



# ST. LUKE'S PLAYERS

COMMUNITY THEATRE SINCE 1948!

# NEWS

AUGUST 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 Druuten-Blais

## St. Luke's Players' News

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## Memberships & Season Tickets

Bronwyn Taylor & Susan Nicholl

## Graphic Design & Website

Saltchuck Studios

For information:

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

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

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



■ As Public Health Regulations gradually ease, SLP is happy to be able to begin engaging more of our members in a variety of ways.

Late in July we resumed "Summer Theatre Games in the Park" where members came to Willows Beach to participate in charade-type games and other fun activities that brought us together in person, though still distanced as a precaution.

Saturday, Sept. 11 we will be participating in the yard sale organized by the church. If you have items to donate, bring them to the church Sept. 10, 10-5, marking them as items for the SLP tables, then attend the sale to see if you can find new treasures. The church will do the pricing, however, if there are items that you know the value, please feel free to price. The goal is to sell as much as possible to not be left with a lot of items. The proceeds we raise will go towards our annual donation to the church, down significantly due to our limited activity in 2020-2021, so every loony will help.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Next will be a live Variety Show for members featuring scenes from our aborted production, *I Never Sang for my Father*, on Friday Sept. 17 and Sat. Sept. 18, plus other performances to round out the evening.

Our October production will be *Wind in the Willows*, a special family-friendly Zoom play in the mode we needed to use during Covid-19 restrictions. In addition, The Players will continue with casual monthly activities in the hall throughout the fall, similar to what we did prior to being shut down from public gatherings last November.

The official season will start with a panto in December 2021, *Robin Hood & Babes*

*in the Woods*. At this time we don't know for certain how many will be able to attend each performance, so stay tuned. Next will be the March production of *The Unexpected Guest* that would have been our final show if the 2019-20 season had not been cancelled, and then *The Curious Savage* in May-June to round out the 2021-22 season.

We are in dire need of someone to head up costumes for the panto, knowing that person has support staff already in place. If you, or anyone you know with these skills might be interested, please send their contact information to producer [taylorbronwyn@shaw.ca](mailto:taylorbronwyn@shaw.ca) (cont'd.)



Other positions that need to be filled in order to stage our Panto will be advertised later in this newsletter. If you have experience or an interest in learning more about the position/s involved in staging a show, please contact me at the e-mail address above, or check the production manual on our website: [www.stlukesplayers.org](http://www.stlukesplayers.org) I am happy to answer any questions you may have that might convince you to get on board with our productions now or in the future.

By using the proceeds from earlier Theatre Games, Zoom productions and our bank account, we were able to make a donation of \$5000 to the church. This is a far cry from our usual, but we all know the past year and a half has been anything but usual. On behalf of the church, Rev. Fournier

was most appreciative, as he wondered if any donation at all would be forthcoming!

The date of our 2021 AGM is yet to be determined. If you, or anyone you know, want/s to run for a position on the Executive Committee, please submit names to secretary Susan Nicholl [susan\\_nicholl@shaw.ca](mailto:susan_nicholl@shaw.ca) We can have up to 5 members at large. We have a wonderful Executive at the moment, though I don't know whether all wish to run again. Elections are a healthy way to keep any organization alive and vibrant, so if you are interested, don't be shy!

Best wishes to all as we cautiously emerge from these difficult times. ■

~ Respectfully submitted,  
Bronwyn



reading definitely did not disappoint. Hilarity at its finest. May saw us trying to figure out *But Why Bump off Barnaby* by Rick Abbott, June was another hilarious panto reading, this time of *Sinbad*, and rounding up in July was the very mysterious and very well read (if not long!) *More Than Meets The Eye* once again by Fred Carmichael. Great Fun! Many thanks to the great Ben Crocker for graciously providing us with his panto scripts over the last year for our entertainment.

July brought us outdoors and back to the Let's Play Theatre/Improv games. It was so nice to finally get together to laugh and connect (socially distanced, of course!) in person. Look for the next one in August! Come one, come all!

# LET'S PLAY

■ I hope that you are all enjoying a most wonderful... and safe... summer. Live The Dream!

Creativity abounds within our most amazing membership. Since the last newsletter we have continued to have so much fun (albeit by zoom) with our play readings. Our March reading of *Double in Diamonds* provided mystery and intrigue in true Fred Carmichael fashion. *Camelot the Panto*, our April

The **Let's Play** series will resume on a monthly basis as we did prior to ... well...you know... under the guidance of our good Dr. Bonnie. Woohoo! Look for more play readings, talent nights, theatre games monologue/skit nights... the creativity is endless!! We also welcome your ideas. These evenings are designed for anyone who wants to play. Whether you are seasoned or someone who has always secretly wanted to feel out their thespian side and come out of the shadows. We Welcome You!

We have other special treats up our sleeve just for you, so stay tuned.

We look forward to playing with you!  
Stay safe and stay Amazing! ■  
~ Heather Lee

**Spider:** Why are you terrified by me?

**Me:** Well, the reasons I once had have all now been replaced by the fact that you can talk.

### Feats of Strength

A shark could swim faster than me, but I could probably run faster than a shark. So, in a triathlon, it would all come down to who is the better cyclist.

I like long walks, especially when they are taken by people who annoy me.

~ Noel Coward



**Harry Edwards** left this world on Sat. July 3rd with the assistance of MAID as he chose. He had come to the point with his Parkinson's where his quality of life was terribly compromised.

His friend and caregiver Anne Swannell, was with him at Luther Court and wrote a lovely poem which she read to him.



■ Harry joined the St Luke's Players Set Builders through his friend Anne Swannell in 2012. They had both recently been bereaved and Anne thought that Harry would enjoy the comradeship of the crew, while being able to put his considerable carpentry skills to good use.

His first production with the Players was the panto: *Goldilocks and the 3 Bears* and he soon became a regular member of the team, loving whatever wood working challenges came his way. Maybe his most memorable achievement was a realistic looking grandfather clock.

Working with the Players gave Harry a sense of pride and involvement in his local community, as he lived just around the corner on Church Street.

He loved to tell stories and jokes, particularly during the customary tea breaks and would spontaneously break into song while he was working, with others often joining in. Harry loved ballroom dancing too. At the end of a construction day, after sweeping up the sawdust, sometimes Harry would fondly waltz an imaginary Scottish lass around the St Luke's hall.

A true Scot, there were times when Harry and Graham Thompson, another proud Scot, worked together—they might as well have been speaking a foreign language!

The last show that Harry worked on was the panto *Cinderella* at Christmas 2017. After that, despite his increasing health challenges, Harry often used to pop by the hall for a cuppa, a cookie and a chat with the set building crew.

We'll miss Harry, and his collection of tools sitting on the shelf in the 'Glory Hole' always reminds us of the fun times we all had together building sets. ■

~ Dave Hitchcock  
On behalf of the SLP Set Builders



Life is a miracle too deep to fathom  
and each man adds to its cycle.

Harry, you've served your country,  
you've seen a great deal of this amazing world;  
you've wept sometimes; you've laughed often.

You've borne unkindness you didn't deserve  
and you've witnessed happy miracles  
which came true despite all common sense.

You have loved your children and their children  
—you've taught them how to swim,  
you've told them stories and given them  
the best guidance you could.

You've worked hard and played hard  
—you've put more little white balls  
into holes in the ground than anyone I know!

And now, Harry, you've sung your last lovely song,  
and it's time to let go...  
to go—as we all must do someday.

Go in peace, knowing you will live on  
—not in this world, but in the hearts  
and minds of those you've loved.

~ Anne Swannell



## WHAT ELSE HAVE WE ALL BEEN DOING?

■ It may be summer, but Penny Pitcher hasn't slowed down. As a member of Target Theatre, she spent a day taking part in the filming of several vignettes that the group had written, polished, and rehearsed—vignettes dealing with scams as they affect seniors. These are now on SHAW TV. Penny also read parts in two Zoom plays with St. Luke's Players –

*'Sinbad the Sailor'* (a panto) and *'More Than Meets the Eye'*. A fun time was had by all when a group of St. Luke's Players met to chat and play Improv Games at Willows Beach. Finally, except for laundry day, Penny heads out every morning for her 8 km walk, camera at the ready. ■

~Penny Pitcher



*Ducklings take to the water for a swimming lesson.*

©ThePitcherGallery.com



## A "Shift" in the Right Direction

■ It's not often that an entire play is inspired by the flip of a light switch, but that was the case with *Shift*, the third in the series of highly successful online plays presented by the St. Luke's Players this past May.

It was during the rehearsal process for the previous online show *Role Play*, that director Mitch Barnes and his wife Jo were experimenting with getting the right amount of light on Jo for the upcoming show. An accidental turning off of the lights resulted in a ghostly Zoom image of Jo's face floating in the dark on the computer screen.

The creepy image was so striking that Mitch proceeded to write the one act play, *Shift* in order to use this accidentally discovered lighting effect. The play, a Twilight Zone-esque thriller, focuses on a woman who gets stuck in an elevator while characters a week apart try to figure out what has happened to her.

The cast featured Caroline Mackenzie as Carol, the woman in the elevator, Alex Carroll, Elizabeth Brimacombe and Jesse Setka as her increasingly anxious co-workers, Geoff Davidson and Kelly Vanderswan as the puzzled elevator repair workers, and Susan Anderson as the Narrator.

As with the previous Zoom shows, this was much more than a simple play reading. Actors had to create lighting effects, used costumes and props, cued up sound effects, and used their acting talents to make it appear that they were handing objects to each other, even though they were all broadcasting from their own homes—or in Kelly's case, from inside her car!

One member of the cast described the additional responsibilities as being like, "doing a one person show, but with six other people!"

The result the cast's remarkable efforts was a tremendous show with another large, appreciative online audience. ■



Ebb/Flo



Sinbad



Princess Elena



Christina



Sultan



Goddess of Harmony



Narrator et al



Sultana



Mop



Witch of Discord



Lady Jasmine



Naomi



Block



Jangles/ Viola/Satina



Dame Polly



Prince Lysander



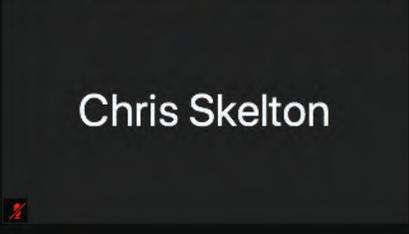
Tackle



Susan



Bill Pitcher



Chris Skelton



Will have tables of treasures to sell at the St. Luke's Church

# YARD SALE

Saturday Sept 11  
9:30am – 1:30pm

Fri Sept 10 • 9-5 Dropoff Donations [marked SLP]  
St Luke's Hall parking lot at 3821 Cedar Hill X Rd

## STAY TUNED...

Good things are coming your way!  
Look for our exciting **Let's Play Variety/Talent Show** featuring the most fabulous cast from *I Never Sang For My Father*. Mark your calendar for **September 17 and 18** and keep an eye out (and talent sharpened) for details...

# Wed July 7th we had yet again way too much fun with More than Meets the Eye



## WHAT ELSE HAVE WE ALL BEEN DOING?

■ Beverly finally had her summer vacation dream come true this season. Way back in March, she carefully booked the RIGHT campsite for the CORRECT dates. Initially an unwelcome surprise: we now have to park our vehicles across the rocks to the dusty unsheltered parking lot instead of right beside our site. But we've compromised and have an otherwise ideal setup. Yep, right on the shore of the lake. It's so perfect for us. Four separate weeks of relaxed bliss. Ahhhh.....

Meanwhile Beverly is now the president of the Victoria Gilbert & Sullivan Society. A wonderful group of G&S enthusiasts that are also hoping to recommence performances soon. There are a few SLP members that also sing and dance in Gilbert & Sullivan productions whenever they can.

Looking forward to some stage work coming up :) ■

~Beverly



## Wed July 28th more fun with Theatre in the Park, Willows



It's been an interesting time managing life during a pandemic. Our troupe has not only survived, but we had some fun times while still following the health and safety rules.



This season we intend to produce three onstage shows. The SLP Executive deems that to keep everyone involved safe we will adopt the following policy:

All participants at St Luke's Players in-person events who are 12 years or older must have been fully-vaccinated against Covid-19 at least 14 days prior to said participation, until the Covid-19 pandemic is declared over.



# HEY YOU!

## Yes, that means you reading this.

The St. Luke's Players Executive are 'chomping at the bit' to get this party started. Are you ready?

Well we're going to need a little help. Okay, a lot of help. We rely totally upon our most excellent members to get involved and make things happen!

Our wonderful panto: Robin Hood and the Babes in the Wood goes up December 17th.

We'll be needing people to operate the light and sound computers. It's really not difficult and we'll train you up.

We're able to start the set building earlier this year so set painters will have more time. Why not come

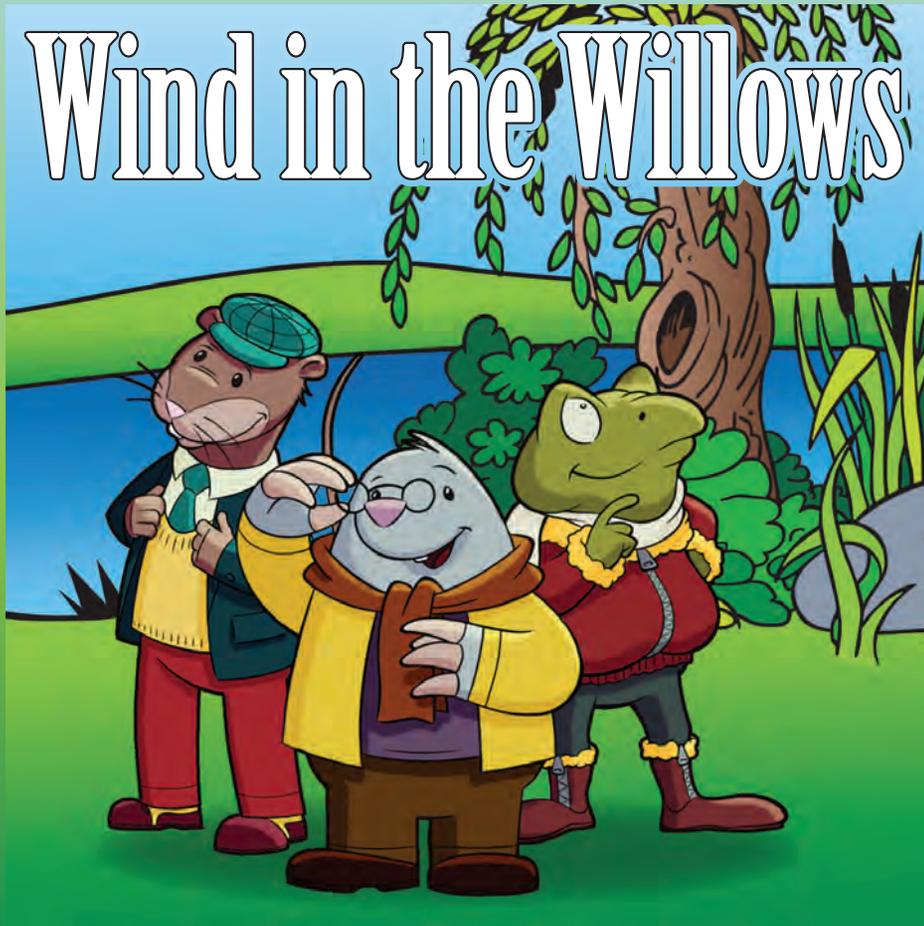
out and join the set crew. They are fun people and it's an enjoyable way to spend time.

### Be a part of the team:

- Sound or Light Operators
- Set Constructors
- Set Painters
- **Costume Designer**
- Costuming Assistants
- Hair & Make-up Lead and Assistants
- Concession Manager, Concession Workers
- Lots of other stuff to do...



## Wind in the Willows



**Adapted by David Elendune & directed by Mitch Barnes**

**St. Luke's Players are holding on-line auditions for this Zoomed fantastical play.**

**This new twist on a classic story has a homicidal badger, a manic toad, sneaky weasels, car crashes, train chases and a boatload of laughs!**

**Auditions will be held online using Zoom:  
Saturday, August 28, 2–4 pm  
and**

**Sunday, August 29, 2–4 pm**

**Rehearsals via Zoom • Tuesdays  
7pm starting August 31**

**Performance date:  
Saturday, October 23, 7:30pm**

### CHARACTER LIST :

- Toad** [male – age: open] The Lord of the Manor. A spoiled (but loveable) child in a grown-up's body.
- Rat:** [male – 40+] Middle aged actor. A bit worse for wear. Cynic with a heart of gold.
- Mole** [female – age: late teens early 20s] A wide-eyed innocent abroad.
- Badger** (female – age: 50+) A retired one-woman killing machine.
- Miss D** [female – age: 40+] 'Misty'. It's actually Miss D, a posh cat. Substitute Stage Manager. Also gets to join in towards the end as The Pirate Queen.
- Weasel #1** [female or male – age: open] 'Knuckles' common as muck. Not somebody to cross lightly.
- Weasel #2** [female or male – age: open] 'Razors' Another like Knuckles.

The Weasels also 'play' most of the other roles...

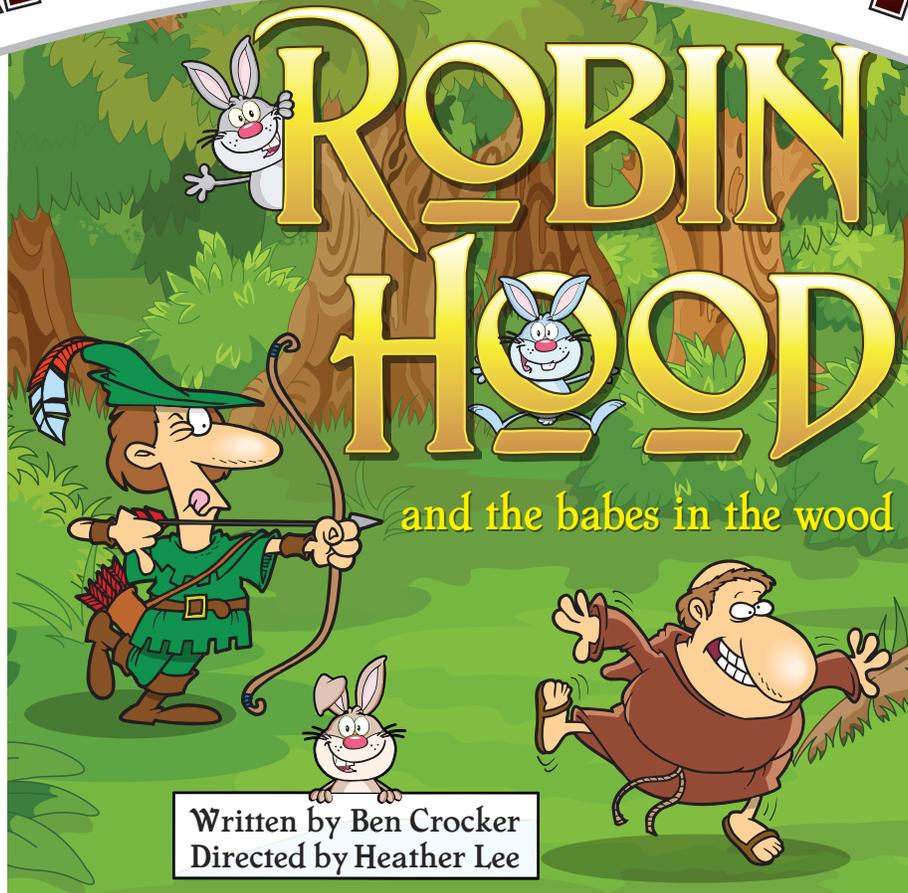
NOTE: They are still the weasels underneath playing these roles:

- Razors – Judge, Washerwoman (aunt), Train Driver
- Knuckles – Rabbit, Rabbit Jury, Prisoner

For the sides, Zoom links to the auditions, and other details, please contact [mitchbarnes52@gmail.com](mailto:mitchbarnes52@gmail.com) and provide:

- your name
- phone number
- desired audition date
- role you are auditioning for
- a brief resume

# PANTO AUDITIONS!



**Fri Sept 10 • 7pm**

**Sun Sept 12 • 1pm**

**Mon Sept 13 • 7pm Callbacks**

**St. Luke's Hall, 3821 Cedar Hill X Rd**

**Play runs:**

**Dec 17, 2021 – Jan 2, 2022**

Rehearsals held Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays with some exceptions.

Auditions are open to all fully-vaccinated, amazing and enthusiastic folks 12 years and older

*(Please refer to the website for character details)*

Rehearsals start with a most fun 'Meet and Greet' Mon Sept 20.

**Questions?**

Contact: **Heather Lee**

heather280@hotmail.com

**Scripts available:** Oak Bay Flower Shop  
102-2187 Oak Bay Ave *(After Aug 15)*



Download the SLP Play Audition Form PDF on SLP's website, fill it out, save and print it. Or print it out, hand-fill it in and then bring it to your audition.

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