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STAGE  
RAGE

*Abbey*  
MUSICAL THEATRE

**Issue 104  
May 2016**

Member of  
**mtnz**  
MUSICAL THEATRE  
NEW ZEALAND



BOOK AND LYRICS BY **GEROME RAGNI & JAMES RADO**  
MUSIC BY **GALT MACDERMOT**  
PRODUCED FOR THE BROADWAY STAGE BY **MICHAEL BUTLER**  
ORIGINALLY PRODUCED BY **THE NEW YORK SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL THEATRE**

# HAIR

THE AUDITORIUM, CENTENNIAL DRIVE, MAY 19-JUNE 4, 2016  
**BOOK ONLINE TODAY!** [www.abbeymusicaltheatre.co.nz](http://www.abbeymusicaltheatre.co.nz)

"Hair" is presented by permission of ORIGIN™ Theatrical. On behalf of Tamo-Witmark Music Library, Inc.



**OPENS NEXT WEEK!!!  
TICKETS SELLING FAST – SO BOOK NOW!!!**

Bookings can be made online at [www.abbeymusicaltheatre.co.nz](http://www.abbeymusicaltheatre.co.nz) or, alternatively, you can pop into the Abbey Office (397 Church Street, Palmerston North) between 12.00 – 4.00 p.m., Monday to Friday – or you can telephone (06) 355 0499.



**Director** – Damian Thorne  
**Musical Director** – Roger Buchanan  
**Choreographer** – Nicola Morrison

“HAIR” is a rock musical – a product of the hippie counterculture and sexual revolution of the 1960s. Several of its songs became anthems of the anti-Vietnam War peace movement. The musical's profanity, its depiction of the use of drugs, its treatment of sexuality and its irreverence for the American flag caused much comment and controversy. The musical broke new ground in musical theatre by defining the genre of "rock musical". “HAIR” tells the story of the "tribe", a group of politically active hippies of the "Age of Aquarius" living a bohemian life in New York City and fighting against conscription into the Vietnam War. Claude, his good friend Berger, their roommate Sheila and their friends struggle to balance their young lives, loves and the sexual revolution with their rebellion against the war and their conservative parents and society. Ultimately, Claude must decide whether to resist the draft as his friends have done, or to succumb to the pressures of his parents (and conservative America) to serve in Vietnam, compromising his pacifistic principles and risking his life. *(Please note that in AMT's production of “HAIR”, there will not be a nude scene.)*

## **Cast List**

**SHEILA** – Ashleigh Blummont  
**JEANIE** – Kate Petherick  
**CHRISSEY** – Sarah Leishman  
**DIONNE** – Tia Rongokea  
**CLAUDE** – Tyrell Beck  
**BERGER** – Bex Palmer  
**HUD** – Nikora Lewis  
**WOOF** – Drew Pouniu

### **Ensemble**

Ashleigh Bond, Candace McGrath, Jess Linsley, Layla Ennia, Paula Fredericks, Robyn Chamberlain, Nick Ross, Solomon Gray, Jason Ngarimu, Glen Eustace



## **Wanted ...**

If you are wanting to help front-of-house for “HAIR”, please contact Raelene Watts on [raelene@inspire.net.nz](mailto:raelene@inspire.net.nz)



## **AMT Annual General Meeting**

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Abbey Musical Theatre was held on Tuesday, **26 April 2016** at The Auditorium. For the first time in approximately 12 years, there was an election of officers. The newly elected Board members are Craig Maxwell, Jane Watson and Paula Fredericks and they will join John Spelman, Merryn Osborne, Shane Brown and Joanne Sale on the Board. Allan Nagy was duly re-elected as President.

We take this opportunity to thank the outgoing Board members – Al Warren, Michelle Luke and Jeremy Matthews – for their tenure and hard work on the AMT Board.





“CATS” which will be staged in the Regent on Broadway, Palmerston North, from 12-27 August 2016.

**CO-DIRECTORS** – Barry Jones & Gillian Collett

**MUSICAL DIRECTOR** – Barry Jones

**CHOREOGRAPHER** – Teesh Szabo

Based on TS Eliot’s Old Possum’s Book of Practical Cats, the show is set amongst a larger-than-life set and is alive with our favourite feline characters, including Rum Tum Tugger, Mr Mistoffelees, Macavity, Jennyanydots, Old Deuteronomy, Grizabella and Skimbleshanks. The Jellicle Cats come out to play on one special night of the year – the night of the Jellicle Ball. One by one they tell their stories for the amusement of Old Deuteronomy, their wise and benevolent leader, who must choose one of the cats to ascend to The Heaviside Layer and be reborn into a whole new Jellicle life.

Auditions were held recently and the cast list follows;

<b>GRIZABELLA</b>	Jo Sale
<b>MUNKUSTRAP</b>	Michael Doody
<b>OLD DEUTERONOMY</b>	David Lea
<b>RUM TUM TUGGER</b>	Andrew Jamieson
<b>SKIMBLESHANKS</b>	Tyrell Beck
<b>BUSTOPHER JONES</b>	Richard Brown
<b>JENNYANYDOTS</b>	Tayla Clark
<b>MUNGOJERRIE</b>	Nikora Lewis
<b>RUMPELTEAZER</b>	Cara Hesselin
<b>MR MISTOFFOLEES</b>	Connor Allen
<b>GUS/GROWLTIGER</b>	Steve Jenkins
<b>JELLYLORUM/GRIDDLEBONE</b>	Val Andrew
<b>BOMBALURINA</b>	Ashleigh Blummont
<b>DEMETER</b>	Rebecca Palmer
<b>MACAVITY/ALONSO</b>	Geordie Rogers
<b>VICTORIA</b>	Hannah McDowall
<b>JEMIMA</b>	Emma Carey
<b>CASSANDRA</b>	Paula Fredericks
<b>POUNCIVAL</b>	Ruby Jamieson
<b>TANTOMILE</b>	Marian Sun
<b>SILLABUB</b>	Alex Hughes
<b>NOUSHA</b>	Hannah Mills
<b>ETCETERA</b>	Tegan Hardy
<b>ELECTRA</b>	Madeline Bennett
<b>CORICOPAT</b>	Adam Shaw
<b>TUMBLEBRUTUS</b>	Daniel Hardcastle
<b>ADMETUS</b>	Solomon Gray
<b>RUMPUS CAT/ALONSO</b>	Jason Harkett

**Tickets for “CATS” are now on sale at TicketDirect – either on line or at the Regent on Broadway.**



**Coming soon to a theatre near you ...**



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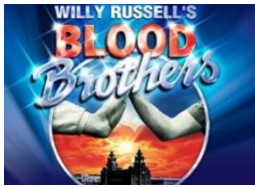
**On stage at The Regent on Broadway**  
**12 – 27 August 2016**



**On stage at The Auditorium**  
**24 November – 10 December 2016**

## 2017 Shows

The AMT Board has considered its show programme for the next couple of years and, at this time, the proposed shows for 2017 are;



## 2017 NZ Singing School

The 2017 NZ Singing School will be held from 5-15 January 2017, at the Eastern Institute of Technology, Napier. Enrolments for the School will open on 31 May 2016.

### Audition Requirements

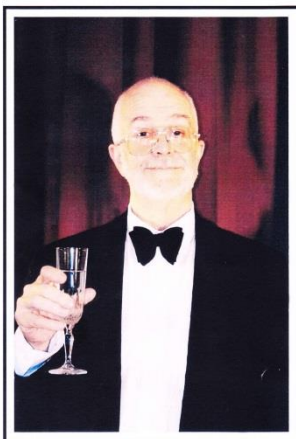
Enrolments will be online only, via the website [www.singingschool.org.nz](http://www.singingschool.org.nz)

Applicants must provide a one page resume with highest educational qualification, vocal training and performance experience to date.



## Obituary

*In Loving Memory Of*



*John Bryce McSkimming*  
30 June 1948 – 2 April 2016

It is with sadness that we advise long time friend and past Chairman of Abbey Musical Theatre, John McSkimming, passed away.

The McSkimming family were stalwarts of the Palmerston North Operatic Society (AMT) with John's father Jack a past President in the 70s and sisters Jane and Sally both involved on stage – a true family affair.

Our thoughts and love go out to John's wife Jean, Jane and Sally and their families at this time.

# Strictly NextGen – The MTNZ Youth Boot Camp

19 – 21 August 2016, Berwick Camp, Mosgiel (Dunedin)

## Friday, 19 August 2016

- 5pm All attendees to be in camp
- 6pm Welcome, housekeeping, weekend structure, introductions  
Group allocations advised
- 6.15pm Dinner
- 7.30pm Knowledge Café – interactive around the table group forum on ideas, topics, etc. that NextGen would like to discuss
- 8.45pm Wrap up Knowledge Café – supper and networking

## Saturday, 20 August 2016

- 8am Breakfast
- 9am Session One commences  
Group One – Master Class - Flying Solo with Jennifer Ward-Lealand  
Group Two – “In Sync” which embraces the use of syncopation to heighten, bring variation and excitement to even the most basic of dance steps with Teesh Szabo
- 10.30am Morning tea
- 11am Session One continues
- 12.30pm Lunch
- 1.30pm Session Two commences  
Group One – “In Sync” which embraces the use of syncopation to heighten, bring variation and excitement to even the most basic of dance steps with Teesh Szabo  
Group Two – Master Class - Flying Solo with Jennifer Ward-Lealand
- 3pm Afternoon tea
- 3.30pm Session Two continues
- 5pm Down time and dinner
- 7.45pm Come together and practice group dance
- 9pm Supper and networking

## Sunday, 21 August 2016

- 8am Breakfast
- 9am Q&A with tutors
- 10am Get dressed for showcase and practice dance
- 10.45am Showcase of group dance and a selection of the solo song performances
- 12.15pm Close training school, lunch and departures

**REGISTRATION FEE ONLY \$45 – OPENS 1 JUNE 2016**

**PENCIL BOOK YOUR PLACE WITH THE  
MTNZ OFFICE NOW – [kate@mtnz.co.nz](mailto:kate@mtnz.co.nz)**

## What to Bring

- Bottom sheet for mattress (the accommodation is shared single bunk beds)
- Pillow case or your own pillow
- A warm sleeping bag and a hot water bottle
- Towel and toiletries
- Warm, comfortable and casual clothes – thermals, merino, hats, gloves, warm socks, slippers – there is heating but it will be cold so come prepared
- Good, solid shoes – no high heels please and some shoes to dance in
- Two copies of your song – in the correct key please. This is to be no longer than two verses/choruses so everyone can participate.
- Please note that you must be over 18 to attend this workshop weekend.

## MASTER CLASSES

### FLYING SOLO Telling the Story in Song

In this workshop each participant is directed in a musical theatre song of their choice. There is a strong emphasis on identifying and developing the inner monologue, and how this focus serves the greater goal - that of engaging at a deeper level with the story of the song and, consequently, with the audience. Participants receive individual detailed direction and have the opportunity to observe their fellow classmates and engage fully in the process.



<http://www.jenniferwardleland.com/teaching.html>

Since training at Auckland's influential Theatre Corporate, Jennifer has worked extensively in theatre, film, television, musical and radio for over 30 years.

In 1989/90, Jennifer toured NZ and internationally with THE FRONT LAWN and in the early 90s moved to Australia to appear in the comedy TV series FULL FRONTAL, and played Viola in the Adelaide International Festival's production of TWELFTH NIGHT.

On stage her work includes THE GOAT, THAT FACE, BERLIN, BREL (Metro Magazine's #1 Cultural Experience 2012), THE BOOK OF EVERYTHING (Best Ensemble & Excellence Awards, Auckland Theatre Awards 2015) for Silo Theatre, TWELFTH NIGHT, LE SUD, AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY, THE HERETIC and LYSISTRATA for Auckland Theatre Company, RITA AND DOUGLAS for Armstrong Creative and BETWEEN THE SHEETS and LUNCHEON at the Basement.

Jennifer's film work includes THE FOOTSTEP MAN, DESPERATE REMEDIES, THE UGLY, FRACTURE and LINDA'S BODY. Television includes FULL FRONTAL, XENA: WARRIOR PRINCESS, HERCULES: THE LEGENDARY JOURNEYS, SHORTLAND STREET, DUGGAN, INTERROGATION, AUCKLAND DAZE, THE ALMIGHTY JOHNSONS and THE GOOD WORD.

Theatre directing credits include. JACQUES BREL IS ALIVE AND WELL AND LIVING IN PARIS and THE MYSTERY OF IRMA VEP for Silo Theatre, TIC TIC for Strata Creative, THE LAST FIVE YEARS and FALLOUT: THE SINKING OF THE RAINBOW WARRIOR for Last Tapes Theatre Company and most recently THE CHOICE for The Blue Baths in Rotorua.

Jennifer devised and performed the cabarets FALLING IN LOVE AGAIN featuring the songs of Marlene Dietrich, and THE LOOK OF LOVE which she has toured extensively throughout New Zealand, and in Australia. She works regularly as a voice over artist and can be heard as the character of DORABLE DUCK on the children's television series BUZZY BEE. Jennifer was a founding board member of the Watershed Theatre and a co-founder of [The Large Group](#) and [The Actors' Program](#). She is currently President of [New Zealand Actors Equity](#), Patron of [Q Theatre](#), and serves as a trust board member of [Arts Regional Trust](#), [Silo Theatre](#), Clarence St Theatre Trust, and [Actors Benevolent Fund](#). In the 2007 New Year's Honours List, she was named an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to theatre and the community.

[www.jenniferwardleland.com](http://www.jenniferwardleland.com)

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### **"In Sync" which embraces the use of syncopation to heighten, bring variation and excitement to even the most basic of dance steps**

Bringing together movers of any level, participants will develop skill and an understanding of how a company can move cohesively around a stage rather than the need for split choreography for dancers versus non dancers. We will experiment with basic dance steps bringing together spatial awareness including shapes, musical phrasing and patterns while embracing the often underutilised beats when setting musical numbers while working towards a showcase performance on the last day.



Trained both here in NZ and the UK, Teesh's varied career has seen her working as an Educator, Choreographer, Musical Stager and Performer in theatre, productions and television around the world and back.

Since returning to NZ after a 12 year departure, her choreography work has included MAMMA MIA, RENT, SPRING AWAKENING, CHESS and ASSASSIANS to name just a few. She has been fortunate to work as associate choreographer with Arlene Phillips in the UK and has extensive experience with showcasing new works at the Edinburgh Festive, various trade shows, TVC's with her work receiving numerous awards over the year. Equally comfortable on stage, highlights include performing alongside some of the greatest legends in musical theatre – Chita Rivera, Tommy Tune, Rita Moreno, Cyd Charisse, Russ Tamblyn and world renowned Illusionist Vince Carmen. Adding to this is working alongside the outstanding casts of Martine Guerre, Whistle Down the Wind as well as the Original London Cast of Mamma Mia and sailing the high seas as part of the entertainment set up teams for Princess Cruise Lines.

A passionate educator, she has written various movement curriculums for early childhood centres in NZ and is Movement Specialist for the Junior Theatre Project NZ in conjunction with Hal Leonard Australia and Amici Trust. Development credits include Destination DANZ, a reference book soon to be published for the performing arts and when there is time she also works with some of NZ's National/International figure skating stars

Teesh is truly excited to work alongside and inspire the participants of NextGen.

