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STAGE RAGE

Abbey
MUSICAL THEATRE

**Issue 107
November 2016**

Member of
mtnz
MUSICAL THEATRE
NEW ZEALAND



Stuck for a Christmas present?
 Can't find something for that "hard to buy for" person?
 Looking for something different?
 Then look no further – give them a ticket to ...



DUSTY

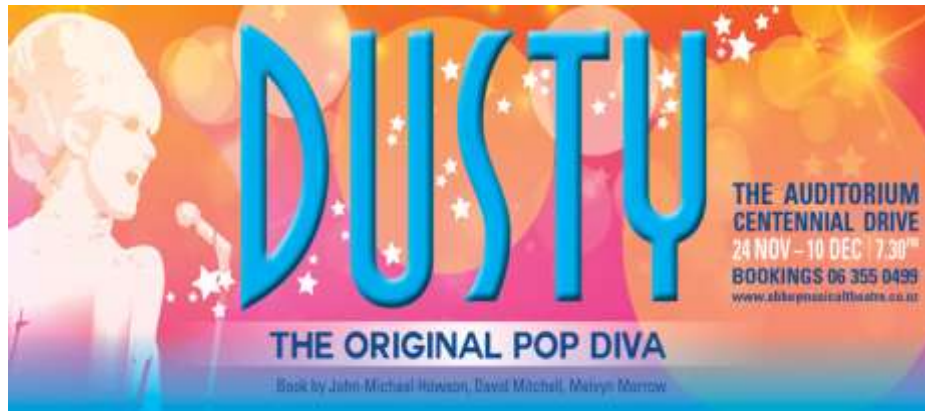
THE ORIGINAL POP DIVA

Book by John-Michael Howson, David Mitchell, Melvyn Morrow

**THE AUDITORIUM
CENTENNIAL DRIVE
24 NOV – 10 DEC | 7.30^{PM}
BOOKINGS 06 355 0499
www.abbeymusicaltheatre.co.nz**

Book at www.abbeymusicaltheatre.co.nz





Cast

Dusty Springfield
Reno
Mary O'Brien
Rodney
Peg
Kay O'Brien
Mr O'Brien
Tom O'Brien

Amy Hunt
 Erica Ward
 Hannah Sandbrook
 Read Wheeler
 Candace Higgle
 Kirsten Clark
 Chris Burton
 Ethan Maxwell

Ensemble

Ian Ball, Karl Stewart, Andrew Matheou, Nikora Lewis,
 Kiata O'Sullivan, Ian Harman

Peta Lynch, Tess Satherley, Tia Rongokea, Victoria Owen,
 Shawanda Scanlon-Parker, Layla Ennia, Clarissa Hobbs

Review

Amy Hunt starring as Dusty Springfield burst onto the scene with her strong soulful vocals immediately bringing Dusty to life and man she nailed some showstoppers throughout the night. If you are a Dusty fan you will be delighted with Amy's honest and heartfelt renditions. The journey through Dusty's rise to stardom starts at her childhood with Hannah Sandbrook playing the plain, tomboy, red head, child version of Dusty. There is surprise after surprise in this musical as this autobiographical story reveals aspects of Dusty's past that many would be unaware of.

But there was more than one star of this show ... man did I get goose bumps when Erica Ward hit the stage as Dusty's love interest Reno. The chemistry between these two was adorable and with the two of them combining their singing powers we were truly spoilt for enjoyment. Erica's performance was confident, strong, admirable, bloody outstanding, I got emotional watching her and Amy together.

There was some comic relief provided by Dusty's loyal stylists and supportive friends the dynamic duo Rodney and Peg played by Read Wheeler and Candace Higgle whose comic timing was 'on point'. There were also the three mysterious lady back-up singers played by Tia Rongokea, Tess Satherley and Victoria Owen, who demurely provided vocal support to Dusty's performances. Their reliable presence provided a sort of reassuring constancy to the show, not to mention great vocals.

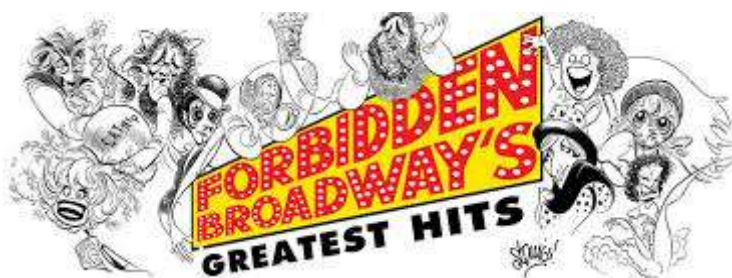
So many performances by this cast were excellent – local music teacher Kirsten Clark and PNBHS teacher Chris Burton as Dusty's religious and uptight parents played believable and enjoyable roles. Ian Ball's performance of Pet Shop Boys' "*What Have I Done To Deserve This?*" was a surprise and expertly delivered.

A strong cast deliver an exceptional performance in this autobiographical musical about legend Dusty Springfield. I wish I could name the full cast here as the extras too were extraordinarily good. This gets a big thumbs up from me and judging by the roaring applause last night, I'm not the only one who thinks so.



Change in Programme – 2017

Due to unforeseen circumstances, we will now not be staging “The Hot Mikado” in May 2017. Instead we will be staging ...



In this long-running Off-Broadway hit musical revue, Broadway’s greatest musical legends meet Broadway’s greatest satirist in this hilarious, loving, and endlessly entertaining tribute to some of the theatre’s greatest stars and songwriters.

- “Wonderful! There’s no Broadway like Forbidden Broadway.” (Entertainment Weekly)
- “Consistently riotous!” (NY Times)
- “Gut-bustingly funny! It’s a Forbidden pleasure.” (NY Post)
- “Even if you’ve never been within 1,000 miles of Broadway you’ll still love Forbidden Broadway.” (Boca Raton News)

The show is a cabaret revue sharply spoofing show tunes, characters and plots of contemporary and current Broadway musicals. Forbidden Broadway has mocked popular shows like *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Wicked*, *Les Misérables*, *The Lion King*, *Spamalot*, *Annie* and *RENT*, to name a few.

It also targets famous Broadway actors, writers, composers, directors, choreographers and producers, including Julie Andrews, Mel Brooks, Kristin Chenoweth, Michael Crawford, Whoopi Goldberg, Dustin Hoffman, Elton John, Andrew Lloyd Webber, Angela Lansbury, Liza Minnelli, Rita Moreno, Stephen Sondheim and Barbra Streisand.

Details of auditions will be advised soon.



Office/Costume Hire Hours

The Abbey Administration Office and Abbey Costume Hire will be closed over the Christmas/New Year break as follows;

Closing: Friday, 23 December 2016

Reopening: Tuesday, 24 January 2017



Membership

Just a friendly reminder and as you are no doubt aware, your AMT membership will expire on 31 January 2017. Invoices for membership will be forwarded to you in the new year.



TrustPower Awards

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

At the 2016 Trustpower Palmerston North Community Awards held recently, our Society was presented with two awards - the first being the Regional Winner in the Arts and Culture section; and the second being the Supreme Winner. Allan Nagy was a very proud President accepting on behalf of all our members whose hours of hard work and dedication led to these awards. Congratulations to you all!!!



We have detailed below the commendations from Trustpower and the Palmerston North City Council.

Arts and Culture

The winner of the Arts and Culture category goes to the talented volunteers of the Palmerston North Operatic Society. The Palmerston North Operatic Society trades under the name of Abbey Musical Theatre and are well known for providing high quality musical theatre productions to the Palmerston North and Manawatu public. Behind every show, many hours of volunteer work goes on behind the scenes. For the major shows each year – those produced in the Regent – the work starts at least a full year ahead. The move and setting up of the set and costuming into the Regent Theatre takes about 40 volunteers a full weekend to achieve, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m., if they're lucky, and the same to pack out at the end of the season. The next week's evenings are taken up with the technical setting of the lighting and sound, which is then followed by full scale rehearsals every night for the next week, for at least five hours each evening. During the run of the show for 10 performances, the crew and technical team of 60 people are working for at least four hours per night. The grand total of volunteer hours for their "MAMMA MIA!" production is nearly 21,000 hours. This incredible effort brings a huge amount of joy and entertainment to the community and Palmerston North is lucky to have such a dedicated bunch of talented people.

Supreme Winner

This leaves us with the Supreme Winner and it's a group who continue to thrive and bring joy to the Palmerston North community. Congratulations to the Palmerston North Operatic Society. These volunteers continue to 'wow' the public with their high quality and top end shows. The work that goes on behind the scenes to bring one of these productions to an audience is massive and you have established yourself as part of the fabric of the community. We think that you will do a fantastic job at representing the Palmerston North community at the 2016 Trustpower National Community Awards.



Much-loved theatre stalwart farewelled

(Wairarapa News)



Colin and Melva Denby in their home in 2013

One of Wairarapa's most prominent theatre and musical contributors was farewelled recently. Colin Denby was an unwavering stalwart of the Masterton Amateur Dramatic Society (MATS) since the 1950s and served as Patron of the society and Past President for 26 years. As an honorary life member, Colin certainly paid his dues. Along with his wife Melva, the Masterton couple have a lifetime of involvement with MATS. Melva and the couple's daughters, Pip and Sara Denby, reflected on Colin's life at his funeral as the family came together from far flung places around the globe. "Whatever he gave his time to he never did anything half-heartedly. He would give his time to anyone, particularly in the musical sphere," Melva said. Colin was an avid musician who played in various bands until recently. Melva recalled how he would head off at a moment's notice to fill in for a missing band member or organise something for a show. His specialty instruments were piano, banjo or any kind of percussion.



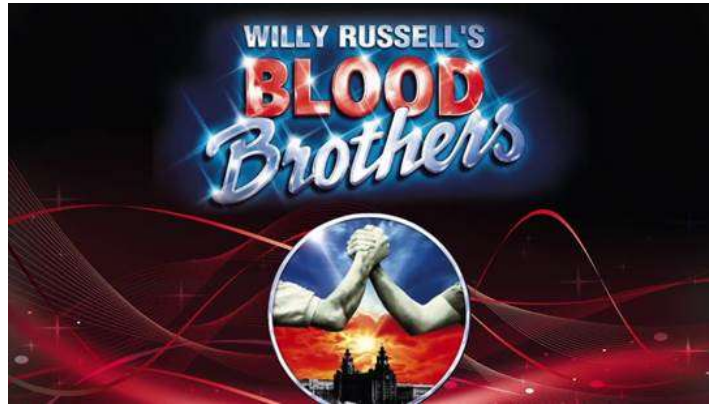
Melva and Colin Denby

With theatre in his blood he was always quick with a joke or a yarn to suit any situation. He was also a rugby lover and the family treasures a recent memory when they all watched the All Blacks at the hospital. His family were by his side when he succumbed to a viral infection in Wairarapa Hospital on October 24. Colin and Melva spoke to Wairarapa News three years ago about some of their enduring memories in local theatre. As well as the smooth-running successful productions, they remembered times when the curtain almost came down on a couple of performances. A one-in-100-year rainstorm flooded the theatre on dress rehearsal night of the 1986 production of "Grease" which effectively cancelled that most important of practice runs. "There was water pouring out of the light fittings," Colin said. Despite the washout, the show opened the following night without a hitch. Colin said he was honoured to be made the MATS patron in 2013. "It made me pretty proud to have that honour bestowed on me," he said at the time.

Colin Foster DENBY

12 October 1938 – 24 October 2016





“So, did y’ hear the evil story of the Johnstone twins?”

Auditions for this production were held recently and the following cast can now be announced.

Mrs Johnstone – Val Andrew
The Narrator – Samuel Gordon
Mrs Lyons – Joanne Sale
Mickey – Michael Doody
Edward – Tyrell Beck
Mr Lyons – Gary Clark
Linda – Lottie Perry
Sammy – Jacob McDonald

Ensemble

Jason Ngarimu, Read Wheeler, Rob Waayenburg, Ethan Maxwell, Sarah Leishman, Grace Hall, Sue O’Donnell, Hannah Sandbrook

“BLOOD Brothers” will be on stage at The Auditorium from 2 – 18 March 2017



MTNZ 57TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE & VOLUNTEER TRAINING WEEKEND

24 & 25 March 2017
Quality Hotel Plymouth International
New Plymouth

Registrations for next year’s MTNZ Conference are now open. More information/details can be found at <http://www.mtnz.org.nz/conference-registration/>



Theatre News & Rumours



Hamilton Mixtape Volume 2 in the Works

Happy news for hamifans—the *Hamilton Mixtape*’ll be back! Lin Manuel Miranda has revealed that a second album will be released (we don’t know when yet) and that it will include new takes on “The Schuyler Sisters”, “The Room Where It Happens” and “One Last Time”. Volume One is scheduled to drop on 2 December; we’re expecting tracks to include “Immigrants (We Get The Job Done)” by K’naan, Snow Tha Product, Riz MC and Residente, along with “Satisfied” by Sia, featuring Miguel and Queen Latifah.

Gaga's A Star is Born Sets Release Date

It’s a date! The Warner Brothers' movie *A Star Is Born*, starring Bradley Cooper and Lady Gaga, will land in movie theatres on 28 September 2018, *Variety* reports. Directed by Cooper, the remake has been in the works for some time—at one point Clint Eastwood was set to helm and Beyoncé attached to star. Gaga will pen new music for the film.

2016 Royal Variety Show performances from *Funny Girl*, *An American in Paris*, *The Girls* and *Dreamgirls*

David Walliams has just been announced as the host of this year’s Royal Variety Performance which takes place at the Eventim Apollo in Hammersmith on 6 December and is recorded to be broadcast on ITV. Walliams said he was “*very honoured and excited*” to be hosting the show for a second time. “*I was lucky enough to host back in 2012 so will be looking forward to another fabulous evening with huge talent.*” Sting, Robbie Williams, Barry Gibb and Emeli Sande are among the acts who will be performing in front of the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall. This year’s musical theatre line up includes *Funny Girl* actress Sheridan Smith, plus shows opening in London next year, including *An American In Paris* and *Dreamgirls* with Gary Barlow performing with the cast from his new musical *The Girls*. Also performing on the night will be this year’s Britain’s Got Talent winner, magician Lance Corporal Richard Jones, and dance troupe Diversity, who previously won the show, the cast of Cirque Du Soleil’s *The Beatles Love* show. McFly singer Tom Fletcher will read from his book ‘The Christmasaurus’ and comedians Joe Lycett, Alan Davies and Rob Beckett are also on the line-up.

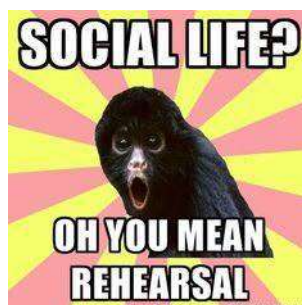


Just For Fun ...

These Disney inspired Minnie Mouse heels are just 🍷🍷🍷



SOMEONE TELLS A THEATRE JOKE



And Finally ...

From everyone at Abbey Musical Theatre to everyone wherever you are ... we would like to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a very festive silly season and a happy and safe Christmas with your loved ones. See you back here next year for some exciting theatrical happenings.

