

students represent a wide range of ages and abilities," Mrs Underwood said.

The synopsis for the show demonstrates life's ups and downs.

"People come and go, things change, and not always for the best.

"But if you work hard, and stick with your family, no matter what, things will be okay."

Families come in all shapes and sizes, she says, and some people we consider whanau are not even related to us.

"But what's important is we love each other, we try to

understand each other, and we aren't afraid to laugh at each other."

Young dancers had a laugh at their stage "Mum" Joana Simmons when they

saw her in her wig and frock at dress rehearsal.

The cast members say there have been a lot of laughs and only minor injuries during rehearsals

for the show.

*We are Family* has a soundtrack of 26 songs, including *Always Look on the Bright Side of Life* and *Kung Fu Fighting*.

**FAMILY FUN:** Nikita McDonald (back left), Emma Hylton, Eva Fallon, Emma Henare (front left), Lauren Phillips, Joanna Simmons and Abby Squire at rehearsal. PHOTO/STUART MUNRO

## Filmmakers at Double Farley do it again

By Staff Reporter

For the second year in a row, a film made by local company Double Farley has been selected to screen at the DocEdge film festival.

Last year Double Farley's film, *Set in Stone*, which followed the restoration of Herewini Whakarua's statue at Pakaitore, won the DocEdge special mention best NZ feature and best emerging NZ filmmaker categories at the festival.

The new film, *A Home in This World*, was made for Wairarapa-based director Juanita Deely.

The short documentary explores the life of one of New Zealand's best writers, Robin Hyde (Iris Wilkinson), through conversations with her secret baby, Derek Challis, now 87.

As well as being an acclaimed novelist, Hyde was a prolific journalist who wrote for a number of newspapers and magazines in the 1920s and 1930s, including the *Wanganui Chronicle*.

"Juanita had already done a huge amount of research when we met her at last year's DocEdge," says Melita Farley, the film's associate producer.

"Juanita asked us if we'd be interested in working with her to make the film, and we met to start the project a few days later."

"We started filming in Auckland in August last year and completed filming in our studio in January this year," says cinematographer and



**LIFE IN FILM:** Robin Hyde is the subject of Double Farley's new film selected for the DocEdge Festival.

editor Kevin Double.

"It was a challenge to get the film edited in time for submission to DocEdge in March.

"Being based in Whanganui was actually an advantage when it came to editing the film.

"Because we have close to gigabit-speed internet in our office we were able to work with the director using high-resolution screen-sharing technologies rather than having to travel back and forth for edit screenings.

"It shows that it is possible to make independent films with people based anywhere in the world."

This year's DocEdge line-up includes 24 short documentaries and 50 feature films, selected from hundreds of submissions.

■ *A Home in This World* will screen in Wellington on Sunday, May 20 and Auckland on Sunday, June 3 as part of the DocEdge shorts collection ARTearoa which includes three other fascinating New Zealand-made shorts about artists and creators.



**ONE-MAN SHOW:** Edinburgh in the late 1950s is the setting for

## Animated classic

By Staff Reporter

Whanganui Film Society's screening next Monday is animated classic *The Illusionist* (L'illusionniste).

Based on a script by Jacques Tati, this animated feature from Sylvain Chomett, director of *The Triplets of Belleville*, is the sweet and funny tale of a magician travelling in Scotland and the impressionable young girl who adopts him as her dad.

"It's the tale of a music hall magician who travels (with truculent white rabbit) from Paris to London to Scotland in

pursuit of ever-smaller for his one-man show," says Bill Gosden in New Zealand International Film Festival 2010.

"Arriving on a far-flung Scottish isle on the very day that electricity first goes on, he finds himself playing adopted father to a sweet, wilful, impressionable young woman who thinks his magic is real.

"Set largely in Edinburgh in the late 50s, as vaudeville dwindles and rock 'n' roll television surge forth, *The Illusionist* is like *Triplets of Belleville* - a wistful twin, precise and comic in the manner of '50s