Administration Office

The Administration Office at the Abbey complex is now open again after the Christmas/New Year break and is open from 12 noon to 4.00 p.m., Monday to Friday.

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Costume Hire

Abbey Costume Hire has re-opened after the Christmas/New Year break, with the hours being;

Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday & Friday Thursday Saturday

11.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. 11.30 a.m. to 7.30 p.m 10.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.

Also – don't forget that if you have any unwanted clothes or sewing items (materials, buttons, zips, ribbons or bows etc.), Costume Hire would be willing to take these off your hands. If you are unable to drop them off, contact Costume Hire and they will pick them up.

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AMT Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Abbey Musical Theatre will be held on Tuesday, **23 April 2013**, in the Green Room at the Abbey complex. Information regarding the AGM and positions available on the Board will be sent to members prior to this date.

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AMT Membership

It's that time again – your current membership will expire on 31 January 2013 and invoices will be sent shortly. We have kept the fees at a very low \$30.00 per annum for adults – where else can you get the fun and enjoyment of participating in live theatre at this price? Please forward your payment to the Abbey Office, noting it is for 'Membership'. If you wish to make payment direct to the Abbey's bank account, the account number is **06-0729-0024947-00**. Don't forget to put your name in the 'Reference' field.



Editorial

A new year has sprung!!! and the silly season is behind us for another year. A huge thanks and congratulations to everyone involved with "Avenue Q", our Christmas production for 2012. This show was very successful and enjoyed immensely by all those who saw the show. This was a production that was a departure from what is known as our 'normal' and the company of the show took on the challenge and surpassed all expectations with the finished product. This year is going to be a very exciting and challenging year for Abbey Musical Theatre. Details of where AMT is headed in the future are detailed further on and auditions for "Hairspray" are detailed on page 3.

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Special General Meeting

On Wednesday, 23 January 2013, a Special General Meeting was held for AMT members regarding the future of AMT. As you may or may not be aware, the Abbey Theatre (the brick structure) has been rated as meeting only 3% of the current building code and is deemed to be an earthquake risk (follow on effect from Christchurch). Therefore, while AMT have not been told by the City Council that we **cannot** use the theatre (i.e. red stickered it), there are moral and ethical reasons to <u>not</u> use the theatre. Many people believe that the Abbey will never fall over but on the 1 in 10 billion chance that there was an earthquake and someone got seriously hurt or killed ... well, who'd want to be in that position. The first comment that would be made is that "you knew about the risk – why didn't you do something about it?" Needless to say, the building is also now un-insurable for earthquakes. The Special General Meeting, therefore, was to consider the options available and to reach a consensus from AMT members on what to do.

The motion that was put to the meeting and which was passed unanimously is;

- AMT will lease the Massey University Hokowhitu campus auditorium (in Centennial Drive) on a 5+5 year lease.
- We will move our Costume Hire facility back to the Abbey complex (into the back hall and dressing rooms area). [The office would also stay at the current complex.]
- We will investigate being able to demolish the Abbey Theatre and turn the site into a car park (leased parking) to provide a revenue stream.
- We will investigate the possibility of the Green Room at the current complex and the commercial kitchen downstairs becoming hireable assets.

The Massey University auditorium that we will be leasing is a 500 seat auditorium with a 10.5m x 7.5m stage which will enable us to stage shows that we haven't been able to stage in the Abbey Theatre because it's too small but the Regent would be too big (e.g. "The Producers"). We are able to put in a bar facility and change the seating around to enable us to continue to have theatre restaurant shows if required. There are also 200 car parks available for our use outside the theatre.

AMT will apply for grants to help with moving Costume Hire back to the Abbey complex, for relocation expenses and for the purchasing of new lighting/sound equipment etc. for the new venue. We will also be investigating a possible naming rights sponsor for the auditorium.

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