



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

TM2018
theatre month
celebrating and elevating
New Zealand theatre

A List of good New Zealand plays in this Newsletter

The Play Bureau Newsletter

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What's New?

HOT OFF THE PRESS!!

Wedding of the Century

NZ COMEDY

By Devon Williamson

2 M 7 F

Dorothy is a 99 year old nun who has found the perfect item for her bucket list. She's going to find a man and get married on her 100th birthday next week! Enlisting the help of her madcap friends at the rest home, and a teenage girl who has come to interview her for a class project, Dorothy is determined to complete her bucket list and have the wedding of the century! A hilarious comedy where the surprises and laughs just keep on coming, and an ending guaranteed to melt even the hardest heart.

Having Hope At Home

COMEDY

By David S Craig

3M 3W

Carolyn has one evening to cook a three-course turkey dinner, make peace with her parents, get married in her grandmother's dress and hide the fact that she's in labour. What could possibly go wrong? *Having Hope at Home* is a side-splitting look at a family learning to love again. On a cold winter night, in a drafty farmhouse, Carolyn goes into labour just as her parents arrive for dinner. She can't tell them she's having a home birth, as her father is the head of gynaecology at the local hospital. She has to pretend everything is normal including passing off the midwife as the vet. Good intentions dissolve as modern medicine meets midwifery in a torrent of family feuding over where this baby should be born. As tensions rise between the three stubborn generations of family members, so does the laughter. It takes some serious truth-telling and a baby's birth to heal the rift in this hilarious, heart warming story of forgiveness and hope. A light comedy with serious intentions, the play shows us how the human heart sometimes takes the long way home.



Too Far From Heaven

NZ DRAMA

By L Dawson, J Gilles, A Newall

1M 1F 1 either

The true stories of two Southlanders who were executed for their crimes: Minnie Dean (the infamous Winton baby farmer) and Victor Spencer (shot for desertion during WW1).

The story of Dean taking the lives of numerous young babies, abandoned by their mothers, believing that it was God's will that "they be taken home" leaves wide open the question of whether Dean should be pitied or vilified.

A young Maori soldier from Bluff with the Otago regiment, who in 1918 was the last New Zealand soldier executed in World War I for being a perpetual deserter.

His is a familiar tale from the war, one of suffering from shell shock, taking to drink falling in love with a local girl, but unable to cope he runs away and pays the ultimate price. The telling of this tale by Gillies is poignant and heartfelt, and conveys with great insight the plight of this young man.

A roving narrator fills in the gaps, moving the story along and highlighting the inner turmoil of the two characters.

Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2012

New Zealand Fringe Festival 2013

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.



Others you may like:

Paperless

NZ COMEDY

By Shona M Wilson (new kiwi playwright)

2 m 5 F

Paperless is a comedy; an emotive look at redundancy. It is set in 2015.

There are two teams within a government office, called File Safe and Research. All staff members face the threat of redundancy. Two jobs will remain of seven. Long-term staff members find themselves competing with their younger counterparts in a bid to secure the remaining positions.

In an effort to boost morale, every staff member attends a team building weekend. Led by a wayward team leader, these disgruntled employees soon create chaos as their own personal issues emerge. The competition escalates and undermines the whole purpose of the trip, and then the unexpected happens.

The Life and Times of Fanny Hill

ADULT COMEDY

By Carolyn Gage

2 M 4 F

Lock up the kids and head for a rollicking night out with a lady of pleasure, that notorious 18th century 'dirty book', the Life and Times of Fanny Hill.

In April de Angelis's hilarious makeover of the bedside 'classic' prostitute Fanny sacks her (male) biographer and tells it like it REALLY was -with the aid of two foul-mouthed fellow sex workers, a stuffed sock and a cello.

Let Him Sleep 'Til It's Time For His Funeral

COMEDY

By Peg Kehret

3M 3F

In this comedy everything goes from bad to awful It starts when a loving wife, Edna, decides to give her depressed husband, Harold, a funeral for his 50th birthday present He's feeling very old, and she wants to do something crazy to cheer him It's to be a fantastic surprise party for guests, relatives, the undertaker, and most of all, Harold But there's a mix-up Harold believes he's to be murdered by his wife She thinks Harold is leaving her Their daughter and the neighbours all have other ideas This delightful mess is amazingly resolved in a hurricane of hilarity

Raising Martha

DARK COMEDY

By David Spicer

5M 1 F

Five years after her death, Gerry and Roger's mum, Martha, has gone missing. Well, most of her has... The unwitting victims of animal rights activists campaigning for the freedom of the family frog farm's slimy inhabitants, the brothers bring in the hapless Inspector Clout to establish the whereabouts of their long dead mother. An absurdly funny comedy, Raising Martha tackles terrorism, animal rights and six-foot frogs!

Emma

COMEDY

By Jane Austen adp by Michael Bloom.

6M 6F extras

A highly theatrical adaptation of one of Jane Austen's greatest novels. Pledging never to marry, the mischievous Emma Woodhouse is nevertheless the "matchmaker of Highbury." Her newest project, Harriet Smith, has already received a proposal, but Emma insists she marry the eligible vicar Mr. Elton, while, an older family friend, Mr. Knightly, warns her to give up matchmaking. When Emma discovers Mr. Elton is more interested in her, she is forced to fend him off and find another suitor for Harriet. Highbury welcomes two new guests, a mysterious Jane Fairfax and the charming Frank Churchill, and Emma finds herself falling just a little in love with him. Ultimately, she decides that Frank is better suited to Harriet, but when she suggests the match, Emma is astonished to discover that Harriet has fallen for Mr. Knightly. as Frank reveals his secret engagement to Jane, Harriet receives a second offer from her first beau, and Mr. Knightley proposes to the deliriously happy Emma.

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

What's on around the Country

<i>Play</i>	<i>Author</i>	<i>Group</i>	<i>Dates</i>
The Surprising Story Of The Three Little Pigs	Linda Daugherty	Nelson Youth Theatre Charitable Trust	Jun 02 - Jun 03
Never The Sinner	John Logan	Dunedin Repertory Soc	Jun 02 - Jun 10
Metamorphosis	Steven Berkoff	Macleans College	Jun 06 - Jun 07
Ghosts	Richard Eyre	Titirangi Theatre Inc	Jun 06 - Jun 15
Central Otago Man	Justin Eade	Taieri Dramatic Society Inc	Jun 08 - Jun 16
The Thrill Of Love	Amanda Whittington	Elmwood Players	Jun 08 - Jun 17
Calendar Girls	Tim Firth	Onewhero Society of Performing Arts	Jun 09 - Jun 17
Murder at the Prop Table	Ed Bassett	Te Puke Repertory Society	Jun 09 - Jun 24
Are You Being Served?	Jeremy Lloyd	Whangarei Repertory Society (Octagon Theatre)	Jun 09 - Jun 25
Love, Love, Love	Mike Bartlett	Nelson Repertory Theatre	Jun 09 - Jun 17
Out Of Order	Ray Cooney	Cambridge Repertory Society	Jun 10 - Jun 25
Murder On The Nile	Agatha Christie	Detour Theatre Company	Jun 14 - Jul 01
A Tomb With A View	Norman Robbins	Dolphin Theatre Inc	Jun 16 - Jul 01
Love And Information	Caryl Churchill	Palmerston North Girls High School	Jun 21 - Jun 22
Love And Information	Caryl Churchill	Whitireia New Zealand - Polytechnic	Jun 22 - Jul 01
The Dresser	Ronald Harwood	Waiheke Theatre Company	Jun 22 - Jul 01
DNA (School Edition)	Dennis Kelly	Takapuna Grammar School	Jun 27 - Jun 28
Allo 'Allo	Jeremy Lloyd	Musical Theatre Dunedin Inc	Jun 28 - Jul 15
I Never Saw Another Butterfly	Celeste Raspanti	Country Players Inc	Jun 30 - Jul 01
In The Tank	Rosemary Frisino Toohey	Country Players Inc	Jun 30 - Jul 01
Twelve Angry Men	Sherman Sergal	Scots College	Jul 03 - Jul 04
Grimm Tales	Philip Wilson	Takapuna Grammar School	Jul 04 - Jul 06
Find Me	Olwen Wymark	Glenfield College	Jul 05 - Jul 06
Find Me	Olwen Wymark	St. Marys College	Jul 05 - Jul 06
Cheshire Cats	Gail Young	Fiordland Players	Jul 06 - Jul 08

Robin Hood	Tim Kelly	Hutt Repertory Theatre	Jul 10 - Jul 15
Up 'n' Under	John Godber	Top Dog Theatre	Jul 12 - Jul 22
Antigone	Jean Anouilh	Backyard Productions	Jul 12 - Jul 22
A Dog's Life	Pam Valentine	Theatre Hawkes Bay	Jul 20 - Jul 29
The Wind In The Willows	Alan Bennett	Khandallah Arts Theatre	Jul 20 - Jul 29
Barefoot In The Park	Neil Simon	Rotorua Little Theatre Society Inc	Jul 21 - Aug 05
Caught In The Net	Ray Cooney	Te Aroha Dramatic Society	Jul 26 - Aug 05
Blithe Spirit	Noel Coward	Aubyn Live Theatre Inc	Jul 27 - Aug 06
The Supermarket Sisterhood	Devon Williamson	New Players Theatre	Jul 27 - Aug 05
A Murder Is Announced	Agatha Christie	Shoreside Theatre Inc	Jul 27 - Aug 05
Calendar Girls	Tim Firth	Geraldine Players	Jul 27 - Aug 05
Gasping	Ben Elton	Dolphin Theatre Inc	Aug 04 - Aug 19
The Opposite Sex	David Tristram	Whangarei Theatre Co.	Aug 04 - Aug 19
Things My Mother Taught Me	Katherine DiSavino	Foxton Little Theatre Soc Inc	Aug 04 - Aug 19
Last Of The Summer Wine	Roy Clarke	South Canterbury Drama League Inc	Aug 04 - Aug 11
The Better Half	Noel Coward	Friends of the Globe Theatre	Aug 04 - Aug 05
Key For Two	John Chapman	New Plymouth Repertory Society	Aug 08 - Aug 19
Ladies' Day	Amanda Whittington	Company Theatre	Aug 11 - 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
Hobson's Choice	Harold Brighouse	Mana Little Theatre	Aug 23 - Sep 02
Stags And Hens	Willy Russell	Howick College	Aug 28 - Aug 31
Noises Off	Michael Frayn	Waikato Diocesan School For Girls	Aug 29 - Aug 30
The Ladykillers	Graham Lineham	Tauranga Repertory Society	Aug 30 - Sep 16
Mr Wonderful	James Robson	New Plymouth Little Theatre Society	Aug 30 - Sep 09
Punk Rock	Simon Stephens	Whitireia New Zealand - Polytechnic	Aug 31 - Sep 09