



# ST. LUKE'S PLAYERS

COMMUNITY THEATRE SINCE 1948!

65 SEASON, NO. 1

SEPTEMBER 2013

## EXECUTIVE 2013-14

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## President's Message

Rosalind Coleman

As the leaves turn to gold and the evenings get crisper, St Luke's Players is about to launch its brand-new 2013-2014 Season. And what a season we have planned for you!

Our first play in late October is the hilarious murder mystery "**Who Dunit?**" featuring a mystery writer at the pearly gates refusing to enter heaven until he finds out who killed him. Amazingly, the Archangel Michael gives

him a reprieve and lets him relive the past 24 hours of his life to see if he can solve the murder before it is committed. This award-winning play has won rave reviews for humour and intrigue.

Our panto this coming holiday season is the much-loved "**Puss and Boots**". Always very popular, the Christmas panto sells out quickly so consider buying your tickets early to avoid disappointment.

In the spring we will bring you the poignant and endearing comedy "**Welfarewell**". This play is a two-act social satire written by the Canadian playwright, Cat Delaney. It features an 80-year-old retired stage actor who just can't make ends meet. But she's crafty and years of life experiences guide her to resolution. Not since Steel Magnolias has there been a play of such warmth and humour.

Finally in early summer we will present the comedy/thriller "**Prepare to Meet thy Tomb**" by Norman Robbins. This is the third and final play in the well-known Tomb trilogy and is great fun on its own.

At our AGM in July we had a good turnout. I was thrilled to report that our season had been tremendously successful. Season Ticket holders were up to 232. Our members are at 113. Total audience attendance for the season was 4,130. We have a new sound system and increased lighting capacity, both adding to the overall quality of our performances.

So this season, let me encourage you to come to St Luke's and get involved – either on the stage, behind the stage, or in the audience. Whatever you do, it will be fun. We need you to make St Luke's Players a success.

One final note, it is a good idea to get your tickets early from our ticket outlets at Petals Plus Florist, Ivy's Bookshop, and Russell Books. You can log on to our website, [www.stlukesplayers.org](http://www.stlukesplayers.org), for more information.



**Who Dunit?** (Oct. 2013) • **Puss in Boots** (Dec. 2013) • **Welfarewell** (Mar. 2014) • **Prepare to Meet Thy Tomb** (May 2014)

# What's Up with "Who Dunit?"

Submitted by Geoffrey J. Davidson, Director

Rehearsals for "Who Dunit?" by C. B. Gilford are underway. The auditions (led by Director Geoffrey Davidson who is at the helm of his fourth St. Luke's Players show) were a tough process, with a good turnout and many excellent candidates for the roles available. After the dust cleared, we found ourselves with a talented cast which includes St. Luke's Players veterans as well as some newcomers.

The original read-thru was a fun affair with a Meet & Greet featuring the cast and production team that included some wonderful homemade goodies. Perry Burton (also a familiar face on the St. Luke's stage), led the festivities and has

shown a great aptitude in his first producing effort.

The first footsteps of staging have been completed and everyone is well on their way to becoming their stage personae. The set is mostly up and looking great. All in all, it's been a fun affair with old friends reminiscing, new friends being welcomed, and we can look forward to a suspenseful and hilarious show.



Cast and crew get to know each other during the Meet & Greet.



## Who Dunit? Performances

Oct. 16, 17, 18, 19, 23, 24, 25,  
and 26 at 8 pm

Matinees: Oct. 19, 20, 26,  
and 27 at 2 pm

**Tickets on sale: Sept. 16**



Set construction is under way, and looking good.



Mitch Barnes and Elaine Lewis enjoy a chat after the potluck meal at the Meet & Greet.



Set Designer, Neville Owen, consults with Ann Harris and Dave Hitchcock.

**Who Dunit? (Oct. 2013) • Puss in Boots (Dec. 2013) • Welfarewell (Mar. 2014) • Prepare to Meet Thy Tomb (May 2014)**





## Panto Preparation is Underway and We're Feline Good !

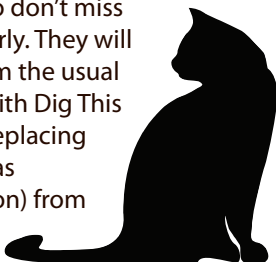
Submitted by Dave Hitchcock, Director

Auditions were recently held for St. Luke's Players' annual panto "Puss in Boots." By the time you receive this newsletter, the cast will have been chosen and most of the production crew be in place.

This traditional British panto has plenty of singing and dancing, action, comedy, wonderful costuming and lots of audience participation – providing fun for the whole family, both on and off the stage!

Close to 40 people turned up to try out for 20 roles in the panto – from the playful Puss, his master Jack, incorrigible Aunt Hettie, the royal King, Queen and Princess, and evil Lord Roger, with his two incompetent henchmen, to a Narrator, group of Villagers and handful of Small Rabbits. It was no easy task deciding on who best suited which roles! Auditions can be stressful for some people (not least of all the Director!), but these were fun and boisterous sessions as we read through parts of the script together. Noelle Antonsen (Choreographer) and Connie te Kampe (Musical Director) took the auditioners through their paces with some simple dancing and singing exercises. Rehearsals begin in October, culminating in 13 performances that start on December 19.

As we know, panto tickets sell really fast, so don't miss buying yours early. They will be available from the usual ticket outlets (with Dig This at Broadmead replacing Amica at Douglas House this season) from November 7.



Potential panto participants get put through their paces for parts.



## Wanna Help?

Here are some of our volunteer opportunities:

### Who Dunit?

We need concession workers for the run of Who Dunit? Please email **Aarden Nehring** at [waardennehring@hotmail.ca](mailto:waardennehring@hotmail.ca) if you'd like to help out.

### Puss in Boots

If you are interested in helping on the production side, please contact our producer, **Bronwyn Taylor**, at 250.592.4826 or email her at [taylorbronwyn@shaw.ca](mailto:taylorbronwyn@shaw.ca)

# What our Members are Doing Around Town

Many St. Luke's Players were active in theatre this summer. Seen in the Victoria Shakespeare Society's production of "Merry Wives of Windsor" were **Caroline Mackenzie de Korte** and **Perry Burton** and the production of "Measure for Measure" featured **Geoffrey Davidson**, **Blair Moro**, **Ariel Slack** and **Justin Guthrie**.

**Noelle Antonsen** (Choreographer for our upcoming Christmas Panto "Puss in

Boots") was Stage Manager for "Merry Wives of Windsor" with the Victoria Shakespeare Society.

**Elizabeth Brimacombe** completed a clown course over the summer and is now "Red Bamboo."

Members were busy with Fringe events as well, **Amy Culliford**, **Matt Cowlrick** and **Blair Moro** served up some comedy fun in "You Had Me At Improv."

**Zoe Brimacombe** was in "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" with Peninsula Players at the Muse Winery.

Victoria's Shakespeare by the Sea put on "Romeo and Juliet" and "Midsummer Night's Dream" this summer and St. Luke's Players were in both productions: **Monica Ogden**, **Tristan Bacon**, **Rosalind Coleman**, **Matt Mathiason**, and **Jan Manchur** were in "Romeo and Juliet," while **Julie Grey** and **Jan Manchur** were in "Midsummer Night's Dream."

Our very own Gods of Set Construction, **Neville Owen** and **Dave Hitchcock**, helped build the stage for Shakespeare By The Sea at Clover Point.

Langham Court's production of "Harvey" will feature **Penny Pitcher** and **Drew Wavryn** in their cast.



St. Luke's Family Fun Day started a little rainy but the sun soon came out. Thanks to our members Elizabeth Brimacombe, Susan Nicholl, Elaine Lewis, Dave Hitchcock, Jean de Cartier, Rosalind Coleman and Jane Guy (not pictured) for helping out.

*A big thank you goes out to Elaine Lewis and Susan Nicholl for cleaning the chairs in the hall!*

Vining Street Block Party gave St. Luke's Players an chance to showcase our upcoming season. Kathy Macovichuk, Deb Taylor Wright, Matt Cowlrick, Beverly van Druten-Blais, Didi Tipping, Elizabeth Brimacombe and Perry Burton chatted with the crowds and handed out brochures. Thanks to Dave Hitchcock for helping set up.



Thanks to Caroline Mackenzie de Korte for lending us costumes for the block party.

