in Baker Street, London, in the eighteen nineties, and is the story of how Sherlock Holmes (Holmes Hardy) began his career



as a detective and managed to get the money to support his opium and violin habit without having to work.

Dorothy Hardy (Dottie) has been searching for the recipe for cloning that her husband, Evolutionary Biologist Dr Fullminster (Fully) Hardy, had written on the back of a Penny Black postage stamp and then lost, twenty five years ago.

Fully has been locked away in the Mental Institute for Mad Scientists (MIMS) for twenty five years – it is believed he went insane once he had perfected the formula and produced twin boys (Holmes and Watson Hardy)

Death Knell

Thriller

By James Cawood

3M 1F

From the author of 'Stone Cold Murder'

Set in an isolated former hunting lodge in the Scottish Highlands, Death Knell follows Henry Roth, a famous playwright and his wife Evelyn, as they await the arrival of his new muse a charming and charismatic young actor called Jack Willoughby who is determined to secure a role in the playwright's latest production.

Mixing black comedy and shocks of the highest order, Death Knell reinvents the classic thriller genre and will leave audiences breathless and beguiled right up to the final curtain.

The Night in Question

Comedy

by Eric Chappell

5M 3F

When a woman is attacked in a city car park the staff of Faraday Finance, whose offices overlook the car park, fall under suspicion in particular Brian Heath, who has been picked out at an identification parade and whose first wife died under mysterious circumstances.

At first he seems to have an alibi on the night in question, however as the investigation intensifies, Inspector Rudkin is certain of Heath's guilt. The case becomes more complex as the alibis of both his co-worker Ronnie and their boss Morley are called into doubt and everyone's motivations are called into question before a startling incident brings matters to an unexpected denouement

Staying Alive

Drama

By Kat Roberts

3 M 4 F

Mary had a son, now her son is dead, and that is all. But her friend Jenn is hosting a dinner party, just like before, a chance to catch up. No pressure. Nothing big, just old friends. It would be great to see you. If you're free, if you're ready.

Darkly funny, and achingly tender, Kat Roberts' play Staying Alive is about the death of a child; an exploration of love, honesty, family and grief; about how in the wake of any irreparable loss, we find ways to connect and survive.

Bad Jews

Drama

By Joshua Hamon

2 M 2 F

The night after their grandfather's funeral, three cousins engage in a verbal (and sometimes physical) battle. In one corner is Daphna Feygenbam, a "Real Jew" who is volatile, self-assured and unbending. In the other is her equally stubborn cousin Liam, a secular and entitled young man, who has his shiksa girlfriend, Melody, in tow. Stuck in the middle is Liam's brother, Jonah, who tries to stay out of the fray. When Liam stakes claim to their grandfather's Chai necklace, a vicious and hilarious brawl over family, faith and legacy ensues



Christmas Themed Plays:

'Twas The Fight Before Christmas!

NZ Comedy

By Devon Williamson

2 m 4F

Ever since her husband died, Mary's horrible adult children have been running Christmas. This year, with the help of a suicidal French psychiatrist, Mary is determined to take Christmas back. Hilarious and uplifting Christmas comedy.

Cranford at Christmas

By Laura Turner

4M 6 F

Deep in the frosty English countryside, chestnuts are roasting and carols are being sung as the folk of Cranford busily prepare for Christmas. Join Miss Pole, Miss Matty and Mrs Jamieson as they warm their frozen hands on cups of steaming cocoa and bedeck the houses with holly and mistletoe. But beyond this cosy hubbub of festivity, snow continues to fall and when disaster strikes, the community must unite to keep the spirit of Christmas alive. A heart-warming tale of charity and goodwill to all women and men to celebrate the most magical time of year.

A Kick in the Baubles

By Gordon Steel

3M 3F

It's another peaceful Christmas in the Bailey household but chestnuts aren't roasting on an open fire, and although a Silent Night would be welcome, all is not calm and all is certainly not bright Frank does not wish it could be Christmas everyday - in fact, he's dreading the arrival of his snobbish in-laws who only ever bring a single bottle of wine for the festivities Throw in a couple of larger-than-life neighbours, let the drink flow merrily.

The Littlest Angel

By Joseph Robinette

Flexible

This classic Christmas story of a little angel who is transformed from a celestial pest to the toast of the heavenly host is brought magically to life in this humorous, touching and above all, inspirational musical. Filled with melody and mirth, the story follows the adventures (and misadventures) of the Littlest Angel; from his reluctant entry through the Pearly Gates to the triumphant conclusion when his earthly gift to the newborn Christ Child is miraculously transformed into the Shining Star of Bethlehem. Timeless and uplifting, this one hour musical is an ideal holiday treat for the whole community.

Comfort and Joy

By Mike Harding

6M 6F

It's Christmas. Relatives you hardly ever see and who are now very different from you arrive at your house for the festivities. No-one receives a present that is at all appropriate. Culinary disasters abound. Long-buried resentments rear their ugly heads as the alcohol flows and tongues are loosened. COMFORT AND JOY, Mike Harding's comedy, is painfully - but always amusingly - familiar.

Seasons Greetings

By Alan Ayckbourn

5M 4 F

Half a dozen relatives and friends are celebrating Christmas with Neville and Belinda. Petty, and not so petty, squabbles break out. Christmas presents are rifled, mechanical toys are set off. Hilarious highlights include a chaotically incompetent puppet show and a midnight love scene that goes wrong. A final climax leads to what momentarily appears to be a tragedy as Clive, mistaken for a looter, is shot by the trigger-happy Harvey.



The Eight Reindeer Monologues

By Jeff Goode

4 M 4 F

(Adults Only)

Are you looking for something different for Christmas this year? Tired of 'Christmas Carol' and 'Gift of the Magi?' Well, this is the script for you: yes, the Reindeers finally speak about the real Santa and the elves Please keep in mind that this script is not recommended for high school use Adult audiences only ' ...Wickedly topical, arrestingly funny, inspired, thought provoking and provocative ... '

A Christmas Carol (many other versions available)

By Karen Louise Hebden

9M 5F extras

A new stage adaptation of Dickens's most famous story is more faithful to the original than any other published version. It also makes skilful and moving use of traditional carols to underscore the action.

Deck The Stage

By Lindsay Price

Flexible Casting

Theatrefolk's Christmas collection is unlike any other. The show is comprised of six short plays, all of which are inspired by Christmas carols such as: Deck the Halls, The Twelve Days of Christmas, and We Three Kings.

Christmas Shorts

By Matt Hoverman

Flexible Casting

A wonderful alternative for theatres tired of mounting the traditional seasonal play, Christmas Shorts offers five original plays that humorously comment on holiday themes: family, the nativity, Xmas cards, and elves. An outstanding Christmas collection for any theatre!

Farndale Avenue ... Production of A Christmas Carol

By David McGillivay Walter Zerlin Jnr

1M 4F

In festive mood, the F.A.H.E.T.G.D.S. ladies mount yet another assault on the classics with their stage version of A CHRISTMAS CAROL. Enthusiasm their middle name, and with the virile support of stage-manager Gordon, the cast present a dizzy array of characters from the Dickensian favourite. (and a few which aren't)

A Nice Family Christmas

By Phil Olson

3M 4F

From the playwright who brought you A Nice Family Gathering comes a follow up play for the holidays! The family members all come back together to celebrate Christmas, this time without their father Carl Sr. The siblings encounter more bad news as their mother announces she has cancer. One by one, the siblings are all called upon to commit a good deed for a family member so that their mother will comply with making her first doctor's appointment, but a final moment twist proves that mother knows best. Showing the true meaning of the holiday spirit, Phil Olson's sequel will warm your hearts and remind you of the importance of family.

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever

By Barbara Robinson

4M 6F 8Boys 9Girls

In this hilarious Christmas tale, a couple struggling to put on a church Christmas pageant is faced with casting the Herdman kids - probably the most inventively awful kids in history. You won't believe the mayhem - and the fun - when the Herdmans collide with the Christmas story head-on!



September 2018 will be NZ Theatre Month. We want as many theatres around the country to put on a NZ work any time during that month.

And to go with it, exhibitions, displays, talks, open days, discussions.

Almost every other arts genre has had its month or week or day. Now it's theatre's turn.

We are just getting started. We have lots to do, but we're telling you now so you can start scheduling a New Zealand work for September next year.

Register your name with us (at MalcolmCalderNZTM@gmail.com) so we can keep you informed. (You may not hear from us for a while--but you will hear from us.)

Join us to "celebrate and elevate" New Zealand Theatre!!!

Roger Hall



Good New Zealand Plays for New Zealand Theatre Month 2018 :

(in no particular order)

Paperless by Shona Wilson
The Supermarket Sisterhood by Devon Williamson
A Cup of Tea and a Biscuit by Andrew Cook
Amethyst by June Allen
Crazy Ladies by Devon Williamson
Central Otago Man by Justin Eade
Dead Loss by Richard C Harris
Penalties Pints and Pirouettes by Neil Troost
The Old People Are Revolting by Devon Williamson
Sheep Ahoy by June Allen
Poppy Day by Val Franklin
Hen's Night by T J Ramsay
Ted's Bottle by Bryan Aitken
The Wedding Party by T J Ramsay
The Fraud by Neil Troost
My Inlaws are Outlaws by Devon Williamson
Eminent Visitor by Richard C Harris
A Fairly Hairy Fairy Story by T J Ramsay
67 off 52 by Justin Eade
My Husbands Nuts by Devon Williamson
Desperate and Dateless by Neil Troost
Kilkenny Rose by June Allen
Cinderella – A Girl of Today by Julia Banks
Bed and Breakfast by T J Ramsay
Coupon Fiesta by Maura Flower
Nylons and Knicker Elastic by T J Ramsay
Wedding of the Century by Devon Williamson
Too Far From Heaven by J Gillies L Dawson A Newall
Penny Black by Rob Wellington
Deadly Closure by Richard C Harris

What's on around the Country

<i>Play</i>	<i>Author</i>	<i>Group</i>	<i>Dates</i>
Gasping	Ben Elton	Dolphin Theatre Inc	Aug 04 - Aug 19
The Opposite Sex	David Tristram	Whangarei Theatre Co.	Aug 04 - Aug 19
Last Of The Summer Wine	Roy Clarke	South Canterbury Drama League Inc	Aug 04 - Aug 11
University	Jon Jory	Nelson Youth Theatre Company	Aug 04 - Aug 05
The Bully Plays	Various	Nelson Youth Theatre Company	Aug 04 - Aug 05
No TV	Ric Averill	Nelson Youth Theatre Company	Aug 04 - Aug 05
Reunion On Gallows Hill	Tim Kelly	Nelson Youth Theatre Company	Aug 04 - Aug 05
Ladies Of The Tower	Tim Kelly	Nelson Youth Theatre Company	Aug 04 - Aug 05
The Better Half	Noel Coward	Friends of the Globe Theatre	Aug 04 - Aug 05
Ernie's Incredible Illucinations	Alan Ayckbourn	Nelson Youth Theatre Company	Aug 04 - Aug 05
What's For Pudding	David Tristram	Nelson Youth Theatre Company	Aug 04 - Aug 05
I Never Saw Another Butterfly	Celeste Raspanti	Country Players Inc	Aug 04 - Aug 05
In The Tank	Rosemary Frisino Toohey	Country Players Inc	Aug 05 - Aug 06
Key For Two	John Chapman	New Plymouth Repertory Society	Aug 08 - Aug 19
Ladies' Day	Amanda Whittington	Company Theatre	Aug 11 - Aug 26
Look Who's Talking!	Derek Benfield	Foxton Little Theatre Soc Inc	Aug 11 - Aug 26
A Streetcar Named Desire	Tennessee Williams	Invercargill Repertory	Aug 16 - Aug 19
How To Train Your Husband	Devon Williamson	Hunua Theatre Club	Aug 17 - Aug 26
Blue Remembered Hills	Dennis Potter	Paraparaumu College	Aug 18 - Aug 19
Reasons To Be Pretty	Neil Labute	Masked Productions	Aug 19 - Aug 26
Earthquakes in London	Mike Bartlett	Hillcrest High	Aug 22 - Aug 25
The Game's Afoot or Holmes For The Holidays	Ken Ludwig	Rotorua Little Theatre Society Inc	Aug 23 - Sep 02
Hobson's Choice	Harold Brighouse	Mana Little Theatre	Aug 23 - Sep 02
Agnes Of God	John Pielmeier	Waipukurau Dramatic Soc - Little Theatre	Aug 23 - Sep 01
Noises Off	Michael Frayn	Waikato Diocesan School For Girls	Aug 29 - Aug 30
Stags And Hens	Willy Russell	Howick College	Aug 29 - Aug 31

Mr Wonderful	James Robson	New Plymouth Little Theatre Society	Aug 30 - Sep 09
My Mother Said I Never Should (Student Edition)	Charlotte Keatley	Epsom Girls Grammar School	Aug 30 - Aug 31
The Ladykillers	Graham Lineham	Tauranga Repertory Society	Aug 30 - Sep 16
Punk Rock	Simon Stephens	Whitireia New Zealand - polytechnic	Aug 31 - Sep 09
The Kitchen Witches	Caroline Smith	Harlequin Theatre Inc	Aug 31 - Sep 09
Sex Cells	Anna Longretti	Stratford On Stage	Sep 02 - Sep 09
Calendar Girls	Tim Firth	Te Awamutu Light Operatic Society	Sep 02 - Sep 17
Breaking The Code	Hugh Whitmore	Cambridge Repertory Society	Sep 02 - Sep 16
The Kitchen Witches	Caroline Smith	Detour Theatre Company	Sep 06 - Sep 22
Oliver Twist	Jeremy Brock	Howick Childrens & Youth Theatre Inc	Sep 07 - Sep 10
Love And Information	Caryl Churchill	University of Otago- Theatre Studies	Sep 07 - Sep 08
Dial M For Murder	Frederick Knott	Howick Little Theatre	Sep 09 - Sep 30
Nell Gwynn	Jessica Swale	Wellington Repertory Theatre	Sep 10 - Sep 30
Give Me Your Answer Do!	Brian Friel	Tawa College	Sep 11 - Sep 15
Blood Brothers	Willy Russell	Marlborough Girls College	Sep 11 - Sep 12
Blood at the Root	Dominique Morisseau	Pacific Institute of Performing Arts	Sep 12 - Sep 14
Steel Magnolias	Robert Harling	Greytown Little Theatre	Sep 13 - Sep 23
Bouncers (1990's Remix)	John Godber	Limelight Theatre Company	Sep 13 - Sep 24
The Lieutenant Of Inishmore	Martin McDonagh	University of Otago- Theatre Studies	Sep 14 - Sep 15
Men in Suits : 3 Plays About The Mafia	Jason Milligan	St Bede's College	Sep 19 - Sep 20
Little Luncheonette Of Terror	Tim Kelly	Oratia District School	Sep 20 - Sep 21
The Arsonists	Max Frisch	Sacred Heart College	Sep 21 - Sep 22
Blah Blah Blah	Brian Marshall	Cashmere High School	Sep 21 - Sep 23
Curtain Up!	Peter Quilter	Dolphin Theatre Inc	Sep 22 - Oct 07
Charlie And The Chocolate Factory	Roald Dahl	Kings College	Sep 25 - Sep 26
Thirty-Five Ten Minute Plays	Compiled:Kent R Brown	Victoria University Theatre Programme	Sep 27 - Sep 30
The Woman In Black	Stephen Mallatratt	Victoria University Theatre Programme	Sep 27 - Sep 30

The Caretaker	Harold Pinter	Sacred Heart College	Sep 27 - Sep 28
It Was A Dark And Stormy Night	Tim Kelly	St Peter's College	Sep 28 - Sep 30
And Then There Were None	Agatha Christie	University of Canterbury Dramatic Society Inc	Sep 28 - Oct 07
You've Got Hate Mail	Billy Van Zandt	Takaka Drama Society Inc	Sep 29 - Oct 07
Noises Off	Michael Frayn	Hamilton Playbox	Sep 30 - Oct 14
Charlie And The Chocolate Factory	Roald Dahl	Kids 4 Drama	Oct 10 - Oct 16
Our Town	Thornton Wilder	St Kevins College	Oct 10 - Oct 12
Calendar Girls	Tim Firth	Invercargill Repertory	Oct 16 - Oct 28
Ernie's Incredible Illucinations	Alan Ayckbourn	Kerikeri High School	Oct 17 - Oct 18
Fear And Misery Of The Third Reich	Bertolt Brecht	Green Bay High School	Oct 18 - Oct 19
Nell Gwynn	Jessica Swale	Centre Stage (Taupo) Inc	Oct 18 - Oct 28
Two	Jim Cartwright	Tadpole Productions	Oct 19 - Oct 29
Mr Foote's Other Leg	Ian Kelly	Stagecraft Theatre Inc	Nov 01 - Nov 11
Plaza Suite	Neil Simon	Inglewood Dramatic Soc	Nov 01 - Nov 11
Stones In His Pockets	Marie Jones	Marlborough Repertory Soc Inc	Nov 08 - Nov 18
Animal Farm	Peter Hall	Paeroa Little Theatre	Nov 08 - Nov 12
The 39 Steps	Patrick Barlow	Ellerslie Theatrical Soc	Nov 09 - Nov 18
Twas The Fight Before Christmas!	Devon Williamson	Dargaville Little Theatre	Nov 10 - Nov 25
Earthquakes in London	Mike Bartlett	The Actors Programme	Nov 14 - Nov 25
Exit Laughing	Paul Elliott	Detour Theatre Company	Nov 15 - Dec 02
Are You Being Served?	Jeremy Lloyd	Manawatu Theatre Society	Nov 17 - Dec 02
Bums On Seats	Michael Snelgrove	Mana Little Theatre	Nov 19 - Nov 25
Daisy Pulls It Off	Denise Deegan	Waikato Diocesan School For Girls	Nov 20 - Nov 22