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## PAPAKURA THEATRE COMPANY INC NEWSLETTER

Patrons: Bruce and Jessie Pulman

October 2024



### FROM OUR PRESIDENT, PAUL RADDEN

Hi Everyone,

I hope this finds you all well and enjoying what is supposed to be Spring weather. I sit here at work typing this with the winds howling around the building and the weather overcast and raining.

As soon as we finished our magnificent SOLD OUT season of *We Will Rock You*, we were into rehearsals for *The Game's Afoot*. I do need to commend and thank everyone involved in *We Will Rock You* for their dedication and commitment to this huge undertaking. It was an incredibly polished and professional production which, rightfully so, received much acclaim. I also wish to acknowledge our sponsors for this production – Winstone Aggregates.

Rehearsals are going very well with a great cast for *The Game's Afoot*. It is very pleasing to see familiar faces with a couple of the *We Will Rock You* cast diversifying away from musicals into this play.

As many, if not all of you know, we recently had our 70<sup>th</sup>. Anniversary celebrations. This was an absolutely fantastic evening with everyone I have spoken to, saying it was a lovely night and that they really enjoyed themselves. It was nice to see so many people catching up with old friends who they haven't seen in a very long time. My personal thanks to the committee for their support and especially Barb and the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary committee for their incredibly hard work leading up to the event.

We are excited and honoured to announce that we have been awarded the Rights for the **New Zealand Premiere** of the hit musical *Georgy Girl the Seekers Musical* by David Spicer productions. Mr David Spicer himself telephoned Barb directly to advise her of the news. This was an unexpected, but very exciting telephone call for her to get. We will be holding auditions prior to Christmas for *Georgy Girl the Seekers Musical*.

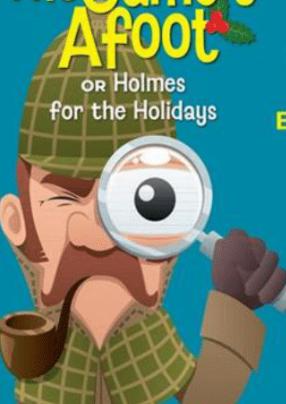
Take care and I look forward to seeing you at either *The Game's Afoot* or the PTC Christmas party – or both!

Paul

### COMING UP SOON AT OFF BROADWAY! 16<sup>TH</sup> – 30<sup>TH</sup> November

**CAST ANNOUNCEMENT**

Ken Ludwig's  
**The Game's Afoot**  
or Holmes for the Holidays



**Rick Turner**  
as William Gillette

**Marie Parker**  
as Martha Gillette

**Drew Broadley**  
as Felix Geisel

**Brooke Hainsworth**  
as Madge Geisel

**Jayden Finlay**  
as Simon Bright

**Sian Ramsay**  
as Aggie Wheeler

**Ruth McNeilly**  
as Inspector Goring

**Elise Phillips**  
as Daria Chase

#### Directed by Mark Harrison

Breathtaking mystery and high hilarity in equal parts, this play tells the story of Broadway star William Gillette, who has invited his fellow cast-members to his Connecticut castle for a weekend of revelry. But when one of the guests is stabbed to death, the festivities in this isolated house of tricks and mirrors quickly turn dangerous. Then it's up to Gillette himself, who just happens to think he's Sherlock Holmes, to track down the killer before the next victim appears.

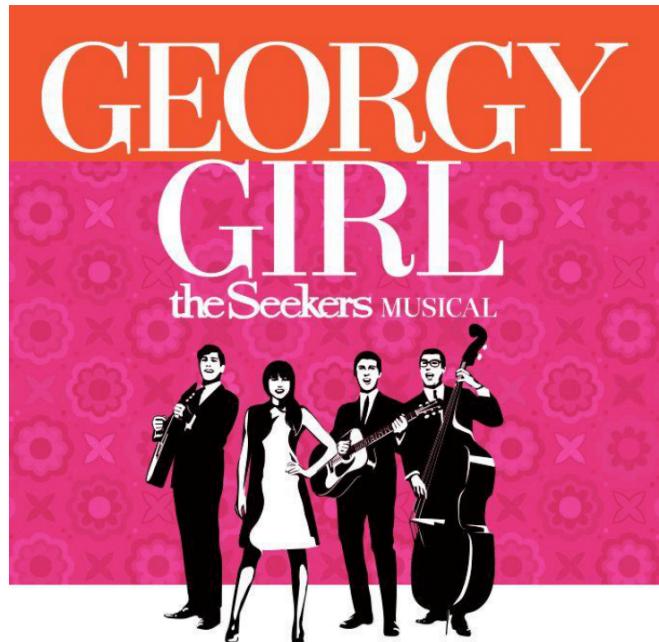
The danger and laughter are non-stop in this hilarious whodunit set during the Christmas holidays.

Written by Ken Ludwig, *The Game's Afoot* was the Winner of the 2012 Edgar® Award for Best Play from The Mystery Writers of America.

Book online with iTICKET or at the theatre on Wednesdays & Saturdays from 11 am to 2 pm.

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PAPAKURA THEATRE COMPANY  
is excited to announce  
THE NEW ZEALAND PREMIERE OF  
GEORGY GIRL - The Seekers Musical



**Auditions will be before Christmas for a performance season April/May 2025**

Currently seeking expressions of interest from Directors, Musical Directors and Choreographers.  
Please contact [info@ptc.org.nz](mailto:info@ptc.org.nz) for further information



**WE WILL ROCK YOU** - a reflection from Barb

It seems ages ago since the cast of **We Will Rock You** took their final bows. This was a huge production to take on in our small venue but boy did we pull it off! Audiences flocked in, Pretty well all performances were sold out two weeks before opening and we ended up running a waitlist. The show was not without its problems. Thank goodness for well-rehearsed understudies and alternate cast members as with winter ills and chills taking their toll, they were certainly needed. In fact, on one occasion even the understudy was

sick and another cast member took over the role at a moment's notice with no rehearsal. Such a great cast though, With a large cast, 10 backing singers, doing 8 part harmonies, tucked away with individual mics in the little side room, and the band split between two spots above the main stage, it was a monumental task for our sound team but they did an incredible job. There were monitors everywhere for each of the different groups to see the MD and to keep up with what was going on on stage, all set up by Paul Richardson who also spent many, many hours on the lighting and special effects. And costumes - well, Danni Farrell was in her element here and, with support from Avril Hunt, produced a great look. Our set team, led by Allan Wyatt, built what they said was one of the most complex sets they've attempted; even though it looked like a box set at first - it definitely wasn't - whilst props designer Susan Andisen had a great time creating stun guns and funny 'shock' helmets. And wasn't it all amazing musically! Creatives - Director Anthony Whitehouse, MD Paul G Radden and Choreographer Hayz Pincheria Rowe and Assistant Director Reuben Su'a - produced a superb show! Front of house team and the Bar team were so busy each night coping with the full houses. It was just so exciting to see all this happening and the feedback from our patrons was phenomenal. Everyone involved certainly did PTC proud!

**Long Live the Music of Queen!**

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## PTC 70th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



This from my personal view:

Well, what an evening we had! So many turned up and it was just wonderful to see so many past members as well as current ones enjoying the get-together. Familiar faces everywhere and I would like to make special mention here of Elizabeth Parker, granddaughter of Kay Mackay - first President of the original Club, and daughter of Janice. It was especially good to see her there as a very important link to our past and one I should have thought to mention in my history speech. But gosh, the buzz! I was a bit worried when we received such an amazing response that we would not be able to fit everyone in comfortably - but it all worked out, thank goodness! Phew!

Following the "Happy Hour" during which people arrived and chatted and settled, the formalities started at 7 pm as President Paul Radden welcomed everyone with an all-encompassing speech

Then I was given the honour of introducing our "Plays" section. Thanks to the book produced to celebrate PTC's 50th Anniversary, I was able to briefly go back to the very start when a small group of drama-loving friends gathered for play-readings, eventually stepping up to put on a public performance. And then I was delighted to introduce two very short but iconic scenes from *The Vicar of Dibley* and *Dad's Army*. I was so pleased that these worked - our audience picked up the punch lines and had a good laugh! Neither cast had any rehearsal but carried both scenes off brilliantly! The "Play" section of the evening was then concluded with a scene from *The Game's Afoot*, currently in rehearsal and due to open on 16th November. This looks really good - don't forget to book your tickets!

President Paul's programme had allotted me 10 minutes to talk about the history of the Club - I think I actually managed it in 7.5 minutes, which is pretty good going for me, and again that 50th Anniversary book came in handy. Dave Child then invited everyone to join him in a toast to absent friends, those who are sadly no longer with us and those who, for whatever reason, were unable to be with us on the night. This was followed by the poignant, incredibly moving last scene from *Black Adder Goes Forth* where they all go "over the top".... A touching way to end this segment of the evening.

A short break to talk some more and refresh drinks and for the Big Band to set up before we started on "The Musicals"! We enjoyed songs from *Spamalot*, *Blue Eyes* and *We Will Rock You* along with a great sing-a-long of popular numbers from some of the musicals we have produced in past years.

Supper followed and here we would sincerely like to thank the Quota ladies who offered to do final prep and the laying out and clearing up of supper; it was very much appreciated and they did a great job!

To finish off this wonderful evening, the Off Broadway Big Band hit the stage and lots of people hit the dance floor! Wished I had their energy!

There are so many people to thank for making this the very special night it was and I hesitate to name them all in case I miss someone - you know who you are though so a personal thank you from me – but it really was a marvellous team effort! However, I would particularly like to mention Paul Richardson, who worked for many hours on the projections and the lighting, Louise Barry and Brian Scowcroft who ran the bar for the night, those who took part in scenes from the plays, to Team Weir who took the photos, and the Off Broadway Big Band for giving us their time. Thank you all.

I came home a very happy bunny!



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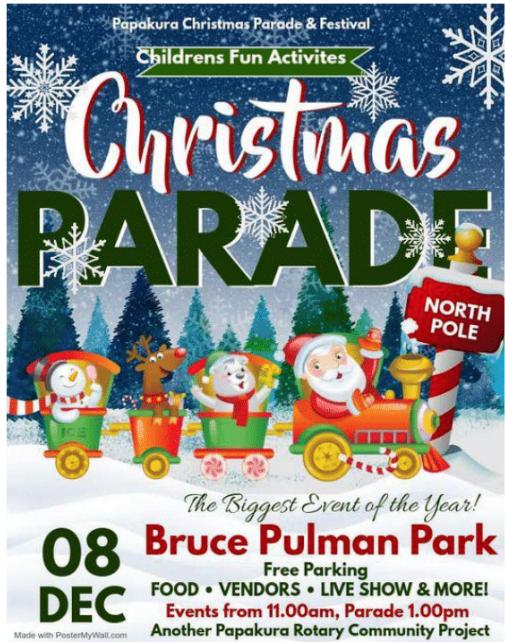
## PTC CHRISTMAS PARTY & CLUB NIGHT

**Friday 6th December from 7 pm**



Pop the date in your diary now and come and enjoy some Christmas fun - more info closer to the date.

And another date for your diary - this should be a really great family day!



PTC hopes to enter a float in the Parade and will be looking for ideas and help with this. If you would like to be involved, please email [info@ptc.org.nz](mailto:info@ptc.org.nz)

The Off Broadway Big Band is part of the entertainment so get along and enjoy yourselves!

And yet more to enjoy as we approach Christmas!



### SOUTH AUCKLAND CHORAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Sunday 8th December at 2.30 pm

Crossroads Methodist Church  
Broadway, Papakura



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## PEOPLE NEWS

Congratulations to Nic Andisen and his Partner Milli Annear on the birth of their baby daughter, Lily Frances, making Susan Andisen a grandmother and Barb & Gary Hieatt great-grandparents! Lily was born 15 weeks early in Wellington Hospital, weighing in at 380 gms. All are doing well – Lily is now 1.4kg but has a long way to go and is still in Wellington Hospital whilst Nic and Milli are staying at Ronald McDonald House so that they can help to care for her.

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Photos from the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – thanks to Wired Photography (Ally Weir and Girls)



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And that's all folks! Apologies for the long gap between newsletters!