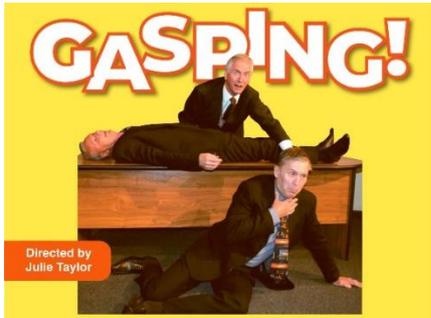




Matamata Dramatic Society
'ON-STAGE MATAMATA'
August - 2020

**CONGRATULATIONS ONE AND ALL
ON ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL PRODUCTION!**



Both really successful, audience-wise and financially, 'Gaspings' by Ben Elton was also the opportunity for exciting new talent to join our merry band of thespians and backstage crew.



Our new leading man, Bryce, shone in the role of Philip, and we look forward to seeing more of him – acting-wise that is, as I think we did see more than quite a bit of him in the play. As we did of Greg as well – in fact, I think you would agree that they both bared more than their

souls in 'Gaspings'!



**Champagne all round to celebrate an awesome
Team effort!**

When Colin Kemplen had to step down as stage-manager, we did have a gasp or two but then along came Steve Hill to save the day plus his talented daughter Rosie then joined the lighting team. We were breathless with relief, even more so when Rosie's cousin Hunter joined in to help.



So, not only have we gained a talented director and drama teacher, actor, committee member in Julie, we have also gained a new prompt and director's assistant in Julie's delightful mother, Averill Richardson.



With President Ron being in the play, V P, Yvonne did the honours when it came to presentation time. Our wonderful director Julie was presented with a lovely gift basket and a framed photo of the cast as a thank you for all the hard work of guiding the actors through lockdown rehearsals then picking up the pieces when rehearsals could begin again post lockdown.

Of course, most of those receiving awards had a few words to say, some waxed more lyrically than others. It was no surprise that Greg and Ron were in that bracket – it was just fortunate that Gerard O'Neil wasn't in the play too!

A number of Julie's thespian friends came down from Auckland to see the production including Stephen Dallow who is directing 'Chess' with students from the Marist schools in Auckland and Julie's first drama teacher, mentor and friend,

Glenda Pearce, from the Dolphin Theatre in Auckland.

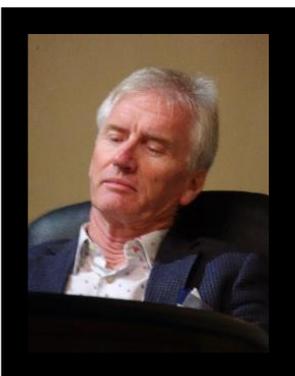


THE LIFE AND TIMES OF THE LATE SIR CHIFFLEY LOCKHEART

Aged 69

Members will be interested to hear that after Sir Chiffley's sudden demise in his London office, his solicitors, Dunn, Dunn, Gonner & Sons sent our society Sir Chiffley's life story because one of his last wishes was that it be published for posterity. Having no other publishing company or media outlet willing to do this they thought we could put it in our newsletter which as editor, I was happy to do.

I have to warn members that it does contain some harrowing material so if you are of a sensitive nature please be warned and have the smelling salts or tranquilisers to hand.



Conceived on a *chez longue* in a back corridor of Buckingham Palace the night of the Royal Wedding at the after match party. Father was Lord Bertram Lockheart : "loads of money" and land. Ex Guards Regiment. Mother Lady Pippa Felicity Margaret

Clapham-Dudding, one of the lesser Lady's in Waiting to Princess Margaret.

Schooling: Sent to board at Eton then went to Oxford and got a degree in Commerce. Got a "Blue" in rowing when in the Eight Oxford beat Cambridge. Chiffley stated it was all down to him that they won.

Got into prominent London Business House: Langford Brothers after strings were pulled. In his late teens parents split after his father's incessant philandering. His mother was a very anxious passive lady who mostly spent her days having high society afternoon teas discussing clotted cream and jam scones.

Father developed General Paresis of the Insane following tertiary Syphilis, first contracted when he spent many hours in Cairo Brothels in WW II. His mates referred to him as "Berty the Bonker".

He died the night of Sir Chiffley's 21st party at Windsor Castle when in a pique of stark naked madness, he threw himself off the roof of St George's chapel believing he was going to slay the dragon below which in fact was one of the Queen's corgis rolling on its back on the grass.

Sir Chiffley said at the time of his father's death: "Lucky bastard, the only part of his anatomy not damaged was his 'member'- resilient to the end!"

Chiffley being an only child developed strong narcissistic and misogynistic traits in his adolescence. His social circle was made up of similar individuals and they fed off each other.

His mother developed alcoholism and a Valium addiction. In her early 50s she showed some signs of alcoholic brain damage with memory impairment and behavioural disinhibition. In contrast to her earlier passivity she became extremely extroverted with her disinhibition.

Chiffley not infrequently would be called to pick her up from Gucci, Prada, Giorgio Armani and similar stores in Oxford St after she would try and buy up a thousand pairs of scanty bras and knickers (she weighed in at 120 kg) and then vehemently swear at the staff issuing forth the F word for half an hour.

To save further embarrassment Chiffley had her committed (via connections in Harley St.) and secreted away out of the public and his eye.

He now could access the family fortune, through having London's top solicitors look carefully at his mother's will. As a result of their careful work the 2 principal solicitors subsequently received Peerages in "gratitude" for their service to the Legal Profession.

Chiffley set up Lockheart Holdings with multiple subsidiaries around the world. He also had multiple mistresses around the world who helped him relax after his stressful and dysrhythmic flights on his Lear jet across continents. So, he could be

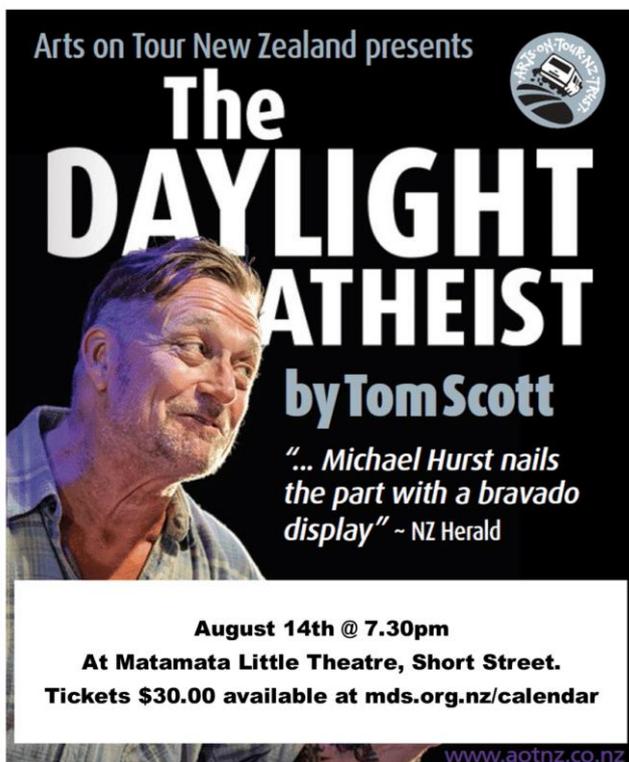
seen as the perfect society gentleman he married in his 40s . His spouse, was Celeste Millicent Tavistock, was in the mould of his mother, however with a much better figure which keeps Chiffleys' interest up.

They had no children.....thank heavens. *After his death Lady Lockheart went quite mad, died from an overdose of luxury chocolates. There being no children the Lockheart billions were left to the society for fallen women, Sir Chiffley's secretary together with his favourite ledger and to Gretchen his favourite masseuse . The Rembrandt painting, he left to the royal family who sold it to help defray costs for their upkeep.*

Sir Chiffley was buried in the grounds of Lockheart Castle, the family pile in Upper Bottom, Norfolk and Lady Chiffley was laid on top of him after her death. (Editor)

COMING UP

Now, we look forward to one of New Zealand's leading actors, Michael Hurst, coming with Arts on Tour in 'The Daylight Atheist' by Tom Scott on Friday 14th of this month. Korstiaan tells us that to date bookings are flat out so don't delay in getting your tickets as this is one production you don't want to miss!



Arts on Tour New Zealand presents

The DAYLIGHT ATHEIST

by Tom Scott

"... Michael Hurst nails the part with a bravado display" ~ NZ Herald

August 14th @ 7.30pm
At Matamata Little Theatre, Short Street.
Tickets \$30.00 available at mds.org.nz/calendar

www.aotnz.co.nz

BUT WAIT – THERE'S MORE!

ON FRIDAY 21ST AUGUST, THE FRIDAY FLICKS ARE BACK
With the delightful movie



SO, BOOK YOUR TICKETS NOW!
Book online or phone 07 888 9567

Matamata Dramatic Society's

2020 TEN-MINUTE PLAY COMPETITION



Will be held in October so if you are keen to have a go at directing, acting or working backstage contact Robin Essex and Korstiaan Prins who are both coordinating the Short & Sweet production. This is a great opportunity to try your hand at something a bit more challenging or take a different role in theatre. MC for the production will be Colin Kemplen plus other exciting items are being planned as well.

Evening production dates are October 14, 15, 16, 17 at 7:30pm and there is a 2:00pm matinee on Sunday 18 October.
(NB: a slightly longer season 5 days not 4 plus 7 plays not 6 as before) Tickets \$20

Auditions for actors are scheduled for Saturday 29 August from 2:00 - 4:00pm at the theatre. Rehearsals will be Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 7:00pm from 15 Sept until 13 October. You can contact Robin on 027 272 0431 Or via email - robin.f.essex@gmail.com



Congratulations to Te Aroha Dramatic Society who held their Gala Re-Opening on the 1st August

Director, Ian Harrop's superb pre-lockdown production of 'Steel Magnolias' had a grand re-opening with a packed house and special guests, Mayor Ash Tanner, councillors and local MP Tim van de Molen. Further performance Dates are from - Wednesday 5th August to Sat 8th at 7.30 pm. For tickets book online at www.tads.org.nz or go to Te Aroha's Piako Stationery Supplies phone 07-884 9110

MATAMATA MUSICAL THEATRE

Is in rehearsal at present with
'WEST `N` WILD'

Written by Sharon Butterworth
and directed by Paula Hastings

It will be

ONSTAGE SEPTEMBER 2020

Show only: 10th -12th 7.30pm

Sunday 13th 1 30pm Matinee

Dinner shows: 16th – 19th 6 30pm

More information in the September On-Stage



SEPTEMBER IS OP SHOP TIME

Robin is also organising the roster this year having taken over from Janine Mair, who did this job for some years. If you haven't heard from Robin do contact her if you would like to help as not only does this week raise much needed funds for our society it is also lots of fun. If there is enough support we can also open on the Saturday so make a bit more for our coffers. You can contact Robin on 027 272 0431 Or via email - robin.f.essex@gmail.com

Kitchen Renovations

Under the experienced leadership of Korstiaan the renovations are coming along really well and should be completed in time for Michael Hurst's visit. With the assistance of fellow committee members, Bob Blackwell and president, Ron, the cupboards etc have been put together. The

plumbing and electrical work has been completed. A working bee to sort everything from the old cupboards and putting back into the new ones is planned and then we really will have a completely new kitchen.



Looking for empowerment and sisterhood, Amanda, Helen, Louise and Siobhan turn up to **The Pink Hammer** – a women's only woodworking course. But when Maggie the instructor disappears they find themselves left with a disgruntled Kiwi bloke, Woody, unwilling to let them play with his tools. This delightful Kiwi play is to be directed by yours truly with the production dates of April 10 – 17.

However, we will need more directors to come forward with production ideas for the rest of 2021, so get those thinking caps on fellow directors.

AN EXCITING NEW MONTHLY INITIATIVE!



Julie Taylor will be running some fun Theatre Sports club nights every second Monday starting from the 14th September. There will be no charge, just a fun, few hours practicing all about the ins and outs of improvisation and how to cope on stage when there is no prompt to rely on!

For more details ring Julie: 022 0608 669.

*Yours theatrically,
Wanda*

