



ST. LUKE'S PLAYERS

COMMUNITY THEATRE SINCE 1948!

66th Season. No. 3

February 2015

Executive 2014-15

President: Bronwyn Taylor
Past President: Rosalind Coleman
Vice President: Merry Hallson
Secretary: Susan Nicholl
Treasurer: Mike Chadwick
Members at Large:
..... Julie Gray
..... Jane Guy
..... Paul Hawkes-Frost
..... Janine Longy
..... Beverly van Druten-Blais

St Luke's Players' Newsletter is published quarterly

Editor: Jane Guy
Assisted by: Julie Gray

Direct inquiries or correspondence for the Newsletter to the Editor

E-mail: jane-guy@shaw.ca

Memberships & Season Tickets
Bronwyn Taylor
Susan Nicholl

Website
Beverly van Druten-Blais

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

President's Message

Bronwyn Taylor

Dear Members:

This season's panto, *Snow White and the Seven Magnificent Dwarfs*, was a huge success. Tickets sold out in record time, audiences loved it, and we did not have to turn away anyone who came to the door looking for spare tickets, due to a few no-shows. The "Panto Plague" went through the cast as usual, but the show went on magnificently.

In keeping with SLP tradition, the post-production meeting and strike of the panto set was the following Monday evening, the set construction crew marked the stage for the next play on Tuesday, and then rehearsals began for *Victoria's House* on Wednesday, under the directorship of **Jon Scheer**.

By the time you read this, we will be a few weeks away from opening. This mystery/thriller runs March 11 to 22, with tickets available from February 11 at the usual outlets. Don't miss it!

The Executive Committee is investigating alternative ways to sell tickets for 2015-16. At least one outlet has said it will not be selling panto tickets because of the frenzy that happens the first few days tickets go on sale - good for us, but not for its business. Please stay tuned.

Members of the Executive continue to meet with the Church's Building and Maintenance Committee to discuss possible renovations and financing that will be of benefit to all. In discussion currently is the possibility of building a sound and lighting booth at the back of the hall. This would put the tech team in a booth rather than on the floor of the hall behind the audience - much less distracting for everyone, and more professional, too.

You don't have to be an actor to become involved with St. Luke's Players. We always welcome anyone wondering about being on stage or back stage, and there are so many ways to get involved with community theatre: helping backstage during shows, becoming part of the production team, and serving in the concession or Front of House are just a few examples of how you might get involved and from there find your niche. We guarantee you will be welcomed and have fun in the SLP community of volunteers.

You can always log on to our website www.stlukesplayers.org for more information.

Bronwyn



Victoria's House

by Fred Carmichael
Directed by Jon Scheer



The Spirits of Victoria's House

When the after dinner conversation turns to talk of spirits and ghosts, it's time to look over your shoulder. Or maybe you just need to look at your companions to find someone with nefarious plans. In *Victoria's House* even the house itself could be a danger.

Auditions for *Victoria's House* were held in early December. While attendance was good, it took until January to finish casting the last role. *Victoria's House* welcomes back three members of last year's *Welfarewell* cast - **Jane Guy**, **Colleen Davis**, and **Gail Straughan** - and three cast members from *Prepare to Meet Thy Tomb* - **Matt Mathiason**, **Lisa Taylor**, and **Rob LeBlanc**. The cast also includes three people new to St. Luke's stage - **James Hunter**, **Ken Yvorchuk** and **Kasia Karczewska**.

Rehearsals are well underway with blocking completed at the end of January. The fun started in February with actors off book and hard at work on character development. Set construction is moving along with new surprises at every rehearsal. The latest challenge is to make a gas burning fireplace without using gas or fire. It is the magic of theatre.

Jon Scheer
Director

Victoria's House is a mystery/ghost story, full of themed music to help get the audience into the plot within the story. A newly wed couple returns to the wife's family home from their honeymoon, all should be well, but the wife's health deteriorates despite the daily dose of tonic she takes. When Victoria dies, the house seems to come alive to seek revenge.



In rehearsal - on and off stage



Evenings: March 11, 12, 13, 14, 18, 19, 20, 21 at 7:30 pm Matinees: March 14, 15, 21, 22 at 2 pm

SNOW WHITE

AND THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN DWARFS

Directed by
Allan Haynes

A retrospective from the stage manager

The panto this year was not without its challenges, the biggest being finding young people for the cast. We were very pleased with **Robert, Kain** and **Ryan** but would have liked to have had a bigger chorus especially for the Mattress Springs scene. We think one of the reasons that we didn't have more school age cast members was because of the teachers' strike. When we were auditioning, most people were still in holiday mode. Three of the executive distributed posters to the neighbouring middle and high schools but teachers and students were playing catch up by then.

Rehearsals are a big commitment. St Luke's Players has the hall every Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings from 7 pm until 10 pm and, although all the cast are not required at each rehearsal, they must keep those three nights free from other commitments. This year every Wednesday was reserved for singing and choreography. The director **Allan Haynes** chose most of the music and we seniors were surprised that some of the cast had never heard the songs before. **Jenny Raine** our singing coach, soon rectified that and, together with our choreographer, **Vanessa Bloomfield**, turned Wednesdays into fun evenings.

In the background, the crew was making costumes, finding props, constructing and painting that wonderful set. Food and drink was purchased for the concession,

pictures were taken and printed, sounds were found and lights were hung. Even though the panto is usually sold out, there were still advertisements to write and posters to distribute.

The time between the first rehearsal and the nerve wracking opening night seemed very short. Amazingly, everything seemed to come together and we had a show with all the elements that make the panto a Christmas tradition for many families. The Dame, Billy, and, of course, the coyote really got the little ones on the benches worked up. One-eyed Slim good-naturedly became a "pie-in-ear" at all thirteen shows and the dwarfs managed to get through the performances without any injuries from their mining tools. Little eyes got as big as saucers when Widow Blackheart made her magic potion and Snow White and the Sheriff got together in the end. All too soon it was time for the post show party when the cast watched the panto for the first time.

On the Monday after the last performance the set was taken down, the costumes were packed away, and the kitchen and dressing rooms were scrubbed clean. On to the next show!

Susan Nicholl



AUDITION NOTICE

for

Barely Heirs

by David Lassig

Directed by Neville Owen and Sharon Sutherland

Audition Details:

Friday, Feb 20, 7-9 pm;

Saturday, Feb 21, 1-4 pm

at St Luke's Hall, 3821 Cedar Hill Cross Rd.

No appointments necessary, just show up at the start time.

Performances:

Evenings: May 20, 21, 22, 23, 27, 28, 29, 30

Matinees: May 23, 24, 30, 31

Rehearsals:

Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings from 7-10 pm

If you have any questions please contact either director,
nevowen@telus.net or sa.sutherland@shaw.ca

A sample of the script can be viewed at <https://www.hitplays.com/hp/Scripts/Samples/BarelyHeirs=070110.pdf>.

If you want a copy of the full script, please contact Susan Nicholl at susan_nicholl@shaw.ca

GRAHAM THOMPSON

It is with great sadness that we report the recent passing of **Graham Thomson**. He was a long time member and volunteer with St Luke's Players. For many years Graham helped construct sets and designed and made props for our productions. He also designed the sets for *Nightmare*, *Sinners* and the up-coming *Victoria's House*. His talents as a carpenter were in constant demand for the specialty constructions no one else could create. A few years ago he volunteered to help update the dressing rooms, putting in new flooring and counter tops.

He always had a funny story at coffee time which we enjoyed, while munching on his delicious homemade muffins. He will be missed.



Our Members Around Town

George Morfitt plays a dimwitted British peer in the Victoria Gilbert & Sullivan Society's spring production of *Iolanthe*, a spoof on the incompetence of the House of Lords. The political party system and other institutions also come in for a goodly dose of satire. Performance dates are March 20-22 at the Charlie White Theatre (Sidney) and March 27-29 at the McPherson Playhouse (Victoria).

Anne Swannell is the scenic painter for *Iolanthe*; **Dave Hitchcock** and **Paul Hawkes-Frost** will be helping to build the set.

Pearl Arden is wardrobe mistress for *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* at Langham in March.

Jenny Raine is Humpty Dumpty in Four Seasons Musical Theatre's *Shrek, The Musical* later this spring.

Lucille Proulx is performing in the spring tour of Monterey Senior Players' production *Happy Birthday, Sweet Sixteen* by Greg Finnegan. She is playing the part of Harriet Van Elston, a snobbish condo board chair woman.

Geoffrey Davidson is starring in *Last of The Red Hot Lovers*, Peninsula Players' May production.

Janine Longy, Steve Eastman, Mike Chadwick and **Heather Lee** entertained the folks at the St. Luke's Pub Night on January 30 with pieces from the Christmas panto *Snow White and the Magnificent Seven Dwarfs*.

Congratulations to **Amy Culliford** and **Mel Rutledge**, the winners of tickets to Langham's *August: Osage County*.

Did we miss you?

Please contact Julie Gray at parameduck@shaw.ca to update us on news of members around town.

CALL FOR DIRECTORS FOR OUR 2015-16 SEASON

If you are interested in directing, please submit a current theatrical resume along with any directorial ideas for the play(s) you are interested in.

We are also accepting applications for Producers and Stage Managers.

For questions and scripts contact: Jane Guy at 250 472 1746 or jane-guy@shaw.ca. Applications should be forwarded via e-mail to jane-guy@shaw.ca.

Deadline for submission is March 1st.

The decision will be made by early April.

Opening Night

by Norm Foster 1989

(October 14 to 25, 2015)

Comedy • Canadian • 2 Acts • 12 performances • 5 males • 3 females

Set: The VIP lounge of the Charles Killian Theatre Noir Repertory House, prior to and during the performance of "Whisper in the Wind".

Synopsis: The antics begin as Jack and Ruth Tisdale celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary with an evening at the theatre. It's a dream come true for Ruth and an imposition for Jack who would rather be at home watching the World Series. However, after the events both on and off the stage that fateful night, their lives and those of all involved are irreparably altered.

Mother Goose

by Sheila Coultish, Peggy Harris and Ian Matthews of the Nanaimo Theatre Group

(Dec 18, 2015 to Jan 2, 2016)

Traditional panto, musical • 2 Acts • 13 performances
Large cast, 18 principal roles, chorus, various ages

Synopsis: Mother Goose, her large family and their goose Priscilla are happy living in their big old boot, but the King's evil Chancellor plots to evict them all and take their land. Will his wicked plan succeed or will good triumph over bad?? This traditional Christmas Pantomime tells the tale with singing, dancing and plenty of laughs along the way. Involves many well-known nursery rhyme characters including Mother Goose (Dame), Jack and Jill, Bo Peep, Mary Mary, Little Miss Muppet, Boy Blue, Tommy Tucker, Simple Simon, Old King Cole, Queen of Hearts, and so on. Locally written with local references.

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

Cliffhanger

by James Yaffee 1985

(March 9 to 20, 2016)

Comedy Thriller • American (Dramatists Play Service)
2 Acts • 12 performances • 3 males • 2 females

Set: The play takes place at the Lowenthal house, in a small college town somewhere in the Rockies. The time is late May at the end of the semester.

Synopsis: Mingling suspense and humor, this ingeniously plotted thriller follows all the unexpected twists and turns which result when a seemingly mild-mannered professor of philosophy is driven to apparent murder to protect his reputation and career. Thereafter, as the professor and his wife plot a foolproof way to dispose of the body, complications arise in the form of a rather sinister young student who is about to flunk out of school (unless his grade is changed) and who happened to witness the professor's violent action. Add in a suspicious police lieutenant and you have all the ingredients for a series of suspenseful, unexpected and frequently funny developments leading to a denouement which will catch everyone by surprise.

Bull in a China Shop

by CB Gilford 1958

(May 18 to 29, 2016)

Mystery Comedy • American (Baker's Plays) • 3 Acts • 12 performances • 5 males • 7 females (lots of older women)

Set: The old-fashioned parlor of 909 Sycamore Street, a boarding house for ancient females. The short scenes at the police station are played in front of the curtain, without scenery.

Synopsis: Come and meet our six old ladies - presumed sweet until they prove otherwise - and the handsome homicide detective who lives across the street from them. Enjoy the ladies' unique solution to the problem of getting that detective, Dennis O'Finn, to pay them a visit. You'll find that a nice genteel homicide, with a cup of tea as the murder weapon, is all it takes. However, when Detective O'Finn discovers he's the motive for this murder, and he decides to distance himself from the ladies, what are the sweet dears to do?

Originally a short story in Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine, and selected as one of the best mystery stories of the year for inclusion in the anthology BEST DETECTIVE STORIES OF 1957, later a success on Alfred Hitchcock Presents and now a stage veteran of hundreds of performances, *Bull in a China Shop* continues to enchant audiences, everywhere.