

Stagecraft presents . . .

The 2019 Season Preview

2019 Schedule

	Melancholy Play by Sarah Ruhl	Next to Normal Book and Lyrics by Brian Yorkey and Music by Tom Kitt	See How They Run by Philip King	BARE: A Pop Opera Jon Hartmere and Damon Intrabartolo	Frost/Nixon by Peter Morgan
Auditions	Sunday 2 nd December 2018	Feb 2019	April 2019	May 2019	August 2019
Rehearsals (Tues/Thurs evenings and Sunday afternoons)	Dec 2018 – Feb 2019	March 2019 – May 2019	April 2019 – June 2019	June 2019 – August 2019	August 2019 – Oct 2019
Opening	27 Feb 2019	1 May 2019	26 June 2019	28 Aug 2019	30 Oct 2019
Closing	9 March 2019	11 May 2019	6 Jul 2019	7 Sep 2019	9 Nov 2019
Pack-out	10 Mar 2019	12 May 2019	7 July 2019	8 Sep 2019	10 Nov 2019

Contacts

Play	Director	Production Manager
Melancholy Play	Helen Mackenzie	Sarah Campin-Fordham
Next to Normal	Director Alick Draper and Musical Director Katie Morton	Jen Pearce
See How They Run	Sue Haddock	Chris O'Grady
BARE: A Pop Opera	Director Aaron Blackledge and Musical Director Jo Hodgson	Joy Hellyer/ Paul Kay
Frost/Nixon	Tanya Piejus	TBC

“Melancholy Play”

by Sarah Ruhl

Director: Helen Mackenzie

Production Manager: Sarah Campin-Fordham

The Play

This will be the NZ premiere of Sarah Ruhl’s (The Clean House, In the Room Next Door (or the Vibrator Play), Stage Kiss) contemporary farce, “Melancholy Play.” It is a fast paced, melancholic action-packed journey of five characters in search of an almond.

We are looking for five dynamic and enchanting actors to bring this crazy ride to life. There will be live music playing throughout the show played by the character of Julian, the Cellist, and musical ability would be a delight but is not a must for the other 5 characters (there are “songs” in the script).

The Plot

Tilly’s melancholy is of an exquisite quality. It is a beautiful and sexy thing, and every stranger she meets falls in love with her. One day, inexplicably, Tilly becomes happy, and things get very strange...

It is a little weird, a little wild and a whole lot of fun.

The Characters

Looking for cast and crew willing to embrace some “heartfelt melodrama” and have some fun with the script. Very open on ages, ethnicity, etc and looking for people willing to give things a go and who work well as a team.

FRANK (Male, 18-50)	A tailor, US accent preferred
TILLY (Female, 18-50)	A bank teller, US accent preferred
FRANCES (Female, 18-50)	A hairdresser, US accent preferred
JOAN, (Female, 20-50)	A British nurse, British accent preferred
LORENZO THE UNFEELING, (Male, 25-50)	A psychiatrist, US/Italian/European accent
JULIAN, (Any gender, any age)	A cellist player

“Next to Normal”

Book and Lyrics by Brian Yorkey and Music by Tom Kitt

Director: Director Alick Draper & Musical Director Katie Morton Production Manager: Jen Pearce

The Play

A Pulitzer Prize winning rock musical which broke the mould of musicals in its portrayal of mental illness. Feel free to approach Alick or Katie for some more details around themes addressed if you have any concerns.

The Plot

Next to Normal explores how a small suburban family faces trauma and deals with mental illness. In its unflinching portrayal of Diana’s Bi-Polar disorder, we understand her personal pain inflicted by this disease and the consequences it has on her fractured family, who are also confronted by their own mental wellbeing. Whilst there are moments of humour throughout the musical, at the core is the anguish caused by mental illness and the discovery of its deep rooted pain.

The Characters

Next To Normal requires 6 fantastic actors who are strong singers.

Diana (F, 40 - 50, Mezzo):	She is strong and a survivor. Suffering from Bi-Polar disorder with psychotic episodes, which leads to hallucinations. At times manic. At times deeply depressed.
Dan (M, 40 - 50, Tenor):	Diana's husband. A genuine and constant figure throughout Diana's life. His energy is diverted away from his own problems to look after Diana, which he is growing tired of.
Natalie (F, 16-18, Mezzo):	Diana and Dan's daughter. A hardworking student and an accomplished musician. Often anxious, which is heightened by her mother's illness.
Gabe (M, 18-21, Tenor):	Diana and Dan's son. An "All American" boy. Charming and athletic. Everything a mother could want.
Henry (M, 16-18, Tenor):	Natalie's classmate. A free-thinking stoner who's musical talents catch the attention of Natalie.
Mr. Madden/Dr.Fine (M, 30 - 40, Tenor):	Diana's psychiatrist. Assured in his approach and at times viewed by Diana as a rock star.

“See How They Run”

by Philip King

Director: Sue Haddock

Production Manager: Chris O’Grady

The Play

A farce written in 1944, and set in 1943 during the Second World War. The West End opening night saw three “doodle-bug” bombs explode nearby. Not one of the audience left their seats, but the leading man complained that the explosions had ruined his three best lines!

The Plot

The small village of Merton-Cum-Middlewick has a P.O.W. Internment camp nearby. When a prisoner escapes and goes looking for a disguise he goes to the local vicarage. Vicars, outraged spinsters, desperate prisoners and mistaken identities. What more does a farce need?

The Characters

Rev. Lionel Toop	Vicar of the Parish of Merton-Cum-Middlewick. About 35-40, mild, staid, married for less than a year to:
Penelope Toop	A former actress, mid 20s. Sparky, thinks she can sing. At loggerheads with:
Miss Skillon	Long-standing parishioner, had hopes of the vicar! 35-45, sour, busybody. Has to sing a couple of lines, not necessarily well.
Ida	The maid. Jolly, friendly village girl, late teens - early 20s. Cockney? Irish? Welsh? Somerset? Ally to Penelope.
Corporal Clive Winton	Former actor, 25-35ish. Soldier at nearby internment camp. Was in the same theatre company as Penelope.
The Bishop of Lax	Jovial man of 45 or older. Penelope's uncle.
Rev. Arthur Humphrey	Mild man of 40ish. Naive and self-effacing.
The Man	Escaped German prisoner-of-war. 25-45. Desperate and dangerous.
Sergeant Towers	45 or older. From the internment camp guard. Gruff, bossy but perhaps not so smart.

“BARE: A Pop Opera”

by Jon Hartmere and Damon Intrabartolo

Director: Director Aaron Blackledge & Musical Director Jo Hodgson

Production Managers: Joy Hellyer/ Paul Kay

The Play

BARE was written and debuted at the Hudson Theatre, California in 2000, before its Off-Broadway premiere in 2004. It is a diverse show with a 50/50 gender split with a diverse range of lead and featured roles with a strong ensemble. It is a youthful and lively musical with material that both cast and crew can sink their teeth into and challenges to bring out their craft.

The contemporary alt pop-rock score gives BARE a modern and accessible feel for both the listener and the performer. The use of the word Opera refers to its format with the use of a recitative - sung speech - to move the story along while still allowing the characters to give gravitas to the emotion of their journeys through a range of musical genres.

“Love is love cannot be killed or swept aside.” Lin-Manuel Miranda

The Plot

BARE follows a group of high school seniors at a Catholic boarding school as they struggle to come to terms with who they are, and who the world thinks they should be. They seek answers from their church, their family, their friends, and ultimately, from within themselves. The show focuses on Peter and Jason who are in a secret relationship and ‘what would happen if they were discovered’.

The play within the play - a school production of Romeo and Juliet, creates an interesting juxtaposition of the star-crossed lovers in and out of the play.

The Characters

JASON: Late Teens Male	Lead	Baritone
PETER: Late Teens Male	Lead	Tenor
IVY: Late Teens Female	Lead	Soprano
NADIA: Late Teens Female	Lead	Mezzo-Soprano
MATT: Late Teens Male	Lead	Tenor
LUCAS/ RORY/ ZACK/ ALAN: Late Teens, Male.	Ensemble	Baritone/ Soprano/ Baritone/ Tenor
TANYA/ KYRA/ DIANE: Late Teens Female	Ensemble	Soprano/ Alto/ Alto
CLAIRE: Peter’s mother, 40 +	Featured	Mezzo-Soprano
SR. CHANTELLE: African-American nun, wise, no-nonsense, 25+	Featured	Soprano (Gospel)
PRIEST: St. Cecilia’s headmaster, 40+	Featured	Baritone

“Frost/Nixon”

by Peter Morgan

Director: Tanya Piejus

Production Manager: TBC

The Play

You may have seen the 2008 movie starring Martin Sheen and Frank Langella, but this play came first. It's the gripping, thriller-style true story of the most-watched political interview in history. A Wellington premiere, this will be an opportunity for a slick cast and crew to recreate an historic broadcasting coup – and wear some really awesome 70's clothes.

The Plot

US President Richard Nixon resigns amid the fallout of the Watergate scandal in 1974. By 1977, he is living in splendid seclusion in California and has never publicly admitted any guilt or remorse for letting his country down. Then along comes British playboy talk show host, David Frost, determined to extract a confession from the disgraced statesman over the course of four televised interviews. Nixon and Frost go head to head in what will become TV's greatest battle of wills.

The Characters

Richard Nixon	Male, 60s. Still statesman-like former president of the US.
Jim Reston	Male, mid-30s. American writer and Nixon expert who helps the Frost team with research. Also acts as narrator throughout the play.
David Frost	Male, late 30s. Charming British playboy talk-show host.
Jack Brennan	Male, late 30s/early 40s. American military man and Nixon's former Chief of Staff.
Evonne Goolagong	Female, early 20s. Aboriginal Australian tennis player. Actress also plays various non-speaking roles.
John Birt	Male, early 30s. British TV producer and good friend of Frost.
Manolo Sanchez	Male, 40s. Spanish-born American valet and loyal friend of Nixon.
Swift Lazar	Male, 50s/60s. American hygiene-obsessed talent agent.
Caroline Cushing	Female, late 20s/early 30s. British woman who has a fling with Frost.
Bob Zelnick	Male, late 30s. Likeable American journalist on Frost's research team.
Ensemble	Two male actors of any age to play <i>60 Minutes</i> host Mike Wallace, TV studio managers and crew, an airline captain, a photographer, a TV director, secret servicemen, dinner guests and waiters.