



Papakura Theatre Company (Inc)

NEWSLETTER

Patrons: The Hon George & Mrs Jan Hawkins

December 2020



PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Season's greetings!

What a very busy couple of months we have had at the theatre.

We have just finished the Costume Extravaganza which went extremely well, with everyone attending enjoying the costumes on offer. I have to say my personal favourites were the beautiful costumes that came out during **My Fair Lady** – absolutely stunning. Thanks to Stephanie, Judy W and Judy S for their vision and hard work in preparing all the costumes for display. Thanks to the models and to the musicians who performed live music whilst our models strutted their stuff on the catwalk, very ably lit by Gary Hieatt up in the tech box. Thanks must also go to Robert Mitchell who was again a very well organised and calm Stage Manager, which really just followed on from his amazing stage management prowess for **The Vicar of Dibley**. That of course brings me to **The Vicar of Dibley**.

Sadly, this was the only play that PTC was able to perform this year - but what a play and what a way to end the year! It was simply fantastic. My sincere thanks to all those who were involved, from the front door to the back door and the very talented actors who clearly worked hard to develop their characters which helped make this the wonderful show it was, continuing the great tradition of high-quality shows being performed at PTC.

Surely, I must now hold the PTC record for getting a band into plays?

I must also mention the Papakura Santa Parade. We entered this very late and as it was my idea, I was very grateful to all those people that helped make this come together very quickly and so very well. We had some of the **Vicar** cast with some extras partaking in a nativity scene, including angels, with the Vicar band playing Christmas Carols on the first truck. We also had Merv in his Austin, Darryl with his American Jeep and 50 calibre gun mounted which looked amazing and members of the Off Broadway Big Band playing Dixie music in the second truck promoting **Steel Magnolias**. We also had about a dozen people walking in costume who looked fabulous! I have since found out this is the biggest parade Papakura has had in many years. Which is why, coming **1st Place** in the Community Group category was so very special. Yes, that's right, we came **FIRST!!!!** Thanks to everyone who participated but special thanks to Tasha and her Mum for the big truck and to Kelvin who drove the smaller truck and did so without knocking any of the musicians' teeth out. Thank you everyone – well done!! I must say, the big truck did look fantastic. Now, what to do next year.....

There has been a lot of work happening in the theatre, from tidying the office to those working backstage actually being able to see what they are doing now that we have new LED lighting backstage. In January 2021 we will be painting the building and there will also be murals being painted in the front archways of the building and I'm sure Barb will talk about painting dates later on in the newsletter. If you are free and could spare an hour or two to help paint your building, we would be very grateful. We will have the barbecue running to provide sustenance and even the bar may be open to help quench your thirst after all the hard work.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their hard work and dedication to PTC during what has been an incredibly demanding year due to COVID-19. I wish you, your family and friends a safe, wonderful Christmas and New Year and hope that you get the chance to spend time with loved ones and for those working through Christmas like myself, do try and take the time to enjoy the festive season nonetheless.

Take care, stay safe and may Santa be good to you all.

Paul

(From the newsletter editor and rest of PTC Committee – we're all waiting to see whether, how and where Paul can fit a band into **Steel Magnolias**!)

AND HERE'S WHAT PAUL WAS TALKING ABOUT!

PAPAKURA THEATRE COMPANY 2021

MAY/JUNE

MAMMA MIA!

AUGUST

 *Steel
Magnolias*

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

 **Anne of
Green Gables**

Yes, you've read it correctly! After 6 months of trying and waiting, we finally have the Rights for *Mamma Mia*.

We are delighted to announce our Director as Regan Crummer with our own Paul G Radden as Musical Director. Choreographer to be announced shortly. Production Manager is Marie Parker.

Auditions will be **Sat/Sun 23 and 24 Jan** – please note the date and watch for further info very soon on our website and our PTC Facebook page.

PAINTING OUR THEATRE! A January date for your diary

You've all seen those stripes appearing all over the exterior of Off Broadway, haven't you? Well, we've been trying out various colours to help decide which one we should use to paint our "home". We've decided now and painting day (or should I say "week-end") will be **Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th January**.

It would be great if you could come and give us a hand. The cherry picker is booked and the guys are all set with everything necessary to do the job. We just need YOU! So come on down – sausage sizzle promised, bar is sure to be open at the end of the day, and there is sure to be a lot of laughs whilst the job is being carried out!

Once the basic painting is done, Pascal is coming to paint theatre-themed murals in the three arches across the front, much like the wonderful examples he's already painted all over Papakura.

Finally, we will at long last change the sign on the front of the building to read 'Papakura Theatre Company'.

AT OFF BROADWAY TONIGHT – WEDNESDAY 23RD DECEMBER

Honk! Jr



Majors 'n' Minors presents Honk Jr!

Based on The Ugly Duckling. After being teased, Ugly set out on a journey, outwits a hungry cat & finds out that being different is not a bad thing to be.

All cast members are in BOTH performances, but some of the leads change as follows:

**5.00pm Ducklings: Rupert Archer, Alexia Thomas, Alaina Smith, Annabelle Stevens.
Maggie Pie: Millie Jennings.**

**7.30pm Ducklings: Liam Walker, Isabella Powell, Chris Walker, Lauren Nielsen.
Maggie Pie: Elsa Perrow**

Book on trybooking.com or try for door sales – performances at 5 pm and 7.30 pm.

A FINAL WORD FROM THE VILLAGE OF DIBLEY!



Well, gosh – we had a lot of visitors to our lovely little village recently! Quite packed the place out but great to see! Everyone seemed very happy and the locals (Alice, Hugo, Jim, Owen, Frank, Letitia and even David), made everyone so welcome. Dear Letty produced her very best sandwiches but strangely nobody seemed very interested! Many attended our Sunday services, which was very pleasing – and we even put in an extra one on a Saturday afternoon to cope with the crowd! Everyone did seem to go home smiling so obviously, their visit was a wonderful success!

The members of Dibley Parish Council did a guest appearance in the Papakura Santa Parade – accompanied by the Dibley Village Band - and ended up with a rather smart rosette for First Prize but sadly there were no chocolates with it! I'm working hard now to encourage the Parish Council to think up ideas for next year but first I suppose we'll have to do the Easter Bunny thing all over again – but it was fun, and I did get to eat lots of yummy chocolate afterwards!

Alice is so funny – wonderful girl, but so very nieve – bless her! I love sitting down with her and a cuppa and having a chat – she makes me smile every time! I do hope she and Hugo have a happy life – they are good together, and of course, there's baby Geraldine!!! What a lovely surprise that was!

Well, must go and finish off my sermon. Leave you with a couple of my favourite pics! Merry Christmas!

Geraldine

Vicar of Dibley



THE COSTUME SHOW EXTRAVAGANZA

Originally planned for August but delayed because of the Level 3 COVID lockdown, the Costume Extravaganza took place on Sunday afternoon 13th December. So much work went into choosing and organising all the costumes but it all proved so worthwhile as Off Broadway was packed with everyone ready to enjoy their afternoon. The costumes all looked great, modelled by members and friends of PTC, who all did a great job of showing off the costumes to the best advantage, whilst Stacey Harrison added the commentary. Some of the models had never been on a stage before so they all did incredibly well! The audience clapped and cheered and had a great laugh – it was a lovely event and well done to Steph Parker, who came up with the idea and drove it from the beginning, ably assisted by our Judys – Judy Wilson and Judy Stowers. Paul and his band played some great arrangements of songs from the shows represented, which all added to the audience's enjoyment. And let's not forget the Zimmers, who added their own glittery performance to the afternoon's entertainment. And everyone went away having had a very happy and yet another very enjoyable afternoon at PTC's Off Broadway!



Thank you to everyone who played a part in getting this successful event up and running and making it the triumph it was! Also proved to be another great and much-needed fundraiser for PTC, so well done everyone!

Here are a few photos from the dress rehearsal:





PAPAKURA CHRISTMAS PARADE! SUNDAY 6th DECEMBER

So much fun! And we won First Prize for a Community Group

(Photo credits mostly to Poppa G – I couldn't decide which ones to use so you've got them all!)

Thank you so much to everyone who took part in our Christmas Parade effort and, in particular, huge thanks to Judy W and Judy S who so patiently sorted out costumes for everybody!









Party Time at PTC - Friday 18th Dec

Well what a great crowd of you turned up for our Christmas Party! The evening started with a special presentation whilst we waited for our Pizza & Chips. Last year we created a new annual award – the Distinguished Service Award, with the inaugural presentation made to Judy & Merv Stowers at the 2019 Christmas Party.

This year the committee were unanimous in their choice again and we are delighted to announce the recipient of the 2020 Distinguished Service Award is **Susan Andisen!** Susan was presented with her trophy by President Paul and she was obviously very surprised, but the Award is very well deserved as Susan has spent many, many hours at Off Broadway this year, sorting out upstairs, organising the big garage sale, taking over the responsibility for our venue hire, props hire, and not forgetting the sandwich making for Big Band weekend and opening night supper, plus all the work she does for our shows. Well done Susan - and thank you for the amazing amount of work and effort you have put in for PTC this year.



Paul then announced the shows for next year, which you will have read about earlier on in this newsletter.

And then it was time to get into the pizza and chips – which all disappeared very rapidly! Before he left for work, Paul thanked everyone for all the hard work they had put in during the year – despite COVID, we had a good year and achieved success with everything we had done.

A game of Left & Right had us all laughing! Thanks Marie P! Such a daft and simple game but really fun! Then out came the crackers, people read out their sad cracker jokes and then we got into the mince pies and Christmas cake. On came the music and the dancing! So a really enjoyable evening all in all!



AT OFF BROADWAY IN 2021



SATURDAY 30th January from 10 am to 1 pm

An interesting local market with an eclectic mix of vintage finds, architectiural & home decor items, fusion mineral furniture paint & finishing products, garden art, giftware & plants, and much more



ELEVENSES WITH LISA LORRELL – at Off Broadway on 2 February

Do come and listen and enjoy Lisa's wonderful singing – she sings such a variety of songs and presents such a happy show. Plus the morning tea made by her Mum Anne and Dad Frank is delicious! But please book so that they know how many to cater for. More in January's PTC newsletter.



Well, that's it for 2020 Folks! Against the odds, it's been quite a good year for PTC and 2021 is looking really exciting! Don't forget to keep an eye on our PTC website and Facebook page for Mamma Mia Auditions announcement – coming very soon!

Have a wonderful Christmas, be thankful that we are free to celebrate the season and make the most of your time with family and friends!

Stay safe and we'll see you all next year!



MERRY CHRISTMAS!