

HOWICK LITTLE THEATRE

presents

# THE CASE OF THE FRIGHTENED LADY



A comedy  
written by **Bill Scott**,  
based on the novel  
by **Edgar Wallace**

Directed by  
**Penel Keegan**

**NOT EVEN THE  
BUTLER KNOWS  
WHO DID IT**

**3 - 24 MAY  
2025**

**ITICKET**

**HLT.NZ/FRIGHT**

Howick  
Local Board   
Auckland Council



Please switch off cellphones before entering the theatre.  
It is strictly forbidden for audience members to make any form of recording of this production.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Senica Calder for help with costumes, and David Gifford for the loan of a desk and chair.  
Special thanks to the Dolphin Theatre for set pieces, props, and grass.

## SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A big thank you to the Howick Local Board for a grant towards our security system upgrade.  
We now have better technology and greater visibility around the building 24/7, which will help keep the property and all its users safe.



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HOWICK LITTLE THEATRE

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# THE CASE OF THE FRIGHTENED LADY

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

A quote from the *Irish Times*: “Bill Scott’s melodramatic, helter-skelter, DIY whodunnit is a dizzying tangle of red herrings and black humour.” So, there you have a professional review of the play you are about to see. And it’s very accurate.

“Would you like to direct the play *The Case of the Frightened Lady*? Laurie and I think you would be able to do so” (or words to that effect from our Artistic Advisor). So, obviously, my next step was to read the script. It came off the page in random confusion, to be honest, but I forged ahead and accepted the role of director. I couldn’t have been blessed with a more wonderful

cast – experienced, collaborative and utterly brilliant. I take it as a compliment that I have directed the three lads before: they were prepared to suffer my directing again! And the two female roles have been so ably taken on by two newbies to HLT. A warm welcome to Hannah and Victoria.

Heartfelt thanks go to a supportive team that you, our dear audience, don’t see. My special thanks must go to my Production Co-ordinator, Laurie Mills, without whom I would not have managed to get the play where it is. He is truly amazing.

*Penel Keegan*

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**Setting:** Edgar Wallace’s study, England, 1932.

**There will be a 20-minute interval between Acts One and Two.**

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## THE CAST

### **Edgar Wallace**

Matthew Cousins

### **Mrs Wallace**

Hannah Thipthorpe

### **Baxter**

Arthur Young

### **Jenifer**

Victoria MacCulloch

### **Gardner**

James Calverley

## PRODUCTION CREATIVES

### **Director**

Penel Keegan

### **Production**

**Co-ordinator/**

**Rehearsal Prompt**

Laurie Mills

### **Set Design & Décor**

Emma Bishop

### **Lighting Design**

Blake Ingram

### **Sound Design**

Jan Saussey,  
Rhys Owen

### **Wardrobe Design**

Judy Rankin

### **Stage Manager**

Trevor Hynes

### **Assistant Stage Manager**

Bruce Wighton

### **Trainee Backstage**

**Assistant**

Bairón Falado

### **Properties**

Laurie Mills

### **Props Trainee**

Sarah Watt

### **Technical Operators**

Tony Simmons,  
Rosie Elder

### **Intimacy Adviser**

Arthur Young

### **Graphic Design**

Emma Love

### **Photography**

AJ Johnston

### **Set Foreman**

David Gifford

### **Set Construction Crew**

Doug Johnston  
Chris Woodhead  
Nathan Hey  
Ian McMahan  
Laurie Mills  
Dan Vlad  
Andrew Walden



**PENELOPE KEEGAN**

**Director**

Penel has been round the traps for some years now, both on stage and as director. It's nearly 30 years since her first appearance at HLT in *The Darling Buds of May*. Being of retirement age, she is lucky enough to be able to do a couple of volunteer jobs, stave off the inevitable by a minimum of three gym visits per week, and help her family whenever needed. She is currently helping two of her grandsons to learn to drive! Her five grandchildren are all taller than her, so finally she is the shortest member of the family – no more measuring needed!



**MATTHEW COUSINS**

**Edgar Wallace**

Matthew is delighted to be back on stage again at HLT. He last appeared in 2024 in *Around the World in 80 Days* as Phileas Fogg and is loving working with new and old friends in this production. By day, he works as an osteopath at his home clinic in Half Moon Bay.



**HANNAH THIPTHORPE**

**Mrs Wallace**

Hannah is very excited for her theatre debut in Auckland, having been in multiple productions in Wellington with Stagecraft and Khandallah Arts Theatres since 2016. Hannah's favourite productions have included *The Revlon Girl*, *Sense and Sensibility* and *Woman in Mind*. She is loving bringing all her characters to life in this very funny show with such a talented cast and crew. Hannah's day job is far less fun by comparison, having worked in central and local government roles for almost 20 years. In her day job, she attempts to bring calm to the chaos, which is the complete opposite of this production!



## **VICTORIA MACCULLOCH**

Victoria is an actress and writer who has worked in local TV and film for the past few years after returning from LA. She played Bianca in TVNZ's *Dirty Laundry*, Addie Lynch on *Shortland Street*, and has acted in a number of short films. When she's not filming, you can find her working as a marketing contractor, getting out into nature, exploring the city, or vigorously burning sage in the hopes it will fix her entire life (it never does).

## **Jenifer**



## **ARTHUR YOUNG**

While Arthur did a lot of acting in high school and university back in the 80s and 90s, he took a break from it all when he had finished his studies and went to get a "real" job. He came back to the theatre in 2008 for HLT's *Twelve Angry Men*. Since then, he has been pretty consistent with theatre endeavours.

## **Baxter**

Aside from his theatre activities, Arthur's other hobbies also lean into his need to perform. Firstly, there are the roleplaying games like *Dungeons & Dragons* and *Call of Cthulhu*. Secondly, there are the pole-dancing classes.



## **JAMES CALVERLEY**

James is delighted to be back on stage, where the furniture doesn't talk back and no one expects him to log into Zoom. Recent roles include *Worst Wedding Ever*, *Grand Horizons*, and a haunting turn as "Sad Man With Clipboard" in a corporate training video banned in three countries for emotional distress. Offstage, James enjoys starting DIY projects he can't finish, reading murder mysteries for "research", and debating politics with his dogs, Ajax and Athena. Please send all feedback via carrier pigeon or carved into the bark of a sacred elm.

## **Gardner**





## THE PLAY

It's 1932 and Edgar Wallace, the Fleet Street editor widely known for his hugely popular and successful whodunnits, gets a desperate call from his publisher for a new novel – immediately. With only a weekend to spare and severe writer's block, the indefatigable Wallace calls on the entire household to assist, and their antics dizzyingly devolve into chaos as the lines between fiction and reality blur. *Family friendly.*

## THE PLAYWRIGHT Bill Scott

Bill Scott is the founder and Artistic Director of Miracle Theatre Company, established in 1979. Since its inception, he has been the driving creative force behind the company with writing, adapting, and directing the majority of its productions. His work is characterised by a distinctive blend of humour, inventiveness, and a commitment to engaging storytelling. Beyond the stage, Bill is also a filmmaker and an avid beekeeper, keeping him constantly on his toes.

### PATRON

Jennifer Ward-Lealand CNZM  
Te Atamira

### 2025-2026 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Laurie Mills (President)  
Matthew Cousins (Vice Pres.)  
Roger Mudford (Treasurer)  
James Calverley  
Judith Clarke  
Trevor Hynes  
Alison Mudford  
Linda Lehrke

### FOUNDER

Alma Woods, MBE

### MEMBERSHIP

Sign up online at [hlt.nz](http://hlt.nz) or ask for a membership form at the office. A year's membership fee is \$20, or \$30 for a couple

### BECOME A SUBSCRIBER

Subscribe to receive discounted tickets and priority bookings. See [hlt.nz](http://hlt.nz) for details and payment options.

### INFORMATION

Office hours  
9.30am-1.30pm Mon-Fri

ph 534-1401 (general)  
[info@hlt.org.nz](mailto:info@hlt.org.nz)  
PO Box 82-003,  
Highland Park, Auckland 2143  
[hlt.nz](http://hlt.nz).

### BOOKINGS

Book at [iticket.co.nz](http://iticket.co.nz)  
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### COSTUME HIRE

HLT hires costumes.  
Phone office for details.

### ACTING CLASSES

Weekly acting classes for all ages are taught by leading professionals. For details, see [hlt.nz](http://hlt.nz) or call the office.

### FUNDRAISING AND GROUP BOOKINGS

Is your group looking to fundraise or socialise?

A PlayDate booking reserves all the theatre for a performance, and your guests can enjoy the friendly social atmosphere before the show and at the interval.

For details of PlayDates and smaller group bookings, contact the office.





## COMING NEXT TO HOWICK LITTLE THEATRE

### **VANYA AND SONIA AND MASHA AND SPIKE**

**OLD GRUDGES. NEW PROBLEMS.  
SAME OLD FAMILY.**

**5 - 26 JULY**

**A comedy by Christopher Durang/US/2012  
Directed by Tracey Holdsworth**

**Winner of the 2013 Tony Award for Best Play**

Vanya and Sonia have led quiet and uneventful lives. However, their peaceful existence is upended when their glamorous movie-star sister Masha unexpectedly arrives. Insecurities and old resentments boil over in a weekend of wild costume parties and hilarious misunderstandings.

*VANYA AND SONIA AND MASHA AND SPIKE is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC. servicing the Dramatists Play Service collection. ([www.dramatists.com](http://www.dramatists.com))*

### **RABBIT HOLE**

**LOVE IS THEIR ONLY  
WAY BACK**

**6 - 27 SEPTEMBER**

**A drama by David Lindsay-Abaire/US/2006  
Directed by Anna Baird**

**Winner of the 2007 Pulitzer Prize for Drama**

Becca and Howie Corbett are struggling to find their way after losing their young son in a tragic accident. As they drift apart, the teenage driver involved in the accident reaches out, and the family are forced to confront their loss.

*Adult language and content.*

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### **MANY HAPPY RETURNS**

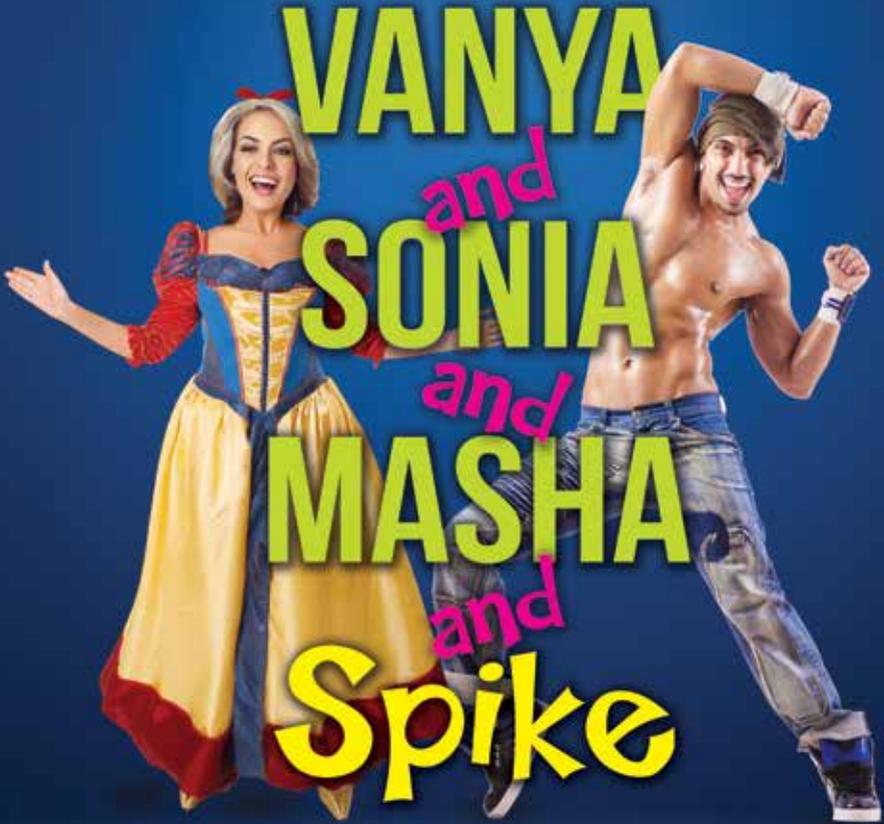
**HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS!  
HELL...**

**8 - 29 NOVEMBER**

**A comedy by Bernard Farrell/Ireland/2005  
Directed by Matthew Cousins**

Irene and Arthur have decked out their modest Dublin farmhouse for the holidays in anticipation of their friend Declan's return from New Zealand. A self-made millionaire, Declan is the focus of their meticulously crafted image of prosperity, which hides a cunning plan to secure their financial future. However, the festive cheer turns to disquiet as secrets start to unravel.

COMING NEXT TO  
HOWICK LITTLE THEATRE



By Christopher Durang

Directed by Tracey Holdsworth

WINNER OF THE 2013 TONY AWARD FOR BEST PLAY

OLD GRUDGES. NEW PROBLEMS. SAME OLD FAMILY.

5 - 26 JULY 2025

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