

BCCT



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1987-2007

BUTTERFLY CREEK
THEATRE TROUPE

Troupedown

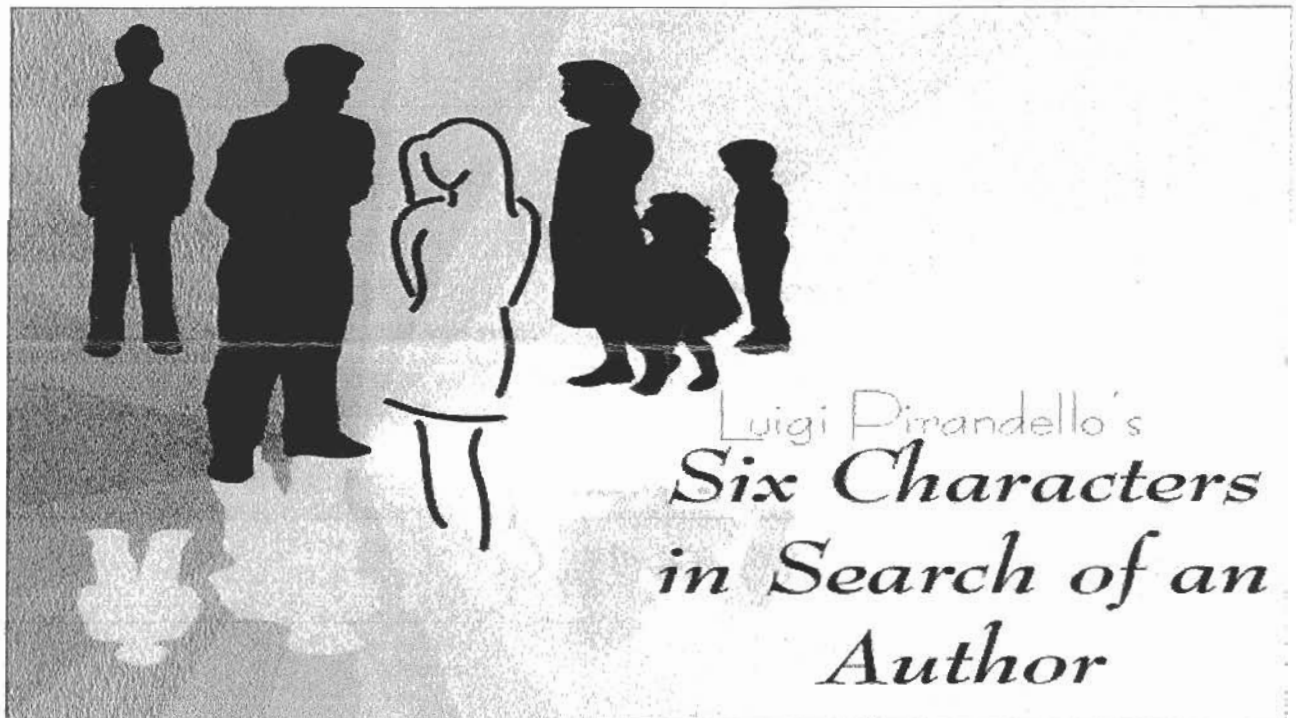
May
2007

Six Characters start their Search

Nine months of planning, searching, translating, cajoling, and casting has finished – now the fun bit starts. With a strong cast and wonderful production crew rehearsals started immediately before Easter.

Already I'm confident that Sei personaggi in cerca d'autore (in a new English translation) will surprise Eastbourne and knock the socks off an unsuspecting Wellington audience.

More information in future Troupedours – but for now mark your diaries: the performance dates are 7, 8, 9, & 14, 15, 16 June in Eastbourne and 22 & 23 June at the Gryphon Theatre, Ghuznee Street, Wellington.



Luigi Pirandello's
*Six Characters
in Search of an
Author*

HELP! HELP! HELP! HELP!

- ⇒ We are looking for someone prepared to organise the Front of House teams for *Six Characters* – if you are interested please contact the producer, Julia Stuart on 04 562 6067 or email julia.stuart@clear.net.nz.
- ⇒ Anyone who would like to look after *The Troupedour* from the end of May to end of July could you contact Laurie at 5685883. There'll need to be one or two issues during that time with info on 20 Anniversary Celebrations.
- ⇒ We need for the set of *Six Characters* a chaise lounge, a glass-fronted or similar low display cabinet (battered would be good), a director's chair, and a working starting pistol. Contact Julia (see above),
- ⇒ PLEASE HELP!



A ROYAL MESSAGE

My Dear Troupers

One wishes to express One's sincere thanks to the R.B.C.F. committee & fellow thespians for the splendid cake given on the occasion of One's birthday. And what an unexpected honour it was to receive that most esteemed award – the Order of the Butterfly Extraordinaire. What higher honour could One wish for. One is most grateful for your gift and good wishes.

*Yours felicitously
H.R.H. Sandra O.B.E.*

Some saintly thoughts....

Stage plays are the most petulant, the most impure, impudent, wicked, unclean, the most shameful and detestable atonements of filthy devil-gods. St Augustine of Hippo.

Spending time in theatres, produces fornication, intemperance, and every kind of impurity. St John Chrysostom.

The Theatres – those cages of uncleanness and public schools of debauchery. St Augustine of Hippo.

What's On Elsewhere

CIRCA THEATRE: *Uncle Vanya* by Anton Chekhov. Till 2 June.
Blackbird by David Harrower. 26 May – 23 June.

DOWNSTAGE THEATRE: *Othello* by William Shakespeare. Till 9 June.

WELLINGTON REPERTORY: *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller.

STAGECRAFT THEATRE: *Dead Man's Hand* by Seymour Matthews. 25 July – 4 August.

Some short theatre poems

They cry, when critics cook their goose:
'That isn't criticism – it's just abuse!'
But where's the actor who, belauded, says:
'That isn't criticism – that's merely praise!'
Herbert Farjeon (1942)

O is for O'Neill. The theatre was packed.
Though a few may have died in the 49th act.
Humbert Wolfe (1932)

Nature few actors for themselves explore.
They copy those who copied her before.
The Prompter (1804)



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

¶ **Six Characters in Search of an Author**

Muritai School Hall 7-9, 14-16 June

and at

Gryphon Theatre, 22-23 June

¶ **Anniversary Celebration**

14/15 July

¶ **Annual General Meeting**

Late July or August

¶ **Pantomime**

November 14 - 17, 21 - 24

Luigi Pirandello

Pirandello was born into a wealthy Sicilian family in 1867 and he died a world famous, Nobel prize-winning author in 1936. His plays are about a deeply perplexing, frequently hostile universe populated by characters who are themselves inconstant. He was fascinated by the masks people adopt in altering social circumstances, by the possibilities of multiple personality and the relativity of truth.

Again and again his plays return to themes of deception and self-deception, entangling the audience in a nest of paradoxes.

In *Six Characters in Search of an Author* a rehearsal of a play (*Rules of the Game* by Pirandello), which the actors think ridiculous, is interrupted by the unexpected arrival of a strange family who claim to be characters from an incomplete play. In the hope the actors can finish the work the family act out scenes from their life, but these prove full of contradictions and contention. The Father has been estranged from his wife early on in their marriage, he has brought up their son in near isolation while his wife has loved another man and had three children by him. There are further family complications concerning a stepdaughter and a seamstress who kept a brothel, which are revealed as the actors and the director struggle to complete the Characters play, with the Characters complaining that the actors are not real enough.

The first major production of this famous play in New Zealand that I can trace was directed by Ngaio Marsh and her Commonwealth Players and toured here and Australia in 1950/1 with Bridget Lenihan as the stepdaughter giving a performance that old timers still remember. Also in the company was a very young John Schlesinger who went on to become the director of *Midnight Cowboy*, *Sunday Bloody Sunday* and many other films.

The only production I have seen of the play in Wellington was way back in 1957 when the Wellington Teachers College Drama Club presented it under the direction of Sunny Amey with Grant Tilley, Dinah Priestley, Ralph McAllister, Jenny Priestley and Peter Barlow in the cast.

(Laurie Atkinson with some help from *Bloomsbury Theatre Guide*.)