



ST. LUKE'S PLAYERS

COMMUNITY THEATRE SINCE 1948!

67th Season. No. 4

April 2016

Executive 2015-16

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..... Paul Hawkes-Frost
..... Janine Longy
..... Natalie Munro
..... Neville Owen
..... Beverly van Druten-Blais

St Luke's Players'
Newsletter is published quarterly

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Website
Beverly van Druten-Blais

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

President's Message

Bronwyn Taylor

Dear Members:

March's show, *Cliffhanger*, was 6th in audience numbers over the past several years. Congratulations to director Penelope Harwood for her artistic vision, and to the talented cast and dedicated crew who brought the whole show together.

We are excited to announce our 2016-17 season: *A Murder is Announced* in October, *Aladdin* as the Christmas Panto, *Duets* (4 –one act plays) in March, closing with *The Robin Hood Caper* in May.

New directors -- recent graduates and more experienced -- will be joining us this season, as well as familiar names returning. Our hope is that the new directors will attract new actors and production crew to St. Luke's Players cadre of capable and enthusiastic volunteers, especially in the technical areas of lighting and sound design and operation, and set design.

If you are interested or curious about getting involved in any of the many and varied areas that go into producing a show, please contact me so we can discuss your interests further, and possibly connect you with one or more of our producers for the 2016-17 season. You can access the SLP website to view parts of the Production Manual to see what is required of each position, and what might be of interest to you.

When I retired, I got involved with St. Luke's Players at the bequest of an actor, and I've been involved ever since. So if you are in the same boat and are looking for a way to get involved in the community, expand your creative side, or put leadership/management skills to use in retirement, mentoring and/or training is available if you have an interest but have no experience with community theatre. I didn't.

Services provided by Ticket Rocket this season were disappointing, so we are looking to EventBrite for on-line credit card ticket sales for 2016 - 17. "The Papery" at 669 Fort St. will be a physical outlet receiving cash or cheques payable to 'St. Luke's Players', and tickets will always be available at the door, paid by cash or cheque.

A very limited number of tickets will be available at the door for Panto performances: first come, first served.

A new perk this coming year for Season Ticket Holders is that they will be able to purchase a limited number of additional Panto tickets at the same time they make application for their Season Tickets.

Respectfully submitted,
Bronwyn





Bull in a China Shop

mystery/comedy

By **C.B. Gilford**
Directed by **Michael King**

May 18, 19, 20, 21, 25, 26, 27 and 28 at 7:30 p.m.
Matinees: 21, 22, 28 and 29 at 2 p.m.

Welcome to the old-fashioned parlour of 909 Sycamore Street, a boarding house for ancient females. The six residents - presumed sweet little old ladies until they prove otherwise - have a unique solution to the problem of getting that handsome homicide 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?

Directed by **Michael King**, rehearsals are progressing nicely with actors off-book already. With six juicy parts of "old ladies" in the offing, dozens of senior female actors in the Victoria area came out for auditions, making the casting quite a challenge. The ladies, each with their own quirks and personalities, are played by **De Roger, Madeleine Mills, Pippa Catling, Joy Farrell, Deb Taylor** and **Julie Gray**. The cast is rounded out with **Paul Gillan** in the role of Detective O'Finn, the cause of all this mayhem and his side kick Kramer, played by **Chris**



Building the set

Baddock. Finding strong able-bodied men who are called upon to remove the dead bodies proved difficult until **Paul Hawkes-Frost** and **Carl Powell** stepped up. The finger print expert Johnson is played by **Beverly van Druten-Blais** and the con-niving reporter, Jane Rogers, is played by **Heather Lee**. The Stage Manager for this hilarious show is **Jon Scheer**.



Early rehearsals



CLIFFHANGER

I'm a firm believer of theatre magic. Seeing the finished production, after months of preparation, hard work and creative angst, reaffirms my belief over and over again. It is extremely satisfying to be a part of a successful show and, according to the number of tickets sold, *Cliffhanger* certainly earned that claim. Yes, there were challenges – there are always challenges – but what brings a theatre company together is the ability to work through them.

We were challenged with the use of a scrim on our set. Luckily Dallas Ashby and Carol-Anne Moore were able to make it work. Judging by the oohs and aahs from the audiences, it proved to be one of the many surprises we had during the show.

Another challenge was the theatrical blood used on our actors. We needed a formula that would be effective, non-staining and easy to clean. With a recipe found on the internet, Natalie Munro concocted a rather large jar of this crimson liquid that created quite a stir when the character of the maniacal Melvin came out in the last scene covered in it. We also overcame the challenge of keeping our actors

unharmd during falls and blows. It is important to make sure that we can make action scenes look believable but in a safe environment for our actors who volunteer their time and talents for our shows. Tristan Bacon, from workingclass theatre, came in one evening to show us how to properly interact during physical stunt work.

Our biggest challenge, from a technical point of view, was examining the use of different spaces in the back of the hall for the Stage Manager, lighting techs and sound operators. The Executive has discussed renovating the back storage room into a tech booth. This would provide a secure area for our equipment and eliminate any disturbances for our patrons that happen when Stage Managers attempt to quietly call the show from the back of the hall.

As St. Luke's Players continue to bring quality theatre entertainment to their audiences, I'm sure there will be many more laughs and surprises for years to come.

Kathy Macovichuk, Stage Manager

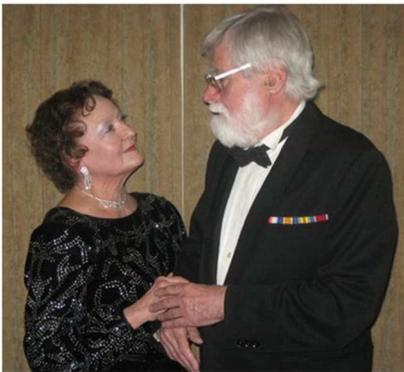


Jordan Bell, Bill Tolson, Natalie Munro with Wendy Cornock and Randy Parker seated

Our Members Around Town are very active right now

Penny Pitcher participated in Readers' Theatre with Puente Theatre, in February, and with Langham Court Theatre, in March. www.puentetheatre.ca www.langhamtheatre.ca/participate/readers-theatre and continues to explore issues of importance to seniors through acting with Target Theatre.

De Roger, Paul Hawkes-Frost, Don Lambton, Martha McNeely, Dave Hitchcock, Anne Swannell, Virginia Landucci and Dave Cornock were all involved in *Gondoliers*, produced by Victoria Gilbert and Sullivan Society, April 1st – April 10th. <http://www.vos.bc.ca/gandsvictoria.php>



Neville Owen and Zuzana Macknight, with the Monterey Players, and **Elaine Lewis**, with Hula Dance for Health, performed in "The Monterey Note-Ables *Spring Revue*", at the Monterey Centre, April 2nd & 3rd. www.oakbay.ca/parks-recreation

Merry Hallsor is set dressing *Escape from Happiness* at Langham Court Theatre, April 20th – May 7th. www.langhamtheatre.ca

Rachel Moss is directing *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, with Mt. Douglas Musical Theatre, at Spectrum Community School Theatre, April 27th – 30th. <https://sites.google.com/site/mtdougboxoffice/>

Ann Walsh will be reading from her Barkerville mystery series novel, *Moses, Me and Murder* at the Ross Bay Cemetery, May 8th. www.oldcem.bc.ca/tour.htm

Elizabeth Brimacombe and Sarah Heyman will be performing in *A Lie of the Mind* at Theatre Inconnu, May 3rd – May 21st. www.theatreinconnu.com

Bill Williamson has been appointed to the Saanich Council Arts, Culture, and Heritage Advisory Committee. www.saanich.ca/living/mayor/boards/achac.html

Julie Gray and Penny Pitcher will be performing in *Much Ado About Nothing*, while **Bill Toslon** will be performing in *Othello* with Victoria's Shakespeare by the Sea at Ogden Point, June, July, and August 2016. www.facebook.com/vicshakesea/

David Mohr will be performing in *The History of King Richard the First*, produced by CorAx in partnership with Victoria's Shakespeare by the Sea at Ogden Point, June and July 2016. www.facebook.com/CorAx-Productions

Hilary Allan is directing and **Jean Topham** is acting in *Bed Among the Lentils* at Intrepid Theatre, June 3rd - 5th. This is a fundraiser to support the Greater Victoria Animal Crusaders. www.intrepidtheatre.com/

Jo Barnes will be performing in *Fawltly Towers*, produced by The Peninsula Players, at the Mary Winspear Centre, May 5th – 8th. www.thepeninsulaplayers.ca

the
long
&
short
of it



TOPMOR PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

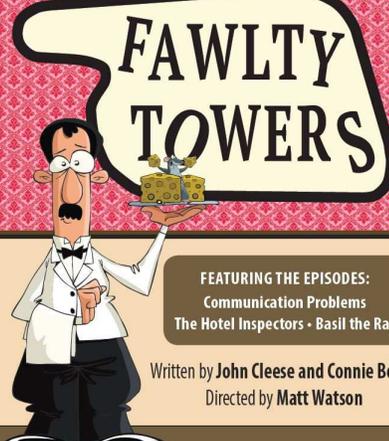
JEAN TOPHAM
in Alan Bennett's *Bed Among the Lentils*
JANIE WOODS-MORRIS
in *Sketches* by Joyce Grenfell

JUNE 3RD & JUNE 4TH AT 8PM
JUNE 5TH AT 2PM

Intrepid Theatre Club
1609 Blanshard (off Fisgard Street)
To reserve tickets call 250.592.7270
Available at the door \$20 • Cash Only
Fundraiser for
Greater Victoria Animal Crusaders

Peninsula Players and the Mary Winspear Centre proudly present

A classic British comedy set in a slightly crazy hotel amidst farcical situations and an array of demanding, eccentric guests.



FAWLTY TOWERS

FEATURING THE EPISODES:
Communication Problems
The Hotel Inspectors • Basil the Rat

Written by John Cleese and Connie Booth
Directed by Matt Watson

The Charlie White Theatre (Mary Winspear Centre)

Merry Hallsor is Assistant Director for the fringe play, *The Old Lady's Guide to Survival*, produced by Bema Productions, at the synagogue on Blanchard Street. www.facebook.com/bemaproductionsvic/

David Mohr voiced Sir John A. Macdonald in a six-part Canadian history radio play to be broadcast in early May on the UVic radio station. <http://cfuv.uvic.ca/cms/>

Jon Scheer is Stage Manager and **Bill Toslon, Rosalind Coleman, Beverly van Druten-Blais and Carl Powell** are performing in *She Stoops to Conquer* at Langham Court Theatre, June 8th - 25th. www.langhamtheatre.ca

ANNOUNCING OUR 2016 - 17 SEASON

A Murder is Announced

by Leslie Darbon (1972) adapted from a story by Agatha Christie (1950) is a murder mystery
Published by Samuel French

Directed by Peter Gatt

An announcement in the local paper states the time and place of a murder, in Miss Blacklock's house. The victim is not one of the several occupants but an unexpected and unknown visitor. There follows the mystery, filled with clues, false leads and suspense.

Performances are Wednesday - Sunday October 12 to 23, 2016.

Aladdin

by Dave and Helena Hitchcock (last performed in 2006 updated in 2015) of St Luke's Players is a two act traditional panto.

Directed by Dave Hitchcock and Merry Hallsor

The evil Abanazar, posing as Aladdin's long-last uncle, persuades Aladdin and his new friend Princess Jasmine to check out a secret cave for him. But then trapped in the cave, how will our hero and heroine escape from the Genie of the Lamp and the scary Guardians? Fear not - this traditional panto version of Aladdin, with plenty of singing, dancing, comedy, action and audience participation, ensures that good triumphs over evil and (almost) everyone lives happily ever after!

Performance dates are December 16, 2016 to January 2, 2017.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
for Front of House and Concession at
Bull in a China Shop performances
Contact stlukesplayers@yahoo.ca or
call Susan at 250 721 2528.

Duets

by Peter Quilter (2010) is a romantic comedy
Published by Samuel French

Directed by Jon Scheer

A multi-part hilarious comedy with bittersweet undertones, looks at stages of relationships, the starts and ends as well as the hopes and delusions held when people want what may not be possible.

Performances are Wednesday – Sunday March 8 to 19, 2017.

The Robin Hood Caper

by Fred Carmichael (1962) is a mystery/comedy
Published by Samuel French

Directed by Lori Dunn and Rachel Millar

A twist on the Robin Hood fable with heroes and villains, a career to save and a romance. The heroes are a group of old friends who have retired from lives of crime and now devote their talents to the better use of helping others. The young couple must be united, the muckraking newspaper saved and the corrupt mayor dealt with.

Performances are Wednesday – Sunday May 17 to 28, 2017 - 12 performances

Winners of tickets to Langham's
Escape from Happiness April 20 to May 7 are
Doris May & Peter Gatt

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

Did we miss you?

Please contact Jane Guy at jane-guy@shaw.ca to update us on news of members around town.