



## **Editorial**

Happy New Year to one and all! Auditions for our next exciting production, the revival of "EVITA", have been held and rehearsals have started. This production will be on stage at The Auditorium (on Centennial Drive) from 9-25 April 2015 and will no doubt be spectacular. There will be 10 performances only and bookings will be on-line (through the Abbey's website) and at the Abbey Booking Office very shortly.

Please also remember that;

- If you have received this newsletter via e-mail but you would prefer it was sent to another e-mail address, please advise us of this by e-mailing [admin@abbeymusicaltheatre.co.nz](mailto:admin@abbeymusicaltheatre.co.nz).
- If you have received a "paper" copy of this newsletter via 'snail mail' and you would prefer receiving it via e-mail, please advise your e-mail address to the Administrator at [admin@abbeymusicaltheatre.co.nz](mailto:admin@abbeymusicaltheatre.co.nz)



## **Working Bee**

A Working Bee is being held at The Auditorium on Saturday, **24 January 2015**, from 10.30 a.m. We are wanting to have a general clean/tidy up, organise some shelving, sort out some hanging of pipework and curtains on the stage area, etc. etc. etc. and so forth. Any assistance you can give would be greatly appreciated. Just remember that many hands make light work.



## Thank you

Thank you to everyone who was involved with “Totally 80’s” – our end of year production for 2014. The audience members who saw this production have commented on how much fun and enjoyment they had – it was a great stress reliever and a great stress-free way to end the year.

Talking about the end of the year – did you know that there is only **49** weeks until Christmas ..... and a lot to get through before then.



**9-25 April 2015**

**The Auditorium**

(Centennial Drive, Palmerston North)

**Director** – Scott Andrew

**Musical Director** – Barry Jones

**Choreographer** – Megan Shaw

### Cast

<b>Eva Peron</b>	Joanne Sale
<b>Che</b>	Bradford Meurk
<b>Juan Peron</b>	Ben Jones
<b>Magaldi</b>	Richard Brown
<b>Mistress</b>	Madison Horman

### Ensemble

Merryn Osborne, Andrea Maxwell, Jess Linsley, Katherine Lyons, Sarah Payne, Sarah Leishman, Hannah Mills, Hayley Tinning, Tia Rongokea, Rebecca Palmer, April Xu-Holland, Dianne Smith, Shane Brown, Leith Marshall, Dave Chisholm, Nick Ross, Samuel Gordon, Trent Pedley, Taylor Hansen, Hayden Giles, Terry Stewart, Grant Miller, Cam Dow



## Do You Want to Help?

If you are interested in helping backstage or perhaps front of house for “EVITA”, please e-mail your contact details to the Production Secretary (Kay Nagy) – [aknagy@xtra.co.nz](mailto:aknagy@xtra.co.nz)



## Abbey Administration Office

The Administration Office at the Abbey complex will open again on Tuesday, 20 January 2015.

## Costume Hire

Abbey Costume Hire will re-open on Thursday, 22 January 2015.



## AMT Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Abbey Musical Theatre will be held on Tuesday, **28 April 2015** at The Auditorium. Information regarding the AGM and positions available on the Board will be sent to members prior to this date.



## AMT Membership

It's that time again – your current membership will expire on 31 January 2015. 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.



## Romance is in the air ...

Congratulations to those AMT members who got engaged (not to each other) at the end of last year;

- **Shane Brown**
- **Amy Burlace**
- **Michael Doody**

Congratulations also to **Adam Jenkins** who is getting married on Wellington Anniversary weekend in Taupo.



## **Curtains Up:** **A Christchurch Theatre Returns**

After years of post-quake restorations, the 106 year old Isaac Theatre Royal – which has hosted everything from the Imperial Russian Ballet to boxing matches – reopened in November 2014, due in part to celeb. funding (thanks, Sir Ian McKellen).

We are so very happy for our fellow theatre lovers that this magnificent venue has been restored to its former glory.



## **Obituary**



### **Noelene Rae WEVELL**

Noelene Wevell, of Feilding, on Tuesday, 11 November 2014, passed away peacefully at Arohanui Hospice, Palmerston North. A loved daughter, cousin and friend. Fondly remembered for her contribution to archives, genealogy and the operatic, choral and theatre societies. Noelene was born, raised and employed in Palmerston North. From an early age she was interested in live theatre. She collected programmes arising from her interest and involvement with the Palmerston North Operatic Society, of which she was the group's archivist. Professionally Noelene was the Archivist at the Manawatu-Wanganui Regional Council, until her retirement in 2009.



Warmest thoughts and deepest sympathy to  
Noelene's family and friends

## **MTNZ AGM/Volunteer Training Weekend 2015**

The Musical Theatre NZ 55<sup>th</sup> AGM & Volunteer Training Weekend is being held in Christchurch from 20-22 March 2015. Registrations are now \$270.

AMT members are able to attend a forum or seminar only if they wish (cost \$20 for MTNZ/EVANZ & DANZ & ETNZ members each – or \$30 for non members) or may attend the Saturday night function only if they wish (cost = \$125 per single ticket).

Forums & Seminars to be held are;

### **MTNZ Training Session One – Friday Night Forums and Discussion (4pm – 5pm)**

- Forum 1F: Social Media Policy
- Forum 2F: Future Planning For Your Society
- Forum 4F: Next Gen Forum and Youth Career Pathways
- Forum 5F: Managing the performance voice from a physiotherapists perspective

### **MTNZ Training Session Two – Saturday Afternoon Forums and Discussion (1.15pm – 2.15pm)**

- Forum 6F: Guidelines for a small consortium – shared resources
- Forum 7F: Designing a Poster and Programme
- Forum 8F: The Creative & Technical Interface
- Forum 10F: How to run and get the best out of a successful wardrobe hire department
- Forum 11F: Set up of your show on-line and operations at your theatre - iTICKET Team
- Forum 12F: Writing a good funding application - Briar Monro, Senior Arts Adviser (Community Arts), Creative NZ

### **MTNZ Training Session Three – Full Saturday Afternoon Seminars (1.15pm – 4.30pm/5pm)**

- Seminar 1: Pyrotechnics Training for Stage and Theatre
- Seminar 2: Scenic Art for the Theatre
- Seminar 3: Advanced Lighting Technologies and LED

### **MTNZ Training Session Three – Part Saturday Afternoon Seminars (2.30pm – 4.30pm/5pm)**

- Seminar 4: Copyright Holders Forum
- Seminar 5: Health and Safety – Practicalities around the new Health and Safety Legislation
- Seminar 6: Stage Make-Up
- Seminar 7: The Power of the Chorus
- Seminar 8: Bums on Seats – Marketing and Publicity for not-for-profit organisations

If you are interested in attending the AGM & Volunteer Training Weekend, or just a forum/seminar, or just the Saturday night function, please contact the Administrator at the Abbey Office by Friday, 12 December 2014). Further information on the MTNZ AGM/Volunteer Training Weekend can be found on the MTNZ website – [www.mtnz.co.nz](http://www.mtnz.co.nz)



## "RENT" Has Most Nominations ...

"RENT", a gritty low brow musical featuring characters compromised by poverty, addiction and disease, has grabbed the majority share of nominations for the 2014 Globe Theatre Awards. The Abbey Musical Theatre (AMT) ensemble show, directed by Scott Andrew, is up for Best Direction, with nominations for two Best Supporting Male Actors and two Best Supporting Females.

Abbey Musical Theatre has, however, by far and away, the most nominations with 11 from four productions across the six main award categories, which this time are not grouped according to separate musical theatre and straight drama, but are combined into a single section.

The annual awards are judged this year by Sheridan Hickey and Joan Ford, who assessed 26 productions from 11 theatre companies between Dannevirke and Levin, with 16 of them acknowledged by the Globe Theatre Award nominations.

Congratulations to the following AMT members for their nominations.

### **Best Direction**

- Steven Sayer – "Song & Dance"
- Scott Andrew – "RENT"

### **Best Actor – Male**

- Michael Doody – "Totally 80's"

### **Best Actor – Female**

- Amy Hunt – "Song & Dance"

### **Best Supporting Actor – Male**

- Terrence Stapleton – as Tom Collins in "RENT"
- Jason Harkett – as Angel in "RENT"

### **Best Supporting Actor – Female**

- Gail Shirley – as Mme Giry in "The Phantom of the Opera"
- Erica Ward – as Joanne in "RENT"
- Alexia Clark – as Mimi Marquez in "RENT"

### **Best Musical Direction**

- Pete Warren – "Song & Dance"
- Barry Jones – "The Phantom of the Opera"

The Globe Theatre Awards will take place at the Globe Theatre on Friday, 27 February 2015.



## Chapman Tripp Theatre Awards

Congratulations to a former AMT member, **Carrie Green**, who was nominated for a Chapman Tripp Award in the category of **Most Promising Female Newcomer** for her performance in "I Could Live Here".



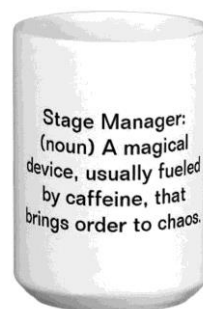
## It's Coming ...



**21 August – 5 September 2015**

**Regent on Broadway,  
Palmerston North**

Auditions for "MAMMA MIA!" will be held in March 2015 and further information will be advised to members and put onto AMT's website – [www.abbeymusicaltheatre.co.nz](http://www.abbeymusicaltheatre.co.nz)



### **Stage Crew:**

**Group of individuals who spend their evenings coping with 20-minute stretches of total boredom interspersed with 30-second bursts of mindless panic.**