



Broken hearts and second chances

NOV 11 TO DEC 2 2023

**A COMEDY BY NORM FOSTER
DIRECTED BY TRACEY HOLDSWORTH**



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

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

*Old Love is staged by arrangement with Pam Winter, GGA,
www.ggagency.ca. Old Love premiered at Lighthouse Festival Theatre in
Port Dover, Ontario, Canada, in 2008.*



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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

OLD LOVE

The Play

A story of courtship, rekindled romance and the indomitability of hope, *Old Love* spans almost 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, witty and heart-warming journey celebrates the never-ending pursuit of love – old and new.

The Setting

Set in Toronto, Canada. Bud and Molly, Arthur Jnr and Kendra in the present, circa 2005. Young Bud and Kitty, Young Molly and Arthur in the past, circa 1980.

There will be a 15-minute interval between Acts I and II.

The Cast

Anna Baird
Molly Graham/
Sandra/Delores/
Claire/Shirley

Mark Bishop
Bud Mitchell

Amy Cotter
Young Molly/Kitty/
Kendra

Henry Warner
Young Bud/Arthur
Graham/Arthur Jr

Production Creatives

Director
Tracey Holdsworth

Production Coordinator
Lyneil Gray

Stage Manager
Sho Okumoto

Set Designer
Tim Skinner

Wardrobe
Jenny Connors

Set Décor
Tim Skinner
Tracey Holdsworth

Lighting Designer
Nigel Windsor

Sound Designer
Blake Elliott

Tech Operators
Rosie Elder
Blake Ingram

Tech Rigging & plotting
Nigel Windsor
Craig Forsberg
Matthew Cousins
Blake Elliott
Blake Ingram
Antonia Tellis
Rosie Elder

Props
Tracey Holdsworth
Lyneil Gray

Rehearsal Prompt
Rosie Elder

Intimacy Co-ordinator
Andrew Johnson

Graphic Design
Emma Love

Set Foreman
David Gifford

Set Construction
Pat Hudson
Doug Johnston
Tim Skinner
Dan Vlad
Chris Woodhead

Set Painting
David Gifford
Pat Hudson
Doug Johnston
Tim Skinner

Photography
Andrew Johnson

Teaser Trailer
by Polygraphic
(Nicole Ashley and
Evie Millar-Rolls)
Mark Bishop
Anna Baird

Special thanks

The Depot in Lloyd
Elsmore Park.

From the Director

I am thrilled to have the opportunity to direct Norm Foster's *Old Love*. I loved the play from the first time I read it – sometimes laughing out loud, sometimes grabbing the tissues.

Old Love is essentially a romantic comedy about hope and the pursuit of love. The delightfully optimistic Bud waits 25 years to ask Molly, the (somewhat reluctant) woman of his dreams, out on a date. At the heart of the play is a story of people navigating relationships and the ups and downs of life. It's a tale that proves that it's never too late to take a chance on love.

Howick audience's will be familiar with Norm Foster, one of Canada's most prolific playwrights, known for his wit and insight. With *Old Love* he has created recognisable characters that I believe everyone will love.

I have been incredibly fortunate to work with a wonderful, enthusiastic team who all love the play as much as I do. Thanks to my four fantastic actors who have brought the characters to life – we have laughed and cried together. Super-organised PC Lyneil has kept us all on track every step of the way, along with Jenny, Sho, David and the rest of the talented HLT crew.

An extra special mention to my husband Tim, who took on the set design, other theatre tasks and all household duties (plus stress counselling) while we put this production together.

Enjoy the show!

Tracey Holdsworth



Tracey Holdsworth

DIRECTOR

Tracey arrived in NZ from the UK with her family in 2000. She works in the performing arts, leading the marketing activities for Auckland Philharmonia. Tracey has been involved with community theatre in Auckland for about 17 years, both on stage and behind the scenes. She loves performing at Howick Little Theatre and has appeared in *Steel Magnolias*, *Sitting Pretty* and *California Suite*.

After completing HLT's eight-week Introduction to Directing for Theatre in 2014, Tracey made her successful directorial debut with *Dinner with Friends* for HLT Studio in 2021. She says it was a great experience and she jumped at the chance to do it again.



Anna Baird MOLLY/SANDRA/DELORES/CLAIRE/SHIRLEY

Anna says, what a joy it is to be back on the HLT stage, performing in this gem of a play. She fell in love with the play the first time she read it, and has remained firmly in love ever since. She says Norm Foster has the wonderful skill of revealing the vulnerability and flaws in his characters whilst still enabling us to see the humour and comedy in even the bleakest situations – it's actor heaven!

Anna has loved the journey of bringing this play to life alongside her talented cast mates Mark, Amy and Henry and under the guidance of lovely director Tracey (who cried a lot at rehearsals – but they were good tears). She makes special mention of Lyneil, too, our very organised PC. Besides acting, Anna's other passion is art and you can usually find her with a paintbrush in hand creating something colourful! (Represented by Gail Cowan Management)

Mark Bishop

BUD MITCHELL

After appearing in Dolphin Theatre's *Glengarry Glen Ross* earlier this year, Mark is happy to be back at Howick Little Theatre. In 2022, he debuted as Detective Polhaus in *The Maltese Falcon*, followed by the loveable Sam Fluck in *Hilda's Yard*. He saw *Old Love* at HLT's Preview Night last year and fell in love with the character of Bud and the story, and is thrilled to have been cast in the role.

When not at rehearsals, Mark can often be found in the Hauraki Gulf attempting to catch a few fish or cooking up a feast in a quiet bay or campground.



Amy Cotter

YOUNG MOLLY/KITTY/KENDRA

Amy trained at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama in London and originally hails from London and the Waikato (Ngāti Maniapoto, Waikato-Tainui). She worked extensively in theatre and film in the UK before moving to Aotearoa last year. Her previous work includes *The Wolves* by Sarah Delappe and the film *Fish Out of Water*, which has appeared at film festivals across the UK and had its New Zealand premiere this year.

Out of the rehearsal room, Amy can be found writing spoken word poetry for love or money and hopping between Auckland's yoga studios and boxing gyms. She is thrilled to join the cast of *Old Love* in her Howick Little Theatre debut.



Henry Warner

YOUNG BUD/ARTHUR/ARTHUR JR

Henry has performed featured roles in many theatre productions, ranging from Shakespeare and musicals to comedies and dramas. Highlights include *Romeo & Juliet* with EO.45 Theatre Company, *The Ladykillers* with Howick Little Theatre, *The Wedding Singer* and *Oliver!* with Harlequin Musical Theatre, and *The Fox on the Fairway* and *Jeeves & Wooster in Perfect Nonsense* with Dolphin Theatre.

Recently, Henry graduated with a Bachelor of Performing Arts from ARA Institute of Canterbury Ltd as well as a Graduate Diploma in Teaching (Secondary) from the University of Auckland and is a proud first year Drama teacher at Tuakau College. He is thrilled to be in this enticing production of *Old Love*.



Tim Skinner

SET DESIGNER

Tim works as an anaesthetist during the day. He tries to squeeze family, football, fishing and acting into any time left over. When his wife (and director) Tracey let him read the script of *Old Love*, he really enjoyed it and offered to help in any way he could. The offer was taken up – cook all meals for six weeks of rehearsals, marshal the tradies for a house renovation, and design and help build the set.

The set ended up being quite simple, like Tim.



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 65 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*, *Skin Flick*, *The Ladies Foursome*, *Hilda's Yard* (staged at HLT in 2022), *The Love List* (2015), *Looking* (2013), and *Office Hours* (2005).

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 goes 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. Then in 2022, the festival premiered his latest work, *The Office Christmas Party*.

But Foster does not limit his efforts to writing. He also appears on stage as an actor several times a year. He says, "Acting is great fun, but writing is my first love. A lot of people out there like the 'idea' of being a writer. The romance of it. The notion that we all sit around in cafes and talk about our writing with other writers. Personally, I would rather do it than talk about it. The actual process of writing is what excites me. Creating a world from the ground up and populating it with characters I've pulled out of my head."

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



2023-2024

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Membership

Sign up online at 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 for details and payment options.

Information

Office hours

9.30am-1.30pm Mon-Fri,

ph 534-1401 (general enquiries),

email info@hlt.org.nz.

PO Box 82-003,

Highland Park, Auckland 2143

Website: hlt.nz.

Bookings

Book at iticket.co.nz,

or phone 361 1000.

Costume Hire

HLT hires costumes.

Phone office for details.



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.

Acting Classes

Weekly acting classes for all ages are taught by a leading professional.

For details, see hlt.nz or call the office.

GRAND HORIZONS

A COMEDY OF MARITAL MAYHEM

A thriller by Robert Thomas from Jean-Pierre Ferrière's novel, translated by Tudor Gates/UK/1976.

Directed by Arthur Young

4 - 25 May, 8pm. Matinees 5 & 12 May, 2pm.

After a fight with his aunt, John hastily emigrated to Senegal, where he met and married the ambitious Aurélia. One day, his aunt receives the welcome news the happy couple are returning to England. However, Aurélia arrives alone. Although she brings a pleasant change of pace to the quiet Cotswolds village, an air of secrecy and suspicion follows her ... and it soon emerges that nothing is quite as it seems.

A community theatre production of Aurélia by special arrangement with Samuel French Ltd and the NZ Play Bureau Ltd.

A comedy by Bess Wohl/US/2020.

Directed by Penel Keegan

24 Feb - 16 March, 8pm.

Matinees 25 Feb & 3 March, 2pm.

Fifty years into their marriage, Bill and Nancy want a divorce. Shaken by this decision, their two adult sons are forced to re-examine everything they thought they knew about their parents' outwardly happy lives. This supremely funny and heart-warming comedy ponders issues of love and marriage as the family grapple with their imperfect past and the fact that wisdom doesn't come with age after all. *Adult content.*

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

Aurélia

**A THRILLING
MYSTERY OF INTRIGUE
AND MISTRUST.**

Adapted by Laura Eason/US/2008.

Directed by Nathan Hey

6 - 27 July, 8pm. Matinees 7 & 14 July, 2pm.

A man of money and scientific reason in Victorian London, Phileas Fogg has staked his life's fortune that he can circumnavigate the globe in a mere 80 days. Join Fogg and his loyal valet, Passepartout, on their action-packed and globetrotting adventure across seven continents filled with bandits, runaway trains, a herd of buffalo, and a meddlesome detective interfering at every turn.

A community theatre production of Around the World in 80 Days by special arrangement with Nick Hern Books and the NZ Play Bureau Ltd.

A drama by Andrew Bovell/Aust/2016

Directed by Emma Love

7 - 28 Sept, 8pm. Matinees 8 & 15 Sept, 2pm.

A funny, honest account of life in the suburbs, where Fran and Bob Price have built a home, brought up four kids and still managed to keep their sense of humour. It should now be time for them to stop and smell Bob's precious roses. But just when things look like slowing down, the lives of their wildly complicated adult children come crashing through the back door. *Adult content.*

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THINGS I KNOW TO BE TRUE

NEVER LEAVE IT TOO LATE

WORST WEDDING EVER

DREAM MARRIAGE PLANS DASHED

A comedy by Chris Chibnall/UK/2014.

Directed by Ashton Brown

9 - 30 Nov, 8pm. Matinees 10 & 17 Nov, 2pm.

Rachel and Scott are getting married. They are also buying a house together - never the easiest of things to do at the same time. When house prices go up, their plans for a dream wedding have to be downsized accordingly. However, Rachel's mother has other ideas. What if their family could join forces to make it a wedding to be proud of?

COMING NEXT TO
HOWICK LITTLE THEATRE

GRAND HORIZONS

By Bess Wohl

Directed by Penel Keegan



A COMEDY OF MARITAL MAYHEM
24 FEB - 16 MAR 2024



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