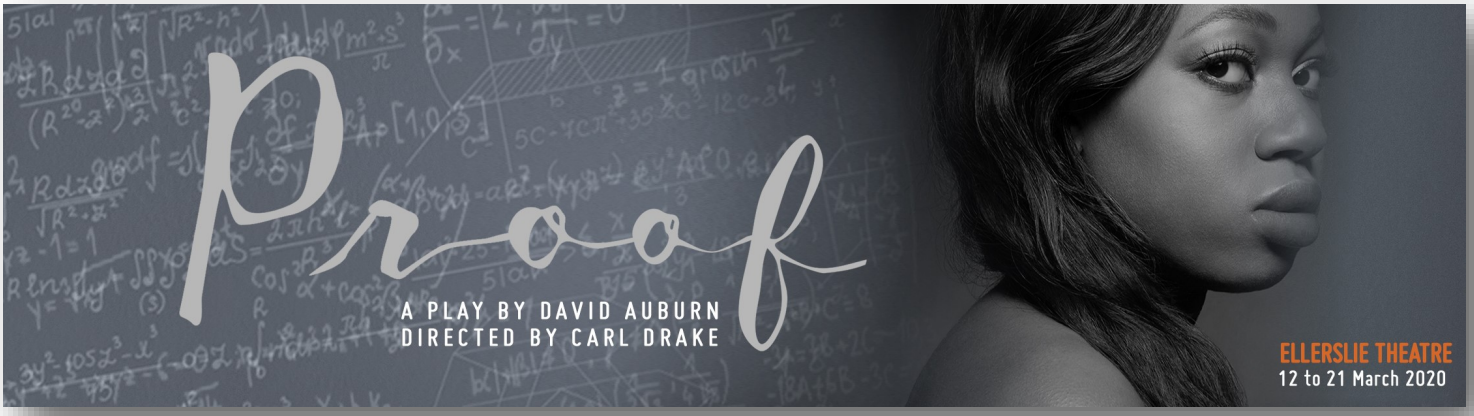
theatre notes

ellerslie theatrical society inc. - february / march 2020

#saveETS

IN THIS EDITION | Join us and help around the stables | Review & Events | Directors Invitation …….



12 to 21 March 2020

It's the eve of her twenty-fifth birthday. Catherine, a troubled young woman, has spent years caring for her brilliant but unstable father, a famous mathematician. Now, following his death, she must deal with; her own volatile emotions; the arrival of her estranged sister, Claire; and the attentions of Hal, a former student of her father, who hopes to find valuable work in the 103 notebooks her father left behind. Over the long weekend that follows, a burgeoning romance and the discovery of a mysterious notebook draw Catherine into the most difficult problem of all: How much of her father's madness—or genius—has she inherited?

Proof contains themes of death, depression, mental illness, and adult language. The play won the 2001 Pulitzer Prize for Drama and a Tony Award for Best Play.

TICKETS

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

Shows
Thursday 12 March, Gala, 8pm
Friday 13 March, 8pm
Saturday 14 March, 8pm
Sunday 15 March, Matinee, 2pm
Monday 16 March - no show
Tuesday 17 March, 8pm
Wednesday 18 March, 8pm
Thursday 19 March, 8pm
Friday 20 March, 8pm
Saturday 21 March, Matinee at 2pm, Final show at 8pm

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.

BOOK ONLINE AT
www.iticket.co.nz
or phone 09 361 1000
or 0508 484 2538 if calling from outside Auckland
NO booking fee/delivery fee. Bank 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 12 March.

Pre-booking is recommended to guarantee your seat.

Thank you to our sponsors and supporters:

Speedy Signs grow your business faster
Ōrākei Local Board Auckland Council
Sir John Logan Campbell Residuary Estate
SOAR
Auckland Council Te Kaunihera o Tāmaki Makaurau

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 **or** newsletter@ellerslietheatre.co.nz **website:** www.ellerslietheatre.co.nz

Find us on Facebook

Ellerslie Santa Parade 2019

The Colours of Christmas

With the festive colours of green and red, Renee and her fabulous team dug deep into their wardrobes to present The Colours of Christmas to the children and families on Main Highway. A vibrant variety of Christmas parcels under the tree complimented everyone on the float as it moved along the parade route on a glorious Summer's day. Thanks to the Ellerslie Business Association for organsing the parade, Renee for creating another spectacular float, Colin and A.J. Tutill & Son for providing the driver and truck, Robin Bowie for her artistic creations and Kerry McCullogh of Flowers of St John for her culinary skills .

MEMBERSHIP

ETS needs your support which you can give by renewing or by becoming a new financial member, attending the shows and participating in our productions.

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, not-for-profit, theatrical society;
- Increase the number of financial members which increases the chances of funding through grant applications.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Student $10.00
Adult $20.00
Senior Citizen $10.00
You can pay via internet banking (instructions in membership form) or post a cheque with your membership form to:
Treasurer, ETS, 40 Michaels Ave, Ellerslie, Auckland 1051.

If you are interested or willing to participate in any aspect of the theatre, please let us know by ticking or adding your interest on the membership form.

ENCHANTED APRIL November 2019—review by Rex Steele

A little more sand under the wheels might have provided traction to the philosophical preamble of this play, but once momentum is gained it flows and builds elegantly into a disparate collation of wrongly supposed pigeonholed widows. Four disparate women, ebullient, effervescent Lotty, delicate, restrained Rose, distanced, brooding Lady Caroline and repressed, perceptive Mrs Graves form an unlikely alliance to enjoy an "Enchanted April" holiday in an Italian villa, away from all the complications of "home" in England.

They are aided and abetted by two totally contrasting husbands, stolid, pompous Mellersh, and charming, devious Frederick. This sextet is completed with an artistic, almost opportunistic landlord Antony, and Constanza, the deliciously irrepressible housekeeper.

Symbolistic naturalism abounds with the acacia growing out of a planted walking stick, groundcover trodden underfoot, and the ever healing and enveloping wisteria's smoothing balm. As the enchantment richly unravels and prejudices are delicately unpicked we discover ever more revealing threads which provide mystery, drama and comedy by turn. The most delightful aspect of this show is the close knit support and unity amongst the actors, flowing into the characters they portray.

Jason's direction of this work is excellent, being both faithful to the script, whilst allowing individual cast members to develop their own interpretations of the varied roles. This delivers to us an enjoyable and timeless capture of an era now long gone, to be enjoyed with a hot cup of "indiscrete" tea.

Director ~ Jason Moffatt	Lotty Wilton ~ Shivaun Statham	Rose Arnott ~ Sonia Beal
Mellersh Wilton ~ Zac Clarke	Frederick Arnott ~ Raymond Vinten	Lady Caroline Bramble ~ Chloe Olivier
Mrs Graves ~ Sue Golding	Anthony Wilding ~ Michael Bache	Constanza ~ Vanessa Clarke

CONGRATULATIONS TO VALERIE OF ELLERSLIE, OUR RAFFLE WINNER FOR ENCHANTED APRIL 2019

#saveETS

After 30 years of theatre making at Stables Theatre we need your help to secure the venue for the years to come.

Our situation …

The local boards (initially Maungakiekie and currently Ōrākei), have been setting a discretionary rate for our annual hire of the venue since 1989. This was around $11,000 with a small annual increase of around 3%. During 2018 Ōrākei Local Board stopped this discretionary rate. As a result, our rent increased to the full rate of around $90,000 per annum. We were entitled to the 50% discount for community organizations set by Auckland Council but that still left a new rate of around $45,000. To us, this is a rise of 375% and is greater than our average total income before grants of around $40,000. With other expenses averaging $28,000 this leaves a new deficit, before grants, of around $33,000 per annum. We had been in discussion with the local board since this change and made it clear that although we could pay this for the current year, we could not sustain this rate ongoing and it would leave no funds to mount our productions. They asked us to see what grants we could obtain before they would revisit the rates set. We continued to pay the amount that we had previously been paying with a small annual increase, while trying to source additional funding through grants. In November last year they made a resolution in the local board meeting to call in the $32,000 shortfall owing, even if it meant we had to close the theatre. It appeared that obtaining our revenue was more important than supporting our continuity, we'd just be another local arts organisation casualty. We have enough to pay this shortfall but it leaves us without funds to continue beyond our current production.

A little history …

In 1989 Ellerslie mayor, Leon Leicester, invited the Pakuranga Community Theatre to create a community theatre group for Ellerslie and take up residence in the Ellerslie War Memorial Hall. Plans were drawn up to upgrade the hall to make it suitable for a theatre. The upgrades were made, the theatre group moved in and Ellerslie Theatrical Society Inc. (ETS) was born.

Under the shuffling of Auckland City Council the hall came under the control of the Maungakiekie Community Board. The board continued with the vision of Leon Lester and decided that the rates charged for community theatre should be a special case, given the need for auditions, rehearsals, seating and other facilities, and that ETS did not fit with the model of chargeable hours that was set for other hirers. A different charging mechanism was created for ETS.

ETS was given permission to install the 'Stables Theatre' lettering on the front wall of the building and to add the frame that still supports our billboards on that wall. Internal documents and correspondence with Maungakiekie Local Board established that the hall was regarded as the home of ETS, and that this relationship was on a long term basis.

You can help …

- **Renew your membership or/and make a donation** (form enclosed or email saveETS@ellersliethetre.co.nz or contact Rona Colbert on 09 525 3336)
- **Support Proof** - book your tickets now at www.iticket.co.nz/events/2020/feb/proof (or email bookings@ellersliethetre.co.nz or contact Ronal Colbert on 09 525 3336)
- **Speak out** - share your stories and pictures on social media (twitter, facebook, Instagram …) **and include #saveETS**. Tell us what ETS or community theatre meant or means to you and why it's important for these opportunities to continue. Did theatre help you become confident in public or give you purpose? Did you meet new friends? How did it spark your interest or imagination? How does it make you feel?

If you would like more information about this situation please contact David Blakey at: saveETS@ellersliethetre.co.nz or call 027 495 3794.

COMING UP ...

AGM

The **Annual General Meeting** of the Ellerslie Theatrical Society Inc. will be held on **MONDAY 20 APRIL 2020 AT 8.00PM** at the STABLES THEATRE, 138 Main Highway (cnr Main Highway and Arthur Street), Ellerslie. All are welcome and supper will be served at the conclusion of the evening's business. NEW MEMBERS WELCOME.

Written nominations are called for the following positions:
President, Vice President x 2, Secretary, Treasurer, Committee Members 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 2020. Nominations can be posted to: The Secretary, Ellerslie Theatrical Society, 40 Michaels Avenue, Ellerslie, Auckland 1051 or emailed to info@ellersliethetre.co.nz. Late nominations handed to the Secretary at the meeting prior to the advertised starting time may be accepted at the Chairman's discretion.

INFORMAL PLAY READING GROUP

Join ETS for a relaxed evening as we read some fantastic plays together. These are the readings planned for this 2020.

The Secret Garden - Wednesday 25 March 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.

Alys, Always by Lucinda Coxon—Wednesday 17 June 7.30pm

A psychological thriller excavating the fault lines that separate the entitled from the rest, Alys, Always is adapted for the stage by Lucinda Coxon from Harriet Lane's gripping novel.

The Village Church and Baby Dolls, two one-act plays by Tamara von Werthern—Wednesday 23 September 7.30pm

The Village Church—about faith, families, and fitting in.
Baby Dolls—A futuristic comedy about conception, state control and rebellion.

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. Taking a little something for supper would be appreciated.

PLAYS FOR 2020

Due to the current situation with the venue, we have made the reluctant decision to cancel 'The Rivals' which was to be presented in early June. With your support we plan to present our August and November seasons as scheduled.

OUR MAN IN HAVANA

Written by Graham Greene as adapted by Clive Francis
directed by James Bell
Season 20 to 29 August 2020

MI6's man in Havana is Jim Wormold, a former vacuum-cleaner salesman turned reluctant secret agent out of economic necessity to pay for his teenage daughter's increasingly extravagant lifestyle. To keep his job, he files bogus reports based on Charles Lamb's Tales from Shakespeare and dreams up military installations from vacuum-cleaner designs. Then his stories start coming disturbingly true… In Clive Francis' adaptation, Graham Greene's classic satirical novel becomes a wonderfully funny and fast-moving romp.

SHAM

written by Jess Sayer, directed by Merrin Cavel
Season 5 to 14 November 2020

Meryl lives a quiet life with her daughter Fern, but this evening she seems to be expecting guests, guests she doesn't want there or for Fern to meet. Ever. Why? Because the guests are Fern's aunt Neva and Neva's eccentric and mildly confused lover Ann. And Fern, until the moment that she bursts in on them at dinner has never known of their existence. It's time for Meryl and Neva to fess up to their secrets. Jess Sayer is an actor and playwright living and working in Auckland. She has won the Playmarket b425 award three times and been shortlisted for the Adam NZ Playwriting Award twice.

what's on at other theatres

Titirangi Theatre	www.titirangitheatre.co.nz	**A Skull in Connemara** by Martin McDonagh — ***season:*** 10 to 21 March
Dolphin Theatre	www.dolphintheatre.org.nz	**Last Legs** by Roger Hall — ***season:*** 21 February to 7 March
Howick Little Theatre	www.hlt.org.nz	**Stag and Doe** by Mark Crawford — ***season:*** 29 February to 21 March
Company Theatre	www.companytheatre.co.nz	**Peninsula** by Gary Henderson — ***season:*** 21 March to 4 April
Mairangi Players	www.mairangiplayers.co.nz	**First Things First** by Derek Benfield — ***season:*** 27 March to 4 April