

GLOBE THEATRE DUNEDIN NEWS: March 2018



the amateur theatre with the professional attitude

Friends of the Globe Annual General Meeting

The Annual General meeting was held on Sunday 25 March 2018 and a good number of members attended. The Annual Report and the Financial Statements were presented and accepted. A new committee was appointed. This is as follows:

Chair – Keith Scott; Deputy Chair – Lynne Keen; Secretary – Paul Ellicott. Committee members – Brian Byas, Ray Fleury, Helen Fearnley, Sofie Welvaert, Lorraine Johnson, Campbell Thomson. The position of Treasurer is currently unfilled and Lynne Keen is continuing as temporary Treasurer until a replacement can be found. Thanks were given to the outgoing committee member, Miguel Nitis. However Miguel's agreement to continue with poster distribution and photography is very much appreciated.

Thanks to Brian and Rosemary Beresford

After 18 years of dedicated service to the Globe, our theatre stalwarts, Rosemary and Brian Beresford decided to retire from the Friends of the Globe committee this year. Their time put into the Globe and their work was recognised at the AGM and they were



presented with an engraved crystal commemorative trophy by the Friends. In addition, the committee commissioned a portrait photograph of Brian and Rosemary and this has been hung in the theatre foyer as a permanent reminder of their important place in the history of the Globe.

At the AGM. Rosemary Beresford, Natalie Ellis-Wilson, Brian Beresford (photo by Betty Rawlings)

Finding Murdoch – Opening Night 26 April

Our production of Margot McRae's play about the media's search for the reclusive Keith Murdoch in the 1990s opens on 26 April. The Globe Reporter talked to the director Andrew McKenzie about the play.

Why do this play?

Finding Murdoch presents us with a fascinating slice of Kiwi sporting history – not to mention, a portrait of an Otago legend. And with Keith Murdoch's passing away just this month, it is an opportunity to celebrate, reflect, and re-evaluate our understanding of a complex and unfairly maligned man.

How is the drama presented on the stage?

Ostensibly, the play is presented as a kind of 'whodunnit' mystery story, as a reporter, Jane, tries to get to the bottom of the mystery of what really happened in the Cardiff Arms Hotel on the night of 2nd December, 1972 - and to find Murdoch.

But the play is really an examination of the politics and power dynamics of the media, and how narratives are constructed to create maximum impact. It is a portrait of the dawning of an age where 'dull but worthy' stories were rejected in favour of sensationalism to sell copy.

Who, in particular, should come to the Globe to see this?

Sports fans will be interested to hear the story Margot (McRae, the playwright, also the journalist who found Murdoch in 1990) elicited from Murdoch after she interviewed him. They will also be interested to see her meetings with Lin Colling and Ian Kirkpatrick portrayed on stage, as well as their recounting of events of the 1972-3 Lions Tour.

But it will appeal to all theatre goers as they will enjoy watching the mystery of Murdoch's disappearance slowly be unpicked over the course of the show. The play follows a strong and resourceful female lead, Jane, pursuing an 'impossible' story, competing against her colleagues in a male-dominated sphere which still suffers from the hangover of chauvinism and in some cases, misogyny. The play is full of human drama, exploring collegial relations and workplace pressures, and contrasting them with the intense pressures our All Blacks and their managers encountered on and off the field in 1972.

What can we expect?

The play portrays some of the great characters in NZ rugby, as well as the people who bring their stories to us through the media. There's a stubborn, laconic and shy sporting hero, and a resilient and resourceful woman who is determined to bring his story to light. You can expect a strong, character-driven drama, with laughs along the way.

The play celebrates anecdotes and 'tall stories' of numerous All Blacks, from an age where the players assumed an almost mythical status in NZ society. Even Murdoch's rejection of rugby after 1972, and his self-imposed exile from NZ, contains a mythic quality. The script explores the legacy of these mythic figures amongst us.

Finally, you can expect the play to ask a few pertinent questions to do with the way we treat our heroes, the stories we tell ourselves about them, and our constant appetite as consumers for sensation and scandal.

***Finding Murdoch* is on stage from April 26 to May 5 at 7.30 pm with a matinee on Sunday 29 at 2pm. (No show Sunday or Monday nights)**

Book now at globetheatre.org.nz