

*Butterfly Creek Theatre
Troupe*



Troupedour

February
2009

The
**Taming
of the
Shrew**

BARD IN
THE YARD
DIRECTED
BY
JOHN
MARWICK

17 February - 21 February

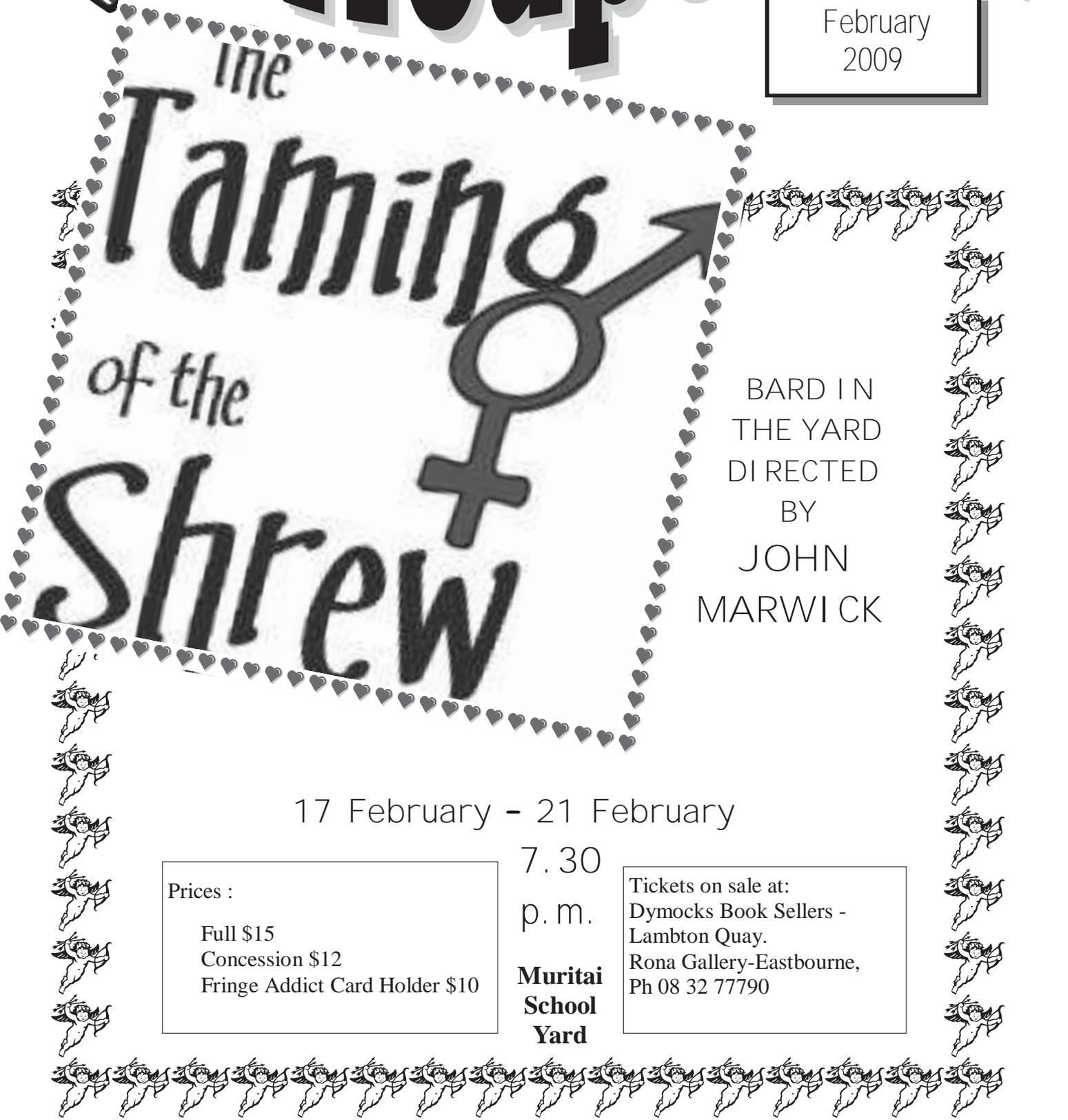
7.30
p. m.

Prices :

Full \$15
Concession \$12
Fringe Addict Card Holder \$10

**Muritai
School
Yard**

Tickets on sale at:
Dymocks Book Sellers -
Lambton Quay.
Rona Gallery-Eastbourne,
Ph 08 32 77790



Girls Just Want to Have Fun

Butterfly Creek Theatre Troupe's summer Shakespeare for the Fringe will be *The Taming of the Shrew* with an all-woman cast.

"As far as I can tell," says director John Marwick, "this is a first for New Zealand. Of course, in Shakespeare's day it was against the law for women to act on stage so all the parts were played by men. Perhaps it's fitting that the tables should be turned these days - and especially interesting for a play that's all about the relationship between women and men and what goes into a marriage."

John had been planning on having a woman take the part of Petruchio - the central male character - because he thinks this will help audiences take a fresh look at the play. But he says he chose to go with an all woman cast when he found he had a strong group of actresses available but few actors.

The play tells the story of two sisters, Kate (Rowan Macrae) and Bianca (Elspeth Harris). Kate, the elder sister, is so strong-willed and has such a wicked temper that no one wants to marry her. Bianca, seems to be the ideal woman - sweet, beautiful and an obedient daughter - and she has men falling over themselves to marry her. The sisters' rich father decides that he won't agree to Bianca's marriage unless Kate first gets a husband.

Enter Petruchio (Liz Sugrue), new to town and looking for a wife - any wife so long as she's rich. When he hears about Kate he wastes no time, gets her father's agreement and after a shot-gun wedding takes her back home. Their relationship develops in very unconventional ways.

Meanwhile sweet Bianca is wooed by the three men who are wanting to marry her and after a series of disguises and tricks ends up marrying the richest one, Lucentio (Suzanne Levy). At Bianca's wedding reception we are left with the distinct impression that Kate's unusual union has a better chance of survival than does her sister's.

The outdoor production emphasises the fun and vitality of the play and doesn't take itself too seriously. John says that the all woman cast helps get past the male-dominated society of Shakespeare's day and throws more light onto the different ways men and women relate. It shows that sometimes love grows in strange places.

This popular play which has been given a more or less contemporary and local feel will entertain, amuse and resonate with New Zealand audiences.

The play is part of the 2009 Fringe Festival. It is also one of the first productions in the Shakespeare Globe Centre New Zealand's *Complete Workes* project - where it is hoped to have as many as possible of the 38 Shakespeare plays, including some he may have written but no one is quite sure, produced during the year in Wellington or around the country.

THE CAST AND CREW

Kat Angus	Hortensio
Tamsin Bertaud-Gandar	Biondello & Philip
Sarah-Rose Burke	Grumio
Sandra Gillespie	Baptista & Joseph
Elspeth Harris	Bianca & the Tailor
Sue Jones	Vincentio & Curtis
Suzanne Levy	Lucentio & Nicholas
Rowan Macrae	Katherina
Florence McFarlane	Gremio & the Haberdasher
Liz Sugrue	Petruchio
Carol Thompson	The Merchant & the Widow
Pip Weston	Tranio & Nathaniel

John Marwick	Director
Julia Stuart	Producer
Carol Thompson	Costumes
Ray Dickinson	Music & Sound
Theo Nettleton	Stage Manager



*They call me Katharine that do talk of me.
You lie, in faith; for you are call'd plain Kate.*

Katherina (Rowan Macrae) and Petruchio (Liz Sugrue)



*..His horse hipped, with an old mothy saddle and
stirrups of no kindred, besides, possessed with
the glanders and like to mose in the chine...*

Biondello (Tasmin Bertaud-Gandar) describes
Petruchio's sickly horse to Hortensio (Kat Angus)



"I never saw a better fashioned gown, more quaint, more pleasing, nor more commendable."

Katherina admires her dress made by the tailor (Elspeth Harris) with Sarah-Rose Burke's Grumio and a Kiwi blokeish Petruchio looking on.