



Butterfly Creek Theatre Troupe



Troupedour

April 2010

What's Next? – Something a Little Different

“ONE FLESH by Fiona Samuel”

With BCTT being 'centered in the community' it is no surprise that many of our members have shared their talents with other Eastbourne organisations and groups – including our local Churches - and conversely our stage has been graced by the Clergy from two of these Churches – The Reverends Colin Wright of St Alban's and Ruben Hardy of St Ronan's.

From time to time the idea has been mooted that BCTT – or at least individual BCTT members 'do a drama' in/with/for their particular Church – sooooo With St Alban's celebrating it's centenary this year, 2010 seemed like the time to do this.

But what?

After pouring through religious plays, morality plays, bible story plays, modern, medieval, and miracle plays – we eventually found a contemporary NZ play by Fiona Samuel to be directed by Peter Baldock.

'One Flesh' is variously described as – an odd assortment of people gathered in a chilly boarding house - an old man in mourning arrives at an inner city boarding house and changes the lives of the misfits and losers who live there – and - a damaged comedy. It is a very powerful and moving story and one that befits the Troupe's aspirations and the auspiciousness of the occasion and setting.

The characters in the play are – Frances (F early 40s) – Hardy (M 70s) – Penny (M - 30s) – Laurel (F 60s) – Kat (F 20s) – Winston (M 30-40) – Neil (M 30s) – (as always the ages are indicative only).

The characters are all recognisable and their situation very real.

Fiona Samuel graduated from the New Zealand Drama School in Wellington in 1980 and acted at theatres throughout the country as well as appearing in numerous television dramas.

She began writing in 1983 and her first adult radio piece, *Blonde Bombshell* won the Mobil Best Dramatic Production Award in 1984. In 1996, Fiona's play *One Flesh* was staged at Wellington's Downstage Theatre.

As well as continuing to write for radio and theatre, Fiona has also written scripts for *Gloss*, *Shortland Street*, *Jackson's Wharf*, *City Life*, *Mercy Peak* and *Outrageous Fortune*.

AUDITIONS

Sunday 11 April, 2pm

Muritai School Greenroom

For further info or to book an audition contact
Peter Baldock 562 8220 petercbaldock@gmail.com

Rehearsals from the week of 19th April.

The play will be staged in St Alban's Church in mid
June (for 1 week).



Measure for Measure is a triumph!

What a great success! John and his large team are to be congratulated on a superb production that had the audiences flocking in and the reviewers positively glowing. Scoop said

"Strong performances in the lead roles, and some notable comic turns, carried the show. In his role as Duke Vincentio, Damien Reid anchored the production with his powerful voice and commanding stage presence.Elspeth Harris shone as the virtuous and principled Isabella, and her scenes with Claudio, played by Patch Lambert, revealed the deepest emotion in the production. She earned a deserved round of applause for an impassioned soliloquy. Florence McFarlane as the pimp, Pompey Bum, was delightfully crass and very funny. Phil Saxby, as the Provost, also gave a strong comedic performance."

Dom Post said

"Many commentators have labeled it a problem.., yet the darkness and humour add depth and texture to it. And although the over-written ending takes forever to resolve all the mistaken identities and love interests and the main characters turn out to be somewhat contradictory, it is nevertheless an engaging story, intelligently brought to life by director John Marwick and his strong cast.as it's the language that is important with Shakespeare, this production still comes across as a winner".

And in Theatreview

"Design-wise, director John Marwick has gone for an early 20th century feel, with the Duke in a squat topper and the women un-bustled (excellent costuming by Carol Thompson and Pip Weston) and an art nouveau touch to the decoration of the two three-pronged mobile flats that are variously turned to create different settings and moods (designed by Elspeth Harris).

All hinges, however, on the text and the way the characters and their scenes are played out and I am happy to say every member of Marwick's cast has a clear understanding of their intentions and a secure trust in both the Bard's language and our capacity to 'get it' without their having to overstate the message or 'camp up' their roles."

I particularly liked Theatreview's comment that *"Will Clannachan has a charm that's redolent of Peter O'Toole"*. He'll never live it down!

So once again BCTT have dusted off a lesser known Shakespeare play and made it come alive. Some of the cast at the beginning were thinking "I'm glad I'm cast, but reading it, I don't know how it'll come alive". Well yet again, John and the actors did make it come alive and many of us left the play satisfied and pleased to have seen this gem. The weather helped too—though the bagpipes playing outside did make it "interesting" on opening night!

With Shakespeare so popular with actors and audiences alike, we' aim to do another one in 2011. John will be resting, so any other directors out there want to continue this BCTT tradition?

Barry

n.b. We sold over \$1400 worth of tickets via the web site!

Amber's Assistant Director view

It was with excitement and a little trepidation that I accepted the role of Assistant Director for the Troupe's most recent Bard in the Yard, 'Measure for Measure' - Moulin Rouge style.

Directing has been an area of the theatrical world that I've wanted to get involved in, but haven't been too sure how to go about it, or whether I would have anything worthwhile to contribute other than, "project, what's your motivation, and cut, cut, cut". Having an opportunity to assist, under John's guidance, was a wonderful way to observe, learn and further cultivate a taste for directing.

Far from being a glorified tea caddy, I found the Assistant was expected to contribute to the overall direction of the play, and assist with the behind the scenes action. It also became apparent that, overall, the Director's role wasn't to merely bark orders at the players demanding they mimic a director's pre-conceived idea of a character. Rather, the Director needs to adopt an aspect of passivity with their role, allowing the players to explore and develop their characters as they themselves imagine them....of course, all within reason.

I thoroughly enjoyed my foray into this side of a Troupe production, and found I became far more intimate with the play, possibly more than if I had been playing a role. I look forward to the next opportunity to contribute to the direction of a BCTT production. Thank you to all that shared guidance and pearls of wisdom with me during the play.

Thanks,

Amber

People News

Some sad news. Carol had been so looking forward to the birth of her 1st grandchild. Her news is:

"I am a grandma of a precious little boy - Jarvis Woodward, 6lb, 4oz. He was born on February 11th. He is beautiful, but has profound damage to his brain... Please don't feel you need to 'not talk about it' if you see me - he is still my grandson and I have had cuddles with him - and nappy change duty - and totally adore him."

Our heartfelt thoughts are with Carol, Bruce and family at this difficult time.



You'll remember that we included a piece in the last Troupedour about Janis and Bruce heading off to Dunedin. Well, Bruce has sent the following:

"By the time you read this, Measure for Measure will be done and dusted. We are sorry to have missed what I'm sure will have been a hugely successful show. We are now well settled in St Clair, Dunedin, and enjoying the long southern evenings - and recently some great weather - despite what North Islanders like to think! Janis and I would like to say a very sincere thank you to all the many Troupe members who gave us so much help in getting our house ready for sale. By the time we finished it really did look fantastic. You rallied round like an extended family and we treasure your friendship as well as the many happy memories we have of Troupie times. There's always a bed here for any intrepid travellers who venture down this way ."

Well, Barry & Barb stopped off at Dunedin on their recent Campervan circumnavigation of the South Island and had a great evening at the Caddie's, during which red wine was drunk, good food eaten and fond memories recalled. They are in good form as you can see. They'll be coming up to Eastbourne for a friend's 60th birthday "do" around 22 May, so look out for them then.



Next member's unrehearsed play reading at The Lifeboat on 3rd May is by Wellington Playwright April Phillips.



"Angel Delight, the illegitimate daughter of a funeral parlour director, inherits the business when her father dies. Before she can sell the business and the land (which is much more valuable) she has to continue to run the business as a funeral parlour for a further five years. Unfortunately she knows nothing about the funeral business but a lot about prostitution.

Angel and her team of 'girls' (including an obsessive compulsive transvestite named Delilah) run an undercover massage parlour in the funeral home keeping up appearances despite the prying of a disgruntled former employee who felt he should have inherited the business. Suspenders, death by misadventure and unorthodox embalming techniques feature in this zany, quickfire comedy."

*This looks like a fun evening! Dress optional!
At the risk of sounding a bit risqué—parts will be shared around!!*

Membership now available via web-site

Yes we made this available a few weeks before Measure for Measure opened, and it's already been used to renew some membership for 2009/2010 and also pleasing to see it has attracted new members as well.

So it's now even more convenient to pay those overdue 09/10 membership dues! Just reach for your mouse & credit card and head to

www.bctt.org.nz

Spring Production

Will be *"The Dresser"* by Ronald Harwood, to be directed by Florence MacFarlane. It's been described as "an evocative, perceptive and hilarious portrait of backstage life, one of the most acclaimed dramas of modern theatre". It has a cast of 4M 3W. The dates are to be finalised, but we're looking at opening mid to late October 2010.