

BCTT

*Butterfly Creek Theatre
Troupe*



1987-2007

Troupedown

October 2007

Would you like to perform
in a

REVUE

with
Butterfly Creek Theatre Troupe?

If so, come along on

Sunday 28 October 2pm

Muritai School Hall

for a read through

-Big parts, small parts, something for everyone -
(sorry, no children this time)



Above is the art-work (created by Stacey Waterhouse) that adorned our first production in 1987 – a 'Revue and Melodrama'.

Your Committee has found it fitting to wind up our 20th Anniversary Year Celebrations in the way we started – with a REVUE.

That first production had a 'First Night' and a 'Last Night' – running concurrently. That way we were able to celebrate our achievements – twice – on consecutive nights.

To show that we have progressed over the years – this time we will run for three nights – 6th, 7th, 8th of December.

In case you weren't there at the first one, it is a production of short 'humorous scenes', in the style of Varsity Capping, the Cambridge Circus, Monty Python, Alias Smith & Jones – and any other 'good comedian' who has been foolish enough to publish or broadcast his/her material. All this set in a 'cabaret style environment (food & drink and informal seating round candle lit tables).

We have quite a bit of material already – but are still looking for more.

So come to our meeting/audition – with your talent and/or your contribution(s) to the Muritai School Hall on Sunday 28th October at 2.00pm.

That first production had a three week rehearsal/organising period – so it is not a great time commitment – but the end result is an hilarious way of kicking off Christmas – for us and for the Community (our audience).

BE THERE – AND BE INVOLVED – at the end of our 20th.

From the Co-ordinator ...

Well then far be it for me to comment on the success or otherwise of the 20th Anniversary Weekend apart from to say the Classic Coach trip to the Drama School production of *Angel in America* at Downstage was a great way to start – from the champagne journey to the challenging drama (or was that the other way round). Saturday surpassed the Troupe's expected high standard of hospitality and entertainment – the only thing missing was the after function marshmallows (you had to be there in 1987 to appreciate that reference). The 'pack-out clean-up – BBQ' was the most enjoyable (and well attended) that I can remember.

What I will and must say is ... that the Troupe owes a great deal of gratitude to all those who made it happen – from creating the historic membership list, organising all the elements, handling the catering and libations, co-ordinating the entertainment, providing the entertainment, MC'ing the evening, decorating the tables and the hall (and ensuring the 'facilities' were in a fit condition), organising and providing the fabulous BBQ fare on the Sunday, to ensuring the finances were all in order – I am sure you will join me in expressing our great appreciation.

Well done the Troupe – and roll on the 25th!

In memory of Colin Webster-Watson, 1926-2007

Many people in the troupe would have got to know my larger-than-life uncle Colin over the last three years. A sculptor with an international reputation, Colin lived most of his adult life aboard, primarily in Italy and the States, but returned to live near me and other family members in 2004. He made quite an impression on the people of Eastbourne in a short time, featuring in the recent *Eastbourne: 100 years* book about four times! Being a thespian himself, he loved to attend the BCTT productions, and was particularly enthusiastic when I was appearing.

Sadly, he was diagnosed with refractory anaemia in early 2005, a condition that required frequent blood transfusions. These became more frequent as his condition worsened. He died at his home in Pukatea St of organ failure on September 25, surrounded by family and friends.

Trying to organise a funeral service for him from Crete (unfortunately I was overseas when he died) was not easy, but thanks to the wonders of the Internet and some visionary people, the idea of holding his service in the Muritai School Hall at the end of the BCTT anniversary weekend, emerged. And nothing could have been more appropriate and fitting for him, as it turned out. I am so very grateful for the support I received from many in the troupe, for your presence at the service and your participation in it. I am sure those there will remember this event, attended by around 200 people, for a long time to come, and were also grateful for the opportunity to learn a great deal more about my uncle.

There were tears and laughter, music and poetry, including a cassette recording of Colin reading three of his own poems. Particularly impressive were the thunder and lightening which burst forth dramatically during the service – was it the heavens or even Colin himself applauding our efforts? Or was Colin expressing frustration at not being able to be there in person?

Mary McCallum, a dear friend of Colin's and his near neighbour, led the service. She gave her all to ensure this was a most loving and inclusive tribute to him. Many people spoke, the bravest being eight-year-old Jayden Ashton, one of Colin's great great nephews, who came forward to the microphone, quite spontaneously and unexpectedly, to tell everyone what a special man his uncle was and how much he loved him. At that point, there were few dry eyes in the hall.

The service concluded with an Irish blessing given by Ed Hickey and a poroporoaki and waiata, delivered by Colin's friend and mine Ray Ahipene-Mercer. Once the pallbearers had secured the casket lid, Edith Piaf's song "Non, je ne regrette rien" rang out and Pohewa, the Bird of Imagination – 14-year-old Caitlin Nelson on stilts and wearing a costume designed and made by Colin – led us from the hall to the hearse. As it drove slowly away, Pohewa spread its wings to wave goodbye and the crowd shouted "Bravo!" and clapped, in honour of a life lived so fully, so well and with such love.

Anne Manchester.

Some good news to share with troupies. Anne Manchester and Sandy Lang have recently announced their engagement. Some of you may have met Sandy in recent months, as he has attended our productions, particularly *Six Characters in Search of an Author*.

Sandy and Anne have now begun the exciting but somewhat stressful business of selling their respective homes in Eastbourne and in Palmerston North, and will buy one together somewhere in Eastbourne. Sandy is also a dab hand with a hammer, so could well become a helpful member of the backstage crew.

I was fortunate to meet up with an ex BCTT performer last week at the opening of Stacey O'Neill's latest exhibition at Tamarillo in the city.

Andrew Sritheran is in town with "Turandot" as back up for the Calaf. He has been with the Young Singers of Covent Garden for two years and then worked there under contract. Now he is freelancing around the world. You may recall his deep voice which has now risen to tenor. Apparently the money is better for tenors. He says it just emerged naturally as he trained.

He delighted us with two arias sung a capella - I wasn't there for the first one but the second one was Nesun Dorma from Turandot. Just a lovely rich tenor voice shaking all the glass in the gallery.

Andrew was sorry to have missed the weekend BCTT celebration but sends his best wishes to those of us who knew and acted with him.

To refresh your memories: "The Poet and the Women"; the Witch Maggie in the Male ballet of "La Sylphide"; The dusky maiden in the melodrama "All is not Coal Dust that chokes you."

Florence McFarlane

Found:

A pair of ladies sun glasses were left in the hall after the BBQ. Fran has them at home (5628220).