

NEWS



ST. LUKE'S PLAYERS

COMMUNITY THEATRE SINCE 1948

NOVEMBER 2020

2019-20 EXECUTIVE

President. Michael King
Vice President Bronwyn Taylor
Treasurer. Mike Chadwick
Secretary. Susan Nicholl
Past President Janine Longy

MEMBERS AT LARGE:

Geoffrey J. Davidson
Simon Skey
Beverly van Druten-Blais

St. Luke's Players' Newsletter

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St. Luke's Players:

www.stlukesplayers.org

www.facebook.com/stlukesplayers.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



What a year! How many times have we all said that?
A cancelled show, a cancelled season, new normals.
What a year!

Let me tell you what a year it really was. The "players"
of St. Luke's Players have kept us going in so many ways!
With much of the country shut down, Heather Lee and Janine
Longy have kept us going with Theatre Games in the Park
and their monthly events for socially distanced fun in the Hall.
Play readings, panto readings, talent evenings and they have

plans to continue into the future. These evenings are a great way for people to get
involved without any experience in theatre and have a lot of fun! Space for these
monthly events is limited so register early!

Mitch and Jo Barnes presented their play *Firehoses and Family* written and directed
by Mitch and adapted for Zoom. What a success! 100 tickets were sold and it was
enjoyed by all. Mitch allowed us to do the play royalty free and all the cast and crew
worked so hard to make a success of this new type of production. Congratulations
to all involved.

At our November executive meeting,
a number of new ideas were
presented to keep the Players name
out in the community. Jonathan
Stoppi is looking into the possibility
of producing some old fashioned
"radio" shows. The executive
has given permission to Wendy
Merk to do a live readers theatre
performance of her Austenesque play
Fantasy and Reality. This will be a live
event in the hall with very limited
seating. Mitch Barnes has offered
the Players another script he has
written, royalty free, to be considered
in the new year. There are lots of
other ideas floating around as well.
If you have an idea, don't worry
if it sounds crazy, bring it to the
executive. (cont'd on page 4)

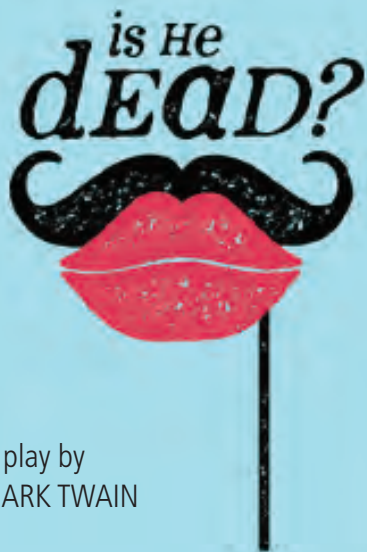
SLP's Annual General Meeting

Sat Nov 28th

Via ZOOM

Make sure that your membership
is up-to-date and sign up for the
meeting.

We'd love to see some new faces
on our executive. Think about
it. It's a rewarding experience
being an integral part of such an
energetic, friendly and fun-loving
group.



A play by
MARK TWAIN



1846 Barbizon, France. Jean-Francois Millet is a brilliant but impoverished painter, and he's a man with a singular problem: no one will pay good money for his paintings while he's still alive. When his friends persuade him that the secret to success lies in convincing the world he's dead, Millet hatches a scheme which could make him rich, famous, and able to marry the girl of his dreams—if only he didn't have to be a corpse to do it!

There was such an overwhelming response that Heather and Janine organized two separate groups reading on two evenings with a few audience members allowed:

Friday, September 25th and Saturday and September 26th at 7:00pm.





President's message continued...

So, as you can see, theatre people are among the most creative and resilient people there are! We will keep going as long as we can and hopefully, soon, we will be back together building sets, rehearsing lines and directing shows and selling tea and greeting all the friends we have missed since the start of the pandemic.

This will be my last message as president. Due to my health, I feel that I am not able to do justice to the job right now. I will continue to be involved with the best community theatre I have ever worked with. Thank you to everyone on the executive who have supported the work we have done and worked tirelessly all year. As we continue on, please always remember Doctor Henry's words. Wash your hands, wear your mask and be kind to one another. ■

Peace and best wishes to all!
~ Michael King

LOST

Merry Hallsor continues to work with LOST (**Lawyers on the Stage Theatre**) to host play reading evenings. Plans are in the works for a Seasonal Reading w/small invited audience in December.

LOST is basically a theatre group with a charitable mandate. All monies raised are donated to various charities in Victoria.

Because the Barrister's Lounge in the Courthouse is not opened due to COVID, LOST is renting St. Luke's Church Hall.

WHAT HAVE YOU ALL BEEN DOING THESE LAST FEW MONTHS?

Penny Pitcher:

'Thanks' to Heather Lee and Janine Longy – a number of us met in St. Luke's Hall to do a read through of a play by Mark Twain "Is He Dead?" and again for a Variety Show which was most entertaining. I performed an original monologue "Have a Nice Day" which was scary but fun. I also participated in a reading of a play written by Wendy Merk, "Fantasy and Reality" – thank goodness it was a calm sunny day because we sat outside on the steps of Langham Court Theatre. Target Theatre is meeting indoors again, and we are working on a new script. And, as usual, I walk every morning with my camera – anything to avoid housework!. ■

Bill Tolson:

I've been continuing my singing and music theory lessons with Alexander Ferguson. I also started tap classes at the Stage Performance studios back in September. They're just down the road from St. Luke's Hall. I currently resemble an elephant with two left feet but the instructor, Jeremy, is a patient man. In other words, he hasn't thrown me out yet.

Stay safe. Hope we can all perform again in 2021. ■

WE'RE BUSY DOING NOTHING CONTINUED

from Deb Taylor

"We're Busy Doing Nothing
(thanks to Covid)"

Blah, blah, blah, blah, blah. . . etc.

Dave was busy doing something,
working the whole day through
composing a ditty to share with
all of you.

He posted it in the newsletter
hoping to make us smile
And then he suggested we add to it
in our very own style.

Blah, blah, blah, blah, blah. . . etc.

So I picked up pen and paper
and gave it my very best try.
But after lots of crumpled pages
I felt about to cry.

I realized this was much harder
Than anyone would ever think.
So I wisely decided it was time
for a very stiff drink.

Blah, blah, blah, blah, blah. . . etc.

I went to the liquor cupboard
to pour a generous glass,
Only to discover we'd already
consumed the last.

Twice then that I remembered
the first lonely Covid days,
When we weren't allowed to socialize
Not even to out to plays.

Blah, blah, blah, blah, blah. . . etc.

Now things are so much better
We're able to do lots more.
There's safe social distancing
and even going to the store.

This prompted Janine and Heather
to work the whole day through,
planning and creating safe and fun
things for us to do.

So let's say a great big thank you
for all the hard work they've done
so we could get together and
have some harmless fun.



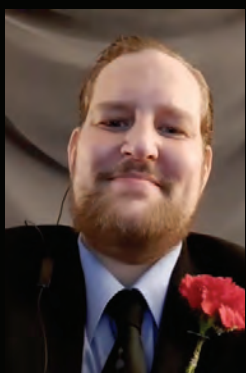


Presented via ZOOM on Saturday, October 17th

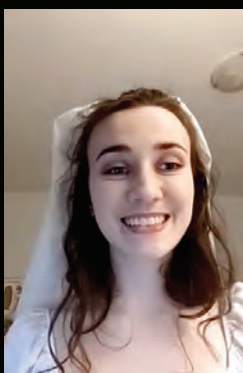
Mitch and Jo Barnes are absolutely delighted with the incredible success of the online production of *Firehoses and Family*. Selling out the 100 "tickets" was beyond their expectations, as was the fact that this production raised over \$1000 for the St. Luke's Players.



Ron Skelton



Alex Carroll



Ellen Law



Terry Rowsell



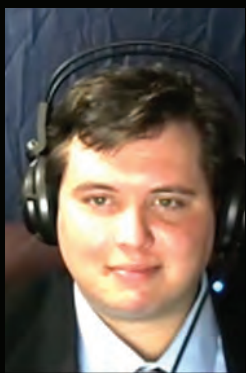
Jo Barnes



Caroline Mackenzie



Kathy Macovichuk



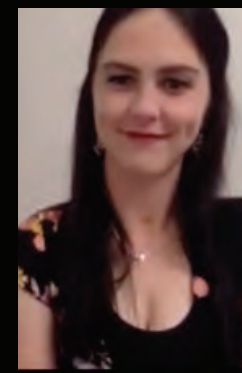
Jesse Setka



Ian Simms



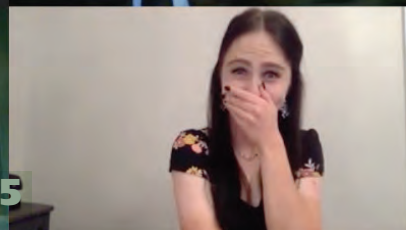
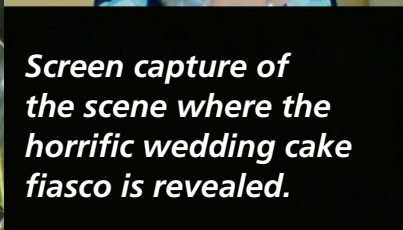
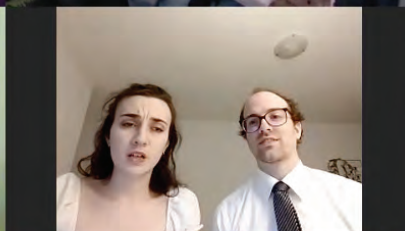
Mitch Barnes



Olivia Simpson



Sheila McKenzie



Screen capture of the scene where the horrific wedding cake fiasco is revealed.



*"Play keeps us vital
and alive. It gives us
an enthusiasm for life
that is irreplaceable.
Without it, life just
doesn't taste good"*

~ Lucia Capocchione

LET'S PERFORM

Saturday, October 24th • Live On Stage!

We came with our masks, hand sanitizer, six foot measures and settled into our bubbles in the hall. Then the show began, a parade of skits, songs, poems, stories, drama, and monologues from comic to profound. The audience laughed, listened, awed and clapped.

We had new people participate and welcomed those who have joined us before. Some have never been on stage before. Others many times. Some were happy to watch. Everyone is encouraged. No one turned away.

Lets Play with St Luke's Got Talent November 20, 21 has been postponed.

In the New Year clear your calendars January 22, 23, February 19, 20 and March 19, 20 . There will be more music, script reading and theatre games as **Let's Play** welcomes 2021.



PERFORMER	ACT	DESCRIPTION
Paul Hawkes Frost	Readings	<i>Elegy on the death of a mad dog</i> by Oliver Goldsmith and <i>The Yarn of the Nancy Bell</i> by W.S. Gilbert (as in Gilbert and Sullivan)
George Morfitt	Special Challenges Faced by the Working Class	<i>When I'm Cleaning Windows</i> (song) <i>Paddy and the Barrel</i> (narration)
Gigi Mossman	Song - Lip-sync	<i>Independence Day</i> by Martina McBride
Penny Pitcher	Monologue	<i>Have a Nice Day</i> written by Penny Pitcher
Merry Hallsor	Monologue	<i>I want to Live at MacDonald's</i>
Gail Straugham	Poem reading	<i>After a while you learn</i> by Veronica A. Shoffstall
Heather Lee & Janine Longy	Comedy Routine	<i>What's on First</i>
Rosalind Coleman	Monologue	<i>Lady Wyndemere's Fan</i>
Linda Troke & Beverly vDB	Poem Reading	<i>The Cremation of Sam Magee</i>
Geli Bartlett & Beverly vDB	Skit	<i>Lover's Errand</i>
Deb Taylor	Poem	<i>Busy Doing Nothing</i> continued by Deb
Cat Tibbles	Monologue	Rose in Michel Tremblay's <i>"Les Belles Souers"</i>



Loved the variety tonight, so I don't know that Heather and Janine can label the Nov. event as a "Talent Show" after tonight's performances with so much talent obvious.

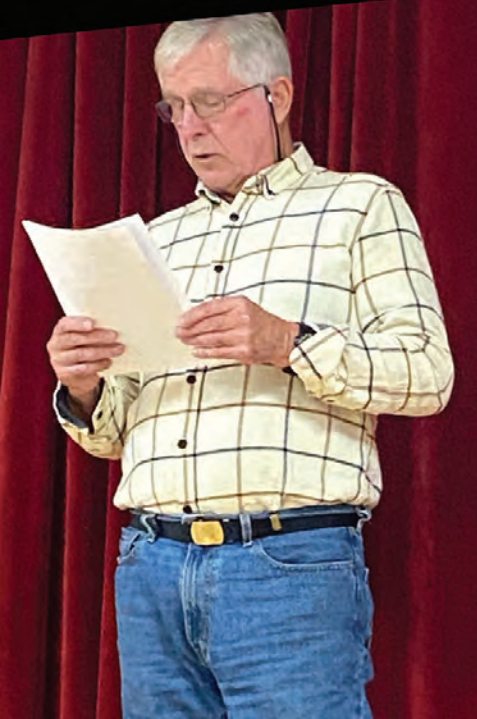
~ Bronwyn

There's less pressure than with a large paying audience, hence it's more fun and less anxiety to prepare. Geli researched and found the skit and we rehearsed for about an hour in Beacon Hill Park the day of the shindig. What fun! Thanks to our 'duracell bunnies' Heather and Janine. And hey, who hasn't wanted to hear the whole skit: "What's on First..."

~Beverly



LET'S PERFORM



Glad to see everyone and that you are safe. As my Dave's ditty continues said, big thanks to J& H for working to find safe things for us to do. ~ Deb Taylor

Yes, Thank You, Janine and Heather and All Who Took Part and attended. What variety! Can't wait for the next event! I had such fun! ~ Geli

Thank you so much to Heather and Janine for arranging all this. It was great fun. Can't remember the last time I attended a real live variety show.
~ Penny

Hi Janine and Heather,
Thanks so much to both of you for pulling this fun evening together. It was lovely to

see everyone again and to know we are all healthy and CARRYING ON !!
You guys are wonderful.
~ Rosalind

Again and again – thank you Janine and Heather for keeping us involved and creative. Keep it up – it is fun!!!
~ Merry



Robinson Crusoe



Fri Nov 19th, these hearty sailors, pirates and tropical islanders had a great treasured adventure throughout this hilarious panto. We ought to get Steve a 'Dame' wig, don't ya think?



Old Jim/Lord Nelson & Islander



Robinson Crusoe and Fridav



Narrator



Polly Perkins



Robinson Crusoe



Esteemed Audience



Kenny Crusoe



Esteemed Audience



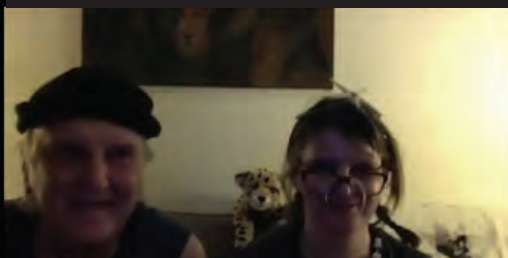
Blackpatch the Pirate



Mrs. Crusoe



Captain Perkins



Sailor and Queen of Tobago



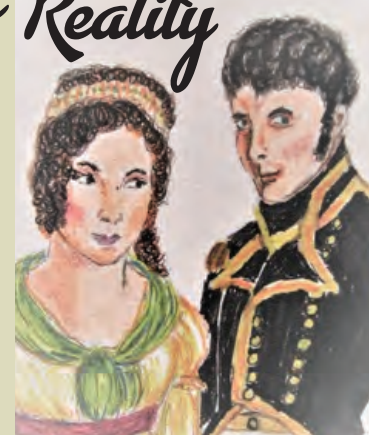
Jack Boot



Esteemed Audience

Look forward to this via SLP in the new year:

Fantasy and Reality



A Reader's Theatre of a 'Jane Austenesque' romantic comedy

Written and directed by Wendy Merk