



ST. LUKE'S PLAYERS

COMMUNITY THEATRE SINCE 1948!

NEWS

JUNE 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

Editor: Beverly van Druten-Blais
Submissions for the Newsletter:
SaltchuckStudios@gmail.com

Memberships & Season Tickets

Bronwyn Taylor & Susan Nicholl

Graphic Design & Website

Saltchuck Studios

For information:

www.stlukesplayers.org

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

stlukesplayers.com



■ If you tried to access the St. Luke's Players website recently you may have been thwarted. We changed hosts (for what that means to you techies out there), so for a time

the website was "down". Thanks to Executive members Jonathan Stoppi and Beverly van Druten-Blais, it is once again up and running. We are sorry for any inconvenience this caused.

I dislike that so much of the information these days in newsletters is concerned with COVID, but that seems to be the current reality. At the time of the March newsletter we were waiting patiently for vaccines to arrive and the programme to get underway. By now many of us will have had our first dose, and some maybe even the second. It was heartening to read last week that we may not have to wait four months to receive the second dose that will give us more complete protection from severe symptoms, or perhaps even immunity to COVID-19. Wouldn't that be wonderful?

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

SLP has not been idle during COVID times. Members have been participating in play readings for fun, others have acted in radio plays and Zoom performances for which tickets were sold and donations gratefully accepted, and the Executive Committee continues to meet monthly to discuss ways we might keep our organization alive and well during restrictions and to generate income, part of which we donate each year to the church.

As restrictions relax, some of the activities being considered to keep members engaged, and to encourage donations

or other ways to raise money include: a Garage Sale in September, more quality Zoom productions to which tickets will be sold, a pot-luck welcome to all members and faithful season ticket holders before the first full on-stage show we are allowed to perform before a live audience.

If you have any suggestions for ideas to keep Members connected before we can meet again in our usual ways, or for fundraising activities that can take place under COVID restrictions, please let me know. ■

~ Respectfully submitted, Bronwyn





Heather Lee

COORDINATOR-EXTRAORDINAIRE

LET'S PLAY

■ Come one, come all! Our monthly play/panto readings have been such a riot!

Double in Diamonds in March was held over two evenings due to popular demand. With a Caribbean background and suave jewel thieves, this comedy-mystery was full of twists and turns with much hilarity!

Look behind you! It was *Camelot* the Panto in April and what a funny show this was! I can't say enough about the creative costumes and backgrounds that

our amazing actors have come up with. We had quite a few (invited) audience members for this, and I could see some little ones getting into the spirit of audience participation.

Most recently we held a reading of *But Why Bump Off Barnaby?* This farce was hilarious, the characters off the charts, and everyone had a great laugh. The creativity of the readers never disappoints!

Up next will be another panto reading for **Wednesday June 02. Come join us!**

I know you want to...oh yes you do! If you are a first time reader, a closet reader, a new reader, a shy reader, a seasoned reader, an 'I don't know' reader, you are encouraged to try this out. All you need to do is read. Now is your opportunity! This is designed for EVERYONE to give it a try. No pressure, no extras necessary, just come for fellowship and fun. It is all about the connection and camaraderie (and a lot of laughs).

I look forward to seeing you ALL soon. Until then, stay safe and stay Amazing! ■
~ Heather Lee



Wed April 7th we had yet again way too much fun in pantoland with Camelot!



■ COLLATERAL DAMAGE:

Never run a fruit stand in an action movie!

- The pandemic has turned us all into dogs. We roam the house all day looking for food. We're told "no" if we get too close to strangers. And we get really excited about car rides.

- Why would they call it a grapefruit? There already is a grape fruit. It's called a grape. Someone messed up here.

- We asked prospective job applicants at our company to fill out a questionnaire. For the line, "Choose one word to summarize your strongest professional attribute," one woman wrote, "I'm good at following instructions."

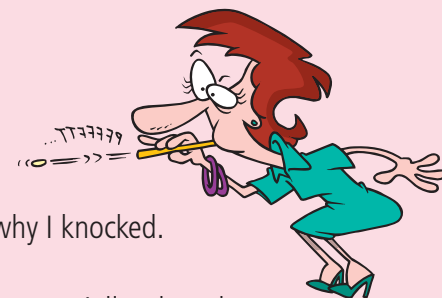
- At a certain point in every man's life, he begins collecting random screws in an old coffee can.

- "Hermit crab" describes me twice.

- Knock, knock
Who's there?

Nobel.
Nobel who?
No bell. That's why I knocked.

- I like long walks, especially when they are taken by people who annoy me"
~ Noel Coward





*Wed May 5
We did an hilarious read-thru of
"Why Bump off Barnaby?"*

THEATRE SEATS FOR SENIORS

An old man lay awkwardly sprawled across three entire seats in the movie theater.

When the usher came by and noticed this, he whispered to the old man,

"Sorry sir, but you're only allowed one seat."

The old man didn't budge.

The usher became more impatient.

"Sir, if you don't get up from there I'm going to have to call the manager."

Once again, the old man just muttered and did nothing.

The usher marched briskly back up the aisle, and in a moment returned with the manager.

Together the two of them tried repeatedly to move the old dishevelled man, but with no success.

Finally they summoned the police.

The officer surveyed the situation briefly, then asked, "All right, buddy, what's your name?"

"Fred," the old man moaned.

"Where you from, Fred?" asked the police officer. With a terrible strain in his voice, and without moving, Fred replied; "The balcony" ■

SLP ONLINE: Better. Stronger. Faster.



■ One of the advantages of forced downtime—such as the one imposed on us by COVID-19—is that it gives time to take stock, and to do some overdue housekeeping. In the case of St. Luke's Players, that means, among other things, examining various aspects of its online presence.

Hitherto, St. Luke's Players had its website hosted by one company, its email by another, and its domain registration by yet another company. Each of these was charging for the privilege, of course, and required its own username and password, so was an administrative headache, as well.

The SLP's archives were kept on Dropbox, and backed up (from time to time) to a single external hard drive, with no redundant second backup, in case it failed. Executive discussions outside meetings were conducted exclusively by email, with no built-in record for future reference.

Happily, all of this is now changing. The website, email, and domain registration are now all with a single company—at a single, considerably lower, cost. The SLP also has its own Google account, now which means that its archival material can be stored in a Google drive, instead of taking up space on Executive members' Dropbox folder on their respective hard

disks. And a dedicated calendar is currently under development, with colour-coded distinctions between different types of events, which can be posted on the website.

A Slack account has been opened and is under a test-trial. It may provide a means for online Executive discussions (similarly divided into categories) which are automatically recorded and searchable for future reference to complement the monthly (Zoom) meetings.

Options are now available for predictable and permanent email addresses for Executive members so they won't have to use their personal email addresses for the purpose, and SLP members can send emails to the Executive without having to enquire, or remember, the personal email address of the Executive member in question.

Technical manuals relating to lighting, sound, and other technical aspects of production are being compiled into single, manageable PDF files, for easier access.

"Never let a good pandemic go to waste," as the saying goes (and if it doesn't—it will). So we're not. By the time the theatre reopens for live stage performances (hopefully, in the coming Fall), we will have improved SLP's online presence. We have the technology. We have the capability to bring the theatre into the 21st century. Better than it was before. Better. Stronger. Faster.

And all for a lot less than Six Million Dollars (in fact, more like six). ■

Stay well.

~ Jonathan Stoppi



WHAT ELSE HAVE WE ALL BEEN DOING?

■ Penny Pitcher continues to Zoom weekly with Target Theatre and recently played the role of 'a bifocaled ancient who's a stickler for grammar' in a play reading with St. Luke's Players—no typecasting there, eh. Penny also took part in the TC10K, Competitive Walking, adding just six minutes to her time of six years ago. And finally, she continues to walk every morning, camera in hand, and is never short of new sights to capture. ■ (See awesome photo below!)
~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 November., 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

■ Janine Longy, our vice president, has taken on a member-at-large role at Langham. She has also gotten back into riding. One of her joys in life... ■ > > > >



Today well-lived,
makes every yesterday
a dream of happiness,
and every tomorrow
a vision of hope.

One person's junk is
another's treasure!

Save your treasures for the
**St. Luke's Players
Garage Sale**
in September 2021!

Details to come.





ST. LUKE'S PLAYERS

COMMUNITY THEATRE SINCE 1948!

PRESENTS A BRAND NEW THRILLER!

Shift

Step in... then hold on!

written & directed by Mitch Barnes

Carol didn't know what she was getting into when she stepped into the elevator! A seemingly ordinary wristwatch, a garbled emergency call,

and a shocking disappearance are all part of Shift, a fast paced thriller in one act and four dimensions!

**ONE PERFORMANCE • Sat May 29th
7:30pm via ZOOM**

Tickets \$3 (plus additional donation option) • online via eventbrite for the Zoom link.
Like us on Facebook • www.stlukesplayers.org • 250-884-5484 • stlukesplayers@yahoo.ca