

Upcoming productions

October 3-12 *Palliative Care* by Emily Duncan directed by Richard Huber
Auditions were held recently and rehearsals are about to get underway. As you may all know by now, this production is being staged at the Globe as part of the 2008 Otago Festival of the Arts. (We would have told you sooner but were embargoed from doing so until after the official launch of the Festival programme on August 1st.)
Emily's play is being given its first full production during the Festival and the Globe is very proud to be able once again to stage the premier of a play by a Dunedin playwright, one who, like so many playwrights before her, has been closely involved with the theatre for many years.

We are also delighted that Richard is to direct the production and know that what he is hoping to achieve with its staging will be talked about by Globe regulars for many years...

December 4-13 *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll* by Ray Lawler.
To be directed by Brian Beresford
Auditions for this classic Australian drama will be held quite soon. Again, more later...

Building and grounds

As we told you in the last newsletter, we have plans to upgrade parts of the theatre very soon and have put in some applications for funding from various organizations to enable us to do this. (Although we do like to keep the theatre as a self-funding organization as much as possible, paying for all productions and general upkeep from what we make ourselves through box office receipts and the occasional hire-out charge, we are realistic enough to recognise that some of the major upgrades are too expensive for us alone.)

At the moment we are intending to improve the lighting box and kitchen areas. In the longer term, we are considering whether we might contemplate a much more comprehensive upgrade of the whole of the theatre, possibly as part of the planning for the 50th anniversary of its founding. (Yes, 2011 will be with us all too soon.)

Many of you will be aware that the Globe was given a Category 1 listing by the Historic Places Trust a few years ago in recognition of both the building itself (that part of it that dates back to the mid 19th century) and the importance of the Globe to the development of community theatre in New Zealand. The Globe Theatre had been opened in 1961 by Patric and Rosalie Carey as a modification of the house in which they were living. Since that time, the Careys have moved away (in the early 1970s) but their influence has continued and the Globe has been run by an ever-changing succession of Friends. These have modified and expanded the original house many times in response to urgent necessities such as rain water cascading onto the stage as well as down the necks of incoming patrons, increasing requirements for wardrobe, lighting and other storage space, better seating for our loyal audiences and increased expectations of such audiences for slickness of productions and access to acceptable toilets, etc. Meanwhile, the magnolia tree outside the original front door has continued to grow upwards and outwards, its roots may either be gradually pushing over the house or holding it up – experts differ in their opinion of this – and society's expectations of safety standards of the Globe continue to grow also, even for amateur theatres like ours.

So we are beginning the process of finding out what we might reasonably be able to do with our cherished theatre, what might be considered necessary for longer term continuance of the Globe; what is achievable within a reasonable budget and where we might obtain support for that which would be well outside our budget.

Suggestions from you will be very welcome; meanwhile, watch this space!

We will hope to see you all at the Globe during the next two weeks!