



ST LUKE'S PLAYERS

Executive 2010-11

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

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President's Message

Jane Guy

The season has got off to a great start with record audience numbers at **Arsenic and Old Lace**, and for the third year in a row, a totally sold out panto, **Robinson Crusoe**. We hope this momentum carries on for the remaining two plays of the season. Come out and support **Sinners**, a wickedly funny comedy by Canada's favourite playwright, Norm Foster and directed by Neville Owen. Further details can be found on Page 2.

The recent purchase of seat cushions, which were left out in containers prior to each performance of the panto for the audience to use, if they wished, proved to be very popular. So, more cushions have now been purchased by the Executive. We are also looking into options to replace the stage curtains in 2011.



St Luke's Players is pleased to be joining with Langham Court Theatre, Peninsula Players, Monterey Senior Players, Victoria High School and Esquimalt High School for a Festival of One Act plays over a weekend in May. Thanks to Erin Hoyt of Langham who was instrumental in getting this off the ground.

St Luke's Players will be ably represented by **Mitch and Jo Barnes** who will perform their own one act play entitled *Silver Linings*. Further details can be found later in the newsletter.

I love acting. It is so much more real than life. ~ Oscar Wilde

We are still asking for expressions of interest from senior members (55 or older) who might be interested in participating in this year's BC Senior Games. This would involve putting on a one act play of about 40 minutes, and of course cast and crew should be seniors. Please get back to Neville Owen at (250) 592-4285 for more information.

Jane

St. Luke's Church is inviting St. Luke's Players' members to a



Friday February 11 6:30 - 9:30pm

Beer & Wine (at cost)

Soft Drinks

Snacks

Games, Music

Come and relax with your friends!



RSVP St. Luke's office at 250-477-6741 to let them know how many will be in your party so that they have some idea of numbers.



Sinners - by Norm Foster

Directed by Neville Owen

A sinfully wicked black comedy of murder and infidelity, *Sinners* was the first play written by Canada's premiere playwright, Norm Foster. He was born in Newmarket, Ontario on St. Valentine's Day, and attended Centennial College in Toronto, and later Confederation College in Thunder Bay where he studied Radio & Television. He then began his 25 year radio career which would take him from Thunder Bay to Winnipeg to Kingston and finally to Fredericton, New Brunswick.

It was in Fredericton in 1980 that Foster was introduced to the world of theatre. "A friend of mine was going to audition for a community theatre production of *Harvey* and he asked me to go along. I went, just for a lark, and I wound up getting the part of Elwood P. Dowd. The funny thing is, I had never even seen a play in my life before this."

He fell in love with theatre from that point on. His first professionally produced play, *Sinners* came two years later. He continued to write and produce nearly forty plays. When asked about his love of acting, he states: "Acting is great fun, but writing is my first love..." When asked what theme is common to his plays: "I think for the most part, they're about ordinary people just trying to get by in life. ... What I am trying to do is make them (his audience) feel a little better about this world, and that's not easy these days."

SINNERS



March 16 - 19 & 23 - 26 at 8 pm
Matinees:
March 19, 20, 26 & 27 at 2 pm

Tickets: Adults \$15 Seniors & Students \$13

- Amica at Douglas House - 50 Douglas St
- Ivy's Book Shop - 2188 Oak Bay Ave
- Petals Plus Florist - 3749 Shelbourne St
- Russell Books - 734 Fort St
- At the door

Disaster strikes when furniture store owner Peter Kramer is found in the arms of a local minister's wife with whom he is having an affair. It gets even more desperate when Peter is mistaken for the Reverend and attempts to flee the scene.

An intricate web of deceit is hilariously exposed as the police chief, members of the parish and the women's auxiliary all get involved.

Director **Neville Owen** and his cast - **Perry Burton, Lisa Lamarre, Dave Hitchcock, Roslyn Heslop, Connie te Kampe** and **Jeff Shultis** - have been rehearsing since early January. With a set designed by **Graham Thomson** and a production team headed by Producer **Lori Smith**, this promises to be another audience pleaser.



IN REHEARSAL: Roslyn Heslop looks on aghast at the goings on between Monica Lloyd and Perry Burton

You know you work in community theatre when your kids know your lines better than you do

Robinson Crusoe - a traditional panto by John Morley

Directed by Dave and Helena Hitchcock

By all accounts, St Luke's Players 5th annual panto was a success. As the directors, clearly we are totally biased and sometimes it is difficult to be truly objective! But, judging from the comments that we overheard during and after each performance of *Robinson Crusoe*, the audiences, both young and old, thoroughly enjoyed the two hours of family entertainment. "Oh yes they did!"

Totally sold out, almost 3 weeks before the opening matinee on December 26, the show played to capacity crowds for each of the 10 performances. It was often difficult explaining to people that there were no tickets left and many vowed to buy theirs early next year! The rapidly increasing popularity of the St Luke's panto has led to suggestions that additional performances be added for future years, maybe starting before Christmas.

The success of the production can be attributed 100% to the energy and enthusiasm of the 31 cast members and over 50 in the production crew, who worked together to create the final product. As we said in our program notes, we never fail to be amazed at, and grateful for, the amount of talent, enthusiasm and plain hard work that goes into a production like *Robinson Crusoe*. Both cast and crew members worked tirelessly, eagerly following direction and continually providing all kinds of suggestions as to how to improve the production. It was truly a joint effort, with too many names to include here (you saw them listed in the program!), but we thank everyone. We would particularly like to acknowledge the support provided by all seven members of the Executive, who were each involved with the production, both on and off the stage.



Friday (Elizabeth Brimacombe) befriends Robinson Crusoe (Kathy Macovichuk)



Blackpatch (Chris Harris) and Jack Boot (Osiris de Korte) fight over Polly (Naomi Arato)

Our experience with panto at St Luke's is that it is like being part of a large family. Like all families we had our challenges, not least being a number of health issues, including a broken toe, broken arm, cuts, bruises and the infamous "panto cold" that swept through the cast and many of the crew. But, despite a few minor adjustments the cast rallied, lived up the well-known saying "the show must go on" and the audience never realized!

So what about next year's panto, we are constantly asked? Well, this will be up to St Luke's Players' Executive to decide. All we know is that, at this moment, we plan on submitting our names to direct whatever panto is selected!

Dave & Helena Hitchcock
(Directors)

What's Happening Around Town

<p>Gerald Schieven is rehearsing for <i>The Mikado</i> with Victoria Gilbert & Sullivan Society and Tony Gilsean is designing the set - in March at Mary Winspear Theatre & April at the McPherson Theatre.</p>	<p>Antoinette Church is directing one of the plays and Jo Barnes is rehearsing for both plays for Langham Court's Readers Theatre - on February 19.</p>	<p>Wendy Cornock has been busy – recently modeled in Bride Victoria Bridal Fair; in the background of a Hallmark picture; in the <i>Dark Waters of Crime Series</i>; and had a small role in a film for Hungarian T.V. in B.C</p>
<p>Peter Justo, Jack Rowe and Helen Brens were the lucky winners of tickets to Langham's <i>The Memory of Water</i>.</p>	<p>Whitey Mitchell is rehearsing for Four Season's <i>Treasure Island</i> from March 18 - 27 at the Isabelle Reader Theatre.</p>	<p>Congratulations to Bronwyn Taylor who will be awarded UVic's Distinguished Faculty of Education Alumni Award on February 9.</p>
<p>Ralph Sketchley, Wendy Cornock, Mitch Barnes, Matthew McLaren, Rosalind Coleman and Michael Romano appeared in <i>The Laramie Project</i> at Langham in January.</p>	<p>Please contact Jane Guy at jane-guy@shaw.ca to update us on your news - if you are not here, it's because we didn't know</p>	<p>Osiris de Korte, Rebecca Delancey, Zoe Brimacombe will appear in Kaleidoscope Theatre/ Lawyers on Stage production of <i>Hair</i> on April 8 & 9 at McPherson.</p>



FIRST AMATEUR ONE ACT FESTIVAL

May 13 - 15, 2011

at Langham Court Theatre

FREE ADMISSION

For the first time Langham Court will play host to the Amateur Thespian One Act Festival. Langham members along with an enormous amount of help and talent from St. Luke's Players, Peninsula Players, Monterey Senior Players, Victoria High School and Esquimalt High School, will be work-shopping and then staging a series of one act productions all over the course of one sure-to-be-wild weekend in May!

Currently we are looking for people who think that they might be able to volunteer, either as workshop teachers or (if you like something a little more laid back,) you could volunteer to help control traffic on the Sunday performance day. Even if you have no time to donate to organization, you can show your support by coming to watch the performances as this event is entirely **free!** Our mandate is to promote drama education and direct participation with Victoria's amazing amateur thespian groups. We as theatre junkies often complain that we feel spread a little thin by the end of the season, so by giving to each other and the community as a whole a free educational opportunity, we hope to promote more active involvement from our youth and those that are just generally theatrically curious.

The whole event will take place the 13th-15th of May with the final performances scheduled on the Sunday. More information will follow as the months go by, but if you are interested to learn more or wish to volunteer, you can contact Erin Hoyt at erinmusic@live.com or call her after 6pm at (250) 634 4906. Here's to an amazing learning experience!



AMICA™
at Douglas House

Amica at Douglas House is pleased to sponsor St. Luke's Players' 2010/2011 season.

For more information go to:
www.amica.ca

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

You know you work in community theatre if you have ever appeared in a show when the cast outnumbered the audience