



# HARLEQUIN

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MUSICAL THEATRE

## **Next Show:**

'Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow'  
Bookings Open Now: [www.iticket.co.nz](http://www.iticket.co.nz)  
(09) 361 1000

Harlequin  
Musical Theatre  
*Newsletter*

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**HARLEQUIN**  
MUSICAL THEATRE

Proudly Presents  
A musical revue of shows from  
the last 50 years at the Harlequin

# Yesterday Today Tomorrow

Celebrating 50 years

**Songs you enjoy from musicals you love!**  
21 November - 5th December 2009

## **Presidents Report:**

First of all apologies for not sending out newsletters for a while. Things have been that hectic we have had trouble fitting everything in... but we promise we will get better.

I am sitting at rehearsals writing this report with half an eye on Vanessa Hales choreographing "All That Jazz", one of the numbers from our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Show. Please find enclosed a flyer with booking details – this really will be a history of the club's 50 years not to be missed!

What an exciting year we have had – first off our Anniversary Dinner at the Yacht Club – 100 members dressed up in their finery to enjoy dinner and entertainment by Lisa Lorrell and her band. We have a CD of photos from the evening for sale. See elsewhere for details how to buy. For the first part of '09 the theatre was taken over by Cats – bought to life by an excellent artistic team and cast. Artistically and financially a success, with over 33,000 people watching – we were very proud of it.

Back at the Harlequin we had "A Day in Paris", written by our very own Linda Charles. It showcased some old and new members, some of which have stayed with us for our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary show.

I am in midst of putting in for funding for air conditioning, but we still have a way to go and have only 6 months to use the money already granted us. Oh to win Lotto!

19 cast members make up our final show of the year: the set looks fantastic. Front of House is transforming the foyer and wardrobe is doing the same to the cast.

Why not make up a party and come and help celebrate? We open 21 November and run till 5 December. Matinees are 2pm on Sundays and 8pm every night except Monday.

See you there, *Sue*

## **Musical Theatre NZ 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary comes to Auckland:**

19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> March, Rydges, Auckland.

Conference, forums and seminars include marketing, sound, auditioning, set design, health & safety, venue design, fundraising, musical director's workshop, directing, stage management, costume, vocal techniques! Register now or contact Kate the MTNZ Administrator, [kate@musical.org.nz](mailto:kate@musical.org.nz) for further info and registration packs. At a cost of only \$20, if you are a member of a MTNZ society, (such as Harlequin Musical Theatre), it is a fantastic opportunity to learn from the best!

**Also... 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Dinner and Masquerade Ball at Sky City Convention Centre on the Saturday night - \$130 for a single ticket.**

See [www.musical.org.nz](http://www.musical.org.nz) for all details.

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## **Front of House Needs...**

Do you love the "smell of the grease paint" and the excitement of an opening night but don't particularly wish to strut your stuff on stage? No problem!

Why not become a Front of House Volunteer? We do everything to keep the theatre going, from ticketing and the selling of refreshments to ensuring that our audience is seated in their correct seats and the show starts on time, all without having to sing a single note.

So if this sounds like you, come and make new friends and join the Harlequin Front of House team by contacting:

**Ruth Sharp on (09) 5334 663  
or (021) 258 1148.**

## **Wardrobe Needs...**

Betty, Shirley, Connie and I are busy sewing new costumes which are coming together nicely for our next show. Connie is also helping with repairs and alterations needed as we fit the cast. We are happy with where we are at but if anyone could help us out with titivating costumes we would be extremely grateful.

We will also need dressers for the show, and that will have to be from the start of dress rehearsals, (14<sup>th</sup> Nov), so please if you know of someone who can help please tell us.

*Neroli Gifford and the Fantastic Wardrobe team*

## Progress Report on our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Show

I was unsure what to expect of the end of year show, Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow. I knew it was going to be a revue, and I knew it was a commemorative show for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, but that was the extent of my knowledge as I walked into the first rehearsal.

After that first day I was extremely excited about all the fantastic songs we were going to get to be a part of – everything from classic G & S tunes, right through to modern day musicals Chess, and Witches of Eastwick.

Our creative team, Susanne Dell, Campbell Downie and Vanessa Hales have quickly whipped us into shape and has managed to piece the jigsaw pieces of the songs, history, movement and harmonies together nicely. We've got everything from full dance numbers to crooning classics, nuns, angels, and much more – it's a tremendous show with something for everyone to enjoy.

This week, Simon Boyer-Willisson, our set designer and resident set builder John Rossiter have been very busy which has added a new dimension to the stage, and allows us to get a feel for how the show will look on the night. Boys sliding down ladders and bicycles being ridden across the stage have started to make it feel a lot more real and it's now looking like a show rather than a set of performances which is great to see.

The unexpected element for me has been the script. Adey Ramsel has written a hilarious script to accompany the fantastic songs, in some parts we will struggle not to laugh when delivering some of the lines which give the audience a unique blend behind the scenes look at life in the theatre, auditioning and being on committee.

There have been moments when I wondered if I can do it. Most notably our first tap dancing rehearsal. Feeling a little out of sorts I stepped onto the stage with my hands in my pockets. I was wondering if I could fake a headache or something, but I could see that wasn't going to work so I would just have to get stuck in. How did I manage to get dragged back into tap dancing after not wearing tap shoes for 29 years?

As it turns out the tap dancing is a huge amount of fun... the steps are all in place and just need to be polished and refined. Shame about our bathroom floor at home though... might need to replace a few of those tiles!

It's also all go behind the scenes... we've been prodded and measured for wardrobe by our lovely ladies, Neroli, Betty, Shirley and Connie – and Ashleigh has been running round gathering up champagne flutes, fans and all sorts of other stuff – it's all go!

What I especially love about this show is that everyone is a star. We all get to play a lead role somewhere along the way, and with such an easy going, fun loving cast it's proving to be heaps of fun. We get to laugh at each other on and off stage, and I for one, am looking forward to opening night. See you there!

*Clair*

### ***T-Shirt anybody?***

HMT will be selling T-shirts via the new website, featuring the new logo, to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Available Now.

### ***Backstage Bulletin:***

Backstage we are in the process of creating a set. We have already made platforms to span the width of the stage. This consisted of making nine frames and attaching plywood on top. Not without nail gun problems! Then cutting 54 legs with 108 coach bolts. It was an interesting sight, seeing nine frames lying on their backs waving all those legs in the air! So what's next? Well, everything! Including some scaffolding to provide a 2 metre plus platform – the cast will truly be experiencing the highs and lows of musical theatre. Painting the stage to look like old floor boards. Clocks, ropes hanging from the ceiling, bookcases, moving curtain tracks, and the possibility of people flying round the stage! As always, all help is welcome and appreciated. I guarantee you'll be part of a truly amazing set.

*Colin Franks*

This year Harlequin Musical Theatre has been trialing a number of initiatives to bring different types of social events to our members – in September we trialed our first Harlequin Jazz Café. The event was designed to be a night out with friends, where you could sit back and relax – enjoy the jazz, good company and with a low entry fee of \$15, provide excellent entertainment at great value. Harlequin's resident jazz band, 'LJ4', were performing, and to keep the audience entertained we also had a quiz rolling throughout the evening.

The stage was set up cabaret style – with table numbers as for the first time we introduced table service to the Harlequin! Guests just sat back, relaxed and enjoyed the show. To add to the café feel – nibbles were available for purchase throughout the evening with anti pasta platters and bread and dips proving favourite.

The evening was a resounding success – this will be one of our regular events. It's a testament how well the evening went that the band have asked permission to rename themselves 'Harlequin'; they want to become our resident jazz band and are excited to be coming back next year. I encourage you all to come along to the next jazz night; it's a fantastic night's entertainment where you can enjoy the ambience, music and good company.

*Claire*



February 2010 –  
Watch Newsletter for  
further details

Join 'Harlequin', HMT's resident jazz band with lead singer Sarah Macindoe, Terry Gill, (*keyboard*), Mike Geale (*drums*), Chris Watts (*sax*), Henrietta Tornyai (*base guitar*).

New Harlequin Musical Theatre Website: *Check out all our latest information, show details, auditions, show dates, social events, theatre gossip, photos and outside shows coming to the theatre:*

**[www.harlequintheatre.co.nz](http://www.harlequintheatre.co.nz)**

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**!URGENT!**

Stage Manager and Crew needed urgently for our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Show. Please contact Sue ASAP!

**!URGENT!**

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*CD of 150 photo's from our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner at Buckland's Beach Yacht Club. Only \$10 per CD. Email Sue for your copy.*

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***Next Newsletter:***

This year we will be giving you deadlines for our newsletters. Our newsletter is only as good as the information it contains. Please email anything to us, whether it be 'What's on' around town, theatre gossip, events, letters, cast news, show news, stories, reviews, news about new pro shows coming or been, in fact ANYTHING!! You getting the idea? We can't survive without you. All and everything can be emailed to:

[newsletter@harlequintheatre.co.nz](mailto:newsletter@harlequintheatre.co.nz)

**Deadline for December newsletter is:  
15<sup>th</sup> November 2009**