

3 Cargill Street, Mosgiel 9024

Telephone: 027 589 3088

Email: firestationtheatre@gmail.com

Spring Newsletter 2020

Spring has raced by and Summer is on our doorstep.

Christmas Production

'Santa's Last Stand'



Auditions were held on 25 October and rehearsals are well under way for our Christmas production, written by Judi Billcliff and directed by Heidi Rixon.

We had an overwhelming audition response for the production and have assembled a very talented cast. Excellent ticket sales mean the show season is nearly sold out with the potential of staging extra shows. It is exciting to see the return of cast and crew from previous shows and also see many new T.D.S. members on stage and backstage.

Performance Dates:

11 December	Opening Night	7 pm
12 December	Matinee	2 pm
12 December	Please note there is a 'Xmas Family Fun Night' in Mosgiel at 5.30 pm and members of the cast will be dressing in their costumes and advertising the play at this event.	
13 December	Matinee	2 pm
18 December	Evening	7 pm
19 December	Matinee	2 pm
20 December	Matinee	2 pm
20 December	There will be a Cast, Crew, Supporters and Family 'After Party' after the final performance.	

Tickets are available online - www.firestationtheatre.co.nz/booking
or from **Sitting Safe**, Factory Rd, Mosgiel (CASH ONLY).

Enquiries: Phone 027 589 3088.

Ticket prices: \$5.00 per seat.



48 Hour Theatre Challenge

The inaugural 48 hour Theatre Challenge was held in January last year. It proved to be very popular and we had a lot of laughter and fun. It is a positive way of bringing together like minded people to create, rehearse and perform original works. So we are planning to hold it again!

The Challenge is open to people aged 11 to 99 years. Each team or solo performer selects three prompts - these are placed in three hats and teams draw out a prompt from each hat. This provides the framework for their sketch to be written around. The prompts are -

1. **A convention** - rules by which play is performed e.g. slow motion, split focus, flashback/flash forward, narration, freeze frame, soliloquy or spoken thought etc.
2. **A prop** (e.g. a piggy bank, hat, knife, flowers, trophy, walking stick etc).
3. **A quote** (e.g. 'back in my day'. 'Is it a bird? Is it a plane?' etc).

A fourth hat for junior's with different quotes is also provided.

Further Information re dates and times etc will be sent out shortly. If you wish to register your interest or help with the organisation of the Challenge, please email the Theatre.

Email: firestationtheatre@gmail.com



Academic Excellence



The Taieri Dramatic Society congratulate two of our members, Tabitha Littlejohn and Andrew Wilson on their success and excellent academic achievements. Tabitha who is on the T.D.S. Committee attends Taieri College. **Tabitha** was awarded **Proxime Accessit** and **Andrew** who attends Kavanagh College, was awarded **Dux**.

Tabitha and Andrew won numerous awards and both were awarded the prestigious University of Otago – Academic Excellence Entrance Scholarship.



Awards Night - 22 December

Our Awards evening for Anne-Marie Amende's OSTA for Best Supporting Female in a Play and Brian McCormack's Life Membership presentation will be held on the 22 December at the Fire Station Theatre. Details to follow.

Cable Cars and Custard



Two readings of Geoff Smith's new play, '*Cable Cars and Custard*' were held on 10 October at 7.30pm and 11 October at 2pm. Thank you to everyone who supported these performances.

Programme for the New Year

The full programme for 2021 is yet to be finalised by the Play Selection Committee.



New Production for 2021

We are staging a new play,

'GONE TO SEED',

(a bittersweet comedy) by Dunedin playwright, *Tim Hambleton*.

Production dates are 17 - 24 April 2021.

To be staged at the Fire Station Theatre, Cargill St, Mosgiel.

9 actors are required, 5 women and 4 men all of about the 50-70 age group.

Auditions will be held at the Fire Station Theatre on 16 December.

Please ring M: 027 7100 395

for further information and to arrange an audition time.

Gone To Seed - Synopsis

The action is set in the church hall, present day. The story takes place over 5 months in total. Each month there is a garden club meeting.

Most of the action takes place in the church hall, but there is also a Minister's office adjacent.

The gardening club meets monthly in a church hall and is losing members due to old age, illness or accident. It is also in financial difficulties and needs to come up with a source of revenue to pay some unforeseen costs. It comes up with an innovative fundraising solution but the unpleasant local church Minister is determined to see the club gone from the hall. Once he has a whiff of some impropriety by the members, he engages a detective to investigate in the hope of providing him with enough dirt to expel the club.

The detective, however, is inept and hopelessly out of his depth. He has completely misread the situation and as a result the Minister's plan backfires and he is forced to let the club continue using the hall. Meanwhile, local interest in the police investigation has given new life to the tired club and it is set to dramatically increase its membership, while two members of the club find a welcome friendship where they least expect it.



Projector

A Panasonic projector has been very generously donated to the Taieri Dramatic Society by Rachel Parmee & John Stevenson.



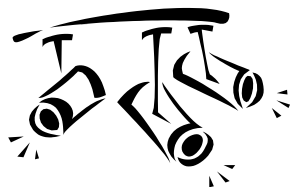
Reference Library

Michael and Judy Spillane recently gave the Taieri Dramatic Society a play - 'Will's Twins' and a DVD of the play for our Reference Library. The play and accompanying DVD were gifted on behalf of playwright Pat Spillane. Pat has also very kindly waived any performance fee should in the future we wish to stage this play.

The Writers' Room



The Writer's Room weekly meetings will recommence next year.



Theatre Hire

We welcome hire of the Fire Station Theatre.

Should you wish to hire the Theatre, please telephone, Ian Chalmers
M: 021 501 861.



Secretary Role

We are looking for someone interested in taking on the role of Taieri Dramatic Society Secretary. If you can help, we would be very pleased to have your assistance.

Funding Grants

We also would welcome someone to help with funding applications.

Committee

President - Ian Chalmers | **Vice-President** - Geoff Smith
Secretary - | **Treasurer** - Bernadette Hay

Matt Brennan | Rosemary Chalmers | Josh Finnie |
Casey Griffiths | Zac Henry | Hans Van Leeuwen | Tabitha Littlejohn |
Tim Pettengell | Martin van Raalte | Heidi Rixon | Jasmine Rixon |
Judy Spillane | Christine Wilson |

We welcome new members - Annual Membership \$10.00

A.G.M

The A.G.M will be held on Thursday, 4 February 2021 at 7 p.m.
We look forward to your attendance and support.

Wardrobe

Our Theatre Wardrobe hire has had a successful few months, thanks to the dedication of Judy Spillane and her team of volunteers. The Wardrobe is open every Thursday between 6-7pm or by appointment with Judy telephone 489 1539.

Judy and the team have been busy working on costuming for 'Santa's Last Stand', assisted by Gail Benn.

Party in the Park - Sunday, 21 February 2021

It is intended to have a stall once again at Festival of the Plain's **Party in the Park**, to promote the Theatre. We would greatly appreciate help at the stall and/or donations of strawberries or other easy to eat fruit to draw people to our stall. We also need some T.D.S. Members to volunteer to dress up in costume please.

Our grateful thanks to all those who support the Theatre. Without your help and enthusiasm, it would be extremely difficult to continue in these uncertain times. Who would have thought we would have had to navigate a World pandemic. Despite this unexpected event, our Theatre is in good heart and we look forward positively to 2021.



The Taieri Dramatic Society Committee wishes you and your family a happy and safe festive season.

Best wishes,

Rosemary Chalmers

on behalf of the **Taieri Dramatic Society Committee**

'All the world's a stage'.

William Shakespeare

Merry 
Christmas 

