

**MUSICAL THEATRE NEW ZEALAND – ZONE 3 MEETING
HOSTED BY ABBEY MUSICAL THEATRE, PALMERSTON NORTH,
ON 24 JULY 2010 2009 AT 10.30 A.M.**

WELCOME

Allan Nagy welcomed everyone to the meeting.

ROLL CALL

Allan Nagy	MTNZ Zone 3 Representative (Chair)
Kay Nagy	Abbey Musical Theatre
Jayne McQueen	Abbey Musical Theatre
Valda Peacock	Waipawa Musical & Drama Society
Staveley Tankersley	Hastings Operatic Society
Janice Pritchard	Tawa Community Theatre
Lima Watson	Porirua Little Theatre
Cheryl Moeau	Porirua Little Theatre
Margot Stuart	Porirua Little Theatre
Adele Mahan	Tawa Community Theatre
Basil Mahan	Porirua Little Theatre
John MacGibbon	Dannevirke Theatre Company/ML Consultants
Callum Brieske	ML Consultants
Conal McKone	Wellington Musical Theatre
Warren Bates	New Plymouth Operatic Society
Kim James	Coasters Musical Theatre
Joanne Sharp	Coasters Musical Theatre
Rob Haines	Pahiatua Repertory Society
Michael Moran	Pahiatua Repertory Society
Vanessa Coggan	Pahiatua Repertory Society
Ngairie Ngatuere	Pahiatua Repertory Society
Lynne McFall	Pahiatua Repertory Society
Sheridan Hickey	Young Fry Productions
Jeanne Hall	Theatre Hawkes Bay
Lesley Reid	MTNZ
Lionel Priest	Theatre Hawkes Bay
Sharron Pardoe	Napier Operatic Society
Gary McLennan	Masterton Amateur Theatre Society
Lorraine Orange	Masterton Amateur Theatre Society
Diane Rutene	Masterton Amateur Theatre Society
Joe Mutu	Masterton Amateur Theatre Society
Ross Cottle	Masterton Amateur Theatre Society
Ann Mutu	Masterton Amateur Theatre Society
Colin Denby	Masterton Amateur Theatre Society

APOLOGIES

Peter Franklin (Levin Performing Arts), Graeme & Diane Philip (John Herber Ltd), Rose & Brian Hudson (Tawa Community Theatre), Ian Reid (MTNZ), Energy Theatre, Wellington G&S Light Opera, Chris Burton (PN Boys' High School), ;Wanganui Amdram (Edwyna McDonald, Stuart McDonald, Ray Campbell, Karen Aukett), Hawera Repertory Society

MINUTES FROM PALMERSTON NORTH ZONE 3 MEETING

With one small amendment, the minutes of the meeting held in Palmerston North on 17 October 2009 were confirmed.

REPORTS

Napier Operatic Society

- November – December 2009: “Music Hall Meets Vaudeville” – directed by Wendy Revell. Great houses and financial success.
- February 2010: Hosted Art Deco weekend. Good little money spinner.
- April 2010: “The Wedding Singer” – directed by Sonya Aifai. Good houses.
- June 2010: Children’s theatre at Queen’s Birthday weekend – “Midsummer Night’s Dream”.
- 29 July 2010: “Bad Girls, The Musical” – directed by Wendy Revell.
- November 2010: “Music Hall” – directed by Rob Hickey.
- Updated website ready to be launched – www.nos.org.nz

Theatre Hawkes Bay

- Had a very good season of “Take A Chance On Me” by Roger Hall – the bank manager is thrilled.
- We were then going to do “The Mikado” but couldn’t cast it to the standard we wanted so decided not to do it. This decision cost us about \$3,000 in advance fees. At short notice we put together a variety show. It won’t make us a lot of money but it was a very good show.
- In a couple of weeks we are auditioning for “Forbidden Broadway”. There appears to be a lot of interest in this. We will have a familiarisation meeting, followed by a workshop and then auditions.
- Next year we are doing a play first up, then “West Side Story” in the Opera House, and then “Brassed Off”.
- The venue has been busy with dance and school productions as well.

Young Fry Productions

- Young Fry Productions is a theatre training school.
- This year the seniors did “2b not 2b”. Those seniors are now doing backstage and front-of-house work for the junior production – a pantomime called “The Pirate’s Treasure”, to be performed at the Feilding Little Theatre at the end of October.

Pahiatua Repertory Society

- At the end of 2009 we staged “Old Mother Hubbard”, the pantomime. It turned out to be a very successful show with quite good audiences. The balance sheet showed quite a good profit.
- In May this year we presented “Beside Manners” – a fast moving British comedy which was well received. A much smaller cast for this one was quite nice for a change as far as rehearsals were concerned and we managed to make a reasonable profit.
- In July we staged our One Act Play Festival – “Theatre in the Bay”, which was once again a great success with plays entering from Pahiatua, Napier, Levin and Palmerston North, as well as three youth plays from Tararua and Levin. Kurt Lerps from Brisbane was our adjudicator – his expertise was very well received by all participants. This festival has become an annual event for us and is very worthwhile.
- In December this year we plan to present “Mother Goose’s Golden Christmas”. This show was staged 20 odd years ago – a great family show that will hopefully put bums on seats.
- The programme for 2011 is yet to be finalised. At this stage we are planning to stage “Chess”, in conjunction with Dannevirke, in April – to be staged both in the Pahiatua Regent Theatre and the Dannevirke Town Hall.
- “Theatre in the Bush” will be held again mid-year and possibly another musical at the end of the year – maybe “The Wedding Singer”.

Masterton Amateur Theatrical Society (MATS Musicals)

- From 28 November to 9 December 2009 we staged our Christmas theatre restaurant show, "No Ill Feeling", which was a light hearted musical fare set in the austere wards of the Sisters of Percy Hospital, and included a great deal of medical mayhem. We chose this show because it provided an opportunity for some of our senior members, who couldn't be in our big centennial show, to strut their stuff – and because the cast was predominantly women with just a few men required. The local DHB donated the use of all the hospital equipment required and it was a lot of fun, supported extremely well by the medical profession who came along to laugh at themselves. We had an attendance overall of 86%.
- 2-10 July 2010 – we just completed a most successful season of the show "All Shook Up" which is inspired by and features the songs of Elvis Presley. Directed by Sharon Stevens-Cottle, the show received excellent reviews and the mainly young cast worked very hard for the praise they received – even if their absence due to school and other commitments had the director tearing her hair out at times. The weather during the last weeks of rehearsal and the run of the show was atrocious, causing much illness amongst the company – so we won't be doing another show in this time slot every again. Despite the weather, attendances were very good at 87% overall and the show will have made a good profit.
- 26 November – 4 December 2010: Christmas theatre restaurant show – we are hoping to stage "The Full Monty", directed by Lynn Bushnell. We are hoping for warmer weather, for obvious reasons! Auditions are on 7 & 8 August 2010.
- We have just added to our lighting rig the purchase of 18 LED Par 200B lights. Because of the low ceiling on our stage it has always been a problem to get a good wash of colour on the set and this seems to have solved that situation and saved a bit on the power bill.
- Our original website provider crashed and burned 18 months ago. Our Secretary, Jude Card, has done a great job in creating our new website which has been published as www.matsmusicaltheatre.org.nz. A Facebook page with a link from the website has also been set up, plus a Google account creating a Google Map directory entry so that everyone can find us and our Majestic Theatre.
- Our 2011 show programme is still in negotiation, but before then we will be kept very busy waterproofing the roof of our theatre which currently provides more leaks than the Government's Press Release Office.

Coasters Musical Theatre

- We produced four cabaret shows last year. All were very successful and everyone was happy.
- The Board decided to try a nine night season with our last show of 2009 – "Best of British". We sold out two weeks prior to opening night. We continued with nine nights – for the first show this year we had to drop one night but the rest were fully booked.
- We have staged two shows this year already – "Love Peace and Doris Day" and "Land of Make Believe". They were both very successful.
- Our next show, which is in rehearsal, is "Kiss the Blarney and More" (which is a follow up to "Kiss the Blarney").
- Our last show of the year will be Coasters' 30th Anniversary show – "Reflections".
- In 2011 we have four cabaret shows booked in including a Christmas cabaret, "Christmas Cracker".
- We won some Dulux paint in a competition and wanted to paint our building. However, we have now found that the existing paint on the building is lead based. Therefore, we will need to get this professionally stripped off. Therefore, we are looking for some funding and grants to help with this. We will then be relying on volunteers to help with the painting.
- Our Costume Hire is at the same premises and is still going strong. It is very popular with the locals for parties and functions. Our cabaret productions benefit from this also as we source our costumes in house.
- In February 2010 we had a workshop which involving acting and singing and we had tutors from the Whitireia Performing Arts Centre in Wellington. This was hugely successful and very valuable. We will be hosting further workshops in September this year with the same tutors.
- We are in rehearsal for "Proms in 'Pram" which will be held at Southwards at the end of July.
- We were a regional winner in the Arts & Culture category and won the Supreme Award in the Wellington Airport Regional Community Awards 2009. The prize money for this was used to purchase some cordless microphones.
- If anyone has a chicken/rooster or a strong man costume available to lend or hire, please contact Coasters.

New Plymouth Operatic Society

- We are having a relatively quiet year. Earlier this year we held a "Mamma Mia Sing-a-long" evening and at the end of the year we will have a Christmas cabaret.
- We have focused this year on building our own sets. We will not stage a major musical this year
- We are currently focusing on our performing arts school. We have 140 students and they are aged from 10 to 18/19. These students will be performing "The Complete Works of Shakespeare Reduced". They will then take it around provincial schools and it will be totally student produced – including lighting, marketing and all things production. Any profit from this production will then go back to the students and be used for their ongoing drama school fees etc.
- In 2011 we are planning to do two musicals and a play. At the end of the year we will stage "The 25th Annual Putnam Spelling Bee".
- We have spent a considerable amount of money on refurbishing our club rooms. We are very proud of our rooms and we can now use them for a lot more in-house things.

Wellington Musical Theatre

- Last year we didn't do any shows and made more money than it costs us to run the society for a year. This was through hireages of sets and costumes – so please ensure that you look after your assets.
- This year we staged "Miss Saigon" and had an attendance of 15,000. Artistically this was a very good show. We are still finishing off the financials, however. It will not be as big a money spinner as "CATS" (which had an attendance of 27,000) but at the very least it will break even.
- We are currently in rehearsal for a home-grown musical inspired by "Glee". There are 43 in the cast. The show will feature singing, dancing and multimedia. It opens 4 September 2010 in the Opera House. There is a website for this show – www.thegleeevent.co.nz
- We have been working on the 'branding' of Wellington Musical Theatre as a lot of people don't know that we are a locally based theatre company. We have, therefore, just released a new logo (the previous one was 15 years old) and we have revamped our website.
- In 2011 we are negotiating to stage a show around the time of the Rugby World Cup (September) although we are not ready to announce this show as yet. We will not do a first up show next year.

Dannevirke Theatre Company

- Our year started with a production of "Putting On the Blitz" in the Fountain Theatre which was very successful.
- We are currently in rehearsal for "Les Misérables" and have a very strong cast. This show opens on 15 September 2010.
- At the end of the year (December) we will stage a pantomime.
- Next year we are doing "Chess" as a joint production with Pahiatua Repertory Society.

Tawa Community Theatre

- It has often been stated that lightning does not strike twice ... during the last two years Tawa Community Theatre has proved that ancient proverb to be untrue as this year history repeated itself when, once again, the director of our first production for the year became unwell leaving us, as the ancient proverb goes, up the creek without a paddle. Kevin Rush was set to direct his musical based on the works of Rodgers & Hammerstein ("The Sound of Their Music"). Auditions failed to attract enough light footed young male actors for the show to go ahead. However, there was an eager bevy of very talented young female actors rearing to go (as they say) and Dan Goggin's "Nonsense" was cast with Margaret Guidea as the Musical Director. We were in business ... well, almost as history began to repeat itself ... but our director, Kevin Rush, was forced to withdraw before the full rehearsal programme was in place and Rose Hudson once again took over the production as Director at short notice, running her first rehearsal before having had a chance to read the script. "The best bit of ad libbing I have ever done," she admitted at the last night party. Last year Rose took over husband Brian's production of Michael Green's coarse acting piece "Caesar and Cleopatra" – "... a blokey thing with battle scenes and chariot races – I won't be talked into that again," she was heard to mutter.

Well, history did repeat itself and "Nonsense" was staged in July with considerable success. The Musical Director did a wonderful job and this year's "Nonsense" cast has been one of the most talented and hard working team we have worked with. The choreography was complex, but not too complex for our little nuns. Their tap dancing routine at the end of Act I brought the house down every night. Adversity may have got in the way at times but by the end of the season everyone was happy – "Nonsense" was a happy show. Rain, hail, snow and a knee high flood swirling into the actors' cars did not stop rehearsals. Even a major accident on the motorway from Wellington during the rush hour just before the start of the second performance, causing long traffic delays for cast and audience members, did not get in the way of a stunning performance with a standing ovation from the patrons who eventually made it to the theatre that night.

- The show must go on, as they say in the theatrical world of live entertainment, and at Tawa Community Theatre our shows will continue to entertain and open up as many opportunities as possible for local on stage and backstage thespians eager to give it a go.

Porirua Little Theatre

- At the end of last year we finished with a Christmas concert put together by our members – we only had three shows – and the proceeds were given to charity. This type of format has been very successful for both Porirua Little Theatre and the charities. However, we will not be doing this in 2010.
- We opened this year with "Curtains". If anyone is interested in staging this show, Porirua now have a fully printed globe that they are happy to lend.
- We then staged the play "Don't Dress For Dinner" and we will stage an anniversary show at the beginning of September for our 60th anniversary year.
- During the school holidays we staged a pantomime, directed by Amanda Stone. This was staged during the day and was well attended by the community.
- In 2011 we will stage "The Wizard of Oz" in April and we are then looking at two plays during the year.
- We are in a maintenance period right now. We have had air conditioning installed and the theatre is now very cosy.
- We have found a major structural problem with our building and we are currently negotiating with the City Council to get it fixed.

Hastings Operatic Society

- In November we staged "Celebrating Rodgers & Hammerstein II" which was well received.
- In March we did "Music from the Movies".
- We did "Robin Hood" in the school holidays, followed by "Musical Journey".
- We are currently rehearsing "Anyone for Breakfast" which is on stage from 12-21 August.
- In the September school holidays we will be doing "Puss In Boots" and in November we will do "Christmas Variety Revue".
- Next year we will be staging "A Night at the Opera" in February, followed by "Hansen & Gretel" and "Are You Being Served?"

Waipawa Musical & Drama Society

- For our Christmas shows everybody does the show for nothing – no-one gets paid. This is a good money spinner for us.
- We have just finished "Oliver!". We had full houses and it was very successful.
- We are now going into semi-retirement because the Waipawa Town Hall is being refurbished – to the tune of \$2.9m. Waipawa Musical & Drama Society has contributed \$10,000 towards the refurbishment.

Abbey Musical Theatre

- At Christmas time we staged "Disco Inferno" which was very successful.
- We did not stage a first up show this year because we have been building the set and making the costumes for "Jesus Christ Superstar" which is being staged in the Regent Theatre from 13-28 August 2010.
- At Christmas time this year we will be staging "Leader of the Pack". We have a new Director and Musical Director (for us) for this show – being Ian Harman and Shane Brown.
- Our Children's Abbey Theatre School production this year (in the September school holidays) will be "Alice in Wonderland, Jnr".
- In 2011 we will be staging "Breaking Up Is Hard To Do" in March/April – this show features the music of Neil Sedaka.
- We are currently in negotiations for our August show in the Regent.
- At Christmas time 2011 we will be staging "Ring of Fire", which features the music of Johnny Cash.
- We have just signed up with SABO (Seat Advisor Box Office) which is an on-line booking system. We go live with this next month. It will cost us about \$1,500 per annum to have all our Abbey shows booked through the system – this is a cost of approximately 0.75c per seat. Allan Nagy will report back at the next meeting on how this has worked.

Palmerston North Boys' High School

(Written report submitted)

- PNBHS enjoyed a highly successful season of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" in March/April with 6/9 full houses and a host of young talent.
- We are staging "Grease" for a nine performance season in the Speirs Centre from 31 March – 9 April 2011. Workshop/auditions take place at the beginning of Term 4.
- Musical theatre is in great heart at PNBHS and we enjoy outstanding support from our rector, Tim O'Connor, who credits our annual senior production with being a highly significant flagship for the school. It is a great pleasure to see 10 students, two staff and nine Old Boys involved with the Abbey's upcoming production of "Jesus Christ Superstar".

Wellington G&S Light Opera

(Written report submitted)

- We are in the final weeks of rehearsals for "Die Fledermaus" and are embroiled in all things production.
- On top of that, we have to move our store during the last six months of this year so I am sure you will understand how busy and "snowed under" we are just now, especially as we are still looking for a suitable space at a cost we can afford.

Wanganui Amdram

(Written report submitted)

- We recently staged "Grease". The show went really well and it appears we made a small profit which is great as it was a really big budget.
- Our Christmas theatre restaurant is "Blackadder 2" and "Godspell" will be on two weeks before Easter in April 2011. The rest of our planning is yet to be done.
- The school holidays in 2011 are being changed next year for the Rugby World Cup. It affects Terms 1, 2 & 4. We had the Opera House booked for October 2011 but that is right in the middle of the World Cup so we cancelled the booking as it is suicide to try and compete with the Rugby World Cup.
- Please encourage your societies to make plans to come to Conference in 2012. It is the weekend of 16, 17 & 18 March and we have some great ideas to present. As our Zone societies are close to the venue, it is a good opportunity to take part in all or some of the weekend. If there are any enquiries, could they please contact me (Edwyna McDonald) as I am co-ordinating the Conference.

Conference 2012

Allan Nagy stated that it would be great to get a good attendance from Zone 3 at the Conference in Wanganui in 2012. He also stated that if any societies in our Zone are able to give Wanganui any assistance, please give them a call because it is a huge undertaking for them and Conference is extremely time consuming and busy for a host society.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

CAF Funding

It was asked how far in advance you need to apply for CAF funding. Allan Nagy advised that it would take about three weeks for an application to be considered, as long as the submitted forms are filled out properly. Allan advised that there is money in the CAF awaiting applications.

"Fair Go"

Staveley Tankersley asked if there were any further updates on the "Fair Go" episode. It was advised that this appears to have died a quiet death. The MTNZ Executive steered clear of any involvement in this and have heard nothing more.

PPNZ

Lionel Priest advised that Theatre Hawkes Bay have taken out a PPNZ licence and also an APRA licence. However, they have now been advised that an additional licence is required for any music they have leading into a show. An e-mail received from APRA states;

Please be aware that this licence only covers the right to publicly perform the musical works listed. Should you be using a copyright sound recording you will also need to gain permission from the Phonographic Performance New Zealand (PPNZ). They can be contacted on (09) 360 5085. Should you be reproducing either the musical work or a sound recording, in any other way you will also require permission from AMCOS for the musical work and PPNZ for the sound recording. AMCOS can be contacted on (09) 623 2173.

Allan Nagy advised that clarification on all the licences received will be sought and distributed.

MTNZ EXECUTIVE REPORT

- We are looking at renaming the annual Conference in an endeavour to make it easier to obtain funding to attend. A good portion of the Conference weekend focuses on 'training', 'development' and 'volunteers' and the inclusion of these words in the name of the conference could mean funding organisations will be more agreeable to providing funding.
- The theme for next year's AGM in Nelson is "WOW" (wearable arts). Conference will be held 18-20 March 2011.
- It was advised that Conference in 2013 will be held in Christchurch – in conjunction with their 75th Anniversary.
- There are still some copies of the 50th Anniversary book available for purchase at \$10 each. These can be purchased through Kate Ghent.
- At the moment there is an issue with HAL Leonard approving the rights for "West Side Story" to both Hamilton Operatic Society and Musikmakers – their shows are two weeks apart. Lawyers have been involved in this matter although it appears that advance royalties have not been paid to secure the rights, only deposits have been paid. Therefore, as HAL Leonard do not grant "exclusive" rights, it appears that they are within their rights to issue licences to these two societies.

Kate Ghent is currently attending the ACT Conference in Australia and will speak to staff at HAL Leonard re this, on behalf of MTNZ. Ian Reid is also planning to make contact with Stuart Hendrickson at HAL Leonard.

- In view of the “West Side Story” issue, Allan Nagy reminded everyone to ensure they read through the contract documentation they receive to ensure they know what they have to pay, and when, and what that entitles them to.
- Kate Ghent has passed on a vote of thanks from the MTNZ Executive for all subscription fees being paid and on time.

Combined Zone 2 & 3 Meeting

As the South Island zones regularly have a combined zone meeting, it has been queried if it is felt there would be any value in holding a combined Zone 2 & 3 meeting. It was agreed that this would be a good idea as long as it was held in an agreeable timeframe and place. It was suggested, therefore, that a meeting could be held in Napier in early July (not during the school holidays – which are 17-29 July 2011). Allan Nagy will, therefore, talk with Ngaire Holmes (Zone 2 Representative) about this and send information out to everyone.

It was agreed that another Zone 3 meeting is not required before Conference 2011.

Merit Awards – Acknowledgment

Lesley Reid advised that it is fantastic to see those people who have been awarded MTNZ Merit Awards wearing their badges proudly.

Directors’ School

It was advised that MTNZ have submitted an application to obtain funding for a Directors’ School at Labour Weekend this year, in Christchurch. Therefore, if you have any budding Directors who are keen to learn, this could be an opportunity for them to attend. It is hoped that we will know within 3-4 weeks if the application has been approved.

Awards

Allan Nagy reminded everyone to ensure they put forward appropriate nominations for Merit Awards, Achievement Awards and the Patron’s Encouragement Award

MTNZ Website

The MTNZ website is in the process of being refurbished.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Creative NZ

Discussion was held on MTNZ’s relationship with Creative NZ. It was advised that the application for funding for the Directors’ School has been submitted to Creative NZ. Allan Nagy advised that Kate Ghent has put in a lot of work on this application and has provided a lot of information in support of the application. Allan advised that societies may be required to provide information to MTNZ in support of further applications. This information would be confidential in that it would not identify any individual society. The information that is requested, however, will be used to favourably represent MTNZ to outside organisations/funding agencies etc.

ML Consultants

- Just a reminder that ML Consultants are agents for a number of theatrical equipment companies, including lighting, sound and multimedia companies and Herbers.
- John MacGibbon advised that Callum Brieske recently attended a training school in Auckland. He ended up being the only non-employee of the companies presenting the school in attendance. Therefore, he is the only person outside the companies who is able to install their equipment.

Training

- Cheryl Moeau advised that Porirua Little Theatre quite often run their own training schools, including some Directors' schools.
- They are also considering using Polytechnic students to help build up their expertise, particularly in relation to building/construction etc. and asked if this has been done elsewhere. It was advised that with Polytechnic students you need to be very clear in what you want them to do and outline what benefits they will achieve.

Pre-Planning Packs

(Written question received from Chris Burton of PNBHS)

It has been a revelation to find that a full pre-planning pack, including a piano conductor's score, are available for "Grease" as soon as the deposit is paid. Has our organisation ever made any approaches to distributors/rights holders to suggest this should be the norm? It is certainly a way of their taking some responsibility for preventing the need for illegal photocopying.

It was advised that this has been raised previously. The reality is that you are better off licensing people to print material from a disc rather than sending out copies etc. Some rights holders will send out logo packs etc., and some won't.

Thanks

Lionel Priest passed a vote of thanks to the Chairman and to Abbey Musical Theatre for hosting the meeting.

NEXT MEETING

- Allan Nagy will advise if the combined Zone 2 & 3 meeting is to be scheduled in July 2011.
- There will not be another Zone 3 meeting before Conference 2011 in Nelson.

The meeting closed at 1.51 p.m.