



Kat Chat

Khandallah Arts Theatre Newsletter December 2017 - January 2018

President: Mary Collie-Holmes, 022 083 5499
Membership Secretary: Alice Feng, 022 427 8082

Directors needed for a short season of short plays

2018 would be a great year to enter a play or two (or three) in Theatre New Zealand's TheatreFest, so we've tentatively scheduled a 3-performances season of short plays in **June**, with auditions in **April**, with a view to entering those whose director and cast want to compete, in the Festival in **July/August**. Ideally at least one of them would have a young cast and maybe even a young director.



If you haven't directed before and would like to give it a go, or if you enjoy directing but can't give the time to a full-scale production with a complicated set, this is your chance. Our artistic directors, Jillian and Adelle, can help you choose a play, and one of the experienced directors in the club will be your mentor if you want one.

Contact Jillian, 021 630 330, or Adelle, 027 248 1550, to find out more.

Make it a new year resolution to get more involved with KAT

Every year in March we have our AGM. And before every AGM the current committee members look around for who they could recruit to join them (or replace them, if they have to take a break). It's fun, it's satisfying and it's not too onerous to be a KAT committee member. So if you think it might be something you could do, **contact Mary, 022 083 5499, to find out what's involved.** A contact is not a commitment - you can back out at any time.

November's Festive Family Comedy was a hoot

Thank you to Michelle and Adelle, who chose the play and organised the decor for our crazy and very well catered Christmas-themed year's-end party. It was very much a family event, with everybody whatever their age taking turns at reading the parts in the light-hearted play, Rudolph's Deering Christmas Escape, by Mark Casson. Much laughter was heard and much jollity was enjoyed.



"Beauty and the Beast" rehearsals are under way



Director Cathy Leonard and musical director (and playwright) David Tayler had a wonderfully talented pool of people to choose from at the auditions a few weeks ago, and rehearsals got off to a grand start a week later with a full cast (since then, one had to pull out because of changed circumstances, but a replacement was quickly found).

The cast are: **narrator**, Daniel Tanner (recently seen in Hutt Rep's "A Kick in the Baubles"); **Belle's dad Bill**, Liam Young (had a small part in last year's "Shakespeare in Hollywood"); **Belle's sisters, Ding**, Eva Gibson (new to KAT) and **Dong**, Sophia Bouliers (first seen at KAT in "The Wind in the Willows"); **Belle**, Kirsteen McCalman, and **Beast**, Lennex Drummond (both were in "Shakespeare in Hollywood" and have also been in

previous plays-in-the-park); **Sarita the Witch**, Chris Girven (new to KAT), the **Fairy Godmother**, Sarah Coddington-Lawson (sometimes in the summer plays and often the creator of wonderful costumes); **Rooster**, James Lawson, and **Chickens**, Dakotah Morgan and Megan Davies (James has been a member since babyhood, Dakotah and Megan are new); **Chicken Hunters**, Sorcha O'Grady (was in "The Wind in the Willows"), Ashley Cox and Ella Taylor (both new to KAT).

Why, you might ask, is there a fairy godmother in the story of Beauty and the Beast? And what on earth do chickens and chicken-hunters have to do with this story? Well, you'll find out when you bring all your friends and relations and neighbours and workmates to see the play in February. You have a choice of 8 performances: 2:30 and 4:30 on 17th, 18th, 24th and 25th.

2018 productions

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| February | Beauty and the Beast by David Taylor, director Cathy Leonard
season 17-25 February |
| June | A Short Season of Short Plays (if directors can be found) 15-17 June |
| July | The Pink Hammer by Michele Amas, director Lynn Coory, Auditions.....
29 April, season 19-18 July |
| October | A Streetcar Named Desire by Tennessee Williams, director Tanya Piejus. Auditions 8 July, season 11-20 October |

PO Box 22-031, Khandallah, Wellington 6441

katmembership@gmail.com

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



2018 rehearsed readings

Rehearsed readings are a great opportunity for the time-poor to strut their stuff without having to learn lines or attend weeks of rehearsals. They are also a fun way to get familiar with new plays. **If you'd like to be considered for a part in a rehearsed reading in 2018, drop us a line at katmembership@gmail.com and we'll make sure one of the directors gets in touch with you.**

April director Stephen Fearnley, April 27

May director Jessica Doube, May 25

June short plays with teen and child actors (if sort plays season doesn't happen), June 22

August director Matt Todd, August 24



Other KAT gatherings in 2018

- **The AGM on March 16th. 7:30 at Cochran Hall.** The very least every member can do to keep the club strong and active is turn up at the AGM. We promise good food, a chance to have your say on what the club should be doing, and some pleasant (and short) entertainment.
- **An evening of New Zealand plays and poetry on September 21st.** Roger Hall is asking every theatre in New Zealand to join in a national celebration of NZ theatre by presenting a New Zealand work in September. He hopes that this will be the inaugural annual New Zealand Theatre Month. For our contribution, Margaret Walls will select excerpts from a representational variety of plays and poetry for us to read and discuss.
- **A year's-end extravaganza on November 23rd.** We plan to ask some of the other clubs in Wellington to join us in a shared reading of a madcap melodrama - accompanied by lots of food, drink and conviviality of course.

KAT was well-represented at the Christmas Parade

Thank you to all who participated in the Northern Suburbs Christmas Parade under the KAT banner and handed out all those flyers promoting "Beauty and the Beast". Thanks to you, there should be plenty of new families in the audience in February.

Thank you also to Lynn and Michelle for organising everybody, and to Steph Woodman for the delightful artwork on the flyer.



Best wishes for a happy and relaxed summer break

from the KAT committee: Adelle, Alice, Chris, Jillian, Jess, Jo, Lynn, Margaret, Marj, Mary, Michelle, Peta, Ross and Stephen

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