



# Kat Chat

## Khandallah Arts Theatre Newsletter

February-March 2018

President: Mary Collie-Holmes, 022 083 5499

### In this newsletter

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- April 20<sup>th</sup> rehearsed reading - a new New Zealand play - all welcome
- April 29<sup>th</sup> auditions for July production (also a New Zealand play)
- Report on our AGM and who's on the committee this year
- Youth (ages 13 to early 20s) workshops with a performance outcome starting mid-May
- "Beauty and the Beast" highlights
- Updated 2018 calendar of events



Our new scenery transporter, built by Chris and Ross and painted by Colin. Thanks to the Catherwood family for the loan of their trailer.

### 2018 Subscriptions now due

Thank you very much to those who have already paid your 2018 subs. To the rest of you, there is no better time than now to do it.

The amounts remain the same as last year:

\$40 for a couple or family, \$30 for a single, \$20 for a child or student

#### If paying by internet banking:

- The Khandallah Arts Theatre account number is 12 3223 0021419 00
- Type your **name** and **sub2018** in the details boxes.
- Email [katmembership@gmail.com](mailto:katmembership@gmail.com) to confirm that you have paid

#### If paying by cheque:

- post it to The Treasurer, KAT, Box 22031, Khandallah, Wellington 6035



PO Box 22-031, Khandallah, Wellington 6441

[katmembership@gmail.com](mailto:katmembership@gmail.com)

[www.kat-theatre.org.nz](http://www.kat-theatre.org.nz)

Meeting and performing at Cochran Hall, 110 Cashmere Avenue

We are also on Facebook – search for Khandallah Arts Theatre and 'like' the page



## Coming up in April: club-night and auditions

### Club-night play reading

#### April 20<sup>th</sup> (not 27<sup>th</sup> as advertised in previous newsletter)

Our rehearsed reading evenings and other club-nights are the “bread and butter” of KAT club life - keeping people connected when they are not involved in a full-scale production, as well as introducing us to plays we might otherwise not know about.

The April play is the very funny romp, “*The Streaker*” by Gregory Cooper (NZ), which was first performed at the Court Theatre, Christchurch, in 2016. The middle-aged protagonist is suddenly out of work and out of luck, with his mortgage overdue and family in disarray. Then he hears of the offer of one million dollars for streaking at a rugby match....



### Auditions for the next full-scale production

#### April 29<sup>th</sup>

**The Pink Hammer** by Michele Amas, is about “four women, a handful of tools and a whole lot of trouble”. There’s also a bloke.

According to the cast list in the script:



**Annabel** (late 40s-50s) wants to build a Victorian style display cabinet for her complete works of Dickens.

**Louise** (50s) wants to build a small house one day

**Helen** (late 50s-60) wants to build a coffin

**Siobhan** (30s) wants to build a luxury dog kennel for her boyfriend’s labradoodle

**Woody** (30s) wants to build a way to get these bloody women out of his workshop

We tried it out with a rehearsed reading a while ago, and found it hilariously funny. It will be a blast to rehearse and a delight for our audiences.

**The full audition notice will be sent out shortly.**

## AGM

Thank you to all who came to the AGM on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March. We got through the formal business at a cracking pace and then enjoyed performing small pieces from a selection of plays old and new before socialising over supper provided by the committee.

### The entertainment

Jillian did a fantastic job of sourcing a really interesting selection of plays. She also put a lot of time into ringing round to find out who would be coming so she could select the excerpts accordingly. She had a big enough selection at the meeting for everybody who wanted to (and that was almost everybody) to have a part. She sent us off to rehearse for 10 minutes before we all performed our pieces. It was a great way to mix everybody up, making it a very enjoyable evening.



The selections we read were from three NZ plays - two very new, "The Streaker" by Gregory Cooper and "Blind Eye" by April Phillips, and one relatively new, Roger Hall's "Last Legs"; and three UK plays - "Beauty Queen of Leenane" by Martin McDonagh (a nod to St Patricks Day), "Murmuring Judges" by David Hare and "The Importance of Being Ernest" by Oscar Wilde.

### Key points out of the AGM

#### This year's committee is a little smaller than last year's

Four of the 2017 committee had tendered their resignations prior to the meeting: Jo Gresham because she and her family are moving back to the UK, and Alice Feng, Adelle Broadmore and Jess Doube because their lives have got too full with other things.

All the rest of the 2017 committee stood and were elected again. They are: Chris Collie-Holmes (treasurer), Jillian Carpenter (artistic director), Lynn Coory, Marj Lawson, Mary Collie-Holmes (president) Michelle Soper, Peta Brodie, Ross Foubister and Stephen Fearnley.

Jann Tarrant, having been an ex-officio member of the technical sub-committee last year, was also elected a full member, and Margaret Walls' offer to help Jillian with developing and maintaining the year's programme as an ex officio member was accepted with alacrity.

Jenny Fenwick continues in her ex officio role of Facebook editor, but Robin Owen stood down from hers as our webpage editor, a role she had fulfilled since 2007.

## We made some significant purchases

All three productions in 2017 produced a surplus and income from subscriptions was significantly up on 2016. The resulting healthy financial status allowed us to make some significant technical purchases. We replaced some of our oldest lights with six new Fresnel luminaires, and we bought three more radio mics - two headsets and one hand-held - and a second-hand control signal converter.

## Youth workshops for performances at TheatreFest

We will run a winter series of play-making workshops for ages 13 to early 20s. The first few sessions will focus on experimenting with ways to make a script "come alive". Then the group will select one or more of the short-play scripts they have been working on to rehearse fully, with a view to entering it/them in Theatre New Zealand's short plays competition, TheatreFest.

There will be early evening sessions for 7 Wednesdays from May 23 to the end of term 2. By then the group will have selected and started rehearsing its Theatre Fest entries. A schedule for the 2 weeks of school holidays and the 2 weeks after that will be created by the group according to the productions' needs and the participants' availabilities.

The first stage of TheatreFest is in Wellington on the weekend of August 3/4. The regional weekend (semi-finals) is 2 or 3 weeks later, probably in Fielding, and the national finals are on September 15/16, in Wellington.

**If you want to join this group, or want to find out more before committing yourself, email Mary on [mary.c-h@outlook.com](mailto:mary.c-h@outlook.com).** Don't think you can't be involved if there are some times you won't be available, as we'll do our best to work around them.

## "Beauty and the Beast" season was a great success

### Highlights

- The **weather was kind**, and we performed all 8 sessions in the park - a great pleasure after last year when most had to be in the hall.
- By a not-so-rough count, **over 1,600 people** saw the play, with the largest audience being more than 270 at the first performance on the first Sunday.





Thank you to Marj (FoH) for providing the numbers - it's not easy to count heads when people sit all over the place and some are always moving around.

- The **set design** (Colin) and construction (Ross, Chris and Stephen) **looked beautiful and worked superbly** for an outdoor venue, with both "buildings" (the castle and the cottage) standing

up firmly on the days when there was quite a lot of wind.

- The **costumes** (Sarah and her mother) were **stunning** - colourful and varied.
- The **outdoor sound system**, borrowed from the City Council, was a replacement of the one we had grown to know and trust, but the hours Chris and Ross put into getting it right paid off beautifully, with David's



music,

Marcus's

sound effects and the cast's voices (relayed through 11 radio microphones - 10 headsets and one hand-held) being heard throughout the park. (We had the added good fortune this year that the flying fox is temporarily out of action, so we didn't have its usual constant background noise).



- The **cast**, mainly teens, were **well coached**

by Cathy (director), Kathryn (movement) and David (singing). They had a thoroughly enjoyable time and delivered a very engaging entertainment for everybody in the audience. 10-year-olds were engaged with the story throughout and 3-year-olds loved the funny bits and the opportunities to boo the baddie, shout warnings to the goodies and sing and act out *The Brainy Song* with Ding and Dong.

### Commitment and support acknowledged

- Only some of those who put time and effort into making *Beauty and the Beast* happen are named above. All told, there were 14 actors and 20 production people. Thank you to one and all.





- These outdoor productions also have several special requirements, some of which rely on the goodwill of the people at Wellington City Council. We are, as always, very grateful to the following: the Events team who lend us the sound system, the Pools team who let us use their kitchen, loo and power supply, and Matt Robertson of the Parks team, who facilitates our use of the park.

- Others whose support was significant are: the Catherwood family, who let us monopolise their trailer for about a month; Emily Holmes, who let us use her car (because it has a tow-bar), and Kyle Radersma who printed some of our publicity materials free-of-charge at his business Pivotal Print.

- This year, we built a new "hut" that we can now use every year to put on top of the trailer that carries all the scenery etc. It's beautifully painted, so it doubles as promotion of our Plays-in-the-Park. Thank you to Ross and Chris (construction), Colin (painting) and Lynn, Mary and Marj (helpful workers) for this delightful acquisition.



## Updated 2018 calendar

(Note: some dates are different from those published in the previous newsletter)

<u>March 16<sup>th</sup></u>	AGM and snappy dialogues
<u>April 8<sup>th</sup> &amp; 15<sup>th</sup></u>	<b>Auditions</b> for short plays
<u>April 20<sup>th</sup></u>	rehearsed reading club-night
April 29 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Auditions</b> for "Pink Hammer"
<u>May 18<sup>th</sup></u>	rehearsed reading club-night
<u>June 15<sup>th</sup></u>	rehearsed reading club-night
<u>July 8<sup>th</sup></u>	<b>Auditions</b> for "A Streetcar Named Desire"
<u>July 20<sup>th</sup></u>	"Pink Hammer" opens
<u>August 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup></u>	short plays performed at Wellington TheatreFest
<u>August 24<sup>th</sup></u>	rehearsed reading club-night
<u>September 21<sup>st</sup></u>	New Zealand plays and poetry club-night
<u>October 11<sup>th</sup></u>	"A Streetcar Named Desire" opens
<u>November 23<sup>rd</sup></u>	club-night celebrating year's end