



Papakura Theatre Company (Inc) NEWSLETTER

Patrons: Bruce and Jessie Pulman

December 2023



Season's Greetings Everyone,

I hope this finds you well and doing your very best to avoid COVID-19 which is rampant in the community at present, having even found some of our members currently. For many, even the common cold appears to be hitting them hard, so please, look after yourself. I myself am trying to recover from bronchitis.

Recently we held the **Looking** auditions which went very well. Barb will update you on this later in the newsletter. I would like to welcome back Bob Lack, who has directed many plays at PTC, to direct this hilarious play.

We have also held interviews this week for the Director and Choreographer positions for **We Will Rock You**. The number of Expressions of Interest was overwhelming and very pleasing. There was a very high calibre of applicants and the PTC committee had an incredibly difficult task in deciding. We have announced the creative team later in this newsletter.

I do wish to acknowledge the creative team and cast of **Calendar Girls**, our recent play. This was an incredible show with a wonderful cast who really brought this show to life on the PTC stage. We also managed to raise some money for a charity which was keeping in the fine tradition of our little theatre that has raised many thousands over the years for wonderful causes. Again, Barb will give you full details later.

Calendar Girls was also our inaugural show where we tried a new entry system into the theatre utilising scanners. Like anything new (and technical) we had the odd teething problem, but overall the new scanning system worked well. It provided good information as to who we were still waiting on, clearly identified people who had come on the wrong night, thus preventing seating issues and made entering the theatre very quick.

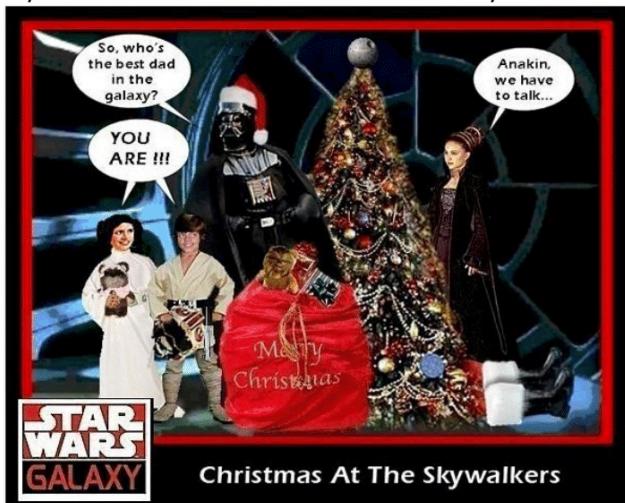
Thanks to those who braved the weather to sing, play or be part of the Santa Parade entry, with special thanks to Susan and Carolyn who were there very early and started work on the truck. I also wish to thank Barry Raymond and Smiths Transport who helped us out with a truck. A huge thank you to our awesome truck driver Isabel. Sadly, due to the weather, the decision was made to cancel Chilling In The Park featuring our very own Off Broadway Big Band, which was to be held after the parade.

I am sure you will all join me in passing our thoughts onto Ellerslie Theatrical Society who are sadly closing their theatre doors and winding the society up. I can only imagine how tough a decision like that must have been for them.

It is a timely reminder to make sure we acknowledge the hard work of all those who have helped PTC this past year in one way or another. It is in no small way that your efforts make PTC the wonderful place it is and ensure that we can produce the outstanding shows we do. To all of you, thank you .

I hope you find time over the Christmas and New Year period, to spend with friends and family over the festive season. I wish you a wonderful Christmas and all the very best for the New Year.

Paul



PS: Note from Newsletter Editor – Paul loves Star Wars!

CALENDAR GIRLS WRAP

Well, what an amazing season we had – pretty well all performances were well over 90% full. Audience feedback was phenomenal and the demand for tickets was such that we put on an extra matinee. Our cast and production team were amazing and thoroughly enjoyed bringing this heart-warming story to life on our stage. Set, props, lighting, sound and costumes all added to the quality of this successful production – what a great team we have! So very fortunate to have such dedicated and talented people as part of Team PTC!



Leukaemia & Blood Cancer NZ
Vision to Cure. Mission to Care.

Papakura Theatre Company

\$3,500.00
raised of my \$2,000.00 goal

So now, apart from the fabulous success of the production itself, we achieved something else – an idea that Emma Love had which came from the reason why the play was originally written. You will know that Calendar Girls is based on the true story of a group of Yorkshire Women's Institute members who decided to raise funds for their local cancer hospital by creating a 'nude' calendar with themselves as the models after the much-loved husband of one of them passed away from a blood cancer. Emma suggested that we use our play to help raise funds for Leukaemia & Blood Cancer NZ and everyone thought that a great idea so a link was added to our iTICKET booking page to allow for people to donate when they booked, Emma put a QR code in the programme which would take patrons direct to the fundraising page to donate and we put buckets on our bar to receive donations and there was a

diplomatic personal appeal from Emma from the stage after the final bow.

So here we are, very proud and thrilled to announce the result of our appeal – a fabulous effort and PTC would like to thank everyone who contributed to help us surpass our target.

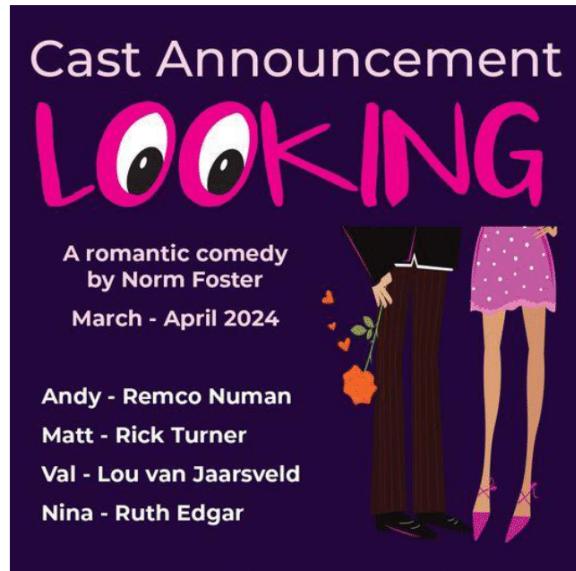
PTC has just received news that Ararimu Women's Institute has added to our fundraising effort with the amount of \$1000. The W.I. attended Calendar Girls on Wednesday 22nd November – a night we reserved for them and Zonta to use as a fundraiser. How wonderful that the ladies of the W.I. so selflessly gave back to such a good cause! Thank you so very much, ladies! That takes the total raised through Calendar Girls to a magnificent \$4,500!!

A great celebration was held after closing night performance – supper and thank yous were done and then amazingly, after doing two shows that day, our cast and crew still had enough energy left to dance their socks off!

PTC had a special cake made for the occasion, which proved very popular and very yummy! We ate it all!



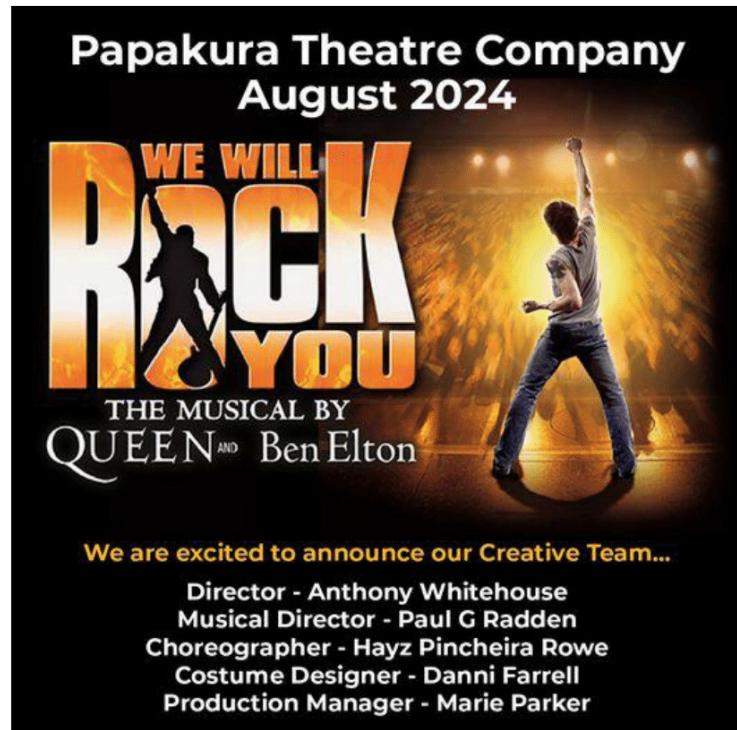
COMING TO OFF BROADWAY IN 2024



PTC is pleased to welcome Bob Lack back to direct our first production for 2024 - *Looking*, a great comedy by Canadian playwright Norm Foster, and we are also delighted to announce and welcome our cast as above.

The story is simple enough. Middle-aged divorcees Andy and Val are each looking for new love. They agree to meet on a blind date and coax along their respective friends Matt and Nina for support, but of course it's Matt and Nina who initially hit it off.

A read-thru was held on Sunday 17th December with lots of laughter and rehearsals proper will start on Sunday 21st January. Tickets will be on sale through iTICKET from mid-January.



Everyone is so looking forward to bringing this fab musical to our stage – sure to be really popular! Who doesn't love the music of Queen? Watch our Facebook page and website for the auditions announcement early in the New Year.



NAPTA NOMINATIONS RECEIVED FOR PTC PRODUCTIONS

Outstanding Props Design

Outstanding Sound Design

Outstanding Lighting Design

Outstanding Set Design

Outstanding Supporting Ensemble

Outstanding Supporting Performer in a Female Role in a Play

Outstanding Leading Performer in a Female Role in a Play

Outstanding Leading Performer in a Male Role in a Play

Outstanding Direction of a Play

Outstanding Play

SUSAN ANDISEN - *Calendar Girls*

ROBERT MITCHELL - *Calendar Girls*

PAUL RICHARDSON - *Calendar Girls*

ALLAN WYATT - *Noises Off*

CAST OF NOISES OFF

OLIVIA SHAW - *Noises Off*

EMMA LOVE - *Calendar Girls*

MIKE DALEY - *Noises Off*

ANTHONY WHITEHOUSE - *Noises Off*

NOISES OFF and CALENDAR GIRLS

Congratulations to all our nominees! The NAPTA judges had nearly 30 shows to judge this year so you can imagine how difficult it was to make these choices so PTC is really thrilled and proud to have members of our casts and crews recognised in this way for their hard work.

PTC would also like to congratulate all NAPTA Nominees and Volunteer Award winners, quite a few of whom have worked with us on past productions. Well done to all of you!

NAPTA VOLUNTEER AWARDS – PTC RECIPIENTS



TONII RUITERMAN – YOUTH VOLUNTEER AWARD

Since the middle of 2022 Tonii has volunteered as part of our lighting crew. She has been lighting operator for *Anne of Green Gables* (2022) and in 2023 for PTC productions of *Noises Off*, *Blue Eyes* and *Calendar Girls* as well as our fundraising concerts back in February of this year.

Always keen to learn, Tonii works with our regular lighting designer Paul Richardson so that she can eventually do more than operate – she is learning how to plot and programme the lighting board and has this year attended a weekend course in theatre lighting.

Tonii is reliable, a delight to work with and always willing – young ones like Tonii are the future of community theatre and Papakura Theatre Company is delighted to acknowledge her contribution to the success of PTC productions.



ROBERT MITCHELL – OPEN VOLUNTEER AWARD

Well, where do we start? Robert has given so much time to PTC again this year. The information below really doesn't cover everything he does!

Over the years Robert has been a key part of the theatre, filling a large number of roles – regular member of our set building and painting crew, stage manager, sound designer and operator, IT Guru & Webmaster, bar manager and always on call to assist our many theatre hirers as needed.

He's been known to jump into the kitchen to make multitudes of platters for our cabaret guests, as well as being a key person to source quotes and submit funding applications, this year through the MTNZ Capital Assistance Scheme which allowed the theatre to purchase a brand-new lighting board and LED units.

A past president, our nominee is currently still working tirelessly on our committee and is our current minute secretary and we were very proud to award him a very well-deserved Life Membership of PTC earlier this year.

Congratulations Robert Mitchell and thank you for all your work!

THE NAPTA AWARDS NIGHT will take place on Saturday 23rd March – more details in the New Year



There will also be scholarships on offer – details of which will be published on the NAPTA Facebook page and website in the New Year, with winners being announced at the Awards Night.

IMPORTANT DATES AT OFF BROADWAY

THE BIG CLEAN UP – Otherwise known as a working bee SATURDAY 13TH JANUARY

There is a heap of stuff needing to be done at our beloved theatre. Everyone is so busy during the year working on shows that these things get put off but now it is essential that we get them done.



So, **from 9 am**, it's all hands to the pumps – yes, this kind invitation is for everybody! Even if you can only spare an hour or two, it will be much appreciated. **Lunch will be provided**.

Here's a list of just some of the jobs which need to be done:

- Removal of old sofas and any other rubbish from backstage
- Clean Seating
- Clean carpet in Green Room (may hire a Rug Doctor)
- Vacuum auditorium walls
- Clear garden and trim ferns back on side drive
- Clear earth and gravel that has slipped from next door on to side driveway
- Clean portico glass roof
- Paint front door properly



The Papakura Local Board has given us access to a small garage on the Wellington Reserve opposite the Coastguard premises and part of the plan for the day is to take stuff around to there for storage. A truck would be a handy thing so if anybody knows someone with a truck who'd be willing to help, please let us know.



THE OTHER DATE FOR OFF BROADWAY IS SATURDAY 20TH JANUARY 2024 **A NEW YEAR CELEBRATION!**

Keep the date free as details have yet to be confirmed but possibly start late afternoon.

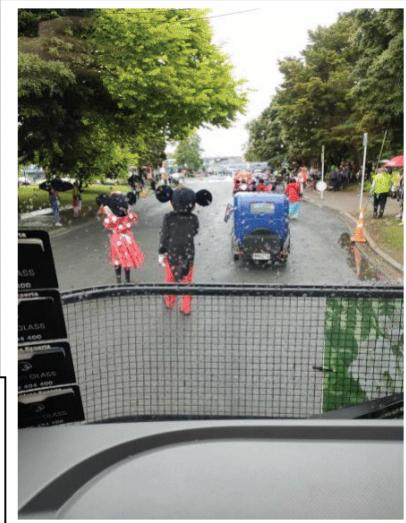


Your committee would really like to hold this outdoors somewhere, particularly if the sun is shining, and make it a family occasion.



More info after Christmas!

PTC PHOTOS FROM THE PAPAKURA CHRISTMAS PARADE



From our truck, Merv's Baby Austin in the rain



A couple of Local Board Members forgot their umbrellas! They both look a bit familiar! Thanks Jan Hawkins for the pics



This one's a bit dark but that's Kaitlyn and Reuben singing with some of the Big Band and other members of PTC aboard.

Huge thanks to Barry Raymond and Smiths Transport for providing the truck – it was ideal! And to our driver, Isobel, who took us safely through the streets – thank you Isobel.

Thank you to all our PTC family and Big Band members who turned up to support our effort – such a shame the weather took the shine off but still much fun was had!

WELL FOLKS, THAT'S IT FOR 2023 - ALL THERE IS LEFT TO DO NOW IS TO WISH YOU AND YOURS



**Merry
Christmas**

