



# ST. LUKE'S PLAYERS

COMMUNITY THEATRE SINCE 1948!

69th SEASON

## NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2018

### 2017-18 EXECUTIVE

- President . . . . . Janine Longy
- Vice President . . . . . Geli Bartlett
- Treasurer . . . . . Mike Chadwick
- Secretary . . . . . Susan Nicholl
- Past President . . . . Bronwyn Taylor

### MEMBERS AT LARGE:

- Helena Descoteau
- Jane Guy
- Neville Owen
- Beverly van Druten-Blais

### St Luke's Players' Newsletter is published quarterly

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### Memberships & Season Tickets

Bronwyn Taylor & Susan Nicholl

### Graphic Design & Website

Beverly van Druten-Blais

For information about St. Luke's Players:

[www.stlukesplayers.org](http://www.stlukesplayers.org)

[www.facebook.com/stlukesplayers.com](https://www.facebook.com/stlukesplayers.com)

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



#### Janine Longy

Welcome to 2018. With the great success of our last two 2017 shows *The Twelve Pound Look/ Separate Tables* and *Cinderella*, a panto, we look forward to our season finales, *Bedtime Stories* and *Laura*. We continue to welcome new actors and crew.

A thank-you to John Lockyer for making special thank-you cards for the panto directors and crew department heads. John took photos during a performance and designed the most wonderful cards, a true keepsake for those involved.

To help with clean-up after every show, we have purchased a battery-operated carpet sweeper and donated it to the church. Carpet cleaning is much easier now!

After every show, we have a post-production meeting. After reviewing the panto production, St Luke's Executive has decided to buy two new spotlights. Our intent is to have identical spotlights with identical lighting capacity. We are also going to explore the idea of a computer operated lighting system.

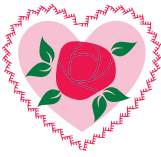
Projects for the new year include keypad locks on the dressing room doors, a review of policies and customs and continued updating of our production manual.

We collect information asking how the audience has heard about the play. We are pleased to note that some attended the panto because they saw our new sign outside the hall.

Do you want to direct? We have a great 2018-19 season planned. For information check [http://www.stlukesplayers.org/links/SLP-Directors\\_Call\\_2018-19\\_Season.pdf](http://www.stlukesplayers.org/links/SLP-Directors_Call_2018-19_Season.pdf). We also welcome applications for producers and stage managers. The deadline is February 28th.

See you at *Bedtime Stories*,

Janine Longy



**HAPPY VALENTINES DAY** to our 138 members, 370+ season ticket holders

## MEMBERS ACTING UP AROUND TOWN

**Barbara Clerihue** will be doing co-design (set, prop and costume) with Dean Heron for Kaleidoscope Theatre *Pinocchio* (9-10 March) and set design for VOS "9 to 5" (4-13 May).

**Anne Swannell** will be doing the set design for Langham Court's spring production of Alan Ayckbourn's *Chorus of Disapproval*.

**Penny Pitcher** has been involved in some film work around town, as well as performing with Target Theatre, an ensemble of actors 55+ who present seniors' issues through theatre.

**Sally Crickman** who is going to be working on the play *Laura* with St. Luke's Players, is presently doing decor and props for *Urinetown* a musical comedy at Langham Theatre. This show is a must see, glorious singing and very funny.

Langham's *Sense and Sensibility* coming up Feb 28-Mar 17 will be featuring **De Roger** as Mrs. Jennings and **Carl Powell** as Colonel Brandon.

**Beverly van Druten-Blais, Tia Niedjalski, Roland Wille, Geoffrey Davidson** and **Guy Blais** will be trodding the boards with Peninsula Players at Charlie White Theatre this April 19-22 in three more episodes of the hilarious British Comedy: *Fawlty Towers*. Previous years' performances have been totally sold out, so get your tickets early!

The winners of the Langham vouchers for *Sense and Sensibility* are **Eric Grace** and **Liz Bamford**.



Adorable mice, some not so adorable stepsisters and a telling moment in Cinderella.



## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Memberships expired on June 30, 2017. If you still wish to renew your membership, the form can be downloaded from the website: [http://www.stlukesplayers.org/links/SLP\\_Membership\\_Application.pdf](http://www.stlukesplayers.org/links/SLP_Membership_Application.pdf)

Mail it to St Luke's Players along with the very reasonable \$5.00 annual membership fee. You will receive an acknowledgment letter by email which is your receipt. We are no longer sending out membership cards.

## A NOTE ABOUT OUR PREVIEW NIGHTS THIS SEASON

Starting with our October production, our preview nights will continue to be free but BY INVITATION ONLY.

Preview Invitations will be given out for each production to cast and crew members and volunteers to invite family and friends.

Anyone who shows up at Preview night without a Preview Invitation will be charged the regular ticket price.

## PANTO RETROSPECTIVE

by Susan Nicholl, Stage Manager

This was a difficult article to write because the panto, Cinderella, ran so smoothly. Although some people had the sniffles, the “panto plague” that has ravaged cast and crew in previous years, passed us by. We did have one absence during the run which meant a bit of jiggling of roles before the performance. Even the final bows had to be changed!

Neville Owen and Janine Longy started working with the cast in September but planning for the panto started in the spring. Musical choices had to be approved by the directors as did the design of the set, stage lighting and sounds.

The costume designer presented a very innovative range of costumes for approval and the props person started identifying and acquiring props to be used at rehearsals and during performances. The publicity team handed out posters for the auditions and ran ads in the Times Colonist, in other theatre programs and on several websites. Their work paid off with good turnout at the auditions.

The coach coming in from the back of the hall was Neville’s idea and he spent many hours perfecting the design and building it. Everyone was a little nervous with this new concept; making sure it was small enough to get up the isle; quiet enough so as not to drown out the

dialogue on stage and spectacular enough to illicit “OH’s” and “AH’s” from the audience. It was touch and go for a while but in true panto tradition, everything came together to make a wonderful show. Together with all the sets, the coach was demolished at the end of the run but it will always have a special place in our hearts.



Stay tuned for next year’s panto *Sleeping Beauty*.

## “GOODBYE CINDERELLA, HELLO DOLLY”

Submitted by Dave Hitchcock

Marking the end of another successful panto run, the strike of the *Cinderella* set in, early January, went very well. It took only 90 minutes – likely a record! Thanks to some preparatory work earlier in the day and an enthusiastic group of production folks, cast members and parents, armed with their Robertson screwdrivers, the team soon had Cinderella’s coach demolished, the periaktoi taken apart and the stage cleared.

On the day after the strike, someone remarked that our dolly (a small plywood platform with casters, used for moving heavy scenery) was missing. A thorough search was carried out, but to no avail! What could have happened to it? There were only a limited number of places

that it could have gone, but dolly wasn’t hiding in any of them. Finally, it was suggested that, maybe, the dolly could have been taken apart by one of those enthusiastic set strikers. Surely not? But then four casters were discovered in one of the containers used for collecting hardware during the strike. Aha, a clue and possibly a solution to the mystery!

No worries! No sooner had the mystery been solved, than a resourceful set builder constructed a replacement dolly – even better than the first one which, likely, had been taken apart mistakenly by a non-set builder.

A few days later I was recounting this amusing story to a group of set builders for *Bedtime Stories* when one of them (who shall be nameless!) owned up. During the strike he had spotted a scrap of plywood in the

garbage pile. Realizing that it had wheels on it and not recognizing dolly, he conscientiously removed the casters so that they could be reused in the future. Somewhat embarrassed, he owned up to his mistake, much to the amusement of his fellow set builders.

So, it’s Goodbye Cinderella, Hello Dolly!



# BEDTIME STORIES

**You're not going to want to miss this Canadian comedy!**

**EVENINGS at 7:30 p.m.**

**March 7, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16 and 17**

**MATINEES at 2:00 p.m.**

**March 10, 11, 17 and 18**

## GET YOUR TICKETS!

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

- On-line at [www.eventbrite.ca](http://www.eventbrite.ca) (search for St. Luke's Players OR the name of the play, choose your date and time, and pay by credit card)
- In person at The Papery, 669 Fort Street  
Mon – Sat 10 am to 6 pm and  
Sun 11 am – 5 pm  
Available February 7th for Bedtime Stories and April 16th for Laura
- At the door on performance night, by cash/cheque  
Tickets: \$16  
[children 12 and under: \$8 for panto only]

## Merry Hallsor, Director

Many, many years ago I went to a director's workshop and the workshop leader started off by saying: "Directing is not complicated. You start with a good script and cast it well". "*Bedtime Stories*" is a good script and it is cast well!

We are off to a great start. One of the cast members posted on facebook: "If you don't laugh at this one we'll have to hold a wake for you since you must surely have passed on."

Much to my delight, I was able to cast all 15 roles without doubling up. There is another major character in the script and we have already been rehearsing 'The Radio. He is coming along beautifully in his role!

I can't think of a better way to spend the rest of our dreary winter, then meeting with this cast and working with this script.

Come and see "*Bedtime Stories*" March 7 to 18th – you won't be disappointed.



*Some of the cast and crew of Bedtime Stories noshing at the 'Meet & Greet'*

## OUR SEASON FINALE: A MURDER MYSTERY

Laura Hunt was the ideal modern woman: beautiful, elegant, highly ambitious, and utterly mysterious. No man could resist her charms—not even the hardboiled NYPD detective sent to find out who turned her into a faceless corpse. As this tough cop probes the mystery of Laura's death, he becomes obsessed with her strange power. Soon he realizes he's been seduced by a dead woman—or has he?



Written by  
Vera Casper &  
George Sklar

Directed by  
Don Keith

**EVENINGS at 7:30pm • May 16, 17, 18, 19, 23, 24, 25 & 26**

**MATINEES at 2:00pm • May 19, 20, 26 & 27**