

Bridge to contentment



It's not often I venture over the Harbour Bridge for a meal in the middle of the week.

I was soon reminded why as we sat in stagnant 6pm traffic.

Surrounded by other ill-tempered drivers on this damp and dreary night, it was clear we were going to need thawing out and cheering up.

Natalia Schamroth and Carl Copenhagen, previously of Reuben café, opened The Engine Room at Northcote Point early this year.

We arrived at the restored post office and were warmly greeted by the cozy room and beaming maitre'd.

Once seated, we were directed towards the ever-changing menu, sitting high on a whiteboard above the kitchen and left to

Restaurant
The Engine Room
115 Queen St, Northcote Point
Reviewed by Leisha Jones

choose our wine.

As we defrosted with a bottle of Main Divide Pinot Noir, our waiter came bearing "a gift from the kitchen": Two arancini delicately flavoured with tomato and thyme.

Like the wine list, the menu had an international flavour, drawing inspiration from French, Asian and Middle-Eastern dishes.

My man, a fan of all things spicy, started with the spiced lentil dahl soup (\$12). The soup had a real kick which he appreci-

ated as often a promise of spice is not delivered.

I chose the smoked fish salad, with pancetta, fennel and a soft egg (\$14). It came piled high, each ingredient complementing the other flawlessly.

I followed with fish again for my main. A salmon fillet (\$28) served with vibrant beetroot risotto and chive cream.

The fillet was skillfully prepared — golden brown on the top with crispy skin and a juicy centre.

He had steak frites (\$28), a meal to please any warm-blooded man.

The absurdly large sirloin came with watercress salad, a daunting pile of fries and garlic, shallot and herb butter he felt was too overpowering.

The waiter arrived with expert timing for our dessert order, just as I was thinking I could possibly be tempted.

And tempted I was, by the churros con chocolate (\$10), little Spanish donoughts served with a melted pot of bitter-sweet chocolate.

Dusted in cinnamon sugar and light as a feather, they can only be described as little balls of heaven.

The food and service here caters perfectly to the clientele. Simple and modest yet carried out with an air of class.

By the time we left the restaurant was full. We were content, warmed through and ready to brave the cold drive back over the bridge.

Oceans of space



Grief is a funny thing.

At least in the case of *The Ocean Star*.

The Auckland Theatre Company play has all the right elements of a black comedy.

Humour, sadness and an overwhelming desire to know how the characters become as screwed up as they are all culminate in a satirising final scene.

The story details the relationship between a father and his sons, and the turbulent relationship between the brothers and their absent mother.

Brian, the father, played by Greg Johnston, is a neurotic, agoraphobic who relies on his eldest son, Jay, Adam Gardiner, a failing filmmaker.

Their world is tipped upside

Play
The Ocean Star
Maidment Theatre, Auckland University
Until October 21
Directed by Roy Ward
Reviewed by Lauren Bartlett

down when estranged son Ted, Dean O'Gorman, returns to announce he's dying.

What follows is a hilarious account of the problems the brothers face and their reluctance to accept reality.

It unpacks something universal about the sibling relationship.

The kind of relationship where you can yell all you want at the other person and know all will be forgiven at the end of the day.

Ted goads Jay into a physical fight.

Though Jay is reluctant to harm his dying brother, he winds up threatening him with a spoon.

"What are you going to do, Jay, stir me?" Ted taunts.

The highs are high, but there is a banality about the family's life.

Their discussions about the threat of becoming "average" is a reality that resonates the upper middle-class audiences' deepest fears — that they too are average and screwed-up.

The script, by Michael Galvin, most commonly known as *Shortland St's* Chris Warner, is insightful, intriguing, touching and full of the Kiwi vernacular.

He manages to convince the

audience to like and respect generally unlovable characters, who have issues larger than life itself.

The cast play these roles with a general ease, particularly Greg Johnston, who should, by now, and does know what he is doing.

Dean O'Gorman is slightly less convincing, but still creates an aura and fascination around his character's messed up personality.

The costume design by Kasia Pol is much what you'd expect, and reflects the New Zealand setting, as does the set design by Mark McEntyre.

The Ocean Star is an entertaining night out that will make you laugh and cry and give you respect for wide open spaces and good old-fashioned sanity.

dance



Royal New Zealand Ballet: Giselle Nationwide

November, December
Love conquers all — even death. Moonlit and magical, *Giselle* is classical ballet at its most bewitching.

Regarded as the masterpiece of the romantic ballet treasury, *Giselle* was first performed in Paris in 1841.

This must-see for lovers of ballet tradition is touring New Zealand throughout November and December.

Latin Dance Lessons

Khuja Lounge, Queen St
Last Friday of the month, 8.30pm.
Learn to sizzle on the dancefloor with Cuban dance instructors Vivio and Greydis.

Static fm 88.1

Mon - 12-2pm: Juliette Live- 'Midday Munchies'
2-4pm: Fleur Live
4-6pm: Karen Live- 'Evenings with Karen Margaret'

Tue - 8-10am: Vanessa Live
12-2pm: Richard Live 'Dragon's Lair'
2-4pm: Darryl Live- 'Down, up, down with Darryl'

Wed - 8-10am: Glynis Live
10-12: Gemma Live
2-4pm: James Live, 'The Runaround'

Thur - 12-2pm: Matt Live
4-6pm: Maia Live

Planet fm 104.6

Mon- Islamic 2.10pm
Niuean 5.25pm
Singhalese 6pm
Russian 7.05pm

Tue- Cambodian 2.10pm
Panjabi 3.20pm
Kiribati 9.20pm
Bulgarian 9.55pm

Wed- Tongan 6.30am
Hindi 8am
Maitreya 9.05am
Irish 10pm

Thur- Cook Islands 6.30pm
Kannada 7.05pm
Samoan 7.40pm
Korean Youth 10pm

Fri- Fijian 6.30pm
Dutch 7.05pm
Kirundi 8.10pm
Spanish 10.40pm

Sat- Scottish 11.05am
Congolese 3.35pm
Turkish 7.35pm
Pashto 8.40pm

Sun- Krishna 7.50am
Vietnamese 1.50pm
South African 2.55pm
Croatian 7.45pm

Helen and Gemma's picks:

adidas Auckland Marathon

Devonport to Victoria Park
October 29
Get all hot and sweaty on the streets of Auckland. Or chill out on a picnic blanket with a chardy and watch your mates labour on past.



Grey Lynn Festival

Grey Lynn Park
November 18
Hopefully the festival organisers will have the weather on their side this year. It was rained out last year.
Get your Christmas shopping done early at more than 300 stalls.

10 for 10 Oxjam

The Classic Comedy Bar, Queen St
October 21
Support Oxfam's Make Poverty History campaign and see 10 comedians for only 10 bucks. Bargain!

Makaurau Marae Gala Day

Ruaiti Rd, Mangere (Near Airport)
November 4, 9-2pm
Entertainment, pony rides, go-carting, Hawaiiki Nui performers, crafts, bric-a-brac, hangi, art, rides, fun family day, FOOD!!
ALL proceeds are donated to the marae to build a new dining room.

Waiheke Island Santa Parade

Oneroa Village
December 9, 3pm
If you can't face the crowds of the Auckland Santa parade, grab the kids and hop on the ferry for this creative and colourful community parade.