



ST LUKE'S PLAYERS

60th Season. No. 2

February 2009

Executive 2008-09

President:Neville Owen
Vice President: .. Dave Hitchcock
Secretary: Jo Barnes
Treasurer:Bronwyn Taylor
Members at Large:Jane Guy
.....Deb Taylor
..... Elaine Lewis

St Luke's Players
Newsletter is published quarterly

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For information about
St. Luke's Players go to:
www.stlukesplayers.org

Website created and maintained
by Steve Sturgess

President's Message

Neville Owen

Behind the scenes activity

Recently the Ladies Dressing Room was sorted out, junk was discarded and generally cleaned up by Bronwyn, Deb, Elaine, Jo and Jane. Jo has taken all the old scripts home and is busy cataloging them. If anyone has scripts from past shows that are cluttering their basements and would like to give them a good home, then please contact Jo.

At the same time "The Glory Hole" was sorted and cleaned out. What a lot of stuff went to the Sally Ann, which fortunately meant only a small amount went to the Hartland Landfill.

2009 – 2010 Season

The Play Reading Committee consisting of Jane, Dave, Rita, Dennis, Gloria and Frank are all hard at work reading scripts and will be presenting their recommendations to the Executive shortly. The performance dates for the four shows of next season have been set. These dates allow approximately equal stage time for each show and take into account the Church requirements.

If anyone would like to direct a play next year, please send your theatre resume to: jane-guy@shaw.ca.

60th Anniversary

Many of you attended our excellent 60th Anniversary "Bash", see later for photos. I wish to share with you the following excerpt from a letter from Pat and Alan Ormerod. ".....All the arrangements were very successful – the hall was decorated very well, the displays were both informative and interesting, as were the speakers. All-in-all a very worthwhile and successful evening which augurs well for the continued success of the Players." Thank you Pat and Alan.

All members should be very pleased how hard your Executive works; thank goodness as it means I don't have to do much.

Neville



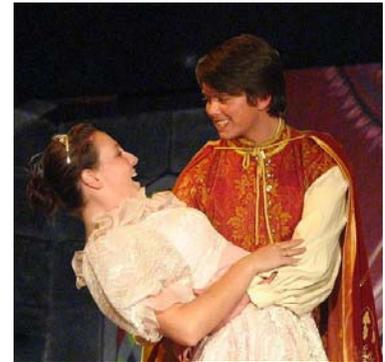
“Sleeping Beauty—the Panto”

Directed by Dave & Helena Hitchcock

Top Ten Highlights from the Directors’ perspective

1. Enthusiastic **Cast of 32** - ranging in age from 5 to ? years old. The production provided an opportunity for several youngsters to experience their first taste of community theatre and several adults to return after an absence of many years.
2. **Over 50 in the hard-working Production Crew** - many of whom took on more than one role/responsibility.
3. Truly a “**family production**”, with many parent/child, husband/wife combinations involved.
4. **Good co-operation from St Luke’s Church** (particularly Bonnie) e.g. clearing the parking lot, printing of scripts, posters, flyers, programs etc.
5. All performances were **sold out** two days before the opening matinee.
6. Total audience of **1,337** at 6 matinee and 4 evening performances.
7. **No cast or crewmember missed a performance** due to sickness or bad weather.
8. The **strike/tear-down** was completed in one hour - due to a large number of the cast and crew turning up to help. This must be a record!!
9. **Very positive comments** from many members of the family audiences. Some were experiencing panto for the first time, for others it was becoming a “Christmas tradition”, and for others it brought back happy memories of their childhood in the U.K.
10. Although it was a lot of work (and we can always improve!!), the final performances lived up to our expectations and **we thoroughly enjoyed the whole production.**

Dave & Helena Hitchcock - Directors



“Random Acts” - an evening of one-act plays

OUR NEXT PRODUCTION

WAY\$ & MEAN\$

from “Tonight at 8:30” by Noel Coward
 Director: Brian Wyvill

The play opens with Stella & Toby Cartwright, eating breakfast in bed while staying at the home of Mrs. Lloyd-Ransome. We discover that they are heavily in debt, largely due to Toby’s losses at the casino, and Stella’s losses at bridge. They are asked to leave the next day by their hostess, ostensibly because other guests are expected. How do they get out of their financial predicament?



EXPLODING LOVE

by Joseph Coyne
 Director: Antoinette Church

Skeeter still loves his ex-wife, and when he hears she is about to remarry, he dons a belt of dynamite and barges into the judge’s chambers at City Hall to disrupt the ceremony. He is forced to retreat to the men’s room where another bride and groom-to-be, and Zeke, a charming eccentric who claims to be a dog angel, become his hostages.

March 4 - 7, 2009 & March 11 - 14, 2009 at 8:00 p.m.
Matinee: March 7, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.

Tickets available from
 Ivy’s Book Shop 2188 Oak Bay Ave and Petal’s Plus Florist 3649 Shelbourne St
 or at the door. For information call 250 884 5484 (10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.)
 March 4 is 2-for-1 night.



Preparations are well under-
 way - rehearsals, costumes,
 set construction & painting.



Celebrating our 60th Season

Our final production for the Season

"Nightmare" - a mystery thriller

by Norman Robbins

Director: Geoffrey J. Davidson

Marion Bishop, an elderly writer of romantic novels, is dying. Katherine Willis, a kind soul from the nearby village, looked after Marion in a most caring way, while coping with her own mentally retarded brother of twenty. When Katherine takes leave to attend her cousin's wedding in Scotland, Laura, an experienced nurse from London, comes to take care of the failing writer on the recommendation of the local doctor. A series of mysterious phone calls and the appearance of Raymond, Marion's rapacious nephew, set off a nightmare situation. Deceit, suspicion, blackmail and incrimination are subtly woven into a web of crime which is complicated and will keep you guessing until the surprising close.

May 20 - 23 and 27 - 30 at 8:00 p.m.

Matinee: May 23 at 2:00 p.m.

AUDITION NOTICE

St. Luke's Players is holding auditions for *Nightmare*
at St. Luke's Church Hall, 3821 Cedar Hill Cross Road
on the following dates and times

Wed, Feb 18: 2:00-5:00 in the Lounge
and 6:30-9:30 in the Basement
Thurs, Feb 19: 2:00-5:00 in the Lounge
and 6:30-9:30 in the Lounge
Wed, Feb 25: 2:00-5:00 in the Lounge
and 6:30-9:30 in the Basement
Thurs, Feb 26: 3:00-5:00 in the Basement
and 6:30-9:30 in the Lounge

Cast required - 4 women and 3 men:

1 woman, age 50s
1 woman, age 20s
1 woman, age 70s
1 woman, age 30s
2 men, ages 30s - 40s
1 man, age 20s

For more information, contact the Director, Geoffrey J. Davidson
at gjidavidson@shaw.ca or (250) 727 8989.

If you are interested in helping in any capacity with this production, such as set construction, painting, costumes, publicity, concession, etc., please contact Neville Owen at nevowen@shaw.ca or (250) 592-4285.

... 60 years of community theatre....60 years of community theatre....60 years of community theatre...

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St. Luke's Players' 60th Season

was celebrated at a Special Evening on January 17, 2009
for Members, both Old and New

Memories were shared by:
Miriam Taylor, Dennis Kershaw, Roy Stuart & Barbara Pittam



Barbara Pittam & Pauline Ptolemy



Heather Bailey, Roy Stuart & Dennis Kershaw



Elaine Lewis & Renee McGilly



Neville & Cher Owen, Dave & Helena Hitchcock



"Silver Linings"
written and performed by
Mitch & Jo Barnes



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Setting: 7pm Jan 17 St Luke's Hall

The verbal check list from the Executive set-up committee went something like this: "Okay, tables are set with white linen cloths and candles. Tables are ready for the deluge of desserts we hope will arrive with attendees. The memorabilia table is ready to support our history. Lights work. Stage is set and props have arrived. Coffee and Tea on the go. We are ready for action! Now all we need are the people to make the night complete."

And sure enough about 80 people with wonderful goodies in hand, arrived, donned their name tags, and mingled with old and new friends.

The evening was peppered with highlights. The all encompassing ambience was "this really was a gathering of a community". It gave a second meaning to the phrase "community theatre". The smiles and laughter and happy chatter soon filled the room. A shriek of joy was heard when Jane learnt that Osiris and Caroline were officially engaged. Laughter and greeting were abuzz all evening, except when the curtain opened on the play, *Silver Linings* written, produced and performed by Mitch and Jo Barnes. It was something every married couple could relate to, and had many funny lines that made it equally enjoyable for singles.

The speakers showcased moments and personalities over the years. Miriam Taylor, who is now 97, was represented with a funny story of Miriam's choosing. We learnt the history of our current chairs, new curtains, lighting progression, how our name came about and several past members were mentioned. Barbara Pittam told us how she met Keith and how he became involved in the theatre, and about Kay Averill who used to live behind the church and was our theatre group's self appointed watch dog, even after she moved!

When the applause died down from the performance of *Silver Linings* many hands pitched in to make light work of the clean up. In a flash the gathering room was transformed back to the hall. Guests departed with smiles and some with a few left-over desserts, and wishes that we make member evenings part of our program. The Executive locked up the doors and went home to their respective homes knowing that the evening had been more than just a success, that it had been brilliant. For those who couldn't come, know that you are part of our community too, and will enjoy the wonderful feeling of camaraderie that prevailed when you come to the next event. Don't know when that will be, so keep reading your newsletters as you won't want to miss out.

By Deb Taylor



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Oh, Yes It Is. Oh, No It Isn't!!!!

As many members are aware, my wife Helena and I directed St Luke's Players' recent production of *Sleeping Beauty - the Panto*. This was, as far as I know, only the third pantomime presented by St Luke's Players in its 60 year history, following on *Aladdin* and *Cinderella* in the previous two years. When we originally approached St Luke's Players' Executive in early 2006, with a proposal for a Christmas panto, the idea was greeted with much enthusiasm and support.

However, just before the recent Members' Evening, I was flipping through some St Luke's Players archival minutes of executive and general meetings in the 1970's, and realized that such a proposal might not have received such a positive response 35 years ago!

In June 1971, at a general meeting of St Luke's Players, "it was moved by Evanne Murray and seconded by Jutta Woodland that we do a children's pantomime in December".

However, at a subsequent general meeting in November of that year "it was proposed by Marilyn Ball, seconded by Dave Shearer and carried, that the pantomime be abandoned." No reason or explanation was recorded in the minutes!

Later in the same month at an executive meeting, the minutes stated "President Jo Pepper explained that she had talked with Anne Adamson, who is very keen on our carrying out the pantomime, also that several new people and youngsters seem very keen and that we should consider using them on this occasion to keep their interest in the group."

A week later at a general meeting, it was recorded that "President Jo Pepper vacated the chair in order to move that the general meeting carry out the recommendation of the executive committee that the previous ruling to abandon the pantomime be rescinded. This was seconded by Betty Jeanpierre. A heated discussion followed resulting in the President resigning the Chair. A motion was made by Marilyn Ball, seconded by Jean Reid, that the pantomime definitely be abandoned. Carried. Whereupon Jo Pepper presented her resignation as President and as a member of St Luke's Players."

The minutes of the general meeting held one week later were signed by President Jo Pepper, who was back in the Chair!!

Clearly there was a lot happening behind the scenes that was not recorded in the minutes! You could probably write a play about it!! I wonder if any of our older members remember this occurrence? Presumably the time was not yet right for St Luke's Players to present a pantomime.

Helena and I consider ourselves very lucky that our suggestion three years ago to present a panto didn't create such controversy at St Luke's!! Since then it has been our privilege and delight to work with such wonderful casts and crews and hear the audience participation and applause during each performance. Panto is certainly not serious theatre, but it sure involves and entertains a lot of different folks of all ages. Long may it continue at St Luke's!!!

Dave Hitchcock



Check out St. Luke's Players' website for more information on upcoming plays and to look at photos of your favourite productions from the past.

www.stlukesplayers.org

News of our Members Around Town

The cast of *Play On* presented by Peninsula Players includes **Elaine Lewis, Mitch Barnes, Reyna Webb, Lynneve Stewart, Rob LeBlanc** and **Wendy Cornock**. **Jon Scheer** is directing and **Bud Lafaut** is the lighting designer.

Performance dates:

February 25 - 28, March 1
at the Charlie White Theatre in Sidney
March 5 - 7

at Ridge Playhouse, Claremont High School

For more details go to

www.peninsulaplayers.bc.ca

Jo Barnes is Isabel, one of the Major General's daughters, **Don Lambton** is Stage Manager and he and **Dave Hitchcock** will be helping to build sets for the Victoria Gilbert & Sullivan Society's production of *Pirates of Penzance*.

Performance dates:

March 21 & 28 at 8 p.m.
and March 22 & 29 at 2 p.m.

at the Charlie White Theatre, Sidney

April 4 at 2 pm & 8 pm at McPherson Theatre

Stan and Nancy Davis wrote the musical adaptation for *Alice in Wonderland*, produced by Four Seasons Musical Theatre.

Remaining performance dates:

Feb 7 & 8 - St. Ann's Academy

Feb 14 & 15 - Isabelle Reader Theatre

Marissa Johnston, who acted in *Cinderella - the panto* and *The Butler Did It*, is in France doing her last year of high school. In France high school students attend classes from 8:30 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. and are not allowed to skip classes or miss days. Quite a change from Victoria where she had one or two classes per day and came and went as she liked.

Maggie Kirk is Junior Co-ordinator on the Board at Langham Court.

Langham Court's production *That Summer* just closed; **Jay Nefsky** helped with set painting, **Rod Hogg** was on the lighting crew, **Jane Krieger** and **Jean de Cartier** were dressers, **Joan Emery** was a prompter.

Aubrey Antonsen is currently attending AMDA, American Musical and Dramatic Academy in New York City. She graduated from Oak Bay in 2007 and was quite involved with many different musical theatre, singing and dancing endeavours, including pantos with St Luke's Players and Masques Theatre.

CONGRATULATIONS

to fellow thespians **Caroline Mackenzie** and **Osiris Malkovich**, on their recent engagement. They need no introduction to St. Luke's Players audiences and can be seen in March as husband and wife in *Ways & Means* - plenty of bedroom antics on stage, we hear.

