



# theatre notes

ellerslie theatrical society inc. - february/march 2019



## The Bach

written by Stephen Sinclair  
directed by Annie Whittaker

14 TO 23 MARCH 2019

written by **Stephen Sinclair** and directed by **Annie Whittaker**

*"Terrific entertainment ... intellectually daring ... darkly funny."* NZ Listener

The Bach plays out through the minefields of marital strife, sibling rivalry, national identity and one well-placed public convenience!

We join Michael and Simon, two middle-aged brothers meeting for the first time in years at their family bach in the Coromandel. They arrive to discover that the regional council has erected a public toilet right next door. Bruised by career disappointment, burned by relationship failure, battered by identity politics, the two brothers decide it's time to make a stand.

### TICKETS

Tickets  
\$25 evening, \$23 evening discount  
\$20 matinee, \$18 matinee discount

*A discount to members, with bookings of 10 or more, and to Community Services card holders. Only one discount can be claimed on any one ticket.*

**Shows**  
Thursday 14 March, Gala night, 8pm.  
Friday 15 March, 8pm.  
Saturday 16 March, 8pm.  
Sunday 17 March, Matinee, 2pm.  
Monday 18 March— no show.  
Tuesday 19 March, 8pm.  
Wednesday 20 March, 8pm.  
Thursday 21 March, 8pm.  
Friday 22 March, 8pm.  
Saturday 23 March, Matinee, 2pm.  
Saturday 23 March, Closing, 8pm.

**BOOK ONLINE AT**  
[www.iticket.co.nz](http://www.iticket.co.nz)  
or phone 09 361 1000  
or 0508 484 2538 if calling from outside Auckland  
NO booking fee/delivery fee, transaction fees may apply



**BY POST** (cheque/credit card only)  
Send to: ETS, 40 Michaels Avenue, Ellerslie, Auckland 1051.

**IN PERSON** (cash/cheque/credit card/Eftpos)  
Box office opens forty five minutes before the performance.

## Opening Night Gala

*A complimentary glass of méthode champenoise, or juice, and snacks will be served on the opening night performance Thursday 14 March.*

Pre-booking is recommended to guarantee your seat.

**NOTICE OF AGM . MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL . INFORMAL PLAY READING GROUP . ELLERSLIE FESTIVAL OF ONE ACT PLAYS SUBMISSION DEADLINE . HELP WITH SET BUILDS . THE LADY IN THE VAN REVIEW . AUDITIONS . WHAT'S ON . RAFFLES . . . .**



Thank you to our sponsors and supporters:



Ellerslie Theatrical Society Inc  
40 Michaels Avenue, Ellerslie, Auckland 1051 Phone 525 3336  
Stables Theatre (Ellerslie War Memorial Community Centre), 138 Main Highway, Ellerslie  
email: [info@ellerslietheatre.co.nz](mailto:info@ellerslietheatre.co.nz) or [newsletter@ellerslietheatre.co.nz](mailto:newsletter@ellerslietheatre.co.nz) website: [www.ellerslietheatre.co.nz](http://www.ellerslietheatre.co.nz)



Probably! Possibly! Review by Rex Steele

The Misters Bennett (Andrew and Ken) cobble this tale of automotive convolution together with seamless subtlety. Their teamwork and parallel parking skills are without parallel. From an unashamed fan, this play is a tribute to Bennett’s wonderful ability to make so much of so little and record humanity’s full range of ... humanity.

Alan’s Mam (Margaret) keeps a cogent but deteriorating eye on proceedings, while the longsuffering neighbours (Becky and Matt) flesh out the story by adding graphic detail and far flung metaphysical conceits. The bedside doctor (Samy) does his best to get down to basics, frustratingly thwarted by the good lady herself. The social worker (Saree) periodically heightened my hostility, and cameos by a snitch (Alan), the lady’s brother (Rex), and the interviewer (Chantal) nicely round out the play.

This show belongs to Bronwen, (The Lady) as she glides through the improbable excoriations of those unique flights of fancy. With beautiful diction she delivers such wonderful lines as “I came across it once in a Catholic motoring magazine under tips on Christian parking.”

A simple but very effective set, with John Charlton’s subtle lighting took us on a pilgrimage encountering the ‘Suzy Wong’, the fluidity of actor movement, and the absorbing delight of an entertaining show. And all of this choreographed to perfection by the director, David Blakey.

A nod of grateful thanks to Des Smith for bringing this play to ETS, even though he was unavailable to direct it.

*Written by Alan Bennett and Directed by David Blakey*

<i>Miss Shepherd</i> ~ Bronwen Arlington	<i>Alan Bennett</i> ~ Andrew Gordon	<i>Alan Bennett #2</i> ~ Ken Morrison	<i>Mam</i> ~ Margaret Ussher
<i>Rufus</i> ~ Matt Butler	<i>Pauline</i> ~ Becky Scoggins	<i>Social Worker</i> ~ Saree Biddick	<i>Underwood</i> ~ Alan J. Thomson
<i>Leo Fairchild</i> ~ Rex McIntosh	<i>Interviewer</i> ~ Chantal Haworth	<i>Lout/Doctor</i> ~ Tharma Prasath Saminathan	

**ETS NEEDS YOUR HELP!**

ETS is exceptionally grateful to iTICKET who provided a loan ticket printer to trial printing tickets in-house during the four plays in 2018. This enabled the online booking system to stay open until two hours prior to each show. Sadly the trial is now over and the printer needs to be returned. You can help ETS purchase a printer to keep providing this service by adding a donation to your membership renewal. Fund raising for the printer kicked off with a raffle held outside the theatre during the Santa Parade.

**SANTA PARADE | CHRISTMAS RAFFLE | Winner – Robin Bowie**

**Ellerslie Santa Parade | Angels Rejoice**

With lyres and trumpets in hand Renee and her fabulous team dusted off their halos to present ‘Angels Rejoice’. A stunning symphony of gold, blue and white floated along the parade route on a glorious Summer’s day.

Thanks to the Ellerslie Business Association for organising the parade, Renee for creating another spectacular float, Colin and A.J. Tutill & Son for providing the driver and truck, and the numerous helpers on the day.

If you would like to be involved with the ETS float in 2019 please contact Rona Colbert for more information 09 525 3336 or by email to [treasurer@ellerslietheatre.co.nz](mailto:treasurer@ellerslietheatre.co.nz)



# COME AND PLAY WITH US

The **Annual General Meeting** of the Ellerslie Theatrical Society Inc. will be held on

**MONDAY 15 APRIL 2019 AT 8.00 PM**

STABLES THEATRE, 138 Main Highway, Ellerslie

All are welcome and supper will be served at the conclusion of the evening's business. New Members are welcome.

Written nominations are called for the following positions:

President . Vice President x 2 . Secretary . Treasurer . Committee Member x 5

- The elections for the above positions will be held in the order stated.
- A person can only hold one position on the committee.
- Nominees for the position of President must have been members of the Committee for at least twelve months immediately prior to the AGM.
- Nominees for the position of Vice President and Treasurer must have been financial members of the Society for at least twelve months prior to the AGM.
- All nominees must be financial members of the Society.

It is preferable that nominations are received no later than 15 March 2019. Nominations can be posted to: The Secretary, Ellerslie Theatrical Society, 40 Michaels Ave, Ellerslie or emailed to [info@ellerslietheatre.co.nz](mailto:info@ellerslietheatre.co.nz). Late nominations handed to the Secretary at the meeting prior to the advertised starting time will be accepted at the Chairman's discretion.

Forms can be downloaded from our website or contact Rona 09 525 3336

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2019

As a member you will:

- Receive regular newsletters and audition notices.
- Be able to participate in ETS plays and social functions.
- Receive a discount on ticket purchases.
- Support your local, non-profit, theatrical society.

Membership forms can be found on the 'Contact Us' page on the **website** or by calling Rona on **09 525 3336**. If you prefer to pay your membership by using **online banking**, then visit our Membership page by clicking on 'Membership' at the top of our website home page at [ellerslietheatre.co.nz](http://ellerslietheatre.co.nz). It will guide you through online banking and then help you to contact us when you have paid. Easier than paper forms, and no postage!

## EARLY BIRD DRAW

Renew your membership or become a new member by 28 February 2019 and go in the draw to win two tickets to any ETS show this year.

## ELLERSLIE FESTIVAL OF ONE ACT PLAYS

### SUBMISSIONS DEADLINE - 28 FEBRUARY 2019

The ETS One-Act Play Festival deadline is fast approaching. Applications can be emailed to [info@ellerslietheatre.co.nz](mailto:info@ellerslietheatre.co.nz) or posted to 40 Michaels Ave, Ellerslie, Auckland 1051. Application forms, season dates and general information can be found under 'Opportunities' on the theatre website homepage at [ellerslietheatre.co.nz](http://ellerslietheatre.co.nz). Entries must be received by **28 February**. For more information see the website or contact [info@ellerslietheatre.co.nz](mailto:info@ellerslietheatre.co.nz).

## HELP AROUND THE STABLES

Join us behind the scenes, on stage or in front of house. For more information see the website or contact our team.

*Membership & Bar*—Rona **09 525 3336**

*Hospitality*—Jocelyn **09 626 3070**  
[hospitality@ellerslietheatre.co.nz](mailto:hospitality@ellerslietheatre.co.nz)

*Design Team*—Anna **021 137 4936**  
[newsletter@ellerslietheatre.co.nz](mailto:newsletter@ellerslietheatre.co.nz)

*Crew*—Charlotte **021 10208389**  
[stagecrewellerslie@gmail.com](mailto:stagecrewellerslie@gmail.com)

*Set Build*—David **027 495 3794**  
[construction@ellerslietheatre.co.nz](mailto:construction@ellerslietheatre.co.nz)  
for dates see website or contact David.

## INFORMAL PLAY READING GROUP

Join ETS for a relaxed evening as we read some fantastic plays together.

### **Sense and Sensibility - 13 February 7.30pm**

A playful adaptation of Jane Austen's beloved work. Follow the fortunes and misfortunes of the Dashwood sisters in a time when reputation is everything. This adaptation is full of humour, emotional depth, and bold theatricality.

### **The Secret Garden—15 May 7.30pm**

An adaptation of Frances Hodgson Burnett's much beloved children's classic. Mary Lennox, orphaned in India, is sent to live with her uncle in his gloomy country house on the Yorkshire Moors. Having trouble adapting to her new life the discovery of a walled garden gives her a reason to enjoy her new home. Soon the garden is brought to life and happiness returns to the house.

At the home of Rona Colbert, 40 Michaels Ave, Ellerslie

**RSVP** for numbers or enquiries to Jocelyn McQuaid telephone 09 626 3070 email [jossmcq@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:jossmcq@slingshot.co.nz). Taking a little something for supper would be appreciated.

Things  
I know  
to be  
True.  
by  
Andrew  
Bovell



### The Play

As beautifully touching as it is funny and bold, 'Things I Know To Be True' tells the story of a family and marriage through the eyes of four grown siblings struggling to define themselves beyond their parents' love and expectations.

Parents Bob and Fran have worked hard and with their four children grown and ready to fly the nest it might be time to relax and enjoy the roses. But the changing seasons bring home some shattering truths. The family setting would be familiar to many of us, at least in part. The issues this family encounter are recognisable. Their closeness and inter-dependency both a blessing and a curse.

### About the director

In England Pam was part of an Actors Studio and Company, exploring different acting and directorial approaches, playing a variety of parts from Shakespeare to improvised theatre. Pam moved to New Zealand and took the Directors course at Howick Little Theatre. As a director and an actor her approach has been to take the playwright's intentions, and words, as the focus for the life of the play. These are not always on the surface. Pam directed 'Because of Beth' and 'Our Man in Havana' at Howick Little Theatre. She found an Andrew Bovell play on the 'plays' shelf of her local op-shop ('Speaking in Tongues'). She liked it so much, she sought out more of his work and found 'Things I know to be True'. The play captured much of modern family life and she believes an audience would find the stories of each character in the play memorable and moving.

### Rehearsals

Commence Sunday 31 March 2019 for a read-thru, then Tuesdays and Thursdays each week from 7.30pm, Sundays from 12.30pm

### Season

Thursday 6 to Saturday 15 June 2019 - 10 performances including 2 matinees.

### Contact details

Contact Pam Browne to get an e-copy of the play.  
email: [pam@picton.net](mailto:pam@picton.net)

### Audition

- Please request and read the script.
- I want to see what you can bring to the character irrespective of your actual age.. Those auditioning for the siblings need to prepare the monologues in the script (pages 5, 23, 43, 57). For Fran and Bob, the dialogue on pages 78-79.
- This play was conceived for Frantic Assembly, a theatre company specialising in physical theatre. I would like actors to feel free to explore movement and eye contact to establish the actors' character and relationships. This element of performance comes slowly but is always assisted by being script free.
- Every part has depth and should stretch the actor, so come to the audition feeling free to have a go, don't second guess 'what the director wants'!

### Cast Required

The ages are only suggestions and should only be treated as guidelines. If you are outside this age range but feel you are perfect for the role, please come along to audition.

- Fran** female 50+ The mother. Fifty-seven. Still working as a senior nurse. She is knowing of her children and husband - but do they know her?
- Bob** male 55+ The father. Sixty-three. He is a retired auto factory worker. His family, and garden, are his world.
- Pip** female 28+ The oldest daughter. Thirty-four. Married with two girls, she works as an education department administrator. She is most like her mother, but maybe doesn't want to be in many respects.
- Mark** male 25+ Thirty-two. An IT specialist. He finds it most difficult to explore his own identity in the context of the family.
- Ben** male 23+ Twenty-eight. Working in finance. Living in two worlds. It's hard to keep up with the other guys in this world!
- Rosie** female 18+ Nineteen. Off overseas. She doesn't know who she is or what she wants to be yet beyond becoming a woman.

### what's on at other theatres

Dolphin Theatre	<a href="http://www.dolphintheatre.co.nz">www.dolphintheatre.co.nz</a>	Arsenic and Old Lace by Joseph Kesselring— <b>season:</b> 1 to 16 Mar
Howick Little Theatre	<a href="http://www.hlt.org.nz">www.hlt.org.nz</a>	California Suite by Neil Simon — <b>season:</b> 23 Feb to 16 Mar
Titirangi Theatre	<a href="http://www.titirangitheatre.co.nz">www.titirangitheatre.co.nz</a>	A Bunch of Amateurs by Nick Newman and Ian Hislop — <b>season:</b> 12 to 23 Mar
Mairangi Players	<a href="http://www.mairangiplayers.co.nz">www.mairangiplayers.co.nz</a>	Accommodation by Nick Hall — <b>season:</b> 5 to 13 Apr
Company Theatre	<a href="http://www.companytheatre.co.nz">www.companytheatre.co.nz</a>	Stones in his Pockets by Marie Jane — <b>season:</b> 3 to 13 Apr