

COMPANY THEATRE

Presents:



The Pohutukawa Tree

by Bruce Mason

To Celebrate Takapuna's 75th Jubilee

Directed by Anne Potter



As patron of Company Theatre and a keen supporter of the performing arts on the North Shore, I would like to take this opportunity to wish Company Theatre and its members every success with their production of "Pohutukawa Tree".

Company Theatre's choice of "Pohutukawa Tree" for the Takapuna City 75th Jubilee celebrations is very apt. Firstly, the author, Bruce Mason, lived in Takapuna for many years attending both Belmont Primary School and Takapuna Grammar School; and, secondly, the name Pohutukawa Coast, symbolises the importance of the pohutukawa tree in our coastal environment.

With best wishes for a successful season,

Wyn Hoadly
MAYOR, TAKAPUNA CITY

The Pohutukawa Tree

Time: The Late 1940's

Act I Scene i The Porch of the Mataira house
 Scene ii The Wedding Marquee, following day

INTERVAL

Act II Scene i Three months later
 Scene ii Next morning

Act III Some months later

Cast (in order of appearance)

Queenie Mataira	Dawn Moss
Roy McDowell	Gary Patterson
Rev Athol Sedgwick	Bernard Hoult
Aroha Mataira	Zella Gilbert
Johnny Mataira	Nathan Smith
Mrs Atkinson	Anne McDonnell
Sylvia Atkinson	Marie Ortquist
Mr Atkinson	Graeme Carrie
George Rawlings	Steve O'Hara
Dr Lomas	Paul Green
Claude Johnson	Ken Gilbert
Mrs Johnson	Jan Roache
Sgt. Robinson	Ken Gilbert
Wedding Guests	Michelle Hilton, Judi Judkins
	Peter Fitzgibbon, Megan Chan
	Rite Smith, Michelle Bulled
	Megan Williams, Adelaide Jones
	Wyn Hoadley, Adrian Christiansen
	Megan Finlay

Production Crew

<u>Production Assistant</u>	Kirsten Hanna
<u>Stage Manager</u>	Steve O'Hara
<u>Asst Stage Manager</u>	Freddy Woods
<u>Wardrobe</u>	Annabel Newnham, Megan Williams
	Katherine Kennedy, Michelle Hilton, Kirsten Hanna
<u>Hair Design</u>	Lauren Pope
<u>Make Up</u>	Lauren Pope, Marie Ortquist, Michelle Bulled
<u>Properties</u>	Adelaide Jones, Muriel Jones
<u>Set Design</u>	Freddy Woods, Anne Potter
<u>Set Construction</u>	Freddy Woods, Steve O'Hara
	Neil Burgham, Anne Potter, Ros Clews, Yvonne Burgham
	Marie Ortquist, Zella Gilbert, Steven McTague, Peter Fitzgibbon
	Rite Smith, Megan Chan
<u>Lighting/Sound</u>	Mark Oswin, Steven McTague
<u>Publicity</u>	Megan Finlay, Ros Clews, Neil Burgham, Anne Potter
	Zella Gilbert
<u>Photographs</u>	Sally Randell
<u>Programme</u>	Freddy Woods
<u>Front of House</u>	Neil Burgham, Yvonne Burgham
	Leanne Watkins, Wendy Kristensen



Aroha Mataira - Zella Gilbert

Born and educated in Rotorua, amongst a family of entertainers, Zella is no stranger to the stage. Zella has mainly been involved in cultural performances, representing New Zealand in promotional performances overseas. In the month previous to rehearsal, she was on a promotional tour of Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand.

This is Zella's first acting role, and certainly a challenge with her professional commitments to keep up with, as well as her three children and husband; all of whom are heavily involved with amateur theatre. Company welcomes her to the group, and wishes her the best of luck.



Queenie Mataira - Dawn Moss

Dawn started in the theatre about nine years ago, (returning, having just had four years off for good behaviour!). Her experience lies in productions of Shakespeare, drama, comedy, musicals and pantomime.

Dawn says that the highlight of her theatrical past was playing "Mabel" in Gilbert and Sullivan's "The Pirates of Penzance". She has six years singing training under her belt and likes to sing anything classical, operatic, folk or even rock. When asked about her future plans, she said "Lets wait and see".



Johnny Mataira - Nathan Smith

This role represents Nathans first ever step on stage. Although a complete newcomer to the theatre, he says he has always been interested in acting, and this is the "break" he has been waiting for.

Currently a student, Nathan describes himself as essentially shy when it comes to meeting new faces, but will not let it stand in his way to do well in his career. He is a another new member to Company, who are keen to encourage him through an exciting and varied acting future. Good luck with your first role Nathan!

Rev. Athol Sedgwick - Bernard Hoult

Bernard is returning to the theatre now after two years away. He has had several years experience both on the stage, playing comedy roles and pantomime, and behind the scenes as Stage Manager and an Assistance Crew member. (In the theatre, Assistance Crew is defined as doing anything that needs doing; usually, this means just about everything!).

Bernard has become a valued member of Company, and we look forward to many productions with him in the future.



Roy McDowell - Gary Patterson

When Gary was a student at Northcote College, he was heavily involved with their drama productions, including his favourite, "Stiff Luck for the Undertaker". Whilst at university, he appeared in some of their theatre productions and is now keen on becoming active again. His most recent performance was in the 1988 Winter Shakespeare production of "The Tempest" at The Pumphouse. After this production, Gary says he would like to get more involved in the theatre, especially comedy.



Mrs Atkinson - Anne McDonnell

Anne, a speech and drama teacher, is another newcomer to Company Theatre. She acted with the Howick Little Theatre during the 1960's, and produced a play in Central Otago. During the 1970's she taught speech and drama in Wanganui as well as acting for Wanganui Repertory. She then returned to full-time work as a speech/language therapist. We are hoping that Anne will continue with Company for some time to come.



Clive Atkinson - Graeme Carrie

Graeme says that he is interested in acting to improve his personal skills. We are not sure exactly what this means, but we do know that his wife likes the idea of it! Graeme is another band player who is new to Company, and who will be drawing on his band experience to cope with the nerves of first time acting.

Sylvie Atkinson - Marie Ortquist

This is Marie's first production in Auckland, before which she was involved in amateur theatre in Napier. As a member of the Napier Frivolity Minstrels, Marie gained experience in Cabaret, Restaurant Theatre and Pantomime.

Dr Lomas - Paul Green

Registered Psychologist and father of two children, Paul's theatrical past includes "Hamlet", Noel Coward's "Waiting in the Wings" and this year's Winter Shakespeare at the Pumphouse, "The Tempest".

Sgt. Robinson & Claude Johnson - Kenneth Gilbert

Appearing in a play is a new experience for Ken, but performing on stage certainly isn't; for he has a long and distinguished career as a euphonium player for 25 years. He is six times New Zealand National Euphonium champion, as well as winning the coveted New Zealand Champion of Champions title in 1986.

George Rawlings - Steve O'Hara

Steve is no stranger to performing in front of an audience, since he is also a drummer in a Rock 'n' Roll band, which, he explains, is the reason for his rather off-beat approach to acting. He considers himself ideally suited to the part of decorated WWII veteran George, having been an an army officer himself for six years.



Director's Note

"The Pohutukawa Tree" has been a challenge for all of us. It is an extra show in Company's normal schedule and we have had to rely on a lot of people coming in from the community. We have been extremely fortunate in the quality of our cast, many of whom have never been on stage before. We are hoping however, that they will now stay with Company for a long time. The crew deserve our special thanks for their hard work over long hours.

I was delighted to have the opportunity to direct "The Pohutukawa Tree". It stands out in NZ drama, and, in fact, world drama, as a sensitive, complex, well structured play which pulls no punches in raising sensitive issues but, in raising them, reduces them to individual backgrounds, heritages, or opinions. The only categorical statement this play makes - and it does it merely by existing - is that we are a whole world of human beings with our fears, loves, ideals and histories. We all have to live in this world and with ourselves and each other. To me it is a statement of harmony.

It has been a privilege to work with this cast and crew. We are drawn from many cultures and traditions and in ourselves represent the harmony that Bruce Mason was exploring, and I believe, hoping for.

Anne Potter

Shows to Watch Out For

Move Over Mrs Markham

A delightful farce by Ray Cooney. Directed by Ruth Mathieson, with Yvonne Burgham, Freddy Woods, Karen Ward, Ros Clews, Neil Burgham, Peter Segrove, Bernard Hoult, and Leanne Watkins. Highly recommended.

Performance dates: 30th November - 10th December

Murder On The Nile

Watch your newsletters for audition and performance dates (or leave your name if you would like them sent to you).