



ST. LUKE'S PLAYERS

COMMUNITY THEATRE SINCE 1948!

68th Season. No. 3

February 2017

Executive 2016-17

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

President's Message

Bronwyn Taylor

Our 2016-17 Season kicked off with record numbers attending *A Murder is Announced*, an Agatha Christie favourite, largely due to the enthusiastic promotion of the show by first-time director Peter Gatt.

More people sought tickets at the door for the panto than in previous years, so we were able to boost our sales to compensate for 'no shows'. The only day we had to turn away ticket-seekers was the final performance. Many who purchased tickets for prior performances were sick so asked to use their tickets on January 2, resulting in considerable over-subscription for that show. We honoured all previously purchased tickets.

Auditions for *Duets* (March) and *The Robin Hood Caper* (May) were held in January. With so many talented people auditioning, the directors had difficult decisions to make. The shows are cast and rehearsals for *Duets* have begun. *The Robin Hood Caper* rehearsals will commence as soon as *Duets* finishes, unless the directors wish to rehearse elsewhere in advance. Tickets for both shows are available on-line through EventBrite and will go on sale at The Papery February 8, so make sure not to miss these great productions!

The church always asks the Players if we are willing/able to provide entertainment for their Pub Nights. The one following this newsletter is

in early June. More information will follow in our next newsletter, so in the meantime, think of what you personally, or we as a group, could offer by way of entertainment.

Shows and dates for our 2017-18 season:

Drama: Two One-Act Plays -
Separate Tables: Table Number Seven & The Twelve-Pound Look:
October: 11 - 22
Panto - *Cinderella:*
Dec. 15 - Jan. 1
Comedy - *Bedtime Stories:*
March 7 - 18
Mystery - *Laura:*
May 16 - 27

The call for directors will go out once we receive the production rights for the above plays.

As always, if you are interested in getting involved as a member of the all important production crew, please go to:
<http://www.stlukesplayers.org/volunteering.html> to see the production manual for what might be of interest to you. A Concession Manager and volunteers for Concession and Front of House are needed for the May show, *The Robin Hood Caper*.

Respectfully submitted,
Bronwyn Taylor





ST. LUKE'S PLAYERS
presents a comedy:
written by Peter Quilter directed by Jon Scheer

Evening Performances 7:30pm
March 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17 & 18

Matinee Performances 2:00pm
March 11, 12, 18 & 19

TICKETS

- at the door by cash or cheque
- online via eventbrite.ca (search for St. Luke's Players)
- in person at The Papery, 669 Fort Street
Mon to Sat 10am – 6pm & Sun 11am – 5pm

"DUETS" is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH

Even after the snow forced three cancellations, rehearsals are progressing very well, with diligent, hardworking actors. *Duets* features **Mitch Barnes, Jo Barnes, Michael Rodgers**, and St. Luke's newcomer **Susan Ko**, and is directed by **Jon Scheer**, with **Euphemia MacMurchy** as assistant director and stage manager.

Wendy and Jonathan meet through a dating ad; having experienced disappointing and failed relationships, and going through date after fruitless date, both are wondering if they'll ever really find someone to be with.

Janet is Barrie's personal secretary, and without her, his life would fall to pieces, but she never has the time to meet a potential husband. Everyone seems to think the two of them are having a passionate affair; could Barrie really be the answer?

Shelley and Bobby are getting drunk in Torremolinos, instead of hiring lawyers to help them through their divorce. Who gets the model Ferrari and who gets the fish?

Angela is getting married for the third time, while her eternal bachelor brother Toby tries to help her through her superstitions and fears and get her down the aisle in time.



Four pairs, four relationships, four drastically different scenarios, but what echoes through it all is a sense of hope, that maybe, just maybe, we don't have to go through this world alone. A lively cast of four actors brings to life Peter Quilter's delightfully hilarious and touching examination of humanity's hopes and fears when it comes to finding someone to love. As Wendy says, "We're hopeful. I tried desperate and I didn't like it."

Euphemia MacMurchy,
Assistant Director

Set construction and painting crew

Evenings: Mar 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17, & 18 at 7:30 pm Matinees: Mar 11, 12, 18 & 19 at 2 pm

Aladdin

It seems a long time since the Christmas panto but the memories are vivid. As usual, Directors, **Merry Hallsor** and **Dave Hitchcock** hosted a kick off meeting in the spring. We brainstormed ways to get a good turnout at the auditions; **Jean de Cartier** talked about her vision for the costumes and Anne Swannell gave us a sneak peek at the set design. During the summer, posters went up and a flurry of notes invited current and past actors and volunteers to audition and help backstage. It paid off. The auditions were well attended and a very talented cast and crew got together for a Meet and Greet pot luck and read through in late September.

Once again, singing and choreography rehearsals started in October in space rented from the Church of the Cross kitty-corner to St Luke's Church. This year, the Musical Director was **Connie te Kampe** and the Choreographer was **Lia Collis**. As soon as the fall production finished, we migrated back to our "home away from home" at St Luke's Church and started blocking rehearsals on the stage.

Reading though last year's retrospective, we encountered many of the same challenges; some cast members had other commitments and couldn't attend rehearsals - although that did give Dave free rein to practice many different voices - and, despite liberal application of hand sanitizer, the "panto cold" struck once again with lost voices and general misery for both cast and crew. On a more positive note, many of the villagers' parents volunteered their time to the panto this year. Some had never done any theatre work before but were very willing to learn. An added bonus was getting to know the children through their parents' eyes.

Ticket sales were brisk with our villain, **Mike Chadwick**, booed in true

panto fashion by patrons standing in line waiting for tickets outside *The Papery*. In the past, we have always had empty seats at performances so this year, when people contacted us when they couldn't get tickets, we suggested that they may be able to purchase tickets at the door. This worked well until the last performance when so many people arrived without tickets that we unfortunately couldn't squeeze them all into the auditorium.

A tradition which we have for all shows is the strike of the set and general cleanup which occurs within a couple of days of the last performance. Everything is ripped apart ready to construct the set for the next show. The costume people put away costumes, props retrieve the borrowed props for return and store the rest away, and volunteers clean the dressing rooms and the sitting area downstairs. The cast and crew are encouraged to come and help alongside the volunteers who put the set together in the first place. This year, there was a record number of helpers with cast, crew, parents and other volunteers getting everything apart so quickly it was done before we got the kettle on for a tea break. Looking at the empty stage when everyone had gone home brought a lump to a few throats - everything was quiet where just the previous day, it was lights, music and action - and we left the hall wondering what we used to do before the annual panto had taken over our lives.

Retrospective from Susan Nicholl,
Stage Manager



Cast and Crew of *Aladdin*.

Our Members Around Town

Beverley van Druten-Blais, Maegan and **Brendan Bercovici** are performing in the Reader's Theatre production of "Riders to the Sea" at Langham Court Theatre, February 18th.

<http://www.langhamtheatre.ca/participate/readers-theatre>

Geli Bartlett is performing in, and **Pearl Arden** and **Jane Kreiger** are costuming "Taking Leave" at Langham Court Theatre, March 3 - 18th.

<http://www.langhamtheatre.ca>

Wendy Cornock is performing in "Jekyll and Hyde" at Langham Court Theatre, April 21st - May 6th.

<http://www.langhamtheatre.ca>

Beverley van Druten-Blais is performing in "Fawlty Towers" with Peninsula Players at the Charlie White Theatre May 4th - 7th.

<http://www.thepeninsulaplayers.ca>

Elizabeth Brimacombe is performing in "Sunset Boulevard" with VOS, May 5th - 14th.

<http://www.vos.bc.ca>

Winners of the vouchers to Langham Court Theatre's March production of "Taking Leave" are **Jonathan Stoppi** and **Verna Lloyd**.

Did we miss you?

Please contact Natalie Munro at paying_my_dues@yahoo.com

to update us on news of members around town.

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

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

the
long
&
short
of it



TOPMOR
PRODUCTIONS
PRESENTS

JEAN TOPHAM

in Alan Bennett's *Bed Among the Lentils*
Directed by Hilary F. Allan

JANIE WOODS-MORRIS

in *Sketches* by Joyce Grenfell
Directed by Tony Cain

SAT. MARCH 18
AT 2PM & 8PM

SUN. MARCH 19
AT 2PM

Intrepid Theatre Club

1609 Blanshard (off Fisgard Street)

To reserve tickets call 250.592.7270

Available at the door \$20 • Cash Only

Fundraiser for Victoria's Target Theatre

WANTED PRODUCTION CREW FOR "THE ROBIN HOOD CAPER"

We are looking for Concession Manager, Sound & Lighting Operators, Costume Assistants (or dressers), Hair/Make-up people. Please contact Bronwyn Taylor at taylorbronwyn@shaw.ca or 250 592 4826.

OUR FINAL SHOW OF THE SEASON:



a comedy

By Fred Carmichael

Directed by Lori Dunn and Rachael Miller

May 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26 & 27 at 7:30 p.m.

May 20, 27 & 28 at 2:00 p.m.

Tickets available at the door by cash or cheque
 Online via eventbrite.ca (search for St. Luke's Players)
 In person at The Papery, 699 Fort Street
 Mon-Fri 10–6, Sun 11–5

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

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

