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Caring for Our Community

Top Bill Entertainers

They are great entertainers – all amateurs with diverse interests – but truly professional in their "recreational pastime" of acting, producing and looking after the 101 other tasks necessary to put shows on stage for the ever-growing audiences in Kapiti-Horowhenua.

They are Coasters Musical Theatre, which celebrates 25 years in show business in November. This occasion will be marked with the launch of a special book chronicling the many productions members have taken to the public down through the years complemented by the development of a superb costume wardrobe which is available not only for their own use but also for the wider community. Howard Clements, a life member of Coasters Musical Theatre heads up the publications' team of Derek Cavanagh and Gil Warren who are researching and publishing the history.

Founded in 1980, the first production by the company was billed "The Splendiferous Old Time Music Hall" and was conceived as a one-off show in aid of Kapiti College funds.

As enthusiastic cast started rehearsals in the college hall in January 1980. Props and lights were borrowed, costumes designed and produced and curtain raised in March of that year.

The initial concept was a one-night performance, but audience reaction was such that a repeat was called for, the show being a sell out. Spurred by the enthusiasm of the

actors, production team and the public, it was decided to form a theatre group – thus Coasters was born and, as they say, the rest is history.

Coasters now boast a 60-seat theatre in Hinemoa Street built by members. This is also used regularly for cabaret style stage shows open to the public.

Yes, The Coasters have made their mark in Kapiti-Horowhenua. Their shows, among them Hullo Dolly, The Sound of Music and many other well-known musicals bringing warmth to the lives of people in the region.

This winter's production, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat, is opening on July 21, at Southwards and running for nine performances. Tickets are now available at the Coastlands Shoppingtown service desk.



Famous Coasters

Two Coasters members are now developing significant careers in the professional arena – 14-year-old Letitia Forbes being with Cirque du Soleil and Shane Cortese, one of the celebrity dancers in the popular TV show Dancing With the Stars is a well-known Shortland Street actor.

The group shot (above) is from the 1992 show RHYTHM 'SHOES. The ladies would have made their costumes which would then go into the wardrobe for hire to people looking to go to a dress up party.



The Coasters Musical Theatre clubrooms and theatre at 15 Hinemoa Street Paraparaumu.

Oxford Finance Corporation puts its money where its mouth is

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