



NEWS



ST. LUKE'S PLAYERS

COMMUNITY THEATRE SINCE 1948

WINTER 2020

2019-20 EXECUTIVE

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St Luke's Players' Newsletter

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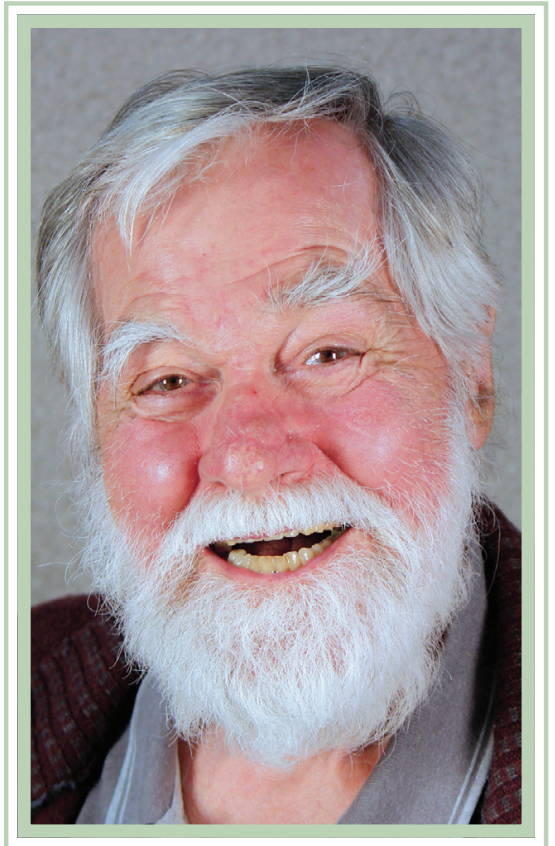
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It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Neville Owen.

Neville was a much loved and honoured member of St Luke's Players. He joined the Players in the spring of 2003 and was on the board for sixteen years including serving as President for five of the lean years when the Players operated on a shoestring. Neville was an electrical engineer specializing in communications and became our technical guru. He also headed up the set construction team for many years, directed, acted, and was generally indispensable.

In his spare time, Neville was involved with the Monterey Players and, among other parts, made a wonderful Ebenezer Scrooge.

The Celebration of Life was held at St. Luke's Parish Hall, February 29th, 2020.



Rest in peace, dear friend. You will be missed.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Springtime in Victoria! Cherry blossoms and warmer sunny days! What could make spring in Victoria better? Live theatre with St. Luke's Players! After the amazing panto at Christmas, work began on our spring production of *I Never Sang for My Father*. This touching drama, directed by Janine Longy and Geli Bartlett, explores relationships and alienation, family, aging and loss. I hope everyone comes out to support Janine and Geli and their talented cast.

After mentioning the panto, I must congratulate Heather Lee and Steve Eastman for the great job they did casting and directing "*Treasure Island*" The cast were hilarious!

President's Message continued...

The sets were one of the best panto sets ever! So much fun. Thank you all.

The future lighting and sound booth is well on its way to reality thanks to the exhaustive work of Janine Longy and Simon Skey. Still some steps left but it is closer.

Auditions for *The Unexpected Guest* were held February 21, 22, 23, the cast has been chosen, and rehearsals will begin with the Meet & Greet and Reading of the play on March 25. If you have any time to volunteer for the concession or front of house, please contact Susan Nicholl.

Our 2020/2021 season has been announced and we are looking for directors. Please check our website for all details.

Hope to see all of you soon!

~ Michael King

MEMBERS ACTING UP AROUND TOWN

Susan Ko filmed a short film, *In The End* at St. Luke's in January. This screenplay is about a woman coming to terms with her difficult relationship with her mother as she deteriorates with dementia. It is currently in post production and will hopefully be screened in the late spring.

Things My Mother Taught Me producers, **Holly McGimpsey** and **Terry Oliver**, are now producing *Silent Sky* for Langham Court Theatre. **Lindsay Anderson**, also from TMMTM, is playing Annie Cannon and **James Johnson** is also cast in the production which tells the story of how turn of the century women at the Harvard Observatory changed astronomy. *Silent Sky* runs April 15 to May 2nd.

In addition to continuing to serving as Langham's Planning Production Chair for 2020-22, **Jon Scheer** is Stage Manager for *Silent Sky*.

Merry Hallsor co directed a Reader's Theatre Production on Feb. 8th at Langham Theatre. This was a co-production with Theatre Carpe Diem.

Carl Powell will be in Bema Production's mounting of *Leipzig* running May 7-21. This multiple award winning play explores the journey of a three-member Irish Catholic Boston family when the mother descends into Alzheimer's and begins praying in

Hebrew, unwittingly revealing her long-held secret that she is Jewish, a child refugee of the Holocaust. Past and present collide in a psychological homecoming that raises deep and ultimately moving questions about identity. The play is a beautiful exploration of religious identity, loyalty, parental bonds and attendant feelings of safety or threat. It is a plea for inclusion at a time of fear and religious polarization.

Elaine Montgomery is directing a musical: *Pajama Game* in Palm Springs, which will run Mar 26-29.

Geoffrey J. Davidson is directing *Little Bird* for Starry Starry Skies Productions. It's an original rock musical set in 1969 which will play at Intrepid Theatre March 20/21 and 27/28.



LANGHAM COURT READERS' THEATRE UPCOMING SHOW

Attitude Theatre presents
TOM: Birth of a Legend
written by **Terry Oliver**,
directed by **Tony Cain**

Tom Thomson, Canada's most iconic painter who died mysteriously at the height of his power in 1917. The play explores the role of the creative artist in times of war and social unrest.
Monday, April 20th at 8pm.



Cast and crew of *I Never Sang for My Father* practicing turning the 'revolves'

I Never Sang for My Father



Evenings 7:30 • March 11–14 & 18–21

Matinees 2:00 • March 14, 15, 21, 22

PUTTING THE PUZZLE TOGETHER: I NEVER SANG FOR MY FATHER

Rehearsals are well underway and we're all delighted as the pieces of the puzzle evolve and revolve to complete the picture.

The play comprises 20 scenes set from New York City's Penn Station to Westchester County and ultimately to California. The work of fitting it on our modest stage presents a myriad of aesthetic and practical challenges. As usual Team St. Luke's Players is up for it and it's a treat to watch the elements of— set design, lighting, sound, props, set décor falls seamlessly into place. Well, actually, they are nudging each other gently into place.

During rehearsals, we continue to explore the complex relationships of the central characters. Many of us are finding we can relate to our own family stories as we follow the Garrisons on their personal journeys. The supporting cast not only advance the plot and throw the major characters into sharper relief but are proving to be invaluable in setting the scenes.

As we approach opening night, we are proud of our innovative cast and crew and look forward to sharing with you the finished picture.

~ Geli Bartlett and Janine Longy, Co-directors

WOULDN'T YOU LIKE TO GET INVOLVED?

Please consider volunteering as a Front of House (FoH) or Concession worker for our March production *I Never Sang For My Father*.

The dates and start times are:

Evening performances: volunteers to be at the hall at 6:30 pm for a 7:30 pm show time:

Preview Monday March 9th

Wednesday March 11th
– Saturday March 14th and

Wednesday March 18th
– Saturday March 21st

Matinee performances:
volunteers to be at the hall
at 1 pm for a 2 pm show time:

Saturday March 14th, and March 21st

Sunday March 15th, and March 22nd

Working in FoH and Concession is fun and easy. If you volunteer for at least two shows, you can watch the show on the preview night and one volunteer each shift may watch the performance on one of the days they volunteer.

If neither of those times work, we will give you a voucher to exchange at the door for another performance.

Don't worry if you have never worked in FoH or Concession before. There will



always be someone available to answer questions and we will send you step by step instructions. These instructions will be in the kitchen so don't feel that you must bring a copy with you.



Elaine Lewis and Bronwyn Taylor are managing FoH for this play and Susan Nicholl is managing the Concession and scheduling. Please reply to this email address stlukesplayers@yahoo.ca to sign up for a shift or three for FoH or concession.



A PLEASANT PASSION? NEED A NEW ACTIVITY IN YOUR LIFE?

Are you or someone you know looking for something to do? Would you like to meet new friendly people? How about having some fun with St. Luke's Players? There are all sorts of benefits. Give back to your community with a group that values, appreciates and acknowledges its members and their

efforts and contributions. Enjoy the diverse and interesting company of people with a pleasant passion for our community theatre. It's always nice to feel useful, involved and part of our stage magic. At the final curtain of each production there is generally a feeling of success and accomplishment.

You can be a part of it. It's easy! Simply send us a note to this email address stlukesplayers@yahoo.ca and we'll find you an activity to enjoy.



EVERYBODY WINS!

For many years St. Luke's Players and Langham Court Theatre have had an arrangement whereby we exchange complementary vouchers for our shows. The arrangement currently in place, thanks to their GM Michelle Buck, is most generous. We donate 4 vouchers to each of our 4 shows, in exchange for 3 vouchers to each of Langham's 6 shows, including their sell-out musicals.

These lucky people won tickets to Langham Court Theatre's production of *Silent Sky* in April 2020:

Kristin Ross
Deb Taylor
Debra Antiphon



PLAY READING COMMITTEE NEEDS A NEW CHAIR AND SOME READERS

We just got nice new chairs for the auditorium, so no, we don't mean a 'chair'...

Each year a group of enthusiastic members of St. Luke's Players gather to research, read, meet, discuss and—using established criteria—eventually come up with 3 choices for each of the 3 plays and a Panto that the Players produce annually.

Mike Chadwick has been Chairperson of this committee for several years and now it's time for the group to rally, select a new chair and get working on the plays for the 2021/22 Season. If you like to read and would like to be part of the process, you are most welcome to contact us please. stlukesplayers@yahoo.ca



CALL FOR DIRECTORS – ANNOUNCING OUR 2020/21 SEASON

St. Luke's Players is pleased to announce our 2020-2021 season of entertainment.

If you want to direct one of our upcoming plays, let us know your previous experience, and which play(s) you would like to direct. If you have not directed a play on your own before but would like to, or would prefer to participate as an assistant director, then let us know your experience in theatre.

It is not a requirement to submit the names of a producer and/or stage manager but, if you have a preference, please include this in your submission. If you do not submit the name of your

producer and/or stage manager, St Luke's Players will find volunteers to fill these positions.

To submit an application to direct, produce or stage manage, if you have a question or want a copy of a script to review, please contact St Luke's Players at stlukesplayers@yahoo.ca

We are also looking for submissions from people who would like to produce or stage manager one or more of these plays

Deadline for submissions:
15th March 2020

An Inspector Calls

by J.B. Priestley

PUBLISHER: Dramatist Play Services

GENRE: Drama

CAST: 4 males • 3 females

PERFORMANCE DATES (2020):

Evening performances 7.30 p.m.

5th October (Preview), Oct 7 – 10, 14 – 17

Matinees 2 p.m. October 10, 11, 17 and 18

SYNOPSIS:

A young girl commits suicide and an eminently respectable British family is subject to a routine inquiry in connection with the death. An inspector calls to interrogate the family, and during the course of his questioning, all members of the group are implicated lightly or deeply in the girl's undoing. The family, closely knit and friendly at the beginning of the evening, is shown up as selfish, self-centered or cowardly, its good humor turning to acid, and good fellowship to dislike, before the evening is over.

The Curious Savage

by John Patrick

PUBLISHER: Samuel French

GENRE: Comedy

CAST: 5 males • 6 females

PERFORMANCE DATES (2021):

Evening performances 7.30 p.m. March 8 (Preview),

Mar 10 – 13, Mar 17 – 20

Matinees 2.00 p.m. March 13, 14, 20 and 21

SYNOPSIS:

Mrs. Savage has been left ten million dollars by her husband and wants to make the best use of it, in spite of her grown-up stepchildren's efforts to get their hands on it. Knowing that the widow's wealth is now in negotiable securities, and seeing they cannot get hold of the fortune, the stepchildren commit her to a sanatorium hoping to "bring her to her senses." In the sanatorium Mrs. Savage meets various social misfits, men and women who just cannot adjust themselves to life, people who need the help Mrs. Savage can provide. In getting to know them, she realizes that she will find happiness with them and plans to spend the rest of her life as one of them...

The King's New Clothes

by Peter Mitcheson, June Stevens and Annette Ward

PUBLISHER: Stagescripts Panto Scripts

GENRE: Christmas Panto

CAST: 4 males, 3 females, 6 male/female, chorus

PERFORMANCE DATES (2020/2021):

Evening performances 7.30 p.m. December 16 (Preview),

Dec 18, 19, 22, 23, 28, 29,

Matinees 2:00 p.m. December 19, 20, 26, 27, 31, January 1, 2

SYNOPSIS:

A traditional panto with a panto horse, a messy kitchen scene, a sword fight and a sparkling new story. Sir Ivor Darkside and his dim assistants Simply, Park and Ryde, trick the King into offering his daughter in return for invisible 'magic cloth'. Can lovable Fairy Nuff get onstage into the pantomime in time? Can our heroic stable lad save the Princess? Will we see the King in the 'all together'? Keep your audience in stitches while they watch the drama unfold and guess what could happen next.

Prescription for Murder

by Norman Robbins

PUBLISHER: Samuel French

GENRE: Murder Mystery

CAST: 3 males • 4 females

PERFORMANCE DATES (2021):

Evening performances 7.30 p.m.

May 17 (Preview), May 19 – May 22, 26 – 29

Matinees 2.00 p. m. May 22, 23, 29, and 30

SYNOPSIS:

In the seemingly quiet town of Bere Knighton there is never a dull moment for Dr. Richard Forth. Not only does he have a hectic work schedule and an awkward friendship with his ex-girlfriend, but his wife, Barbara, is constantly ill and nobody knows what is wrong with her. When Eric Dawson, a stranger, claims to have known Richard's second fiancée—a woman Richard claims does not exist—Barbara's health worsens and she isn't the only one. With bad luck spreading almost as quickly as bad news, it seems somebody is out to kill Barbara, and anyone else who gets in their way.