

MEDIA RELEASE

THE
COURT
THEATRE

16 August 2018

For immediate release

[Mum's Choir](#)

Written by Alison Quigan

Directed by Ross Gumbley

Arrangements by Laughton Pattrick

From 15 September

The Court Theatre's mainstage

Short show description:

The O'Reilly household has fallen silent with the death of mum Molly, but her final wish looks set to change that. Tasked with singing Fauré's *Requiem* at her funeral, Molly's kids reunite to face the music in this heart-warming comedy full of songs from writer Alison Quigan.

THE FAMILY ARE REUNITING TO FACE THE MUSIC IN *MUM'S CHOIR* AT THE COURT THEATRE

IN BRIEF:

The Court Theatre is celebrating New Zealand Theatre Month this September with a play full of music, laughter and, of course, a gloriously typical Kiwi family in *Mum's Choir*.

Mum's Choir follows the O'Reilly family reuniting in Palmerston North after the death of their mum, Molly. She hasn't gone quietly, however, with her final request an almost impossible task: for her kids (now adults with children of their own) to sing Fauré's *Requiem* at her funeral.

Music is a huge part of *Mum's Choir*, with songs performed during the play including *That's Amore*, *Accentuate the Positive*, *Hine E Hine* and, of course, the glorious *Requiem*.

The cast performing those loved classics includes Eilish Moran; Paul Barrett; Lynda Milligan; Nick Dunbar; Amy Straker; Julie Edwards and Wiremu Waretini.

For director Ross Gumbley, *Mum's Choir* is a timeless New Zealand play that, 14 years on, is still just as relevant and powerful as it was when it was first written by Alison Quigan.

"Mum's Choir is a play which reaches out and touches your heart. It really is a symbol of where New Zealand plays have come from – and how good they are."

Mum's Choir opens at The Court Theatre on 15th September and runs through until 6th October.

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The Court Theatre

PO Box 268

Christchurch 8140

New Zealand

Email: admin@courttheatre.org.nz

www.courttheatre.org.nz

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IN DEPTH:

The Court Theatre is celebrating New Zealand Theatre Month this September with a play full of music, laughter and, of course, a gloriously typical Kiwi family in *Mum's Choir*.

Mum's Choir follows the O'Reilly family reuniting in Palmerston North after the death of their mum, Molly. She hasn't gone quietly, however, with her final request an almost impossible task: for her kids (now adults with children of their own) to sing Fauré's *Requiem* at her funeral.

For Ross Gumbley, the Artistic Director at The Court and director of *Mum's Choir*, the play is about "the power of family when we all come together. It's brilliant because the galvanizing force in the O'Reilly family is a love of music and song. Their whanau takes so much strength in being able to come together and pay tribute to their mother through her final request, for her family to sing Fauré's *Requiem*."

Gumbley and writer Alison Quigan worked together at Centrepoint Theatre in Palmerston North when Quigan was the Artistic Director – and where *Mum's Choir* was written and first performed, based on Quigan's experience when her own mother died in 2001.

"This is, I think, Alison Quigan's finest play. And that's hard for me to say, because I wrote seven with her... But it's her best because it's her most personal."

A huge part of *Mum's Choir* is the music, with songs performed during the play including *After You've Gone*, *That's Amore*, *Accentuate the Positive*, *Every Time We Say Goodbye*, *Hine E Hine*, *We'll Meet Again* and, of course, the glorious *Requiem* by Fauré.

"The play takes place in a family that, for years since they've all been small, have sat around the piano. Singing is a must in this family. So, there are all those standard songs that mum would have in her piano stall when you lift that up – all those loved classics of sheet music," Gumbley says.

The cast performing those loved classics includes Eilish Moran; Paul Barrett; Lynda Milligan; Nick Dunbar; Amy Straker; Julie Edwards and Wiremu Waretini.

For Gumbley, *Mum's Choir* is a timeless New Zealand play that, 14 years on, is still just as relevant and powerful as it was when it was first written, telling the story of a family coming together in celebration.

"Mum's Choir is a play which reaches out and touches your heart. It really is a symbol of where New Zealand plays have come from – and how good they are."

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[Click here to read more](#)

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Cast

Jean	Eilish Moran
Noel	Paul Barrett
Cathy	Julie Edwards
Kevin	Nick Dunbar
Terri	Amy Straker
Aunty Nola	Lynda Milligan
Matt	Wiremu Waretini

Creatives

Director	Ross Gumbley
Musical Director	Matthew Everingham
Set Designer	Mark McEntyre
Costume Designer	Tina Hutchison-Thomas
Lighting Designer	Giles Tanner
Sound Designer	Matt Short
Stage Manager	Erica Browne

Ticket Prices

Adult	\$55.00 - \$63.00
Senior 65yrs+	\$48.00 - \$56.00
Supporter	\$46.00 - \$54.00
Group 6+	\$48.00 - \$53.00
Child (U18)	\$26.00 - \$30.00
30 Below (max 2 per person)	\$30.00

Show Times

- Monday & Thursday 6.30pm
- Tue/Wed/Fri/Sat 7.30pm
- Forum 6:30pm Monday 17th September
Discuss the play with cast and creative team after the performance
- Matinee 2:00pm Saturday 6th October

Bookings: phone 03 963 0870 or visit www.courttheatre.org.nz

Images can be found at The Court Theatre's [Media Centre](#)

For more information or to arrange an interview please contact:
Samantha McConnell, Marketing & Communications Manager
The Court Theatre, 03 963 0884, 0275 22 9700
samantha.mcconnell@courttheatre.org.nz

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