

showbiz
CHRISTCHURCH

AUTUMN
SHOWBUZZ
2024

PREZ SEZ

Welcome to our Showbuzz Autumn Edition!



Kia ora Showbiz Whanau,

As we head into the vibrant and bustling season of autumn, I'm thrilled to extend a warm welcome to each and every one of you. The past quarter has been filled with exhilarating performances, enriching workshops, and exciting events, and I'm eager to share some highlights with you all.

Our recent mihi whakatau with the cast of *Kinky Boots* was a remarkable occasion, where we embraced the spirit of connection and camaraderie. It's moments like these that remind us of the power of unity within our community and the joy of welcoming both familiar faces and new friends to our studios.

Speaking of *Kinky Boots*, the anticipation for our upcoming production is palpable. With rehearsals well underway and tickets selling fast, I'm certain that this show will captivate and inspire audiences. And let's not forget our special evening with the cast planned for *Way Off Broadway*, an opportunity to experience the magic of live performance in an intimate setting.

But our commitment to excellence extends beyond the stage. From enlightening workshops led by industry experts to the upcoming *Les Misérables* reunion, there are countless opportunities for growth, celebration, and nostalgia within our community.

As we look ahead to our AGM, the MTNZ Conference, Showstoppers Singers and other exciting endeavours on the horizon, I am filled with pride and gratitude for each member of our Showbiz family. Your passion, dedication, and creativity continue to enrich our community and inspire us all.

Thank you for being part of this incredible journey. Together, let's embrace the magic of theatre and continue to shine brightly in all that we do.

Ko tā tēnei kōrero, he mihi atu ki a koutou.
(With this message, I extend greetings to you all).



Sarah Buchanan

Kaua e hōkī i te wae wae tūtuki a pā anō hei te upoko pākāru.

Do not turn back because of minor obstacles
but press ahead to the desired goal.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Buchanan'.

Sarah Buchanan
President

SHOWTIME

KINKY BOOTS - April 19 - May 4th, 2024
Rehearsals are underway!

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On February 8th we welcomed the cast of *Kinky Boots* to Showbiz with a mihi whakatau. A mihi whakatau is a welcome similar to a pōwhiri, but less formal. It includes welcoming the visitors (manuhiri) and each group (hosts and visitors) singing a waita followed by individual introductions and the sharing of kai.

It's always a great way to connect as a group for the first time and to welcome new and old visitors to our studios.

The cast of *Kinky Boots* are now well and truly into their rehearsals, and we look forward to welcoming Euan Fistrovic Doidge, Cameron Douglas, the children and our Angels to the cast on March 18th.

The show is already looking fabulous, and we can't wait to share the story of Charlie and Simon with Christchurch audiences in April.

If you know someone who'd be keen to join the crew please connect them with Mandy via email
prodmgr@showbiz.org.nz



SHOWTIME

KINKY BOOTS - April 19 - May 4th, 2024
Meet The Cast Of Kinky Boots!



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Lola / Simon - Euan Fistrovic Doidge
Lola / Simon Understudy - Jack Lawton

Charlie Price - Cameron Douglas

Nicola - Alyssa Parkinson

Lauren - Sophie Harris

Trish - Sarah Kelly

George - Chris Goodyear

Pat - Katie Beer

Don - Matt McMenamin

Mr Price - Matt Hudson

Simon's Dad - Oscar Days

Harry - Jordie Rea

Young Charlie - Mac Simpson, Frankie Domigan

Young Simon - Zahara Cording, Akwasi Ohene-Gyan Akoto

Angels - Jack Duff, George Hosking, Olly Humphries, Bryn Monk, Drew Noble, Jack Shatford

Angel Cover - Liam Collins

**Ensemble - Katie Beer, Rebecca Boyce, Nic Catto, Eli Davis, Oscar Days, Sophie Gilmore, Jane Godfrey,
Chris Goodyear, Matt Hudson, Sarah Kelly, Matt McMenamin, Heather McFarlane,
Cameron Melville, Jordie Rea, James Shera, Leon Van't Veen, Patrick Ward**



showbiz.org.nz



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[@showbiz.christchurch](https://www.facebook.com/showbiz.christchurch)



[Purchase Tickets](#)

SHOWTIME

KINKY BOOTS - April 19 - May 4th, 2024

Meet Euan Fistrovic Doidge - Our sensational Simon!

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Our Marketing Manager, Tom, recently caught up with the sensational Euan Fistrovic Doidge, the star of the Showbiz Christchurch, Saunders and Co season of *Kinky Boots*!

Get ready to uncover the magic of Simon aka Lola and the enchanting world of *Kinky Boots*.

In this interview we dive deep into Euan's life, career, and the magic he'll bring to this production. Not to mention a little musical performance.

You can listen to it exclusively on the Showbiz Christchurch website.

Click the link for an insider's look into Euan's journey as well as the captivating production hitting the stage at the Isaac Theatre Royal from April 19th to May 4th!

Don't miss out on the glam, the glitz, and the toe-tapping tunes. Hit that link and join the *Kinky Boots* excitement!



Listen now! ➔

The SAUNDERS & C season of

MAMMA MIA!™

AUDITION WORKSHOP AND INFORMATION COMING SOON!

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY

BENNY ANDERSON

BJÖRN ULVAEUS

AND SOME SONGS WITH STIG ANDERSON

BOOK BY CATHERINE JOHNSON

ORIGINALLY CONCEIVED BY JUDY CRAYMER

SEPTEMBER 27 - OCTOBER 12

ISAAC THEATRE ROYAL

LICENSED EXCLUSIVELY BY MUSICAL THEATRE INTERNATIONAL (AUSTRALASIA)



SHOWTIME

Way Off Broadway - An evening with the cast of Kinky Boots
Saturday March 23rd, 2024



We have a very special night planned for our first *Way Off Broadway* of the year, an evening with the cast of *Kinky Boots*!

Our incredible cast are going to provide an evening of entertainment where you will not only get to know them all much better, but they will be performing their favourite musical theatre tunes for you to enjoy.

This event will be on stage in the Gloucester Room at the Isaac Theatre Royal on Saturday March 23rd from 7.00pm. Doors will be open and the bar operating from 6.30pm so drop in early for a drink and catch up with your Showbiz whanau.

Limited tickets to this event will be available through Ticketek soon! Keep an eye on our socials.

SHOWTIME

Showstoppers: The Showbiz Singers
Sponsored by Ryman Healthcare

We are in full preparation mode for our next season of Showstoppers - The Showbiz Singers.

Our last season was a huge hit and we can't wait to kick off the season for 2024.

Current Showstoppers members will have first option to join our 2024 season, but if you are keen to join the fun, keep an eye out on our socials and future newsletters for any available gaps in the choir for our 2024 season.

It is expected that choir members will be available for all performances taking place between mid-July and mid-August.

More information about Showstoppers - The Showbiz Singers can be found on our website here: www.showbiz.org.nz/showstoppers



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"Winter, spring, summer, or fall, all you have to do is call, and I'll be there, yes I will, you've got a friend". - Beautiful - The Carol King Musical

2024 WORKSHOPS

On February 5th we hosted our first workshop of 2024 with a masterclass by Luke Di Somma.

The masterclass saw eight participants each perform a song to a group of observers. We all then marvelled as Maestro Luke went further into the music and meaning with each participant in order to unlock the song's essence and equip the performer with the tools to get the most out of their song and vocals. The improvement every participant showed in such a short time was fabulous to witness, and we watched as performers grew in confidence before our eyes.

It was an incredibly uplifting and supportive environment and judging by how fast notebooks were being filled up, everyone took some learning away with them. We must thank our observers for being so supportive and our participants for their bravery in putting themselves out there.

We have a full schedule of amazing workshops planned for the rest of the year, with something for everyone on the menu. From dancing and acting to stage fighting and stage lighting we have all the bases covered so jump onto our website to check out the full list of workshops and get booked in now!

We have 2 workshops running on Saturday March 2nd as part of Big Theatre Opening Weekend. Head along to our website now to learn more and get booked in!

[Workshops 2024](#)



showbiz.org.nz



[@showbizchristchurch](https://www.instagram.com/showbizchristchurch)



[@showbiz.christchurch](https://www.facebook.com/showbiz.christchurch)



[Purchase Tickets](#)

LES MISÉRABLES 30TH REUNION

SAVE THE DATE! - AUGUST 23 - 24, 2024

To celebrate the thirty year anniversary of our first production of *Les Misérables*, we are having a reunion!

If you were involved in any of our productions in 1994, 2001 and 2018 then you are on the invite list!

This event will take place on the weekend of the 23rd August and will involve nibbles and natter on Friday evening and a sit down meal on Saturday. There will of course be a singalong, themed games and opportunity for lots of reminiscing throughout the weekend.

We are currently taking expressions of interest to gain some insight into potential numbers for the weekend, so if this event sounds like a bit of you, please head over to our *Les Misérables* reunion page on our website to register your interest now!

[Register](#)



BACKSTAGE

The latest news from behind the curtain.



BIG THEATRE OPEN WEEKEND - MARCH 2ND, 2024

This year we will be hosting a round of workshops and a community theatre catch up on Saturday March 2nd and we invite you to book yourself in now!

10.30am - 1.00pm - Vocal Sustainability with Amy Oughton - Showbiz Studios

12.30am - 3.00pm - Understanding Big Lighting Rigs For The Theatre with Darren McKane. This workshop will take place at the Light Site.

All the workshop information and booking links for each workshop can be found on the Showbiz website here: <https://www.showbiz.org.nz/2024-workshops>



“There's nothing we two
can't face;
If you're with me, whatever
comes“. - Mame

We will also be hosting our community theatre group catchup at Showbiz from 3.30pm - 5.30pm.

Showbiz members are most welcome. We would love to see you!

If you are a member of a local theatre organisation, we would love to see you there. If you are a committee member please extend the invite to your membership. This is a BYO event and Showbiz will supply the snacks!

BACKSTAGE

The latest news from behind the curtain.

SHOWBIZ CHRISTCHURCH AGM

2024 Annual General Meeting

We are pleased to invite you to our Annual General Meeting (AGM) on March 27th at 7.30pm.

At the AGM we will present our annual report, review our financial performance, discuss our plans for the future and announce the results of our board elections.

Before the AGM, there will be an opportunity to nominate our VP's and life members for those who hold current Showbiz memberships.

The AGM will also provide an opportunity for members to ask questions and share their ideas.

All members are welcome to attend at our Showbiz studios. Not yet a member? Check out our membership options here: <https://www.showbiz.org.nz/become-a-member>

Did you know that Showbiz Christchurch offers a totally FREE membership? Click the link above to find out more!

If you have any questions about the AGM, please don't hesitate to contact us.

We look forward to seeing you at the AGM.





Noises Off

THE ŌTAUTAHĪ MUSICAL THEATRE SHOW

With:

Tom Hart



LISTEN NOW ON SPOTIFY

OUR PEOPLE

Celebrating the heroes of
Showbiz Christchurch

showbiz
CHRISTCHURCH



ZYLPHA HARRISON

In the vibrant tapestry of Showbiz Christchurch's history, one figure has woven herself seamlessly into its fabric for over half a century, Zylpha Harrison, a stalwart member since 1970. Little did she know then that her involvement would become a cherished legacy spanning 54 years and counting. Now, after four decades of dedicated service as the society's honorary historian, Zylpha Harrison is gracefully transitioning from her role, leaving behind a treasure trove of memories and an unparalleled contribution to the Showbiz story.

How did your journey with Showbiz Christchurch begin? What initially drew you to the organisation?

I got involved with Showbiz in 1970 in the production of *The Sound Of Music*. I played one of the nuns! I've been involved with the organisation ever since! 54 years and counting.

What roles or positions have you held within Showbiz Christchurch throughout your years of involvement?

As well as performing on stage, I've been secretary, production secretary, have worked in wardrobe, I've been on the committee and executive and I have a role on the trust. I took on the role of Historian in 1984, so have been in that role for 40 years. Bruce Pearce, who was our musical director for a while, held the role before me. It is with mixed emotion that I hand the reins over to someone else moving forward, but I can't lift the heavy boxes of programmes anymore!

Could you share some memorable moments or highlights from your time with Showbiz Christchurch?

I loved being involved in *Fiddler On The Roof* in 1982, the first one Showbiz staged. I was a flying ghost and got to sit on the shoulders of Bruce Pearce, who was a big solid man, but couldn't see very well!

At one stage I was on his shoulders and he was heading straight for the orchestra pit! Thankfully Peter Simmonds saw where we were headed and skilfully steered Bruce in the right direction. The audience has no idea but I'm sure the cast and orchestra were holding their breath.

How have you seen Showbiz Christchurch evolve or change over the years?

The biggest change is in the size of the organisation. When I joined there was only an administrator and the executive. We would produce one show a year when I started. Now there's a team of people working on our shows and we produce up to three shows a year. It's been wonderful watching the organisation grow and reach a larger audience over the years. Having the input of the consortium has really changed things. We couldn't do what we do without them. It really changed the organisation and helped us to move into the future. It certainly takes an army to achieve what we do.

How has your involvement with Showbiz Christchurch influenced or enriched your personal or professional life?

Music has become the biggest part of my life throughout my time with Showbiz Christchurch. It's been wonderful to be so involved with the society and to keep music as a major part of my life.

Are there any specific people or colleagues at Showbiz Christchurch whom you would like to acknowledge or express gratitude toward?

The list goes on and on. Peter Simmonds, May Arnold and Sue Beardsley have been incredible members of the trust over the years. Sue is still involved and having a huge impact. I've very much enjoyed working with them all.

As you reflect on your time with Showbiz Christchurch, what legacy or impact do you hope to have left behind?

As Showbiz historian, I have thoroughly enjoyed recording the history of the society and looking at all the old programmes and images over the years. Especially when I looked into Diane Brodie's history with Showbiz. I had to have a good dig through the archives when Diane won her award which I found incredibly interesting.

I am proud of the fact that all our archives are in order and the history of the society has been kept in tack. Our records date back to 1938, and there is only one programme missing from our archives from that year. That's a pretty great accomplishment. If you happen to have a programme from *The Belle Of The Ball*, please drop one in!

As Zylpha passes the torch of Showbiz Christchurch's historian, her departure from this particular role marks the end of an era filled with dedication, passion, and a profound love for music and theatre. Her contributions, spanning from performing on stage to meticulously documenting the society's rich history, have left an indelible mark. Let us extend our heartfelt gratitude to Zylpha Harrison for her unwavering commitment and invaluable service to Showbiz Christchurch. While she may bid farewell to her official historian role, we are grateful that she continues to be an integral part of our organisation through her involvement in the trust.



Linda Harris

What's your current role here at Showbiz, and what's the most exciting part about it?

I am the Wardrobe Manager for *Kinky Boots*. For this show the most exciting thing has been all the wonderful boots. So much glitter and so many colours and styles.

Tell us a bit about your experience working with Showbiz.

I have been involved with Showbiz now for about 8-9 years. The best show I have worked on was my very first show, *Pricilla Queen Of The Desert*. There were 16 cast members and 64 crew looking after them. There were over 200 head pieces and wigs and I lost count of the quick changes. I was thrown in the deep end and was part of a quick change on one of the leads. We had a total of 40 seconds to get him out of his zipped up swimsuit, high heeled flippers, long gloves and flowered swim cap and we had to dress him in an evening dress, long gloves,, apply red lipstick and glitter on his lips and fit high heeled shoes on his feet. It was magic! It was my first show and I have never experienced that same challenge since or the level of adrenaline rush that show gave us. It was a work out and I loved every minute.

What do you enjoy the most about working with the wider team at Showbiz?

There are so many wonderful people who have been involved for many years. Working in the sewing room with them is so interesting. I hear about all their stories and their experiences on stage.

When you're not immersed in the world of musicals, what do you enjoy doing in your free time?

I love spending time with my family. When I'm not watching my children's endeavours, I sew. I love creating exciting looks. I sew for the Entertainment Company and have created many exciting costumes. Show girl costumes, giant flower dresses and exotic looks. I also volunteer at The Canterbury Children's Theatre doing their costumes for their shows. My favourite one is the Harry Potter themed party. Dobby was my biggest pride as the children love him.

What motivates you to continue pursuing your passion for musical theatre, even on the toughest days?

Magic happens on stage. I love storytelling through song. I love the exciting dance numbers and the music. Everything about it feels exciting. Every production is different and I love it!



OLIVIA CHUNN

What's your current role here at Showbiz, and what's the most exciting part about it?

My current role here at Showbiz will be a shared role of production secretary. The most exciting part about this role is that I'll be able to watch the production grow from the very early stages right up until it hits the stage. This will be my first time working with Showbiz and I am actually interning here as part of my final semester of my Event Management degree at Ara. While working here I look forward to gaining valuable insights and hands-on experience, contributing to the success of the production while further developing event management skills.

What do you enjoy the most about working with the wider team at Showbiz?

Meeting new creative people that I can learn from and be a part of a community that shares the same passion for the performing arts.

What's something surprising or unique about the world of musical productions that most people might not know?

While I haven't specifically worked on musical productions, my experience as a dancer for many years has given me insight into the busy and chaotic scenes that unfold backstage and in the wings. It's essentially a whole other show going on behind the scenes that the audience will never see.

When you're not immersed in study or the world of musicals, what do you enjoy doing in your free time?

Some of my favourite hobbies include travelling, reading, and staying active with Pilates and Zumba. Additionally, I find joy in utilising my event skills through volunteering at various events in Christchurch. Last year, I had the opportunity to contribute to exciting initiatives such as the Fast5 Netball Series, New Zealand International Film Festival, Innovation Expo, and the Dress for Success charity fashion show.

What motivates you to continue pursuing your passion for musical theatre, even on the toughest days?

Understanding that each day brings its own unique experiences and viewing challenges as opportunities for personal growth. My passion for being a part of the performing arts world itself is enough of a motivator.

SHOWBIZ MEMBERSHIPS

Our Showbiz Membership structure is live! There's a membership option for everyone with all memberships ensuring you keep up to date with the latest Showbiz news, events and priority notifications.

Memberships can be purchased online through Patronbase. Come and join us!

Benefit details	Aged under 30			
	FOOTLIGHTS	30 BELOW	SPOTLIGHT	LIMELIGHT
	Free	\$30	\$60	\$120
NEWSLETTER Quarterly newsletter - Showbuzz	✓	✓	✓	✓
SOCIAL MEDIA Showbiz Squad closed FB group access	✓	✓	✓	✓
PRIORITY NOTIFICATIONS Priority email notifications of auditions, classes and pre-sales	✓	✓	✓	✓
PRIORITY BOOKING Pre-sales ticket purchase opportunity before public opening	✓	✓	✓	✓
VOTING RIGHTS Voting and nomination rights at AGM	X	✓	✓	✓
TICKET DISCOUNTS Discounts on tickets to selected shows, workshops, events, etc	X	30% discount on selected Showbiz shows, classes and workshops. 2 tickets max per show (first 3 days of the season)	20% discount on selected Showbiz shows, classes and workshops. No limits on number of tickets (first 5 days of the season)	20% discount on selected Showbiz shows, classes and workshops. No limit on tickets (anytime during season)
STUDIO HIRE Free and/or discounted studio hire	10% discount on studio hire	1 hour free studio hire, 30% discount on extra hours	2 hours free studio hire, 20% discount on extra hours	4 hours free studio hire, 20% discount on extra hours
TICKETS Free and special rates	X	Ability to purchase 2 x \$30 tickets (B Reserve) for any show (first 3 days of the season)	1 free ticket (B Reserve) to a Premier show per year (after 1 year of membership)	2 free tickets (at least A - Reserve) to a Premier show per year (after 1 year of Premier membership)



Join us!

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"I've got a wonderful feeling
Everything's going my way."
Oklahoma

Theatre Calendar

showbiz
CHRISTCHURCH

[Printable Version](#)

"And this present will be
past so here we are
where the world has come
together."
Come From Away

Got something to add to
the list?
Please email
comms@showbiz.org.nz
and we will include it in
our next Showbuzz.

1 March

False Idol

Written and performed by

Andy Manning

Little Andromeda

7 - 10 March

Hatupatu Kurungaituku -

A Forbidden Love

Taki Rua

Wigram Air Museum

8-16 March

Pippin

MUSOC

Ngaio Marsh Theatre

9 March

The Three Little Pigs &

Die Fledermaus

Toi Toi Opera

The Arts Centre

10 - 13 April

Fairystories

Enchanting Productions

The Piano

18 - 27 April

Mary Poppins

Centrestage Rolleston

Rolleston College

19 Apr - 4 May

Kinky Boots

Showbiz Christchurch

Isaac Theatre Royal

9 - 25 May

42nd Street

North Canterbury Musicals

Rangiora Town Hall



showbiz.org.nz



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CHRISTCHURCH

CONTACT US

369 St Asaph Street

03) 377-7954

admin@showbiz.org.nz

OPENING HOURS

Monday - 9.30am - 1.30pm

Tuesday - 10.00am - 1.00pm

Thursday - 10.00am - 1.00pm

