



# ST. LUKE'S PLAYERS

COMMUNITY THEATRE SINCE 1948!

# NEWS

MARCH 2021

## 2020-21 EXECUTIVE

President . . . Bronwyn Taylor

Vice President . Janine Longy

Treasurer . . . Mike Chadwick

Secretary . . . . . Susan Nicholl

Past President . Michael King

## MEMBERS AT LARGE:

Mitch Barnes

Colleen Davis

Heather Lee

Jonathan Stoppi

Beverly van Druten-Blais

## St. Luke's Players' News

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## Memberships & Season Tickets

Bronwyn Taylor & Susan Nicholl

## Graphic Design & Website

Saltchuck Studios

For information about

St. Luke's Players:

[www.stlukesplayers.org](http://www.stlukesplayers.org)

[www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/stlukesplayers)

[stlukesplayers.com](http://stlukesplayers.com)



■ Spring is only days away, and a year of Covid-19 restrictions nearly behind us. With doses of three vaccines on their way there is light at the end of the tunnel, but with the

recent delays and smaller than expected shipments, to paraphrase Jack Knox, "How long is the ----- tunnel?"

Thank you to those who attended our postponed AGM and had the confidence to (re)elect me as your president.

I thank outgoing President, Michael King, for his service and the fresh ideas he brought to the table. Unfortunately many of his initiatives will have to be postponed or modified to conform to our new reality, whatever that may be.

In addition, I send him positive thoughts for the best possible outcomes for his many health issues.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome four new members to our Executive Committee: Mitch Barnes, Colleen Davis, Heather Lee and Jonathan Stoppi. In the short time we have been together they have proposed changes

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

to improve our technology, advertising, communications, and suggested creative ways to offer entertainment to our membership. Youth, energy and enthusiasm will keep us moving forward!

We had a few responses to our request for scripts suitable to be presented on Zoom, so now to see if/how they may fit into the schedule of already planned activities. More about that elsewhere in this newsletter from the people responsible.

Once we are able to gather together again, indoors, the Executive will be hosting a "Welcome Back" evening for members and Season Ticket Holders, including some entertainment, something to look forward to. In the meantime "be kind, be calm and be safe".

The best to you all,  
~ Bronwyn Taylor



*Joy picks up her script at the contactless script dropoff (see page 6)*



# LET'S PLAY



■ While we are missing our regular active life, we are finding creative ways to entertain ourselves. Those of us who are panto groupies have been managing to do readings through zoom. And nothing more was on our mind over Christmas than the fact that we needed to have the best darn panto read we could pull off. And pull it off we did! *Alice in Wonderland* lived up to its expectation with the costumes, makeup, and backgrounds more spectacular than we could have imagined! Wait a minute...we did! The guest audience members were appreciative and grateful.

Dare I say, so were the actors, for the opportunity to be creative.

I am happy to announce we will be offering monthly play readings. Our first read will be *Double in Diamonds* by Fred Carmichael to be held March 16 and 17. This comedy-mystery should make for a very entertaining evening.

The next reading will be a panto the first week of April, and the readings will be held the first week of the month after that.

The Let's Play series involving monthly activities in the hall is ready to resume as soon as Dr. Bonnie gives us the word.

For those of you who signed up for the talent night that didn't happen, keep your skills sharp!

We have many fun events planned and ready to go so stay tuned to Play!

Until then, stay safe and stay Amazing!

~ Heather Lee



**Monday, December 21st**  
**the panto crowd**  
**Zoomed together to enjoy**  
**a fun reading**  
**of Alice in Wonderland**





## February 10th we had yet again way too much fun in pantoland with Mother Goose!



### WHAT ELSE HAVE WE ALL BEEN DOING?

■ Type casting?? I played Queen Cole in *Mother Goose* and Queen of Hearts in *Alice in Wonderland* – both pantos presented by St. Luke's via Zoom. (I saved the crown I made just in case there should be a next time.) I also participated in a Langham Court reading of Wendy Merk's great play, *Fantasy and Reality* again thanks to Zoom. Target Theatre also meets once a week to work on our latest project.

Apart from that, I read, watch movies, watch Zoom performances, and continue to walk every morning, camera in hand.

A big thank you to all the organizers for keeping theatre alive during these difficult times.  
~Penny Pitcher

■ Merry Hallsor is directing a monologue entitled *A Chip in the Sugar* by Alan Bennett starring Malcolm Harvey. We had originally hoped to put this on in May, now hoping for Sept., but decided to go ahead with the work and have something ready whenever

space opens up. This is under the umbrella of Attitude Theatre which is supporting others doing similar work in the hope that in the distant future we can have some live theatre performances.

Merry Hallsor also continues to be involved with LOST (Lawyers on the Stage Theatre) which is researching scripts that can be done by ZOOM. LOST has a reading for members scheduled for April and is planning on one in May as well.

That's all folks,  
~ Merry

■ I was gifted with my first sewing machine at Christmas. Since then I have been making cats after seeing some for sale online. That was my original intent for my creations, but they are just too cute to part with and now that all 8 of them have names,



■ I just celebrated a first full year of my retirement. What a bizarre time to retire! It's been very interesting to witness how people have adapted and innovated new ways to cope with the pandemic. Thank goodness! I had to revise my plans to an almost daily workout, yoga and walking routine when my favourite gym with classes closed.

I've had to time to bake and cook low carb meals, treats and snacks that I like. I've made a kajillion beaded friendship bracelets to sell somehow. I'm working on some watercolour art pieces, with an acrylic texture series I'm anxiously waiting to start. Have beautiful stones to paint, and other mediums I'm dying to explore...

Zoom rehearsals with the Newcombe Singers and helping them with the imagery and design of the

it makes it even harder. Yes, folks, Kittie from *Treasure Island* has become the crazy cat lady. I've also started making Barbie clothes and will "probably" sell those.  
~ Sandra Molnar

virtual choir pieces they are producing this spring has been thoroughly enjoyable.

The Victoria Gilbert and Sullivan Society has been rejuvenating and promoting their membership with Zoom singalongs. My contribution has been designing promotional materials, scanning the music and managing the RSVPs with music and link requests.

And of course I've auditioned for and stuck my name out there to participate in every "Let's Play" and readthru that I can manage. Woo hoo!

Many thanks to all those workerbees that have organized and provided opportunities for fun.

And sometimes I just do nothing but binge watch movies and series.

~ Beverly

■ The more you know about the world, the more opportunities there are to laugh at it.

■ A Calgarian rolled up the rim on his Tim Hortons coffee. He stared in disbelief for a moment, then started yelling, "I've won a motor home! I've won a motor home!"

A woman working at the counter said, "That's impossible. The biggest prize is a car."

"No, it says right here," he said, handing the cup to the employee: "W I N A B A G E L."

■ "Wearing a mask these past few months has really opened my eyes to how far away my ears are from my nose."

~ Brent Butt, Tisdale, Sask.

■ It's been six months since I joined the gym, and no progress. I'm going there in person tomorrow to see what's really going on.

### ■ Now We're Cooking

**Wife** [on the phone]: Did you preheat the oven like I asked?

**Me:** Yep

**Wife:** What temperature did you set it to?

**Me:** 534

**Wife:** That's the clock.

**Me:**

**Wife:**

**Me:** 535.

■ My daughter just asked me where we keep our crow bar. I'm pretty sure that's my cue to end the unsupervised play portion of our day.

Langham Court Theatre has also been busy organizing activities for their members.

Here is a link to their [Newsletter](#).



## March 13th production St. Luke's Players take to the stage again...virtually!

■ The March 13th production of the new drama, *Role Play* is the second full length play offered by the Players during this Covid-impacted season.

Written and directed by Mitch Barnes, *Role Play* tells the story of a diverse group of actors dealing with lines, loss, and personality clashes backstage on opening night. Like the previous SLP production of *Firehoses and Family* this past fall, *Role Play* will be performed as a dramatic reading using the Zoom platform.

It features some actors familiar to our stage and others who are new, with Lindsay Anderson as Grace, Jo Barnes as Debra, Geli Bartlett as the Narrator, Emily Hunt as Annie, Sadie Karlsson as Brianna, Sheila McKenzie as Dot, Lara Reynolds as Judy, and Kelly Vanderswan as Bonnie.

As talented as this cast is, bringing a play to life through Zoom has its own special challenges. Lara notes that it is an adjustment only being able to use small gestures and your face to react instead of being able to use your whole body and Sadie adds that actors also have to master turning their microphones and cameras on and off when they enter and exit a scene. On the other hand, Sheila feels that it has the advantage of allowing the actors to use more subtle vocal nuances without worrying about projecting to the back of the auditorium.

These actors have also incorporated a variety of Zoom-oriented tricks and extra touches to not only make it appear as if the actors are physically interacting with each other, but to also enhance the viewers' experience. So, while we might not be able to perform on stage just yet, we hope the audience will enjoy this evening of "virtual theatre".

Showtime is 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 13 and tickets are \$5.00 at the Eventbrite website at

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/role-play-an-evening-of-drama-tickets-140607425595?aff=ebdssbonlinesearch>

Any donations will go towards our new sound and lighting booth. ~ Mitch Barnes



# ST. LUKE'S PLAYERS

COMMUNITY THEATRE SINCE 1948!

## Presents a brand new original drama



It's backstage on opening night in a community theatre as a diverse group of women battle nerves, last minute changes and sometimes each other.

This play examines the idea that not all of a show's drama takes place on the stage—and no matter what, the show must go on!

## ONE PERFORMANCE • Sat., Mar. 13th 7:30pm via ZOOM

**Tickets \$5** (plus additional donation option) • online via eventbrite for the Zoom link.  
Like us on Facebook • [www.stlukesplayers.org](http://www.stlukesplayers.org) • 250-884-5484 • [stlukesplayers@yahoo.ca](mailto:stlukesplayers@yahoo.ca)

St. Luke's Players Presents:

# MY SCALE IS LYING TO ME



by Scott Mullen

When the scale knows more than you do...

A QUALUM Production MMXXI 2021

Starring: DEB TAYLOR • SUSAN KO • JOY FINDLAY

Sound design & effects: MITCH BARNES • Graphics: SALTCHUCK STUDIOS •

Produced & Directed by: JONATHAN STOPPI • Publisher: HEUER PUBLISHING •

Recorded at OAKSTONE STUDIOS, Victoria • Tickets: SHOWTIX4U

## Theatre in the Time of COVID: Audio Plays

■ A long time ago, in the year 1 BC (Before COVID—a.k.a. “2019”), I posted the following call on the Victoria Enterprising Actors League (VEAL) page on Facebook—perhaps you’ve seen it:

Too many plays, not enough time... so it occurred to me: What if we created a “virtual theatre”—i.e. one that produces recorded “radio plays” of scripts that we come across and would like to produce. Has that option been explored before? [...]

Any takers?

Response was more muted than I expected: one person Liked it; another thought it would be cool to get together and do readings; and a third wanted to know more. So I explained the idea in more detail—then shelved it, and moved on.

Little did I know that reality would soon make this idea not only not relevant, but a necessary course of action to consider once COVID-19 hit. Overnight, stage performances were suspended indefinitely, and St. Luke's Players—like all live theatres—had to reconsider how it would mount productions in a world of lockdowns, masks, and social distancing.

Zoom-based productions were one option (see Mitch Barnes' article), but for me, the “radio play” format, hosted online, was the compelling option I felt I had to pursue.

As if on cue, just then, Heuer Publishing—a well-known publisher of community theatre play scripts—announced that it was offering a series of ten-minute plays. One of these, I thought, could serve as a perfect test-case of an online “radio play” idea: with a small cast, auditions and rehearsals done by Zoom, and actual recording in a professional recording studio, the result (with suitable promotional graphics and blurb) could be posted online for listening at scheduled dates and times, or “rented” for 48 hours, like an iMovie.

So with the blessing of the SLP Executive, I went ahead and bought the performance and Limited Streaming/Broadcasting rights for a funny and surprisingly sophisticated three-hander called *My Scale is Lying to Me* (by Scott Mullen) from Heuer Publishing.

Auditions were held in late October and early November by Zoom; many applied, and choosing was difficult, but ultimately three cast members were selected (Deb Taylor, Susan Ko, and Joy Findlay). Scripts arrived and



were distributed in December (with appropriately theatrical, COVID-safe “dead drops,” at Hillside Mall); rehearsals (by Zoom) conducted over the course of January; and final recording—at Oakstone Sound’s studio—in early February.

For the cast, the experience of performing in a professional sound studio, with headphones and state-of-the-art microphones, was also novel and exciting, and the ability to hear the slightest sound drew the most nuanced performance from all three of them. For me, as one who has never directed before, the entire process of single-handedly producing and directing a play—and by Zoom, to boot—was an educational, but rewarding, experience.

In post-production, Mitch Barnes then added excellent intro music and sound effects to simulate the background department store, the walking, and the suggestive sounds produced by the sentient scale as it communicated with the cast. With added announcement intro and credits, and wonderful promotional poster graphics by Beverly van



Druten-Blais, we were all set. Now that the production is in the can and available both on SoundCloud (until 100 people have listened) and thereafter for 48-hour rental through ShowTix4U, we now have the template for producing more such productions in future.

When the going gets COVID, theatre makers get creative, and audio plays are just one of several options, along with Zoom plays, and live readings. But as fans of BBC radio drama know, audio plays have an instinctive appeal: as the old saying goes, “On radio, the pictures are better.” And as Dave Hitchcock might say, set design and construction is certainly easier.

Au revoir—or should I say, au rentendre...

~ Jonathan Stoppi

First 100 listeners are free here:

<https://soundcloud.com/st.../scale-project-2/s-64D9YurOfdV>

\$3 after that; Box Office: <https://www.showtix4u.com/event-details/47669>

(Presale pw: Presale)