

Waipukurau Little Theatre Inc.

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March 2023 NEWSLETTER

A Message from the President – Hilary Blamires

SOS - Save Our Society!

Since 2020, little (and not so little) theatres throughout New Zealand have faced turbulent times. Waipukurau Little Theatre has been hammered from all sides via natural disasters, rising costs, and increased regulatory requirements to keep our building as safe as possible. These have had an impact on our productions with increased efforts to cast people, find crew and generate full houses. All essential to keep us running and solvent.

In a nutshell, we are suffering. Seriously. Show cancellations due to Covid, and more recently Cyclone Gabrielle have increased our fragility and are threatening our future. Like our community, our Theatre family are dealing with personal loss, flooding and family insecurity. We now need our community's assistance if we are to survive this and continue to provide access to high-quality live theatre.

How?

- Join our cast, production team and crew. Enjoy being part of a show.
- Use your existing skills and/or learn new skills.
- Buy tickets to the next show.
- Bring a party to show – the more the merrier, especially with the next production.
- Become a member. You get a free drink each production season when you show your membership card.
- Come to ShortNSweet Friday for a couple of hours – An hour of work and shared fishNchips.
- Come to our NEW ShortNSweet with shared Wednesday lunch – 2 to 3 times a month (We have a ShortNSweet Messenger Group)
- Purchase wardrobe items at the proposed Grand sale (coming soon).



Any one or more of the above would be appreciated.

Thank you for your continued support.

Hilary Blamires

President Waipukurau Little Theatre

Short and Sweet

Every third Friday of the month. Next Meeting Friday 17 March at 6pm.

A short working bee followed by a shared meal and a quiet drink.

All welcome. Contact: Hilary Blamires 021 906 032

Audition Notice

The Heartbreak Choir

Written by Aidan Fennessy

Directed by Lindsey Bishop

Production dates: Thursday 16 to Saturday 26 August 2023

Auditions: Sunday 26 March from 9:00am

Cast: Cast of seven, 5 Female and 2 Male – Various ages.
Must be able to sing.

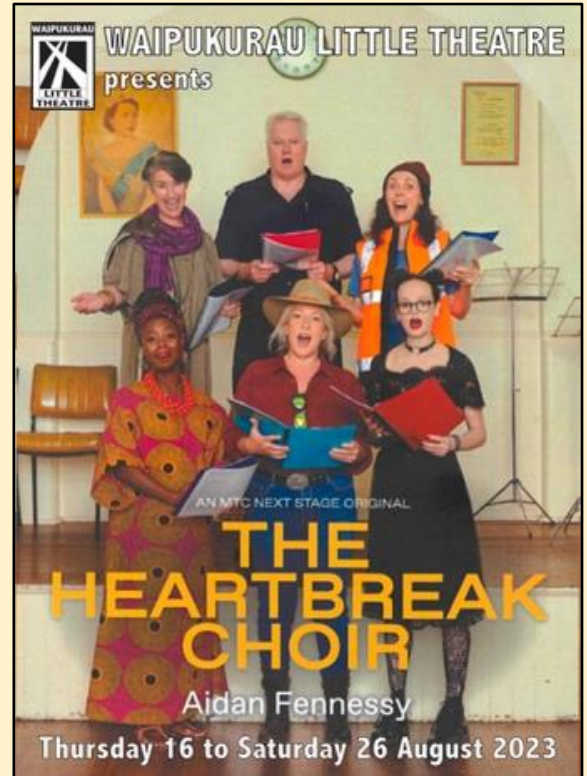
Audition details:

- Auditions for Waipukurau Little Theatre's production of this funny and uplifting celebration of music, friendship and community will be held at Waipukurau Little Theatre from 9:00am on Sunday 26 March.
- Auditions will be in 15 minutes slots.
- Please bring a song of your choice with accompaniment that you have learnt in advance. The song should show your vocal range.
- You will be asked to do some play reading.

Please contact the director to book an audition slot.

Lindsey Bishop: text 0274 711 550 or email

lindseyb@littletheatre.net.nz



Our Next Production – The Last

I am very pleased to report that we have successfully cast the next production and will commence rehearsals this week. You may be aware that the production consists of two, one-act comedies by David Tristram entitled 'Last Tango at the Little Theatre' and its sequel 'Last Panto at the Little Theatre'. The same four characters appear in both plays and will be portrayed by Eleanor Norris (last seen in *The Old People Are Revolting*), John Chalmers (*STIFF!*), David Berry (*The Fantastiks*) and Kate Taylor, a newcomer to the Little Theatre stage.

We are thrilled to have them on board and, as rehearsals begin, we are on the lookout for other supporters to fill the roles of Prompt, Stage Manager, Sound Operator and backstage Crew. No production can be successful without these people, so please consider putting your hand up to help.

Thank you.

Rob Blamires (Director)

Presenting a comedy
Double Bill

LAST TANGO
at the Little Theatre
... and
the riotous
sequel ...

LAST PANTO
at the Little Theatre

Written by
David Tristram

Directed by
Rob Blamires

A community theatre
production in association with
Flying Duck Productions and
New Zealand Play Bureau.

Thu 1st to Sat 10th June 2023
Tickets: [eventfinda](#) and Betta Electrical, Waipukurau

Waipukurau Little Theatre

130th Year Anniversary Production

Waipukurau Little Theatre

celebrates

130 Years of CHB Drama

with a rerun of their very first production from 1893
featuring two, one-act comediettas directed by

Jules Hamilton



and from the same production
live orchestral pieces performed by

Central Hawke's Bay Instrumentalists

Gala Opening: Wed 25 October 2023

Season: Thu 26 Oct - Sat 4 Nov 2023

Planning of the end-of-year production to celebrate 130 years of drama in Central Hawke's Bay is well underway. Waipukurau Little Theatre intends to mark the occasion by reproducing, as closely as possible, the very first production of the newly formed Waipukurau Dramatic Club of 1893.

Original scripts for the two Victorian farces '*Done On Both Sides*' and '*Box and Cox, Married and Settled*' have been obtained and we are pleased to announce that Jules Hamilton (*Secret Bridesmaids' Business* and *The Peace Of Angels*) has been appointed as Director.

The original production also included an orchestral interlude performed by a six-piece ensemble of club members. Overtures from '*Faust*' and '*Vulcan*' were presented and we believe we have identified the musical scores for these. We can confirm that CHB instrumentalists have agreed to perform the pieces.

The 1893 production took place in the Waipukurau Town Hall, which then stood at Pioneer Corner, and we are actively searching for interior photographs of the building, together with any information regarding early dramatic productions.

The original cast members are listed below and, apart from the Winlove family who we are already in contact with, we would love to discover the whereabouts of their descendants.

Mr. J Winlove, Mr. HR Hodding, Mr. TM Lucy, Miss M Grant, Miss A Huggins and Miss E Winlove.

Rob Blamires (Production Manager)

021 075 7856

2023 Notice of Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of Waipukurau Little Theatre (WLT) Inc. will be held on **Monday 8 May 2023 at 7pm at Waipukurau Little Theatre.**

Life members and Financial members over the age of 16 are entitled to vote on all items requiring a decision. Members must be present at the meeting for their vote to be counted. Family members are entitled to a maximum of two qualifying votes.

Nominations for election to the Officers or Committee will be accepted on the forms provided but must be with the secretary before the meeting commences. Forms require a signature of a Proposer, Secunder and the Nominee.

A 2023 Membership form and a Nomination form for election to the Committee are attached to the newsletter email and these will also be available at the meeting.

We look forward to seeing you.