



Editorial

Have you noticed just how cold it's been lately ... ??? And what about that rain then? We hope that everyone is avoiding the Winter ills and chills to a certain extent and that your insulation is working well.

You should have already received your notice of a Special General Meeting to be held on Sunday, 19 July 2015, at The Auditorium at 1.00 p.m. This meeting is to discuss an offer received for the purchase of the Abbey complex. We hope to see you there.

Rehearsals are well under way for "MAMMA MIA!" – and, *Mamma Mia!!!!* it is going to be fABBAiscious!!! The cast are working extreeeeeeeeeeemely hard to ensure that you will see a very energetic and highly polished performance. Have you heard the radio advertisement? Have you seen the bus or the car? Have you seen the ginormous billboard on Rangitikei Street? Have you had to swerve to miss the large trailer? Have you seen the billboard opposite Centrepont? If not, where have you been? Advertising for "MAMMA MIA!" is up and running and is everywhere. As a result, tickets are selling fast and if you don't want to miss out an exhilarating, pulse thumping and highly entertaining night ... BOOK NOW!!!!!!!!!!!!

Are you interested in helping out with "MAMMA MIA!"? If so, we are looking for some more programme sellers. If you or someone you know would like to help us out with this, please contact the Administrator on (06) 355 0499 or e-mail admin@abbeymusicaltheatre.co.nz

So, did you check out the new Abbey Musical Theatre website? If not, go have a squizz ... www.abbeymusicaltheatre.co.nz

There will be lots happening with Abbey Musical Theatre over the next year and a half and details of some of our activities can be found throughout this newsletter. If you are interested in helping out with any of these activities, please do not hesitate to contact the Administrator on admin@abbeymusicaltheatre.co.nz





***You can dance!!!!
You can jive!!!
Having the time of your life ...***

**Director – Grant Meese
Musical Director – Barry Jones
Choreographer – Teesh Szabo**

Cast List

DONNA	Val Andrew
TANYA	Amy Hunt
ROSIE	Katte Johnston
SAM	Gary Clark
HARRY	Steve Jenkins
BILL	Ben Jones
SOPHIE	Alexia Clark
SKY	Michael Doody
LISA	Madison Horman
ALI	Rebecca Palmer
PEPPER	Nikora Lewis
EDDIE	Tyrell Beck
FATHER ALEX	Nick Ross

Ensemble

Nick Ross, Geordie Rogers, Jason Ngarimu, Lewis Halewood, Solomon Gray, Anthony Marsh, Stephen Gregory, Harley Callaghan, Jason Harkett, Kiata O'Sullivan, Norton McCormick, Alex Dinniss, Ashleigh Blummont, Cara Hesselin, Georgia Randle, Jess Linsley, Kate Duggan, Kate Petherick, Lorna Stanley, Paula Fredericks, Ruby Jamieson, Tayla Clark

Backing Vocalists

Andrea Cawood, Barb Pritchard, Belinda Burgiss, Bob Lissington, Danny Goodman, Danielle MacDonald, Deb McDonald, Erica Ward, Gail Lucinsky, Hayden Giles, Jeff Paewai, John Gregory, Larry Walker, Leith Marshall, Maryanne Kensington, Pat West, Sarah Donnelly, Shane Brown, Terry Stewart, Trixie Gardner, Victoria Owen, Vishi Veerappan

As already stated, tickets for this production are on sale and if you want the best seats in the house for the night of your choice, book now!!! **Tickets are selling fast!!!**



MUSICAL THEATRE NEW ZEALAND – ZONE THREE MEETING

Saturday 22 August 2015, 1pm

**The Drama Suite/Rehearsal Room
The Auditorium, Centennial Drive, Palmerston North**

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Minutes
4. Agenda Items:
 - a) Society reports
 - b) CAF Fund
 - c) Important changes to the Incorporated Societies Act
 - d) Conference 2015 feedback and Conference 2016
 - e) Social marketing and the Next Gen/ Ant Collier
- Break for afternoon tea
- f) Your club health check - Health and Safety update
- g) Getting it right – how to make a great Show Programme
- h) MTNZ Strategic Plan
- i) MTNZ Survey Results
- j) Wellington Workshop Weekend 5- 6 September, Toi Whakaari NZ Drama School
5. General Business
6. Dinner and show



All AMT members are invited to attend the MTNZ Zone 3 meeting on 22 August 2015. If you would like to attend, please e-mail admin@abbeymusicaltheatre.co.nz



Coming to The Auditorium



This production will celebrate "Hits from the Brits", including songs from;

Rod Stewart ... Adele ... The Spice Girls ... Lulu
The Clash ... The Rolling Stones ... Sting ... Queen
Jessie J ... Amy Winehouse ... The Beatles

Auditions for this production will be held later in the year. Keep an eye out on the website and in future newsletters.

Bounce

Sound Production and Hire
www.BounceNZ.com
03 3662321 or 09 6222577

SOUND 101 WORKSHOP

in conjunction with the Zone Three Meeting
9am – 4pm

Saturday 22 August 2015

**At the Auditorium, Centennial Drive,
Palmerston North**

An interactive and hands-on workshop presented by Glen Ruske from the BOUNCE NZ Team for those interested in sound for theatre. The workshop will cover everything from what is a mic to how to tune your show sound system. Attend Abbey Musical Theatre's Mamma Mia performance that night at the Regent Theatre and "hear" for yourself

\$30 for MTNZ Members/\$40 for non members/
\$10 MTNZ member youth rate (18 and under)

You can register now by contacting Karen
at BOUNCE karen.ruske@gmail.com

If you have questions or require
clarification on anything –
contact Kate at the MTNZ office kate@mtnz.co.nz



Miss Saigon Broadway Revival



The famous helicopter descends in the 2014 West End revival of Miss Saigon. (© Michael Le Poer Trench)

The new London revival of the classic rock opera *Miss Saigon* will play Broadway within "the next two years," producer Cameron Mackintosh has announced. *Miss Saigon* is currently the 12th-longest-running show in Broadway history. It features a book and lyrics by Alain Boublil, book and music by Claude-Michel Schonberg, lyrics by Richard Maltby Jr., and additional lyrics by Michael Mahler. Inspired by Puccini's *Madame Butterfly*, the musical tells the story of Kim, a young woman who falls for an American GI named Chris, as their lives are torn apart by the fall of Saigon. In the vein of Mackintosh's current Tony-nominated revival of *Les Misérables*, this new production of *Miss Saigon*, helmed by Laurence Connor, is described as grittier and more realistic than the original, featuring new scenic designs and a new song for the character Ellen. Bob Avian provides the musical staging. There's no word on who will lead the Broadway company, although the London production continues to star Filipino-American actress Eva Noblezada as Kim and Manila-born Jon Jon Briones as The Engineer.



The 69th Annual Tony Awards were held on 2 June 2015 to recognise achievement in Broadway productions during the 2014/15 season. The ceremony was held at Radio City Music Hall in New York City. Kristin Chenoweth and Alan Cumming hosted this year's ceremony.

- **Tommy Tune** received the Lifetime Achievement Award.
- **Best Performance by a Leading Actor in a Play** – Alex Sharp in *the Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* as Christopher Boone
- **Best Performance by a Leading Actress in a Play** – Helen Mirren in *the Audience* as Queen Elizabeth II
- **Best Performance by a Featured Actor in a Play** – Richard McCabe in *the Audience* as PM Harold Wilson
- **Best Performance by a Featured Actress in a Play** – Annaleigh Ashford in *You Can't Take It With You* as Essie Carmichael
- **Best Direction of a Play** – Marianne Elliott for *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*
- **Best Play** – *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*
- **Best Revival of a Play** – *Skylight*
- **Best Performance by a Leading Actor in a Musical** – Michael Cerveris in *Fun Home* as Bruce Bechdel
- **Best Performance by a Leading Actress in a Musical** – Kelli O'Hara in *the King and I* as Anna Leonowens
- **Best Performance by a Featured Actor in a Musical** – Christian Borle in *Something Rotten!* as The Bard
- **Best Performance by a Featured Actress in a Musical** – Ruthie Ann Miles in *The King and I* as Lady Thiang
- **Best Direction of a Musical** – Sam Gold for *Fun Home*
- **Best Musical** – *Fun Home*
- **Best Revival of a Musical** – *The King and I*
- **Best Book of a Musical** – *Fun Home* by Lisa Kron
- **Best Original Score (Music and/or Lyrics) Written for the Theatre** – *Fun Home* by Jeanine Tesori (Music) and Lisa Kron (Lyrics)
- **Best Choreography** – Christopher Wheeldon for *An American in Paris*



Only in NZ



Cast Needed for New Musical

There is a musical going to premiere in Dunedin in December, complete with 20 original songs. A casting call has gone out on Big Idea and Starnow but there is still space for some key performers and as the auditions are yet to be held, this month, it is important candidates know before this, so the right people have a chance.

The show is by Wellington based Renee Maurice and will be directed and produced by her in Dunedin. As she is commuting to rehearsals etc., it is important she has the best options available before each visit. Being a whole new work, it will not be actors arriving already knowing their songs and much of these will be challenging.

CASTING CALL!!!

NEW MUSICAL BEING PREMIERED IN DUNEDIN THIS DECEMBER!!!

In 1942, 37 women perished in a fire at Seacliff Mental Hospital, near Dunedin. It was the worst fire disaster in New Zealand history at the time, being overtaken by the Ballantynes fire in Christchurch in 1947 which killed 41.

"Seacliff: Demise of Ward 5" tells the story of the ladies whose lives were so tragically taken. It shines a light on the atrocious conditions of asylums of the day and the people who lived within their walls, in a satirical but heartfelt way.

The show revolves around a young lady named Grace, who has been sent to Seacliff following the murder of her young daughter. Upon her committal, Grace is petrified and grief-stricken. Over the course of the two months leading up to the night of the fire on 8 December 1942, Grace begins to discover herself for the first time and, with the attentiveness of an attractive young guard and a couple of the craziest, best friends she's ever known, she flourishes in the most unexpected of places.

This is a pre-audition casting call. Please contact with your interest to book a rehearsal time. Rehearsals are scheduled for 25 July 2015 at the Mornington Presbyterian Community Centre, Dunedin. Rehearsals will most likely commence on 10 August and will be scheduled for every Monday and Tuesday evening until late November, at which time a full Saturday rehearsal will be added for the three weeks leading up until opening night, which is 5 December. The show will run for four performances and will close on 8 December.

ROLES REQUIRED

- **WILLEM LUCAS** – Male NZ European or Maori, 20-35, very strong Tenor or High Baritone singing voice, no dancing. Strong acting skills required.
- **LUCILLE LA BONT** – Female NZ European, 35-50, strong singer/actor required, must be able to belt an E5, small amount of dancing/stage movement.
- **AGNES FISHER** – Female Maori or Pacific Islander, 25-40, strong Alto, must be comfortable with singing an entire song a cappella, small amount of dancing/stage movement.
- **TE PAIA MANIAPOTO** – Female Maori, 20-35, strong Alto, strong actor, must be able to belt a C5, no dancing.

- **MATRON MADELINE JAMES** – Female NZ European or other European, 40-60, large build preferred, Alto/Contralto, strong actor, no dancing.
- **WENDY JACKSON** – Female NZ European, 20-35, Alto, very slim build required and must be comfortable playing a character who is anorexic.
- **JOHN COLLINS + CHARLES SUTTON** – Two non-singing characters to be played by the same actor, Male NZ European, 40-55.
- **CHORUS** – Females of all ethnicities, 20-75, strong singers with ability to harmonise, good stage movers.

CONTACT: RENEE – reneemaurice@icloud.com to book an audition.



Million Dollar Reward for Stolen Wizard of Oz Ruby Slippers



Photo – Getty Images

They're some of the most famous shoes in history and now they've got one of the biggest rewards attached to them.

An anonymous donor has offered a **\$1 million US reward (close to \$1.5 million NZD)** for credible information leading to the pair of Judy Garland's sequined, ruby red slippers.

According to the NY Post, the slippers from the legendary movie were stolen from a museum in her Minnesota, USA, hometown. Three other pairs still exist, including one on display at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, USA.

The reward offer requires the exact location of the slippers and the perpetrator's name.

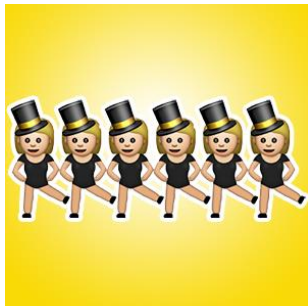
The 10 year anniversary of the theft is in August. The slippers were insured for \$1 million USD. Mr Kelsch says they could be worth \$2 million to \$3 million USD now.



Emojis for Theatre People

Emojis are all the rage on your iPhone but we feel like there's a keyboard missing so Playbill.com have come up with some emojis just for theatre people.

The "A Chorus Line" Emoji



The "Don't Cry For Me Argentina" Emoji



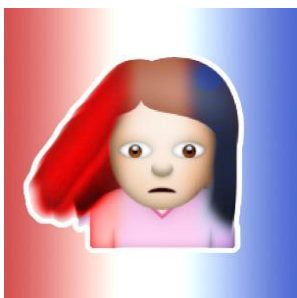
The "Hamlet" Emoji
(for when you're questioning
"To Be, or Not To Be?")



The "Kinky Boots" Emoji
(for when your friend is looking
for outfit suggestions)



The "Cosette" Emoji
(for when you're feeling *Les Misérables*)



"Phantom of the Opera" Emoji
(for when you're trying
to go undercover)



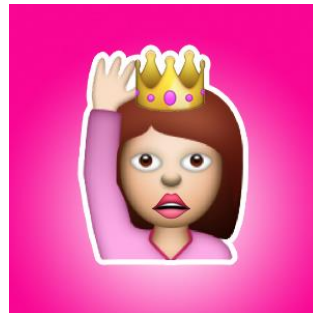
The "Sweeney Todd" Emoji



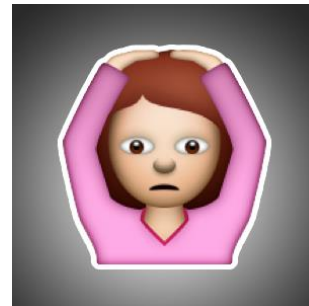
The "Wicked" Emoji
(for texting your soul sister)



The "Diva" Emoji
(for referring to that annoying
cast member)



The "Stage Fright" Emoji
(for texting the friends you
have in the audience
on opening night)



The "Jazz Hands" Emoji
(for everything)

