

MUSICAL THEATRE NEW ZEALAND

ZONE 1 MEETING 10/05/09, 10:00am @ AUCKLAND MUSIC THEATRE

MINUTES

- PRESENT:** John Antony (MTNZ), Richard Bryham (WTC), Andrew Comrie (NSMT), Lyn Dorreen (NSMT), Dayle Hall (HMT), Kevin Maddern (PLOC), Michael Sanders (CTG), Sherrin Scelly (AMT), Tim Carroll (AMT), Pauline Vella (AMT), John Michie (AMT), Richard Braid (Jands Electronics), Jonathan Sadler (AMT), Delwyn Smith (MTNZ), Pat Shanks (CTG), Barbara Hieatt (PTC), Gary Hieatt (PTC), Stu Bennett (MPA), Clive Dixon (MPA)
- APOLOGIES:** Mark Betty (NSMT), Sue Rossiter (HMT), Ivan Hunt (PTC), Bruce Murray (CTG), Dorothy Chisolm (PTI), Ann Tupp (OTR), Bill Tupp (OTR)
- PREVIOUS MINUTES:** **RESOLVED:** That the previous minutes be accepted as a true and correct record.
Dayle Hall / Tim Carroll
- WIRELESS ISSUES:** Richard Braid from Jands Electronics New Zealand Ltd. presented an update on the regulations surrounding the use of wireless microphones.
- A copy of the presentation will be sent to meeting attendees or is available from Andrew.
- NAPTA NOMINATIONS:** Delwyn asked for a host society for the NAPTA Nominations. Manukau Performing Arts will host this in their new theatre. Sunday 13th December is most likely to be the date, and this will be confirmed. MPA will distribute information about the structure of the event.
- The NAPTA Awards ceremony will be held on the 27th February 2010 at the Bruce Mason Centre.
- MTNZ EXECUTIVE REPORT:** A reminder that the Nola Speir 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.
- Conference 2009 feedback has come in and the MTNZ Executive will be meeting in Napier in July to discuss.
- Conference 2010 will be held in Auckland on the 19th, 20th and 21st of March 2010 The Rydges Hotel will be the main venue for the conference. Andrew will be asking when your next committee meetings are so that we can present to you and keep you informed about funding, scheduling and how individual societies can contribute. Sponsorship opportunities are welcome. Friday night is a dinner at the hotel, on Saturday night there will be a masquerade ball.
- Conference 2011 will be held in Nelson. The theme in Nelson will be wearable arts.

It was recommended that societies investigate generic e-mail or way of contact so that when people move on from societies the e-mails still get to the right people, i.e. info@society.co.nz

Use the MTNZ website www.musical.org.nz and update 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. In April, there were 102,047 hits! MTNZ is now also on Facebook.

Thank you to all societies who have paid their subs.

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.

At conference 2009, the new MTNZ Executive were appointed;

President – Ian Reid

Immediate Past President – John Antony

Zone 1 Rep– Delwyn Smith

Zone 2 Rep – Ngaire Holmes

Zone 3 Rep – Allan Nagy

Zone 4 Rep – Ross Benbow

Zone 5 Rep – Helen Horsnell

John Antony thanked the attendees for their support of him over the years in his time as Zone 1, Vice President and President of MTNZ.

Please update Delwyn with your upcoming shows details and dates.

Delwyn will update societies with contact details for the new NAPTA Judges.

REPORTS FROM SOCIETIES: PUKEKOHE LIGHT OPERA CLUB

We have recently completed a lighting upgrade in the theatre. We received a grant and spent some of our own money to achieve this. In November we did a three week production of 'The Producers'. It is a big show, a hard show, and quite hard to sell and we only ended up with about 49% attendance. In April this year we did 10 performances of 'Bobby Socks and Winkle Pickers'. This cabaret style show only required APRA rights and the concert had about 30 songs. Many of these performances were booked out and we had about 85% attendance.

This year we have 'A Little Night Music' coming up and then we will be looking at producing a play for 5-6 cast members later in the year. Next year all we have settled on is a youth theatre production of 'Bugsy Malone'. Mary Gray will be directing this

production as she did when PLOC first started producing youth shows. We are also still considering options for our major show for next year. Our AGM is coming up on Friday.

HARLEQUIN MUSIC THEATRE

We are of course producing 'Cats' in June. Rehearsals are going really well. In August we are doing 'A Day in Paris' which has been written by one of our members and in November we are producing 'Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow' - A compilation of music from our shows over the years.

Last night was our 50th anniversary dinner and our first and second presidents were in attendance. It was a wonderful night and was great to see all the different generations of people who have been involved in the society.

MANUKAU PERFORMING ARTS

Last year we only did two shows; 'Secondary Cause of Death' the murder mystery and 'The Buddy Holly Story'. 'Secondary Cause of Death' was a seated table event and went really well. We made a healthy profit on this show too. 'The Buddy Holly Story' was also a great show with a fantastic cast and supported by good audience attendance was also financially successful. We are currently in the process of planning our shows for the next two years. We are tentatively looking at 'Charlie Brown'. 'Seussical' is our next show.

We also have a new person on our committee who is looking into developing a youth theatre component of the society possibly in the form of a summer school.

Our renovations are approximately 4 weeks away from completion. \$800,000 will be spend by the end of the project which has been totally fundraised. We have also had a large sound upgrade and a lighting upgrade is in planning.

In terms of upcoming shows, 'Grease' is still a possibility for us and we are also considering 'Blood Brothers'.

WHANGAREI THEATRE COMPANY

We are currently in final rehearsals for 'Wyrld Sisters'. This is a play with a lot of Blackadder and Monty Python comedy.

In August we will be producing 'A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum' and we are doing 'Forbidden Broadway' at the end of the year.

We have also just purchased another building for storage. It is just around the corner from the theatre.

CENTRESTAGE THEATRE COMPANY

Our end of year show last year 'Something's Afoot' was very hard to fill, however, 'Hello Dolly' was much easier to get people through the door. Tams Whitmark were the rights holders for 'Hello Dolly' and the rights were about \$10,000 – 12,000.

Last time we sent scores back to Tams Whitmark we paid around \$1,700 in freight charges but with some shopping around, recently we were able to find another courier which costs less than \$300.

It appears that non-resident withholding tax needs to be investigated. Auckland Music Theatre has also had issues with this. Pauline suggested that we should get MTNZ to hook up a meeting with a tax lawyer. Delwyn will arrange this with Campbell Rose and Pauline.

'Les Miserables' is coming up at the end of June for three weeks. We then have 'Stepping Out' in September and a 'Music Hall' at the end of the year. Next year we are doing 'Brigadoon' in March/April, 'Scarlet Pimpernel', a play 'Move Over Mrs. Markham' then at the end of the year 'Little Women'.

AUCKLAND MUSIC THEATRE

We have recently changed their committee from the AGM in April and have decreased the amount of people from 12 to 8. Our committee is now referring to themselves as the 'Theatre Management Team' and we have some great new and enthusiastic members.

We are now having two meetings a month, and keeping them short which is proving to be beneficial. We have been working on growing our theatre hire business.

'Assassins' starts rehearsing shortly and we have fully cast the show. Richard Neame is directing and he has a great team behind him. 'Showboat' opens later in the year and we are very close to announcing the creative team.

August 22nd is going to be out 90th birthday party. We are looking for help from people who might have been involved in AMT over the years.

2010 is an open book in terms of shows, there is nothing confirmed but we are looking at a couple of musicals and a play.

PAPAKURA THEATRE COMPANY

'I Love You You're Perfect Now Change' ran a short season but we very pleased with the numbers through the door. We have just started rehearsals for 'One Flew Over The Cuckoos Nest' and we have Darren Blackman directing that. In November we are doing 'A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum'.

Next year in May we are going to the Hawkins Centre to do the Auckland premiere of 'Spamelot'.

We have just had our AGM and we have three new younger members on the committee which is great. Grant is still our president. In the last 12 months we have done a large wardrobe cull to clear some junk. We have upgraded some technical equipment and lighting and our next project is to get toilets put in at the back of the theatre. The building is now owned by the Bruce Pulman Park Trust and they are helping us with this.

We are also looking at paying a theatre manager to take some of the load off the committee. They would look after bar licensing, theatre hire, maintenance etc. This is still being investigated.

NORTH SHORE MUSIC THEATRE

Our season of 'Nunsense' was fantastic. We found once again, having a small cast generated very little marketing pull and our audience attendance was less than expected.

We are currently in rehearsals for 'Little Shop of Horrors' and this will open for a season at The PumpHouse on the 30th May. We were lucky enough to get out Audrey II back from Rangitoto College where she has been stored essentially since NSMT last produced 'Little Shop of Horrors' in 1996.

Later in the year we will be producing 'High School Musical Jnr.' at The PumpHouse and as a part of this will also be using the backing tracks provided with the show. It will be interesting to see how effective this is considering how hard it is to find a complete orchestra.

Next year we are producing 'The Big Top Cabaret' at our Clubrooms, a similar style of production to 'The Red Chair' which has been developed by one of our members, Nicky Cambie. Nicky will also be directing for the first time and these types of clubrooms shows we use as a vehicle to develop upcoming talent, especially in direction, musical direction, choreography, and technical areas. We will then have 'Into the Woods' at The PumpHouse later in the year.

We are also already working on 'Miss Saigon' which will go on stage in the Bruce Mason Centre in 2011.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

PAULINE VELLA

In February I had the opportunity to Talk to John Key and I spoke to him about AMT and Musical Theatre in New Zealand and emphasized the importance and amounts of people involved in Musicals. I also suggested to him that it might be quite nice to increase spending on arts areas such as Musical Theatre.

NEXT MEETING:

1st November 2009

CLOSURE:

The meeting was closed at 2:30pm

CONFIRMED:

DATE: