



ST. LUKE'S PLAYERS

COMMUNITY THEATRE SINCE 1948!

68th Season. No. 2

December 2016

Executive 2016-17

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St Luke's Players' Newsletter is published quarterly

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

President's Message

Bronwyn Taylor

Once again, this message is brought to you from the sunny shores of Mazatlan, Mexico. Reading in the shade of a palapa, walking on the sand and through the surf, makes it hard to believe it is already December—Panto month, as we know it.

The first show of the season, *A Murder is Announced*, was a run away success! It had the highest audience numbers of any of our regular season shows. Congratulations to the cast, crew, and new director Peter Gatt. The energy and enthusiasm he put into promoting the show obviously paid off! We hope he will direct for us again.

We have a record number (151) of members (for this time in the year) as well as 407 Season Ticket Holders. Several people who were first time attendees to St. Luke's, were so impressed by *A Murder is Announced* that they became Season Ticket Subscribers.

The ever-popular Christmas Panto is well into rehearsal, running Dec. 16 to Jan. 2. View the SLP website for times and dates:

www.stlukesplayers.org

Tickets went on sale Nov. 10, and as of Dec 6 there are only 24 tickets left, all for Dec 30, and only through EventBrite. None are available from The Papery.

Tickets to our March and May shows are also available through eventbrite.ca. If you have any difficulties or issues accessing the show of your choice, please send an email to stlukesplayers@yahoo.ca outlining the issue so we can contact EventBrite for resolution.

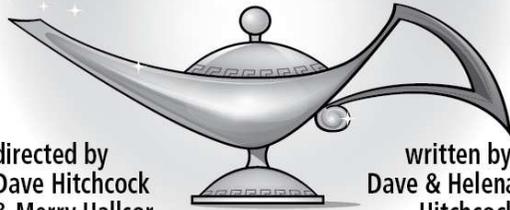
The Play Reading Committee is reviewing scripts for 2018-19. Please send suggestions of plays you would like to see us produce to the committee chair, Paul, at phawkesfrost@gmail.com

St. Luke's Players and the Church Maintenance Committee meet a few times each year. This year the fruits of our labour resulted in modified washrooms to make them more handicapped accessible and signs we can put out on Synod Rd. to increase the number of handicapped parking spots available during our shows. The Players are investigating universal boards on the Cedar Hill X Rd. side of the building where we might hang a sign specific to our productions. We also contributed \$12,000 towards the new roof for the hall.

Seasons Greetings everyone!
Bronwyn



Aladdin



directed by
Dave Hitchcock
& Merry Hallors

written by
Dave & Helena
Hitchcock

Aladdin is nearly ready!

During a recent interview with the Saanich News, we were asked something like: "Why do you spend so much time directing the panto, what do you get out of it?" We don't remember the exact words that we used to reply, but our answers were essentially the same – the satisfaction from seeing a production grow during the preparation and rehearsal process, with the blossoming of the cast members, while at the same time working alongside the various members of the production team. It's like a large "family" – many individuals with different responsibilities, all working towards a common goal.

This year's panto, *Aladdin*, has been a prime example of this. Early preparations began back in May, with auditions and singing and dancing rehearsals in September. As *A Murder is Announced* was using the stage, these early rehearsals were held at the Church of the Cross, kitty corner to St Luke's. *Aladdin's* cast of 21, including a camel aptly named Donald the Hump (see below with Genie and Widow Twankey), together with



probably twice that number working incredibly hard behind the scenes, makes for a large panto family. Many are new to St Luke's Players, some return year after year and many parents and partners have jumped in to assist wherever needed. Their creativity and enthusiasm, both on and off the stage never fails to impress and amaze us.

At a recent set building and painting session, we counted 18 people working away in the hall:

Martha, Helena, Cher, Neville, Jerry, Paul, Denis and Dave set building; Susan, Ann, Janine, Merry, Betty, Harry and Anne painting; Max setting up his lighting, Geli building props and Jean creating her costumes in the dressing room. And there are many more who come to help at other similar sessions at the hall. Not to mention those involved with sewing costumes, set design, sound design and operation, lighting operators, stage managers, stage crew, producers, prompter, publicity, program design, lobby display, concession, front of house, dressers, hair & make-up. The list of volunteers is amazing. A big family indeed!

We feel privileged to have so many talented people on the team and it has been particularly wonderful to work with Connie te Kampe (Musical Director) and Lia Collis (Choreographer). To them all a BIG THANK YOU!

We hope you enjoy *Aladdin* as much as we have enjoyed creating it.

Merry Hallors & Dave Hitchcock

Evenings: Dec 16, 21, 22, 23, 28, 30 at 7:30 pm Matinees: Dec 17, 18, 26, 27, 31 & Jan 1, 2 at 2 pm

A MURDER IS ANNOUNCED

Working with St. Luke's Players was the opportunity of a lifetime. Being a new director brought with it some challenges, but everything worthwhile has them. I was ably assisted by Effie MacMurchy, and worked with a fabulous production team and cast. *A Murder is Announced* was a huge success—the highest audience numbers apart from the annual Pantos (but who doesn't like an Agatha Christie mystery?!)

Auditions were held in early August, with rehearsals starting shortly after. Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday the actors and crew came together to hone their craft until we were stage-ready in October. Many of the cast and crew were new to SLP, so it was a learning experience for all. The energy and enthusiasm they brought to the show helped to make it the success it was.

I hope to be a part of SLP in seasons to come, and hope I helped open the door for new fledgling artists, and to theatre companies in Victoria to take a chance on youth.

Peter Gatt, Director



WANTED:

A donation of a Mac lap top for our sound production. If anyone has one they no longer require and is happy to donate it please contact Beverly Van Druten-Blais at bngblais@gmail.com.



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

Our Members Around Town

Barbara Clerhuhue was set designer for “Les Liaisons Dangereuses” at the Phoenix Theatre, November 10-26th. <https://finearts.uvic.ca/theatre/phoenix>

Julie Grey performed in “Dr Doolittle” with the Four Seasons, November 18th-26th. <http://www.fsmtheatre.ca>

Elizabeth Brimacombe, Penny Pitcher, and Karl Powel performed in, **Anne Swannell** was set designer for, and **Pearl Arden, Madeleine Mills, and Jane Kreiger** costumed “The Crucible” at Langham Court Theatre, November 18th – December 3rd. www.langhamtheatre.ca

Zuzana Macknight is directing, and **Neville Owen** and **Helen Bunyan** are performing in “The Travelling Sisters” with the Monterey Players at a varie-

ty of venues around town including the Cook Street Village Activity Centre, December 9th. <http://cookstreetvillageactivitycentre.com/event/monterey-players-presents-the-travelling-sisters>

Bill Tolson is performing in “Little Red and the Wolf” with Peninsula Players December 16th – 29th. <http://www.thepeninsulaplayers.ca>

Elayna Sing is performing in “Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs” with Kaleidoscope December 27th – 29th. <http://kaleidoscope.bc.ca>

Elizabeth Brimacombe is performing in “Sunset Boulevard” with VOS, May 5th-14th. <http://www.vos.bc.ca>

Winners of tickets to Langham's “One Man, Two Guvnors” are **Susan Tate** and **Kay McQueen**

Did we miss you?

Please contact **Natalie Munro** at paying_my_dues@yahoo.com

St. Luke's Players winner of inaugural Saanich Arts, Cultural and Heritage Awards—in category Cultural Stewardship (Organization).

Thanks to all members who nominated St Luke's Players for the Saanich Cultural Steward (Organization) Award. We are pleased to announce that, at a reception at Saanich Municipal Hall on Monday December 5, SLP was given this award. It was presented in Council Chambers by Mayor Richard Attwell, and was received on behalf of SLP by Jane Guy (Vice President). Other Executive members Neville Owen and Janine Longy were also in attendance, as well as some of the nominators. We were invited to a reception beforehand, by Councillor Vicki Sanders, Chair of the Saanich ACH Awards Committee.



Jane Guy with Mayor Attwell and Councillor Vicki Sanders



ST. LUKE'S PLAYERS

COMMUNITY THEATRE SINCE 1948!



Announcing these upcoming auditions:



Written by Peter Quilter • Directed by Jon Scheer

Fri Jan 6 • 7:30pm & Sat Jan 7 • 1pm

Callbacks: Mon Jan 8 • 7pm

Play runs Mar 8 – 19, 2017



by
Fred
Carmichael

directed by
Lori Dunn and
Rachael Miller

Fri Jan 20 • 7pm & Sun Jan 22 • 2pm

Callbacks: Tues Jan 24 • 7pm

Play runs May 17– 28, 2017

No appointments are necessary, just show up promptly at the start time.

Rehearsals are on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 7pm until 10pm

Scripts will be available at Oak Bay Flower Shop 102-2187 Oak Bay Ave • 250-595-2421

**All auditions are held at St Luke's Hall, 3821 Cedar Hill X Rd • Like us on Facebook
Website: www.stlukesplayers.org • Phone: 250-884-5484 • Email: stlukesplayers@yahoo.ca**

Here are the ways you can buy tickets for our performances:

- **On-line** at www.eventbrite.ca
(search for St. Luke's Players, choose your date and time, and pay by credit card)
- **In person** at The Papery
669 Fort Street
Mon - Sat 10 a.m to 6 p.m. and Sun 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **At the door** on performance night, by cash or cheque
(panto tickets subject to availability)

Tickets: \$16 [children 12 and under: \$8 for panto only]

Tickets are now available for our March show, *Duets*,
and our May show, *The Robin Hood Caper*

