

The 29th Norfolk Island Theatre Festival

4th July - 10th July 2027

We hope you have enjoyed
this year's Theatre Festival.

Start planning now
for future Festivals!



"Theatre in Paradise"

For more information please contact

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www.norfolkamateurtheatricalsociety.com



N.A.T.S.

NORFOLK AMATEUR THEATRICAL SOCIETY INC.

PRESENTS

Theatre in Paradise

The 28th NORFOLK ISLAND THEATRE FESTIVAL

Ferny Lane Theatre

7th, 8th & 9th July 2026





A WELCOME FROM OUR PRESIDENT

It's a genuine pleasure to welcome you to our 28th Theatre in Paradise Festival. Whether this is your first time joining us or you're returning as part of our extended theatre family, we're so glad you're here to share in this special week.

For those visiting for the first time, I hope you fall in love with the island as so many of us have - not just for its beauty, but for its warmth, community spirit, and creativity. And to our returning friends, thank you for coming back year after year - your continued support is what makes this festival so unique.

A very warm welcome to our adjudicator, Susan Cridland from Queensland. We're thrilled to have you with us and appreciate you sharing your time and expertise.

This festival simply wouldn't be possible without the incredible support of our sponsors, both on and off the island - your generosity keeps the Arts thriving in our community. My sincere thanks also go to the dedicated NATS Committee and the many volunteers who give their time and energy behind the scenes.

I hope this week brings you laughter, inspiration, connection, and memorable performances. Enjoy every moment of theatre, friendship, and island life.

Welcome, and enjoy the festival.

Rose Evans
President

SPONSORS...

SPONSORS 2026

- Norfolk Island Real Estate
- Fonterra/Mainland Special Reserve Cheeses
- Pinetree Tours
- Baunti Tours
- Wave Hospitality – the N.I. Travel Centre
- Norfolk Island Supermarket
- Norfolk Island Liquorbond
- Central Service Station
- Front Row Theatre
- Kiernan Agencies
- 2Drips Water
- Pete's Place

*Thank
you*

Our thanks also to those whose donations were received after the programme was printed and whose names do not appear here.

SPONSORS...

NATS is very grateful to the generous sponsors who have supported this year's Festival

MAJOR SPONSORS

- Agnes Hain & The Bounty Centre
- Aloha Apartments
- Karenne & Chris Gatehouse
- Yvonne Nobbs
- Norfolk Island Rent-A-Car
- Reckitt Benckiser
- Norfolk Island Health Collective

THE BOUNTY CENTRE



Conditions of Entry

- The Festival is open to groups of amateur players.
- Each group is to perform a one act play or an excerpt from a full-length play.
- Duration to be between 20 and 45 minutes.
- There must be a minimum of two speaking parts.

Adjudicator

Susan Cridland
from Queensland

Susan is an award-winning writer, actor, producer, director and teacher. There will be a short adjudication on stage and a private adjudication for each entry in the Green Room following each performance. The Adjudicator's decision is final.

Thanks go to our sponsors for our adjudicator:
Airfare sponsored by Karenne & Chris Gatehouse
Accommodation sponsored by Aloha Apartments
Hire Car sponsored by Norfolk Island Rent-A-Car

Lighting & Sound Technician

Aerlyn O'Brien
from Queensland

Thanks go to our sponsors for our Lighting & Sound Technician:
Airfare sponsored by Norfolk Island Health Collective & NATS
Hire Car sponsored by Yvonne Nobbs

Competitors - 7 plays over 3 nights

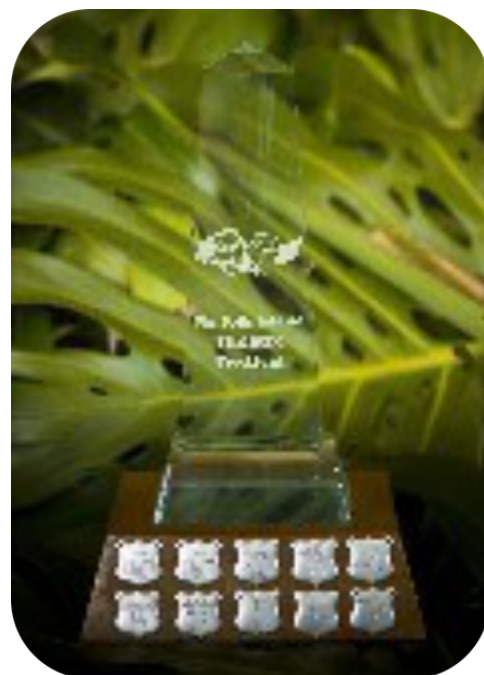
- Front Row Theatre, Australia
- Mousetrap Theatre Co. Inc., Australia
- Square Pegs, Australia
- The Soft Prop Collective, Australia x 2 entries
- Norfolk Amateur Theatrical Society (NATS), Norfolk Island x 2 entries

Awards

Announcement of Winners and Presentation Dinner
Friday, 10th July at Governors Lodge Hotel.

AWARDS...

BEST PRODUCTION



Trans-Tasman Trophy Plus \$2,000 prize

generously donated by

Ms Agnes Hain & The Bounty Centre
Norfolk Island

Plus Free entry to our 29th Theatre Festival in 2027

THE CREW...

Festival Organiser: Rose Evans

Stage Manager: Dinty Wilson

Stage Crew: Paul Harris, Louci Reynolds, Lee Hamilton-Irvine

Lighting & Sound: Aerlyn O'Brien & Steven Baker

Adjudicator's Assistant: Sally Rashbrooke

Master of Ceremonies: Rebekah Gupte

Workshops Co-ordinator: Bev Buffett

Front of House: Trish Natoli, Ken Christian, Bev Buffett, Yvonne Nobbs

Box Office & Publicity: Trish Natoli, Yvonne Nobbs, Rose Evans,

Louci Reynolds, Paul Harris

Programs: Rose Evans

Sponsorship Co-ordinator: Monica Anderson

Gift Bags: Louci Reynolds, Bev Buffett, Ken Christian, Yvonne Nobbs

Official Photographer: Peter Hughson

Bar: Monica Anderson, Kathryn Heard, Louci Reynolds

Prize Certificates: Monica Anderson

Parking Attendant: Hadyn Evans

Dinner Decorations: Louci Reynolds, Yvonne Nobbs,

Sally Rashbrooke, Bev Buffett



NATS is very grateful to all those who have lent props and costumes, helped with publicity, backstage, front of house and done the many jobs that make the festival a success.

Thursday 9th July 2026

NATS
Norfolk Island
Presents

“Husband Murderers Support Group”

By Hugh O’Brien

A weekly gathering of long-suffering wives takes a dark turn when one of them snaps. As panic sets in, her best friend must think fast - covering for her while seizing the chance to deal with her own unfaithful spouse.
Sharp, contemporary and deliciously mischievous, this is an Australian farce where secrets unravel, schemes collide, and cunning always trumps stunning.

Director: Rose Evans

By arrangement with Maverick Musicals & Plays

Areola	Katherine Lance
Pattie	Kathryn Heard
Tamara	Megan Evans

Runner up to Best Production

- \$500 donated by Reckitt Benckiser
- plus trophy

Best Male Actor

- \$250 donated by Pinetree Tours
- plus trophy

Best Female Actor

- \$250 donated by Baunti Tours
- plus trophy

Best Director

- \$250 donated by Fonterra /Mainland Cheeses
- plus trophy

Runner Up to Best Male Actor

- \$150 donated by Norfolk Island Real Estate

Runner Up to Best Female Actor

- \$150 donated by Norfolk Island Real Estate

Best Original Script

- \$250 donated by Wave Hospitality NI Travel Centre

Ed Bone Award for Comedic Performance

- \$100 donated by Front Row Theatre

Ian Anderson Award for Pure Enjoyment

- \$100 donated by NATS

Other prizes will be awarded at the discretion of the adjudicator.



Tuesday 7th July 2026

NATS
Norfolk Island
Presents

“It’s True”

By Dinty Wilson

Five children find themselves on a deserted beach but who else was on the beach?

Director: Dinty Wilson

By arrangement with the Author

Peter	Alexander Wilson
Suzie	Emerald Port
Ollie	Coby Watson
Tommy	Cooper Eales
Freya	Dayva Schiller
Terrence	Gregor Evans
Grandma	Dale Howe
Puppeteer	Lola Robinson

Thursday 9th July 2026

Front Row Theatre
Australia
Presents

“Shakespeare’s Sheilas”

By Julie Bray and Dale Murison
(adapted from Shakespeare’s Girlie Bits by Leah Pellinkoff)

A small, somewhat dilapidated, local theatre somewhere in the outer reaches of Brisbane. An all-female travelling theatre group are preparing to present their production of “Shakespeare’s Women”.

Director: Dale Murison

By arrangement with the Authors

Pam	Rebecca McMahon
Iva	Jeremy Wellwood
Diva	Julie Bray
Titania	Gemma Keliher
Barry	Luke Johnston

Wednesday 8th July 2026

The Soft Prop Collective
Australia
Presents

“Golf, Marriage, and Other Murderous Matters”

By Debra Chalmers

John and Jenny suffer from the usual stress of modern life. But one Friday night Jenny is pushed just that little too far. She soon discovers that murder might be relatively easy, disposing of the body may be challenging but explaining to friends... is almost impossible.

Director: Aerlyn O’Brien

Assistant Director: Marion Jones

By arrangement with Maverick Musicals & Plays

Jenny	Claire Marchesi
John	Brendon Flynn
Olivia	Frances Price
Martin	Tim McQueen
Mandy	Rebecca McMahon
Philip	Ewan Paterson

Tuesday 7th July 2026

Square Pegs
Australia
Presents

“A Rich American”

By Scott Hunt

A rich American tourist runs foul of a wily French detective.

Director: Meredith McQueen

Sound Technician: Tim McQueen

By arrangement with the author

Amanda	Meredith McQueen
LeFlique	Ian McQueen

Tuesday 7th July 2026

The Soft Prop Collective
Australia
Presents

“Job Hunting”

By Ewan Paterson

Two people have just finished a morbid job with which they were tasked, and are now simply awaiting the final payout. Despite all the extreme measures they have already undertaken in the course of their duties, it transpires that they have nonetheless made a single mistake: They were meant to be next door. Before they can rush over to the intended residence, a visitor arrives at the door; and thus further lies and grim deeds prove necessary if they are to escape and meet their original obligation. Unfortunately, one of the employees is a lot more professional (and rational in general) than the other.

Director: Ewan Paterson

Assistant Director: Aerlyn O’Brien

By arrangement with the Author

Jen	Aerlyn O’Brien
Neil	Gene Paterson
Lou	Tim McQueen
Nanna	Ewan Paterson
Estate Agent	Frances Price
Buyer	Ewan Paterson
Postie	Brendon Flynn

Wednesday 8th July 2026

Mousetrap Theatre
Australia
Presents

“Parachute”

By Paul Hannah

A middle-aged woman on top of a tall building is facing a crisis and contemplates taking the final step. Suddenly a man rushes up and stops her. Will the ensuing conversation convince her to reconsider?

Director: Trevor Howden

By arrangement with Paul Hannah

Charlie	Grant Caldwell
Lily	Virginia Gray