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Spring Newsletter 2019

Welcome to our Spring Newsletter.

It's been a very exciting few months with a lot happening, including the completion of our major show - '*The Vicar of Dibley*'. This production was a huge undertaking, not only for our talented Cast and Directors but also for the army of dedicated volunteers without whose support we could not have staged this production. The show seemed to be thoroughly enjoyed by the audience and received an excellent review from Mike Crowl in the Otago Daily Times, 23 August 2019.

A Pot Luck Tea was held at the Theatre, on the 20 September, for Cast, Crew and Supporters to thank and acknowledge the tremendous amount of volunteer work done. If your help has been overlooked, please accept our sincere apologies and belated thanks.

Christmas Production

Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer

Auditions were held and rehearsals are well under way for our Christmas production, written by Carl Nixon and directed by Matt Brennan.

We had an overwhelming audition response for the production and it is exciting to see so many new T.D.S. members on stage.



Performance Dates for your Calendar:

13 December	Opening Night	7 pm
14 December	Matinee	2 pm
14 December	Please note there is a 'Xmas Family Fun Night' in Mosgiel at 5 pm and members of the cast will be dressing in their costumes and advertising the play at this event.	
15 December	Matinee	2 pm
20 December	Evening	7 pm
21 December	Matinee	2 pm
21 December	Evening	7 pm
22 December	Matinee	2 pm
22 December	There will be a Cast, Crew, Supporters and Family 'After Party' after the final performance.	

Tickets will be available online - www.firestationtheatre.co.nz
or from Plain Health, Mosgiel (cash only). Enquiries: Phone 027 589 3088.
Ticket prices: Adults - \$5.00. Children - \$2.00. Under 5 - free of charge.

NEWSFLASH: We have been asked to preview '*Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer*' at the **DCC Lighting of the Christmas Tree** on 30 November 2019 in the Octagon. The event begins at 6:30pm with our performance scheduled for approximately 8pm. It would be great if you could come and support us.

'Rudolph' Raffles - We would greatly appreciate donations of festive food by 2 December.

'Rudolph' Colouring Competition - entry forms can be downloaded from our website or collected from Plain Health or Aurora Café in Mosgiel.
Entries close 6 December 2019.

Completed entries may either be posted to the Fire Station Theatre, 3 Cargill Street, Mosgiel 9024 or delivered into the Costume Hire Return Box situated by the Theatre garage door. The winner of each age group will receive four tickets to our Christmas Production '*Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer*'.

Resignation

It is with regret that we advise of the withdrawal of our Secretary, Rachel Parmee. Rachel has been an integral part of our Committee but is unable to continue in this role. We wish Rachel all the very best for the future.

Emily Duncan - Workshop

Emily Duncan was invited to hold two workshops at the Theatre on 10 and 11 September from 3.30pm - 5.30pm, for a small group. (Refer email to Members 3.9.19). This workshop was kindly sponsored by Tabitha Littlejohn from her **iTICKET Best Upcoming Talent Scholarship**. Having a small group meant that those attending could get individual advice from Emily. Emily was extremely supportive and her guidance and advice was illuminating.

Emily is a Dunedin-raised and based playwright, director, and dramaturg, and the 2019 University of Otago Burns Fellow. She holds a PhD in Theatre and her thesis includes the playscript, '*Waipiata*', about a former TB Sanatorium and borstal in the Maniototo. She undertook actor training at the Lee Strasberg Theatre & Film Institute, and at RADA's summer school in London.

The Writers' Room

During her informative workshops, Emily Duncan suggested we form a writing group and that they meet on a regular basis to help develop and foster the disciplines required for creative writing. The first group to showcase their work decided on the name 'Loose Connection' but this has now morphed to the name 'The Writers' Room'.

The initial meeting was held on 30 September with nine T.D.S. Members attending. The group meets each Monday afternoon between 3pm - 5pm, at the Theatre. 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. At the end of the session the work is discussed, performed and honed. The group has been loaned a multi function coloured printer for the printing of scripts and is available for

their use for as long as the group is in existence. Two reams of photocopying paper were also donated.

The first performance was presented by the group on 26 October at 7.30pm at the Theatre and was well supported. Each sketch was based around the theme '*Hate That Guy*'. The entry fee was a small koha/donation and \$89.00 was received with \$38.00 being made from the sale of ice creams. A discussion time was held after the performance and the overwhelming general consensus from the audience was that they were blown away by the high standard, talent and professionalism of the young actors and the quality, variety and humour of the sketches. A number of people suggested that the evening was so good it needed to be staged again. A 'back by popular demand' performance is being considered for early in the New Year.

The Writers' Room have some very exciting ideas for next year and will be continuing to work over the School holiday period. You are very welcome to come along and your support would be greatly appreciated.

Reference Library

We have started a Library and would welcome copies of plays, poetry and DVDs etc. This 'free to access' library for Society Members will be a valuable resource so play readings, poetry and film evenings can be held. It will also be used as an introduction to works not in the School syllabus. Works that are in the Public Domain may also be used as a springboard to create new works.

Donations for Library

If you have copies or multiple copies of plays etc. that you no longer need, we would love to give them a new home. The Society has purchased a bookcase to store and protect donated items. We have already received some wonderful books, purchased and donated, and have secured a 10% discount from Scribes Bookshop in Dunedin, should anyone wish to purchase any books to donate.

New Online Ticket Booking System

We have purchased an **Online Ticket Booking System** which is used by approximately 13 other Societies in Otago. This system has been designed especially for small societies by a member of the Taieri Musical Society who has customised the system for our Theatre. It is too expensive for a small society, like ourselves, to engage the services of any of the commercial online booking options for our smaller productions. As well as payment processing fees, there are also transaction or per ticket fees which mostly operate in US dollars so the money we actually get depends on the exchange rate. Our new system can be used for all our shows and there are no costs to our Society when we are not using it. We have been able to purchase this system in full with proceeds from '*The Vicar of Dibley*' production.

New Advertising Banners

Bernadette Hay has designed two new banners for advertising our Theatre. We have already taken delivery of one which reads 'Live Theatre Now On' and the second one will have the Theatre contact details on it. Hans Van Leeuwen has kindly donated the banner stands.

Theatre Hire

We have a short term hire of the Theatre on Wednesday evenings, while Mosgiel Library is undergoing refurbishment.

QiGong classes (Initially) 5.45 - 6.45pm (from 16 October) 5.45 - 7.45pm

Play Reading

The Play reading nights for Geoff Smith's new play, '*Cable Cars and Custard*' have been postponed. The Play readings will be rescheduled in the New Year.

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.

Grants

We also would welcome someone to take over as our Grants Co-Ordinator. This is a fundraising role for the Society.

Volunteers

If you are able to offer your time to help with the upcoming production of '*Rudolph*', please email or telephone the Theatre - Telephone: 027 589 3088.

Committee

President - Ian Chalmers | **Vice-President** - Geoff Smith |
Secretary - | **Treasurer** - Paula Wilson

Matt Brennan | Rosemary Chalmers | Gloria Harris | Bernadette Hay |
 Zac Henry | Han Van Leeuwen | Tabitha Littlejohn | Tim Pettengell |
 Heidi Rixon | Judy Spillane

We welcome new members - Annual Membership \$10.00

A.G.M

The A.G.M will be held on Thursday, 13 February 2020 at 7 p.m.



Wardrobe

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

Judy and Jan have been busy painting shelving in the Wardrobe and also tidying through Props and things are looking very smart and tidy.

Judy has also been busy helping Brian McCormack with the sewing of new costumes for '*Rudolph*'.

Programme for the New Year

The full programme for 2020 is yet to be finalised by the Play Selection Committee but will include Tom Stoppard's '*15 Minute Hamlet*' and The Writers' Room performances plus two plays during the year and a Christmas Production.

Party in the Park - 23 February 2020

It is intended to once again have a stall at Festival of the Plain, **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.



It is hard to believe that Summer is nearly here and that the Christmas countdown has already begun.

On behalf of the Taieri Dramatic Society Committee, we wish you all a safe, happy, healthy and joyous Christmas.

Best wishes,

Rosemary Chalmers

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

The mission of the theatre, after all, is to change, to raise the consciousness of people to their human possibilities.

Arthur Miller

Merry 
Christmas 

