



President's Report

Hi folks

Well 2015 sure has been busy so far – so glad we have a comfy chair in the foyer to recline in! Pity Barbara keeps the wine locked up!

Our last play (deep breath) *The Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Production of Macbeth* drew in superb audiences. I'm sure some in the audience knew the lines better than the cast (that's not saying much). I had great fun directing this and what a wonderful cast and crew! Two nights were booked out for fundraisers and I do encourage you to think about this option for future productions – it's a fun way to raise money for students going on overseas school trips and for favourite charities. More details under bookings below. Particular thanks must go to Jacob Cannell (yes the Cannell clan have donated their children to the theatre) who bailed us out when our lighting maestro Alan was taken ill. What a play to have to make your debut – well done Jacob!

Maureen Aitken did us all proud with a wonderful evening of jazz on Saturday 11 July, with Kevin Clark and Fran Barton. I'm sure we could have had at least two full houses with that performance. I know Maus is looking at further musical evenings this year so if you know of any good musicians get them to contact us.

Bruce Cannell led his merry team for a working bee and now the ceiling in the theatre has been painted, the foyer paint has been touched up and the set is underway for our next production. We are still looking for helpers so if you're interested – or know of anyone who might be – then please contact us. Thanks to those who have given up their time, we couldn't do without you.

Alan De La Mare and the technical team are putting together a proposal to get a grant to update our lights – we'll keep you informed about this. Both Alan and Ben

Forrest have been training extra people to broaden the skill set for MLT and ensure we have a team of people to call upon. So far we have young Matt Oliver on sound and Jacob Cannell on lights. If anyone else is interested in learning about these please contact us. The aim is to have teams we can call on for technical, set building/painting/props, publicity, costumes and front of house so we are not reliant on the same few people. It also gives a wonderful opportunity for younger members to have some fun and learn new skills (keeps them out of mischief!). On that note I would like to thank Fran Forrest, our Publicity Officer for all her hard work in the past year – she's recently become a grandmother so her job has been divided between four people!

Rehearsals for our next production, *Misconceptions* by David Lewis are in full swing. We have a new director, Damian Reid, who played Porky in our production of *Once On Chunuk Bair* earlier this year, and who has just finished a successful season as Rene in *Hello, Hello* for New Players. I'm looking forward to this drama. Infertility is very topical at present and we have a wonderful cast to tackle such a sensitive subject. It's a moving play lightened with touches of humour. Tickets are on sale and priority booking has been given to members and groups for a short time only before tickets go public. Topor Restaurant is kindly supporting us again by offering 25% off the price of a meal when booked in advance. You will need to give them your booking number when you make your reservation.

Hope you're keeping wrapped up warm on these chilly winter evenings. Thankfully we now have good heating both in the theatre and the foyer so there's no excuse not to come and spend a fun evening with us. Look forward to seeing you soon

Sue Mortimer

President



2-5 September @ 8.00pm
6 September @ 3.00pm
9-12 September @ 8.00pm

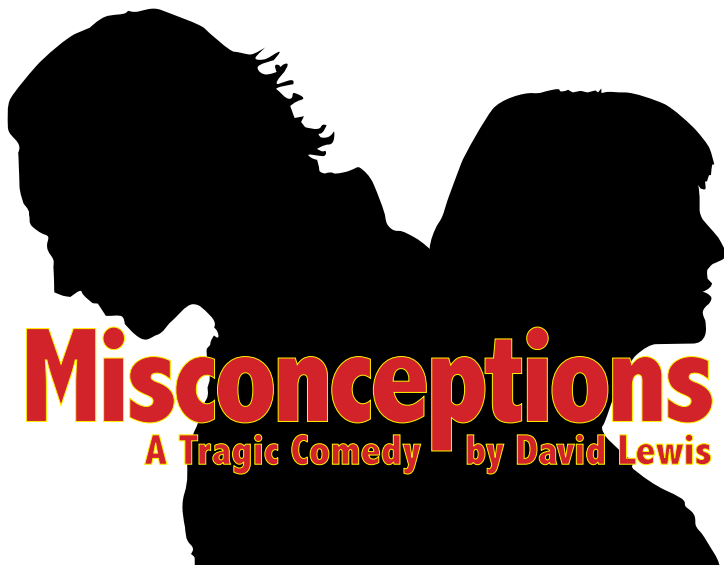
@ Mana Little Theatre, Plimmerton

Bookings: email mlttickets@gmail.com
or phone/text **021 0257 7648**

www.manalittletheatre.org

Warning this play contains adult themes
and strong language.





MLT's Next Production

– opening Wednesday 3 September:

Misconceptions by David Lewis. Directed by Damian Reid

Starring Mana Little Theatre members:

Gary Mills – Matthew; Fiona Popert – Linda; Chris Balm – Barry; and newcomer to MLT: Katie Boyle – Zoe

University Biology lecturer Matthew and his wife Linda are the perfect professional couple with the perfect home: successful, prosperous and happy with their lives together. True they have been attempting to conceive a baby for years without success, which has placed great strains on their marriage and sure they've had their problems like everyone else but those are safely behind them. Right?

Despite Linda's initial reluctance, Matthew convinces her to enlist the help of a mutual friend (Barry) for a bit of DIY artificial insemination, leading to unexpected and often hilarious results as the myths surrounding infertility and human sexuality collide. However, what is the image

on the strange fax that Linda receives? What's the real purpose of loveable Barry's regular, but unsettling, visits? Who is interfering with the blackberries from the freezer? Why does Matthew dress as Ratty from the Wind in the Willows? Who is Zoe? Does she really have wings? And what killed the Okapi in Copenhagen zoo? David Lewis' virtuoso new comedy, by turns hilarious and heart-breaking, straight-talking and surreal, cuts a breath taking anarchic swathe through the way we live our lives today.

Please note this play contains some strong language and sexual content. Suitable for older teens and adults.

Performance dates:

3-12 September, Wednesdays – Saturdays, 8.00pm

Matinee Sunday 6 September at 3.00pm

Bookings essential: Phone and please leave a message.

Email mlttickets@gmail.com or phone/text 021 0257 7648

As a member of the society, you have priority booking for the next week, as do groups. After this tickets will be become publically available.

Fundraising:

If you want to book the theatre for a fundraiser then the cost is reduced to \$20 per seat – a total of \$980 for 49 seats. You can sell tickets for as much as you like. A liquor license is available for you to also sell drinks. Some charge \$35 a ticket and include one drink and nibbles in the price. They also usually have a raffle. You need to let me know quickly if you are interested in this option.

Have dinner before the play at Topor and receive a generous 25% discount off your restaurant bill. Bookings essential (04 233 9939) and you need to give them your theatre booking number.

Calling All Directors & Wannabe Directors:

If you would like to direct a play at Mana Little Theatre in 2016 then please contact us before October with two possible plays for us to choose between. If you have a burning desire to direct but don't know where to start then contact us anyway as we can support you throughout the process. Let us know when you are / are not available in 2016. We will be starting the process of selecting our programme for next year in October so we need to know of any interest no later than the 14 September.

Drama Classes:

If you have a school-aged child interested in drama classes then contact Roz Baxter 027 693 9573. She has drama classes in Ulric Street on Tuesday afternoons and other times.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR SUBS YET?

If not, could you please do so ☺

Topor

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Thanks to Harcourts for their sponsorship –

