



Matamata Dramatic Society Inc. On-Stage Newsletter - May 2022

*'Actors must never be afraid to
make a fool of themselves.'*



President's Message:

I have often joked that I almost live at the theatre, so taking on the President's role for 2022 seemed like the next logical step towards

permanent residency. We are extremely fortunate at Matamata Dramatic Society to have such an enthusiastic and hard-working committee. Theatre is all about teamwork, and it is lovely to be a part of such a creative and welcoming team.

After so many Covid related postponements and cancellations, it's exciting to be able to launch our premiere of "Any Port in a Pandemic" under Orange traffic light settings. We are once again able to welcome all members of our community back to the theatre, with no seating restrictions. Richard Preveitt's play is the tonic that we all need – with laughter aplenty as a formerly calm lockdown 'bubble' descends into complete chaos.

This show will be followed by another Improvables performance on May 20th and the return of Friday Flicks on May 27th. A busy month ahead for our theatre! Enjoy!..... Julie

Yes, it's curtain up again at
MATAMATA LITTLE THEATRE

ANY PORT IN A PANDEMIC

Another comedy by Richard Preveitt
Directed by Hilton Woodroffe

OPENING NIGHT: Saturday 7 May 2022 - 7.30pm
Sunday 8 May Matinee - 2.00pm
9 - 14 May - 7.30pm

5 SHORT STREET, MATAMATA
Tickets \$25 | Book online - www.mds.org.nz

Matamata-Piako District
creative COMMUNITIES NZ



This mad-cap comedy by our very own Richard Preveitt opens on Saturday 7 May and you will certainly not want to miss it. After all the challenges of lockdowns and the traffic light system this original play will lift your spirits and get your laughter bubbling up in no time!

With the experienced and well-known cast of Greg Dunn, Peter Mair, Julie Taylor, Lizzie Atherton and Yvonne Marshall together with Teresa Hopson making her debut on the Matamata Little Theatre stage you just can't go wrong!

Director Hilton Woodroffe tells me that it has been a rare privilege to work with Richard together with such a wonderful cast.

Of course no production is complete without an awesome production crew this time including Murray Weal back in the lighting and sound box as well as constructing the set. As always, Eileen Weal weaves her magic with the set décor. Chris Stead takes on the role of stage manager once again as well as being the property manager and Megan Jeffcoat has been the all-important prompt.

Book your seats so you don't miss out on this fun-filled and uplifting yet thought provoking comedy.

THE IMPROV-ABLES



One Night Only on 20 May at 7.30

Come along for a rip roaring laughter filled evening! Tickets \$10

BOOK ONLINE at www.mds.org.nz

FRIDAY FLICKS



We are delighted to announce that the next movie to be shown will be one we had to put on hold due to COVID.

'The Ideal Palace'

A delightful French film about Cheval, a postman who travels very day along the Drôme. He meets the woman of his dreams and from their union Alice was born. He then throws himself into a crazy gamble for her, to build an incredible palace with his own hands. This film is based on a true story.

FRIDAY 27 MAY 2022 AT 7.30PM

Book online at www.mds.org.nz

INTRODUCING TERESA HOPSON

Making her debut performance with MDS



Although Teresa has performed in a number of shows with Matamata Musical Theatre playing the part of Lisa, the young PA in 'Any Port in a Pandemic', is a first with our Dramatic Society.

When I met Lisa at rehearsals she told me that *"working with the Musical Theatre has been really rewarding, fun and a great learning experience, however, now I have the opportunity to take part in my first show on stage with the Dramatic Society, which is really exciting."*

I have very much enjoyed being a part of this amazing and incredibly talented cast and thank Hilton for the opportunity to be a part of this production. It has been fun bringing Lisa to life, although any pandemic is not fun, this has been! But lockdowns don't last long right?"



PETER SAVES THE DAY

When a cast member has to drop out of a production for whatever reason, it is a real headache for the director especially when you have been rehearsing a while.

However, when this happened with regard to the part of the young financial advisor in 'Any Port in a Pandemic' director Hilton had to cast his net wide and who should he hook but well-known actor Peter Mair. With his youthful, boyish looks Peter is absolutely perfect for the part.

Always a favourite with local audiences Peter does admit that taking on this role was certainly a challenge. It was a busy time work-wise and of course Peter is also a talented musician with his band commitments to honour.

"Taking on the part when the cast was already well into rehearsals is never easy and it was a busy time however now we have the holidays and I can really concentrate on the play." Peter told me at rehearsals the other day. I think he is made for the part and will be a winner on opening night!

HELP! I NEED SOMEBODY, HELP!

With any production a director has to cope with cast being away for various reasons and COVID only heightened this so stand-ins are vitals and Hilton and the cast couldn't have done without the support of Bob Blackwell, Eileen Weal and Talbot de Jong who stepped in to read parts during the rehearsals. Like any production it's all about these willing volunteers and team-work. The plays are 'Last Tango in Little Grimley' by David Tristram directed by Korstiaan Prins and

AUDITIONS! AUDITIONS!

for the Mid-Year One Act Festival

Sunday 15th May at 2.00pm
At the Little Theatre

For the hilarious play 'Chook, Chook' by Fiona Farrell to be directed by Julie Taylor
Contact Julie 022 0608 669 for further details

Then on Sunday 22 May at 2.00pm

For the play 'Last Tango in Little Grimley' by David Tristram directed by Korstiaan Prins
Contact Korstiaan on 021 931750

For further details

Production dates June 29-3 July 2022



Another Side To Shakespeare

The other evening my daughter and I watched a fascinating film about what could have happened when Shakespeare returned home to his family after the Globe Theatre burnt down.

All Is True is a 2018 British fictional historical film directed by Kenneth Branagh and written by Ben Elton. It stars Branagh as playwright William Shakespeare, Dame Judi Dench as his wife Anne Hathaway and Ian McKellen as the Earl of Southampton Shakespeare's patron to whom he wrote 154 sonnets for. The film takes its title from an alternative name for Shakespeare's play *Henry VIII*.

After the Globe Theatre burns down in 1613 during a performance of Shakespeare's play *Henry VIII*, William Shakespeare, aged 49, returns home from London to Stratford-

upon-Avon] to re-join his wife, Anne Hathaway. Branagh's makeup was so good that at first we didn't recognise him! You can see why from the poster.

Shakespeare and Anne had a distant relationship, as he has spent most of their married life working in London, and she was an illiterate down-to-earth country woman who stayed at home looking after the children. Their marriage never really recovered from the death of their son Hamnet, aged 11, in an outbreak of plague in Stratford while Shakespeare was in London. On returning back to the family home Shakespeare apparently spent his time tending to the family garden, though not very successfully.

To see these doyens of the English theatre such as Sir Kenneth, Dame Judi and Sir Ian portray such wonderful characters was a theatrical delight – it was acting at it's very best and hearing Shakespeare's words spoken so superbly by these world class actors was moving and absolutely magical.

Perhaps our Friday Flicks sub-committee could see if we could obtain the rights so we could show it.

WHAT'S COMING UP ON STAGE AROUND & ABOUT Matamata Musical Theatre

A poster for Matamata Musical Theatre's 'Encore Cabaret'. The background is dark purple with a starburst effect. At the top, the Matamata Musical Theatre logo is visible. Below it, the text reads 'INVITE YOU TO AN ENCORE CABARET' in large, bold, yellow letters. Underneath, in smaller white text, it says 'A celebration of music bringing back some well known characters and songs including a 3 course dinner by Joyful Catering!'. A yellow banner with black text says 'LIMITED SEASON - DON'T MISS OUT!'. Below that, in yellow text, it lists '4 DINNER SHOWS: Tues 24 - Fri 27 May, 6.30pm \$50 + a special Show Only Matinee: Sat 28 May, 1.30pm \$25'. At the bottom, in white text, it says 'Come and celebrate our return to the stage!' and 'Book online at www.matamatamusicaltheatre.co.nz or phone Christine 027 329 1004'.

Te Aroha Dramatic Society

After all the lockdowns and COVID caused quite a few postponements TADS is delighted to announce that this great comedy is finally going to take to the stage!



Then on Fri 24 June & Sat 25 June 7.30pm
 Sun 26 June - **4pm matinee** then Wed 29 June 7.30pm to Sat 2 July 7.30pm

Cambridge Gaslight Theatre



The theatre is the only institution in the world which has been dying for four thousand years and has never succumbed. It requires tough and devoted people to keep it alive.

John Steinbeck

A quote that the committee of our wonderful Matamata Little Theatre must have had in mind when we decided to carry on with our production when other theatres went into lockdown because of COVID.

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:.....

Address:.....

Internet banking only to: MATAMATA
 DRAMATIC SOCIETY

Account: 01 0362 0008333 00.
 Please include your name and SUBS as reference.

Also – Please advise us of any change in your contact details

Yours theatrically

Wanda

