

MUSICAL THEATRE NEW ZEALAND

ZONE 1 MEETING 13/06/10, 12:30pm @ NORTH SHORE MUSIC THEATRE

MINUTES

- PRESENT:** Mark Betty (NSMT), Richard Bryham (WTC), Andrew Comrie (NSMT), Barbara Hieatt (PTC), Marian Hines (PP), Kevin Maddern (PLOC), Sue Rossiter (HMT), Neville Scelly (CTG), Pat Shanks (CTC), Lorraine Simmons (MPA), Delwyn Smith (MTNZ), Pauline Vella (AMT), John Michie (AMT)
- APOLOGIES:** Dayle Hall (HMT), Ian Page (WTC)
- PREVIOUS MINUTES:** **RESOLVED:** That the previous minutes be accepted as a true and correct record.
Andrew Comrie / Kevin Maddern
- MATTERS ARISING:** Pat asked about withholding tax with Tams Whitmark. Delwyn asked that Pat go to their Accountant for advise. Pauline suggested that it should be paid.
- NAPTA NOMINATIONS:** The NAPTA Nominations will be held on the 12th December 2010 at a time to be advised at Auckland Music Theatre.
- The date, venue and pricing of the NAPTA Awards and Scholarship Evening is to be confirmed.
- MTNZ EXECUTIVE REPORT:** Thanks to those who attended the MTNZ 50th Anniversary 2010 Conference. Kate has sent out a list of items for feedback. If you have not given feedback please do so. The seminars and forums were very good and there was a good selection. Delwyn read out the list of seminars and forums and asked if there were any that we would especially like repeated. It was recommended that the seminars and forums presenters need to be aware that some people often need to hear questions. It was also recommended that the seminar and forum information details where it is pitched, i.e. beginner, medium, advanced. Numbers may need to be limited so that the seminars are comfortable.
- It was asked if Zone 1 could arrange for courses such as lighting, sound, set painting, props design etc.
- A reminder that the Nola Speir Patrons Encouragement Award and the Merit and Achievement awards are available for application. If you have people involved with your society take advantage of these awards. The criteria for these awards are on the MTNZ website. These applications need to be in by 31st January. Poster and Programme competition entries need to be submitted to Kate by the 31st December.
- Conference 2011 will be held in Nelson on the 18th, 19th and 20th of March 2011.
- The AGM format options were discussed and the nine societies attending voted unanimously on the second option.
- Delwyn reminded those societies who haven't paid their memberships to do so.

Any cheques that need to be sent to MTNZ should be made out to MTNZ (not to CAF unless it is a CAF contribution or payment).

Use the MTNZ website www.musical.org.nz and updates. Please contact Delwyn with your show dates so that these can be posted to the show calendar on the MTNZ website. The show calendar is very popular in terms of hits on the site. There is a website renovation coming. If there are any specific thing that you would like from the MTNZ website, please send it through to Kate. There is heaps of information there, but often it is hard to find things. Navigation and ease of use was mentioned as being very important.

The 2012 conference will be held in Wanganui.

Thank you to all societies who have paid their contributions to the CAF Fund.

The CAF fund is available as an interest free loan for contributors of 10 years or more.

Aon has a very good offer of Public Liability Insurance for \$154 per year which covers up to \$4M. Kate has the contact details for Aon.

Stage Whispers Magazine discounts are available from MTNZ – this is a good publication from Australia and it does have a New Zealand section.

Please forward Spotlight on MTNZ to the members of your society.

PPNZ (who manage recorded music licensing) Phonographic Performances NZ. It only affects people who have theatres. The theatre owners need to hold a PPNZ license. Delwyn will distribute PPNZ information if anyone requires it.

Lorraine asked about a situation MPA have been in where they have had a couple performing before a show in their foyer. Delwyn will enquire about this. Would this be covered by an APRA concert license?

REPORTS FROM SOCIETIES: PILGRIM PROUCTIONS

Pilgrim started the year quite down, as we lost Bruce Weston from the committee as he moved to Blenheim. And after that we lost our major technical committee contributor. We still found a play and a director and were able to stage it. 'An Inspector Calls' opens in September and a one act play called 'Supernovae Summit' in August which precedes 'An Inspector Calls'. It will tour churches and replace the sermon slot during a church service.

Bruce is doing well in Blenheim and is having a great time.

NORTH SHORE MUSIC THEATE

We had 'Big Top Cabaret' here at the clubrooms in February, which was a really fun show.

We have postponed 'Into the Woods' due to some of the creative team were unable to commit the time. Our replacement show will be announced shortly once we have confirmed the creative team.

We are also doing a small clubroom concert called 'Stars'. Brittney who was involved in 'High School Musical Jr.' has asked if she can produce a small concert and NSMT are helping them through this. The dates will be announced this week.

We are still working away with 'Miss Saigon'. Auditions have been announced. The season is May/June 2011. www.misssaigon.co.nz for more.

We have also confirmed funding for our building project and should be starting construction soon.

HARLEQUIN MUSIC THEATRE

Harlequin has been hosting Jazz nights at the theatre with entertainment and refreshments and it is becoming quite popular. These are also becoming financially successful. The Jazz band has actually renamed themselves the 'Harlequin Jazz Band'.

'Songs for You' is still happening every month.

The air conditioning is now in and up and running. Brilliant for 'Songs for You' and rehearsals. We have had a real dilemma with 'Witches of Eastwick' where we lost some of our team. It was great that the Zone was right behind us in helping us to find creative team. We have solved with problem by moving the show to a later slot in the year. John Fausett is directing, and Campbell Downie is Musical Director and we are looking for a Choreographer.

We are now doing 'Trivial Pursuits' in our July slot. It is a comedy about a theatre putting on a show. Opens 17th July. Sue is directing this.

AUCKLAND MUSIC THEATRE

We have had a wonderful time this year. 'Rent' was a great success, we are unsure of its financial status at the moment, but we loved it. We were able to use very many of our members and friends to work on the show as some of these people were concerned that these people might be able to be involved in the club this year.

We have learnt a lot both producing at that level and playing at that level in the theatre of that size. We had a lot of support from the wider theatre community.

We are working hard on '42nd Street' now. It is much bigger than 'Rent'. We are using the Broadway costumes and set. We are almost fully cast and this will be announced officially in a press release to come soon. It was a long and hard audition process.

We have also been busy with our props store, and photographing all of our props.

We are also producing a new website soon. Facebook membership is also excellent. Although they aren't paid members, they are still keeping informed.

It is likely we will produce something in our theatre to coincide with the fringe festival.

MANUKAU PERFORMING ARTS

MPA have had a good year so far. Allan Robinson was our first Merit Award recipient which was wonderful. At the recent MAD awards which we normally have just after the NAPTA's we used that opportunity to present that Merit Award. Also we were thrilled with our win in the showbill competition. This was also presented at the MAD awards.

We have had 'Social Climbers' which was fantastic with a neat group of 6 ladies in the cast. Unfortunately the houses were very light but we still broke even.

The MAD awards themselves were great too.

Our mid year show, 'Children of Eden' we have had to cancel due to not being able to cast it. Rather than having a gap, we have decided to do a two night season with 'Faulty Towers' as a dinner theatre. \$65 dinner and show. Lorraine encouraged societies to book a whole table.

At the end of the year, on the 30th October we open with Blood Brothers with Mary Gray directing. There is a lot of interest in auditions so far.

It was also a pleasure hosting the NAPTA nominations last year.

WHANGAREI THEATRE COMPANY

We are not doing so well with our junior theatre as we have lost a couple of tutors.

We did a play 'Miss Information' first up this year which did well. Our second show which has just finished 'Hot Mikado' was a little different and unfortunately our reviewer didn't very much appreciate our version of the show. However, it was a great show. Audience numbers were just ok. The High School girl who was the lead, has just been awarded a scholarship to study in the US.

The next show is 'The Thing About Men' which is a play with music, which was just auditioned and opens in August.

At the end of the year we are doing 'Disco Inferno' which will involve a lot more people. We are using 3 new directors this year.

Our new building with the wardrobe mezzanine should be commencing soon. This new building is just being used for storage.

The Merit Award for Peter Gibb was very well received at WTC.

Next year we haven't settled on our shows, but we are looking at 'Miss Saigon' at the moment as one option. We will also need a significant sponsorship to be able to do this well. This might be at a similar time as NSMT.

CENTRESTAGE THEATRE COMPANY

We started the year with 'Railway Children'. It is an interesting show, and you need to have a good young girl as the lead, which we did have. This is the first time we have

used projection instead of set, and there were a few challenges with this, although Bruce sorted this well. We had good audiences.

In the school holidays we had our children's show. These shows are normally an hour to an hour and a half.

We have had to can 'Scarlet Pimpernel' as the director became unavailable and we were struggling to cast. We are now doing 'Hooray for Hollywood'. We have also just auditioned for 'The Boyfriend' and we are going to be auditioning for 'Little Women' soon too.

We also have a new website.

We bought a new lighting desk a few years ago, and it is no longer being supported, and we can't get any support or parts.

We will also be refurbishing the auditorium next year if we can secure the funding.

Storage is also a bit of a problem and there seems to never be enough room for anything. We have ongoing manager sagas as it is a part time role although we have Scott back now. We have started car boot sales in the car park from 7am till midday on Sundays.

The youth theatre idea is being developed and we are going to be doing a once a month youth theatre on a Saturday afternoon. This will culminate in a small concert at the end of the year. This also includes painting their sets, making costumes, lighting, sound etc.

Doing 'Jesus Christ Superstar', 'Noises Off' and 'Return to the Forbidden Planet' next year.

PAPAKURA THEATRE COMPANY (Read by Andrew Comrie)

We started the year off with the Auckland Premier of Monty Python's 'Spamalot', directed by Adey Ramsel. We auditioned in November 2009 and held four music rehearsals prior to Christmas and then resumed rehearsals in late January. The show went on stage at the Hawkins Theatre from 30th April to 15th May with a cast of 38.

Rehearsals were a blast – the script was so funny and we had a great cast. However, Wardrobe was a worry right from the start – we had a problem finding someone prepared to take it on. We had someone lined up and organized, but she hardly got started and then found she had to return to the UK. The next person didn't seem to realize the size of the job and then fell sick. Finally three weeks out from production week, we were lucky. Janette Halbach picked it up and in that short time designed and made or put together almost all of the costumes you saw on stage. Some of the girls had nine changes. Costume-wise, it was absolutely huge and I don't think too many of us realized this when we started!

The lighting bar incident at the Hawkins Theatre caused us real problems and delays in setting up. We were very lucky nobody was hurt and our insurance company is paying

up[the cost of damaged lights to the tune of \$36,000. I guess they'll then go looking to regain this money from whoever is deemed to be at fault, but we are all in the clear.

Once we were allowed back into the theatre, nobody got a break during production week – all weekend and all week cast and crew worked and rehearsed and we opened on Friday 30th April with an absolutely sparkling performance.

We were the third company to produce 'Spamalot' in NZ and the first in Auckland. There was a lot of interest everywhere and it was well publicized all over the region, on radio, in the print press, via various websites and e-mail databases and we even made it to TV when TV3 contacted us and asked to come out and do a piece for their 'Nightline' program.

But, despite all this, we could have done with more bums on seats. Our advertising was up against a huge campaign from other shows coming into Auckland and the Hawkins Theatre itself now presents a regular flow of well advertised commercial productions, so we're not sure yet if we have made budget – but it was a fantastic and fun journey with a great team and we were thrilled with how our production looked and sounded and the reaction we got from our audiences every night, so no regrets at all. A very positive experience!

Our next production is Willy Russell's 'Stags and Hens' to be directed by Adey Ramsel – auditions are this weekend and this comedy opens at Off Broadway on 14th August. This is the NZ Premier of the revised version. When we contacted Play Bureau for a reading copy, they didn't know the author had recently revised it and had to send to the UK for the updated script. A cast of 12 with only one costume each which they wear through the entire play and no set changes! A welcome relief after 'Spamalot'.

At the end of the year, we are planning a dinner show called 'A Ticket To The Tony's' – based on all the Tony Award winning songs over the years. This is being put together by Emma Bishop, who will direct, and Ryan Benjamin will be our Musical Director.

For 2011, we are planning to start the year with a play, followed by a musical and then a review, but we are still in the process of acquiring the rights to these, we will announce our programme at a later date.

PUKEKOHE LIGHT OPERA CLUB

Pukekohe Light Opera Club has just finished an eight performance show youth production in May. 18 of the cast were new to the stage and the club. PLOC itself has been around nearly 8 years, and we have a lot of older members. Having the new people coming through is wonderful. Kelly Manning along with a new director were able to do this together. The rights for this was all done online, paid for in US dollars and we printed our own scripts.

Our next show is a revue in the last week of August called 'Idolize the 80's' which Emma Bishop is directing for us.

Next year we are looking at 'Bugsy Malone' as a youth show with Mary Gray directing.

We have also discussed a small 'Music Hall' at the end of this year. We have a core group of 60+ age group people who just like doing 'Music Halls'. This is often toured to Pauanui.

Kevin also added that it was a thrill for Charlotte Thomas to be awarded the Nola Speir Patrons Encouragement Award. When we had our AGM on the 26th May we were able to formally present it to her where her parents also attended. Kevin will get some photos for Kate.

GENERAL BUSINESS: Mark suggested producing and distributing a glossy brochure as a zone advertising all of these shows.

Delwyn asked for people who were interested in putting their name forward for Zone Representative. Kevin Maddern, Andrew Comrie and Pauline Vella registered their interest.

NEXT MEETING: TBA

CLOSURE: The meeting was closed at 3:20pm

CONFIRMED:

DATE: