

waipukurau little theatre

PRESENTS

# Abigail's Party

DEvised BY MIKE LEIGH

DIRECTED BY KARLENE RAINHAM

11 - 19 November 2005

8pm



"THE DESPERATE HOUSEWIVES OF  
THE 1970s - A CRINGE-MAKING  
COMEDY OF MANNERS"

Book at **Pearson's Bookshop** Ruataniwha Street, Waipukurau

## Synopsis of the Play.

The place: the living room of 13 Richmond Road, North London.

The time: the 1970's.

The neighbours have invited you around for a few drinks, and if you're lucky, relentless bullying, light snobbery and social humiliation.



Such is the premise of Abigail's Party.

Our charming hostess, Beverly and long suffering husband Laurence have invited over a few neighbours Ange and Tony, along with Sue whose daughter Abigail is having a party down the road.



Mike Leigh's play was devised entirely by improvisation and the result is a slice of seventies life that explores dysfunctional marriages and false friendships.



## CAST

### **Beverly**

Helen is delighted to be on stage again having been seen at the Little Theatre in three previous productions; “Secret Bridesmaids Business”, Memory of Water”, and “the Big O.E.”. Before coming to New Zealand her experience involved playing in foreign language plays, including French and German.

### **Helen Reeves**



### **Laurence**

Ian has not acted on stage since his sell out performances when he appeared as Moley in “Wind of the Willows” at Bourneside Comprehensive in 1979. Ian is glad to be playing Laurence because he remembers watching the original T.V. play in 1977 when he was 14.

### **Ian Shepherd**



### **Angela**

After watching a few Little Theatre productions in my short time in Waipukurau, I thought I'd like to give it a go.

I have had little experience with the stage though have always enjoyed acting, writing and directing.

### **Hannah Glenn**



## **Tony**

I have come back to act here at the Little Theatre where I enjoyed acting in “Female Transport”. Amongst others I have also performed with Theatre Hawke’s Bay “Best Little Whorehouse in Texas” and Waipawa M & D “The King and I”. I am dedicating my part in this play to my tolerant wife.

## **Eddie Spargo**



## **Susan**

I don't know what came over me, but had a strong calling to be in a Little Theatre production. This is it. I have had no previous experience but was inspired by the play having seen it in the UK.

## **Debbie Dooney**



## DIRECTOR

Karlene Rainham

## CREW.

**Production Secretary**

Caroline von Dadelszen

**Stage Manager**

Jacqueline Roberts

**Lighting/ Sound**

Michael Nairn

**Set Builders**

Pete Robottom

Michael Roberts

Derek Prior

**Set painting**

Don Donner

Sue Marshall

Caroline von Dadelszen

Lindsey Bishop

**Properties**

Mary Knight

**Wardrobe**

Christine Dooney

Sue Marshall

**Prompt**

Jacqueline Roberts

## Poster Design

Helen Reeves

Lindsey Bishop

## Programmes

Lindsey Bishop

## Tickets

Lindsey Bishop

Pearson's Bookshop

## Publicity

Don Donner

Derek Prior

## Sign writing

Susan Higginson

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### Thanks To:

- Central Hawke's Bay College.
- Pearson's Bookshop
- Estee Lauder Fragrance "Youth Dew"

- Compliments Estee Lauder

Estee Lauder fragrances available from Hughes and Smyth  
Pharmacy Hastings

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**NB:** Cigarettes smoked during the play are herbal and contain no  
nicotine



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