

## Productions 2012



Worse Things happen at Sea



Lovepuke



Winkie



The Middlemarch Singles Ball



Songbird

(Apologies to all the lovely actors whose photos could not be included!)

### COMPLETION OF CONSERVATION PLAN

Two years ago, we commissioned conservation architects, Fleur Gillies & Associates, to develop a conservation plan for the Globe Theatre. The first two parts, the condition report and the structural and fire report. These two documents were circulated to all members last year. The final parts (57 pages) of the conservation plan have been drafted and we would like to share a little of the introduction with you. *(It is long but well worth reading.)*

The story of the Globe Theatre and the land upon which it stands begins in London in 1857 when William Thomas Winchester, a carpenter, boarded the 'Palmyra' and set sail for New Zealand. William Winchester purchased a section in London Street, Dunedin in 1858. Now known as the Globe Theatre or simply the 'Globe', the buildings that now stand upon the site are well-known for their association with William Mason, New Zealand's first architect, and with Patric and Rosalie Carey. These associations are rightly the focus of the site's cultural heritage significance; however, the story has many other strands and this is what makes it so interesting and the place so important.

The names 'Winchester Cottage' and 'Wilton Cottage' crop up fairly regularly, but there seems to remain some confusion as to their exact location and what happened to them. The outstanding location and its views are, no doubt, the reason why in 1863 William Mason bought the land and the house that, reputedly, William Winchester had built upon it. At the time Mason was both an architect and a member of parliament and had within the last year or so moved to Dunedin to work on the building of new premises in the south of the country for the Bank of New Zealand. Winchester's house must have been very pleasant for Mason was a wealthy man and highly capable of creating his own home; yet previous research suggests that it was 7 or 8 years before he built his own home. Mason was highly successful and influential; not only did he design some of Dunedin's finest buildings, but he also became Mayor of the city. The house he built is, however, relatively subtle and modest compared with some other famous, early Dunedin houses but has a refined, Italian elegance that is still palpable despite all the 20th century modifications that have taken place.

During the late 1800s and first half of the 20th century, the house was associated with a number of the middle class entrepreneurs of the city; Robert Blackadder, John Haynes and Alexander Begg. The house's ownership by people of this social status probably again reflects its modest proportions and may be why it has survived when other more opulent (and expensive to run) buildings have been lost.

In the late 1950s, the house was reborn as the home and theatre of Patric and Rosalie Carey. There can be few places in New Zealand today like the Globe; it is probably unique. Rosalie Carey described the Globe as simply the 'theatre in the house' but 50 years or so after the first days of the Careys and it is a much more complex creation than that. It is a dichotomy - an elegant 19th century Italianate house and a 1960s playhouse built by love and free labour - but one that works very well and which has considerable cultural heritage value to the city and wider country.

So what is special about the Globe? What are its cultural heritage values? Below is a brief summary of the more formal aspects, but to really understand why it is so special you have to go there, stay a while, push your way through the props and costumes, listen to a rehearsal and think about all the real and imagined lives that have been lived there. The fascinating story of the Globe could be a theatrical production in itself.

- The place has high historical significance due to the origins of the site in the late 1850s.
- The section and original house have potentially high archaeological and technological significance for what they can tell current and future generations about this part of London Street and, more generally, building technology and materials in the city in the second half of the 19th century.
- The house has high social, historical and architectural significance for its design, original materials and association with William Mason. It also has significance for its connection with Mason & Wale who, between 1862 and 1913, were responsible for no less than 600 buildings in Dunedin, apart from many that grace other New Zealand cities.
- The design of the theatre has architectural significance for its association with Shakespeare's Globe
- The theatre has high social and cultural value for its connection with the Careys, the Friends of the Globe Theatre and more than 50 years of the performing arts in Dunedin. It also has an important place in New Zealand's theatrical history;
- The buildings have architectural and rarity value as being unique in New Zealand for the combination of a family home and public theatre;
- The original house had high landscape significance and was easily recognisable in old photographs as something of a landmark. This significance has been reduced by the later 20th century development, but the site is still considered to have contextual significance; the house and theatre remain slightly secretive and hidden away and the garden is a small oasis. In addition to the buildings, these factors are worthy of conservation.

*Meanwhile, can any member provide more information, especially personal recollections, knowledge of Winchester cottage and any photos of the early or pre-Globe days? Please contact the Globe (above) or email Robin Miller at [robin@jackiegillies.co.nz](mailto:robin@jackiegillies.co.nz), preferably before 7 January 2013.*

### OTHER MATTERS – BRIEFLY

**Membership 2013** – We really, really need you! Please read the attached or enclosed form, complete and return.

**Funding success** Bendigo Valley Foundation have very generously supported the staging of our last production. Thank you!

**Costume hire** – All members are entitled to hire Globe costumes free of charge. Contact Sofie on [sofandluce@gmail.com](mailto:sofandluce@gmail.com)

### FINALLY

**A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all!**