



Butterfly Creek Theatre Troupe

June 2025

Troupedour



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The Nerd

Rehearsals are underway for Larry Shue's hilarious farce, *The Nerd*. For those of you who enjoyed last year's production of *The Foreigner*, also by Shue, you will want to make sure you get your tickets for *The Nerd*.

Hailed by one critic as a play that "racks up more laughs, and louder, than any farce this side of Alan Ayckbourn", *The Nerd* was first presented at the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre and went on to have a run of 441 performances on Broadway. It was also the top-grossing American play in London's West End in 1986, starring Rowan Atkinson in the title role.

Set in the late 1970s, the play revolves around Willum Cubbert who is living a normal, mundane life in middle America, Terre Haute, Indiana. Happy in his job as an architect, he has a close circle of friends, and a smart, charming girlfriend. All is well ... that is until the man who saved his life in Vietnam shows up to upend everything. Having never met the man (Rick – The Nerd) who saved his life, he is thrilled to finally be able to repay him when he arrives on his doorstep. A short visit turns into weeks and Rick turns out to be a hopelessly bumbling, annoying, and out of touch nerd who destroys everything he touches, including Willum's happily sedate life. The situation quickly escalates into absolute hysterical, farcical chaos as Willum and his friends go to all lengths to try and get Rick to simply go away.

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Spotlight on... two “Nerds”

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Freddy Thompson

We are thrilled to have Freddy Thompson join the cast of *The Nerd* in the role of Thor.

Director Suzy Cain was looking for a young actor who could be bratty, loud, and, as the script indicates, a monster as well. Freddy nailed all these things in the audition – he was absolutely perfect!

Cain says, “He came to the second rehearsal with all his lines down and perfect delivery. I joked with the rest of the cast that they needed to up their game.”

When not acting, Freddy likes to partake in outdoor and community activities with his local Cubs group (he is currently working on his kayaking badge!), go for bike rides with his friends, and play Minecraft. He lives in Naenae with his parents and older sister, attends Rātā Street School and heard about *The Nerd* auditions via Facebook.



I am thrilled to have a stellar cast including Philip Rossiter, Anna Sutherland, Martyn Barry, John Marwick, Nicola Tod, Freddy Thompson, and Laurie Ward.

Rehearsals have been great fun – the cast have had a good time working on the crazy physical bits – including a scene where they all have paper bags over their heads and have to spin around and hum (will leave that to your imagination).



Freddy Thompson, a newcomer to Butterfly Creek Theatre Troupe, plays eight-year-old Thor, and has had the most fun being an absolute petulant menace!

It is great to direct a cast who embrace the comedy and the sheer goofiness of the script. And when the actors are having that much fun, I know the audience will too! I look forward to seeing you there!

Performance dates are: 10, 11, 12, 17, 18 & 19 July at 7.30pm, Muritai School Hall. Tickets available via Humanitix or at the door on performance nights.

Suzy Cain
Director

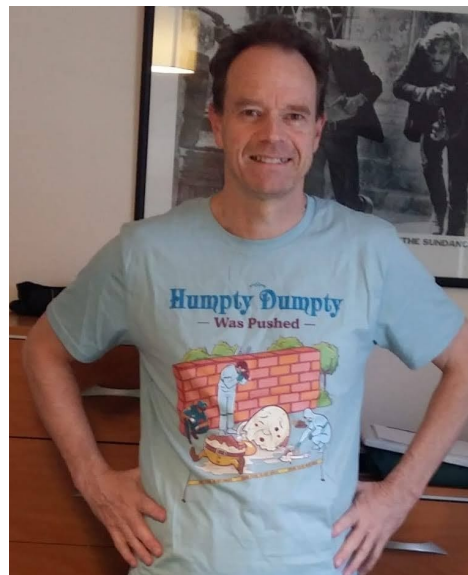
Martyn Barry

Martyn is a new addition to the BCTT committee this year. He joined the troupe in 2023, playing the mischievous Poin and the very Scottish Douglas in *Henry IV Part 1*. Practice at being a marauding thug came in handy for his role as the avenger Macduff in last year's *Macbeth*.

He confirms the best way to learn Shakespeare is to perform Shakespeare - and it takes plenty of performance to become fluent in the language.

Later in 2024, he played the eponymous role in the Larry Shue comedy *The Foreigner*, and he is now rehearsing for *The Nerd*, trying hard to match the energy of the youngest member in the cast!

Martyn's pastimes include playing squash, to counter the benefits of practising yoga, to keep his body in reasonable acting shape.



Director's Notes:



Michaeljohn Butcher discusses our 2025 Bard In The Yard: *Richard III*

For me, King Richard III has been an almost lifetime study. I have played the lead twice, as well as other major roles in other productions in the United Kingdom, one of which I also directed.

I believe he's possibly one of England's greatest kings, an absolute all-rounder. Examples include his contribution to the legal system that still operates today, and his fair decisions around land disputes, where the poor could bring notice of any injustices inflicted on them by the ruling classes. When he was killed, a chronicler from York wrote: "This day was our good King Richard slain."

He was also a brilliant soldier, mentored and trained by the Earl of Warwick, 'the king maker'; a loving husband to Anne Neville, and a fanatically loyal brother to Edward IV, when he was alive.

The mystery of Richard is what changed this man in six short weeks, to becoming a cold calculating killer with the ultimate heinous crime of killing his two nephews? Did he or didn't he kill the two boys? Yes, he did... no he didn't...the argument continues through history. Was Shakespeare fair in his interpretation of this seemingly loved king?

I dedicated this production, brilliantly brought to life by a stellar cast and crew, to Phillipa Langley, whose tireless devotion to English history resulted in locating and finding the remains of Richard III, England's last Plantagenet King, beneath a Leicester City Council car park in 2012.

Michaeljohn Butcher

Director

Announcing BCTT's Bard in the Yard for 2026 ...

Our 2026 Bard in the Yard production will be an adaptation of Shakespeare's *King Lear*, directed by Elspeth Cotsilinis.

This is the first time that Butterfly Creek Theatre Troupe has staged *King Lear*, and we are looking forward to exploring the themes and characters that have led to its reputation as one of Shakespeare's greatest plays.

Auditions will be held in October with rehearsals starting in 2025. There will be a break for Christmas before rehearsals pick up again in 2026.

The performance season is in February, so look out for more information coming soon!

In Memoriam:

Hayden Rogers



Hayden Rogers as Orlando and Lian Butcher as Rosalinde in the 2019 Bard in the Yard *As You Like It*.

Long-time member of BCTT Hayden Rogers died of a heart attack in Auckland on Saturday 14 June. He had been in Auckland to farewell his daughter who was heading away on an overseas trip.

Hayden was an ardent supporter of community theatre more broadly and served for several years as president of the Wellington District Theatre Federation. He was actively involved with a number of theatre groups, including Mana Little Theatre and KAT (Khandallah Arts Theatre). His untimely death will be a great loss to the Wellington community theatre world.

Hayden's last performance with BCTT was in the 2024 production of *The Foreigner*, in which he played Reverend David Marshall Lee.

BCTT co-ordinator Lian Butcher responded on Facebook on behalf of us all:

We are completely shocked at the untimely passing of our good friend and troupe member Hayden Rogers this weekend.

He was in many of our productions - especially in our Bard in the Yards, and many of our comedies. He was a joy to act with and direct and was also a good friend to many of us. He went out of his way to help us out with photography and video recording, and was our go to publicity photographer.

Members of the BCTT committee are devastated, as many of us have known him for years. We wanted to thank him and his family for all the time he has given to our little theatre troupe, and the difference he made.

Our condolences to his family and friends at this sad, sad time.

Hayden Rogers will be sorely missed.

The Pink Hammer Selected For Spring 2025

At the committee meeting on 11 June, five potential directors presented their pitches for a play to fill our Spring slot this year, with performances dates October 30-1 November; 6 November-8 November.

The committee has decided to accept the offer from well-known Wellington director Ewen Coleman to direct the Kiwi comedy *The Pink Hammer* by Michele Amas.

The play has a cast of four women and one man and is set in a man's workshop where the women arrive, expecting to attend a carpentry skills training course, run by a woman. Things don't turn out quite as planned!

BCTT Contacts 2025

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Coordinator: Lian Butcher
Treasurer: Colin Orchiston
Secretary: Suzy Cain
Committee Members: Elspeth
Cotsilinis, Peter Baldock,
Martyn Barry, Anne Manchester,
John Marwick,
Colin Orchiston and Nicola Tod
Troupedour Editor: Pip Weston



BCTT Noticeboard

The BCTT AGM will be held on Wednesday July 2, 7.30pm in the Green Room. Co-ordinator Lian Butcher will be standing down at the AGM, after serving six years in the role. The committee is now calling for nominations for a new co-ordinator.