Later this year at TheatreWorks:

Frost/Nixon
by Peter Morgan
25 April – 5 May
TheatreWorks
Theatre

Book at: eventfinder.co.nz

OSCAR WILDE
5 - 20 April 2013
A WOMAN OF NO IMPORTANCE
directed by Ross Anderson
Programme

16 - 25 May
TheatreWorks
Recreation Drive
Birkenhead
Shoreside Theatre presents David Mamet’s
Glengarry Glen Ross
go to www.shoresidetheatre.com for more details

v06 April 19th
FROM THE DIRECTOR:

A Woman of No Importance is my fourth experience of directing. I have spent most of my theatrical time on stage, and so relish the opportunity to get behind the scenes and work on an image of my own.

The cast didn’t leave me much to do, turning up to the first rehearsal with the exact character I was looking for and rehearsing without scripts after two rehearsals, and I was left with quite a void. However I was able to enjoy the cast dynamic and getting to spend my time with a great group of people. I also take my hat off to my production team who kept me in line and who contributed their own superb ideas when I had none, with great results.

A massive thank you to all who helped out with an Oscar Wilde show that is a little more real than The Importance of Being Earnest.

THE SCENES OF THE PLAY

TIME: 1893. PLACE: The Shires, Middle England

ACT I. The Terrace at Hunstanton Chase.
ACT II. The Drawing-room at Hunstanton Chase.
Interval
ACT III. The Hall at Hunstanton Chase.
ACT IV. Sitting-room in Mrs. Arbuthnot's House at Wrockley

The play lasts about 2 hours, and there will be an interval of about 15 minutes between Acts II and III. Tea and coffee will be available during the interval, and the bar will be open during the interval as well as before and after the play.

About the play:

A house party is in full swing at Lady Hunstanton’s country home, when it is announced that young Gerald Arbuthnot has been appointed secretary to the charming and sophisticated Lord Illingworth. Gerald’s mother objects to this appointment, but fears to say why, for who will believe Lord Illingworth to be a man of no importance?

This biting comedy of social scandal focuses on the hypocrisy of a society which sneers and mocks women for their sexual behaviours while at the same time praising men for the same behaviours. Wilde delves into the dark side of English upper society, where shocking truths are to be revealed.

AUDITION NOTICE:

Auditions for Peter Rabbit will be held on:
Sunday 5th May, 2:00pm at All Saints Birkenhead Scout Den, 3 Recreation Drive, Birkenhead (just up the hill from the Theatre)

With 49 characters, this show has parts for all types of actors ranging from “real” adults and children to fictional humans, as well as many different animals. There are many opportunities to play multiple roles or a single character.

For further details, please contact info@mairangiplayers.co.nz or phone 419-0415.

Later this year, Mairangi Players present:

The 39 Steps

Patrick Barlow’s adaptation of John Buchan’s novel, directed by James Bell.

A man with a boring life meets a woman with a thick accent who says she is a spy. He takes her home and soon a mysterious organization called “The 39 Steps” is hot on his trail in a nationwide manhunt that climaxes in a death-defying finale!

Mix a Hitchcock masterpiece with a juicy spy novel, add a dash of Monty Python and you have The 39 Steps, a fast-paced whodunit for anyone who loves the magic of theatre.

AUDITIONS: Sunday 7th July, 2:00pm at the theatre

SEASON: 13 - 28 September

And from 6 - 14 December

Cinderella - the Pantomime

by Roger Hall, directed by Amy Maclaine

Cinders isn’t particularly interested in princes or castles. The Prince isn’t too keen on royal ceremony either, but one look at the Fairy Godmother and we just know they’ll be matched despite themselves.

Starring a fabulous Fairy Godmother, the sensational Ugly Sisters, a sweet Cinders, a reluctant Prince Charming, a pumpkin coach, lots of fun and laughter and a happy-ever-after ending, Cinderella the Pantomime is bound to be great way to end the year for everyone.

AUDITIONS: Sunday 29th September, 2:00pm at TheatreWorks

On at TheatreWorks in April and May:

Point Blank’s production of Frost Nixon from April 25 to May 5; and

Shoreside Theatre’s Glengarry Glen Ross, from 16–25 May – see back cover.
ABOUT MAIRANGI PLAYERS

Mairangi Players Incorporated is a community theatre group that has been part of the North Shore theatre scene in Auckland since 1952, making this our 62nd year. Today we own and operate TheatreWorks in Birkenhead. The club usually puts on four major productions a year; two all-age productions and two adult works.

Our extensive Wardrobe and Props departments, and theatre itself, can be hired by both members and non-members for very reasonable rates. To find out more about hires, membership, to register interest in performing, helping backstage or simply coming to see any of our productions please call us on 419 0415, or email info@mairangiplayers.co.nz.

CREATIVE DRAMA

Drama classes are run by Thespianage and designed to give theatre skills and experience. The tutor is Robyn Donnelly (BSc, DipDrama). Many who have been to these classes have subsequently appeared in, stage-managed, written and directed for Mairangi Players and other theatre groups. There are a number of past pupils involved in the play you are seeing tonight.

There are three classes to cater for differing maturity and abilities, running for nine weeks each term. We cater for pupils from 7 to 18 years of age.

Call 444-2796 or email info@thespianage.co.nz for further information.

Our next all-ages show will be

The Adventures of Peter Rabbit and his Friends
by Beatrix Potter and Joseph Robinette, directed by Alastair Kirkby

The charm of Beatrix Potter comes to life in this play that moves back and forth, interweaving the fantasy world of five of the delightful tales she created with the fascinating life of their creator. Beatrix Potter overcame her lonely, strict childhood — in which her writings and drawings were discouraged in the male-oriented Victorian era — to become the most widely read children’s author of all time.

We also meet Beatrix’s governess, Annie (who narrates the play), and Annie’s children for whom many of the stories were originally written.

AUDITIONS: Sunday 5th May, 2:00pm, All Saints Birkenhead Scout Den – more details opposite.


CREW

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<td>Elizabeth Waite</td>
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<td>Production Assistant</td>
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<td>Set Design &amp; Construction</td>
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About the author: Oscar Fingal O'Flahertie Wills Wilde (1854 – 1900) was an Irish writer and poet. He became one of London’s most popular playwrights in the early 1890s. Today he is remembered for his plays, novel (The Picture of Dorian Grey) and the circumstances of his imprisonment and early death.

Wilde’s boyhood was unpromising: contemporary accounts describe him as “unpopular with his schoolmates, a large, ungainly boy with inert habits... untidy, inclined to flop about, slovenly in both appearance and dress”. His nickname was “Grey Crow”.

His fame as a dramatist began with the production of Lady Windermere’s Fan in February 1892. His next comedy, A Woman of No Importance, built on this success, helping to ensure that Wilde would go down in history as one of the Wittiest ‘comedy of manners’ playwrights of his time.

At the play’s opening performance in 1893, however, Wilde was booted while taking his author’s bows, apparently because of a line which compares England to a leper. He found an unexpected ally in the Prince of Wales, who told him not to change a word.
CAST IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

Penny Skyrme as Lady Caroline Pontefract: Penny has had international theatrical experience, having appeared on stage in Britain, Spain and the French Pacific, as well as various places in New Zealand. Since returning home, she has confined her endeavours to the North Shore, including a part in Rebecca with Mairangi Players. After a gap of several years, she is very much enjoying acting again.

Amy Maclaine as Hester Worsley: Amy is in her final year of a conjoint Music and Commerce degree at the University of Auckland, and her passion for theatre adds further variety to her life. She has been involved of every aspect of theatre for the past ten years, and is the current secretary for Mairangi Players.

Stuart Tupp as Sir John Pontefract: Stuart is a relative newcomer to the stage, having first appeared only last year in Mairangi Players’ production of Treasure Island. Making up for lost time, he has since immersed himself in the world of theatre and hopes that during the rehearsal period some of the insane amount of talent in his fellow cast members can be absorbed via osmosis.

Robyn Donnelly as Lady Jane Hunstanton: Debuting as an embryo in South Pacific, Robyn has progressed from attending rehearsals in her bassinet to participating in all aspects of entertainment. Awarded a theatre scholarship, Robyn earned an "A" pass in the post-graduate Diploma in Drama (Auckland University). She has enjoyed getting her head around the sentence structure of Wilde’s delightful language.

Grahame Waite as Farquhar: Grahame first became involved with Mairangi Players in 1999 as stage manager, quickly made himself useful around the place and has never stopped. This has included a stint as club president and set-builds for more shows than he can remember. Enjoying minor notoriety in a pink tutu as Fairy Nuff in There’s no Christmas like No Christmas!!, he has made several cameo appearances since.

Darren Webster as Gerald Arbuthnot: Darren has been with Mairangi Players long enough that you have probably seen him in another show or seen a show he has operated tech for. This play required him to learn lines, but he felt that was better than if he tried to mime everything. Darren is studying Chemistry and Biology with a view to doing postgrad Wine Science.

Chloe Elmore as Mrs Allonby: Home-schooled virtually all her life, Chloe had little opportunity to experience theatre. Realising nothing could alter her love for acting, she has abandoned her cloistered life, diving headlong into the wonderful world of acting. She feels privileged to be part of this Oscar Wilde production, and only regrets she didn’t start acting far sooner.

Michelle Robinson as Lady Stutfield: Michelle's theatre debut was playing Red Riding Hood in a 'gangsta' version of the fairytale at age ten. Since then she's enjoyed a bevy of roles, including Mary Magdalene in numerous church productions. She's now thrilled to sink her teeth into the complex (character that is) Lady Stutfield.

Garry Jenkin as Mr Kelvil, M.P: Bon viveur and raconteur Garry is best known for his sparkling after dinner dissertations on the sequestration furlough and quantitative easing. He has dabbled in the theatre over the last forty years, principally with Mairangi Players where he has been in about twenty-five productions, including recently Forget me Knot and Beyond a Joke.

Jerry Miller as Lord Illingworth: By day a sober-suited engineer, Jerry’s debut anywhere was at TheatreWorks in Conor McPherson’s Shining City in 2009, in which he treated a woman really badly, and regrettably there is more of the same in this show. He recently appeared in Ellerslie’s Travels With My Aunt as both a girl in jodhpurs and an Irish Wolfhound.

Claire Balfour as Rachel Arbuthnot: Claire has been on and off the stage for years, more off than on recently, and is chuffed to return to the theatre with her first time at Mairangi in one of her favourite playwright’s plays.

John Robert Charlton as Archdeacon Daubeny: John started acting while at school when he was 15. Since then he has had his hand in puppetry, making both his own glove puppets and several ventriloquist’s dummies, the last of which was a massive pelican. John started acting again in Treasure Island last year and was wardrobe manager for over 30 costumes in the following play.

Delia Giurgiu as Alice: Theatre is Delia’s creative escape from the world of "figures and reports" associated with her daily job as Senior Risk Analyst at Bank of New Zealand. Because she loves the stage, she is heavily involved in organising and hosting events for the Auckland’s Romanian Community. Alice is her first English-speaking role.