



Matamata Dramatic Society Inc.

ON-STAGE NEWSLETTER

March 2022

“Theatre is a sacred space for actors.”



President's Message

Over the last month we have seen so much happening, other theatre companies cancelling shows left, right and downstage. We were lucky we could still put on the Improv-ables and Friday Flicks, with the appropriate restrictions of course. Not many people ventured out so we had some fun and some disappointment. The committee has decided to put Friday Flicks on hold for the foreseeable future.

Rehearsals have started for “Any Port in a Pandemic” due on stage in May. We also started building the set, which has meant taking down the set we had built for “At the Sign of the Crippled Harlequin” last year. We now look forward to rebuilding that set when we produce the play later this year.

This month we will have our AGM on the 28th and we look forward to seeing many of you there. We are still looking for someone to join the executive as our treasurer. You don't need to be an actor, actress, director or have any interest in stage lighting or sound effects. As long as you love money - and who doesn't? This could be just the hobby for you. And finally I would like to send all our members and their families dealing with illnesses and/or injuries my best wishes and a speedy recovery. **Korstiaan Prins**

The Improv-ables on Stage

Thursday 17 February 2022

Contributed article



All under the Red light setting, stage and rules followed. There were 29 in the audience, socially distanced of course. Our sponsored, printed t-shirts looked great and the brand new pizzaz opening routine of 'rhythmic gymnastics' received

lots of laughs.

This is the YouTube link for those who haven't seen it. <https://youtu.be/UwOpVLX4qe0>

A few new members joined the team on stage this time for their first live improv show. Monique filled in for Paul on the bar and of course, Korstiaan worked his magic again on lights and crazy sounds. Ken was the ice-cream guy.

New games were introduced to add excitement to the performance for example - Job Interviews, Superheroes, Cafe Conversion and Running Commentary. These were greeted with much applause.

Julie certainly started something when she began these classes, as even more new members are looking forward to going live for the next show in May. In fact membership is now close to 20. So congratulations one and all for brightening our lives and bringing much needed laughter to our Little Theatre.

Our Thoughts Go Out to the van de Molen Family



Our local MP Tim van de Molen has been recovering at Waikato Hospital after falling from a platform, however he is back home now.

In talking to Ron recently, I heard how Tim was busy helping his father-in-law clear a tree damaged by the previous weekend's storm when the accident happened. It was a nasty fall that ended up with Tim have multiple breakages including in both arms.

"Since arriving at Waikato Hospital, I have undergone several surgeries to address my injuries," van de Molen said in his news release.

National Party leader Chris Luxon said he had assured van de Molen that he had the full support of his colleagues as he took time to focus on himself, his recovery and his family.



We are also thinking about our awesome past president, Ron van de Molen, who is also having some health issues.

To you both we send our special get well wishes.



Not so sure when you have broken bones though!



'Any Port in a Pandemic' Production Date Changes

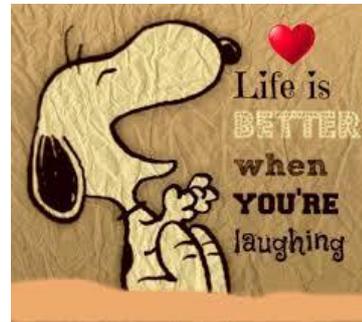
Due to director Hilton having to find a replacement for the part of the young financial director **the production dates for 'Any Port in a Pandemic' have been moved forward to Saturday May 7 - 14th.**

A big thank you to Pete Mair who has saved the day by taking on this role. It will be great to have Pete tread the boards once more.

Mind you, Richard was quite disappointed Hilton wouldn't give him the part as he had been busy with the hair restorer and botox and was even considering a face lift so he could take on the role. He also considered changing the age of said character but decided against that and thought it wiser to stick to his real forte which is writing those hilariously funny plays we all enjoy.

This change of date means that the next **Improvables performance will also have to be changed so watch this space.**

Hilton reports that rehearsals are going smoothly and the cast are working really well together and thoroughly enjoying the play. In this time of fear and challenge over COVID, economic pressures and now the war in Ukraine it's great to have something uplifting and funny to look forward to isn't it?



Matamata Dramatic Society Inc.



**Will be held on
Monday 28 March at 8.00pm
in Matamata Little Theatre
5 Short Street, Matamata**

We welcome new members to the committee and we are in dire need of a new treasurer as Colin is standing down.

**A light supper will be served afterwards
We look forward to seeing you there folks!**



**SPOTLIGHT ON BOB BLACKWELL
Committee member and long-time actor**



I have been involved in Theatre for over 50 years and in that time I've appeared in musicals, plays, revues and concerts. I have also worked professionally as an actor in TV and films on over 50 productions, as well as being Santa in a shopping mall.

My first love is live Theatre, particularly comedy. I enjoy making people laugh because only happy people laugh, so if you make people laugh you are making them happy. You can't aspire to anything greater in life than that. But when I'm not making people laugh I enjoy making them believe that I am someone I'm not.

To play a character believably I always create a backstory, imagining the character's life from childhood to the moment they step onstage for the first time. Doing this enables me to play the part as realistically as possible.

Some of the hardest things to do onstage are when the script requires you to get physical with another actor or actress, sex scenes, violent fight scenes and so on. These often need you to put your personal feelings to one side and do things you would not normally do. You really do have to grit your teeth, tell yourself you're a professional and get on with it.

People ask me how I remember all the lines, I say "I don't know". I make a sound recording of all my scenes and practice running my lines against that. For weeks I can't remember the lines then one day there they are and I can remember them. I don't know how it happens but it does, you just have to have confidence. Things can go wrong on stage and my work with the Improv-ables helps me to deal with this.

There are some embarrassing moments but I won't mention them, just remember "The Show Must Go On". I have always been an actor, I tried directing once but doing all that work and not getting the "Buzz" of going on stage was too much, so I just act. ~ **Bob Blackwell** ~

NB: Bob is pretty good backstage too and has been helping with the set building and has painted the new stairs up to the stage built by Murray Weal who is another theatre stalwart of course.

On Paul Marshall - our man behind the bar



We are always grateful to Paul Marshall, husband of committee member Yvonne, for his steadfast duties as barman at Matamata Dramatic Society. As well as having that all important debonair presence, he makes sure the bar is well-stocked and ready to go. Paul also works hard in the background cleaning up after events and looking after such things as recycling and rubbish. Hats off to our friend Paul!

And when Paul is not available, especially for the Improv-ables performances, Monique Woodrooffe takes her place behind the bar.

So we raise our glasses in thanks to these special members of our theatre.



CELEBRATING



"I believe in being strong when everything seems to be going wrong. I believe that happy girls are the prettiest girls. I believe that tomorrow is another day, and I believe in miracles."

Audrey Hepburn

The Theatre in New Zealand

Contributed article

(Source: <https://teara.govt.nz>)

19th century

In 1841 New Zealand's first theatre – the Albert Theatre – was set up in the back room of an Auckland hotel. The first purpose-built theatre was Wellington's Royal Victoria, which opened in 1843.

Over the decades many more towns got theatres, opera halls and choral houses. They were usually built by entrepreneurs or arts organisations. Their interiors were grand and ornate – adding to the excitement of a night out.

Early 20th century

From the turn of the century, local government took a strong role in building public entertainment venues. Whanganui's council led the way, opening an opera house in 1900.

The 1910s saw the rise of cinemas. Films had been shown in New Zealand at theatres and halls since the 1890s, but the first purpose-built cinema opened in Wellington in 1910 – 'the Kings'



It's Time To Renew Your Subs or Join Up

Full Membership

**Single \$25.00 - Double \$40
Student - \$10.00**

All involved with a production – on stage or back-stage - are required to join either as a full member or just for the production \$10.00

NAME/s.....

Contact details: Phone.....

Mobile.....Email:.....

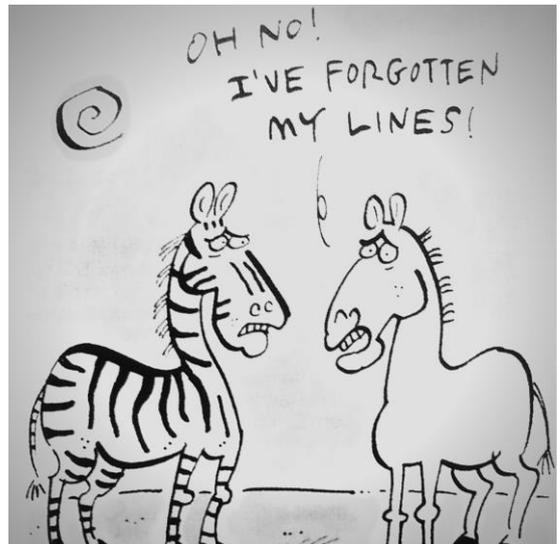
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*Yours Theatrically
Wanda*

