



Auditions for *Zero Inn* by Bruce Mason

Project type: Unpaid community theatre directed by John Marwick for Khandallah Arts Theatre

Project Title: *Zero Inn* by Bruce Mason

Project dates: **Auditions:** Saturday 27 April – email margaretr6t@gmail.com for audition time

Rehearsals: Sunday afternoons, Tuesday & Thursday evenings from late April

Production dates: 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, 27 July

Description: This will be only the second production in nearly fifty years of this play by renowned New Zealand playwright Bruce Mason. Set in 1970 it is a drama with themes that strongly resonate today: the conflicting views of different generations; materialist progress, capitalism and the establishment versus respect for the environment and alternative lifestyles; gender roles; and valuing Māori culture.

The play is an interesting mix between naturalism and a certain magical realism as the Tully family in their remote holiday home receive a younger trio of unexpected visitors on Christmas Eve (“They saw our star in the East”).

“There are compelling arguments and insufferable sanctimony from all sides and the verbal sparring is as spectacular as Albee’s *Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf*. But *Zero Inn* has many more surprising plot-twists and is much richer in socio-political commentary”, John Smythe (author of *The Plays of Bruce Mason*).

Roles: ***Note that character age and descriptions are Mason’s original and will not necessarily be followed closely***

Sandra Tully: (48) a well-educated and frustrated ‘housewife’ fed up with marriage to Max.

Leila Cowan: (69) Sandra’s mother, “frail, tremulous, with suspected angina”. She has been brought out of her retirement home to spend Christmas with the family but in the end proves to be much stronger and more independent than she appears.

Maxwell Tully: (50) “bull-like and fierce”. Head of an advertising company, ex-Air Force during WW2 Max is very much the face of the capitalist establishment. He is horrified by the attitude of the unexpected visitors and decides to act.

Hector: (25) “huge head of hair and beard” but with “a grandeur about him which makes the scruffiness irrelevant”. The most educated and articulate of the trio of hippy visitors. He plays the guitar.

Ben: (early 20s) “small, nuggety, bearded”. Ben dropped out of a building trade apprenticeship and now rejects the whole modern urban environment. He plays the harmonica a little.

Kuni (20ish) “mountainous in the last stages of pregnancy” and “looks at least half-caste Maori”. Has had a difficult childhood, is largely uneducated and pregnant as a result of a rape but is nevertheless strong-willed.

Contact: Margaret Robertson (production manager) margaretr6t@gmail.com
John Marwick (Director) johncmarwick@gmail.com