

ONE ORDINARY FAMILY. ONE EXTRAORDINARY DAY.

HILDA'S YARD



NOVEMBER 12 TO DECEMBER 3 2022

A COMEDY BY NORM FOSTER

DIRECTED BY PENEL KEEGAN



HOWICK LITTLE THEATRE
SIR LLOYD DRIVE – PAKURANGA
HLT.NZ/YARD

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The taking of photographs and use of recording devices during the performance is forbidden by law.



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DONATIONS

Our mission is to perform plays and hold workshops and acting classes, but we also spend a lot of time and money maintaining our building. You can help by attending productions, becoming a member or a sponsor or by making a donation. Every little bit helps. Howick Little Theatre is a non-profit organisation registered with the Charities Commission (No. CC21274). Any donations are greatly appreciated. Donations over \$5 are tax deductible.



PROUDLY
SUPPORTING
HOWICK LITTLE
THEATRE

HILDA'S YARD

From the Director

Having first joined HLT in 1998 (what – where did that time go?), I have been privileged to direct and act here on many occasions over the years. I have an abiding respect and affection for this theatre and the wonderful people who make it tick.

Directing *Hilda's Yard* has been a joy to add to the list, as I have been blessed with a hard-working and thoroughly fabulous cast. I have so enjoyed seeing their characters develop as the rehearsals have progressed and hope that you will come to love them as I have. The expression “art echoes life” is true for so many plays and this one is no different. Even though it is set in 1961, there are so many similarities

to family life today – perhaps barring the arrival of a friendly criminal! Though who am I to judge?!

My heartfelt thanks must go to the amazing, efficient, wonderful Laurie Mills, who has been such an incredible Production Co-ordinator that all I have had to do is direct (and bake for the cast for Sunday rehearsals!). He really is worth his weight in gold.

Without you, the audience, this would be a fairly empty exercise, so thank you for coming tonight and I hope you enjoy the performance.

Penel Keegan
Director

The Cast

Hilda Fluck
Jo Crichton

Sam Fluck
Mark Bishop

Gary Fluck
Joshua Tanner

Janey Fluck
Georgina Malzard

Bobbi Jakes
Stephanie O'Connor

Beverly Woytowich
Arthur Young

Special Thanks

Many thanks to Ellie Barrow for her seamstress skills.

Production Creatives

Director
Penel Keegan

Production Co-ordinator
Laurie Mills

Set Designer
David Gifford

Lighting Designer
David Blakey

Sound Designer
Ray Gabites

Wardrobe Designer
Judy Rankin

Prompt
Rosie Elder

Décor and Properties
Laurie Mills

Intimacy Advisor
Arthur Young

Stage Manager
Trevor Hynes

Assistant Stage Manager
Stefan Meadows-Allan

Lighting & Sound Operators
Orlando Meadows
Dylan Day
Tony Simmons

Set Builders and Painters
David Gifford (Set Foreman)
Chris Woodhead
Dan Vlad
David Guthrie
Doug Johnson
Pat Hudson
Heikki Hietala
Laurie Mills (painting)

HILDA'S YARD premiered at Theatre New Brunswick, Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada, in February 2012. *HILDA'S YARD* is staged by arrangement with Pam Winter, GGA, www.ggagency.ca.

By kind permission of the playwright, Hilda's Yard was adapted to its New Zealand setting for the HLT by Laurie Mills



Penel Keegan

DIRECTOR

Penel has been around the traps for so many years she's lost count. Her first appearance at HLT was as Ma Larkin in *The Darling Buds of May* in 1998, and she has directed and acted here on numerous occasions since then.

During the day, she can often be found in her role as hostess and barista with her daughter at their food caravan in Shore Road, and she is lucky enough to see her three daughters and five grandchildren on a regular basis.

Penel's last outing as a director at HLT was *Neighbourhood Watch* in 2019.



Jo Crichton

HILDA FLUCK

Jo first set foot in her 'second home', the HLT, in 1982 as a drama class student. Her first play here was *The Dresser* in 1987, and since then, she has acted in numerous productions (and Preeves nights!), and served on the play selection team for many years. She was last seen here in *The Book of Everything* in 2019. In her 'first home', she works as a copy editor, proofreader, mother and occasional TV actress. *Hilda's Yard* has given Jo the opportunity to meet a lovely group of new people and to work with the talented Penelope Keegan for the first time since they acted together in *Waking Eve* in 2002!



Mark Bishop

SAM FLUCK

Mark is returning to the HLT stage after finishing performing in *The Maltese Falcon* where he played two roles and then covered a third during the run! Mark has had a 35-year hiatus from the acting stage, so took a year in HLT's Acting Classes under the excellent guidance of Terry Hooper and Ruby Love. With their encouragement, it was time to put the lessons into action! When not at rehearsals, Mark can often be found out on the Waitemata attempting to catch a few fish for dinner or cooking up a feast on overnight stays in a beautiful bay somewhere.



Joshua Tanner

GARY FLUCK

Joshua is thrilled to be returning to the HLT stage for his second production, after performing in *NSFW* earlier this year. He's been having lots of fun portraying the excitable and naïve Gary Fluck and is grateful to be working with such a wonderful team. Joshua moved back to New Zealand earlier this year after working as a game developer in the UK. On arrival, he jumped straight into acting lessons at HLT, which he has found invaluable. Next year, he'll be returning to university to study creative writing.

Georgina Malzard

JANEY FLUCK

Georgina is most excited to be back where her true love lies ... in the theatre. She is new to the Howick Little Theatre community and is thoroughly enjoying meeting new people and forming new connections. Georgina has been acting since she was five and has been involved in many theatre productions in her home town of Christchurch over the years. She has a passion for all things sustainability and can often be found outdoors in nature or doing yoga. Georgina is looking forward to playing the role of Janey and bringing her comedic flair to this character. She has enjoyed being part of a supportive and creative team.

Stephanie O'Connor

BOBBI JAKES

Stephanie is an actor from the UK who moved to Aotearoa in recent years. *Hilda's Yard* will be her first theatre performance here in New Zealand after connecting with the sassiness and passion of her character, Bobbi. Her previous work has been mainly London-based films and web-series. When she's not performing, Stephanie writes children's books about mental and physical health.

Arthur Young

BEVERLY WOYTOWICH

Arthur first started acting at HLT in 2008 and has been a regular ever since. His last play at HLT was *Dead Simple* in 2020, and he was in *Spider's Web* at Dolphin Theatre in 2021. Most recently, he directed *Arcadia* at Dolphin Theatre this year. When not hanging out at theatres, Arthur spends a lot of time playing Dungeons & Dragons and other RPGs and getting his exercise through pole-dancing classes.



The Play

How unbreakable are the ties that bind a family together? It's the swinging 60s, and happy empty-nesters Sam and Hilda are finally enjoying life on their own. But their peaceful Sandringham home turns to chaos when their unemployed son and newly-single daughter return for an unexpected stay. Can these traditional parents and far-out children bridge the generational divide? A heart-warming and hilarious look back in time

The Playwright

Norm Foster

A prolific and popular playwright and actor, born in Newmarket, Ontario, in 1949, Norm Foster is considered by many to be Canada's pre-eminent comic playwright. He studied radio and television at Centennial College in Toronto and Confederation College in Thunder Bay before writing two very successful works – *Sinners* and *The Melville Boys* for Theatre New Brunswick. Both works have been translated into French and the latter has been produced all over Canada.

Foster's works have been performed at major



houses and summer theatres across Canada and abroad, and are typically well received by audiences and critics. He won the Los Angeles Drama-League award in 1988 for *The Melville Boys*. His *The Affections of May* (Theatre New Brunswick, 1990) also had huge success.

Foster has written more than 60 plays, which receive an average of 150 productions annually, including: *Windfall*, *Bravado*, *Ned Durango Comes to the Big Oak*, *The Long Weekend*, *Jupiter in July*, *A Foggy Day*, *Ethan Claymore*, *The Foursome*, *Drinking Alone*, *Office Hours*, *Old Love* (which HLT is staging in 2023), *Skin Flick* and *The Ladies Foursome*.

The Norm Foster Theatre Festival was inaugurated in June 2016 in the Robertson Theatre, First Ontario Performing Arts Centre, St. Catharines Ontario, with three plays running for nine weeks: *Here on the Flight Path*, *Halfway to the North Pole* (premiere), and *On a First Name Basis*. For the 2018 Festival, Foster wrote *Come Down from Up River*, about an elderly logger who comes to St. John New Brunswick for medical tests, with the hope of reconnecting with an estranged and angry niece. His play *The Writer*, about a successful playwright, who won a Pulitzer Prize 35 years before but has now run into difficulties, premiered at the 2019 festival.

In 2016, Foster was appointed to the Order of Canada.

2022-2023 Management Committee

Deborah Lind (President), Andrew Gordon (Vice-president), Roger Mudford (Treasurer), Judith Clarke, Trevor Hynes, AJ Johnson, Ellie Barrow & Alison Mudford

Founder

Alma Woods, MBE

Co-Patrons

Irene Fryer, Barry Spring

Membership

Sign up online at hlt.org.nz or ask for a membership form at the office. A year's adult fee is \$20; it's \$15 for those aged 25 or under. Reduced fees apply later in the year.

Showcard Subscriptions

Subscribe to receive discounted tickets and priority bookings.

Showcards also make ideal gifts. See hlt.org.nz for details and payment options.

Information

Office hours:
9.30am-1.30pm weekdays,
ph 534-1401 (general enquiries),
email info@hlt.org.nz.
PO Box 82-003, Highland Park,
Auckland 2143
Website: hlt.org.nz.

Bookings

Book at iticket.co.nz,
or phone 361 1000.

Costume Hire

HLT hires costumes.
Phone office for details.

HLT Studio

The HLT Studio, supported and developed by HLT, is a platform for new works and creatives. Short

seasons of plays and play readings are staged each year. For more details see:

facebook.com/thestudiohlt

Fundraising and Group Bookings

PlayDate nights are available for your group, school, office or club for fundraising or socialising. A PlayDate booking reserves all the theatre for a performance, and guests will enjoy the friendly social atmosphere before the show with our full bar facilities. For details, including catering options, contact the office.

Acting Classes

HLT offers acting classes, taught by a leading professional, for all ages. For details, see hlt.org.nz or call the office.



HOWICK LITTLE THEATRE PRODUCTIONS 2023

**A COMEDY BY LAURA WADE.
DIRECTED BY CARLEENA WALSH
SEASON: FEB 25 TO MARCH 18, 8PM.
MATINEES: FEB 26 & MARCH 5, 2PM.**

Judy is the perfect 50s housewife. Her appearance, home and cooking are all true to the era. She's the perfect homemaker to husband Johnny, preparing soft-boiled eggs for breakfast, mixing cocktails and dancing in the evenings. The only problem is it's not the 1950s, it's now, and being a domestic goddess isn't as easy as it looks...

A community theatre production of Home, I'm Darling by special arrangement with Samuel French Ltd and New Zealand Play Bureau Ltd

Home, I'm Darling

Sex, cake and the perfect 1950s housewife



**A COMEDY BY KAREN ZACARIAS. DIRECTED BY DEB LIND
SEASON: MAY 6 TO 27, 8PM.
MATINEES: MAY 7 & 14, 2PM.**

A hit comedy about books and the people who love them. When the members of a book club become the subjects of a documentary and accept a provocative new member, their long-standing group dynamics take a hilarious turn. This delightful new play is about life, love, literature and the side-splitting results as friends start reading between the lines.

A community theatre production of The Book Club Play by special arrangement with Samuel French Ltd and New Zealand Play Bureau Ltd

The BOOK CLUB Play

Life, love and literature collide



**A MURDER MYSTERY BY AGATHA CHRISTIE.
DIRECTED BY MATTHEW COUSINS
SEASON: JULY 8 TO 29, 8PM. MATINEES: JULY 9 & 16, 2PM.**

In Agatha Christie's most ingenious murder mystery, the villagers of Chipping Cleghorn, including Miss Jane Marple, are perplexed by an advertisement in the local gazette that reads: "A murder is announced and will take place on Friday October 29th, at Little Paddocks at 6.30pm. A crowd begins to gather at the appointed time when, without warning, the lights go out..."

A community theatre production of A Murder Is Announced by special arrangement with Samuel French Ltd and New Zealand Play Bureau Ltd.

A MURDER IS ANNOUNCED

MISS MARPLE,
ARE YOU THERE?



WAIT UNTIL DARK

SHINES A LIGHT ON
THE POWER OF DARKNESS

**A THRILLER BY FREDERICK KNOTT,
ADAPTED BY JEFFREY HATCHER
DIRECTED BY CARLOS LEHMANN
SEASON: SEPT 9 TO 30, 8PM. MATINEES: SEPT 10 & 17, 2PM.**

In this adaptation of the 1966 classic, Susan Hendrix, a blind yet capable woman, is terrorised by a trio of men in her apartment in Greenwich Village in 1944. As the climax builds, Susan discovers her blindness might be the key to her escape, but she must wait until dark to play out this thriller's chilling conclusion.

By arrangement with Music Theatre International Australasia Pty Ltd, on behalf of Dramatists Play Service, Inc.

**A COMEDY BY NORM FOSTER.
DIRECTED BY TRACEY HOLDSWORTH
SEASON: NOV 11 TO DEC 2, 8PM.
MATINEES: NOV 12 & 19, 2PM.**

A story of courtship, rekindled romance and the indomitability of hope, *Old Love* spans three decades, and half-a-dozen meetings between Bud, a salesman, and Molly, his boss's wife. One of them is smitten from the first, the other less so. Another hit from Canada's Norm Foster, this clever and witty heartwarming journey celebrates the never-ending pursuit of love – old and new.

OLD LOVE

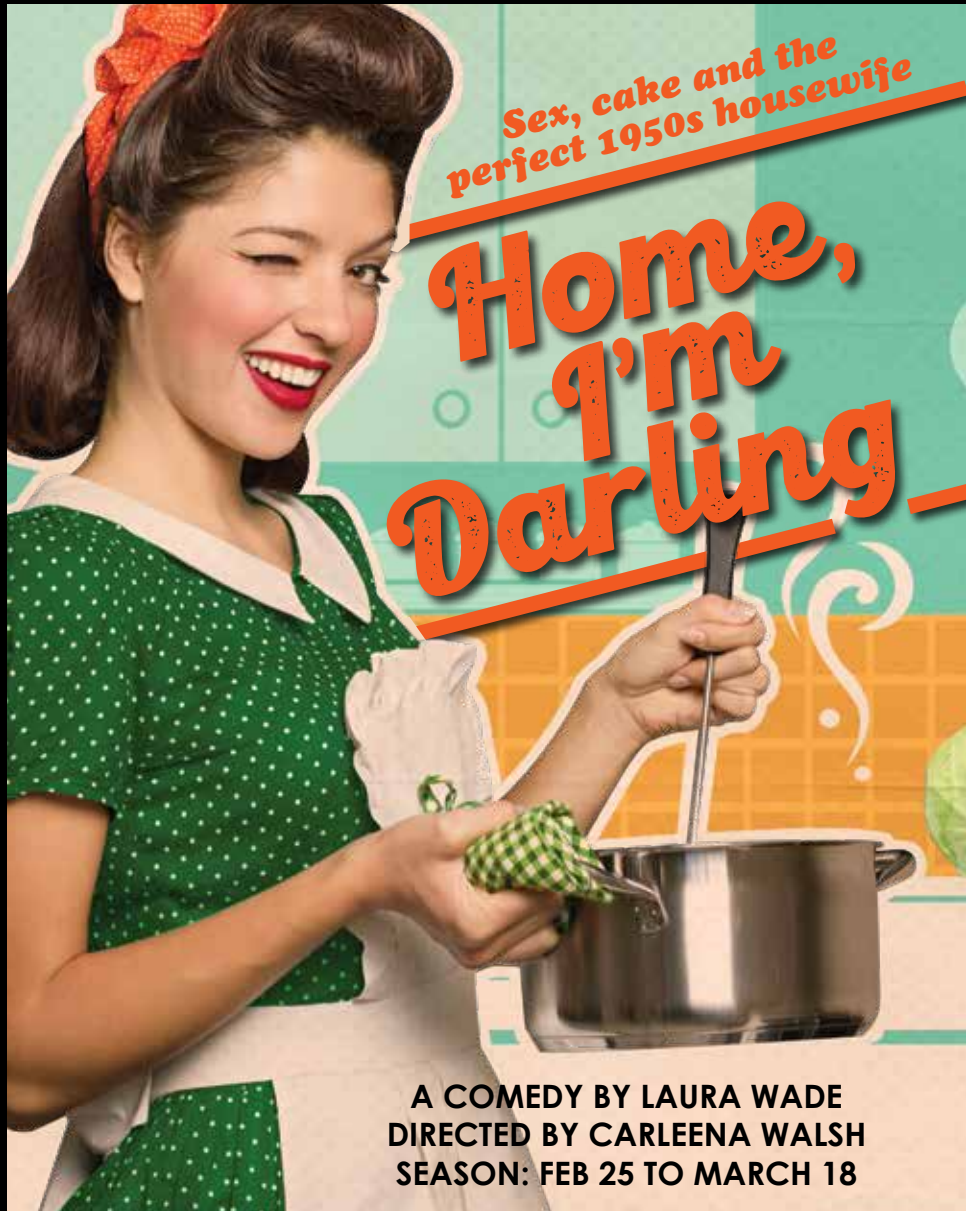
Broken hearts and second chances



COMING SOON TO HOWICK LITTLE THEATRE

*Sex, cake and the
perfect 1950s housewife*

Home, I'm Darling



**A COMEDY BY LAURA WADE
DIRECTED BY CARLEENA WALSH
SEASON: FEB 25 TO MARCH 18**



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