



HOWICK LITTLE THEATRE

HOWICK LITTLE PLAYS 2026

A variety of short plays by **Christian Simonson, Doc Watson, Tracey Morley, Nicky Denovan, Richard Layton, Keith Johnson, Lou Treleaven, & Trace Crawford**

Directed by **Vic Leilua, Beate Wiebel & Carolyn Loader**

25 - 28 MARCH 2026



HOWICK LITTLE THEATRE

Patron

Jennifer Ward-Lealand, CNZM
Te Atamira

Founder

Alma Woods, MBE

Management Committee

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

Administration

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THE PLAYS

MULTITASKING

by Christian Simonson

Directed by Vic Leilua

Eric - Peter Moore

Kathy - Charlotte Menhennet

Tess - Jess Ellison

THE VOICE OVER

by Doc Watson

Directed by Beate Wiebel

Man - Nick Yeats

Woman - Jenny Zo Yang

DEAD CERT SOCIETY

by Tracey Morley

Directed by Beate Wiebel

Mary - Ami Coster

Patricia - Julia Banks

Vicar - Peter Leathley

TRUE TO YOU

by Nicky Denovan

Directed by Carolyn Loader

Jane - Ana Loader

Richard - Nick Yeats

Waitress - Jazz Nijjar

IT'S ALL IN THE MIND

by Richard Layton

Directed by Carolyn Loader

Lewis Lestrangle - Nick Yeats

Miles Berry - Chris Anderson

Sylvia Kitson - Ana Loader

KILLING TIME

by Keith Johnson

Directed by Vic Leilua

Man - Peter Moore

Woman - Jess Ellison

BROUGHT TO BOOK

by Lou Treleaven

Directed by Carolyn Loader

Police Constable - Chris Anderson

Police Sergeant - Peter Leathley

Dealer - Jazz Nijjar

THE LADY AND 'THE TYGER' OR WILLIAM BLAKE'S 'HOW I MET YOUR MOTHER'

by Trace Crawford

Directed by Vic Leilua

Man - Peter Moore

Woman - Jess Ellison

PRODUCTION

Lighting design

Crystal Livingston

Sound design

Vic Leilua

Production co-ordinator

Vic Leilua

Stage manager

Paul Gapper

Assistant stage manager

Lou Yang

Props

Sue LaFleur

Wardrobe

Heléna van Zyl
Jenny Connors

Lighting & sound operator

Christie Blair

Intimacy adviser

Lauren Wilson

Make-up artist/ dresser

Ruby Liu

Graphic designer

Emma Love

Photography

Andrew (AJ) Johnson

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Ellie Barrow, Alison Mudford, Susan Andisen, Erin Parkinson, Victoria Poole, Judy Wilson, Gracie Cullen, Ruth Blair, Emma Thompson, Julia Leathwick, Glenn Horan, Emma Love, PTC, David Gifford and the HLT Committee. By arrangement with Pint-sized Plays.



Each play runs for about 10 minutes.
There will be a 20-minute interval. Please
remember to switch off all mobile phones
and noise-emitting devices.

Principal Funder



Welcome! Our sincere thanks to the stellar cast, tireless crew and superb writers of Howick Little Plays 2026. You have our gratitude! And thanks a million to you for being such a lovely audience. We hope you enjoy the theatrical thrills and spills that may arise when the lights go down. *Vic, Beate and Carolyn*

THE DIRECTORS



VIC LEILUA

Vic is a familiar face in the HLT family. He's directed *Good People*, *The Long Weekend*, *The Death of Me*, and *The Love List*. He also directed multiple plays in the 2023 season of Howick Little Plays, and worked as set and lighting designer across recent productions at HLT, including *Rabbit Hole* and *The Great Divide*.

Vic dedicates his plays to the memory of Vivien Leigh.



BEATE WIEBEL

Beate returns to HLT after directing two plays in the 2023 season of Howick Little Plays. Her directing credits also include *Tiny Beautiful Things* as part of HLT Studio, *Dinner for One*, and *Seat of Power* for the One Act Play Festivals at Ellerslie Theatre.

She has also directed student theatre in Sydney and Auckland in both German and English, working with classic and contemporary playwrights.



CAROLYN LOADER

Carolyn has contributed to more than 50 productions across Auckland, with extensive experience in stage management and production co-ordination. At HLT, she recently served as production co-ordinator on *Renovations for Six* and *The Great Divide*.

In 2025, she expanded into directing, with *Going Home* as part of Dolphin Theatre's season of *London Suite*.

THE CAST



NICK YEATS

Nick is an actor and creative from Ōtepoti, Dunedin who spends most of his spare time performing with Tāmaki Makaurau's premier long-form improvised acting troupe Improverished, training at Actors Lab Studio, or pursuing various screen and stage projects. Last year, he worked on the Netflix adaptation of *East of Eden* and in *Continuum* he took the lead in a short film for the first time. Nick is looking forward to his first appearance on the HLT stage. After years of improvised stage shows and other acting, Howick Little Plays inspired him to dip his toes into scripted theatre.

JAZZ NIJJAR

Jazz trained at the Actors College of Theatre & Television in Sydney, Australia. She has been treading the boards for over 20 years, mostly in Sydney before returning to Auckland five years ago. She acted in several plays with the Guild Theatre in Sydney, including *Where Angels Fear to Tread* (2019), *I Hate Hamlet* (2017) and *The Book of Everything* (2015). Jazz also performed in *Calendar Girls* with Papakura Theatre in 2023 and appeared in the New Zealand comedy series *Miles from Nowhere* in 2024. Jazz is excited to be making her debut at HLT.



JENNY ZO YANG

Jenny is overjoyed to be making her theatrical debut in Howick Little Plays. She joined HLT's adult acting classes in 2025 as a hobby and a way to explore and understand the complex layers of human emotions that can be conveyed through drama. It was a journey of self-discovery and emotional enlightenment. In her past profession, Jenny was the presenter on Fiji TV's evening news, which required her to have a professional and earnest demeanour. She is glad to break free from the "little camera frame" to the wider stage where boundless emotions can be expressed.



AMI COSTER

Ami's last two performances at HLT were in *Rabbit Hole* (2025) and *Grand Horizons* (2024). She is a graduate of NIDA and The Actor Centre in Sydney. Since moving to Auckland, Ami has enjoyed acting and directing in various theatres around town, including Dolphin Theatre, Titirangi Theatre and the PumpHouse, as well as taking on a guest role on *Shortland Street* and numerous other film and TV projects. She is elated to be back at HLT and hopes the audience "enjoys our little play as much as we have enjoyed bringing it to life!"



JESS ELLISON

Jess won an Outstanding Lead Actor award for her role as Lady Chiltern in *An Ideal Husband* (2025) at Dolphin Theatre's annual Ronnie Awards. Earlier this year, she portrayed Lady Montague in *Romeo & Juliet* for Auckland Shakespeare in the Park 2026, presented by Shoreside Theatre at The PumpHouse Theatre in Takapuna. Jess says she loves the challenge of a short-play format and the opportunity to take a deep dive into three characters with completely different motivations, objectives and energies. She is exhilarated to be making her HLT debut in a short but sweet format!



CHRIS ANDERSON

Chris started performing 25 years ago doing improv, moved to standup comedy, then musicals and plays before taking a family break for a few years. Last year, he appeared as Freddie/Lloyd in the classic farce *Noises Off!* at Centrestage Theatre in Orewa. In 2024, he played the brilliant but deranged Dr Frankenstein in the musical comedy *Young Frankenstein* at Auckland Music Theatre. This is Chris's first production at HLT and he says he's having a blast. He finds playing different characters across two plays in Howick Little Plays is right up his alley.





JULIA BANKS

Julia (a life member of HLT) has sung and acted onstage since her teens. Her local performances have often been at Howick Little Theatre and Harlequin Musical Theatre. Julia has particularly enjoyed playing Olivia in *Night Must Fall* (1982), Michelle in *'Allo 'Allo* (1993) (which she also wrote), Madame Arcati in *Blithe Spirit* (1999) and Jean Perkins in *Funny Money* (2000). Some of her written works are handled by NZ Play Bureau and Samuel French Ltd, London. Julia found it to be great fun playing Psychic Sue in *Two Woofs For Yes* in Howick Little Plays in 2023.



PETER MOORE

Peter first stepped on stage at primary school playing the Artful Dodger in *Oliver!* and since then, he has kept up his devotion to the performing arts, studying theatre and film in London, gaining a Diploma in Acting from Trinity Guildhall and taking part in several plays and films. Recent appearances include *Emma* (2023) by Jane Austen at Mana Little Theatre in Porirua and *Superior Donuts* (2025) by Tracy Letts at the Gryphon Theatre in Wellington. Peter says he had a wonderful experience acting in HLT Studio's production of *Tiny Beautiful Things* in 2021.



PETER LEATHLEY

Peter's roles in Howick Little Plays mark the first time he has been on stage in four years after playing John Seecombe, the faithful manservant, in *My Cousin Rachel* at HLT in 2022. He has been a member of HLT for over 30 years. Peter reckons that rehearsing for two shows for Howick Little Plays with two directors has been a stimulating and challenging experience and he has enjoyed working on his return to the stage in a new format. He hopes you enjoy the plays as much as he has in preparing for them.



CHARLOTTE MENHENNET

Charlotte is thrilled to be making her HLT debut after making the big move from Hamilton – because what's a relocation without immediately joining a theatre, right? Over the past few years, she's kept herself busy in a range of memorable shows in Hamilton, including *Trail to Oregon!* (2023) at the Meteor Theatre, and *Sweeney Todd* (2024) and *Bonnie and Clyde* (2025) at the Riverlea Theatre. Charlotte is delighted to dust off her acting shoes (they were never that dusty). She can't wait to share the stage and hopes you enjoy the ride as much as she does!



ANA LOADER

Ana returns to the HLT stage in two roles in Howick Little Plays. For Howick Little Plays in 2023, she starred in the comedy thriller *Beer Window*. Ana has achieved Trinity Guildhall Grade 8 in Speech and Drama and she trains at Actor's Lab Studios. Last year, she was one of 13 emerging artists selected for Auckland Theatre Company's Youth Company 2025 and acted in two of their productions: *The Excerpts* at the Silo Hall and *Monster of the Week* at the Basement Theatre. This year, she played a part in the web series *Dead Strangers* by Annakey Productions.

COMING SOON TO HOWICK LITTLE THEATRE

BLOOMSDAY



ONE LOVE ACROSS A LIFETIME

A dramatic romance by Steven Dietz/US/2015

Directed by Penel Keegan

11 July – 1 August, 8pm.

Matinees 12 & 19 July, 2pm.

Years after a brief, life-changing encounter with an enchanting Dublin tour guide, Robert returns to the city, unable to forget the woman he let slip away. As memory and reality intertwine, younger and older versions of Robert and Cait retrace their steps through Dublin's streets in a tender and time-twisting story of what was, what wasn't, and what might still be.

THE COTTAGE



SECRETS, MISCHIEF, AND ABSOLUTE CHAOS

A comedy by Sandy Rustin/US/2013

Directed by Laurie Mills

12 Sept – 3 Oct, 8pm.

Matinees 13 & 20 Sept, 2pm.

In a cosy English cottage, Sylvia confronts her lover, determined that they come clean about their affair to their unsuspecting spouses. But one revelation sparks another, and soon skeletons tumble out faster than anyone can hide them. This whirlwind of tangled romances unpicks the ridiculous ways we love and lie, and proves the truth is rarely neat and tidy. *Adult content.*

FIREFLIES



IT'S NEVER TOO LATE FOR A LITTLE LIGHT

A comedy by Matthew Barber/US/2017, from the novel *Eleanor and Abel* by Annette Sanford

Directed by Tracey Holdsworth

14 Nov – 5 Dec, 8pm.

Matinees 15 & 22 Nov, 2pm.

Retired schoolteacher Eleanor Bannister lives a life of quiet routine in her small American town until a storm leaves a hole in her roof and brings the charming yet guarded Abel Brown to her door. What starts as a simple repair grows into unexpected friendship and the quiet possibility of love, even after she thought that chapter was closed.

COMING NEXT TO
HOWICK LITTLE THEATRE

The Lamplighters

A thriller by
Glenn Chandler

Directed by
Carlos Lehmann



THREE DETECTIVES. ONE UNSOLVED CASE

9 - 30 MAY 2026

iTICKET

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