

HOWICK LITTLE THEATRE

presents



# RENOVATIONS FOR SIX

A comedy by Norm Foster

Directed by AJ Johnson

**A HALF-FINISHED HOME AND  
SOME UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**22 FEBRUARY - 15 MARCH 2025**

**iTICKET**

**HLT.NZ/SIX**

**Howick  
Local Board**  
Auckland Council

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

There is a theory of comedy that says that comedy can come from "commitment to 'a bit'". The bit can be an idea. A twist. Or, in our case, character. You take "the bit", and play it over and over, and keep playing it to just over 100%, and see what happens when a bit of our world is exaggerated into the wonderful world of absurdity.

*Renovations for Six* brings together three couples who are each of distinct strong character ... who absolutely should not be in a room together for any period of time. And Norm Foster's brilliance in his scripts is from taking these highly recognisable, only very slightly exaggerated characters, and winding them up and letting the comedy machine run and do its thing. It's a directing juggle figuring out how the bits fit into that machine, but enormously rewarding as they click together.

And so many bits! The couples, played by both familiar and new HLT faces, have crafted their incredible couples together

and it's been a privilege to watch them push their commitment to the characters further than I had any right to expect. The crew's unending commitment has given us a fun and believable world to play in, and HLT's commitment to quality has supported us in bringing this one to vivid life.

I thank everyone involved for their work, and particularly the theatre management team for their support and Sho, my stage manager, and Carolyn, my production coordinator, for creating a smoothly running space for me to direct after a long break. The literal thousands of volunteer hours from that very long list of cast and crew that go into each show often pass unnoticed, and I invite you to recognise the efforts of all of them.

It turns out it takes lots of bits of remarkable craft to make "the bit". Enjoy their commitment!

*AJ Johnson*

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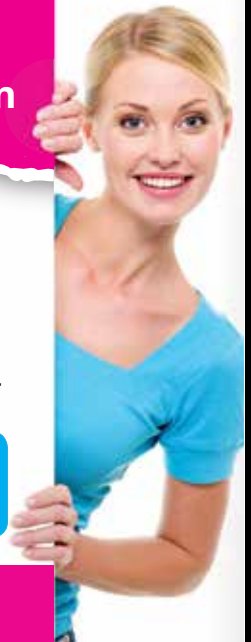
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# RENOVATIONS FOR SIX



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**Setting:** The play is set today in three almost identical houses undergoing renovation in a city in New Zealand that is not Auckland.

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

**Audience Care:** This play features mild adult language and content. Recommended for people 16 years and over.

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## THE CAST

**Grant Perkins**

Tor Hudswell

**Shayna Perkins**

An Gerstenmaier

**Veronica**

**Dunn-Dudet**

Shivaun Statham

**Maurice Dudet**

Gavin Leary

**Wing Falterman**

Barrie Graham

**Billie Falterman**

Ngaire-Ann Hobson

**Male swing actor**

Andrew (A.J) Johnson

**Female swing actor**

Sheree Veysey

## PRODUCTION CREATIVES

**Director**

Andrew Johnson

**Production**

**Co-ordinator**

Carolyn Loader

**Set Design**

Vic Leilua

**Lighting &**

**Sound Design**

Rhys Owen

**Assistant**

**Lighting Design**

Sho Okumoto

**Wardrobe**

Senica Calder

Shelby Sparks

**Props & Set Decor**

Elizabeth Amiss

**Stage Manager**

Sho Okumoto

**Assistant**

**Stage Manager**

Bruce Wighton

**Tech Operators**

Crystal Livingston,

Nathaniel Moran,

Daniel Ng

**Rehearsal Prompt**

Erin Parkinson

**Choreographer**

Jenny Connors

**Set Construction Team**

David Gifford (foreman),

Pat Hudson,

Doug Johnston, Andrew

Walden, Chris Woodhead

**Intimacy Adviser**

Emma Love

**Graphic Design**

Emma Love

**Photography**

Andrew (A.J) Johnson

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**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS** - The Dolphin Theatre & Cape Grace Wines.

*Renovations for Six* is staged by arrangement with Pam Winter, GGA, [www.ggagency.ca](http://www.ggagency.ca).



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



### **ANDREW JOHNSON**

### **Director**

Andrew (A.J) is a regular on the HLT stage, and thrilled to be directing after a 20-year break. He assistant-directed *Aurélia* at HLT last year and directed or co-directed numerous shows over a decade as a life member of the University of Canterbury Drama Society, including *Romeo and Juliet*, *Shakespeare Who?* and *Albuquerque Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Script*, which he also co-wrote. Between voice acting and recording audiobooks, stage and occasional screen appearances, improvising at Covert Theatre, and photography gigs, he can often be found teaching Media Studies to senior secondary school students.



### **BARRIE GRAHAM**

### **Wing Falterman**

Having had the privilege of reading *Renovations for Six* at HLT's Preeves Night late last year, Barrie was keen to take on the role of Wing formally, and was delighted to get the part. It's a welcome change from the assorted coppers and inspectors he's played in various whodunits at HLT and Dolphin in recent years, and represents a reversion to comedy, which was always his first theatre love since his first outing at HLT in 2008, and Cornwall Players before that. While first and foremost a comedy, *Renovations* traverses a number of themes of various degrees of poignancy. Ladies, bring tissues, and be aware that there may be odd bouts of intemperate language. Outside theatre, Barrie continues to ply his trade at the BNZ – in some ways not a lot different to Wing flogging sofas and tellies at Harvey Norman under the guise of "making customers happy". He hopes you enjoy the show – it's certainly garnered a lot of laughs during rehearsals.



### **TOR HUDSWELL**

### **Grant Perkins**

An actor from England, Tor arrived in Auckland in October. He has been acting since he was eight, and this is his first play at Howick. After graduating from Bath Spa University in 2020, he became a mainstay in the stand-up comedy scene in the southwest of England.

## **AN GERSTENMAIER**

## **Shayna Perkins**

Originally from Argentina, An is excited to make her HLT debut with such a talented cast and crew. Formerly a journalist, she is an actor, producer, and now director of Tupu, her immersive theatre company. An started her acting career in New Zealand six years ago with improv comedy and quickly began landing roles in theatre productions at such theatres as Dolphin, Titirangi, Covert, TAPAC, Basement, Pitt St, etc. Theatre is her greatest passion, though she has also worked in film, TV, and commercials.



## **SHIVAUN STATHAM Veronica Dunn-Dudet**

Shivaun has long been involved in theatre, treading the boards in varied roles across Auckland's community theatres over the years. Recently she played Elizabeth in the NZ premiere of *The Welkin* for Foolish Wit at The Pumphouse Theatre, and took on multiple roles in *The Laramie Project* at Titirangi Theatre. She is nominated for ACTT best supporting actor for her 2024 performance as Nurse in Titirangi's *Romeo & Juliet*. She was last seen on stage at HLT as Sugar in The Studio production of *Tiny Beautiful Things* in 2021. She is thrilled to be back alongside a brilliant cast and crew. She would like to thank Bruno, Ember and Lark for their patience and unwavering support.



## **GAVIN LEARY**

## **Maurice Dudet**

This is Gavin's first appearance at Howick Little Theatre. Most recently he has appeared in *Joyful & Triumphant*, *Black Coffee* and *Much Ado About Nothing* at Dolphin Theatre. Prior to emigrating from the UK, he also appeared in *Journey's End*, *Uncle Vanya* and *See How They Run* at the Brentwood Theatre, Essex.



## **NGAIRE-ANN HOBSON**

## **Billie Falterman**

Ngaire-Ann has three adult children (all mad), and five grandchildren (all wonderful), and one husband (all forgiving). She has always enjoyed live performance of all genres and she belongs to a fairly self-entertaining whānau, so ... when she suddenly in 2009 decided to audition for the production *Lipstick Dreams* at HLT. Let's just say she's never looked back. Her last adventure at HLT was in 2018's *Good People*, and her most recent was *Steel Magnolias* at Papakura Theatre in 2021.

*Renovations* was not on Ngaire-Ann's radar for 2025, but the planets aligned to put her back on stage at HLT in this madcap comedy, instead of her usual role behind the bar. Not that she is anything like Billie ... with her propensity to over-dramatise, seek out the limelight and dance through life. And it's just totally coincidental that she and hubby will be embarking on a few renovations after recently becoming empty nesters themselves. So ... nope, nothing like Billie ... at all.

She is looking forward to working with this wonderful and possibly slightly deranged bunch of people on stage and behind the scenes all of whom are volunteers and club members. The magic just doesn't happen without each and every one of them. So, Ngaire-Ann hopes you enjoy this play as much as she and the team do.





## THE PLAY

Newly arrived to the city and keen to make new friends, Shayna and Grant Perkins invite their neighbours around to their half-finished home for dinner. Former showbiz couple the Faltermans are a seemingly idyllic pairing, while the psychiatrist Veronica Dunn-Dudet and her engineer-turned-novelist husband appear anything but. In between multiple drinks and slightly burnt spring rolls, things quickly become awkward as hilariously unexpected truths emerge. *Renovations for Six* was first produced by the Foster Festival in St Catharines, Ontario, Canada, in August 2017.

## THE PLAYWRIGHT

Norman Foster, OC, (born February 14, 1949) has been the most-produced playwright in Canada every year for the past 20 years. His plays receive an average of 150 productions annually. Norm has over 60 plays to his credit, including *The Foursome*, *On a First Name Basis*, and *Hilda's Yard*. He also acts, often in his own work. Norm is the recipient of the Los Angeles Drama-Logue Award for his play *The Melville Boys* and in 2016 was made an Officer of the Order of Canada.

Foster discovered his talents as a playwright in Fredericton, New Brunswick, while he was working as host of a popular morning radio show. Intrigued with the theatre, he set his pen to paper and wrote his first play, *Sinners*.

In 1983 and 1984, Theatre New Brunswick mounted the first professional productions

## Norm Foster

of *Sinners* and his next play *The Melville Boys*. In the years following, TNB introduced *My Darling Judith* (1987), *The Affections of May* (1990), *The Motor Trade* (1991), *Wrong for Each Other* (1992), and *Office Hours* (1996).

Other well-known plays include *The Love List*, *The Long Weekend*; *Bedtime Stories*; *Kiss the Moon, Kiss the Sun*; *Storm Warning*; *Skin Flick*; *Outlaw*; *On a First Name Basis*; *Old Love*; *Mending Fences*, *Here on the Flight Path*, *The Foursome* and *The Ladies Foursome*. Frequently compared with US playwright Neil Simon, Foster pens plays that are known for their humour, accessibility, and insight into the everyday tribulations of life. His work is frequently produced by theatre groups across North America, and as far away as Australia and New Zealand.

### PATRON

Jennifer Te Atamira  
Ward-Lealand CNZM

### 2024-2025 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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### 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

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### 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

## THE CASE OF THE FRIGHTENED LADY

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

**3 - 24 MAY**

**A comedy by Bill Scott/UK/2014**  
**Directed by Penel Keegan**

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 dizzily devolve into chaos as the lines between fiction and reality blur.  
*Family friendly.*

## 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)*

## 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.*

*RABBIT HOLE is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC. servicing the Dramatists Play Service collection. (www.dramatists.com)*

## 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.



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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**

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