



HAMILTON  
OPERATIC  
SOCIETY

[www.hamiltonoperatic.co.nz](http://www.hamiltonoperatic.co.nz)

August  
2007

# HOStage

## Blood Brothers

Hamilton Operatic Society is proud to present the acclaimed musical **Blood Brothers** for a limited one week season from 15th September at Hamilton's Founders Theatre.

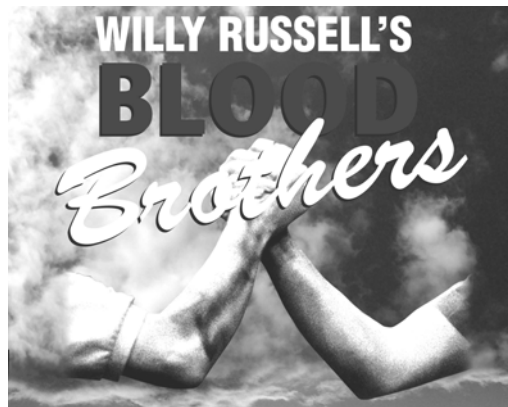
Set in 1960s Liverpool, **Blood Brothers** tells the tale of a mother's ultimate sacrifice - the giving up of one of her twin boys for what she perceives will be a better life for all.

Written by Willy Russell (Shirley Valentine and Educating Rita), **Blood Brothers** is one of the longest running musicals of all time and is currently celebrating its 20th year on London's West End. Winner of the Laurence Olivier award for best new musical and nominated for several Tony Awards on Broadway, this is your chance to see this superb show onstage in Hamilton.

**Blood Brothers** once again brings together the creative talents of Director David Sidwell and Musical Director Campbell Douglas - the same team that brought *The Rocky Horror Show* to Hamilton in 2005 and *High School Musical* earlier this year.

The society has wanted to stage **Blood Brothers** for many years, but has been unsuccessful due to the performance rights not being available. So the chance to finally produce the show has everyone involved bubbling with excitement.

The **Blood Brothers** Hamilton cast features many well-known performers and some new faces, including Sam



Ware, David Artis, Nick Wilkinson, Joseph Thompson, Fiona Artis, Lisa Wiles, Hannah Hurst, Stephanie Christian and Gayle Williams.

Songs include "Bright New Day", "Marilyn Monroe" and the emotionally charged hit "Tell Me It's Not True".

Don't forget the season is strictly limited - it's for one week only - so please don't leave it till the last minute to book! Ticket prices are only \$16.50 to \$36.50 (plus TicketDirect service charges) and there is an early Tuesday night show (\$12.00) and a Saturday matinee (\$15.00) plus TicketDirect service charges. See the enclosed flyer for full details of show dates and times. Help us spread the word by putting it up in your workplace, social club, local supermarket... Call in to Costume Hire for more supplies plus we have posters too.

**Book now at TicketDirect:  
Phone 07 838 1111, at any  
Hamilton City Library or online  
at [www.ticketdirect.co.nz](http://www.ticketdirect.co.nz)**

### Chairman's Message

It is with sadness that we say goodbye to Paul Mitchell as chairman of the board. Paul has served in this role for the last 9 Years and has guided the society through many highs and challenging moments over that time. The board wishes Paul all the best for his new job.

I'm David Smith, and for those who don't know me I've been involved in HOS for the last 23 years, mainly backstage and have been on the board for the last five years. I'm passionate about operatic, as we've provided Hamilton with high quality musical theatre for well over 100 years, and will continue to provide Hamilton with this high standard.

There is only three weeks to the opening of Hamilton Operatic's season of **Blood Brothers**, and this show has the cream of Hamilton's musical theatre talent.

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# Bar & Workshop Changes

A recent tender for the continued operation of bar facilities at Clarence Street Theatre was unsuccessful.

The bar had been operated by HOS until early July, when a tender process awarded the new contract to Montana Catering, which also operates the bar facilities at other Council-owned venues including Founders Theatre and Waikato Stadium.

The change follows last year's refurbishments to the theatre box office which removed the provision of a kiosk for patrons.

The council and Montana now plan to spend several thousand dollars on

necessary improvements to equipment and presentation.

A huge thank you to our last Bar Manager, Mike Martin, as well as the many volunteers who have run the bar and kiosk over the last 29 years.

Other changes at the theatre include the return of the offices, boardroom and workshop space to the council. HOS has enjoyed the use of these facilities since the Council acquired the theatre, however Council has recently changed its community rental policy and requirements for the theatre. HOS has secured a lease for the upstairs costume hire and mezzanine area, and will continue to operate

costume and cloth hire departments.

Hamilton City Theatres will now use the workshop area for servicing the technical side of the Clarence Street Theatre, and may look at moving all technicians and administration staff to the theatre in the next few years.

*From page one...*

This is a limited season of 7 shows only so book now to avoid the disappointment.

I look forward to seeing you all throughout the season of Blood Brothers at Founders Theatre.

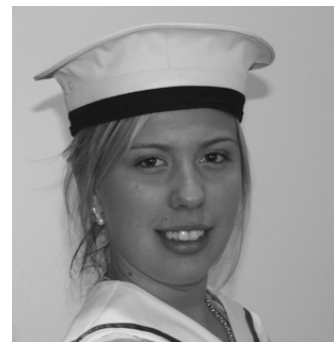
*Dave*

## Fundraising for Kirsty Otto

Many of you will be aware that 18-year old Kirsty Otto, who has performed in shows for the Hamilton Operatic Society, was diagnosed with a brain tumor two months ago. Doctors in New Zealand have declared it in-operable, and the chemo and radiotherapy she is undertaking are not working. This means that without an operation, Kirsty won't survive for very long at all. Fortunately, a surgeon in

Australia says an operation is possible and that it could be highly successful - but will cost NZ\$83,000, which is not government funded.

A concert involving many well-known HOS performers was held in July and raised \$6,400. Fundraising activities to date have raised over \$122,000, which is a huge contribution to helping Kirsty get the medical care that she needs.



*Kirsty in last year's Christmas Show*

Donations can be made through any BNZ branch or visit the website for info: [www.kirstyotto.co.nz](http://www.kirstyotto.co.nz)

## Titbits

Happy belated birthday to Michael Easter!

Congratulations to Heather and Mark Connelly on the birth of their son

Congrats to Ron Braithwaite who won our recent Blood Brothers email competition. If you would like to receive our emails with updates on

upcoming shows, register your email address online at our website: [www.hamiltonoperatic.co.nz](http://www.hamiltonoperatic.co.nz)

**We Need You!** We're looking for help in the following areas - call Kathie at Costume Hire if you're keen to help - phone 07 839 3082

- We're looking at extending the costume hire opening hours in a couple of months time and need volunteers to help with customer



service - sewing skills are not necessary!, just a great sense of humour!

- Someone with "MYOB" experience to help get our accounting system "computerised"
- Anyone interested in refining our Cloth Hireage system
- Anyone who wants to be a board member! We have several vacancies available - AGM and nomination info will be out soon.