



BUTTERFLY CREEK  
THEATRE TROUPE

# Troupedour

July 2007

Yes, we've been doing 'it' now for 20 years. After the success of our 1st two celebratory events ( Midsummer Nights Dream and 6 Characters) we're further celebrating the troupe's achievements over those two decades with a weekend of events planned from Friday 5th to Sunday 7th October. Present and past members will be given the chance to register for the weekend soon, but meantime, put the dates in your diary – it will be a fun weekend!

The programme includes:

- ☺ a jaunt to a 'theatre event' together in Wellington (Friday night)
- ☺ a celebration dinner with opportunities to relive old memories ( & old & new performances?) over good food and wine and great company (Saturday night)
- ☺ after the hall clean-up on Sunday, a BBQ lunch with children and families.

Details will be posted to you in the near future. Meantime, circle the weekend on your calendar and let your ex-member friends know its coming up. The bigger the crowd the greater the fun!

### The AGM is on Thursday 16 of August.

The main items of the agenda are the performance and financial reports for 2005/06 followed by the election of the committee for 2007/008.

*Like Dracula, we do need new blood* to work with those of the existing committee who will be either arm twisted into, or voluntarily offering themselves, for re-election this year. So nominations for all officers or committee to Julia in advance please. Once the business has been completed we will be indulging in the usual BYO refreshments as Barry prepares us for the Panto, including a certain amount of (dry) slapstick practice.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY *(note: all dates revised)*

**Annual General Meeting** : August 16<sup>th</sup> 8 pm in Green Room  
**Anniversary Celebration** October 5,6,7

### Pantomime

**Auditions:** August 26 & 28  
**Performances:** November 28 -December 1 (possible matinee on 2nd)  
& December 5 -8

## Six Characters found their Audience

Again the transient moment passes and another show slips quietly into the Troupe's archives. But it will live on in the memories of those involved.



What a task – and what an achievement. A play that lots of theatre people have heard of – but, as it turned out, not many of the punters. A play written in Italian over eighty years ago with a story that is hardly a plot. Those who came along to a showing of the only video I could get hold of were, understandably, less than completely won over – even if the movie did star John Hurt. And maybe it was a bit foolhardy to try translating and adapting a play from a language that you don't speak (unless you count school-boy Latin in the deep recesses of history).

But thank goodness for the committee members who agreed that we should give it a go, for the hours that Sue spent by herself while I struggled my way painfully through *Sei personaggi en cerca d'Autore*, and thank goodness for Peter Baldock, his wife and daughter without whom this production would have been quite impossible.

And the end result – what wonderful moments. Ed, confidently setting the scene each night on a bare stage. Sandra, despite at times hardly being able to hold her script, always looking and sounding so convincing. Carol producing another stunning set of costumes as well as keeping focused through hours of rehearsals. Thomas new to the Troupe and bringing a bubbling energy. Joanna always in character – even managing to arrive late for most rehearsals. David rising to the challenge of giving an authentic performance. Will playing the focused and frustrated director totally truthfully and with an energy that created the perfect foil for the Characters.

And the Six Characters: Anne – in her shortest, most amazing, but in an odd way, most believable cameo appearance as Madame Pace (while also managing publicity). Fran, completely embodying the grief-stricken mother with her two young and silent children who somehow managed to steal the show each night: Isabel, innocent yet ominous in her wide-eyed passivity, and Connor, hurt and lost and sad. Theo, a tall, aloof, uncomfortable presence – a young man not knowing where he should be. Amber, in by far her greatest role ever, creating such a believable in-your-face and brash young woman of the world yet one who was so brittle and hurt beneath it all. And Peter in a *tour de force* of acting, bringing us the complex father who operates on so many levels – the self-centred and arrogant man, the philosopher embodying Pirandello himself, and the Character desperate to see their story come to life.

So thank you to all of these – and particularly too to those behind the scenes who make it all possible. Julia – who this time not only found the props but also organised Front of House and played the central organising role of producer. Bruce, for building the set – even when I had told him there was really nothing to build. Ray – whose sound creations were truly awesome and who turned up even in the worst of the wintry nights to prompt and assist. Peter Hector for being the calm, organised stage-manager that every production needs. Florence – for mastering the lighting operation – even on the computerised Gryphon stage. Steve for his usual lovely art-work. And again to Peter B, for lights, set construction, setting up and clearing up always and every where.

Yet another interesting Troupe production that lived up to the high standard our audiences have come to expect. How wonderful to have audiences going away talking about the play – some wondering what it was all about – others saying it was the most moving and gripping show we have done. And having to put out extra seats in the Gryphon to squeeze in the last few people for a capacity house. We even made a bit of money.

All in all, a production worthy of our twentieth year. .... *John Marwick*

### SEE, WE CAN ALL LEARN NEW SKILLS!!

Having not operated the lighting for a production since "An Inspector Calls", I had to relearn the skills for the production of "Six Characters in Search of an Author". However that learning curve was nothing compared to the challenge presented by the hi-tech board at the Gryphon theatre.

Peter and Leon Baldock put up the lights and Devon from the Gryphon team explained the workings of the (to me) massive board and its companion computer screen. Without the luxury of multiple rehearsals I had to pull out all the stops. I couldn't take the board home to practice as I had done in Eastbourne, but by dint of support and determination I mastered the system and, apart from accidentally nudging the "flash" knob as I passed my hand over the board, I managed to master the complexities of their system.

Peter Baldock did all the climbing and plugging in prior to treading the boards; we are a real cooperative.

I photographed the board as an aide memoir and I'm happy to hold the hand of the next eager beaver to tackle this challenge. C'mon.....have a go. It's fun - and think of the power you have in your hands (pun intended) .....*Florence*

And this year's Panto is .....

## Dick Whittington and his Cat

by Chris Denys and Chris Harris

to be directed by Barry Mawer.

Although it's a recent script (2001) it is "traditional" in that the Principal Boy is a girl, the Dame is a man, and it has heaps of knock-about action. It will have as big and as varied a cast as we can muster. A little known fact is that Dick actually came from Eastbourne! It's great fun—both for the audience and for those who perform and present it.

Being the last event in our 20th year celebrations we'll be pulling all our creative stops out to make it a lively, enjoyable fitting end to the year.



## What's on about town

Date	Event	Produced by
Until 28 July	Dumb Show – Joe Penhall	Circa
Opens 21 July	Monarchy the Musical – Paul Jenden and Gareth Farr	Circa
19 July – 4 Aug	Take a Chance on Me – Roger Hall	New Players
25 July – 1 August	Dead Man's Hand – Seymour Matthews	Stagecraft
21–30 July	Off the Hook – Derek Benfield	Heretaunga Players
13 August only	King Lear - Shakespeare	Royal Shakespeare Company
14 August	The Seagull - Chekhov	Royal Shakespeare Company
14-25 August	The Crucible - Arthur Miller (directed by Ewen Coleman)	Wellington Rep
15-25 August	The Countess (** 2 comps available—call Julia)	Hutt Rep
19,22 Sept	The Tales of Hoffman starring Patrick Power	Wgtn G&S Light Opera