



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! Emails will be checked and mail collected sporadically.

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Kind Regards

Helen

The Play Bureau Newsletter

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What's New?

HOT OFF THE PRESS!!

Confessions of a Dirty Blonde

by Billy Van Zandt

Comedy

6 M 2 F

The year is 1962. Living legend Lillian Lamour, a Mae West like sex siren, comes out of seclusion for a one night tribute at Carnegie Hall. While recreating her famous 1933 Time Magazine cover, a lion bites her world famous derriere exposing, among other things, that she is a he. Get out the boxer shorts, wigs and size ten pumps! The masters of modern farce are back with an outrageously zany comedy. Now Hollywood's best kept secret will be revealed unless Lillian's press agent can put a lid on things. Neither the gangster crooner ex boyfriend nor Lillian's wallflower daughter is aware of the truth, but the hotel doctor knows and can't convince anyone else. This screwball comedy in the tradition of the Marx Brothers is a scream.

Dracula: The Bloody Truth

by John Nicholson & Le Navet Bete

Comedy

4 M

Travelling across Europe, from the dark and sinister Transylvanian mountains to the charming seaside town of Whitby, Professor Van Helsing and his three amateur actors stage a life-changing, theatrical production of Dracula hoping to establish, once and for all, the bloody truth.

The result is a delightfully silly, fast-paced and faithful (-ish) adaptation by John Nicholson (Hound of the Baskervilles, Peepolykus) of Bram Stoker's novel, originally performed by physical-comedy theatre company Le Navet Bete on a UK tour in 2017.

Performed by four actors playing forty characters. Dracula: The Bloody Truth is a full-blooded adaptation offering abundant opportunities for any theatre company or drama group to sink their teeth into.

Ben Hur

Comedy

by Patrick Barlow

3 M 1 F

Based on one of the best-selling books of the 19th century and the Academy Award-winning film of grand proportion, comes the stage adaptation with four actors. The story follows an amateur theatre troupe as they produce the massive tale of the fictional Jewish prince and merchant Judah Ben-Hur. He falls to galley slave and rises to champion charioteer within Jerusalem during the life of Jesus Christ, while the actors struggle along through the piece as rivalries form and offstage romances interfere. Complete with chariot race, sea battle, and stage combat, Patrick Barlow weaves his compressed style popularized by The 39 Steps into one of the largest stories ever told.



Stop The Play

by David Spicer

4 M 3 F

I have read the play, Evelyn! I keep reading the play but the play keeps on changing! Five neurotic actors, one stressed Stage Manager, a crazed director, an invisible playwright and an escaped monkey are desperately rehearsing the world's worst play, which keeps being rewritten. And every rewrite is more hilariously terrible than the one before. And although it really shouldn't, somehow, the show manages to go on.

Comedy

The Return of Edwin Drood

by Michael Druce

9 M 7 F

When Charles Dickens died having completed only half of his final novel, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, readers worldwide were left with one of the greatest literary mysteries of all time. What happened to Edwin Drood? Did he simply disappear, or was he murdered? Clues abound and evidence points to a vicious attack, but the truth is elusive. *The Return of Edwin Drood* offers a tantalizing theory. A decade has passed since Drood's disappearance and presumed death. Now he suddenly reappears. He has been living in America where he has gradually overcome amnesia brought on by a savage attack 10 years earlier. His memory now fully restored, Drood returns to his home in England to reclaim his life and property, to rekindle his relationship with Rosa, the woman with whom he was once in love, and to discover the identity of the assailant who stole 10 years of his life. With the help of world-renowned illusionist Madame Robert, Drood sets into motion an elaborate plan to discover the assailant's identity and to force a confession. As Drood closes in on his target, questions arise about the nature of forgiveness and redemption and the relationship between justice and revenge.

Drama

Four Weddings and an Elvis

by Nancy Frick

7 M 4 F

Sandy, the four-times-married-three-times-divorced owner of a wedding chapel in Las Vegas, has certainly seen her fair share of matrimonies! In the hilarious *Four Weddings and an Elvis*, we witness four of her funniest: Bev and Stan, who are getting married--by the King himself--as revenge on their exes; Vanessa and Bryce, two arrogant aging stars who are tying the knot as a publicity ploy, and are vexed by an aging Elvis who doesn't know who they are; and Martin and Fiona, a gentle postal-worker and a tough ex-con trying to get married before the police arrive! However, the final wedding is the funniest all: Sandy's fifth and final wedding which reveals a hilarious twist! With simple scenic requirements and memorable characters, *Four Weddings and an Elvis* is a comedic treat certain to please audiences!

Comedy

The Nether

by Jennifer Haley

3 M 1 F 1 Girl

The Nether is a virtual wonderland that provides total sensory immersion. Just log in, choose an identity and indulge your every desire. But when a young detective uncovers a disturbing brand of entertainment, she triggers an interrogation into the darkest corners of the imagination. Winner of the 2012 Susan Smith Blackburn Prize, *The Nether* is both a serpentine crime drama and haunting sci-fi thriller that explores the consequences of living out our private dreams.

Drama

Angry Young Women in Low Rise Jeans with High Class Issues

Comedy

by Mat Morillo

6 m 7 F

This outrageous new comedy is told in five outrageously funny parts all dealing with young women and the various issues they confront today. It's part sit-com, part stand-up, and part sketch-comedy. This collection of vignettes parades a series of foxy, witty, and anxious women who bear the expectations of the world like an itchy muffler. Coffee-driven, sensitive, wired, misunderstood, and fuming with awkward issues, these girls are frustrated with the ways of the world, the perceptions men have of them and their own complex reactions to it. How, for example, do you resolve societal contradictions like dressing sexy and still considering yourself a feminist? These women go head to head with such

issues as Electra complexes, bikini waxes, low rider jeans, their oversexed mothers, thongs, brazen teenagers, men's sexual fantasies, side effects of birth control drugs, mean teenagers on the subway, sympathy sex, and the artistic integrity of penises and vaginas in independent films. This play has great material for scene and monologue work as well as for performance



You

Drama

by Mark Wilson

Now in her mid-forties, Kathleen sits anxiously waiting for the arrival of the man whom she gave up for adoption thirty years before. Years spent insulating herself against the pain of separation and loss fall away 'like bricks in a flood wall' as she allows herself to recall the events of that time with a clarity that brings each of her story's characters to life.

Central to the play is Kathleen's relationship with her son – the baby whom she only knew "...for six short weeks" and the grown man, "...parking somewhere now, I expect. Getting out of his car, looking at the houses. Looking at this house". 'You' is about loss and the way it has shaped Kathleen's life. It is also about its impact upon her family and everyone else who found themselves a part of her story.

One Act Plays:

Call Me Anna

Drama

by Shona M Wilson

5 M 3 F

The premise of Call Me Anna is simple. A fourteen-year old girl called Destinee is teased about her name and so she wants to change it. Destinee imagines being Anna, convinced that Anna's life is much easier than her own.

Call Me Anna is a one-act play about current social issues for teenagers and peer pressure. It touches on bullying, self-harming, drug use and family dysfunction. It has more cast members than a standard play, to appeal to the drama unit of a high school. This play is designed for a whole class to participate in all aspects of theatre production.

Final Dress Rehearsal

by Jack Frakes

Comedy

13 F

An amateur theatrical group's final dress rehearsal of Cinderella is a disaster: Cinderella is late, the prompter wants to play all the parts, the sassy stage crew is noisy, the author feels her brainchild is being ruined and the director is distraught. The stepsisters miss cues, sound effects are played at the wrong speed, the messenger crashes her bicycle and the fairy godmother can't find her wand. Final Dress Rehearsal is among the most popular plays for high school production according to the International Thespian Society.

Eating Rhode Island

by Lawrence Thelen

Comedy Satire

3 M 2 F

Eating Rhode Island examines the political insanity of 21st-century America and the small state of Rhode Island that dares to be different. Rhode Island's Governor McGruder attempts to create a moral utopia out of the tiny state and finds support from his eccentric constituents. Soon people across the country are heading to Rhode Island in search of a better life. Among them are Danny and his wife, Sarah. Once in Rhode Island, Danny and Sarah take to their new lives with enthusiasm, until one day when a technicality dictates Sarah's exile to Massachusetts. Danny is left to choose between his wife and his newfound happiness in Rhode Island. Eating Rhode Island asks these questions: 1) how much government intervention in our everyday lives is necessary, and 2) can too much morality be bad, and when does too much morality cross the line into insanity? At the outset, Danny and Sarah's move from Texas to Rhode Island seems to be a great thing. But as the truths about this "moral utopia" are revealed, you must decide whether Rhode Island is an enlightened and progressive state or one that is secretly oppressive and cult-like.



Looking for a crowd Puller?

Here is a report from a recent production by Howick that did really well for them. It is an oldie but a goodie 'Dial M for Murder' by Frederick Knott

"A masterpiece" was how the newspaper reviewer described Howick Little Theatre's revival of the thriller *Dial M for Murder*. "The set, the acting, the storyline – it all worked together to create a masterpiece and I loved every moment of it," said Kelly Teed of the *Howick and Pakuranga Times*. And she wasn't the only one. Audiences flocked along to this 1952 classic crime mystery by Frederick Knott and they were on the edge of their seats, waiting to see what would happen following the dramatic scissors stabbing of the would-be murderer. Despite a longer than normal first half, which had two of the three acts, you could have heard a pin drop each night during the season. This is an easy thriller for community groups to stage, as it has a small cast, single set and no bloody mess to clean up in the interval. It will also captivate audiences, who recognise the title, thanks to the Alfred Hitchcock film of the same name, which starred Grace Kelly as the put-upon wife of former tennis pro Tony Wendice.



Male Two Hander's - Check out on our website

The Zoo Story by Edward Albee

The Dumb Waiter by Harold Pinter

A Man of Letters by Tim Firth

Bookends by Scott Perry

The Bespoke Overcoat by Wolf Mankowitz

A Couple of Blaguards by Frank and Malachy McCourt

A Life in the Theatre by David Mamet

A Number by Caryl Churchill

Love Upon the Throne by Patrick Barlow

Not About Heroes by Stephen Macdonald

Samuel J. & K. by Mat Smart

Stones in His Pocket by Marie Jones

The Mystery of Irma Vep by Charles Ludlam



Popular Comedy Playwrights:

Ray Cooney
Peter Gordon
Ken Ludwig
Devon Williamson
Alan Ayckbourn
David Tristram
Derek Benfield
Michael Cooney
Michael Frayn
Rick Abbot
Michael Parker
Mike Harding
Patrick Barlow

Supermarket Sisterhood by Devon Williamson



New Players Theatre have the staff uniforms and Signage available for “Supermarket Sisterhood” if you are thinking of performing this play. Let us know and we can put you in contact with them. Great play for a small town!

What's on around the Country

<i>Play</i>	<i>Author</i>	<i>Group</i>	<i>Dates</i>
Ernie's Incredible Illucinations	Alan Ayckbourn	Kerikeri High School	Oct 17 - Oct 18
One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest	Dale Wasserman	Burnside High School	Oct 17 - Oct 18
My Mother Said I Never Should	Charlotte Keatley	Marlborough Girls College	Oct 17 - Oct 18
Girls Like That	Evan Placey	Rangi Ruru Girls School	Oct 17 - Oct 18
Chatroom	Enda Walsh	Jenna Marie Productions	Oct 18 - Oct 21
Fear And Misery Of The Third Reich	Bertolt Brecht	Green Bay High School	Oct 18 - Oct 19
Two	Jim Cartwright	Tadpole Productions	Oct 19 - Oct 29
Extremities	William Mastrosimone	Poniard Productions	Oct 19 - Oct 21
Calendar Girls	Tim Firth	Invercargill Repertory	Oct 24 - Oct 28
Nell Gwynn	Jessica Swale	Centre Stage (Taupo) Inc	Oct 24 - Nov 04
Top Girls	Caryl Churchill	Churton Park Young Actors	Oct 28 - Oct 29
Grimm Tales	Carol Ann Duffy	New Plymouth Girls High School	Nov 01 - Nov 02
Plaza Suite	Neil Simon	Inglewood Dramatic Soc	Nov 01 - Nov 11
Mr Foote's Other Leg	Ian Kelly	Stagecraft Theatre Inc	Nov 01 - Nov 11
Proof	David Auburn	Te Pou Theatre	Nov 02 - Nov 11
Bette & Joan	Anton Burge	Harlequin Theatre Inc	Nov 07 - Dec 16
Kindly Leave The Stage	John Chapman	Rotorua Little Theatre Society Inc	Nov 08 - Nov 18
Animal Farm	Peter Hall	Paeroa Little Theatre	Nov 08 - Nov 12
Stones In His Pockets	Marie Jones	Marlborough Repertory Soc Inc	Nov 08 - Nov 18
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
The Farndale Avenue... Murder Mystery	David McGillivray	Feilding Little Theatre Players Inc	Nov 10 - Nov 25
You've Got Hate Mail	Billy Van Zandt	Takaka Drama Society Inc	Nov 10 - Nov 18
Deathtrap	Ira Levin	Company Theatre	Nov 10 - Nov 24
Earthquakes in London	Mike Bartlett	The Actors Programme	Nov 14 - Nov 25
Exit Laughing	Paul Elliott	Detour Theatre Company	Nov 15 - Dec 02

The Farndale Avenue... Murder Mystery	David McGillivray	Oamaru Repertory Society Inc	Nov 15 - Nov 19
I'll Be Back Before Midnight	Peter Colley	Kapiti Playhouse Inc	Nov 15 - Nov 25
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
Seasons Greetings	Alan Ayckbourn	Tauranga Repertory Society	Nov 22 - Dec 09
Calendar Girls	Tim Firth	Whangarei Repertory Society	Nov 23 - Dec 09
A Christmas Carol	John Jakes	Waiheke Theatre Company	Nov 23 - Dec 09
Ghost Writer	David Tristram	Foxton Little Theatre Soc Inc	Nov 23 - Dec 02
Jack And The Giant	Vera Morris	Onewhero Society of Performing Arts	Nov 23 - Nov 25
Peter Panto	Peter Webster	Waipawa Musical Society	Nov 24 - Dec 02
A Kick In The Baubles	Gordon Steel	Hutt Repertory Theatre	Nov 29 - Dec 16
James And The Giant Peach	Roald Dahl	Mairangi Players Inc	Dec 01 - Dec 09
The Plotters Of Cabbage Patch Corner	David Wood	Marian School	Dec 05 - Dec 06
The Ladykillers	Graham Lineham	Friends of the Globe Theatre	Dec 07 - Dec 16
The Caucasian Chalk Circle	Tom Kuhn	Churton Park Young Actors	Dec 12 - Dec 15