

Waipukurau Little Theatre Inc.

19 Ruataniwha Street, Waipukurau 4200.

Email: info@littletheatre.net.nz Web: www.littletheatre.net.nz



July 2023 NEWSLETTER

A Message from the President – Hilary Blamires

A Cat's tail

In our play *Last Panto at the Little Theatre*, the Director requested “a springy tail” for the cat. The tail, however, need to be sawn off during every performance and reattached for the rest of the final scene. The wardrobe team took up the challenge, did online research initially then, several prototypes later, came up with a viable solution. There were, however, a few rather amusing problems to be overcome along the way.

First, a springy tail is, well, springy. It develops a life of its own. Several interesting versions were necessary, progressively reducing the springiness and increasing control in positioning the tail.

The next challenge was how to connect two tail parts together. Hook designs spelt disaster when using the hand saw at the same time as detaching the end of the tail. Then we tried magnets. Yes! Err, No. We forgot to consider the metal saw. “Sawing” through the tail resulted in hilarious results. A tail attached to a saw wasn't quite the look we were after.

Velcro, and version five was born. The problem of the tail pulling off as the actor walked proudly and catlike around the stage was the first issue to overcome. Extra Velcro resulted in a tail that was virtually impossible detach while effecting a sawing motion through the wood and tail.

Finally, we cracked it, with magnetised wood parts that could be split in an instant (away from the metal saw) and the right amount of Velcro on each tail piece allowed a smooth split of wood and tail together, to give the audience the impression that both had been sawn through.

What would we be without these little entertaining challenges in life?

Thank you for your continued support.

Hilary Blamires
President Waipukurau Little Theatre



Last 'Pantango' at the Little Theatre ... and other stuff


After a rather slow first week for Last Tango and Last Panto at the Little Theatre, bookings picked up and we were delighted to be able to play to full houses for the final three nights. My thanks to all of you who came along and I hope you had a great night's entertainment.

So, another production has ended and before the final screw was removed from the set, the stage flats were being positioned for the next play. Due to the cancellation of *The Drowning Girls* earlier this year, we are trying to fit three productions into a much shorter timespan, meaning that there is an overlap between shows. The rehearsals for one play have to begin before the preceding one has even reached its opening night.

Waipawa M & D kindly provided rehearsal space for The Heartbreak Choir while the Last Tango and Last Panto season was in full swing. We are now searching for temporary rehearsal space for the 130th Anniversary production when The Heartbreak Choir is being staged. It's all go!

Tickets for The Heartbreak Choir will be on sale from 10th July at Eventfinda and Betta Electrical, Waipukurau. We urge you to book early and please consider coming in the first week ... we hate having to turn people away at the end because we are full. We know you won't be disappointed. Thank you all.

Rob Blamires



**WAIPUKURAU
LITTLE THEATRE**


THE HEARTBREAK CHOIR

Written by
Aidan Fennessy

Directed by
Lindsey Bishop

A heart warming story of
community and friendship

Contains mature themes and
references to abuse and suicide



Thursday 17 to Saturday 26 August 2023
eventfinda Licensed for performance by Nova Weetman

The Heartbreak Choir is a funny and uplifting celebration of music, friendship and community that is proudly bought to you by Waipukurau Little Theatre. It is a relatively new work written by Australian theatre stalwart Aidan Fennessy, who sadly passed away shortly before the first production started its Melbourne season in 2022.

Although *The Heartbreak Choir* is set in Victoria, the setting and situation of the play could just as easily be any rural town in New Zealand. It's comfortingly recognisable with the dusty local hall, its curtained-off stage, a partitioned kitchen, and a tired piano tucked in one corner.

The Heartbreak Choir follows the travails of a small choir that insist that they're not a community choir, but they *absolutely* are.

In the old CFA hall on the outskirts of town, a small group of locals come together to sing and to connect. Aseni, Barbara, Mack, Savannah and Totty have after splintering from their original choir on a matter of principle, due to "an ethical quandary" are now intent on forging their own path. With their latest recruit Peter and his son Beau along for the ride, they have a new name, a space to rehearse in and a public debut booked. All they need now is to right the wrongs of the past ... and find a song that pairs perfectly with the local wineries Sangiovese.

The Heartbreak Choir is a joyful song-filled snapshot of a devastated community learning how to heal.

Cast: We are very pleased to be able to bring together such a strong group of talented actors and singers for this production.

Dean Alsop, Kate D'Ath, Rachelle Dekker, Tony Greig, Madi Howard, Alex Ngarotata & Jo Paget

The Heartbreak Choir was commissioned with the assistance of Melbourne Theatre Company's NEXT STAGE Writers' Program and was first produced by Melbourne Theatre Company in 2022.

We hope you enjoy our show.

130th Anniversary of CHB Drama

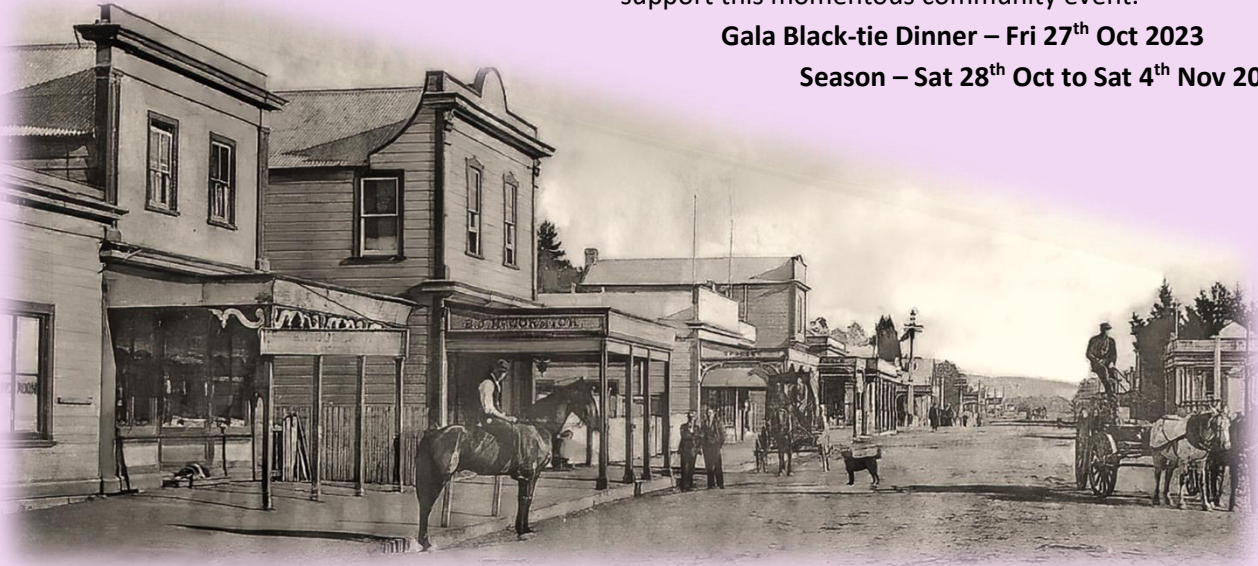
Do you ever wish you could go back in time, even if only for a night? Join us in October as Waipukurau Little Theatre celebrate their 130th anniversary and make the impossible possible.

Reproducing the original 2 one-act plays that were on stage in the first Town Hall in 1893, complete with a live orchestra and a black-tie, gala opening night dinner, you will be transported into the Victorian world, indulge your sense of whimsy and immerse yourself in a night to remember.

Enjoy the two hilarious one act farces, and experience real Victorian life with your loved ones. Join us, won't you, and support this momentous community event.

Gala Black-tie Dinner – Fri 27th Oct 2023

Season – Sat 28th Oct to Sat 4th Nov 2023



Ruataniwha Street, Waipukurau (looking West) – 1890's

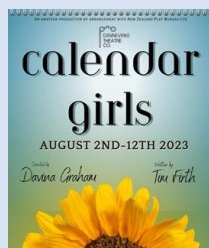
Other local productions.

**DANNEVIRKE THEATRE
COMPANY**

Written by Tom Firth

Directed by Davina Graham

2nd to 12th August 2023



**WAIPAWA
MUSICAL AND
DRAMATIC CLUB**

**Coming November
2023**



Working bees - What do we do?

Little theatre has three working groups for set building, prop and costume adjustments, theatre repair and maintenance, cleaning, and health and safety tasks, an hour or so of work is also a good opportunity to meet up with like-minded people and catch up on theatre news.

When?

- **Weekly Wednesdays and wardrobe sales** are usually every week between 11.30am and 2pm including a stop for lunch.
- **ShortNSweet** is every third Friday 6pm till 7pm, every third Friday. We have a fishNchips supper after for \$7.50 each.
- **Working bees** are raised when they are needed.

Please Text Hilary on 021 906 032 to ensure that the activity has not been cancelled or rescheduled to accommodate other theatre events .