

Matamata Dramatic Society Inc.

ON-STAGE NEWSLETTER

October 2021



President's Message

Hi all

Thank you for tuning in again. As you know, because of COVID restrictions we had to cancel 2 x

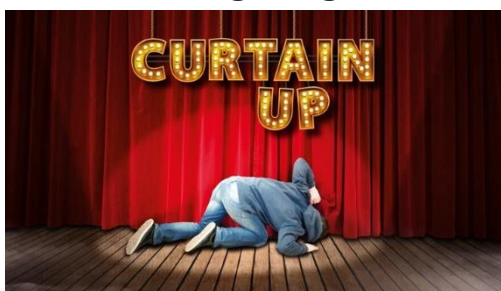
Friday Flicks and postpone auditions.

With restrictions coming down to level 2 we have been able to hold auditions and Glenn has selected the full cast for 'At the Sign of the Crippled Harlequin'. Thanks to everyone who attended the auditions. Rehearsals have started and the skeleton of the set has been put together. Thanks Murray. Decorating will make it look nice and cosy over the next couple of months.

Because of the covid restrictions and in co-ordination with the Musical Theatre we have settled on new production dates in late November and early December. A bit late in the year but it will be a great production and well worth the wait.

Korstiaan

YES! IT'S



Again, at Matamata Little Theatre!
(COVID Permitting!)

Director Glen Rowsell was finally able to hold auditions for our end of year production and he was delighted to cast this exciting thriller by Norman Robbins.

The following actors will take to the stage for this end of year production (*COVID permitting that is!*)

**Marjory
Pamela
Isobel
Sally
Bryan
Joan
Lionel
Deidre**

Megan Jeffcoat
Natalie McBean
Issy Atton
Julie Payze
Ron van de Molen
Katherine Ransom
Chris Chambers
Memorie Brooky

The new production dates (now confirmed by Play Bureau) are - Opening night Sat 27 November 7.30pm. Matinee at 2pm on Sun 28, then 29, 30 at 7.30pm and December 1-4 also at 7.30pm.



**Introducing the
Director of
'At the Sign of the
Crippled
Harlequin'**

Glenn Rowsell, director of the MDS Christmas play 'At the Sign of the Crippled Harlequin', says that as soon as he read a perusal copy of the play he wanted to direct it. *"It is a beautifully crafted "Whodunnit" with lots of twists and turns and red-herrings and it will be a good challenge for the cast and the director. It is written by well-known English playwright, Norman Robbins, and is a very popular play for amateur theatre companies around the world."*

The play has a cast of eight, and Glenn says he was attracted by the good meaty roles for every character and the fact that amidst the growing tension and drama, there are moments of comedy. He also liked the fact that every character has a murky past that is slowly revealed, and everyone becomes a possible suspect which makes for an intriguing plot that places demands on the audience.

Glenn comes from a teaching background and has directed more than 25 musicals and dramas

for schools and theatre clubs. His most recent directing in Matamata were for the Musical Theatre's productions of "Jersey Girls" (2018) and "Murder at the Musical Hall" (2019).

When not directing, Glenn enjoys working backstage on lighting and improving his very sharp dancing and choreography skills!

Glenn is delighted with the strong cast that he has assembled and can't wait to start rehearsals.

"This is my first show for the MDS, and I am excited and honoured to be given the chance to work with this club on a show that will be challenging but should appeal to Matamata audiences and will be great fun to move from page to stage."

Editor's note: Looking at Glen's photo I think he is going to fit it well with the mad-cap bunch at our Little Theatre, don't you!



WANTED A

Rehearsal Prompt

If you are interested in taking on this role, please let Korstiaan or Glen know.

The Improv-ables



Julie informs me that the Improv-ables were back into rehearsal mode on the 22nd of September (a delayed meeting) and everyone is

looking forward to future performances. Julie also said, *"Buoyed by a sold-out show, and ongoing public demand, we look forward to much on-stage hilarity in 2022!"*

Robin also told me that, *"We have started brushing up on skills and finding our mojo again for a third live performance in the New Year!"*

Friday Flicks



on Friday October 15th at 7.30pm
(Covid permitting)

Flicks sub-committee will be presenting this exciting Film Festival



Friday Flicks committee member Colin has been liaising with the people from the NZ Short Film Festival and he is sure this will be an exciting and interesting array of short films.

Although August and September were devoid of movie nights, all being well, the screen will light up again for another Friday Flicks in October. The two films we were unable to show, which we had already obtained the rights for, can be shown next year thanks to the understanding of the distributors.

Check our Facebook Page for further details or contact Colin Kempen for more details.



OBITUARY

Our Patron Dr Neil Algar

It was with sadness that we heard of the recent death of our much loved and long serving Patron,

Dr Neil Algar.

Neil was a well known and respected member of the Matamata community. He served as Mayor of the Matamata Borough, from 1968 to 1986 and was a former Councillor of the Matamata-Piako District, and past Chairman of the Matamata Community Board. He was a much respected local doctor

Apparently, Neil was known for getting stuck into almost anything the community had to offer since 1957. In 2019, at the Volunteering Waikato Awards, he was awarded a long service award for his contribution of 60 years with Matamata Lions Club .

A local reserve is also named after him, for his significant contributions to the Matamata Community.

He will be sadly missed by everyone involved with our theatre as he and Eunice were always at our productions as well as the Friday Flicks. Our deepest sympathy goes to Eunice and the family.

2022 Production Calendar

(COVID PERMITTING!)

First Production to be advised as
**Director & Play
Wanted**



Have YOU a play that needs a stage? Are you a director looking for a play? Then let us know. Contact Korstiaan or Robin ASAP!

**But we do have the following
'ARTS ON TOUR' artists booked
who we will be delighted to welcome
back to our Little Theatre.**

**On Sat July 23 - Michael Hurst
In 'The Golden Ass'**



**Thursday 27 October
Helen Moulder in 'The Bicycle and
the Butcher's Daughter'.**



**2022 is also time for the 'Short &
Sweet Festival' again so budding
playwrights get writing!**

**Plus, as Julie has mentioned, there
will be more of the ever-popular
Improv-ables evenings.**



**However, we will also
need a director and
play for the end of
year production**

OVERHEARD IN THE WINGS



Stagemanager: 'A little bird tells me that our esteemed maestro playwright Richard Prevett has a new play in the works.'

Stagehand: "Really. Well if it's anything like his last one it will be a winner!"

Stagemanager: "We'll have to see what eventuates at the next committee meeting."

COVID FALLOUT – Robin

It was disappointing, but necessary, to have our annual fundraising week in early September cancelled at the Community Chest Op Shop. Thank you to all the volunteers who offered their time to be on the roster, and to all the kind donations of goods. Fortunately, after an earlier declutter in the theatre basement, we do now have the space to store items and hold them over until our next Op Shop sale in 2022.

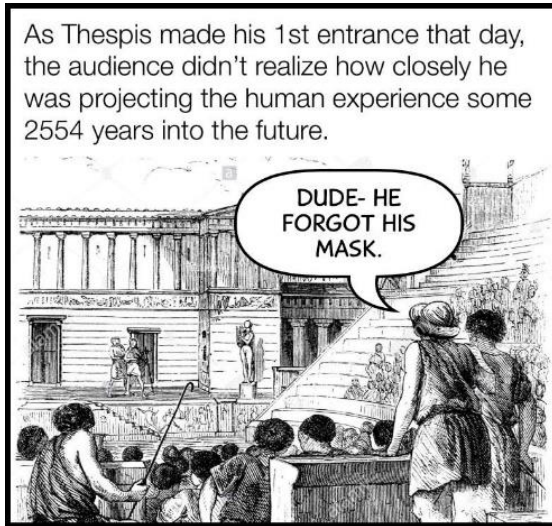
75th ANNIVERSARY FUNDRAISING EVENT

We were also due to celebrate our 75th Anniversary soon however, that will have to be re-scheduled due to the time constraints regarding planning etc. A decision will be made at the next committee meeting.

So, watch this space for further details.



LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE!



COMING LOCAL PRODUCTIONS

As we know all too well, COVID lockdowns have prevented theatres putting on their productions and this won't be possible till we are in level one unfortunately. Te Aroha Dramatic Society has had to postpone their production of 'Death & Taxes' which was only weeks away from opening. However, let us hope that level one is not far away so we can all get back to entertaining our local entertainment starved theatre audiences!

Matamata Musical Society

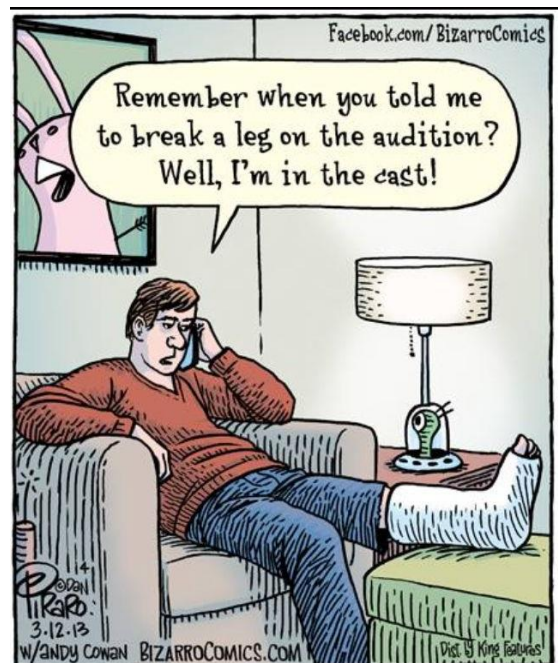


Is in rehearsal and will hopefully open on 11 – 20 November 2021.

Directed by Past President of MDS and acclaimed actor, playwright and director Chris Stead, this comedy has all the gags you would expect from a Roman farce with some entertaining songs thrown in for good measure. Improv-ables regulars Julie Taylor, Bob Blackwell and Cam McGrail are expanding their comedic horizons in this hilarious musical.

Some Great Acting Tips

- Take acting or improv classes. ...
- Know what your character wants. ...
- Read the entire script. ...
- Fine-tune your instrument. ...
- Do what makes you happy. ...
- Be the best version of yourself. ...
- Be dedicated, disciplined and curious.
- Learn and understand your lines
- Work on your voice and projection



*Yours theatrically
Wanda*

