



Mana Little Theatre



Newsletter, June 2016

*Notes from
the President*

Hi folks

Well it seems that winter is starting to catch up with us so what better time to have a night out at the theatre? Our first play for 2016 was 'Under Milk Wood' by Dylan Thomas and was very well received with good audiences from all over the Wellington region – right up to the Wairarapa. Well done to Maureen Aitkin (Maus) and her talented cast and a huge thank you to the Mana Arts Society for painting the set. How wonderful it has been to see two community groups combine talents.

We have some winter treats in store for you starting in June with a wonderful comedy, 'The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)' by Adam Long, Daniel Singer., and Jess Winfield. We're delighted to welcome Andrew Watson from the Upper Hutt Theatre as Director plus two new actors to MLT – Nick Achilles and Nick Edwards. The third of the trio of actors is our own Bruce Cannell (I think his wife pays us to keep him out of the house!) Rehearsals are well under way and I've been driven mad trying to recreate The Globe Theatre on stage – all that marbling! Thank goodness the cavalry has arrived in the form of artists Heather Evans and Kristina Owen-Smith. Set design, building and painting is so very important in setting the scene, especially as we don't have curtains. We want our audiences to be excited when they first enter the theatre but it is difficult sometimes to find people willing to give up a few hours to build and paint our sets so if you feel the urge then please give me your name because I could really do with your help. Before you say you can't paint – I'm not an artist either but it's amazing what you can do!

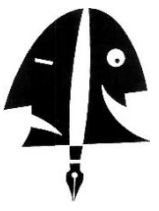
I'm pleased to announce that we have overcome our lack of male actors and after a few weeks of negotiations, blackmail and shameless begging, we have a cast for our third play of the year in August, 'Blue Remembered Hills' by Dennis Potter. So welcome back Marion Rosner, Hayden Rogers, and Neil Rusling and a warm welcome to our new actors to MLT – Meredith Dooley, Jeff Osbourne, Tony Hogan, and a stage virgin – Nigel Parry! (Poor Nigel doesn't know what I've got in store for him) I'm so looking forward to directing this with such a stellar cast.

We have continued to make improvements to our lighting system and Alan De La Mare has worked a miracle and procured 32 lights for the princely sum of \$4,000. This is cheap even by second hand prices and we're delighted that Te Papa decided they didn't need them anymore. Now with a refurbished theatre, new sound system and a new light system, we feel that we can move forwards with renewed vigour.....

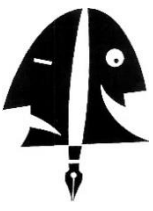
Don't forget that the AGM is this coming Sunday, 29th May, at 3.00 p.m. at the theatre – hopefully see you then.

So get your diaries out, book your seats and come and enjoy a great show at our very special and beautiful little theatre! We look forward to seeing you.

Sue



Next Production



The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)

By Adam Long, Daniel Singer, and Jess Winfield.
Director Andrew Watson.

By permission of Hal Leonard Australia Pty Ltd on behalf of Paradigm, New York

Wednesday 15th – Saturday 18th June at 8.00 p.m.
Sunday 19th June, matinee at 3.00 p.m.
Wednesday 22nd – Saturday 25th June at 8.00 p.m.

Tickets are on sale from mlttickets@gmail.com or 021 025 77648.

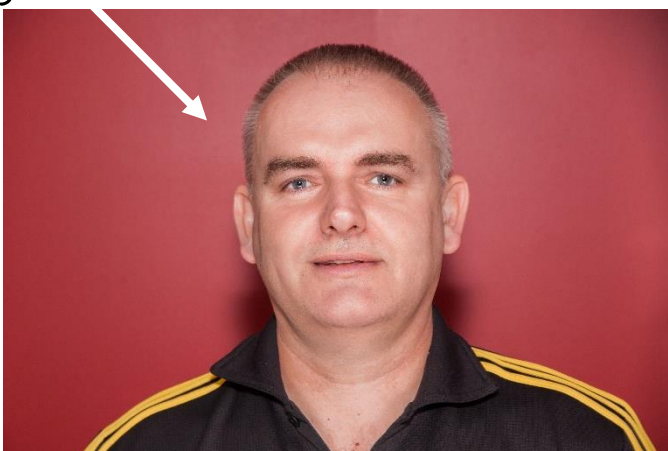
Three men in tights, Hamlet backwards, Othello in rap, an actor struggling to find his inner Ophelia – what could possibly go wrong? This is a hilarious romp through all 37 of the Bard's plays in just two hours, including the interval! It was a hit in London's West End and I can't wait to see it!

Starring (below, from right to left) Nick Achilles, Bruce Cannell and Nick Edwards.



It's story time, with Nick, Bruce, and Nick

This is Andrew



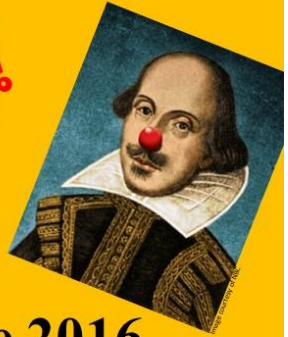
Sponsored by **Harcourts**

 **Mana Little Theatre**

presents

The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)

Comedy!



by Adam Long, Daniel Singer, and Jess Winfield

15 – 25 June 2016

Wed to Sat 8.00 p.m.

Sun 19 June 3.00 p.m.

Bookings: mlttickets@gmail.com

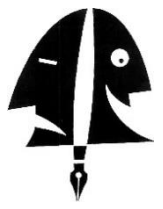
021 025 77648

By arrangement with Hal Leonard Australia Pty Ltd, on behalf of Paradigm, New York

NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

"After 24 years away, it's great to be back at Mana Little Theatre and although some of the faces have changed, the same family feel is still there. I have been fortunate to cast the talents of three amazing, young(ish) actors for "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)," two of whom are newcomers to MLT. Nick Edwards and Nick Achilles will join Bruce Cannell on stage for a fast paced, hilarious journey through the Bard's work. Dressed in tights, and a number of other items of Shakespearean costume, these men will present Shakespeare in a whole new way that would even have The Bard rolling on the floor laughing if he were here today. There is a lot of work going on already to transform "The Studio" into "The Mana Little Globe Theatre." The show runs from 15 – 25 June so mark it in your calendars and book your tickets via Sue Mortimer or email us on mlttickets@gmail.com.

Andrew Watson



Next Production, contd ...



The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)

More photos!



Bruce Cannell. The next Wurzel Gummidge?



Who knew there was rapping in Shakespeare?!



Nick Achilles. Or is it really Cleopatra?



Nick Edwards as some Scottish guy



2016 and Beyond



Further Productions for 2016

Blue Remembered Hills

By Dennis Potter. Director Sue Mortimer.

Wednesday 24th – Saturday 27th August at 8.00 p.m.
Sunday 28th August matinee at 3.00 p.m.
Wednesday 31st August – Saturday 3rd September at 8.00 p.m.

A group of 7 year olds (played by adults) play in the woods and fields of the West Country in England during WW2. Disturbing, funny and tragic – it becomes increasingly obvious that their battles mirror the adult world.

Death by Fatal Murder

By Peter Gordon. Director Bruce Cannell.

Wednesday 9th – Saturday 12th November at 8.00 p.m.
Sunday 13th November matinee at 3.00 p.m.
Wednesday 16th – Saturday 19th November at 8.00 p.m.

Another in the hilarious Inspector Pratt murder mystery series.
Audition date TBA.

Plays for 2017 – Expressions of Interest

If you have a burning desire to direct in 2017 then you need to get your expression of interest into the Committee by the end of July. Our preference is for you to put forward two possible plays, but we will accept one. We need a copy of your play(s), a synopsis, information about the characters, i.e. male / female and age range, set requirements, and whether you are restricted to a particular time of year.

We encourage new directors to 'have a go' and would provide you with a Production Manager to guide you and support you through the process.

Plea for Front of House and Backstage Help

We need new hands on deck. Plays don't happen by themselves and a lot of work goes on behind the scenes and in front of house. If people don't volunteer their time then it's left to a few to cover the gaps. So please support your community theatre by giving some of your time – making teas and coffees on performance days, prompting during rehearsals, making props, painting, building sets, etc. etc. N.B. we are very keen to build our skill base and keep young (and old) off the streets by training them in light design and sound. So if you're interested in getting out of the house send an email to this address or ring 021 025 77648.

2016 Membership Subs

Please don't forget – these are now due. Thanks!