

GLOBE THEATRE NEWSLETTER
Productions

Next production

Twelfth Night by William Shakespeare

6-15 October (excluding 10 October)

Usual times/prices will apply (as per flyer that you have either received already if we have your email address or are receiving with this Newsletter if not).

There is one change from the information you have been given; Brian Beresford has withdrawn from the final weeks of rehearsals because of a worsening health problem and Neal Barber has taken over completely as director. We are very grateful to Neal for the sterling support he has given both to Brian and the Globe and look forward to seeing a memorable (for all the right reasons!) and well-attended production.

Final production for the year

A Life in Theatre by David Mamet

1 - 10 December 2005 (excluding 5 December)

"The king is dead. Long live the king! The passage of knowledge and power from age to youth has been the stuff of theatre for centuries. In Mamet's version, which is directed by Mark Neilson, the 'king' is a man of charm and stature, a doyen of the stage for whom the stage is his life. The other in this 2-person play is a much younger man who is eager to learn all that he can from his much-admired mentor - until the time that he recognises that he is now the top-dog, the other a sad has-been. The shifting balance of power is played out against a backdrop (and foreground) of scenes from the many plays in which they appear together on this journey, during a voyage that is often hilarious but which brings with it the sadness of losses that are the inevitable consequences of aging."

(Thanks to Mark for stepping in so willingly to fill the gap left by the postponed production of Blood of the Lamb - and we hope you all caught Mark's performance in the splendid TV 'mocumentary', The Pretender.)

Programme 2006

The Globe committee is currently looking at all the various suggestions that have been made for next year's six main productions and is working with these to provide our usual mix of modern and older classics, European, American and, of course, Australasian plays. If you have a burning desire to see something staged at the Globe or perhaps to direct a play for the Globe, do please get in touch as soon as you can. We would like to have the programme in place by the end of the month so that we may inform schools and other organisations as well as our members.

Publicity

JAG marketing

During your last visit to the theatre, you may have noticed that a couple of young people were making notes about the arriving audience or have been asked to participate in focus groups they were conducting to discover more about the features that bring people into the Globe - and those features that could be changed or improved. (Yes, the chill of winter was one thing that was mentioned!)

These young people were students in the University's department of marketing who had chosen the Globe theatre as their honours project. We have been delighted by the effort they have put into their work, have been excited by the preliminary suggestions they have given us, based on their research, for marketing the Globe more effectively not just to existing aficionados but to those who may not have realised just what a treasure we have in this theatre and those many people who work in it and for it. When we receive the final recommendations, we will share them with you all and implement as many as possible, within our financial limitations.

Globe Theatre web site

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We have been considering for some time that the Globe really did need to have its own web- site, this being such an important aspect of business visibility, but have been hampered by uncertainties about the initial creation and on-going maintenance of such a site. We are reasonably confident now that we can manage both and hope that we might be able to have it in place by the start of next year.

Building and grounds

New Zealand Historic Places Trust

Some of you may have seen a public notice in the ODT a few weeks ago that informed readers that the Trust was nominating 104 London Street, otherwise known as the Globe Theatre, for a Category 1 listing based on its civic and cultural importance, firstly because it was designed by and lived in by New Zealand's first architect, William Mason and secondly because it was converted from a house into the now well-known 'theatre in a house'. We are delighted with this proposal and hope that the recommendation will be accepted.

Exterior repairs and painting

The painting of the upper (less visible from the street) side of the building has been started. However, we have since discovered that we need to damp-proof the block bricks on that side to prevent seeping of water into the auditorium area. This in turn will necessitate additional repairs to the woodwork on that side, beyond what we had originally budgeted (about \$6,000 more). We do have sufficient in our reserves, including the grant of \$2,500 we have already been given by the Community Trust of Otago, but this would leave very little for other on-going costs or emergencies. So if there is anyone out there who has special skills as a fundraiser and would like to put them to use for the Globe, we would really like to hear from you urgently!

Wardrobe

Roz McKechnie, our wardrobe manager, has been very successful recently in negotiating funding from both the DCC Community funding and the Community Trust of Otago to assist with the upgrade of the wardrobe. This has not only provided us with better storage containers, etc but also, even more importantly, with the services of another talented and hard-working person, Claire Hewitt, who has made a huge difference to the organisation of the collection in just a few weeks already.

A Theatre in the House

This may be a familiar title to many of you. It is the title of the book written by Rosalie Carey and published by University of Otago Press in 1999 and documents the history of the creation of the Globe Theatre by Rosalie and her husband, Patric Carey in 1961, with lots of anecdotes about the dramas (on-stage and off) both before then and afterwards. We have now purchased a number of copies from University of Otago Press and, with Rosalie's permission, will sell them at a special reduced rate to members (\$8) and the general public (\$10). If you do not yet have a copy, you can either buy one during productions, when they will be available in the box office area, or by contacting the theatre in the usual way, by letter, phone or email.

Drama Classes

Finally, a thank you to the two people, Prue Clark and Fran Hackshaw, who have worked so well with our junior and senior student classes during the last two terms of this year and another thank you to the other two people, Claire Hewitt and Nigel Ensor who have stepped into the gap left by the departure of Prue and Fran. The Globe drama classes were set up by Rosalie Carey in the 1960s and have helped nurture the talents of many of those who have gone on to make a life for themselves in the theatrical and other performance professions. They are thus a very important part of the Globe's continuing raison d'etre so we are delighted that will, as always, be in good hands.

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Secretary
Friends of the Globe Theatre
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