



ST LUKE'S PLAYERS

63rd Season. No. 2

November 2011

Executive 2011-12

President: Jane Guy
Vice President: .. Dave Hitchcock
Secretary: Neville Owen
Treasurer: Mike Chadwick
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..... Rosalind Coleman
..... Elizabeth Brimacombe

St Luke's Players'
Newsletter is published quarterly

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www.stlukesplayers.org

President's Message

Jane Guy

I am delighted to report an amazing start to our 63rd season, with the re-sounding success of *Nana's Naughty Knickers*. Other than the pantos, which in the recent years have played to sold out houses (1,300), *Nana's Naughty Knickers* topped box office records with 1,092; the next highest being *Arsenic & Old Lace* (851) and *Sinners* (826). Whatever the Director, Producers, Publicity folk and cast and crew did right, the formula worked. We hope this success will continue through the remaining shows of the season. Many thanks to everyone involved for making it such a success and special thanks to the Director, **Angela Henry**. Please read the review by *The Marble* later in this newsletter.

Our membership has increased this year to 112 (compared with 100 at this stage last year). Season ticket subscribers have soared to 261 (196 last year), due, in part to the many patrons who upgraded their ticket to *Nana's Naughty Knickers* to a season ticket.

Preparations are well in hand for St Luke's Players' 6th annual panto, *Alice in Wonderland*. The large cast of 25, together with Directors **Dave and Helena Hitchcock** and over 50 in the Production Team, are busy rehearsing, assembling costumes, building and painting sets, collecting props, designing sound and lighting, planning publicity, concession and front of house duties, together with the multitude of other tasks that are necessary for such a large production.

Tickets go on sale at our usual outlets on November 14 - get your tickets early to avoid disappointment as in the past 2 years we have completely sold out 2 weeks before Opening Night. There will be NO tickets available at the door. Please note that this year we have added some more performances - starting on December 21 through to January 2.

I'd also like to point out that auditions for our March production, a thriller *I'll Be Back Before Midnight*, directed by **Jon Scheer**, will be held on December 2 and 3 - more details are available later in the newsletter.

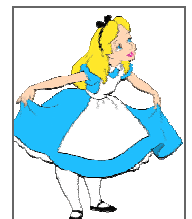
The Play Reading Committee co-chaired by **Rosalind Coleman** and **Pearl Arden**, and comprising **Jane Krieger, Madeleine Mills** and **Jon Scheer** are hard at work reading and reviewing possible plays for our next season. Thanks for volunteering.

Thanks to **Jon Scheer** who is auditing our accounts from last year and will be completing his report in time for our December Executive Meeting.

In the words of Alice: "*Good advice. If I listened earlier, I wouldn't be here. But that's just the trouble with me. I give myself very good advice, but I very seldom follow it.*" from Alice in Wonderland (1951) by Lewis Carroll.

Enjoy!

Jane



Alice in Wonderland

A traditional panto by Kate Parry & Karen Dolan-Smith

Directed by Dave & Helena Hitchcock



St. Luke's Players

6th annual panto

by Kate Parry & Karen Dolan-Smith

Alice in WONDERLAND

Directed by Dave & Helena Hitchcock



Evenings: Dec 21, 22, 23, 27, 29, 30 & Jan 1 at 8 pm

Matinees: Dec 26, 27, 31 & Jan 1, 2 at 2 pm

Wander to Wonderland with St. Luke's Players

This holiday season, St. Luke's Players invites you to delight in a mirthful, musical journey with Alice to a place where things become curiouser and curiouser with every step forward. The familiar tale of Alice's adventures through Wonderland with the White Rabbit as her guide, is stretched and twisted to create surprises and hilarity zanier than the maddest tea party imaginable in this traditional panto version of Alice in Wonderland. A comic ensemble including Princess Euthanasia and Dame Gladys joins a collection of well-loved Wonderland characters in a musical, madcap romp where audience members can boo the evil Queen of Hearts and cheer for Alice and her good-hearted friends.

St. Luke's Players proudly presents *Alice in Wonderland* this holiday season (December 21, 2011 – January 2, 2012). Directed by Dave and Helena Hitchcock, and featuring a cast of 25 actors, this show offers Panto-riffic delight.

**TO AVOID
DISAPPOINTMENT
GET YOUR TICKETS
EARLY**

We have completely
sold out 2 weeks before
opening night for the
past 2 years

Rehearsing the songs with Connie
te Kampe, the Musical Director

Refer to 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



Tickets: Adults \$15 Seniors & Students \$13 Children under 5 yr \$5:
Amica at Douglas House; Ivy's Book Shop; Petals Plus Florist; Russell Books

Nana's Naughty Knickers - a comedy by Katherine DiSavino

Directed by Angela Henry

the Marble

Nana's Naughty Knickers - KC's Review



When St. Luke's Players asked *The Marble* to come out and review their latest production, *Nana's Naughty Knickers*, I admit I had some reservations. The kind of comedy I am usually drawn to in theatre is the kind staged by my peers here in Victoria: edgy, low-budget, fringy. Give me *Atomic Vaudeville* or *ReRentless* any day. But *Nana's Naughty Knickers*? I didn't know how this show could resonate with me, being a more or less young male who doesn't often equate grandmothers with lacey panties. Nor does the idea have much appeal. So I went to the play in a sort of businesslike mood, ready to see the silly thing and get it over with. But you know what? I had a really good time.

I had never been to St. Luke's theatre before this show. It is, amazingly, the company's 63rd season. That means they have been putting on shows for more than twice the time I have been alive. That is really something when you think about it. And the theatre itself is quaint and pleasant. The staff is welcoming. Everyone involved wants you to have a great experience at the show. I mention these details because they mean a lot: my mood went from cynical to curious before the show even started.

And the play didn't disappoint: Bridget (Jennifer Ferguson) has come to stay at her Grandmother Sylvia's apartment in New York for the summer. What she doesn't know is that Sylvia (Rosalind Coleman), who finds retirement boring, has decided to design, manufacture, and sell a line of seniors' oriented lingerie out of her apartment - and no one knows about it except Sylvia and her clients. The fun of the first act is watching Bridget and Vera (Sylvia's elderly best friend, played by Elaine Lewis) accidentally discover all the frilly lacey negligees that are hidden just about everywhere. When she finds out, Bridget, who is a law student, is worried because Sylvia's business is illegal. Throw in a handsome cop (Matt Mathiason) with a crush on Bridget, and a meddling landlord (Jon Scheer), and you have a really fun game of hide-and-seek going on stage that never runs out of steam.

The play's great energy and exuberance is thanks, in large part, to Coleman's Sylvia, who bursts on to the scene looking every bit the modern granny, wearing yoga pants and sneakers, yelling at Vera to keep up. Coleman owns the stage and becomes the part of the wide-eyed optimist granny admirably. The other standout is Lewis as Vera, who really sold the half deaf, self-deprecating retiree who still can't bake cookies from a package. Mathiason as Officer Tom O'Grady grew on me, but I could not understand why he would be interested in Bridget. The way Ferguson plays Bridget makes her not quite likeable enough to feel happy for her at the show's predictably happy climax. She is just sort of bitchy throughout and I find it hard to believe that even a serious soul put in her ridiculous shoes might not have at least a little fun doing things like stuffing socks down her teddy to fill out the space for granny-boobs.

The other star of the show was the stage design, which I cannot say enough positive things about. The seemingly modest apartment setting transforms before our eyes into a lingerie shop thanks to countless secret cupboards, sliding panels, and walk-in closets. The audience knows how all of these things open very early on, so a lot of comic tension builds up as each character discovers the secrets in turn.

Aside from the comedy, this play is, dare I say, important. Some of its underlying themes are that elderly people aren't necessarily out of touch, even if they don't know how to work the internet, and that sexuality exists after retirement. The play suggests, I think, that even retirees forget that sometimes. I recommend checking out this production and St. Luke's theatre, generally. Don't be put off by the silly title; you will have a lot of fun.

What's Happening Around Town

St. Luke's Church Fantastic Family Fun Day

This year, the Players once again stepped up to contribute to the festiveness of Family Fun Day at St. Luke's Church on September 10. Under gorgeous, sunny skies, we constructed our information table. Led by the great engineering mind of Mike Chadwick (undaunted by sloping pavement beneath our feet), an eye-catching display came together with the St. Luke's banner beckoning those in attendance to come close and learn about our 2011-12 season.



Pearl & Mike & Jane



Pearl & Elizabeth

A costume-clad Players' contingency (Mike Chadwick, Pearl Arden, Jane Guy, and Elizabeth Brimacombe) handed out brochures, talked up the coming season, and invited children to colour a picture for our 'gallery'. At the end of the day, we drew two names from our raffle-prize boxes and awarded a ticket to *Nana's Naughty Knickers* and a ticket to the panto *Alice in Wonderland* to two lucky individuals who took time to visit our table. The Family Fun Day gave a great opportunity for the Players to mix with the Church community and celebrate together. A great time was had by all! Visit our website to view more photos of the day.

Elizabeth Brimacombe

OPEN AUDITIONS

I'll Be Back Before Midnight

will be held at St. Luke's Hall,
3821 Cedar Hill Cross Road

**Friday December 2 at 7:30 pm or
Saturday December 3 at 2:00 pm**

2 women: 20s to 30s

2 men: 20s to 30s and 40s to 50s

Review scripts: maninvic@gmail.com




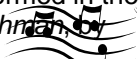
12 performances: March 14 – 25, 2012

Director: Jon Scheer

a thriller written by Peter Colley

A young woman, Jan, is brought to a lonely farmhouse by her husband Greg to recover from a nervous breakdown. But frightening things start to happen almost as soon as they arrive. Then Greg's lustful sister, Laura, with whom he seems to have an unnaturally close relationship, appears unexpectedly. There is also George, the rather strange old farmer who lives nearby, with his tales of murders and ghosts in the neighbourhood. And then there are the flickering lights, the mysterious heartbeats, the hand at the window, the blood on the floor, the corpse in the hallway . . . a nightmare, with twist after twist.

What's Happening Around Town

<p>Rosalind Coleman, Perry Burton, Kathy Macovichuk, Nevada Prinz and Katya Delancey performed in Peninsula Players' <i>The Unexpected Guest</i>, ending on November 13.</p>	<p>Zoe Brimacombe & Laura Rincon are performing in Kaleidoscope Theatre's <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> in December.</p> 	<p>Aaron Brimacombe is involved with the Kate Rubin Youth Performance Troupe: <i>Seasonal Stories</i> at various venues around Victoria.</p>
<p>Neville Owen, Jo & Mitch Barnes, Elizabeth Brimacombe, Alan Ormerod and Antoinette Church were all involved in <i>Mrs. Moonlight</i>, the recent Readers' Theatre at Langham Court.</p>	<p>Mitch Barnes is the MC and Jo Barnes is singing and dancing in the Victoria Gilbert and Sullivan Society's <i>British Music Hall</i> in late November.</p> 	<p>Jeff and Patti Shultis and Gerald Schieven are busy rehearsing for <i>Robin Hood</i>, Peninsula Player's panto, which opens in December.</p> 
<p>Gerald Schieven performed in the recent <i>The Flying Dutchman</i>, by Pacific Opera Victoria.</p> 	<p>Michael Romano will be seen in Langham Court's production of <i>The Drowsy Chaperone</i> in January.</p>	<p>Dick Newson is performing in <i>Glenagarry Glen Ross</i> at the Metro Theatre in November.</p>

You may be a winner

St Luke's Players and Langham Court have a reciprocal arrangement for comp tickets. All members are eligible to win 2 tickets in a draw. Once you've been the lucky winner, your name will be withdrawn from the pool.

The following members won the draw in November for a pair of tickets to *The Beauty Queen on Leenane*

Virginia Landucci
Vivian Love
Steve Sturgess

Local theatre company looking for 'mature' actors!

The Monterey Senior Players is an acting company that has operated out of the Monterey Centre for the past 16 years. This group offers a variety of options to its members: script-in-hand readers' theatre, play reading sessions, and full performances. There are also workshops facilitated by experts from the Victoria theatre community. The Players also compete in the BC Senior Games. The club's current one-act play has been performed in over 20 retirement residences, and at a dinner theatre evening at the Monterey Centre.

For more information please contact: Greg Finnegan 250-995-8775, gregoryfinnegan@live.com; or Dana Baecker 250-384-6818, drbaecker@shaw.ca. Or please drop by the Douglas Room in the Monterey Centre, 1442 Monterey Avenue, Oak Bay, (250) 370-7300 – Friday mornings at 10:00 a.m.



AMICA™
at Douglas House

Amica at Douglas House is pleased to sponsor St. Luke's Players' 2011/2012 season.

For more information go to: www.amica.ca

Please contact Jane Guy at jane-guy@shaw.ca to update us on news of members around town.