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WINTER NEWSLETTER 2021

The introduction to winter has been pretty with a few early frosts. It's certainly nice to have those days when the sun manages to break through to break up the bleaker days. We have had a bit of warmth in the theatre last month with the first production of the year.

DEATH BY GOLF

Originally we had scheduled to present *Gone to Seed* but due to health reasons this could not go ahead at the time. An emergency play reading committee meeting was held and it was decided to present the comedy *Death by Golf*, written by Gregg Kreutz instead. This was directed by Zac Henry who, at 19, is the youngest person in the theatre's 75 year history to direct a play.

<https://www.firestationtheatre.co.nz/theatres-youngest-director>



Lots of smiling, happy people left the shows and we have received a lot of positive feedback and reviews on our website. <https://www.firestationtheatre.co.nz/reviews>

The show also received a favourable review by Regan Horrell from *Talk on the Taieri*

<https://www.firestationtheatre.co.nz/death-by-golf-review>



The play was very successful and strong ticket sales with an average of 43 per night across the six shows. Tickets were set at \$15 for adults and \$10 for senior, student and Taieri Dramatic Society members. Society members also had early bird booking before ticket sales were open to the general public. A **BIG THANK YOU** to everyone who made this show a success, from on stage to behind the scenes to front of house. Profit from the show was \$1800.80!

GONE TO SEED

We are looking to reschedule this in the first half of next year. Notification for this will be sent out by email and will also be on our website

<https://www.firestationtheatre.co.nz/upcoming-shows>

DATABASE

Our upcoming show database has continued to grow. This has played a significant part in strong ticket sales as soon as bookings opened for our Christmas show last year. We have been working on increasing the database for general shows as well. Notification goes out when a show has been scheduled, once we have a date when bookings will open and then when they have opened. If you know anyone who would like to join the database there is a link to the form on this page

<https://www.firestationtheatre.co.nz/upcoming-shows>

We have also started a database for auditions <https://www.firestationtheatre.co.nz/auditions>



UPCOMING SHOWS

Improsaurus – The Improsaurus Troup are going to perform again at our theatre in August

Play reading – Options are being considered for a play reading in September

Christmas production – Play reading committee are in the process of selecting a Christmas play

Gone to Seed – First half of next year, dates to be confirmed

INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE FESTIVAL

The Taieri Dramatic Society will be performing a devised piece on the 4th floor of the Dunedin Public Library from 3:30pm-4pm on Sunday, 11th July. There is no cost to attend this.

We will then be holding workshops at the Fire Station Theatre on the 12th, 14th and 16th July from 2pm-5pm. The purpose of these is to encourage participants (aged 8-16 years) to use the stage to communicate scientific ideas or discoveries, and to explore the lives of scientists through the ages. There will be a \$5 admission for the workshops to cover refreshments. Bookings are required through this link <https://scifest.org.nz/programme/science-drama>



ROOF

There are some issues with the roof of the theatre. Work is currently underway to assess what needs to be done and acquire quotes so we can apply for funding.

SMOKEFREE ROCKQUEST

The heats were held on 22 May at Taieri College in the Performing Arts Centre. Congratulations to the four members of our theatre who are in two of bands selected to go through to the regional finals.

Spontaneous Combustion - Jasmine Rixon

<https://www.facebook.com/1227042990787146/videos/411496676490397>

Ticketz – Cody Masters, Emily Russell and Kailey Marshall

Congratulations also to Keira Wallace was placed 2nd in Solo Duo section winning a \$100 prize.

<https://www.facebook.com/1227042990787146/videos/800986383884497>

The regional finals were held on 25 June at the Mayfair Theatre.

Congratulations to **Spontaneous Combustion** (Jasmine Rixon) who won the Best Lyric Award



DEBUT SINGLE RELEASE



On 11 June, one of our members, Keira Wallace, released her debut single *Lying in the Grass*, the first of three planned for this year.

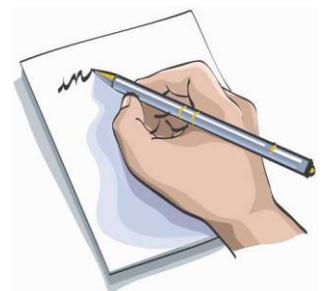
She is passionate about songwriting and performing and has won several awards, the latest being Fringe Festival People's Choice Award for Best Public Performance.

Keira featured in an article on Talk on the Taieri which also includes links to her music on YouTube and social media.

<https://www.facebook.com/talkonthetaieri/posts/3979445665477839>

WRITER'S ROOM

Writer's room has disbanded in the meantime due to change in commitments. If you, or anyone you know, would be interested in being part of this group send us an email to firestationtheatre@gmail.com There is no age restriction and anyone with a passion for writing is welcome. The aim of the group is to work either individually or in groups to create a sketch, a one act play, full length play or film script etc.



COSTUME HIRE

After the ups and downs last year due to lockdowns, our theatre wardrobe hire has picked up where it left off and continued to be extremely successful thanks to the dedication of Judy Spillane and her team of volunteers. Sadly, Irene Wright is no longer available to help with wardrobe hire due to other commitments. Special thanks go to Irene for all her help over the last four years.



If anyone is interested in helping in any way with the wardrobe, please contact Judy 489-1539.

The wardrobe is open every Thursday 6-7pm. Appointments can be made outside these hours by phoning Judy on the above number.

Hetti Engelen and Bernadette Hay ushered at a tribute show that was held at Coronation Hall in Mosgiel. They both received good feedback on their outfits and was a great way to promote the costume hire.



Thank you to everyone for your ongoing support of the theatre

Bernadette Hay
on behalf of the Taieri Dramatic Society Committee

President - Ian Chalmers | **Vice-President** - Christine Wilson

Secretary - Tabitha Littlejohn | **Treasurer** - Bernadette Hay

Geoff Smith | Matt Brennan | Judy Spillane | Heidi Rixon | Martin van Raalte
Tim Pettengell | Zac Henry | Jasmine Rixon | Sophia Griffiths | Hans Van Leeuwen

