



HAMILTON  
OPERATIC  
SOCIETY

www.hamiltonoperatic.co.nz

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# HOStage

## Operatic to go "The Full Monty"!

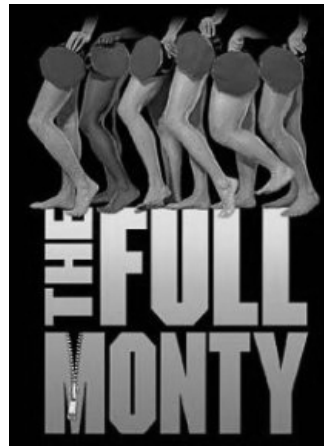
We've secured the rights to the NZ Premiere of "The Full Monty" for our major show next year! Here is some background info on the story & show:

A group of unemployed Buffalo steelworkers hopes to replenish their empty wallets and boost their flagging morale by following in the footsteps of the Chippendales strippers.

These guys are hardly what you would think of as buff, and few can even dance. They simply take these problems in stride, because these are men with a plan-displaced, unemployed, and feeling suffocated by the women in their lives, they

just want to earn a little respect. The dialogue and interaction between these men will have you screeching with laughter, but of equal importance is their sense of camaraderie and caring. The Full Monty easily conveys the sheer humanity of these people in their small town with their sad stories and irresistible sense of optimism.

The musical is based on "The Full Monty", one of the most successful British films ever made. Since it's Broadway opening in 2000, it has been receiving strong reviews and rapturous receptions from audiences and critics alike, throughout



the world. The themes of the movie remain intact. Also, new characters have been added and the women's roles have been strengthened.

Lindsay Law, the producer

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### "THE FULL MONTY" AUDITIONS

Yes, it is The Full Monty! We do want to be authentic, it can't be The Half Monty! However, as in the movie, there are the security caps placed strategically at the end of the final number as well as the appropriately placed blackout!

Auditions are on Saturday 27th November.

13 Males / 8 Females required—all are singing roles.

Check our website for more info, or call 07 839 3082 to book an audition time.

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## Christmas Show Selling Fast!

Don't miss out on this year's Christmas Show—Around Uranus in 80 Ways!

Tickets are selling fast and with last year's show all but selling out, you'll want to get along to Ticketek and book

those tickets ASAP!

Rehearsals are well underway. The show packs into the Westpac Trust theatre on Saturday 13th for a two week production period before opening on Friday 26th November.



# Chairman's Message

Having seen rehearsals for our upcoming Christmas Show, "Around Uranus in 80 Ways", I know this show will cap off a very successful year for the Hamilton Operatic Society. Not only have we already produced two fantastic shows "Grease" and "West End to Broadway", we've taken a tour to "The Lion King" in Sydney and celebrated 100 years of musical theatre in Hamilton. Considering we normally only do two shows a year, this is no easy undertaking and I'd like to thank those members involved for their extra commitment and hard work.

Unfortunately one disappointment has been the postponement of "Tommy" which we have had to put off due to some key cast members becoming unavailable to do the show. However on the positive side it has given us a "breather" before launching (literally) into our Christmas show.

I'm pleased to announce that we have secured the rights to the NZ Premiere of "The Full Monty" for our major show next year, and we are due to confirm rights for a production of "The Rocky Horror Show" very soon. Keep an eye on the website for more details. We're also



planning another show tour to Australia, perhaps to "The Producers" in Melbourne, so look out for those details too. It looks like 2005 will be just as busy, and no doubt the shows will be just as fabulous.

See you at the Christmas Show!

# AGM & Board News

Thanks to the members who attended our recent AGM. Paul Mitchell's position on the board was up for re-election and we're pleased to confirm he was re-elected with no other nominations forthcoming.

At the November Board Meeting Paul was re-elected as Chairman, **Heather Bircham** as Secretary and **Chris Parker** as Treasurer. **Tania Burkhart** and **Christine Sidwell** were

co-opted back onto the board, and **Shirley Buchanan** was once again co-opted as Front of House representative.



Membership forms will be sent out early in 2005. The membership fee remains at \$20 and includes discounted tickets to shows, HOStage Newsletter, plus discounted bar prices and costume hire.

**We need Crew!**  
If you're keen to help out backstage for our upcoming productions, or you know someone who is, please call Paul Mitchell on 027 2666795

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of the Broadway show said: "The wives and girlfriends of our main cast play a more important role in showing us who these guys are, and they help us increase our affection for them."

The show is being directed by David Sidwell, with Musical Direction by Jenny Going and Choreography by Sean Archer.

The season runs from 4—18 June. We're also looking for help behind the scenes, especially backstage crew so if you know anyone who's keen to get involved, please let us know!

# Thanks Trust Waikato!

Hamilton Operatic recently received a donation of \$10,000 in Trust Waikato's 2004 funding round.

Trust Waikato's purpose is to help organisations carry out charitable, cultural, philanthropic and recreational projects of benefit to people in the Greater Waikato.

Every year the Trust holds one major donation round, allocating funds to around 900 community groups.

In 2004 the total grants amounted to \$6,990,485.



# Statue, Riff Raff?

Hamilton's world-famous Rocky Horror statue Riff Raff is nearing completion and a date for the unveiling has been set for midnight on 26 November.

The event promises plenty of surprises and a theatrical party atmosphere, and the cast, crew and patrons of "Around Uranus" will be encouraged to join the party following the opening night performance.

The statue, primarily funded by the Perry Foundation in support of public art and as a way to promote Hamilton, is in the final stages of creation at the Weta

Workshops in Wellington. Weta is better known for its creation of movie sets for Lord of the Rings.

The Riff Raff statue will commemorate the development of the idea and the writing of the Rocky Horror movie by Richard O'Brien who lived in Hamilton and worked next door to the site of the now demolished Embassy Theatre where the statue will be erected.

Since the release of the movie nearly 30 years ago, Rocky Horror has attained a cult-status in many parts of the world.



We're currently negotiating the rights to perform the stage version of "The Rocky Horror Show" as part of our 2005 season. We hope to announce further details very soon.

# Musical Theatre New Zealand

Hamilton Operatic is a member of Musical Theatre New Zealand which is the association of Musical Theatre groups in New Zealand. Check out their website at [www.musical.org.nz](http://www.musical.org.nz) for updates on what other groups are doing, new shows available and lots of other resources.

Musical Theatre New Zealand

(formerly known as the Operatic Federation of New Zealand and prior to the 2003 AGM Musical Theatre Federation of NZ) was formed in 1960 and is the umbrella group for groups associated with Musical Theatre.

From small beginnings, they currently boast a membership of over 80 societies, with some 80 schools now members, along with

18 Corporate members. Societies represented cover the length and breadth of New Zealand.

Administered from a small central office in Wellington, MTNZ is recognised both Nationally and Internationally for the contribution it has made to both fostering and increasing participation in the Arts with our communities.

## Titbits

Congratulations to **Mark Connolly** and **Heather Bircham** who recently celebrated their engagement

Also best wishes to **Mark Westerby** who has been appointed as Director of the New Zealand Fringe Festival in Wellington February / March next year.

**Brendon Weatherley**, who played Kenickie in *Grease*, is currently in Japan performing in "Phantom", following his NZ tour with "Evita".

**Jeremy Mayall** recently launched his debut album "A Typical Day in Suburbia" featuring 16 tracks from a variety of artists. The album is the first release from his One.Fat.Man Productions label. Check out [www.onefatman.co.nz](http://www.onefatman.co.nz)

More congratulations to **Nick Wilkinson** and **Falstaff Dowling-Mitchell** for winning Best Film, Best Director and Best Script at the recent ShootOut film festival with their entry "Product Pimps".

Got something to add to our titbits section? Email us at: [info@hamiltonoperatic.co.nz](mailto:info@hamiltonoperatic.co.nz)

