



Kat Chat

Khandallah Arts Theatre Newsletter

July/August 2017

President: Mary Collie-Holmes, 022 083 5499

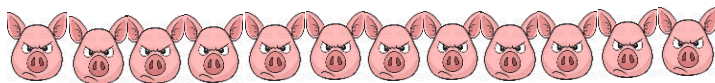
IN THIS NEWSLETTER

- [Come to the club-night](#) on August 18 at 7.00pm to watch rehearsed readings by our younger members
 - [The Wind in the Willows](#) is over
 - [August: Osage County](#) is now in rehearsal
- [Director for 2018 February Play-in-the-Park](#) still sought

CLUB-NIGHTS ARE GREAT ENTERTAINMENT - THE NEXT ONE IS ON AUGUST 18TH

At the last club-night, on July 7th, we were treated to a short thriller with a twist no-one saw coming. Skilfully performed by Jo Gresham, Lisa Duggan and Bryan Thomson, under the direction of Barbara Woods, it was another great example of how much enjoyment a rehearsed reading can give.

The next club-night is very soon - on Friday August 18th. Lisa Duggan is guiding a large number of our younger members through the rehearsal process for performed readings of several short pieces. Just the names of the plays are an indication of the enjoyment we'll get out of this evening's entertainment: "The Monster who Wanted to be a Princess" "12 Angry Pigs" and "Cell Phone Zombies". Do come along - it's going to be lots of fun. **Note the earlier than usual start time: 7:00pm.**



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



THE WIND HAS BLOWN THROUGH THE WILLOWS FOR THE LAST TIME

Our July production of *The Wind in the Willows* was a great success, as much for the number of people it involved and the large audiences it attracted as for the great performances it delivered. This story about animals on the banks of an English river, written in the early 1900s by a retired banker, is obviously still much loved by today's Kiwi kids. It was a delight to note that several of our young audience members brought a copy of the book with them.

There were 19 in the cast, 11 of whom were aged between 9 and 14. Under the direction of Shannon Tubman and with the help of musical director Loretta Lander, choreographer Mel Heaphy, fight choreographer Ben Haddock and pianist Erin McFarlane, they all delivered great performances.

Production manager Marj Lawson also had a huge number of people to keep track of, as there were at least 50 working "behind the scenes" in one way or another. Of special note were: Colin's charming set; the evocative costumes created or found by Michelle and her team and make-up designed and executed by Clarissa and her team; and the various vehicles (a rowing boat, a gypsy caravan, two cars, a train engine, a barge and an old-fashioned wheel chair), which were all beautiful and so very serviceable.



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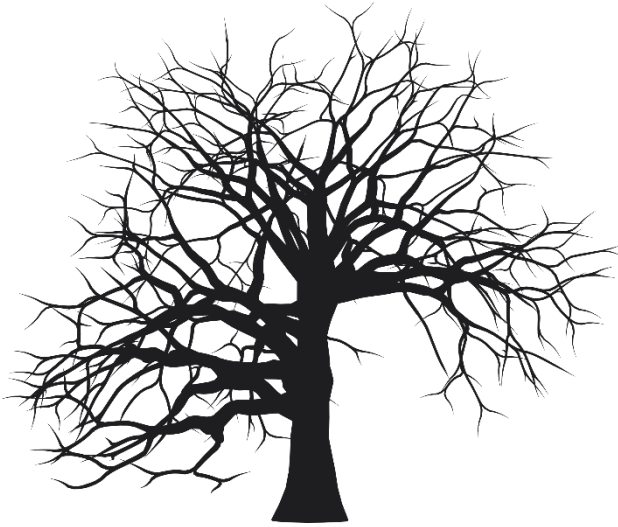
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OUR NEXT PRODUCTION, *AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY*, IS NOW CAST AND IN REHEARSAL



August: Osage County is a complete contrast to *The Wind in the Willows* in that it is very much a play for adult audiences. It's set in Oklahoma, about 10 years ago, at the height of a stifling hot summer. A family gathers in the home where the three daughters grew up, called together because their father has disappeared. Tensions are high and family secrets, both recent and from many years past, begin to reveal themselves, and relationships are sorely tested.

Written for the stage by Tracy Letts, *August: Osage County* has won numerous awards and was also made into a very popular film, starring Meryl Streep. Our own production of this play, directed by Joy Hellyer and Paul Kay, will open on October 12.

NEXT YEAR'S PROGRAMME NOW BEING CONSIDERED

The deadline for receiving proposals from prospective directors for next year has now passed and our artistic directors Jillian and Adelle, with the help of a couple of the other committee members, are reading the plays that have been suggested for our two main production slots. We'll be able to tell you what's in store for 2017 in our next newsletter.

2018 PLAY-IN-THE-PARK STILL NEEDS A DIRECTOR

None of the proposals were for the Play-in-the Park, so please tell all your friends about this very enjoyable directing experience and **ask anyone who is interested to** contact our president, Mary Collie-Holmes, on 04 970 0440, 022 083 5499 or mary.c-h@outlook.com

Everybody involved in putting on this annual event just loves the experience. It's energetic and interactive, and we often include live music.

It's theatre for kids, its outdoors, it uses minimal sets and everything must be able to pack up into an ordinary sized trailer at the end of each performance. You can't rely on lighting effects and a crucial use of the sound equipment is to amplify the cast voices. It's a challenge, but an enjoyable one, and you'll get plenty of support from our experienced production team, some of whom have been involved since these performances began in 2000.



We audition in November, have about 3 weeks' rehearsal before the Christmas/New Year break and start rehearsing again in mid-January. There are 9 performances, over 2 weekends in mid-February, when schools have gone back but the days are still long.

What kind of play? Our previous offerings have included modern takes on fairy tales, plays about pirates and princesses, and plays about magic and imagination. Anything goes, really, so long as it is less than an hour long and suitable for 3 to 8 year olds. The club committee is looking for a suitable script now, but if you want to find your own, or already have one in mind they'd be delighted to consider it.

What kind of cast? Because this is an outdoor play it needs energetic actors with strong voices who can deliver larger than life performances. We've often included one or two children, and occasionally more, but it is perfectly ok to have a cast of all teens and/or adults. The cast size is restricted by the fact that they all wear a wireless microphone, and we only have 10 of these.

If the idea of directing our 2018 summer play appeals, contact Mary now.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS!

Nicola Todd, whose recent involvement in several Wellington Rep productions has rekindled enthusiasm for community theatre clubs and so she's joined us as well.



Lucy Saunders and family. Lucy was an active member in her teens, and her parents Margaret and Michael Walls remain members. Lucy and her husband Jon have brought Patrick, Jack and Elsie (now 9, 7 and 5) to the Play in the Park every year and have decided it's now time to join us again.

Those in the cast of *The Wind in the Willows* who weren't already members: Bonnie Dunstan, Lucy Moore, Colin Eade, Neil Rusling and daughter Sienna, Allan Burne and son Buster, and the other children in the cast: James Catherwood, Isobel and Alex Anderson, Mya Hastings, SORCHA O'Grady, Thomas Neville and Sophia Boulteris. (Emily Bell and her family joined us when she got a part in *Cinderella*, and Christine, Tanya, Kirsteen and Jacynta have all been members for a while.)

Meredith Dooley and Charlotte Stephens (not to be confused with another member, Charlotte Stevens!), both of whom have been in KAT productions in the past and have now rejoined because they are in August: Osage County.



What's on at other Wellington community theatre clubs in August

17 - 27 August

Drama Christi

Parfumerie: a comedy/drama set in a Hungarian perfume shop in 1938

23 August - 2 September **Mana Little Theatre**

Hobson's Choice: a classic English comedy written in 1915 set in the 1890s

30 August - 9 September **Hutt Repertory**

Secret Bridesmaids' Business: an Australian comedy

30 August - 9 September **Stagecraft Theatre**

Wonderland: the premiere production of a new musical based on the works of Lewis Carroll

Thank you to the very many members who have now paid their 2017 subscription.

A few of you haven't yet, so here is the info to jog your memory again. If you can't remember if you've paid or not, let us know via katmembership@gmail.com and one of the us will check it out and get back to you.

HOW TO PAY YOUR SUBSCRIPTION FOR 2017

Pay by internet banking

- 1 make your payment on-line to the KAT bank account **12 3223 0021419 00**, with **your name** and **sub2017** in the details section
- 2 email katmembership@gmail.com or text 022 427 8082 (membership secretary Alice) to say you've paid
- 3 include in your email/text any **updates to your contact details or the names of the people you are paying for** (if a double or family) and, if you hope to do anything specific with KAT this year, tell her about that too.

Pay by cheque

1. Print and complete the attached form
2. Post cheque and form to Khandallah Arts Theatre, Box 22031, Wellington 6035

The subscription rates

Child/student: \$20

Single: \$30

Double/family: \$40

