

**MUSICAL THEATRE NEW ZEALAND – ZONE 3 MEETING
HOSTED BY ABBEY MUSICAL THEATRE, PALMERSTON NORTH,
ON 17 OCTOBER 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
Lynne McFall	Pahiatua Repertory Society
Rob Haines	Pahiatua Repertory Society
Edwyna McDonald	Wanganui Amdram
Ray Campbell	Wanganui Amdram
Karen Aukett	Wanganui Amdram
Margot Stuart	Porirua Little Theatre
Basil Mahan	Porirua Little Theatre
Adele Mahan	Porirua Little Theatre
John MacGibbon	Dannevirke Theatre Company/ML Consultants
Callum Brieski	ML Consultants
Colin Denby	Masterton Amateur Theatre Society
Melva Denby	Masterton Amateur Theatre Society
Rosalind New	Masterton Amateur Theatre Society
Staveley Tankersley	Hastings Operatic Society
Valda Peacock	Waipawa Musical & Drama Society
Lionel Priest	Theatre Hawke's Bay
Jeanne Hall	Theatre Hawke's Bay
Sharron Pardoe	Napier Operatic Society
Lesley Reid	MTNZ

APOLOGIES

Melva Denby (Masterton Amateur Theatre Society) – for lateness, Lima Watson & Jan Pritchard (Porirua Little Theatre), Kate Ghent (MTNZ), Ian Reid (MTNZ), Conal McKone (Wellington Musical Theatre), Diane & Graeme Philip (John Herber Ltd), Brian & Rose Hudson & Ross Pedder (Tawa Community Theatre), Anita Davies (Hawkes Bay Song & Opera Workshop Inc.), Sheridan Hickey (Young Fry Productions), Stuart McDonald (Wanganui Amdram), Coasters Musical Theatre, New Plymouth Operatic Society, Hawera Repertory Society, Energy Theatre

MINUTES FROM PALMERSTON NORTH ZONE 3 MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held in Palmerston North on 16 May 2009 were confirmed.

MATTERS ARISING

Attendance

John MacGibbon advised that he was present at the meeting as he gave a report for Dannevirke Theatre Company. The minutes of 16 May 2009 will, therefore, be amended to show this.

MTNZ 50th Publication

Kate Ghent is working on the MTNZ 50th Publication and this will include the MTNZ awards given. On the MTNZ website (www.musical.org.nz) the awards given by MTNZ are listed. However, there are still some gaps still to be filled. Allan Nagy asked, therefore, that if anyone is able to assist in filling in some of these gaps, could they please let Kate know.

REPORTS

Pahiatua Repertory Society

- We staged "Are You Being Served" in August and played to full houses for all six shows – a very popular and successful show. It made a good profit, too!
- After a very successful "Theatre in the Bush", our own One Act Play Festival, the play "Love or Nearest Offer" was entered into the N.Z. Theatre Federation Festival, where it got through to the final at the Globe Theatre in Palmerston North.
- Our very experienced team of Peter Lea (Director) and Judy Lea, Adrienne Hurley, Lesley Courtenay and Peter Hurley performed a One Act Play titled "A Game" in Norfolk Island recently and finished runners up at the Festival there.
- We currently have "Old Mother Hubbard", the pantomime, in rehearsal which is proving to be a lot of fun. We believe this may be a New Zealand premiere of this pantomime. Play Bureau have no record of it being hired out previously. We are on stage from 25 November – 5 December 2009 (eight shows in total).

Dannevirke Theatre Company

- Since the last meeting we staged "Grease" in the Fountain Theatre. This was a reasonably successful production.
- We are in rehearsal for Roger Hall's "Taking Off". It starts on 29 October 2009.
- Prior to Christmas we will stage a three or four night review/concert.
- Next year we will stage a show in the big theatre – this is in negotiation at the moment.

Hastings Operatic Society

- We started off the year in March with "A Nite of Irish" which was well received.
- In the April school holidays we produced "Sinbad the Sailor" with very appreciative audiences.
- July was "No Sex Please, We're British". Unfortunately, there were two other comedies on at the same time and we didn't get the audiences we hoped for.
- In the September/October school holidays we staged "The Trial of Goldilocks" which was a bit different from the Goldilocks story we are all familiar with. At the same time, once again, there were two other children's shows on at the time. This time we all had very good houses.
- Our final show for 2009 in November is "Celebrating Rodgers & Hammerstein II". This famous pair have given us great entertainment over the years.
- Our schedule for 2010 will be;
 - March – "Music From the Movies"
 - May – "Around the World"
 - September – Country show
 - November – Christmas variety

Theatre Hawke's Bay

- Since our last meeting we hosted Total Theatre and their one man play, "One Fine Day", performed by Nigel Edgecombe, for a two performance season.
- We followed this with our own production of "STiFF" which was a sell out before we opened, and thoroughly enjoyed.
- Next we hosted David Goldthorpe's performance of "Like Someone in Love". This was the life and music of Chet Baker, the musician. A sad but very thorough story of his life with music and drugs.
- We have just completed a very successful season of Disney's "Alice in Wonderland, Jr" with 28 children presenting a very polished show. The costumes and choreography were stunning and many parents want to know what we are doing next.

- We have this last week hosted HaBYT – better known as Hawke’s Bay Youth Theatre – with three separate plays, again very well received.
- Our final production for 2009 will be “Mum’s Choir” which will be a Theatre Restaurant presentation.
- In 2010 we will open our season with a Roger Hall Play, mid-year we will stage “The Mikado” and at the end of the year we will stage “Forbidden Broadway”.

Waipawa Musical & Drama Society

- We staged “Blood Brothers” in September. Professionally and profitability wise it was very good. We had very good houses.
- We staged Roger Hall’s “Do You Want to be 100” – this was a sell out.
- Next year we will be staging “Oliver!” Next year is Waipawa’s 150 year celebration and this show will be combined with that.
- Normally every year we stage a Christmas show – however, it may be time for a change.

Masterton Amateur Theatre Society

- We had our centenary celebrations over Easter and we did a review in the Town Hall – “Show of the Century” and we appear to have made a decent profit.
- We will be staging “No Ill Feeling” from 28 November – 5 December 2009. This will be a theatre restaurant show. Our Director will be Richard Brooks.
- In 2010 we are negotiating to stage “All Shook Up”, with a children’s show in the middle of the year, and our normal theatre restaurant show at the end of the year.
- At the present time we are discarding some of our old equipment which is no longer complaint. We are also installing a PABX type system through the theatre.

Wanganui Amdram

- At the end of June 2009 we finished “Les Misérables” which made us a small profit. The show would have been more financially successful if we had not had to spend money on our old revolve. However, we are very delighted with the success of this production.
- At the end of this month our Starlets class (aged 6-16) will be staging “School of Magic” for four performances.
- At Christmas we will be staging “Fawlty Towers” for 12 theatre restaurant performances. This will be the first time in 12 years that we are not staging a musical at Christmas.
- Our first show for 2010 will be “I Love You, You’re Perfect, Now Change”.
- In June 2010 we will be staging “Grease” in the Opera House.

Porirua Little Theatre

- During June and July we had a very successful season of “I Love You, You’re Perfect, Now Change”. This ran for 16 performances and received an excellent adjudication.
- Ten days later we had the annual school holiday pantomime, :“Mirror, Mirror”. Seven hundred children attended in four days.
- In August every year we set aside the whole month for maintenance. We had extra things to do this time and most of them got finished, as well as a very dedicated small group of helpers putting up insulation panels in the roof area. It was a mammoth task and took over the allocated time, but well worth it. We don’t hear the rain now.
- On 11 September we put on “Get Shorted”. This was a series of short films from our very own talented film makers within our membership. The evening was used as a fundraiser to raise funds towards a new roof for Niblick Hall, of which we own a half share.
- We are currently in rehearsal for “A Great Face for Radio 2”, written and directed by Amanda Stone, our President. This has many swinging 60’s songs, including *My Boy Lollipop*, *At the Hop*, *Hello Mary Lou*, *Hippy Hippy Shake* and many more. It runs for nine performances from 20 November – 5 December 2009, Thursdays to Saturdays.
- On 10/11/12 December we will have “The Totally Awesome Christmas Sing Along Show”, directed by Rob Ormsby. This will be the third one he has put on.

- In 2010 we will stage "Curtains" in April – a musical comedy whodunit (directed by Matt Bentley), and in June "don't Dress for Dinner" – a play with a frenetic case of mistaken identity and twists (directed by Lyn Tunnicliffe).
- We are also in the process of developing a new website which should be up and running in the next few weeks.

Tawa Community Theatre

- We did well at the Antoinettes gaining four awards, despite our main epic only lasting 27 minutes.
- Kevin Rush has agreed to direct our first production in 2010 – details to be announced at our AGM.
- We will have a children's show and a musical romp based on popular Broadway melodies, directed by Adele Mahan.

Napier Operatic Society

- We have had a very busy year.
- We have just wound down from staging "Miss Saigon" which was a success. However, we staged this show in June and suffered two weeks of swine flu in the community. It also rained a lot during the season and we suffered from rampant sickness.
- Since "Miss Saigon" we staged "Mulan". This had a cast of 60 children aged from 5-17 years. This show was very popular. We staged six performances to good houses.
- We are now in rehearsal for "Musical Meets Vaudeville" which will be a theatre restaurant show. This is being devised and written by the Musical Director for "Miss Saigon". It will run for two weeks from 12 November. Bookings are going very well.
- Next year we will be staging "The Wedding Singer" in April.
- The rest of 2010 is yet to be finalised, although our children's show will be a children's version of "Midsummer Night's Dream".
- We will also be hosting an Art Deco weekend in February 2010.

Abbey Musical Theatre

- We have just finished a very successful season of "Miss Saigon" in the Regent Theatre.
- Allan Nagy (our President) will be attending a "Miss Saigon" Consortium meeting next weekend in New Plymouth.
- Our Children's Abbey Theatre School (C.A.T.S.) has just finished a season of "Rockin' Robin".
- Our Christmas show this year will be a theatre restaurant production of "Disco Inferno". It will run from 26 November – 19 December 2009 and bookings are going very well.
- Next year we are not doing a show in our usual first timeslot (March/April).
- In August we will be staging "Jesus Christ Superstar" in the Regent Theatre. We will be building our own set and making our own costumes – and these will be available for hire after our season. Our Director (Steven Sayer) could be available as well and he has a powerpoint presentation of his concept is anyone is interested in seeing this.
- Our Christmas production in 2010 will be "Leader of the Pack".
- We have approximately eight members going to MTNZ Conference in Auckland in March.
- Our society continues to apply for grants and these are relatively successful.
- Our Costume Hire has moved into new premises, further down King Street. We have had lots of comments from people about the new premises being bright and airy, and that it is easy to find costumes. We have also been making lots of new costumes. It is hoped that we will gross approximately \$150,000 this year.

Hawera Repertory Society

Although not in attendance, a report from Hawera was submitted.

- We staged an unknown musical, "The Hunchback of Nostradamus" (Maverick Musicals) in June of this year. Although we didn't get the numbers through as we hoped (the risk you take with unknowns), it was a great success for the society in regard to recruiting new cast and crew. It is a fun and interesting show and there was a great buzz amongst the audiences that did go.

- We staged a Neil Simon play, "The Gingerbread Lady" in September, which was also very well received.
- Next year we have scored the rights to stage "Oliver!" with Russ Standing as Director. The season will run from 23 June – 23 July 2010. Auditions will be held on 5 & 6 December 2009, with rehearsals to start on 2 March 2010. More information can be obtained at oliver.hawera@gmail.com.

Coasters Musical Theatre

Although not in attendance, a report from Hawera was submitted.

- We would like to share our good news. We were both the Kapiti Coast **Arts & Culture** category award **winner** and the **Supreme Award winner** in the Wellington Airport Regional Community Awards 2009. This has given us an instant boost in local profile and media coverage. We are due to present ourselves again at the next round of competition to be held at Wellington Airport on 29 October, where the five regional Supreme Award winners from the greater Wellington region compete for the overall title and entry into the awards at national level. We'll keep you posted! Our prize money so far totals \$1,000, which we will be putting to good use.

ML Consultants – John MacGibbon

- We are pushing replacement lamps at the moment. We have been told we are the cheapest in the country at the moment, e.g. Par 64 lamps are \$100.00 each from Auckland suppliers – ML Consultants are selling these for \$61.00 each.
- However, we are being asked to supply lamps for unknown units. Therefore, to help with this, we have put together a list of lamp codes which details what they fit in etc. This will help when ordering replacement lamps.
- Currently Janssen are selling certain equipment (sound mixing desks) at half price.
- John had copies of the "Stage Whispers" magazine available for anyone to look at.

Lesley Reid (MTNZ)

Lesley has recently returned from a visit to Ashburton. When she was there she saw a children's production of "Thoroughly Modern Millie" (a HAL Leonard Jr production) and advised that this was the most fantastic children's show she has seen. Therefore, if you are looking for a children's show, this is worth checking out. It started at 7.00 p.m., had a 20 minute interval and finished at 9.05 p.m.

Disney Jr

Lionel Priest advised that the Disney Jr shows are also excellent shows. When staging these shows you get a really comprehensive package from the rights holders and you can't go wrong with them.

Australian Shows

Allan Nagy advised that if anyone is considering visiting Australia to see some shows, there are some really good rates available at the moment. Currently House of Travel have around nine packages available for travel to Melbourne, Sydney or Brisbane.

MTNZ Executive

An MTNZ Executive meeting was held in Auckland last weekend. Matters discussed were;

- Capital Assistance Fund (CAF) – there is a substantial amount of money available in this fund at the moment. It is available for any capital projects a society may have. There are a few societies in our zone who have loans at the moment. It is a great way to obtain technical equipment or to carry out any renovations etc. Please remember, however, that you cannot apply for a CAF loan retrospectively. You can apply for a maximum of \$20,000 over seven years. Please ensure you get your applications in. If you require assistance in completing an application form, please contact either Allan Nagy or Kate Ghent, who will also be able to answer any questions you may have.
- Subscriptions – thank you to everyone for paying their subscriptions. Everyone in Zone 3 was paid up by 31 July 2009. Across the whole organisation, there was only one payment that was late, and this was only by a couple of days.

CONFERENCE 2010 – AUCKLAND

- The MTNZ Executive had a look at Rydges Hotel in Auckland last weekend. It is about half way finished at the moment. It will be great having everyone accommodated in the same place. Rydges seem to be very accommodating and want to help as much as they can,
- We are looking at approximately 300 attendees for Conference 2010.
- The Masquerade Ball has moved to Sky City – purely because of the numbers anticipated. From Rydges to Sky City is about 200m down the road. There will be security on the doors at Sky City and everyone will have to wear a wristband to ensure Security staff know who the Ball attendees are.
- A meeting was held with Zone 1 representatives – there are 10 societies hosting Conference 2010.
- Musikmakers in Hamilton have raised enough funds from the sale of chocolates for 13 members to attend Conference. They raised approximately \$8,000.
- If you are interesting in selling chocolates as a way of fund raising, Lesley Reid has an e-mail address for Ngaire in Zone 2 who will be able to give advice on this.
- Please don't forget the forums and seminars that are being held.
- Please also don't forget that there will be corporate members in attendance at Conference 2010, along with very worthwhile trade displays.
- Registrations
 - Registrations – please ensure these are sent in ASAP as numbers are very limited. Registration fees are also required in order for MTNZ to pay deposits etc. required for venues.
- T-Shirts
 - 50th Anniversary t-shirts are available for sale. Order forms are being sent out with registration forms but are also available on the MTNZ website.
- Awards
 - As next year will be our 50th Anniversary conference, it is anticipated that there will be an influx of applicants for awards. However, not many have been received as yet. Please, therefore, think about the people in your society that you may wish to put forward for one of the awards – i.e. Merit Award, Patron's Encouragement Award.
- Programme/Poster Competitions
 - The programme and poster competitions will close on 31 December 2009.
- Showbills
 - Showbills for the competition need to be brought to Conference.

GENERAL BUSINESS

"Fair Go"

An episode of "Fair Go" recently covered a show that was being held at Playhouse Theatre. An organisation apparently booked out a performance of a show. However, that performance was inadvertently cancelled as the lead performer had laryngitis. Playhouse Theatre then would not refund the money paid for booking out the night. This eventually ended up in a "he said, she said" situation. On "Fair Go" some members from Howick made some comments about what they would have done in this sort of situation. MTNZ Executive, however, thinks that it would be best in the future in these situations if nothing is said and everything is kept 'in house'. If anyone wishes to view the "Fair Go" programme, it is available on TV On Demand.

This programme also, however, serves as a reminder to MTNZ societies to ensure that contracts are developed and documented. In fact, if you are going to enter into any legal arrangements or contracts, please ensure they are documented. If you require an example of a contract (perhaps for a Director or Cast members), please contact Allan Nagy who may be able to provide one.

Combined North Island Meeting

The South Island zones have recently had a combined meeting. It is queried, therefore, if it is felt there would be any value in holding a combined North Island meeting. It was agreed that this would be a good idea, provided a suitable location could be ascertain.

PPNZ

Phonographic Performances NZ Limited (PPNZ) is a not-for-profit company established in 1957 to centrally administer the rights of local and international record labels and recording artists within the New Zealand territory. PPNZ is responsible for licensing and collecting income from the broadcasting and public performance of sound and video recordings, and distributing this income back to the rights owners. PPNZ can grant licences to any individual organisation or business playing or using recorded music in the public arena. Licences could approximately \$155 per year (+ GST). Societies need to be aware of who PPNZ are as you may be approached by them.

More information on PPNZ can be found on www.musical.org.nz, including;

- PPNZ – An introduction
- PPNZ – The music universe and where PPNZ fits into the copyright licensing laws
- PPNZ – Frequently asked questions
- PPNZ – Rights diagram
- PPNZ – Spring 2009 newsletter

MTNZ Website

Some members have expressed concern that they find it hard negotiating their way around the MTNZ website and it was queried whether a 'search' function could be included. Allan Nagy advised that he will pass this question on to Kate Ghent. It was also advised that Kate will be conducting a session at Conference 2010 on how to use the website.

Masquerade Ball

It was queried if the Masquerade Ball at Conference 2010 is a full costume event, or is just a mask required. It was advised that it is a full costume event.

MTNZ Newsletter

Jeanne Hall queried if there would be another MTNZ newsletter. It was advised that Spotlight is sent out electronically now. However, anyone who does not have access to a computer may request that a copy be sent to them in the post. Lesley Reid will, therefore, ask Kate Ghent to send a hard copy of Spotlight to Jeanne.

New Theatres

John MacGibbon advised that he has recently been to Ashburton and went through their new theatre. He feels that this theatre is a good example of how a theatre should be built and if anyone is planning to build a new theatre, they should look at Ashburton's venue. Shand-Shelton, John Herber Ltd and ML Consultants were all involved with Ashburton's theatre and John stressed that expert advice should always be sought when planning a new theatre.

Workshops

- John MacGibbon advised that in Dannevirke at Easter there will be some workshops held with Nancy Schroder, a professional actress who has just finished a tour of New Zealand with a one woman show. The workshop will be for actors and will be open to zone members if they wish to attend. Nancy's lighting designer will also be conducting a workshop.
- More information will be sent out closer to the time.

Achievements

- Porirua Little Theatre have had two of their members performing in Melbourne in "Billy Elliot".
- Waipawa Musical & Drama Society had one of their members in "Buddy" in Australia.
- Masterton Amateur Theatre Society has one of their members in "Wicked" in Sydney.

Bereavement

It was advised that Donna Philpott's sister recently passed away and some societies may wish to send a sympathy card.

NEXT ZONE 3 MEETING

The MTNZ AGM is being held in March. Therefore, it was agreed that the next Zone meeting should be held towards the end of **April 2010** but this will be dependent on whether a combined North Island meeting is held.

Allan Nagy will send out details of the next meeting as early as possible.

The meeting closed at 12.30 p.m.