

GLOBE THEATRE



104 London St Dunedin P.O. Box 5334 Phone: 4773274
email rosemary.beresford@stonebow.otago.ac.nz

NEWSLETTER July 2005

Hi

This month Rosemary Beresford is away and I (David Manley) have been volunteered to provide the Newsletter. So if there are any problems with the information please blame me.

Next Production

Beautiful Thing

by Jonathan Harvey

Directed by Jeffrey Vaughan

Season August 4-13 (excluding Monday August 8)

8 p.m. (except 4 pm on Sunday August 7)

Do not forget special rates for opening night, member \$6 come and fill the theatre.

Jonathan Harvey is probably most noted for his Television series Gimme Gimme Gimme and also writes for Coronation Street.

Beautiful Thing focuses on three neighbors, Jamie (Henry Davidson), Ste (Alastair Lumsden) and Leah (Lana Kerr) on Thamesmead Estate in south-east London. In the middle flat, Jamie lives with his pub manager mum, Sandra (Jo Munro). Jamie is going through a few problems at school, much to the chagrin of his gutsy mother who is too busy trying to hold down a relationship with a dippy younger man, Tony (Andrew Morrison). Next door lives Ste, sporty and good looking, with his brother and alcoholic father. The atmosphere is tense at the best of times. On the other side live Leah and her mum. Leah has been kicked out of school and passes her time listening to old records. Leah has become obsessed with the music of the Mamas and the Papas and particularly with Mama Cass.

Life drifts along until one night Ste is beaten up by his brother and is taken into the safety of Sandra's flat. Sleeping embarrassed head-to-toe, Jamie realizes that he is attracted to Ste. As the bullying continues, Ste spends more and more time with Jamie. With Jamie, Ste finds a tenderness he has so far missed out on in life. He finds himself drawn more and more to Jamie.

Beautiful Thing is a heartwarming story of two young men coming to grips with their sexuality and the effect it has on the people in their lives. But it is also a story we can all relate to; the strong feelings of the first time you fall in love. It also touches on other issues; domestic abuse, solo motherhood, life in a council flat.

This was written in 1993 and performed at Circa in 1994. This production is the amateur debut in New Zealand.

This is Jeffrey Vaughan's first production at the Globe, rehearsals are well underway and the play promises to be a stimulating and entertaining night at the theatre. I recommend all members not to miss this production.

Twelfth Night auditions have taken place, but there are still some parts to be filled. Would all those who wish to be considered contact the assistant director, Jackie Winchester (4761003 or 0211305042) for a further details.

Blood of the Lamb has been postponed until 2006 because of the director's unavailability this year.

A Life in the Theatre by David Mamet is now the final production for the year. The director for the production is Mark Neilson

Extracts from various reviews of the play make it a modern play worth looking forward to.

Apollo Theatre, London January - April 2005

David Mamet's *A Life in the Theatre* lasts 85 minutes, but unlike some pieces that are aeons longer, it packs three plays into its short, enjoyable span. The play comes in 26 scenes. It is, then, very literally a sketchy work. Yet there is human truth and pathos here as well as humour.

The Jungle Theater, Minneapolis, Minnesota. 24 Jan. 1998

A Life in the Theatre is a drama of nostalgia and promise, a dialogue about making art and living life and about what might or might not endure. Seldom performed, this early Mamet play lacks the gritty machismo and violent menace of his more recent widely acclaimed drama. With only three profanities, you might wonder if you're in Mamet terrain at all.

(Film version 1993)

When you overhear a man urging another to "stick it in" behind closed doors, you may not guess at once that they're talking about broken zippers and safety-pins. You've simply been offered an example of David Mamet's peculiar talent for ambiguous dialogue.

This is a play about real actors, which mirrors their emotions, behavior and way of life brilliantly. While we watch Robert and John practicing their roles backstage we perceive the human drama below the polite surface.

Mamet's juxtaposition of the real world behind the curtain with what these actors create in front of the footlights stimulates the audience to struggle to understand John's and Robert's relationship in the context of the scenes they play on stage.

Building

Trees have been removed from the back of the theatre and painting is supposed to be underway, though weather may interfere with progress on a day-to-day basis.

Marketing

Some of you may have bumped into opinion surveyors on the streets of Dunedin or at performances of "The Seagull". A group of students of the Marketing Department are undertaking a Marketing exercise based on the Globe Theatre. They have been working on it for most of this year, they have developed an enthusiasm for the Globe and its traditions. We await their final report with interest. When we receive the report, we hope to take actions on the recommendations, but they have already started the committee thinking about marketing and taking some action now.

Lighting

Jeffrey has managed to purchase a whole lot of lights from a tertiary institute in the city. Some need some work done on them, but we are now getting to the stage where we may have lights over from productions.

Seating

It is possible that the seats removed from the Hoyt's Cinema may be available for the theatre, though we still have to finish checking on size and negotiating. But hold your breathe you may get more comfortable seats.

Heating

We are also investigating the installation of another heat pump in the body of the theatre, so that a visit during winter is less like a trip to "Scott Base", watch this space, money may be the problem, but we are trying.