



**TITIRANGI  
THEATRE**

LOPDELL HOUSE, TITIRANGI



**HIT NZ  
COMEDY**

# THE FARM

**8-19 JUNE**

**By David Geary**

Directed by Kerynn Walsh

[www.titirangitheatre.co.nz](http://www.titirangitheatre.co.nz)



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**Director's Notes**

This production of *The Farm* marks my directorial debut but it is an endeavour I have long dreamt of undertaking. After over 35 years as an actor I have absolutely relished the task and feel overwhelmingly blessed to have been able to secure such a stellar cast and crew. Their skill, experience, openness, humour and that kiwi "can do" attitude (even from the Russian on the team) has made my job easier and more enjoyable than I could ever have imagined. The laughter heard erupting from us all every rehearsal was always proof to me we were getting it right!

I love this play! It has such honesty, integrity and heart and it's just bloody funny. I'm proud to call the playwright an old theatre mate, but mostly we just watched rugby together. In *The Farm* David has created keenly and sensitively observed characters. The emotional layers he manages to bring to a comedy of this nature is a rare and skilled thing – by any standard! Thank you David for creating this heart-warming and joyous piece, thank you cast and crew for your dedicated mahi and your loyal and loving support. Thank you also to the Titirangi Theatre committee for giving me this opportunity to fulfil one of my dreams (actually include being in *Shirley Valentine* and co-writer of our upcoming Pantomime and you've now helped me fulfil 3 career aspirations so big thanks for that!).



And thanks to you – the theatre lovers – for coming to be part of our little folly. You are who it's for. I hope you recognise a little bit of yourself in these characters or learn something from them. For me that's the whole point of bringing a story to the stage – oh and to have a jolly good laugh (and cry) which I hope you do tonight. And keep coming back for more – we'll be waiting with open arms!

**Kerynn Walsh**

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# The Farm

By David Geary  
directed by Kerynn Walsh

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*The Farm* is a cleverly woven NZ comedy that follows the highs and lows of farming couple Jim & Maggie, who are about to lose their farm and probably their marriage. But when a Lycra-clad Russian couple, on a cycling tour of NZ, collide with one of Jim's escaped steers everyone's lives take an unexpected turn.

It soon transpires that these Russian tourists are looking for more in NZ than just fresh air and beautiful scenery, and Jim may just be the answer to all their prayers.

Goats, ostriches, high-country stags, borscht and vodka combine to create an hilarious and heart-felt comedy that is sure to leave you with aching sides!

Ross Brannigan	Jim
Vikki Cottingham	Maggie
Daria Erastova	Tatyana
Oliver Pownall	Konstantin

BY ARRANGEMENT WITH  
**PLAYMARKET**  
AGENT. ADVISOR. BOOKSHOP

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**Ross Brannigan - Jim**

It's been a long time but I'm soooo happy to be back on stage!

*The Farm* is one of those plays that just grabs you - David Geary is one of New Zealand's best playwrights and this one is a real gem - a laugh a minute (except when you're crying). I really enjoy playing Jim, he is a classic kiwi character that I can identify with. Although I've never actually been a farmer, I think most kiwis, deep down inside, can feel a connection with someone like Jim.

Theatre is a place where you find your tribe - people who are on the same wavelength, who love the creativity and the buzz of telling a story to the audience. I worked full time in theatre for about ten years but for the past couple of decades it's been screen work, as well as a fulltime job lecturing in performance at AUT that has kept me busy. The cast and crew are keeping me on my toes and I don't think I've laughed so much in ages. I hope you enjoy *The Farm* as much as we have all enjoyed preparing it and bringing it to you.



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**Daria Erastova - Tatyana**

I could not sign my very first acting contract because... I was only five years old, so Mum had to do it for me! Since then I have been fascinated with the world of Theatre and Dance and found myself very comfortable on stage. I can't imagine my life without it. The best thing about acting, for me, is the

transcendent experience of living somebody else's life. In this case my role is a funny Russian tourist fighting hard for what is most important for her and I am proud to represent my nation for the New Zealand audience. Also, I feel privileged to work with the energetic and inspiring Kerynn Walsh and I enjoy our creative friendly atmosphere behind the scenes with our amazing cast and crew. I hope to pass those positive, heartening vibes to you during the performance!



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**Vikki Cottingham - Maggie**

I have been kicking around Titirangi Theatre since I was 13. I literally grew up inside these walls and I love every chance I get to pay homage to that on this stage. Oh sure I've done some other stuff on other stages and screen, but what could be more humbling than the chance to bring another brilliant comedy to life in your own little neighbourhood theatre? Who would have thought after playing *Annabel* in *The Pink Hammer* in 2019 at this theatre that an opportunity just as enticing would come along again so quickly? I'm feeling pretty grateful, that's for sure. The process has been wonderful; we have a fantastic cast and crew and a very passionate leader (David Geary, your friend Kerynn has done you proud!). The wonderful thing about being in a New Zealand play is it is so easy to love. The characters are recognisable and the comedy is so easy to relate to. I love Maggie. She's staunch, funny and flawed. I'm going to dedicate my performance to a bloke with a true farming spirit, a grouse sense of humour. Tid, I hope you're watching on a hay bale somewhere cuddie, proudly having a crack at me fumbling around a big gun.

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**Oliver Pownall - Konstantin**

Приветствую

Like a lot of great New Zealand comedies, David has written a show with some great humour, but also real heart. Konstantin is an interesting fellow, both arrogant and selfish but can also be quite insecure and vulnerable. It is that contrast that has been a joy to play. It has been a challenge joining the production late and trying to catch up with everybody else, but the wonderful cast and crew have made me feel very welcome and it has been an absolute pleasure. I particularly want to thank Daria for helping me with the Russian accent and language. My last production at Titirangi Theatre was *Waiting for God*.

Спасибо



## Creative Team

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Director	Kerynn Walsh
Producer	Graeme Heap
Production Assistant	Richard McFadgen
Stage Managers/Back Stage	Graeme Heap, Richard McFadgen, Jade Bull, Phoebe Falconer,
Set Design	Bob Jessopp
Lighting and Sound Design	Duncan Milne
Lighting and Sound Operators	Jono Rickard, Sabrina O
Props	Rosemary Moore
Goat and Ostrich Creation	Karen Soulje
Set Construction	John Lethaby, Graeme Heap, Richard McFadgen, Tony Dunn
Set Painting and Décor	Graeme Heap, Rena Heap, Rosemary Moore, Bryan Moore
Wardrobe	Lynn Cottingham
Prompts	Richard McFadgen, Jade Bull
Poster Design	Kerynn Walsh
Front of House	Rachel Bock
Social Media and Photography	Jade Bull, Alan J Thompson
Billboards	Duncan Milne, John Lethaby, Bryan Moore, Jade Bull
Programme and Photography	Mac Mclver

### Special thanks to:

Stephen Dallow at KickArts Planet FM, Stephen Papps (Radio Announcer Voice Over), Dicey Reilly's Irish Pub, Lynfield, Precision Watch Company (New Lynn).

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**Our next play** will be in production soon- we are always looking for both experienced and novice volunteers to help with backstage, production, marketing and technical tasks.

If you are interested visit the volunteer section on our website [www.titirangitheatre.co.nz](http://www.titirangitheatre.co.nz)

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## Please switch off cell phones during the performance

The use of cameras, video equipment or tape recorders is not permitted in the auditorium.

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### FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

BOOKINGS: bookings can be made online through our Website.

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES: Please help us offer the best possible service by informing us of your requirements when making bookings. Provision can be made for a limited number of wheelchair users in the auditorium.

THEATRE INFO LINE. For details of wardrobe opening hours, current and upcoming productions: Phone 817 5951

### FOR ANY FURTHER INFORMATION.

Write to Titirangi Theatre Inc. P O Box 60 092, Titirangi.  
email: [contact@titirangitheatre.co.nz](mailto:contact@titirangitheatre.co.nz),  
or visit our website: [www.titirangitheatre.co.nz](http://www.titirangitheatre.co.nz)

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Titirangi Theatre Inc is a charitable not for profit society, dependant on community support.

**Sponsorship** can take many forms... money, goods and services: please think about how you could sponsor our popular and historic organisation!

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### FIRE REGULATIONS

Fire Exits are situated at the sides of the auditorium.

Please keep all stairways, gangways and corridors that afford entry and exit entirely free from obstruction.

We ask patrons to observe the **NO PARKING** signs at the entrance

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# ***Titirangi Theatre Inc.***

Incorporating Waitemata Theatre

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## **Upcoming Auditions**

Our next production will be a season of one-act plays.  
On stage September 2021. Auditions will be held in the theatre on  
Sunday, June 27, at 1.30pm. Contact Phoebe on 021 279 7901.

And the year will end with a pantomime in November

*Jack and the Giant Kauri Tree*

Pantomime auditions will be held in Titirangi Community House,  
500 South Titirangi Rd, on Sunday, August 22, 10am to 4.30pm.

Phone Terry Rutledge on 021 260 0807

Visit our website for details.

**[titirangitheatre.co.nz](http://titirangitheatre.co.nz)**

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## **Become a member**

Membership includes free tickets to all our performances.

Pick up a brochure and membership form in the foyer.

Email: [membership@titirangitheatre.co.nz](mailto:membership@titirangitheatre.co.nz) for information

Or apply online at **[titirangitheatre.co.nz](http://titirangitheatre.co.nz)**

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## **Acting Classes**

by John Goudge are available at the theatre.

For details see our website **[titirangitheatre.co.nz](http://titirangitheatre.co.nz)**

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## **Costume Hire Service**

The theatre has an extensive, exciting wardrobe for hire  
at very reasonable rates.

Wardrobe hours: Wednesdays 4-6 p.m. Fridays 5-7 p.m.

Saturdays 10-12 p.m.

Situated at The Treasure House (Lopdell Hall), just behind Lopdell House

For further information contact Lynn, Ph 818 6645

Or email [beverlylynn@icloud.com](mailto:beverlylynn@icloud.com)

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## **Theatre Hire**

The Theatre Auditorium is available for hire.

For further information email [theatrehire@titirangitheatre.co.nz](mailto:theatrehire@titirangitheatre.co.nz)

Please note that this link goes to Lopdell House Development Trust, who manage  
the Theatre Hire.