

# Gig of the Week

## Ian Mune starring in local short film

**A** LOCAL writer/director's raising money for a nostalgic 10-minute short film, starring Kiwi acting heavyweights Ian Mune and Mark Mitchinson, that'll be shot in the Whakatipu Basin.

Elinor Teele's based the comic drama, *Pulling Up Stumps* — scheduled to be filmed in March — on an event that happened to her grandfather and in an Otago woolshed setting inspired by her father David Teele's workshop near Arrowtown.

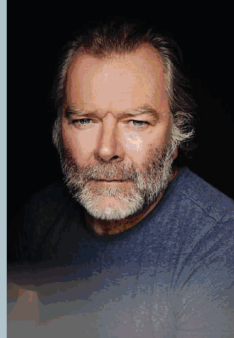
Mune, 81, a renowned actor/director and producer involved in some of New Zealand's most

famous film/TV productions like *Sleeping Dogs*, *Goodbye Pork Pie* and *What Becomes of the Broken Hearted?*, plays a grumpy old man who goes into a converted woolshed to fix his wife's ageing blender.

There he's met by a chatty stranger, played by Mitchinson — whose credits include *The Luminaries* and *The Hobbit* — and an irksome rooster.

Mune's character is forced to listen to the tales of his visitor, including the humorous saga of an obstinate stump.

Without disclosing the plot, it becomes apparent the stranger may not be so strange, and the

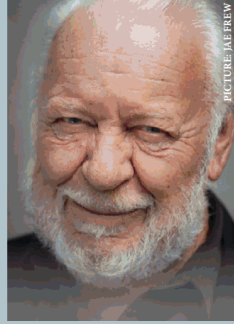


Seasoned actor: Mark Mitchinson plays the "younger bloke"

story may have more meaning than first meets the ear. "I'm hoping the film will become a love letter to Central — a place of stalwart characters and dry-as-dust humour," says Teele, who admits she was "gobsmacked" when Mune accepted her invitation to play the lead role.

Not only will the film preserve a family story, but it will also pay homage to a time that's fading fast, she adds.

Her Boosted crowdfunding campaign — under The Arts



Legend: Ian Mune plays the "older bloke"

Foundation umbrella — aims to raise \$15,000, with a 'stretch' capacity of \$30,000.

All up, the budget's about \$55,000 — Teele's hoping individual and corporate donors will make up the difference.

"I'm trying to make sure we pay all our key people what they deserve, but they are not asking the earth, which is lovely."

She's also keen to recruit student volunteers to be a production assistant/runner and a behind-the-scenes videographer.

And she's cast a rooster, Geovarni, who's already acted in another local short film, *Maunga Cassino*.



'Love letter to Central': Writer/director Elinor Teele

The film's helmed by seasoned Kiwi producers Emma Martini and Phillida Perry.

Teele says it'll be ready for screening next spring, and she's hoping it'll attract interest from international and NZ film festivals.

— PHILIP CHANDLER

Details of the crowdfunding campaign for *Pulling Up Stumps*, which closes December 6, available at [www.boosted.org.nz/projects/pulling-up-stumps](http://www.boosted.org.nz/projects/pulling-up-stumps)



PICTURE: EMILY PITT

Tour director: Violinist Rakuto Kurano

## Talented young string quartet

A YOUTHFUL string quartet's performing an exciting programme tonight at Queenstown's Thomas Brown Gallery.

Magic Carpet String Quartet, which is on a 13-concert South Island tour entitled 'BLOOM', was formed early this year to give performance opportunities to talented young musicians and expose smaller communities to more classical music.

The quartet's led by tour director and multi-award-winning violinist/composer Rakuto Kurano, who's just 22.

He's joined by violinist Cameron Stanley, a data analyst/transport engineer who's also a Wānaka swimming coach, University of Canterbury violist Harry Kim and University of Otago cellist

Boudewijn Keenan.

Their programme includes Mozart's cheerful string quartet in C major, an early Beethoven quartet in G major, new works by Kurano and young New Zealand composer Sarah Fouhy, and Elgar's famous *Salut d'Amour*.

— PHILIP CHANDLER

*Magic Carpet String Quartet*, Thomas Brown Gallery, 7pm tonight, tickets \$45, including refreshments, from Arrowtown's Lakes District Museum and Humanitix



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