

Waipukurau Little Theatre Inc.

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February 2024 NEWSLETTER

A Message from the President – Hilary Blamires

A New Future?

There is a very important letter attached from both Waipawa Musical and Dramatic Club Inc. (M&D) and Waipukurau Little Theatre Inc. (WLT) committees. Written by Vicky Mavin, President of M&D and me as President of WLT. The letter went to both committees with unanimous approval for this exploratory project. However, it needs your vote. Our future in CHB depends on this.

Please join us at our respective AGMs, and an excellent opportunity to discuss this with other members and ask questions. If you belong to both societies, and many of us do, there is a double opportunity to find out more from the viewpoint of both societies. Please support us and be there to tell us what you want.

The Drowning Girls.

At last! It's a goer!! All that hard work from cast, crew, and production team, to uniquely present an exceptional story, finding a way to have three showers working over the three baths and having three very talented and rather wet brides rising to the occasion on stage. This play is one NOT to be missed... and I get to operate the showers. What more could I ask for?

Hilary Blamires

President Waipukurau Little Theatre

WAIPUKURAU LITTLE THEATRE

The Drowning Girls



The Story of the “Brides in the Bath”.

Just over 2 weeks to go until opening night for The Drowning Girls and rehearsals are going swimmingly (pun intended – thanks Vicky).

The Drowning Girls tells the true story of the Brides in the Bath murders; a serial murder case from the late Edwardian era. But it is different. The story is told by the women, the wives of George Joseph Smith who married 8 times in all, between 1908 and 1914, 7 times bigamously.

His last 3 wives, Bessie, Alice and Margaret; he convinced them that they were having seizures, he made them go and see a doctor, persuaded them to take out life insurance policies, sign their money over to him and then he drowned them in the bath. The Drowning Girls is their story and in it they tell us about their lives, re-enact how they met him, remember why they married him and relive how he ultimately murdered them.

It is a modern take on a period story. The language is lyrical and poetic. It is darkly funny, whimsical, dramatic, heartbreaking and ultimately redemptive. It forces us to look at society and the role of women in society at that time.

Our three amazing actresses, LJ Easter, Anna Phillips and Kylie Vanston are outstanding as they portray Bessie, Alice and Margaret plus a myriad of other rich and hilarious characters.

It is thanks to their skill and dedication that you will get to meet Bessie, Alice and Margaret, fall in love with them and mourn the circumstances that led to their untimely deaths.

The Drowning Girls is an important story to tell, and its message will resonate long after you leave the theatre.

The Drowning Girls is on stage from the 14th to the 23rd of March and tickets are available at eventfinda or at Betta Electrical in Waipukurau.

Madeleine Howard (Director)

Later This Year...

Waipukurau Little Theatre
presents

Keeping Up Appearances

18 - 27 Jul
2024

a comedy by
Roy Clarke

directed by
Helen Griffin



Keeping up Appearances.

Thurs 18th to Sat 27th July

For our mid-year production, Waipukurau Little Theatre is taking up the challenge of replicating the wonderful world of Hyacinth Bucket (pronounced Bouquet, if you will) and her unusual family and 'friends'.

The action is centred around a church hall where social climber Hyacinth is showing her new painting "Willows by Moonlight" at the local art exhibition. At the same time and in the same venue her long-suffering neighbour Emmet is directing a play for the local amateur dramatic company, and is determined to go to extreme lengths to keep Hyacinth out of the play. When Hyacinth hears that the part of Lady Malvern is yet to be cast, nothing will stop her from taking this role.


Most of the well-known characters of the much-loved 90s TV series appear in the play, together with two new ones; Milly, a computer geek who catches the roaming eye of Rose, and Mrs Debden, the formidable chair of the local charity committee.

Under the direction of CHB theatre stalwart, Helen Griffin, and running from 18th to 27th of July. This hilarious production is sure to bring back fond memories.

A Christmas Carol (But not as you know it)

Thurs 5th to Sat 14th December 2024

We all know Charles Dickens famous story of Scrooge and the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future. The underlying stories still the same – but that's all!!!. If you enjoyed Waipukurau Little Theatre's productions of Bullshot Crummond and The Hound of the Baskervilles then you'll know what we mean.



A CHRISTMAS CAROL
(But not as you know it.)

Written by **Patrick Barlow**
Adapted from the story by **Charles Dickens**
Directed by **Lindsey Bishop**

This fun-filled family show will be on pre-Christmas with plans for two matinees and an early evening show to suit our younger audience. Keep an eye open for further details and timing.

In Brief

Wardrobe sale:

So far, we have raised in total \$215 for the theatre. We are available by appointment for hire or purchase of sale items. Dresses/tunics/coats \$5 (3 for \$10), Jackets \$4, Hats and shoes \$3, shirts, blouses, skirts, trousers \$2, Scarves ties now \$1. Carrier bag for \$10. Fundraising for plastic storage containers with lids and castor wheels for the clothing rails.

Short n Sweet working bees:

We still meet up every third Friday from 6pm until 7pm where possible and subject to show seasons. Family of worker bees welcome! Fish n chips social afterwards at 7pm (pre-ordered or b.y.o).

Weekly Wednesdays

Between 11am and 2pm between shows: Clean up and sorting time for an hour or so and b.y.o lunch get-together.

Please Text Hilary on 021906032 to ensure that the activity has not been cancelled or rescheduled to accommodate other theatre events .

Bath raffle



Original late 19th century, Waipawa homestead claw foot bath (see news article)

\$5 per raffle number

Used for The Drowning Girls

Kindly donated by Rachel Wise, Waipukurau

Proceeds to Waipukurau Little Theatre

Promoter: Hilary Blamires, President

One of the bathtubs gracing the stage comes from a Waipawa homestead built in 1890. At that early stage a bathtub would have been a distant dream for the lady of the house - Martha Avison, who no doubt had to bathe her children - she eventually had 16 - in a tin tub in front of the Shacklock Orion stove in the kitchen... But Martha was staunch. Husband John had built the homestead with the kitchen quite separate from the home... the story being he didn't like to smell cooking fumes, but it meant his wife and children getting wet travelling between the two when it rained.

While he was away during WWI, Martha and her daughters built a passageway between the two. It was never pretty, but it stayed. Later, John is said to have lost the bulk of the family farm in a poker game. Martha promptly had the remaining land and the homestead put in her name. Unheard of in those times.

So, I think converting the homestead's dairy into a bathroom, complete with clawfoot tub, had to be Martha's doing. It was there in all its glory when my grandparents bought the house in the 1940s. Gran, Pop, and my Mum and Uncle were cleansed in its depths - for deep indeed it was - and then myself and my siblings, and my own children. There was never electric hot water. The coal range would set the hot water cylinder bubbling and Gran would say "the water's boiling - run a bath and make good use of it!"

The cast iron bottom always retained a chill, to shock your nethers as you lowered yourself in. But it brought the joys of endless, deep hot water, and that sloped end to soap up and use as a slide. All four of us could fit in that bath together if needed.

There was never electric hot water, or lights. We splashed by candlelight, and in the winter with a special treat - a kerosine heater. It was a cosy bath, a family bath, the best bath in the world.

The old house will be gone soon - its work done, its old bones tired. But there's still life in the old bath yet, as it takes to the stage for its public debut!

**Waipukurau Little Theatre
Annual General Meeting
7.00pm, Monday 8th April 2024**

Official notification, Membership & Committee Nomination Forms to follow in a few weeks