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## **24 HOUR SHOW – SOUTH PACIFIC**

**Northern Light Theatre Company**  
Shedley Theatre, Elizabeth

Summarised by Rod Lewis

Stage magic has never created an illusion so sweet as the surprising success of Northern Light Theatre Company's 24-hour show.

Over 100 people turned up at the Shedley Theatre in Elizabeth on February 4th to hear the 8pm announcement of what full-length musical the company had only 24-hours to produce.

The challenge was set late last year after a conversation with company members who had come across the idea at the Edinburgh Festival. The dare was made and the challenge accepted: The company would have to cast, direct and choreograph a full production in a day, with sets and costumes. They would have no forward knowledge of what play they were doing, and would work on a zero budget.

At 8pm the following night, the doors opened to let in the capacity audience. The quality of show was so great that it surpassed many an opening night.

The 61-strong cast knew most of their lines and ad-libbed beautifully when things went wrong. Those that had to use scripts disguised them nicely as props. Under the Musical Direction of Mark Horner, with Peter Johns, Katie Packer and Tammy McInnes assisting, the songs were all sung beautifully, accompanied by a highly professional band.

The varied dance routines displayed the talents of the unlisted choreographers, while the costumes were worthy of any show. Damon Hill and Kristen Webb's set design was simple but complete. Directors Sue Pole and Andy Ahrens, along with all involved, are to be congratulated on meeting such an extreme challenge and coming up trumps. What was expected to be a comedic fiasco proved to be a quality night of musical theatre.

The overall coordination of the event was precise and effective with Ceri Hutton-Horner deserving the biggest accolades for her well thought out process that allowed for most eventualities.

Sweet dreams to all!