



ST. LUKE'S PLAYERS NEWS

COMMUNITY THEATRE SINCE 1948!

MARCH 2022

2021-22 EXECUTIVE

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St. Luke's Players' News

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



■ Welcome to 2022, which we hope will be more normal than the past 2 years, whatever the "new normal" may be! At least we are able, once again, to offer live theatre to our loyal followers.

When the new Board of Langham Court Theatre cancelled its 2022 season, St. Luke's Players Community Theatre was approached to be the performance venue for Hilda's Yard. After much discussion, the Executive agreed to mount the production. The schedule worked out had minimal impact on SLPCT's The Unexpected Guest. We forfeited one rehearsal to allow HY a preview performance with audience, and some of the set construction was delayed. The positive impact was that HY sold out so quickly we applied for the rights to put on two more shows, increasing revenue for SLPCT. The U.G. will follow our usual performance schedule March 9-20.

On a very sad note, on Christmas Eve we lost one of our beloved and talented volunteers, Vinnie Chadwick. Her talents as an organizer and decorator were legendary, and her flair for fashion made her an excellent costumer. Much of the success of our 70th Anniversary Celebration was due to her skills in these areas. We will miss her very much.



We are very pleased to announce that we have a Director (Janine Longy) and Assistant Director (James Johnson) for our May production of *The Curious Savage*. See the notice later in this newsletter. Current Public Health Orders lifted the limit to the number we could have in the

audience, but since our ticketing policy was made under older Orders, all ticket sales for the rest of this season (March and May shows) will be in advance using EventBrite. Depending on how the next few months unfold, we are hoping to once again offer Season Tickets for our 2022-23 season.



Vinnie Chadwick

We now have a 'Calendar of Events' on the webpage stlukesplayers@yahoo.org

Check it frequently to see what we are up to: shows, auditions, other events, meetings, etc. If you think of things you would like to see posted, please contact susan_nicholl@shaw.ca AND saltchuckstudios@gmail.com so they can be posted to both the calendar and our website.

It is a real challenge to know, from day to day and week-to-

week, what is the right thing to do to stay safe and take care of each other, so it seems best to listen to Dr. Henry's directives and do what feels right for you. For me, it is often more than the PHO's suggest.

Stay well, stay safe, and respect each other as we begin to enjoy more freedom than we have had since the beginning of Covid. We all need that right now!!

A huge thank you to the Play Selection Committee for all

the reading they have done in such a short time in order to recommend a season 2022-23 to the Executive for approval. ■

~ Respectfully submitted,
Bronwyn Taylor



WHAT ELSE HAVE WE ALL BEEN DOING?



■ Elaine Montgomery has just finished stage managing a musical revue in Palm Springs *Happy Days are Here Again* and is starting to direct *Pajama Game* to be staged March 24–27/22 in Palm Springs.

Elaine is taking a directors course through Act 2 Studios and would highly recommend them to others wanting more training in acting and directing. <https://www.act2studio.ca>

■ ~ Elaine Montgomery



How many actors does it take to change a light bulb?

Three. One to actually do it, and two more to discuss how they would have done it better.

How many directors does it take to change a light bulb?

"Interesting... why does it want to change? What's its motivation?"

How many playwrights does it take to change a light bulb?

"I'm not changing anything!"

How many producers does it take to change a light bulb?

"Why do we need another light bulb?"

How many theatre publishers does it take to change a light bulb?

We don't actually change light bulbs. We just tell you how someone else did it earlier.

How many stage managers does it —

"Done."



Penny Pitcher caught this chubby squirrel eating breakfast.

LET'S PLAY!

Our two wondrous
Let's Play Hostesses
with the Mostest!



Heather Lee



Janine Longy

Hey Everyone!

Another newsletter, another fun play reading. **Let's Play** wound up the **Let's Play 2021** series at Christmas by inviting Puss and her entourage for a reading of *Puss and Boots*. A small, yet enthusiastic group, of villains, royalty and lovers joined together to celebrate that true love wins the day. Puss, of course, was a hero and the villain begged forgiveness. And yes, we had

a birthday celebration too. Thanks for celebrating your 15th with us Natalie!

Currently, **Let's Play** is taking a pause, but never fear! We have our thinking hats on and perhaps soon you will see some new and exciting ideas to keep St Luke's Players Community Theatre's sparkle shining! Until then, keep playing and stay Amazing! ■

~ Heather and Janine



We are saddened to report that Penny's husband Bill passed away on March 1st.



■ In 2019, Jon Scheer, Production Chair of Langham Court Theatre, asked me to direct *Hilda's Yard*, by Norm Foster, as part of Langham's season for 1920-21. I was thrilled to be asked and accepted almost immediately. It had been a number of years since I had directed at Langham and I was looking forward to it immensely. Then COVID happened, and everything stopped. When the air cleared somewhat, Jon asked again if I would do *Hilda's Yard* in January 2022. I said yes and we held auditions for the play in October.

We started rehearsing in November and held our last rehearsal on the Langham stage 5 weeks later on December 23.

And then the theatre world, as we knew it, ended. On December 29 the newly-elected Langham board announced that the entire season was cancelled, due to "COVID" etc. Our beautiful play, with 6 cast and 20 crew was finished, with no direct consultation, no warning and no apology. We were informed by email that the season was cancelled. Needless to say, we were stunned. It had already been a difficult fall, with a five

hour AGM at Langham, a new inexperienced board, and threats to many of us, who had spent years as community theatre enthusiasts, building up Langham and working long hours at many many productions. We did this as volunteers, who loved being involved with theatre and enjoyed producing very different kinds of plays.

However, all was not lost. With a great deal of work on a proposal and offering to personally guaranteeing shows, Simon Skey and others were able to convince the St. Luke's Players Community Theatre (SLPCT) Board to mount the Langham production in an empty program space at SLPCT for 6 shows in January. Our completed set, on the Langham stage, was lost to us, as were the costumes, lighting, sound etc. We had to start from scratch at SLPCT with no budget, and a set for the next SLPCT play, *The Unexpected Guest*, already underway. Simon and Dave Hitchcock managed to amalgamate the two sets, although one called for an Ontario 1950s back yard and the other an elegant English

country house complete with mahogany paneling!

All the cast and crew, many of whom had not worked at SLPCT before, agreed with enthusiasm to go ahead. We had a smaller stage, only part of a set, almost no money and minimal lighting and sound options. Rehearsals went well until I had an unexpected stroke and ended up in hospital for over a week just before the opening night. But the show must go on, and it did! We sold out 8 shows, held on weekends, so as not to interfere with *The Unexpected Guest*, and I had recovered enough to attend the last ones.

It was a triumph in so many ways and what community theatre is, at its best, all about.

Everyone came together, worked their socks off and produced a show that was appreciated by the audiences and was ultimately beneficial to many.

Langham is still closed, but everyone involved in *Hilda's Yard* is to be thanked for pulling together to produce something we can all be proud of.

So thank you all and when times get tough again, just remember what we accomplished! As Sam says, 'Damn the torpedos and full speed ahead!' ■



~ Penelope Harwood



Picking Plays For Future Fun !

How do those plays you enjoy get selected from the multitude of choices out there? It's thanks to the hard work of our **Play Selection Committee** which is presently working on choosing plays for the 2022-23 season

Nine members of the SLPCT community have taken up the challenge of finding the best productions for the upcoming season. Our committee consisted of Jennifer Bayne, Elizabeth Brimacombe, Wendy Cornock, Colleen Davis, Catherine Laird, Heather Lee, Carl Powell, Jonathan

Stoppi, and has been chaired by Mitch Barnes.

This team follows a process developed by the SLPCT wherein each play is carefully evaluated according to a set of criteria ranging from technical requirements to cast size and, of course, how much we feel the audience will enjoy the production.

This committee's final selections will be presented to the executive in March and then the fun of producing these shows can begin!

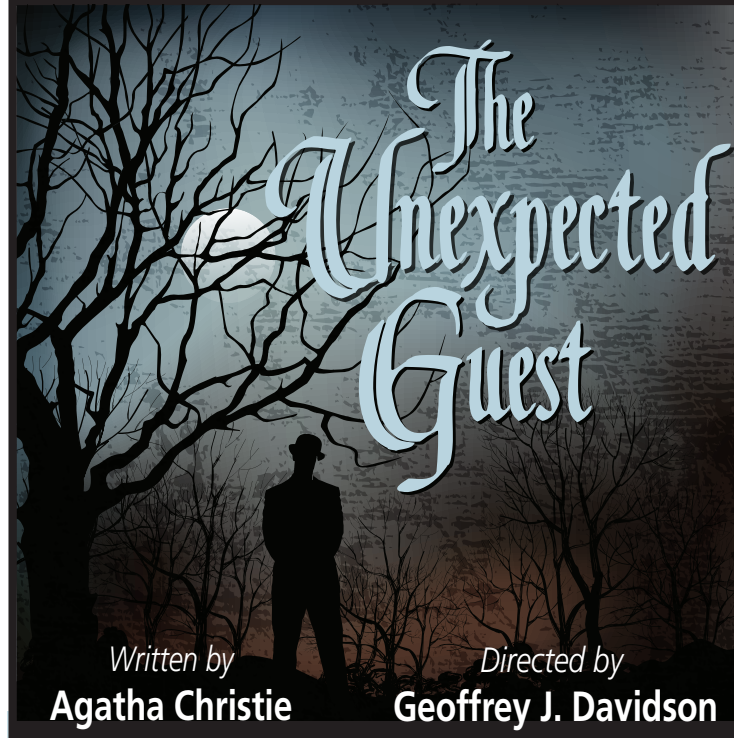
■ ~ Mitch Barnes

One More Time With "Wind" Is A Winner !

The St. Luke's Players Community Theatre reprised the production of *Wind In The Willows* as our final online Zoom play just before Christmas on December 18th. In keeping with the spirit of the season, the net proceeds for this show were donated to Victoria Hospice and the cast and audience had a great time. Starring in this production were Beverly van Druten-Blais, Jo Barnes, Tatianna Landry, Eric Grace, Terry Rowsell, Jennifer Bayne, Emily Hunt, and Alex Carroll as our sound effects operator. ■ ~ Mitch Barnes



INTRIGUE • SUSPENSE • MYSTERY



Evenings
7:30
Mar 9–12
& 16–19

Matinees
2:00
Mar 12 & 13
19 & 20

Who killed Richard Warwick?

Michael Starkwedder believes he knows the answer.

When he crashes his car into a ditch on a foggy night, Michael finds Llangelert House and discovers Richard's body—and Richard's wife Laura beside him with the smoking gun in her hand, admitting she did it!

Richard Warwick was certainly no saint and finding that Laura seemed to have bona fide reasons for the murder, Michael's sense of chivalry takes over and this "Unexpected Guest" decides to help her.

But as events unfold, not all is as it seems... Laura's story doesn't add up and some of the other members of the household want to take credit for the murder!

Our talented production team and cast are proud to bring you this unique murder mystery by Agatha Christie in the first full-run play on stage since the "hiatus". With several twists and turns, this show will keep you guessing "whodunnit" until the final curtain!

Put on your detective hats and enjoy the show!

"The Unexpected Guest" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com

MORE FOR YOUR ENTERTAINMENT!

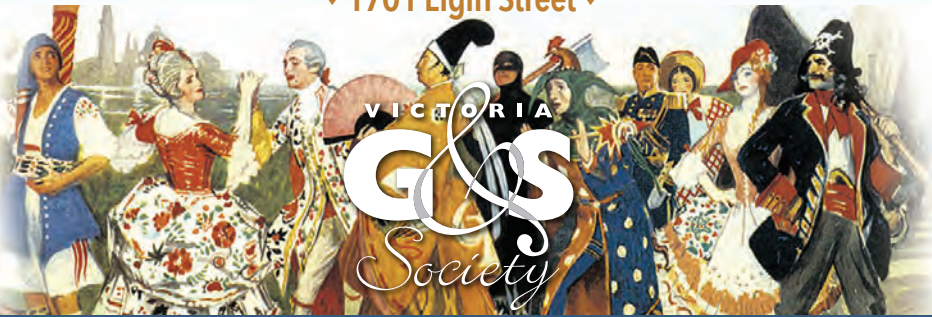
THE VICTORIA

Gilbert &
Sullivan
SOCIETY

Spring Concert

Sunday Matinees 2:00 pm
March 20 & 27, 2022

St. Mary the Virgin Anglican Church
♦ 1701 Elgin Street ♦



SCRIPT BY ADRIAN SLY AND PRODUCED BY ELIZABETH SLY
Tickets \$20 ea. • Limited seating • Reserve your tickets via Linda 250-592-9268

Burdened by 10 million dollars and carrying a one-eyed teddy bear, Mrs. Savage is indeed a curious lady.



Evenings
7:30

**May 18–21
& 25–28**

Matinees
2:00

**May 21 & 22
28 & 29**

Written by John Patrick

Directed by Janine Longy

Mrs. Savage has just inherited 10 million dollars from her late husband, which she uses to help the less fortunate. Her stepchildren decide she is not fit to steward the fortune, as they believe it is rightfully theirs. This leads them to have her committed to a sanitarium to prove she is incapable. While at the institute, Mrs. Savage meets a group of outcast members of society who become her new family. They ultimately help her to keep her fortune from the greedy hands of her stepchildren.

"Curious Savage" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com



ST. LUKE'S PLAYERS
COMMUNITY THEATRE SINCE 1948

Live Stage Performances • COVID safety compliant • Full Vax proof required to enter

Tickets \$16.00 available online via eventbrite • Limited seating, first come first seated

All performances are held at St Luke's Hall, 3821 Cedar Hill X Rd • Like us on Facebook

Website: www.stlukesplayers.org • Phone: 250-884-5484 • Email: stlukesplayers@yahoo.ca