



Nora Cox is dead. What will become of her farm?

Set in a small coastal community ***Wheeler's Luck*** is a raucous physical comedy about development versus preservation. When the Mayor of Cox Point, Duncan Sanderson, brings developer Richard Lush from Auckland to build a fancy new golf course on Nora's land, local postie Sharon Dickle leads a movement to oppose the development. As tensions build, leading to a tied vote at a town meeting, Sharon and Richard agree to settle the future of Cox Point in the annual bareback horse race. With a cast of quirky folk all with their own agendas, this play is a fun and fast-paced crowd-pleaser.

Originally staged as a two person tour de force, ***Wheeler's Luck*** is a great opportunity for energetic characterisation by a larger ensemble cast.

Rangi Ruru students in Years 11, 12 & 13 in 2019 are invited to audition for *Wheeler's Luck* on Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th February.

Rehearsal commitments:

- Cast members are not called for all rehearsals, but must be available if called.
- It is possible that additional rehearsals could be called by negotiation.

- Throughout Term One
 - **First rehearsal:** **Thursday Feb 14th, 6pm – 8pm**
 - **Wednesday Afternoons** **3pm to 6pm**
 - **Thursday Evenings** **6pm to 9pm**
 - **Sunday Afternoons** **3pm to 6pm**

- All cast and crew are required for **the production intensive** Friday 26th, Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th April (**Week 3 of holidays**)
- Between 6th - 19th May, time commitments will increase until closing night as this co-curricular production becomes THE priority, "first among equals".

Opening Night is Wednesday 15 May, for four performances.



Audition Information
Saturday 9th – Sunday 10th February
in the Merivale Lane Theatre, Rangī Ruru Girl's School

Sat 9th February

Auditions are done in groups of 4 people for 15 minutes with 5 minutes between each group. This means three groups per hour.

Session 1

Groups 1 – 3 9am – 10am

Session 2

Groups 4 – 6 10am – 11am

Session 3

Groups 7 – 9 11am – 12pm

Session 4

Groups 10 – 12 1pm – 2pm

Session 5

Groups 13 - 15 2pm – 3pm

Session 6

Groups 16 - 18 3pm – 4pm

Acting Style notes

Wheeler's Luck is a physical comedy. This means that the characters are played larger than life. Big movements, funny voices and strong choices are your best friend in the auditions. Come to the audition with a strong idea ready to perform your heart out. Be ready to take direction to show you can be versatile.

What you do at the audition:

1. Everybody will read extracts from the audition scripts (provided) - you do not need to memorise them:
2. If you are auditioning for a larger role you will perform the short piece of script specified for that role.

You don't have to memorise the scripts, but please be very familiar with them.

Auditions

- The auditions are being held at Rangī Ruru in the Merivale Lane Theatre.
- Auditions are in groups of four.
- If you are auditioning for a principal role, please read the character notes carefully.
- Please arrive for your audition early enough to get settled and to fill out the audition information sheet, which will be given to you on arrival.
- Your photo will also be taken.

We are looking for strong story-telling ability through movement, high energy and vitality on stage, and flexibility in approach.



Audition extra information:

- You will be taken to the audition room and introduced. You will be asked to step to a mark on the floor, introduce yourself. You may be recorded on video – just ignore the video camera.
- You will be asked to read the [Ensemble audition script](#) with your audition partners, or a staff member.
- You may be asked to move under direction.
- You may be asked to answer some questions about yourself or about roles you are prepared to take in the production.
- Members of the audition panel might talk to each other while you are auditioning and might not look at you – they might be making notes, etc.

OR None of these might happen.

RECALLS: Sunday February 10th 3 – 6pm

- Individuals will be advised of recalls for a role(s) by 8pm Saturday February 9th.
- Recalls will occur from 3pm – 6pm on Sunday February 10th
- People who can't come to recalls won't be considered for the specific role(s).
- Please ensure your e-mail or txt contact is accurate at time of audition!
- Recall scripts will be emailed out on the evening of 9th February.
- Casting will be announced @ 7pm on Tuesday February 12th.

PLEASE NOTE: Casting is based on the best person for the role, not on previous experience, subjects taken at school or casting in past productions.

**First rehearsal
Thursday 14th February 2018. 6 – 8pm
at Merivale Lane Theatre**

**Performance season
Wednesday 15th - Saturday 18th May, 7.30pm
at the Merivale Lane Theatre**



Wheeler's Luck Character breakdown

| Character | Notes |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Jonny Wheeler | In 1882 teenaged Jonny attempts to elope with Lydia Cox. Keen on large, romantic gestures and protecting his hair. (Script) |
| Lydia Cox | Young Lydia has the perfect balance between romance and practicality. She cares what others think but also yearns for freedom. (Script) |
| Sharon Dickle | Local postie and staunch advocate for the environment, Cheryl believes she has the best interests of the everyone in Cox Point in mind at all times. Cheryl is sincere and generous, but not afraid to fight for what is right. (Script) |
| Richard Lush | A developer from Auckland, Richard knows how to put deals together and he smells money in Cox's Point. Richard is not afraid of making enemies and loves a good round of golf. (Script) |
| Duncan Sanderson | Mayor and donut enthusiast Duncan is keen to find ways to pay for the services the town needs, even if this means circumventing the rules to get what he wants. Likes to use the phrase 'Time out' (Script) |
| Cilla Black | Cilla Black (nee Trethewyn) is executive assistant to Mayor Duncan and a good friend to Sharon. Cilla is also head of the local festival committee and has a keen grasp on how to get things done. (Script) |
| Trisha Black | Trisha, Cilla's daughter, loves a good party and wants to move to the big smoke. A keen dancer. (Script) |
| Molly | Trisha's BFF and wing-woman and Andrea's pub. Very excited to me marrying h er childhood sweetheart at the local rugby clubrooms. (Script) |
| Joe | Local fisherman and yarn spinner whose unrequited love for Trisha makes him one of the most endearing character's in Wheeler's Luck. (Script) |
| Andrea (Andi) Ramsey | Andrea and her three girls run the local pub and pay scant attention to the local liquor licencing laws. Andi has been at it long enough to know to keep an eye out for the local cops and makes a mean ham and cheese panini. (Script) |
| Daisy, Danielle, Denise | When Andrea's three girls are not helping her run the local pub, they are getting up to mischief, usually on Nora Cox's farm. Bright, hard-working and always on Mum's side the Ramsey girls learn by doing. (Script) |
| Queenie | Regular inhabitant of the Ramsey' pub seventy eight year old Queenie likes nothing more than a flutter on the horses or the pokies, usually with other peoples money. Currently serving a home detention sentence for just that sort of thing. (Script) |
| Perry | In his eighties and Queenie's devoted husband is having trouble with rabbits on the farm and considers himself a film buff. Struggles to differentiate the world of film from the real world and has a tendency to dominate conversations. (Script) |
| Alan McPherson | Alan, local ostrich farmer, hasn't been the same since his wife left him. He revels in finding bizarre ways of killing his stock. Considers explosives a hobby. (Script) |
| Sergeant Ron | One half of local crime fighting team on the lookout for nefarious behaviour. Mentoring his young trigger-happy charge Trev can be taxing. Takes his job very seriously. (Script) |
| Constable Trev | Passionate about policing and keen to make Ron proud, Trev's enthusiasm can get the better of him. (Script) |
| M.C. Ruel | Local rap duo (Script) |
| Mike Angelo and Kev | Local radio DJ's (Script) |



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| Various ensemble | Local eccentric folk at the pub, town meeting and at the festival. (Script) |
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[Click here to access the audition booking form](#)

Introducing our play

Local landowner Nora Cox dies, leaving her prime coastal property to the people of the small town of Bell End. Mayor Duncan attempts to keep the details of the town's acquisition secret, inviting Auckland developer Richard Lush to help him transform the asset into a cash cow for the impoverished council. However, Nora's land holds historical and cultural significance to the town as it was the site of a daring rescue following a shipwreck over 100 years ago. When rural postie Sharon learns what is afoot, she sets out to scupper the mayor's plans. Sharon's interference leads to a town vote on the future of the land.

It's an emotional issue for the townsfolk, who commemorate the shipwreck and rescue with an annual bareback horse race across Nora's land – an event which will be thrown into jeopardy should the development be given the green light.

The vote results in a stalemate and Richard's plans are stalled – until he places a wager on the upcoming race. He will ride against Sharon. If Sharon wins, Richard will leave town. If Richard wins, Sharon will change her vote and the development will proceed. However, Richard has fallen for the local beauty – Trish. Will love conquer greed? And what will become of Alan the crazed ostrich farmer with a dangerous obsession with explosives?

Contacts:

Peter Rutherford

Director

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Rangi Ruru Girls' School Senior Production 2019

Opening May 15th

CAST Rehearsals

You must attend all rehearsals, as this musical is demanding and technically difficult. It will require a lot of individual work, plenty of practice and dedication and commitment. Only an effective and hard-working team will succeed and the success of the show relies upon every member being present.

1. Be in 10 minutes before rehearsal starts
2. No cell phone use or talking in rehearsal spaces
3. Respect and support other performers
4. Bring pencil and script to every rehearsal
5. Emergency apologies to Mr Rutherford: 021 449 109. More than **three** absences are unacceptable.

You are making a firm commitment to this production and you must re-organise any other commitments so that you can attend. If you have other major school commitments you must negotiate with the staff concerned. You must also be aware that as the performance dates approach the frequency and length of rehearsals will increase. You can expect that in the last two weeks before the performances, this should be the only thing you are doing out of school time.

Rehearsal Intensive

Friday 26th, Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th April at Rangi Ruru.

Attendance is mandatory.

The intensive rehearsal during the Rangi holidays is at the end of the third week of your holidays Friday 26th April to 28th April, so check with your parents if they have made any holiday arrangements.

Holiday Crew Workdays

Work on the stage and technical rig will take place between Monday 22nd April and Wednesday 24th April. Attendance is **mandatory** for those wishing to be part of the crew (unless you have another in-school commitment). The purpose of the workdays is to prepare the rehearsal space, clear the stage, assemble rehearsal props, and get everything ready for Term 2. Cast can volunteer to help during this time.

Your script

It is important that you look after **your** script/score and that you understand that it is your responsibility to bring it to each rehearsal and return it on the specified date. You may mark the script with useful notes and stage directions.

If you damage or lose your script, you will be charged on account for a replacement.



COMPANY EXPECTATIONS

Every member of the *Wheeler's Luck* production team will be working exceptionally hard to ensure a high quality and professional production. During the production period you will:

- Attend all rehearsals as called, including the intensive rehearsals and occasional negotiated extras.
- Be on time for all rehearsals.
- Miss no more than three rehearsals. You must negotiate absence well in advance.
- Never use *Wheeler's Luck* as an excuse for missing academic deadlines
- Keep up with your school work
- Keep up to date with information through email, Facebook group and school notices.
- Learn your lines, practise your movement.
- Have scripts down before the end of Term 1, Thursday 4th April.
- Know where you should be on stage.
- Remain focused when on stage.
- Be a part of a team and be aware of the needs of other members of the team.
- Fully promote the show on behalf of the company.
- Enjoy yourself.

COMPANY ETIQUETTE

Please:

- Respect rehearsal space – keep it tidy
- Respect performers, technicians and production staff
- No put downs
- No idle chatter in rehearsal spaces
- No cell phones during rehearsals
- No chewing gum – it's dangerous
- No going into backstage areas, technical or band areas without permission
- Bring your own clearly marked drink bottle
- Bring scripts and soft 2B pencils to every rehearsal to write notes in your script.
- Rehearsal spaces and designated green room areas are the only spaces used during the rehearsal

We will do our best to maximise rehearsal times – we need you to as well.

A balance is **needed** between academic, sporting, cultural and spiritual commitments. You need to use your time wisely to ensure you keep everything under control.

The School Rules apply during the rehearsal and performance periods.



Rangi Ruru Girls' School Senior Production 2019

CAST CONTRACT

Name:

I have read the "Company Expectations & Etiquette" and agree to abide by them. I understand that there will be consequences if I do not meet them, and I may be asked to leave the company if I have more than three unjustified absences.

I understand that the rehearsals up until the end of April will occur on Wednesday, Thursdays and Sundays and that I must make the rehearsals a **priority** if called.

I understand that there will be **Intensive** Rehearsals Friday 26th, Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th April

I understand that I have to be available as required between Monday 29th April - Sunday May 20th.

I will notify you of any changes to contact details as they occur.

Student signature:

I understand the commitment required for this exciting production. I agree that my daughter has read the rules of the Company and that she will be available for intensive rehearsals as outlined above as well as the regular rehearsal pattern throughout Term One. (Wed, Thurs, Sunday). I also understand that the first weeks of Term 2 (until 20 May) are going to demand more time.

Parent Signature:

Please return to:
Peter Rutherford
p.rutherford@rangiruru.school.nz
Mobile 021 449 109