

Butterfly Creek Theatre Troupe



Troupedour

June 2009

A Day in the Death of Joe Egg

by
Peter Nichols



Directed by Florence McFarlane

25, 26, 27 June and 2, 3, 4 July, 7.30 at Muritai
School Theatre.

The Director on our next production: **A DAY IN THE DEATH OF JOE EGG**

"Walking on eggshells" is how I would describe my initial encounter with the play *A Day in the Death of Joe Egg* written by Peter Nichols in 1967. But a few weeks in and working with a great cast has me confident of an excellent production. The cast of Barry Mawer and Alex Cooper as the parents Bri and Sheila; Peter Baldock and Ann Garry as Freddie and Pam, their mutual friends; Fran Baldock as Grace the grandmother and Tessa and Molly McFarlane who share the role of Joe all put in a great effort. Their combined commitment to this project is inspiring and the results will have the audience alternating between hilarity and pathos; certainty and confusion. Although few of us have had to cope with the stresses portrayed in this play we all will empathise with the efforts of Bri and Sheila to create a sort of normality through often bizarre attacks of black humour.

Certainly it is thought provoking but it comes across as a witty comedy from an excellent playwright who wrote from his own experience.

Every time I watch the cast rehearse a new gem of perception appears. It is a privilege to be working on this with Carol, Julia, Bruce, Rae, Chris, Barbara, Yvonne Bill, Will, Steve, and Lesley.

Florence McFarlane.

FOUR EXTRACTS FROM REVIEWS OF THE ORIGINAL PRODUCTION IN LONDON IN 1967
BY FOUR LEADING BRITISH REVIEWERS

This is one of the rare occasions on which the audience can feel the earth moving under their feet.....This is not avant-garde writing: it is addressed to the general civic conscience, and it endows the random audience with the sense of a common human bond.

Irving Wardle

If it sounds depressing, it is for a great deal of the evening hilariously funny. You leave the theatre feeling in every way better for having shared the author's experience, and for having, as he also had, sensibility to laugh.

John Mortimer.

But the play's real achievement is the slow revelation within this comic framework of Sheila's character... She is the play's justification, the content which makes its farcical frame bearable....But on the whole tackles a suffering as timeless as any the Greeks knew and finds modern means of coping with it.

Ronald Bryden.

[Peter] Nichols makes it work so that the audience is no longer a voyeur outside the situation but a clumsy, well meaning, participant. He forces one to begin to understand . What? First the terrible absolute ease with which most people can batten down the hatches to exclude any natural catastrophe which they have mercifully escaped, and second that the catastrophes happen not to problem people, not to any special category, but to friends and neighbours as anxious as oneself to pretend that it can't happen to them, but who learn to live with 'it'.

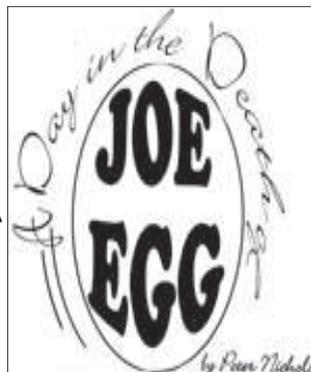
Mary Holland

AGM THURSDAY 23 JULY 7.30 PM

(Venue to be announced)

After a short (we hope) AGM there will be a games night. The Committee would like suggestions for fun games that don't take too long! Please contact a committee member (see address list on last page) with any suggestions.

WEBSITE UNDER CONSTRUCTION
Yes, Butterfly Creek has a website under construction but though it's not quite ready yet you are encouraged to explore this new look at
www.bctt.org.nz.



Our very own John Marwick is
appearing as
Malvolio
in
Twelfth Night
at Khandallah Arts Theatre 16-18,
23-25 July

A Brief Autobiography from a cast member of *A Day in the Death of Joe Egg*:

Introducing.....**Ann Garry**,
who is playing Pam in Peter Nicholls 's comedy-drama.

My first theatrical performance was in response to my mum persistently putting Brussel Sprouts on my dinner plate. Later on the teenage years required certain creative performances to get the necessary permission to go to places and see people that were not on the maternal check list. However, my first real link with theatre was BCCT. I joined after emigrating (I was seduced by the thought of living in the South Pacific....no one told me about Wellington's weather!) because I realised, rather belatedly, that I had left all my family and friends in the UK/Ireland and I didn't know a bloody soul! I started backstage, then acted in plays and pantos and even wrote some skits for Girls On Top. It was fun and a great learning curve. After a long hiatus which involved, studying, studying and studying, remarrying and watching my children morph into computer appendages I saw the sign for Joe Egg, turned up at the read through and Florence took a punt! The best thing about the rehearsals has been working with a dedicated, hard working experienced team. **I've learnt heaps and it's been a great way to switch off from work** and to be absent for dishwashing duties!

SHAKESPEARE TALKS, WORKSHOPS, LECTURES, PERFORMANCES
COMING UP IN WELLINGTON SOON:

July 4 : Allan Henry: *Have at thee varlet!*. This will be a full-on workshop on stage fighting and weaponry.
Venue to be confirmed

Also in July (date to be confirmed) Ida Gaskin will speak on the genius of Shakespeare

Aug 12: Dawn Sanders will speak on the Social Fabric of Shakespeare's time, venue to be advised

Also in August Duncan Galletly will speak on Elizabethan food and eating habits.

Jennifer Shennan is lined up to do a workshop on Music and Dance of Shakespeare's time.

October 28 : there will be a performance of Shakespeare's Sonnets and Songs.

These topics have been organised by Sue Miller for the Wellington District of the N. Z. Theatre Federation

Register your interest with Sue at kotuku.media@xtra.co.nz or phone 223 1842



Joe Egg is a fool,
He tied his stocking to a stool.
When the stool begins to crack,
All the beetles run up his back.

(A children's chant)

