

Editor's Point of Cue –

June is busting out all over ... as the song goes – which is great if you are in the Northern Hemisphere – but here in the Southern – it's a time for wrapping up and hunkering down – the perfect time to organize a night out to the theatre and with Cue that's always a great option – air-conditioned, warm and comfortable. Our next production **'THE CEMETERY CLUB'** opens **next** week – **YES** it's show time again at Cue and from the moment you walk into the foyer and experience the new hassle free check in process and enjoy the foyer display – stunningly created by Peter and Selina Mackie and with some great help from Alan Stephenson and Peter Haines – you know that this is going to be a night to remember ... Good to see a turn out of 27 People at the annual general meeting – well run – highly efficient and Valda Hinz was returned unopposed as President – a full summary of the annual general meeting and accounts will be covered in the July newsletter - Michelle Chainey and Janice Ferens both stepped down from the committee and on behalf of all of us at Cue would like to say a huge thank you to them both for their contribution to the society whilst serving as officers last year.

LIVING, LAUGHING, LOVING with

By Ivan Menchell
& Directed by Peter Meikle

TET CUE THEATRE
38 Matai St, Inglewood
16TH – 27TH JUNE

the cemetery club

Three Jewish women and a night you will never forget!

TICKETS FROM
INGLEWOOD BOOK CENTRE
P 06 7567032

www.cuetheatre.co.nz



\$22.00 per person \$20.00 per person prepaid groups of 10+

Hindsight.

The only hindsight – will be the kicking yourself in hindsight if you miss out on getting your ticket to see The Cemetery Club – Cue to book now xx

Exciting to note that we have **Blair Hodson** to direct the November show at TET Cue Theatre – the hilarious 'LIPSTICK DREAMS' by outstanding Australian writers *Helen O'Connor & Simon Hopkinson* – 4 glorious female roles who will sing and dance their way into your hearts.. Audition notice further on in the newsletter.

WHAT BECOMES A LEGEND MOST

"THE CEMETERY CLUB"

STARRING
SELINA MACKIE, JULIET MCLEAN, NICCI SMITH,
JEFF SANDERS & GLORIA WEBBY

In Ivan Menchell's hit comedy 'The Cemetery Club' to be staged at Cue Theatre for a season from June 16th – 27th the question of what becomes a legend most is a core question that confronts 3 lifetime Jewish friends who live, laugh and love as they support each other through the process of widowhood.

In the truest sense of the word – Doris, Ida and Lucille are very merry widows – well off, independent, full of energy and hope – they go about their daily lives with humour, good intentions and loads of well meaning goodwill. Occasionally there is an untoward discussion about their collective ages, when sensitivity and tact are somewhat stretched but on the whole – they get on with life and with each other in a friendship that has lasted for over 35 years.

Doris is somewhat set in her ways and has many middle aged attitudes well honed by the hectoring of her late husband, Abe. Her view of marriage and its intentions of 'until death do us part' that is somewhat removed from the views of the feisty, flirty and downright lovable Lucille – now dedicated to being a 50ish female cougar, who has a taste for flashy fashion and fur trimmed outfits and a busy life via cell phone, on line chat rooms and generally picking up potential partners anywhere from parking lots to cemetery's. In the middle, the eternal peace and home maker is Ida – loving being a grandmother but ready to 'play the field' (Lucille's phrase) but not quite sure of what that means or where indeed the field or paddock maybe located.

Once a month they set off on the New York subway and visit the cemetery in Queen's where deceased husbands, Abe, Murray and Harry are in permanent residence. The women reminisce, the men listen – unable to riposte, complain or comment.

Selma is a serial bride – 7 times so far and goes through husbands like Lucille goes through nylons. Selma happens to consider it bad luck to use the same bridesmaids for more than one wedding – so our intrepid trio get the summons to help out this time – and so a sleep over is planned to conclude the big day. There was a saying in during WW11 'that loose lips sink ships' and after a boozy session a couple of torpedo's get fired off at the loose lips and all hell ensues. We also meet Sam – widowed in his early 50's when wife Merna died but now at the insistence of his son Ritchie, is starting to reach out for life again – Very Jewish, practical and really appreciated his double bypass heart operation following his 25th wedding anniversary and muses 'At least it was something I could use'.

Sam is also a regular guest at Selma's weddings so in good faith offers a lift to the trio, and turns up with his date for the night, Mildred, who is to say the least 'very brash' and with her running commentary in the rather over crowded car to the wedding sets the scene for the twists and turns that unfold as we follow Doris, Ida and Lucille to the play's conclusion.

Ivan Menchell is one of America's most respected modern playwrights – for a number of seasons was the lead writer of the hit TV series, 'The Nanny'. 'The Cemetery Club' is a great example of outstanding writing incorporating brilliant New York Jewish humour – sometimes wicked, outrageous, stinging, feisty – but always with the main eye on wonderful sentimental Jewish flavour that reflects a culture that is rich, passionate and totally involving. Menchell knows how to craft a script for the stage and this allows Actor's to deliver scintillating, challenging, and often hilarious dialogue. He creates fabulous characters in a true ensemble piece of acting. Clever, humorous, punchy American theatre at it's absolute best.

Cue Theatre has assembled a very strong production team for this outstanding play. Design is by Alan Stephenson; Wardrobe Anne Holloway and dresser Maureen Martin; Lighting design Michael Keats and Christine Turnbull and assisted by Lorraine Hitchcock; Sound and foyer design by Peter Mackie and operated by Julie Gillespie and Jim Williamson; Properties, Denise Fitzsimons and Karen Gwerder; Marketing Selina Mackie; Stage Manager, Ross Jordon and Assistant Stage Manager, Peter Haines; with the front of house team led by Mary Gyde.

Meet The Cast

Sweet tempered Ida is played by **Juliet McLean**, Juliet last worked with Peter in 2008 in Cue Theatre's production of Lettice and Lovage and last appeared at Cue in the visiting production of MGM Theatre's Talking Heads. She has appeared in various shows for New Plymouth Operatic Society including Cats, Oliver, Blood Brothers, Joseph and Chess, and has taken part in dinner and dance shows at the Plymouth International, such as 80's Rewind and Shake, Rhythm and Blues. She also has an ATCL Diploma in Speech and Drama.

Feisty and flashy Lucille is played by **Selina Mackie**, no stranger to Cue Theatre. Selina also appeared in Peter's production of Lettice and Lovage and his earlier production of Private Lives. Selina's introduction to theatre began in the early '80's with performances at Inglewood High School productions of Oliver, Sweeney Todd and Joseph. Her first of many appearances at Cue Theatre was in 1982 in three one-act plays directed by Heather Harrison. Since then other productions at Cue include A Christmas Carol, Alice in Wonderland and Conjugal Rites. Since 2008, Selina has been the Artistic Director of "Christmas at the Bowl". She is also a member of the "Playing Around" Professional Theatre Group.

Stoic Doris is played by **Nicci Smith**. Since arriving in New Plymouth from Scotland in 2002, Nicci has been no stranger to local theatre. She has appeared in numerous plays at Repertory including Dancing at Lughnasa and Snake in the Grass. She has also appeared in Betrayal and Good Things at Little Theatre and Brassed Off produced by New Plymouth Operatic Society. This is her second appearance at Cue Theatre, having recently starred alongside Peter and Jeff

Sanders in Leading Ladies. She made her directorial debut last year at Repertory with the Irish play Love in the Title.

Appearing as widower Sam, is **Jeff Sanders**. Jeff moved to New Plymouth from Christchurch to take up a teaching position at New Plymouth Girls' High School in 1991. That same year he appeared in New Plymouth Repertory Theatre's production of Amadeus. Since then he has appeared in New Plymouth Operatic's production of The Sound of Music. At Cue Theatre he has appeared in The Lion in Winter, Lettice and Lovage and Leading Ladies. He was also in Peter's production of Quartet at Little Theatre and has been involved in Stratford Shakespeare Festivals.

Brash and brassy Mildred is played by **Gloria Webby**. Gloria has had a lifelong passion for all aspects of theatre since first treading the boards as a student and has been taking part in live theatre ever since in productions such as pantomime, musicals and farce. She has been in several of Cue's productions and has appeared under the directorship of Peter in Quartet at Little Theatre and Lettice and Lovage at Cue Theatre.

'The Cemetery Clubs' also marks a personal milestone in the career for Director Meikle – 150 shows.

In 1962 he directed his very first production 'The Confutation of Wisdom' for Playbox Theatre in Hamilton as an entry in the British Drama League one act play festival when he was at school and winning the Junior Division as 'Best Producer' went on to direct his first Opera, Mozart's 'Bastien and Bastienne' (written by Mozart at the age of 12) for Fairfield College – he went onto study professional production in London and during the ensuing decades has directed, designed, wardrobe and acted in a career that spans theatre ranging from Medieval, Middle Ages, Jacobean, Shakespearian, Restoration, Classical and modern theatre, working on scripts from Russian, European, UK, American, Australian and many New Zealand writers. Meikle traveled extensively throughout Australia, Mexico and Asia reading Australian poets for publisher, Rigby Books in the late 70's, He has worked in the UK, Australia, America and extensively throughout New Zealand directing Opera, musicals, theatre restaurant and theatre productions and has worked in film and television. Previous credits at Cue include 'Lion in Winter' (wardrobe) 'Private Lives', 'Lettice and Lovage' 'Love Letters' (Director) and recently 'Leading Ladies' and has just been elected as secretary for the Society at its recent Annual General Meeting.

Performance Dates

GALA OPENING NIGHT:

Wednesday 16 June -7.30 pm – GALA OPENING from 6.45 pm

Thursday 17 June – 7.30 pm

Friday 18 June – 7.30 pm

Saturday 19 June – 7.30 pm

Sunday 20 June - matinee only – 2.00 pm

Monday 21 June – No performance

Tuesday 22 June – 7.30 pm

Wednesday 23 June – 7.30 pm

Thursday 24 June – 7.30 pm

Friday 25 June – 7.30 pm

Saturday 26 June – 7.30 pm

Sunday 27 June – Final performance at 2.00 pm



Calendar of events

June 16 – Opening night ‘The Cemetery Club’ by Ivan Menchell, directed by Peter Meikle.

June 23 – July 3 ‘Oliver’ on stage at Memorial Hall, Hawera.

July 3 – Saturday 1.00 pm AUDITIONS ‘Lipstick Dreams at TET Cue Theatre, Director Blair Hodson

With recalls on Sunday 4 July.

17th – 28th November – ‘Lipstick Dreams’ by *Helen O’Connor & Simon Hopkinson ...* directed by Blair Hodson at TET Cue Theatre.

DECEMBER 12th December – Cue Xmas Party

WOMAD – 11th–13th March 2011

July – August 2011 International Arts

Coming out to Cue ??

MAKE A NIGHT AT CUE THEATRE AN INGLEWOOD EXPERIENCE

There is no other theatre in the region with such a choice of quality dining establishments within a maximum of three minutes walk from the theatre ... easy parking and a great show – what more could you wish for!

MACFARLANES CAFFE One Kelly Street, Inglewood – Phone 06 7566665
Open Wednesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday evenings for pre-show dining from 5.00pm with BYO Bottled Wine. Bookings advised. Also open for brunch each Sunday prior to the matinee performance.

FERNLODGE INGLEWOOD Matai Street, Inglewood – Phone 06 7567220
Open seven nights for pre-show dining from 5.00pm – fully licensed with Guinness on tap.

FUNK FISH Matai Street, Inglewood – Phone 06 7567287 Open Tuesday – Sunday for evening meals from 5.00pm. Bookings advised.

So something for everyone. Don’t **forget INGLEWOOD SHOPRITE** for all your beverage requirements if dining with BYO facilities – an excellent wine selection every day and open from 8am-8pm.

For more information on what’s happening in Inglewood check out www.inglewood.co.nz

Cue and electronic age

Not only do we have the newsletter by email, our website www.cuetheatre.co.nz but now we have a facebook page – it’s well worth a visit, interactive and a great place to share thoughts, memories and photographs – set up by Justin Lowcay (Leading Ladies) and supported by current ‘Cemetery Club’ associate director Nicci Smith – it is well worth a look at www.facebook.com / cue theatre. For the older members

(and I include myself in this category) the new age of facebook is a revelation and a great way to meet a huge potential of new members for Cue Theatre..

Cue is now truly global in communication and a great challenge for us to meet as we appeal to a new generation.

CHECK IT OUT – IT’S HOT.....

Auditions for our next production ‘Lipstick Dreams’

LIPSTICK DREAMS

FOUR WOMEN, FOUR DREAMS

AND ONE NIGHT TO MAKE THEM COME TRUE

By Helen O’Connor & Simon Hopkinson (Aust)

Directed by Blair Hodson

on stage at TET Cue Theatre

from 17th – 28th November 2010

Auditions – Saturday 3 July at 1.00 pm with

recalls on Sunday 4 July

Contact Director, Blair Hodson

blairh@alinz.co.nz for details and a script or

phone him on 021 738314

Contact us at Cue

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|------------|-------------------|---------|
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