

5 MINUTE CALL

the theatre onset newsletter August/September 2015

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“What is that unforgettable line?” Samuel Beckett

SHORTS IN WINTER: AUGUST

20/21/22/28/29/30

BOOK NOW!

Footprint Theatre Inc in association with Theatre Onset present an evening of Short Plays in Merimbula and Bega

Short plays **The Waiting Room** and **Call Out**, fresh from the Canberra SHORT+SWEET play festival by Footprint Theatre, plus **Driving the Holden**, a former Sydney SHORT+SWEET finalist by Gerry Greenland. There's also **Barista** by Alex Nicol and Theatre Onset and some poetry “so bad it's great!” by William McGonagall performed by Jamie Forbes.

the show

6 shows to choose from 20 to 30 August 2015. **Tickets on sale from 8 August.**

Dinner Shows at the Merimbula Wharf Restaurant Lake Street Merimbula

6.30 for 7.00pm Thursday 20 August

6.30 for 7.00pm Friday 21 August

6.30 for 7.00pm Saturday 22 August

Bookings and meal pre-orders *essential*. **Tickets on sale from 8 August.**

Choose from our range of dinner + show packages \$30 – \$60.

Concert-style Shows at the Thimble Theatre in the ground of Bega High School

Enter via the lower gate in Upper Street (near the police station).

7.30pm Friday 28 August

7.30pm Saturday 29 August

2.00pm matinee Sunday 30 August

Book online (trybooking.com), call 6495 7160 or buy remaining tickets at the door.

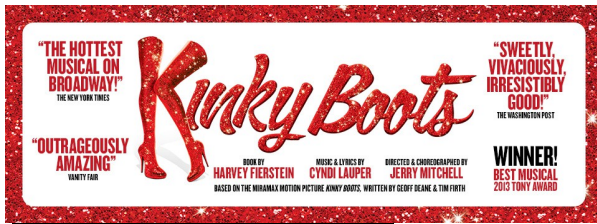
Tickets \$20 / \$15.

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S STAR WARS

is a script by Ian Doescher and exactly what it sounds like: the Bard's version of

George Lucas' 1977 masterpiece. This script – subtitled *Verily, A New Hope* – is a masterpiece in itself, reinterpreting every classic moment of the original film just as Shakespeare might have imagined it on the stage. With the December opening of *Star Wars Episode VII: The Force Awakens* building Star Wars fever up again, Theatre Onset's Jamie Forbes thinks that might be the right time to pay our own tribute by staging a rehearsed reading of the Shakespeare version of the original. There are lots of great parts; all of your favourites are included, they just take a little longer to say certain things. If you're interested in being part of this one off presentation contact Jamie at feasiblejerome@gmail.com and ever shall the Force remain with thee.

NEXT MEETING IS ON WEDNESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 9 AT JAMIE AND
BECKY'S PLACE: DO COME ALONG.



AUDITIONS

Preliminary auditions for principal roles will commence next month with the Australian production team. Further auditions and final callbacks will be held between 25 November to 14 December 2015 (subject to change) with the international creative team in Sydney and Melbourne. All submissions must include a CV and current photograph and are to be sent via email to: casting@michaeltassel.com CV's must include height (in cm), vocal range and city of residence. All auditions are by invitation only. Only those successful in gaining an invitation will be contacted further. Please note that we are not accepting any submissions for children until 2016.

WORTH A TRY!!!

It has been beautifully done with some amazing features and the acoustics appear to be a success. Perhaps this helps with attracting and supporting some of the larger productions travelling around NZ. I saw *Phantom of the Opera* there earlier this year (full NZ production) and it was comparable to any version I have seen (including with Anthony Warlow and Marina Prior). I've also been helping a friend design a picture wall and hang all the prints of past productions in the foyer of the Theatre which has been a great experience and a learning curve with picture hanging in Christchurch an art in itself.

I joined PMH Players in January this year and was successfully cast after a rigorous and daunting audition process (i.e. I had to turn up). This group was originally based in the Princess Margaret Hospital but the auditorium there suffered earthquake damage and was subsequently demolished. The school hall they now use is quite large and allows for about 150 audience members cabaret style. On stage is slightly different with no back of house so all props and entrances were from each side with access outside and around the back of the building (a little chilly even in April!). The group has been around since the early 1980s and put on one production a year, always written by a PMH Players member. This year's was particularly funny with some great songs and a bit of audience participation. Quite different from my Theatre Onset experience though with numerous set changes, singing, and ridiculously fast costume changes. It creates a great team environment when you have to help someone strip and dress in a few short moments!

[EDITOR'S NOTE: *We went through the same thing with Romeo & Juliet and The Enormous Knockers, Jill!*]

As a result I've become friends with a fantastic bunch of people. My social life at times is bordering on manic with parties and social events with all these guys but I'm mostly thrilled with the support they gave me in overcoming my nerves in singing on stage, particularly as I had the chance to sing a song I've loved since childhood – 'To Sir With Love'. My Mum even came across to see the show – bit further to travel these days than driving from Buckajo to the Thimble Theatre!

I've recently also auditioned for a music revue with another community group, Elmwood Players. The audition was like those TV shows with three people sitting behind a desk waiting to be entertained. All the confidence I had gained from singing on stage earlier in the year just evaporated. I was blushing, sweating, babbling and shaking all at the same time, but they were very friendly and I felt rather proud afterwards. My nerves really kicked in when I spoke to a friend who had also auditioned and she had overheard people talking about the other shows they had done (professional ones at the Theatre Royal). Guess it wasn't as casual as I had thought! That said, I have been cast and am about to start rehearsals for a November show. I've been in Christchurch for nearly 12 months now and have no doubt that a lot of why I love it here comes from the sense of community, which is why I've always loved Bega. My experience here also confirms for me that the best way to settle into a new community is to become active in it. Christchurch has come through such devastating times and while the rebuild will continue for many years, the sense of community and solidarity is stronger than ever and I'm thrilled to be part of it.

we need folks to help out with front of house for SHORTS IN WINTER during the Bega run (August 28/29/30); if you would like to be these folks please contact [becky beckylupton@gmail.com](mailto:beckybeckylupton@gmail.com)

UPDATE! JILLIAN REIHNBERGER! WE miss her, we love her and we're happy to know she's keeping up her great theatre work in NZ ... of course, we'll be happier when she's back! we asked Jillian what she's been up to and she was good enough to respond ...

The Christchurch theatre scene is resilient and vibrant, just like Christchurch. I'm thrilled at how accessible theatre is here, both as an audience member and participant. There are quite a few theatre groups with a range of talents and productions: some only do one production a year and others have numerous shows in rehearsal at the same time. Given the lack of venues, most are flexible about location and have created a number of opportunities through using outdoor venues as well as schools and colleges. The Court Theatre (www.courttheatre.org.nz) houses the only full-time/professional theatre company in the region and was located within the Arts Centre but relocated following the February 2011 earthquake. It's now (temporarily) in an old grain storage silo with front of house and facilities in containers within the shed. It's quite professional, seats 300 and does some great productions. On a larger scale, the Isaac Theatre Royal (www.isaactheatreroyal.co.nz) was recently reopened after extensive repair and restoration.