

FROM THE CHAIR

*"All the world's a stage,
And all the men and women merely players;
They have their exits and their entrances,
And one man in his time plays many parts."*



Did the bard imagine what might unfold in centuries to come? I don't think so for a moment. Yet his words ring decidedly true when applied to our present situation. The 'one man' in question entered The Court 'stage' a number of years ago and since then has indeed played 'many parts'. Now, sadly, it is time for his 'exit'.

As supporters we have greatly appreciated the many roles Philip Aldridge has played in his role as Chief Executive. Visionary, administrator, negotiator, entrepreneur, catalyst, promoter, encourager, even on occasions talented actor, and so the list could go on. To which many of us would also want to add warmly - friend.

As he departs he can look back on a thriving theatre which owes much to his resourceful and dedicated leadership and for which we have cause to be truly appreciative. It is to the city's benefit that he now transfers his skills to the Arts Centre and we wish him well in that endeavour.

And so thank you Philip. Go well - and don't forget to pay for your Supporters' membership as you depart!

Haere ra,
David Winfield

THE LITTLEST NINJA

Starting on the 7th July, ninjas will be sneaking into The Court Theatre for the school holiday season of brand-new kids show, *The Littlest Ninja*.

Writer Javier Jarquin is a former Court Jester and current 'card ninja' comedian based in London. Directing the play is current Court Jester and actor Kathleen Burns - who was also Jarquin's co-star when she got her start in kids theatre back at The Court in 2010.

"I've been doing children's theatre professionally for eight years. *Jack and the Beanstalk* was the first kids show I did and I did it with Dan Bain, who is now the Associate Director at The Court and Javier Jarquin, who wrote *The Littlest Ninja*!"

Alongside acting, Burns wrote 2017's *Cinderella in Space* and was the assistant director on Dan Bain's *A Paintbox of Clowns* earlier this year.

The Littlest Ninja, a much more verbal show than Bain's silent clowning show, follows small ninja Miki as she struggles to find her place in a temple full of tall, strong ninjas who stand far above her - and forget, most of the time, that she's even there.

With a little help, however, Miki begins to see that what makes her different is also what makes her stand out as a ninja.

Burns, whose love of theatre began when she was a child, is excited to bring the joy of theatre to a new, young audience.

"I have a sneaking suspicion if you go to theatre as a younger person, you're more likely to go to theatre as an older person. I think that theatre is at the heart and beginning of how human beings understand themselves and each other."

The Littlest Ninja runs at The Court Theatre from 7 - 21 July as part of KidsFest. All tickets are \$10.



THE COURT THEATRE WANTS TO HEAR WHAT YOU THINK

On Sunday 15th July The Court Theatre is holding Audience Interactive to hear your views and suggestions on all things The Court Theatre.

The Court wants to make sure that you, its audience, are satisfied with the work it's doing. The Court Theatre is your theatre and we care what you think.

Help The Court and attend Audience Interactive on Sunday 15th July at 4pm. A glass of bubbles/orange juice will be provided to each attendee, with the chance to win some fabulous spot prizes for all who attend!

To book a free seat for Audience Interactive, please contact communications@courttheatre.org.nz or call the box office on 03 963 0870 or 0800 333 100.

TASTY TREATS

As you will doubtless be aware The Court is providing more than just onstage experiences these days with a flourishing pizza service being very much appreciated and well patronised. But wait... there's more!

The Coffee Bar is now providing flavoursome, homemade soup, just the thing for colder evenings. Try it - you'll be impressed.

Also in the food line the Supporters regularly provide opening night suppers which again are very well received by the patrons.

These rely on willing contributors and to those who have been doing so we offer a heartfelt thank-you. But it would be good to add to their number, so if you could provide the occasional plate of sweet or savoury items and/or assist with the setting up and cleaning up on the night please contact Jo at jo.winfield49@gmail.com. Many thanks in anticipation.

DINNER WITH LARA MACGREGOR

Lara Macgregor, well known actor and director, is hosting a dinner at the iconic Mediterranean Food Co. She will share some of her vast experience in the world of theatre with you. This will be an intimate dinner of no more than 20 guests so that everyone gets the opportunity to speak personally with her.

Venue: The Mediterranean Food Co. 322 Tuam Street Christchurch.

Date: 18th July

Time: 7:00pm

Cost: \$45

RSVP: ccolley@actrix.co.nz

Please note that numbers are strictly limited

Since opening its doors in 2001, The Mediterranean Food Co. has grown into a beloved Christchurch institution. A bastion of warmth, hospitality and, of course, fine food, miraculously removed from its semi-industrial inner city location. Backed by a great team that shares a love of fine food and commitment to premium service, The Mediterranean Food Co. can't wait to bring the best of the Mediterranean to your table.

www.mediterraneanfoods.co.nz

COOKING WITH ROSS

Come cook and then dine with Ross Gumbley (Artistic Director) and Samantha McConnell (Marketing and Communications Manager) in the home of Fiona and Stephen van der Pol (Chairman of the Board). Arrive at 6:30pm for nibbles and chat before *Fiona's Food* cooking class begins at 7pm. At the end of the class you will sit down to eat the scrumptious Asian Fusion food that you have watched being created. Lots of laughs and lots of fun. Ross's culinary skills are going to be surely tested! Bring along some of your favourite wine to accompany the meal.

Book now to avoid disappointment - there are 12 spaces only.

Venue: 53 Hamilton Ave, Christchurch

Date: 16th August

Time: 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm (or later)

Cost: \$75

RSVP: annie.bonifant@gmail.com

Cooking classes with *Fiona's Foods* are fun, laidback nights with an experienced and cheerful cook that give you the chance to watch the entire cooking process, with the food being made from scratch. You'll pick up loads of catering tips and recipes that you can use to bring a new level to your home cooking, and then at the end of it all will sit down to a delicious feast.

www.fionasfood.co.nz



TALKING MISERY WITH ACTRESS LARA MACGREGOR

Coming up this August, actress and director Lara Macgregor will take the stage as the frightening Annie Wilkes in Stephen King's *Misery*. In a thrilling story of obsession, Macgregor is teaming up with director Dan Bain (*Titus Andronicus* and *Ideation*) to recreate one of Stephen King's bestsellers for the stage. Before rehearsals begin in July, Macgregor told us why she's excited for *Misery* - and what her own obsessions are...

What's to like about *Misery*?

For starters, the novel the play is based on is penned by the best horror writer of our time. The movie, adapted from the book, became a huge hit, and earned Kathy Bates the Academy Award for best actress. Critics touted it as 'a taut and frightening film - one of the best Stephen King adaptations to date.' So, for William Goldman to then adapt it into a stage play is ingenious.

So rarely does the opportunity present itself to view a psychological horror of this calibre on stage. It cleverly perches you on the edge-of-your-seat while paying homage to the redemptive power of writing.

Director of *Misery*, Dan Bain, previously trained under you through The Court Theatre's Young Playwrights' Initiative. Are you looking forward to working with him again?

Absolutely. Especially as we've been passing each other in the foyer at The Court now for ten years.

We've observed each other's growth as artists through that time, and have both sat in the Associate Artistic Director's chair. Dan is exactly the right director to bring this story to life. He has a healthy love of mystery and macabre. I'm looking forward to being led into the forest with him.

What are you obsessed with?

Good stories, the human condition and, sadly, perfectionism.

Lara will be hosting an intimate dinner at the Mediterranean Food Co. this July for a limited number of Court Supporters - please refer to the 'Dinner with Lara Macgregor' article for more information and booking details.



SEASON LAUNCH FUNCTIONS

The Supporters' Committee is aware there was some confusion over the two events held to launch The Court Theatre's Meridian Energy 2018/2019 season back in March. That was possibly because the events were within two days of each other and because they both involved the Supporters.

The "all singing, all dancing showcase" event in the auditorium was a wonderful new initiative by the theatre itself on which they sought collaboration from the Supporters as a way of promoting our organisation. That was a very generous gesture showing just how much the Supporters are appreciated by the theatre.

But the main purpose behind what was really a performance was to inform a much wider audience about the theatre, its work and its new season - a "spreading of the word". As Ross Gumbley said "The theatre is evolving and is the biggest producing theatre

in New Zealand and there is an expectation from the public to be informed. So we decided let's present this information the way we know best - through drama and showmanship as well as having an excuse to party and celebrate the beginning of a new season."

It's hoped this style of event will be an annual occurrence. Don't fret though - the traditional intimate special reveal of the new season to Supporters at our AGM will still happen in the usual up-close and personal environment with Artistic Director Ross. To ensure there is something distinctive for us Ross is likely to tailor this presentation to suit our elite tight group and of course we have the chance to ask questions directly of him.

If you have any further suggestions or queries about the two launch events please get in touch with us.

JOIN US FOR A FUN(D)RAISING EVENING



TRIVIA QUIZ NIGHT

is back!

Tues 4th Sept 7.30pm
at the theatre

- Teams of up to six members • \$20 per person (light supper included) • Prizes for first to third placings • Multi-draw raffle
- Bar and coffee bar open for purchases • Questions ranging across a variety of topics

WHAT TO DO NOW?

- Gather your team • Encourage others to make up a team
- Register (with a team name) by emailing davenjo@xtra.co.nz or phone 322 8723 • Offer to provide a raffle prize if you can

Don't delay - numbers will be limited

Sender:



The Court Theatre
PO Box 268
Christchurch 8140
New Zealand

UPCOMING DATES

JUNE

16 - *The Biggest* opens
23 - *Ideation* closes
28 - *Vernon God Little* opens
29 - *He Kura Kōrero* finishes schools tour
30 - *Vernon God Little* closes

JULY

7 - *The Littlest Ninja & The Early Early Late Show* open
14 - *The Biggest* closes
15 - Audience Interactive
18 - Court Supporters' Dinner with Lara Macgregor
21 - *The Littlest Ninja & The Early Early Late Show* close

AUGUST

4 - Stephen King's *Misery* opens
9 - *Ē Toru* opens
11 - *Ē Toru* closes
16 - Court Supporters' Cooking with Ross
25 - Stephen King's *Misery* closes

SEPTEMBER

15 - *Mum's Choir* opens
4 - Court Supporters' Quiz Night
29 - *Hansel & Gretel* opens
30 - Indelible Ink Reading #1 - *Fresh Off the Boat*

WELCOMES & FAREWELLS

FAREWELLS

Nicky Marshall - Front of House / *Scared Scriptless* musician
Christine Weston - Bar Manager

WELCOMES

Hayley Douglas - Costume Technician
Vanessa Gray - Kaihāpai Toi (Māori and Pasifika Producer)
Riley Harter - Education Co-ordinator / Head Tutor
Rachel Sears has become Director of Programmes (Education, Training and Jesters)
Rachel Vavasour has become the Director of Philanthropy