

Otaki Players Society

Incorporated

The Civic Theatre
16 Main Street (PO Box 26)
Otaki

Tel: (06) 364 6491

www.otakiplayers.org.nz

Newsletter

October 2020

Dear Members & Friends,

How time flies! It is 6 months since the last Newsletter and much has happened nationally. And, given the COVID-19 restrictions, one might think that very little has occurred at the theatre. Not so. The Committee has been meeting regularly, our latest production is going ahead as planned, and we have some exciting news which impacts on the theatre itself.

No doubt some of you will be aware of the massive injection of funding which will be poured into the theatre over the next few months. For the unaware, the theatre will benefit from the Provincial Growth Fund (\$500,000) and our landlords, Kapiti Coast District Council (\$371,000). At long last, our leaky roof will be replaced and the external plaster will be repaired and painted. Internally the changing rooms, together with their toilets will be updated, as will the wardrobe area. Most of the carpets will be replaced along with some flooring. Repairs to the seating in the balcony will be completed. Front of house there is scope for the toilets to be given face-lifts and, dare we say it, perhaps a new disabled toilet. The work on the theatre should be starting on 12th October when the scaffolding will be put up in preparation for the new roof. Our President (Barney) had a meeting on 1st October with the KCDC Property Manager, the Project Manager and the head contractor, and a project timeline is being updated. Barney hopes to get this soon. Some work may be going on inside the building before "The Pink Hammer" finishes on 21st November. We are looking to have most of the work completed by March 2021 – in time for our 2021 programme plans. (more about that later).

For some years the Society has wanted to replace the main house tabs (curtains) but because of the expense we have been unable to afford it – until now. Thanks to a substantial grant from the Phillipp Family Foundation we now have those new curtains – and very handsome they are too! For those unable to get to the theatre to see them in the flesh please see the photograph attached.



Don't forget our latest production – “The Pink Hammer” a comedy which promises to bring the house down. Directed by Peter Carr the plot involves 4 mismatched ladies who attend a woodworking course run by an unknowing and reluctant workshop owner. The play runs from Thursday, 12th November until Saturday, 21st November. Tickets are selling well and, to date, we have sold over 200 with 6 weeks to go to show opening. Be sure not to miss this production. Tickets are available through the Society/Theatre website. And just to whet your appetites a little further there is a short rehearsal video on the Otaki Players Society's Facebook page.

The first event in the theatre following renovations is likely to be the Maoriland Film Festival – to run from 24th to 28th March 2021. Our first production – provisionally - will be “Diva Darlings” – to be directed by Tracy Wills-Wright. This is expected to be staged in the second half of the year. Our main musical is provisionally planned for August 2021. The name of this show will remain under wraps until performing rights have been granted. We have had some setbacks of late (lack of member interest and refusal of performing rights) but we hope that our latest booking request will not only be successful but will attract a good turnout at audition time.

As you will be aware we are always seeking suggestions for future productions and volunteer directors. COVID-19 has played havoc with our planning, may yet continue to do so, and there has been a noticeable reluctance for individuals to come forward – both as would-be directors and, surprisingly, for auditions. With this background the Committee has found it difficult to make any long-term and meaningful forward plans. Now that the theatre itself is going into a renovation type of “lockdown” there is still a need to establish a programme of events for the Society/Theatre. So please, please, do not be backward in coming forward.

And, as usual, if there is anything which warrants circulation to our Members and Friends, please let me know – preferably by email: pandjedwards@yahoo.co.uk.