Wainuiomata Little Theatre Inc.
Established in 1955

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WLT Newsletter

A Welcome Return

After too long, the Wainuiomata Little Theatre Newsletter is back although in a shorter version for this edition. As always we are looking for stories, ideas, contributions and feedback on what you liked didn't like or would like to see more of. This is important, so we know are striking to right balance between length, information and topics of interest.

We will aim to get a new newsletter out quarterly so look out for future editions.

We are also looking to revamp the WLT website, so any ideas, suggestions, volunteers are all welcome.

The committee for 2023 is as follows:

President – Trevor Williams
Treasurer – Janet Low
Secretary – Eileen Salmon
Committee members – Alan Donaldson, Barry Paterson, Emma McAuliffe, Karen McAuliffe, Mikayla Paterson, Sarah Jacobson, Tracy Bognuda

Inside this issue

Welcome Return 1
Presidents Message 2
Next Production 3
Chicago 4/5

Contributions

- Trevor Williams—Presidents Message, Update on our next production and photos etc. from Chicago.
- Editor: Rick. Richard.Jonassen.rj@gmail.com
- If you have an idea for an article or would like to contribute please get in touch.

Presidents Message

Welcome everyone to this edition of the WLT Newsletter. It's that time of year again when we reflect on what went on during that year and look forward to a new one.

Once again it has been a busy year and one that's kept us on our toes. It's been a year of the C's – Chicago and Covid. Starting with Chicago, we have recently concluded a hugely successful season of this great 1920s show. The whole cast and crew should be justifiably proud of what they achieved.

Moving on to Covid. It never really went away throughout the whole year. It ebbed and flowed right up until the opening of Chicago. It certainly made for some sleepless nights and a few very nervous days before and during the season. However, we managed to fight on, and the true team spirit came through.

Moving on to 2023, we are excited to announce that our next production will be Jesus Christ Superstar. We have done this before in 2014 and it was due to be staged in 2019 but circumstances beyond our control meant it had to be cancelled. So here we are again in 2023.

That's all from me. Have a safe and very merry Christmas and New Year. Hopefully, you can get away for a well-deserved break at some stage. We look forward to seeing you again in 2023.

Trevor Williams

President

Local Theatre

Wicked 2023

Wicked is coming to the St James Theatre in Wellington in 2023. from 17 of Aug to 3rd Sept .

Kauri Theatre

Kauri Theatre presents: Dusty the Musical, in concert. 11—22 April

https://www.mtnz.org.nz/ for more details and tickets

Our Next Production – Jesus Christ Superstar

The ultimate act of betrayal is committed with thirty pieces of silver and a kiss on the cheek.

In 1971, Jesus Christ Superstar burst onto the worldwide stage and changed the face of musical theatre forever.

Jesus Christ Superstar tells the story of biblical Jesus in the final days leading up to his crucifixion. A rock opera by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice, the musical has no spoken dialogue and is sometimes considered a modern rock opera. Loosely based on the Gospels, Superstar focuses on the personal conflicts between Jesus, his disciples, the people of Israel, and the leadership of Rome.

Special attention is played to the relationship between Judas Iscariot and Jesus, as well as Jesus' relationship with Mary Magdalene. The musical is unique among biblical retellings in that it focuses on both Judas' struggle with making the decision to betray Jesus and Jesus' human psychology, fear, and anger in understanding and accepting his role as both leader and martyr.

The show is a product of its era, permeated with 1970's rock, gospel, folk and funk themes, modern language and colloquialisms, and high-energy dance numbers.

A blazing score from Andrew Lloyd Webber of The Phantom of the Opera, Evita and Cats fame combines with Tim Rice's inventive and evocative lyrics to make a musical still as devastatingly powerful as the first time it hit the stage.

Nominated for eight Tony Awards and seven Olivier Awards over its almost 50-year history, the greatest rock opera ever created shines a light on the power of the human spirit.

What would it take for you to betray the Son of God? And how would you feel if you did?

WLT's season will run from 31 May – 10 June 2023.

Auditions will be held on the 4th and 5th of February 2023. Keep an eye on our social media page for more information.

When the Roaring Twenties came to Wainui

The 2022 season of Chicago recently concluded. Over three weeks (2 -19 November) the hit 1920's musical came to the stage in Wainuiomata, with multiple sold-out performances that audiences overwhelmingly enjoyed.

The cast and crew managed to bring all the razzle-dazzle of the roaring twenties that Chicago is - a story of murder, greed, corruption, violence, exploitation, adultery, and treachery - all those things we hold near and dear to our hearts.

It's fair to say that Chicago took a while to get off the ground with the ever-present Covid. One of the things most theatre groups have learned over the last few years is to be flexible. That was certainly put to the test with Chicago.

The initial season dates were put back two months as a response to the situation earlier in the year. When things did get started, four months of rehearsals went relatively Covid free, so the production team was cautiously optimistic.

Then, during the week before the show, six cast and crew went down with it, and it continued into the season. In true theatre fashion, however, the show had to go on and it was fantastic how the rest of the cast, and the whole team, stepped in to fill the gaps where they could and do what was necessary for each performance.

Congratulations to Tony, Kate, Rachel, and Catherine on all of their hard work in Chicago.

To the cast for all your hard work – especially the ladies (and occasional man) who had to do all that choreography that you didn't think you would ever get right. You did and it made the show.

To the whole crew, these productions are a team effort and that was shown in spades this time around.