

PROMPT CORNER

JULY 2014



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Patron:

Hon Nicky Wagner

2014 Contacts:

Garry Thomas (President)
(03) 342 1055 or 021 453 138
prez@elmwood-players.org.nz

Susan Cameron (treasurer)
sj-cameron@clear.net.nz

Barry Tomkinson (Secretary)
barry.t@cactuschch.co.nz

Klaus Hermanspahn
klaush@paradise.net.nz

Brian Sullivan (Web Editor)
brian.sullivan@xtra.co.nz

Sarah Coursey (Membership)
s.coursey84@gmail.com

Peter Clark (Front of House)

Sam Primrose

Samantha Creed

Phil Dean



PERFORMANCE NOTICE

BOOKINGS NOW OPEN



Elmwood Players Present



3 NZ Short Plays



Tuesday 5th to Saturday 9th August, 7:30pm

"Verbatim"

by William Brandt
Devised by Miranda Harcourt
& William Brandt
Directed by: Susan Cameron

"The 73rd Day"

by Brian Hannam
Directed by: Tom Hart

"Childs Play"

by T J Ramsey
Directed by: Sarah Coursey

To book: Phone (03) 355 8874
or book online at www.elmwood-players.org.nz
Venue: Elmwood Auditorium,
31 Aikmans Road, Merivale

All Seats \$12

FROM THE PREZ



Well here we are mid-way through the year and Spring is on the horizon – okay it's still some weeks away, but not being a 'winter person' I am definitely awaiting its arrival with much anticipation. There's a lot happening within Elmwood Players at the moment, with our season of one act plays about to commence, participation in the NZTF Play Festival looming, and auditions in a few weeks' time for our October production.

“Toru – 3 Short NZ Plays”

We have three excellent one acts lined up for you under the “Toru” banner and opening on Tuesday 5 August for a five night run. All seats are just \$12, so this is real value for money. Two dramas and a comedy will ensure an entertaining evening for all. All three plays are entered in this year's Theatre NZ Play Festival (details elsewhere in this newsletter), and we have done pretty well in the past, so expectations are high. We welcome back directors Susan Cameron (2012's “A Galway Girl”) and Sarah Coursey (2013's “The New Quixote”), along with new to Elmwood, director Tom Hart.

“Gym And Tonic”

Auditions for this very funny adult comedy (on stage in October) are set for 9 August. Steve Millar, who directed last year's popular NZ comedy “Well Hung” returns once again to the director's chair. It's a large-ish cast, so if you're interested in a role, contact Steve for further info and/or audition time.

“Thick As Thieves”

Well done to director Phil Dean and the cast and crew of “Thick As Thieves” – several performances were close to sold out, thus ensuring one of Elmwood Players most successful seasons in recent times. Great stuff!

Strategic Planning

The Elmwood committee recently held a half day strategic planning meeting with the view to focus on our future direction. Lots of positives from the session, assisted by some non-committee participation; the next step is to pull all the ideas together into a workable action plan.

2015 Programme

We have pretty much set our 2015 programme, with the Pulitzer Prize winning “Proof” awaiting final confirmation for June, and Marilyn Ollett is set to direct a great adult comedy later in 2015.

Next year will also feature another season of one acts, the title is still to be decided, but once again all plays on offer will be by NZ playwrights. The committee feels very strongly about supporting NZ productions whenever possible.

Brian Sullivan

A big ‘thank-you’ to Brian Sullivan, who has departed Christchurch for the winter-less north; I think he arrived up there just in time for the floods. Brian has been involved with Elmwood Players over the years - on stage, off stage, front of house, set building and also looking after our web page and newsletter (which he will continue to do from afar as much as modern technology will allow, with assistance from Sam Primrose). Thank you Brian for all your efforts, very much appreciated.

Right, I've probably taken up more space than I was allowed, so better go – catch you at “Toru.”

Gaz

THICK AS THIEVES

Photos courtesy of Geoff Kendall



AUDITION NOTICE

“GYM AND TONIC”

by John Godber

Director: Steve Millar

Auditions: 10:30am to 3:30pm (by appointment), Elmwood Auditorium, Aikmans Road, *Saturday 9 August*. For audition time and/or more info, contact Steve 021 2322453 or steve.millar@anzor.co.nz

About the play:

In the middle of a mid-life crisis and a stagnant marriage, where's the best place to go? Well according to playwright John Godber it would be the Scardale Hall Health Farm, and that's just where Don and Shirley Weston have come to relax, pamper themselves and just possibly rescue their ailing marriage.

Known for his innovative work in Theatre (“*Bouncers*”, “*Shakers*” et al), John Godber is one of the most widely performed writers in the English language. Elmwood Players are excited to bring this production to the Christchurch stage this October.

Cast

Don Weston (39/40)

Shirley Weston (37)

Gertrude Tate (72) – Wealthy, refined widow

Ken Blake (42) – Fitness fanatic

Zoe (27) – Aerobics Instructor

Chloe (23) – The sexy masseuse

Maggie Weston (65) – Don's mum

Sam Weston (13) – Don's son

Shaun (21)

Bellboy (20)

The parts of Zoe and Chloe can be doubled; Maggie and Gertrude can be doubled; Shaun, Sam and Bellboy can be trebled. Ages are an indication only.

THEATREFEST 2014

DISTRICT FINALS, 2 AND 3 AUGUST, 2:00PM
AND 7:30PM BOTH DAYS, NASDA THEATRE,
CPIT, MADRAS STREET



Theatre New Zealand's Canterbury/West Coast District are pleased to announce this year's Short Play Festival. Up to 12 one act plays will be brought to the stage by six theatre groups from Christchurch. . Festivals such as this provide everyone involved the opportunity to explore and enhance their creativity, while also ensuring quality productions for audiences to enjoy. Successful productions from this festival will go on to the Regional Finals later in August, with the National Finals to be held in Wellington in September.



2014-2015 SEASON

"Toru - 3 NZ Short Plays"

("Verbatim", "The 73rd Day" and "Child's Play")

Directors: Susan Cameron, Tom Hart and Sarah Coursey

5 to 9 August 2014

"Gym & Tonic"

By John Godber

Dir: Steve Millar

1 to 4 and 8 - 11 October

Don and Shirley Weston have come to the Scardale Hall Health Hydro to relax, pamper themselves and just possibly rescue their ailing marriage.

"The Three Billy Goats Gruff"

Adapted and directed by: Jayde Braxton

January 2015

Elmwood Players annual Children's Theatre returns with this re-telling of this classic tale.

"The Hen Night Epiphany"

By Jimmy Murphy

Dir: Garry Thomas

April 2015

Una is keeping a secret that, if revealed, will destroy all hopes of her dream wedding and living happily ever after with the love of her life.

"Proof" (To be confirmed)

By David Auburn

Dir: Sam Primrose

June 2015

The daughter of a brilliant but mentally disturbed mathematician (recently deceased) tries to come to grips with her possible inheritance: his insanity. Complicating matters are one of her father's ex-students who wants to search through his papers and her estranged sister who shows up to help settle his affairs. (Winner of 2001 Pulitzer Prize for Drama and Tony Award for Best Play.)

Prompt Corner is the newsletter of the Elmwood Players.

Correspondence:

publicity@elmwood-players.org.nz

Elmwood
31 Aikmans Road, Merivale
PO Box 2585
Christchurch

Ph: (03) 355 8874

Email: contact@elmwood-players.org.nz