

Repertory

REPORTER - December 2011

To Members and Friends

Season's greetings and best wishes for a happy, gentle Christmas this year.

And here's to a prosperous, healthy New Year for Christchurch and its citizens!

Most of us will breathe a sigh of relief to see the end of this turbulent 2011 year. The start of a new year always brings a sense of promise for better things. Our theatre as we have known it has gone for good but assuredly will rise again. The committee has high hopes for resolution in 2011.

Although for the moment there is no definite news to report on either the future of the land or the settlement of the insurance, there is every reason to hope both crucial matters will be resolved positively and we can look forward to exciting developments fairly soon.

The Society has certainly been active during the upheavals, establishing a new headquarters, rescuing theatre materials and costumes, and continuing to present excellent productions. All this puts us in good stead for attracting the right kind of support from the community for the rebuild.



News in brief

The Sunday Club, Stewart St Premises, December 11

This got off to a fine start, (or revival more correctly) with a very entertaining, professionally presented reading of Carl Nixon's play, ***The Birthday Boy***. David Watkins, Victoria Southgate, John Ashton, Sarah Bohan, and Dianne Jones brought the often funny, always shrewdly observed characters to life. The occasion was made all the more pleasurable by having the author himself in attendance. Carl made no secret of the fact he really enjoyed hearing his script and stayed on to join the Christmas party that followed. A happy final event for 2011. To be continued next year.

An Inspector Calls

After very well attended auditions on December 3 and 4, the play was cast from an excellent range of talent. The Birling household will comprise, John Ashton, Deborah Davids, Emma Price, Edward Bijl, Peter Rutherford, and Nicole Whalley with Kevin Jones playing the mysterious Inspector. The production team: Blair Kershaw, Brenda Hayes, Bernadette Richardson, Celia Mann, Mandy Adams, Robin Harris, Peter Noonan and Rozena Hallum.

To be presented In St Michael's and All Angels' Church in March 2012.

Love Letters: The Celebration Theatre, Hagley Park

Exquisitely presented by Eilish Moran, Robert Gilbert, Helen Moran, and Julian Anderson, this unusual piece of theatre, a staged reading of a lifetime of correspondence, proved a deeply satisfying experience. The tent was challenging. There was wind and rain, both high and low temperatures, planes droning overhead and loud music from nearby venues but the actors rose above it all. Repertory is honoured to have their support and also recognises the contribution that Ben McDonald makes to the performance arts in Christchurch.

Costume Rescue

The re-establishment of our wardrobe, or the greater part of it (some items were destroyed in the demolition), should be completed this week with final trip to the Mannering property on Monday. We are very grateful to Jane and Roger for storing the costumes and props for so long. It means a lot that we have not lost all our precious heritage. We are hoping to get a grant for sturdy commercial racks but in the meantime if anyone can help with temporary holding racks, please get in touch. And thanks to all who have worked on the retrieval jaunts.

Coming up

Auditions for **Julius Caesar** by William Shakespeare, to be directed for Repertory by Julian Anderson, will be held on February 18 at Stewart St. The production is scheduled for 1st to 9th June at the Elmwood Auditorium.

Details to follow in January's newsletter.

Congratulations

Simone Kennedy who was last seen in our final full production on the Repertory stage, ***Dancing at Lughnasa***, has been engaged by a professional theatre company in Sydney where she is rehearsing ***The Shoe-horn Sonata*** by John Misto. Best wishes and congratulations, Simone.

Congratulations also to Eddie Bijl for winning the PACANZ Young Performer of The Year Award (in drama) at the finals held in Invercargill recently. An outstanding achievement!

In Sadness.

Repertory notes with sadness the death of Terence Moody, husband of the late, much-esteemed Elizabeth. Terence was a frequent visitor to our theatre. and a good friend to us. Our condolences to the family.

In Gratitude

Thank you to the membership for keeping faith in Rep through these tricky times and to many individuals who have given time and practical labour to productions or shifting and cleaning, and other tasks. Working together makes us strong and keeps us lively. Stay with us!

Best wishes. Take care.

Rozena Callum



Grateful Thanks to the students of St Andrews College and Rangī Ruru Girls' School for their delightful show which raised \$1,602 towards the rebuild of the Repertory theatre

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all things Repertory**

