

WAIT UNTIL DARK

SHINES A
LIGHT ON THE
POWER OF
DARKNESS

SEASON
SEPT EMBER
9 TO 30

A THRILLER BY
FREDERICK KNOTT

ADAPTED BY
JEFFREY HATCHER

DIRECTED BY
CARLOS LEHMANN



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

BOOK ONLINE
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PHONE 361 1000



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

By arrangement with Music Theatre International Australasia Pty Ltd,
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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.

Thank you!

A big thank you to the Howick Local Board for a grant for a new Macbook. Our sound designers will now have more mobility and easier collaboration with the tech operators, resulting in a seamless sound experience for our audiences.

This will also help us to upskill our tech operators into sound designing for future productions.



PROUDLY SUPPORTING
HOWICK LITTLE THEATRE

WAIT UNTIL DARK

From the Director

After working on *The Maltese Falcon* last year, I was asked by the theatre if I was interested in directing *Wait Until Dark*, and of course I wanted to say yes before I read the script. Once I did, though, it was enough for me to feel certain about accepting this role.

Sitting in the director's chair for the first time in theatre was an equally thrilling and daunting experience. My maiden voyage as a theatre director has been an exploration of uncharted territories, a process filled with discovery and growth, and as my dear friend Laurie Mills puts it, a journey of compromise.

What I can say about the entire process is that

much like a forensic investigator reconstructs evidence to solve a mystery, piecing a play together involves meticulously arranging elements to unveil the cohesive narrative. This process was made far easier by the amazingly talented cast to breathe life into the play, and the crew who ensured that the blood was pumping.

I have been blessed by God to have every one of the cast and crew join me on this journey. I hope you enjoy this play and the suspense it offers just as much as we all did creating it.

Carlos Lehmann

The Play - In this adaptation of Frederick Knott's 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 and her tormentors must wait until dark to play out this thriller's chilling conclusion.

The Setting - Sam and Susan Hendrix's basement apartment in Greenwich Village, New York City, 1944. There will be a 15-minute interval between Acts I and II.

The Cast

Cameron Smith
Harry Roat

Julia Kellett
Susan Hendrix

Karl Fleet
Carlino

Bruno Batistela
Mike Talman

Nicole Johnson
Gloria

Grae Minors
Sam Hendrix

Standby
Matthew Cousins

Production Creatives

Director
Carlos Lehmann

Assistant to the Director
Laurie Mills

Production Co-ordinator
Lyneil Gray

Stage Manager
Trevor Hynes

Assistant Stage Manager
Bruce Wighton

Set Designer
David Pitman

Lighting Designer
Nicole Ashley

Light Rigging
Nicole Ashley
Craig Forsberg
Blake Ingram
Parag Londhe
Blake Elliot

Sound Designer
Dylan Day

Rehearsal Prompt
Hannah St Clair

Set Décor and Props
Nicole Harvey
Laurie Mills
Ellie Barrow

Wardrobe
Kristine Balingit
Laurie Mills

Intimacy Adviser
Anna Baird

Tech Operators
Tony Simmons
Orlando Meadows
Bailey Livingstone

Set Builders/Painters
David Gifford (set foreman)
Craig Forsberg
David Guthrie
Pat Hudson
Doug Johnston
Dan Lockett
Laurie Mills
Dan Vlad
Chris Woodhead

Special FX
Nathan Hey

Graphic Design
Emma Love

Photography
AJ Johnson

Teaser Trailer Crew
Nicole Ashley
Evie Miller-Rolls
Carlos Lehmann
Lyneil Gray
Matthew Cousins



Carlos Lehmann

DIRECTOR

Carlos joined HLT in early 2022 wanting to learn about directing plays. His experience in directing was mainly short films and YouTube videos. He joined Laurie Mills on the production of *The Maltese Falcon* (2022) as Assistant Director and later worked on the annual Preeves night. Carlos works in the building industry as a sales representative for Akarana Timbers. *Wait Until Dark* is his directorial debut in theatre, and if there is one thing he hopes to accomplish on this production, it's to seamlessly blend the timelessness of the original story with his own artistic imprint.



Cameron Smith

HARRY ROAT

Cameron is proud to return to the HLT following his appearance in *The Girl on the Train* in 2021. Graduating from the Unitec School of Performing and Screen Arts in 1998, Cameron debuted at Wellington's Downstage Theatre the following year in Ian Cross's *The God Boy*. In the early 2000s, he performed with the Legacy Shakespeare Company in their annual outdoor productions, including *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, and as Orlando in *As You Like It*. Last year, he played the role of Sir Edmund Hillary in the premiere of *The Sherpa and the Beekeeper* at Hamilton's Meteor Theatre.



Julia Kellett

SUSAN HENDRIX

This is Julia's second time performing with HLT and she's loving being back on stage here again so soon, getting to know a wonderful new bunch of people and spending time with the friends she made in the last show. She hates writing bios, loves having cuddles with her new little niece, and is terminally addicted to travel, especially spending time outdoors and exploring places she doesn't know much about. She is both terrified of and addicted to performing in front of an audience, and says it's been such a delight to figure out this new role with such a talented cast and crew. She hopes you enjoy the show.



Karl Fleet

CARLINO

This is the first time Karl has performed at HLT, but he has performed on stage, screen and inside a wrestling ring around the country. He's an active member of the Covert Theatre in Ponsonby, performing in over 100 improv shows. He's died on *Shortland Street*, been in a number of ads, short films and a reality TV show, and for over 10 years, Karl was a professional wrestler, becoming the New Zealand Heavyweight Champion. He is a fan of the thriller genre. As a writer, he has written a series of thrillers and was an Amazon best-selling author. *Corporate Truth* became No 1 on Amazon in multiple categories, including thriller, suspense and psychological thriller.

Bruno Batistela

MIKE TALMAN

Bruno is delighted to be back at Howick Little Theatre for *Wait Until Dark*. His previous role at HLT was last year performing as Guido Rainaldi in *My Cousin Rachel*. Bruno is an inventory analyst, aspiring professional actor and full-time Beyoncé fan. Since his last performance at HLT, Bruno has been busy training his acting skills as well as working on a few commercials and TV shows such as *Rings of Power*. He's very grateful to the cast and crew who have made this show possible.



Nicole Johnson

GLORIA

Nicole is a student at Botany Downs Secondary College, taking NCEA level 1 drama and additionally taking drama and screen acting classes outside of school. She has directed a play and acted in a play for the yearly Sheilah Winn Shakespeare Festival and also has starred as part of the main cast in her school's production of *The Addams Family*. Nicole has also been a competitive ballroom and Latin dancer for about 10 years and has seen much success, with top podium finishes in New Zealand and Australian national competitions. Some of her hobbies also include reading, writing, and making short films.



Grae Minors

SAM HENDRIX

Grae is an actor from Bermuda who has lived in Aotearoa-New Zealand since November 2022. Prior to joining the cast of *Wait Until Dark*, he played Carl Bruner in the Arts for Development's winter 2023 production of *Ghost: The Musical*. Grae undertook drama training at the Identity School of Acting (IDSA) in London, UK. In addition to acting, Grae is a broadcast journalist with more than 10 years' experience in the news industry. His work as a presenter and foreign correspondent has seen him report from five of the seven continents. His favourite colour is yellow.



Nicole Ashley

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Nicole is usually involved at Howick Little Theatre as a sound designer, having previously designed sound, music and graphics for shows such as *The Maltese Falcon*, *Shepherd*, *Home*, *I'm Darling*, *A Murder Is Announced*, *The Girl on the Train*, *Dead Simple*, *The Book of Everything*, *Dial M for Murder*, and many more shows at HLT and elsewhere. Nicole is also a film-maker, and for this show, she is excited to bring her skills in lighting movies over to the stage in the very cinematic and thrilling *Wait Until Dark*.



David Pitman

SET DESIGNER

David has been involved in one aspect or another of theatre since his youth. Officially joining HLT in 1988, he has mostly been involved in technical aspects such as sound and lighting, and the crafting of unusual props (such as exploding clocks and foam ornaments that could be used to safely "bludgeon" an actor). This is his second foray into set design (the previous being the production of *The Spirit of Annie Ross*).

The Playwright

FREDERICK KNOTT

Frederick Major Paull Knott (28 August, 1916 – 17 December, 2002) was an English playwright and screenwriter known for complex, crime-related plots. Although he was a reluctant writer and completed only a small number of plays, two have become well known: the London-based stage thriller *Dial M for Murder*, later filmed in Hollywood by Alfred Hitchcock, and the 1966 play *Wait Until Dark*, which was adapted to a 1967 Hollywood film directed by Terence Young. He also wrote the Broadway mystery *Write Me a Murder*.

The Adapter

JEFFREY HATCHER

Jeffrey Hatcher (b1957) is an American playwright and screenwriter. He wrote the stage play *Compleat Female Stage Beauty*, which he later adapted into a screenplay, shortened to just *Stage Beauty* (2004). He also co-wrote the stage adaptation of *Tuesdays with Morrie* with author Mitch Albom, and *Three Viewings*, a comedy consisting of three monologues – each of which takes place in a funeral home. He wrote the screenplays for *Casanova*, *The Duchess* (2008), *Mr. Holmes* (2015), and *The Good Liar* (2019). His many award-winning plays have been performed on Broadway, Off-Broadway, and regionally across the US and abroad. Some of them include *Scotland Road*, *A Picasso*, *Neddy*, *Korczak's Children*, *Mercy of a Storm*, *Work Song: Three Views of Frank Lloyd Wright* (with Eric Simonson), and *Lucky Duck* (with Bill Russell and Henry Kreiger). Hatcher wrote the book for the Broadway musical *Never Gonna Dance* and the musical, *Ella*.



HOWICK LITTLE THEATRE PRODUCTIONS 2023

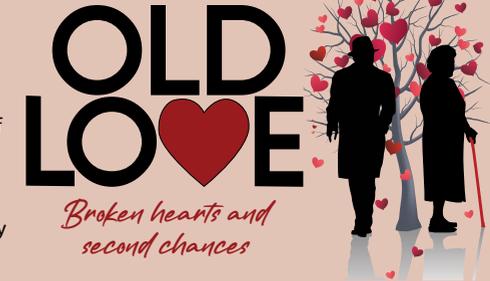


DIRECTED BY VIC LEILUA, BEATE WIEBEL AND SHO OKUMOTO
SEASON: OCTOBER 4 TO 7, 8PM.
MATINEE: OCTOBER 7, 2PM.

An eclectic mix of perfectly formed short plays celebrating invention and imagination. HLP showcases the best of global, NZ and local award-winning plays and playwrights. Bringing together new and experienced directors, actors and crew, we present a smorgasbord of 10-minute plays. Many are funny, some downright hilarious, some poignant ... there's something for everyone.
By arrangement with Pint-sized Plays and Playmarket.

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.



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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.



OLD LOVE

Broken hearts and second chances

NOV 11 TO DEC 2

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



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SIR LLOYD DRIVE - PAKURANGA
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