

Editor's Point of Cue -

March 2010 – Summer has come and gone and now the essence of Autumn is with us. However let me not digress - Rehearsals are in full swing for 'Leading Ladies' and from personal experience, behind the sewing machine – I can tell you that this is going to be an outstanding production. Director, Margie Arthur is heading up a team of totally focused production personnel dedicated to bringing this outstanding script from Ken Ludwig to fruition at Cue. Watching, as I do from behind the scenes, allows me the time to observe the machine that springs into action each time we mount a production. Props, prompting, sound, lighting, set décor, wardrobe, make up, production manager and secretary, marketing and publicity, front of house and ushering - These are the unsung hero's. Behind every actor there is a team of at least 2 or 3 people in every department who unstintingly give of their time to ensure that we reach the public looking at our best. This particular production has a huge wardrobe – everything has to be washed and ironed most nights of the season – sweaty actors, stepping out of costumes and panty hose, arrive the next day and hey presto the magic wand has been waved and all is calm and ready – no mean feat and all done quietly and without fuss – this is what Cue is all about. Director's creating a team and the team get on with the work. People who just give so generously of their time and talent to make the show happen. The quiet power of your society that just gets on with core business and keeps the society going.

Hindsight.

Great to see the 'Leading Ladies' New Plymouth cast and crew car pooling their way to Inglewood but not sure about the rumour of one cast car overtaking the other – and in other said car a well known actor mooning the over takers..is this true??

Next production

Opens March 23rd

"LEADING LADIES"

Cue Theatre is proud to bring to Taranaki this NZ Premiere of the new outrageous BRITISH comedy by

Ken Ludwig ('Lend Me a Tenor')

and directed by Margi Arthur

Tuesday 23rd March - Saturday 3rd April 2010 See performance dates below for times and dates.

No 'Contents may offend' label needed for this fabulous forthcoming production. 'Leading Ladies' has been described as a combination of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* meets Billy Wilder's *Some Like It Hot*. Mix in a huge range of salutes to other great classics and you get the idea - Not bad company! These are two of the most profoundly beautiful—and hysterically funny stories ever told. In the hands of Ken Ludwig, this tale of mistaken identities, human foibles, and loves lost and found (not to mention cross-dressing) comes alive in a hilarious romp that has had great success in regional theatres overseas.

Delightfully sexy, 'Leading Ladies' follows the adventures of Jack and Leo, two down-on-their-luck Shakespearean actors, who hope to scam their way out of the Moose Lodge circuit where they are reduced to playing scene's from the works of one William Shakespeare by posing as the long-lost nephews of Florence, an elderly and apparently dying heiress. When our heroes learn that Florence's missing relatives are in fact nieces, not nephews, they ransack their imaginations and costume trunks, don women's clothing and the mayhem starts—but their successful masquerade proves problematic when Leo falls head-over-heels for Florence's winsome niece, Meg and when Doc and Butch both 'press their suits' for the passions of the hapless 'Leading Ladies'.

Will Jack and Leo inherit millions and spend the rest of their lives in the lap of luxury? Will Meg marry her stuffy, fortune-hunting fiancé or follow her dream of seeing the big, wide world? Slapstick goofiness, scrambled Shakespeare, and good-natured laughs make *Leading Ladies* an irresistible treat not to be missed.

From Director - Margi Arthur

At the time of publication, there are a mere three weeks to go until the Gala Opening of the New Zealand Premiere of *Leading Ladies*, written by Ken Ludwig and directed by Margi Arthur.

Now, while three weeks in the theatre world is actually a long time, in reality it means – for the cast, crew and director – there are only nine rehearsals left. These nine rehearsals are the ones during which critical technical and artistic elements of the production kick in: sound effects, the rigging of lighting and the first technical rehearsals; choreography; properties, wardrobe, set dressing, final set adjustments and décor; publicity photos, hair, makeup, set crew, stage management – well, the list goes on and on.

While these elements are usual in all theatre productions, in a production as large and challenging as *Leading Ladies*, these become more complex and require high levels of skill and experience. Staging *Leading Ladies* has therefore necessitated the expertise and willingness of a myriad of wonderful, talented people.

Set Designer and Head of Set Building team, Alan Stevenson – words cannot do you justice. You are infinitely talented, hardworking and, well, just downright lovely to work with! For your magnificent coordination of the set building, take a bow, Jimmy Williamson. And a big Thank You to Bert Squires for his cheerful personality and valued carpentry skills. Set Decor Artist, Kellie Mills – what a human dynamo and miracle worker you truly are! Production Manager, the busy, tireless, blessedly patient Ross Jordan, you are a star in your own right! President and Head of Wardrobe, Valda Hinz, along with

Wardrobe Assistant, Peter Meikle, you both hit the ground running on the day of auditions, hauling out potential costumes, and thereafter ensuring every single cast member is costumed stunningly: big bouquets to you both. Head of Properties, Jo Fuller, you are never ceasing to amaze with your devotion to authenticity, and Set Dresser, Marie Pearce we so appreciate your casting the net far and wide in order to grace the elegant set with equally elegant period furniture and soft furnishings. Seamstress extraordinaire, Daphne Carter - a big hug for so lovingly and meticulously creating some of the fineries of Miss Florence Snider's wardrobe; and similarly, hats off to Anne Holloway for the stunning Shakespearean costumes you have made for Meg and Audrey. Terry Dombroski - now there's a living legend in theatre circles - once more you have climbed to dizzying heights to rig lighting which will spill perfectly over the set and actors. Peter Mackie, sound effects wizard, a huge chorus of "Hallelujahs!" to you for your hours of research and recording. The inimitable hair, wig, costume and bling genius, Stephen Rose: how lucky we have been to have you so generously giving of your time and international expertise whilst flitting back and forth from London, where you are working on the latest Harry Potter movie! The gift of bringing out the dancer inside every actor is truly yours, Carolyn Murphy - our clever, treasured Choreographer. Poster and Publicity Photographer, Roger Richardson of FreezeFrame Photographics - your energy, imagination and magical skills will be forever remembered and indelibly recorded. Selina Mackie, our sensational Marketing and Promotions Executive - how do you do it? Your sheer efficiency, speed and professionalism are mind-blowing! Without giving too much away, the lucky theatre-goers who get to see this first-class, hysterically funny play, are guaranteed surprises, laughs and a total fun-fest. Throw in a roller-skating waitress, men who fall in love with men dressed as women, women who fall in love with men dressed as women, a cracker of a tango and some swashbuckling swordfighting, you have - well, an hysterically funny play which entertains, never lets up on the laughs and leaves you feeling completely satisfied. To snare yourself a ticket to this exceptional

production, book at Inglewood Book Centre, phone 756 7032. See you there....

Tickets: On sale at The Inglewood Book Centre from 7th February 2010 @ \$22.00 per person or \$20.00 per person for pre-paid group bookings of 10 or more. Please phone 06 756 7032.

Performance Dates

NZ PREMIERE GALA OPENING NIGHT:

Tuesday 23rd March from 7.15pm - performance 8.00 pm
 Wednesday 24th March - 8.00 pm
 Thursday 25th March - 8.00 pm
 Friday 26th March - 8.00 pm
 Saturday 27th March - 8.00 pm
 Sunday 28th March - matinee only - 4.00 pm
 Monday 29th March - 8.00 pm
 Tuesday 30th March - 8.00 pm
 Wednesday 31st March - 8.00 pm
 Thursday 1st April - 8.00 pm
 Friday 2nd April - Good Friday - no performance scheduled
 Saturday 3rd April - 8.00 pm

STOP PRESS: Bookings are already extremely heavy so ensure you are not going to miss out - Book NOW

And to follow..

'The Cemetery Club'

An outstanding and heartwarming comedy by **Ivan Menchell**

PETER MEIKLE ('PRIVATE LIVES' 'LOVE LETTERS' & 'LETTICE AND LOVAGE')

RETURNS TO CUE TO DIRECT THIS WONDERFUL AMERICAN PLAY AT TET CUE THEATRE FROM 16TH - 27TH JUNE 2010 - WELCOME BACK TO CUE THEATRE PETER

This popular and highly successful play is fabulously funny and heart wrenchingly poignant. Three Jewish widows meet once a month to visit their husbands' graves. Each widow has her own humorous eccentricities, expectations and modes of survival. Sweet-tempered Ida is ready to begin a new life, feisty and flashy Lucille just wants to have fun, and proper Doris is fully committed to widowhood. Sam the butcher meets the widows while visiting his wife's grave and becomes smitten with Ida. *The Cemetery Club* is a poignant and playful tribute to the art of living and laughing, and facing the challenges of growing older. This

funny, sweet and moving comedy will make you glad that you went to the theatre. Tickets on sale at Inglewood Book Centre from 1st May 2010. Casting is just about complete for this production and will be announced in the next newsletter.

Learning curves at Cue..

'Dancing with the Stars' - eat your heart out. Learning to tango and waltz for many of the cast of 'Leading Ladies' has been a major learning curve and Choreographer Carolyn Murphy works with love and passion to create the dazzling dance sequences - **priceless**

'Leading Ladies' insight #2

Kristen Devine on roller skates being caught by Anthony Jones before she rollers into the auditorium - panty hose meets real wheels - **priceless**

'Leading Ladies' insight #3

Calendar of events

February -
 March 4 - 10 Stratford's of the World festival in Stratford.

March 15th - COMMITTEE MEETING 7.00 pm
 March 23 - April 3 'Leading ladies' by Ken Ludwig, directed by Margi Arthur.

May - Annual General Meeting - Thursday MAY 17 at 7.00 pm - Mark your diary NOW

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.

In other news

President - Valda Hinz is soon to be a Grandmother again 'years shall not weary us' however after her well deserved Australian holiday, is totally absorbed in creating the fabulous wardrobe for 'Leading Ladies' - an apt description, Valda ..

Vice President - Denise Fitzsimons and partner Kevin are proud new owners of a camper van - BUT this is no ordinary 'rent a tent' on wheels with canvas dunny - but a beautifully equipped (including shower) mobile home - many happy holidays to you both and safe travelling but remember Cue is where the heart is..

Great to see **Noreen Hobo** back on deck – her enthusiasm and passion for Cue is an inspiration to us all and it's great to have you back.

Steven Rose – who created the amazing wiggery and make up for 'Lettice and Lovage' is helping out with his usual skill and dedication on 'Leading Ladies' – He has totally created Lea Michael's persona for this production – who in between his filming commitments in the UK and Europe – currently working on the latest 'Harry Potter' film in Britain - flew home for a summer holiday break and without reservation undertook to help out. Director, Margi Arthur is amazed that a man of his talent is so supportive of Cue theatre and it's objectives and is overwhelmed by his contribution. See Steven's results by attending a performance – You will be amazed. Even Lea's husband, Cecil Michaels – usually a quiet and very reserved man told QnU 'that he is staggered by the transformation in his wife and has fallen in love with her all over again' and thanks Steven from the bottom of his heart.

Cue life member **Derek Treeby** is directing the powerful American classic 'Cat on a hot tin roof' by Tennessee Williams for New Plymouth Little Theatre – season on stage 15 – 23 April. **Blair Hodson** – a previous Cue Director (The Odd Couple) is in the cast – and QnU is delighted to announce that Blair will be directing show number 3 for 2010 at Cue. As they say ... 'watch this space'

Club Nights

Many members have expressed interest in club nights and we are pleased to announce that during winter 2010 we will be running a series of 'play readings' Every fortnight a script will be selected and any member, or friends of same sit around the heaters and read scripts – It's a great way to hear plays read out loud, to discover new scripts or to rediscover old classics that for various reason's would never be given a full production – it's a safe and friendly environment for absolute beginners to join in and gain experience of 'live performance' – watch the newsletter for further details .If you would like to hear a script read during this season – no matter how obscure – Any suggestions for scripts that may be read – contact backstage@cuetheatre.co.nz

The season will get underway in June and go through the winter months – Winter warmth with *Cocoa*, *Cue* and good scripts.

Annual General Meeting

The annual general meeting of the Inglewood Dramatic Society – Cue Theatre – will be held in the TET Cue Theatre auditorium on Thursday May 13 at 7.00 pm – We will talk

more about this in the next newsletter but as a member of the Society this is your opportunity to help decide the direction and future of the theatre – a most important part of the democratic process of theatre management and one which all members and intending members should be actively involved in.

New Members

ARE always welcome – email us at backstage@cuetheatre.co.nz for a membership pack.

Contact us at Cue

President: Valda Hinz 7568747
 V/Pres: Denise Fitzsimons 7575151
 Secretary: Michelle Chainey 7522564
 Treasurer: Sheryl Hamilton 7568242
 Committee: Ross Jordan 7567719
 Margaret Green 7566318
 Mary Gyde 7567078
 Janice Ferens 7566692
 Noreen Hobo 7510263

Email: backstage@cuetheatre.co.nz



LEADING LADIES

AN HILARIOUS
COMEDY

BY KEN LUDWIG
DIRECTED BY MARGI ARTHUR

STARRING ANTONY JONES
& ANDREW JUDD

TUESDAY 23RD MARCH -
SATURDAY 3RD APRIL
2010

Tickets from Inglewood Book
Centre – phone 06 7567032

A NZ PREMIERE PRODUCTION
at TET Cue Theatre
38 Matai Street, Inglewood
www.cuetheatre.co.nz