

DRAMA STUFF # 24 February 2010

Hello there stuffers!

Happy new year. We hope things have begun well for you. We are already in full flight here at the Radio New Zealand drama factory.

Drama and stories online

Wow! Suddenly people have found the fabulous collection of stories and dramas on the RNZ website at radionz.co.nz ! Maybe it was the holiday period that caused this but whatever, the word seems to be getting around.

Speaking of which there's a new collection of stuff up there (from Friday 5th February). There are a couple of new multi-episode book readings, a bunch of new short stories, some fabulous and award-winning dramas and heaps of new student work.

You may not have realised that most of the stuff is only available on the drama page on the website for 90 days. But we think that's pretty good for this sort of material and is much better than most similar broadcasters elsewhere in the world.

But some selected material forms part of a growing 'permanent archive' – some comedy and almost all of the newest of the new writing and performance in the form of the GO SOLO pieces and the winning 15-minute STUDENT SHORTS plays. The idea of having this very new work up there in a growing collection is that it a great resource for beginning writers and performers and supports our extensive training programs. It's a sort of smorgasbord of ideas and possibilities for writers and actors beginning in what has become the renaissance of radio drama and comedy.

But hey, it's just great to listen to anyway! Check it out.

The Summer Season of New Drama: the Newest of the New on Radio New Zealand National

If you haven't yet realised it the first season of new drama is already happening on RNZ National on Sunday afternoons in the Arts on Sunday with Lynn Freeman. In fact it's about half way through!

We gave you the full listings in the December Drama Stuff but here's a simplified schedule so you can catch up:

3:04pm Sun 7 Feb 2010

Student Shorts 2010 - Part 1

Three of the six winners of this year's short play competition.

Bridge to Portobello by Gwyneth Hyndman (VUW Wellington)

Guitar Lessons by Richard Finn (VUW Wellington)

Taking the Bait by Ness Simons (Whitireia Wellington)

3:04 pm Sun 14 Feb 2010

Student Shorts 2010 - Part 2

The second set of three plays from the winners of the 15-minute playwriting competition

Skin Deep by Ole Maiava (Banana Boat Writers - Auckland)

Crazy in Love by Ness Simons (Whitireia Wellington)

Where's Wiki's House Gone Dad? by Rob Tuwhare (Te Arapiki Maori Writers)

3:04 pm Sun 21 Feb 2010

Being Brave by Tina Pepler

A new play with a NZ setting from BBC!

3:04 pm Sun 28 Feb 2010

The Circus of Errors by Sam Trubridge

With original music by Phil Brownlee

More detailed information can be found on the [Sunday Drama listings on the website](#).

And remember, all the new student SOLOS and SHORTS will be there online at radionz.co.nz. So don't panic if your friends missed your amazing and brilliant work of which you are proud. Send them to the website!

In production at the moment

The two really exciting things are the upcoming Stuart Hoar play, *The Big Melt*, commissioned as New Zealand's contribution to 2010 WorldPlay season – and the radio version (of course) of Paul Rothwell's *The Blackening*. This *Blackening* was actually well into development months before the stage version went into rehearsal.

And for you *Blackening* freaks out there who've already asked, this one does have Jed Brophy doing his thing and working with the sufficiently creepy and dark Phil Grieve and Julian Wilson (and some real apples ... and a dog ... and cicadas ... and). Yay!

Name the sage!

Well, we thought that last one would stump you but instead we had an unprecedented number of smarties responding correctly and without delay. Ooo hoo!

The answer was James Branch Cabell (Awww, of course! You knew that!)

And the two winners pulled from the hatbox are Tony Forster and Mary Sue Severn .

Yay for you two from the thousand stuffers!

As they say on radio, "*Those T-shirts will be coming out to you in the mail rrrreal soon.*"

BUT ... now the gloves are off!

For a T-shirt or two, who made this **THIS** very timely observation/suggestion?

"the reconciliation of the tensions and conflicts that come with plurality does not lie in returning to (an imagined) lost unity ... we should (rather) speak in such a way that everyone hears the truth in their own language."

Nya ha ha!

To ask us something, make a comment and/or tell us what you thought of a drama (or to win a T-shirt by naming the sage!):

dramainfo@radionz.co.nz

To leave the *Dramastuff*list:

Simply send a blank email with an empty subject line to

drama-leave@lists.radionz.co.nz and respond to our confirmation email.

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**Editor
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