

# ORTOGRAPH

## Otamatea Repertory Theatre Newsletter Summer 2025

As I sit here finishing this (at last) it is officially still summer. With any luck the autumn newsletter will be with you before winter with lots more information about our upcoming shows. In the meantime make the most of this weather - but a bit of rain would be nice.

### Youth Theatre

This year we had 25 youngsters, ranging in age from eight to 15. The kids worked on a few items together as a group and this year they had great fun with **Ghostbusters**, **Reach** and **We Go Together**.

At the beginning of the week, we split the kids into four groups and gave them each a theme song to help them to create their own 12–15-minute play. They were allowed to use set, props, costumes, sound effects and lighting. It was amazing to see how many of the groups chose to use the car in their play!

Each of the groups had a cross-section of ages – the older kids typically helping the younger ones. This year, the craft project was to devise a backdrop to use as part of their set and to paint it – and they created posters for their play. At the end of the week each of the groups performed in a very well-attended show for whanau and friends, along with their group items.

For more photos go to [ort.org.nz](http://ort.org.nz) and click on “Shows and Events”.



Otamatea Repertory Theatre is fortunate to have very hardworking committee members who dedicate themselves to providing such an excellent week of creativity for our youngsters every year.

## Upcoming Events at the Theatre

**Chitty Chitty Bang Bang Junior Auditions, 15th March**



Take a fantastic musical adventure with an out-of-this-world car that flies through the air and sails the seas. Based on the beloved 1968 film version of Ian Fleming's children's book, and featuring an unforgettable score by the Sherman Brothers (Mary Poppins), Chitty Chitty Bang Bang JR. is one unforgettable blockbuster that audiences will find "Truly Scrumptious".

An eccentric inventor, Caractacus Potts sets about restoring an old race car from a scrap heap with the help of his children Jeremy and Jemima. They soon discover the car has magical properties including the ability to float and take flight. Trouble occurs when the evil Baron Bomburst desires the magic car for himself. The family joins forces with Truly Scrumptious and batty Grandpa Potts to outwit the dastardly Baron and Baroness and their villainous henchman, the Child Catcher.

Filled with amazing stage spectacle and unforgettable songs, including the Academy Award nominated title song, Chitty Chitty Bang Bang JR. is a high-flying fun-filled adventure for both the audience and the students onstage. Go to [ort.org.nz](http://ort.org.nz), then "Upcoming Shows" to find the registration form for auditions.

## Upcoming Workshop

We have applied for funding to run a scriptwriting/playwriting tutorial/workshop on 2nd August. We will confirm the details if we get confirmed funding.

## **Other News**

### **Bullets for Broadway**

This will be performed later in the year with dates to be confirmed for August. Once we have finalised dates we will hold auditions.

### **New Look Website**

New committee member Ron Bouwhuis has rehashed the ORT website so it's looking pretty flash! It's still a work in progress but should be much easier to navigate and will be kept right up to date. Awesome mahi Ron!

## **ORT Committee**

President: Peter Flower  
Vice Presidents: Jan Connell, Sheri O'Neill  
Secretary: Kathy Bygraves  
Treasurer: Maura Flower  
Committee: Cara Holtzhausen, Ron Bouwhuis, Josie Gritten, Alex Harris .

ORTograph is a digital newsletter and will be circulated quarterly to current members and friends of the theatre. Please let us know if you would prefer not to receive it.

ORTograph is compiled by Margie Baker on behalf of ORT Committee.