



ST. LUKE'S PLAYERS

COMMUNITY THEATRE SINCE 1948!

Presents



Written by **Ben Crocker**

Directed by **Heather Lee**

Evenings 7:00

Dec 15, 16, 20, 21, 22

Matinees 2:00

Dec 16, 17, 23, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30

Beauty and the Beast is presented by Ben Crocker Pantos

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ben Crocker comes from a theatrical family and is the son of the actor and pantomime writer, John Crocker. He saw his first pantomime at the age of three and has been hooked ever since—although he can't remember all of the show as he spent the frightening bits under his seat.

Many pantomimes later, Ben studied Drama at Exeter University and has worked in the theatre since 1989. During that time, he has directed over seventy professional productions and was Artistic Director of the Northcott Theatre, Exeter, between 1998 and 2008.

Towards the end of his time at the Northcott, Ben started writing the pantomime scripts which contain all his knowledge, expertise and love for the artform. Since then, he has gone on to develop a collection of scripts which are enjoyed at hundreds of amateur and professional productions each year. In last year's locked down Christmas, he was delighted to provide Comic Relief with his *Cinderella* script to use as the basis for their TV production of *Cinderella*, starring Olivia Coleman and Helena Bonham Carter!

The scripts are very funny, fast moving, true to the story and quite possibly the best pantomime scripts in the world – oh, yes they are!



DIRECTOR'S NOTES

What do you get when you mix the consummate Ben Crocker with *Beauty and the Beast*? Stir in a cocky French poodle and sprinkle liberally with an uber-talented cast and crew and the answer is a zany, fun, beautiful show for your very own Christmas panto tradition!

In a show that felt monumental to put together, I am so grateful for this wonderful cast and equally wonderful crew who have believed in this script, worked incredibly hard, and made this process such a joy. We welcome your boos, look forward to your cheers, and encourage you to Look Behind You!

The panto tradition is one not to be missed in Victoria and St. Lukes Players Community Theatre is proud to present to you our zany version of a Tale As Old As Time.

Wishing you all a happy holiday full of love and laughter!

Please Note:

A smoke machine will be used briefly at the start of two scenes.

Heather Lee – Stage & Music Director

Heather is a proud member of SLPCT for the past 10 years, currently serving as President. Coming from a background of musicals, past SLPCT roles include *Florence*, *Curious Savage*, *Sybil*, *Separate Tables*; *Jane*, *Bull /China Shop*; *Cecily*, *Prepare to Meet Thy Tomb*; *Buttons*, *Cinderella*; *Wishee Washee*, *Aladdin*; *Hook*, *Mother Goose*; *Silly Billy*, *Snow White*. Heather has directed the last three pantos, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Treasure Island* and *Robin Hood*. A grateful thank you to you, the audience, for making each experience amazing!



Heather-Elayne Day – Choreographer

Heather is delighted to work with SLPCT for the first time. She has directed and choreographed productions with the Victoria Operatic Society, Belfry Theatre, Pacific Opera Victoria, Langham Court Theatre, Victoria Gilbert & Sullivan Society, and local secondary schools. Credits farther afield include Calgary Opera and the Gateway and Arts Club Theatres in Vancouver.



Susan Nicholl – Stage Manager

Susan has been involved with the SLPCT since 2010. Always backstage, she is in awe of cast members that remember all their lines, are always in the correct place on stage and bring their characters to life. As stage manager, she gets to see every performance—an added bonus!



GRATEFUL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many, many thanks to Victoria On Stage (VOS) (Peta Mackenzie, Marilyn Rapino) for their generous support and assistance in costuming our production.

SLPCT gratefully acknowledges the ɫək'wəŋən Peoples, on whose traditional territories we create and perform, and the Songhees and Esquimalt Peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day. We are committed to listening, learning and collaborating as active participants in truth and reconciliation as we create on this beautiful land.

THE BEAUTEOUS CAST • IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

| | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Felix..... | Gavin LeClaire | Page/Wolf/Chorus.... | Shannon Demers |
| Jacques | Vincent Scholefield | Remy..... | Andie LeClaire |
| Capucine | Kat Gillese | Aimee | Vanora Lett |
| Malabelle..... | Beverly van Druten-Blais | Talking Clock/Chorus | Linda Troke |
| Ma | Mike Chadwick | Lamp/Chorus..... | Geoffrey Davidson |
| Beauty | Danielle Greschner | Rug/Chorus | Mae Eyford |
| Prince/Beast..... | Joe Scheubel | Table/Chorus | Sheila McKenzie |
| Page/Fork/Chorus.... | Penny Pitcher | Spoon/Chorus..... | Olivia Lassam |

ACTS & SCENES

ACT ONE

- Scene 1 – Market Day
- Scene 2 – Ma’s Cottage
- Scene 3 – A bedroom in The Beast’s Castle
- Scene 4 – Back at Ma’s Cottage

~ **INTERMISSION** ~

ACT TWO

- Scene 5 – The Beast’s Castle
- Scene 6 – Outside Ma’s Cottage
- Scene 7 – Beauty’s Castle Bedroom
- Scene 8 – The Forest
- Scene 9 – The Hall of Mirrors
- Scene 10 – A Triple Wedding



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THE CAST

Gavin LeClaire – *Felix*

Gavin is so excited to be a part of this fun Xmas tradition and thrilled to be back at SLPCT after playing The Sheriff in last year's pantomime *Robin Hood and the Babes in the Wood*, and then Gillette in *The Games Afoot*. Remember "POODLE POWER!"



Vincent Scholefield – *Jacques*

Vincent is excited to be back on the stage after participating in his high school's production of *9 to 5 The Musical* for his graduating year. He enjoyed performing in the SLPCT panto *Sleeping Beauty* 5 years ago.



Kat Gillese – *Capucine*

Having had experience acting in school-led plays and musicals as well as in a short film, participating in this pantomime has been unlike previous experiences entirely. While Kat is shorter than most and isn't remarkably strong, you'll find that their love of blacksmithing and opinions on equity tie them well to their character. Kat may bite if provoked. As may Capucine.



Beverly van Druten-Blais – *Malabelle*

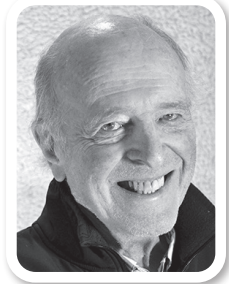
I get to portray the 'Baddie', wear a beautiful dress and play with all these wonderful people! It's also been huge to co-design and paint the set with another bunch of fab folks. Way too much fun! This is my sixth panto with this friendly troupe. Sit back, relax, enjoy our antics and have yourself a laugh. It's good for you.



THE CAST

Mike Chadwick – *Ma*

Ma is the usual Dame, a man dressed up as a woman, and in this case a man dressed up as a woman dressed up as a man for half the show. If you are confused about public debates about gender, this might be the answer. With the usual bad jokes, even worse singing, and a scanty relevance to the words in the script—another SLPCT panto laughs and frivolity.



Danielle Greschner – *Beauty*

Danielle is ecstatic to be performing in her first panto with SLPCT. Previous roles include Janet in *The Rocky Horror Show* (VOS), Mrs. Salt in *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory* (Four Seasons), and Mama in *Flavia and the Dream Maker* (NSCC). Off-stage Danielle teaches science to unsuspecting high school students.



Joe Scheubel – *Prince/Beast*

This is Joe's first production with SLPCT and is having a fantastic time! Joe has been in theater since 2010, with such productions as *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*, *Pirates of Penzance*, *Miss Saigon* and *The Who's Tommy*. Joe is thrilled to be on stage for his third panto experience!



Penny Pitcher – *Page/Fork/Chorus*

Penny has played Mama Bear *Goldilocks*, Fairy Meany *Sleeping Beauty*, Polly Parrot *Treasure Island*, and now, a Page, a Fork and a chorus member in *Beauty and the Beast*. She also played Lady Matheson in *Separate Tables*. At Langham Court Theatre, Penny appeared in *Harvey and The Crucible*. She also acts with Target Theatre, an ensemble of actors, aged 55+, that uses theatre to address seniors' issues.



THE CAST

Shannon Demers – *Page/Wolf/Chorus*

Shannon is very excited to be performing for the first time in many years. This is her first ever Panto and it has far exceeded her expectations for fun. Singing, dancing and general merriment abound, and she is having a blast!



Andie LeClaire – *Remy*

Andie has been loving rehearsal with her friends on set and can't wait to perform! She thanks her father for dragging her to audition last year and takes full credit for inviting Kat to the panto this year. Enjoy the show!



Vanora Lett – *Aimee*

Vanora is thrilled to be in their first panto and SLCPT production! They enjoy knitting during rehearsals (but also paying attention to the rehearsal). Previous experience includes church plays and a musical theatre course at Kaleidoscope. They are very excited to be in *Beauty and the Beast*.



Linda Troke – *Talking Clock/Chorus*

Even though Linda has 30 years of theatre experience, both on and behind the stage, she is thrilled to be in her first panto. What fun. And what a cast and crew. Talented and dedicated. Enjoy!



THE CAST

Geoff Davidson – *Lamp/Chorus*

Geoff's only prior Panto experience was Assistant Directing *Cinderella and the 3 Bears* by Murray Shoolbraid (a Salt Spring Youth Centre Fundraiser). Previous SLPCT roles include Jeff in *The Curious Savage* and Shelby in *Laura*. Geoff would like to thank Heather for the unexpected opportunity to be in this show!



Mae Eyford – *Rug/Chorus*

Mae is excited to be back with SLPCT for her second year! Besides pantomime, Mae is devoted to musicals and all things Shakespeare. When she's not being a Rug, she is busy dancing and singing. One day she hopes to play the curtain in *Hamlet*.



Sheila McKenzie – *Table/Chorus*

Growing up, Sheila pitied any child who did not see two pantos each year. She acted in Sunday school pantos and, together with pals from the English-Speaking Club of Basle, introduced it to Swiss kids. This is her third panto with SLPCT—twice on stage and once as Stage Manager.



Olivia Lassam – *Spoon/Chorus*

This is Liv's second panto after being in *Sleeping Beauty* 5 years ago. She is 11 years old and has worked super hard to be back on this stage with all the wonderful people. She is really excited to be in *Beauty and the Beast* this year.





Music, stage and 1st dress rehearsals.

MOST EXCELLENT PRODUCTION TEAM

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Stage & Music Director | Heather Lee |
| Choreographer | Heather-Elayne Day |
| Producers | Bronwyn Taylor & Linda Troke |
| Stage Manager | Susan Nicholl |
| Assistant Stage Manager | John Lassam |
| Stage Hand | Glenn Rodger |
| Set Design | Helena Hitchcock & Beverly van Druten-Blais |
| Set Construction Lead | Dave Hitchcock |
| Lighting Design | Niko Batinovic |
| Lighting Operators | Niko Batinovic, Carol-Anne Moore, Deb Laverty |
| Spot Operators | Niko Batinovic, Nahlia Meyer, Leigh Robertson, Maxwell Terpstra |
| Sound Design | Mitch Barnes |
| Sound Tech | Guy Blais |
| Sound Operators | Guy Blais, Phil Latourneau, Trish Tonkin |
| Costumes | Momo Bidner, Marilyn Raponi, VOS |
| Properties | Geli Bartlett, Jude Somers |
| Set Construction | Gordon Alexander, Guy Blais, Jim Grant, Julie Gray, Paul Hawkes-Frost, Dave Hitchcock, Helena Hitchcock, Glenn Rodger, Simon Skey, Bill Tolson |
| Set Painters | Katriona Black, Guy Blais, Gloria Gillingham, Linda Graham, Jim Grant, Julie Gray, Janet Grogan, Dave Hitchcock, Helena Hitchcock, Katy Johnson, Betty Sherwood, Simon Skey, Jude Somers, Debra Taylor Wright, Maxwell Terpstra, Deirdre Tipping, Linda Troke, Beverly van Druten-Blais |
| Make-up Consultant | Beverly van Druten-Blais |
| Dressing Assistants | Wendy London, Morgan Lassam, Sarah Lett |
| Programmes, Lobby Display . | Beverly van Druten-Blais |
| Publicity | Janine Longy |
| Front of House | Bronwyn Taylor, Annabel Gale |
| Concession Manager | Bronwyn Taylor |

Season's Greetings from the Gang!

Some of our wonderful volunteers caught in the act of set construction and painting.





ST. LUKE'S PLAYERS

COMMUNITY THEATRE SINCE 1948!

Presents our two next shows!




**THEY PROMISED HER
THE MOON**

Written by Laura Ollstein
Directed by Janine Longy

**Evenings 7:30
Mar 13–16
& 20–23**

**Matinees 2:00
Mar 16, 17,
23, 24**



The Outsider

Written by Paul Slade Smith
Directed by Tony Cain

**Evenings 7:30
June 12–15
& 19–22**

**Matinees 2:00
June 15, 16,
22, 23**

Tickets \$18.00 available online via eventbrite or at the door
All performances are held at St Luke's Hall, 3821 Cedar Hill X Rd • Like us on Facebook
Website: www.stlukesplayers.org • stlukesplayers@yahoo.ca