



ST. LUKE'S PLAYERS

COMMUNITY THEATRE SINCE 1948!

NEWS

FEBRUARY

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2025-26 EXECUTIVE

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Well, here we are in 2026, wondering what on earth will happen next! As a result, there has never been a greater need for us to find things we love to do and

to get out and do them. At St. Luke's Players Community Theatre we think we have a great solution, get involved in community theatre yourself! You may have no desire to appear on stage, or you may feel you have no theatre experience, but there are lots of things to do, and learning from our experienced and helpful crews and casts is part of the benefit of joining. For example, assisting with our front of house in serving tea at the interval is an important, helpful and fun task. It will also get you involved with a great bunch of folks.

On a companion subject; it isn't too early to start considering a position on the SLPCT Board of Directors. Yes, the AGM is months away, but it is time to start thinking about getting involved. Of especial interest to us is our need for a Board member with some accounting knowledge who would, eventually, take on the role of Treasurer

from the esteemed Mike Chadwick. If you, or someone you know, fits that description and may be interested, please let us know. One way for anyone to start on the Board is as a Member-at-Large which gives the opportunity to scope out our operations before committing to a specific office. You're never a 'newbie' at SLPCT, you're someone who brings a fresh perspective to our activities and operations.

Over the past year or so, SLPCT has been involved in the formation of the **Victoria Theatre Collective**. Besides SLPCT, membership now includes other theatre companies such as BEMA, Langham Court, SKAM, and about a dozen others. Individual artists can also be members. The Collective was formed to help each other with common problems such as locating crews, casting, rehearsal space, publicity, and much more. On the subject of publicity, the Collective is already developing a type of awards program designed to increase the overall profile of community theatre in Greater Victoria. Check out their website at: victoriatheatrecollective.ca.

Finally, our next show, *Waiting in the Wings*, is coming up in March and is just the kind of thing you need to raise

your spirits. 'The Wings' is a charity home for retired actresses in straitened circumstances, so you can imagine the possibilities! Grandiose (and conflicting) memories, feuds, jealousies, it's all there. A great cast and a wonderful Noël Coward script await you, so book now.

Have a glorious Spring!

~ Many thanks, Malcolm Harvey



*Happy
St. Patrick's
Day*

St. Luke's Players Community Theatre is very grateful for being gifted by the Karen Strawn Samis and William Samis Fund at the Victoria Foundation:

"...in appreciation of the good work you do in the community, and with the hope that it may continue."

The amount of their annual gift for 2026 is \$1,500, and it is designated for the Production Fund.



Evenings 7:30
Mar 11–14 & 18–21

Matinees 2:00
Mar 14, 15, 21, 22

Written by
Noël Coward
Directed by
Geoffrey J. Davidson



Waiting in the Wings — A Season of Memory, Laughter, and Grace

Rehearsals for *Waiting in the Wings* are now well underway, and every corner of the theatre is alive with activity. Our set team has built a warm, elegant space, while costumes, props, and set dressers are carefully choosing the details that give it life. Piece by piece, a world is taking shape.

Within that world, the cast has been hard at work creating the relationships that make the play breathe: old friendships, long-standing rivalries, tender memories, and the quiet strength that comes with accepting life's changes.

At its heart, *Waiting in the Wings* is a witty comedy, but one shaded with deeper truths. Beneath the laughter lies a story about aging, the loss of youth and status, and the surprising resilience of those who must let go of what once defined them.

Audiences can expect an evening that is both entertaining and gently reflective—one that may stir a smile, a laugh, and perhaps a touch of nostalgia.

The play follows a year in the life of the residents of "The Wings," a home for retired actresses, inspired by the real-life theatrical charity founded by King George V. Into this world comes Lotta, a once-celebrated star who has fallen on hard times. There

she encounters old friends, familiar comforts, and a rival who still clings to the past. Together, the residents form a community that proves family is not always defined by blood, but by shared lives and shared memories.

I was not the director originally slated for this production. Our original director had to step aside due to health concerns. In a way, that circumstance echoes the spirit of the play itself. Like the residents of "The Wings," our cast and production team have had to adjust to the absence of a valued colleague. We move forward together, creating something meaningful, while honouring his contribution and legacy.

We hope you will join us for an afternoon or an evening that celebrates laughter, companionship, and the enduring dignity of the stage. Come share in the memories—and perhaps make a few new ones of your own.

~ Geoffrey J. Davidson

The cast (above):

Back Row: Wendy Cornock, Luke Krayenhoff, Vicky Etchells, Steve Eastman, Patricia Zogare, Roslyn Heslop, Cat Black, Mira Kukkaroinen

Middle Row: Geoffrey J. Davidson, Elizabeth Whitmarsh, Julie Gray, Heather Lee, De Roger

Down Front: Beverly van Druten-Blais

Missing: James Johnson, Claire Rogers, Brent Nicholson, Elizabeth Derkacz

What have we been up to?

GELI'S AT IT AGAIN – THE END OF HER TETHER, THAT IS!



Life continues to get complicated for Geli Bartlett, but she still finds time once a year to take off all her clothes and jump off a bridge to raise funds for the Mental Health Recovery Partners (formerly the Schizophrenic Society).

This will be the FIFTH and FINAL FLIGHT of FANCY for the Outrageous Octogenarian who may just fall over backwards in her enthusiasm. It's also the 20th Anniversary of the event which supports the much needed work of this team who provide advice and encouragement

to those who've survived crises. In true theatrical spirit, Geli is always decorated indecorously for the occasion. Why naked? Mental illness has been hidden too long!

Please visit her fundraising page [CanadaHelps donation page](#) Thank you!

Geli's been an SLPCT member for most of this century and she is also eagerly awaiting the opening of, *Waiting in the Wings* where she can be seen occasionally serving hot drinks and treats in the Concession booth.



Penny Pitcher has enjoyed performing at several venues with Langham Readers'

Theatre. One of her roles has been that of a high-society hostess in 1920s England. What this poor woman goes through to

ensure proper etiquette and tradition, especially when it comes to the banquet table arrangements! She goes to great lengths to avoid seating exactly thirteen guests at her table, highlighting both the period's social customs and her character's attention to detail—never mind trying to find her daughter a suitable husband.



The 2026 Victoria Film Festival ran Feb. 4-13, 2026. Jo Barnes was excited to be on cast

in two of the films being featured. They are two very different stories, but in both

cases, were a really great experience for Jo. Both films have been garnering recent awards and *Lucid* was featured in the premier Fantasia Film Festival. *Lucid* on Feb. 13 played at The Vic Theatre and *The Ballad of Sloth Shot* on Feb. 15 at The Roxy.

20TH ANNUAL 18+ NAKED BUNGY JUMP for Mental Health

FEB 28- MAR 1, 2026

MEDIA SPONSORS: 100.3 The Island's Rock, The Zone 91.3, Pattison Media, MHRP South Island, WildPlay Nanaimo

BROUGHT TO YOU BY: MHRP South Island, WildPlay Nanaimo

Geli's Fifth and Final Fundraising Fling

Raising funds for Mental Health Recovery Partners Society, South Island | [Naked Bungy Jump for Mental Health 2026](#)

\$100.00 raised of \$1,000.00

26 days REMAINING Campaign Ends March 8, 2026

Donate Now



Coming to the Victoria Film Festival!

What have we been up to?

Glen Rodger and Dave Hitchcock participated at last week's 'Fantastic Friday' helping youngsters with their woodworking creations.

It was a lot of fun hearing about their enthusiastic wood-working projects and then suggesting how they might go about making them.

As Claire White (Church Warden), commented: "The woodworking flowed into our theme during Chapel, as we talked about Jesus learning to be a carpenter when he was 12." I think we had some budding carpenters who were under the age of 12, and luckily everyone left with the same

number of fingers they came with.

Maybe in a few years we'll have some new set builders?!

In fact, Barb Prescott suggested that at a future 'Fantastic Friday' possibly we could show folks what happens on the stage/behind the scenes. This could likely be of interest to children and adults alike!

~ Dave Hitchcock



In addition to doing sound design for the upcoming SLPCT production of *Waiting in the Wings*, Mitch Barnes is also acting in Theatre Al Dente's Fresh Ink Festival. And one

of the plays he has written will be performed in this festival.

Finally, he is organizing a Student Readers' Theatre event at Langham Court on Feb. 21 at 7:00pm in which

students from Monterey and Colquitz Middle Schools will be performing *Gracie Takes Up Crime Solving* and *The Invisible Man*.



Elaine Montgomery has just finished Stage Managing a production of *Social Security* in Palm Desert and is looking forward to working with the

Acting Can Be Murder cast and crew as Producer upon her return.

AUDITIONS!

A PUZZLING MYSTERY

ACTING CAN BE MURDER



Sun Mar 8 4–6pm

Mon Mar 9 7–9pm

Tues Mar 10 7–9pm

Callbacks if needed

Sun Mar 15 4–6pm

We encourage all actors experienced and new to the stage.

Play runs May 20–31, 2026

Rehearsals start Mar 25th

Rehearsals are on Mon, Wed and Fri evenings, following a Meet & Greet

Auditions are cold reading from the script.

Please check our website for details.

Written by **Eddie McPherson** Directed by **Lorne Seifred**

Send Audition Application and resume:
Lorne Seifred – gizmoroo13@gmail.com



ST. LUKE'S PLAYERS

COMMUNITY THEATRE SINCE 1948

On an isolated Gulf Island, the bodies begin to fall.

A Langham Court Theatre presentation of

Casting for Murder

Written by **Elizabeth Elwood**
Directed by **Jacquellyne Keath**

March 12–29, 2026
PREVIEW MARCH 11

LANGHAM
COURT
THEATRE

"Be prepared for some unexpected murders...and a surprise ending you are challenged to guess." – Art Scene, Royal City Record

Tickets are available online at www.langhamtheatre.ca
or at our Box Office 250.384.2141 | 805 Langham Court



Produced by special arrangement with ELIHU ENTERTAINMENT www.elihuentertainment.com

We are thrilled to congratulate a number of St Luke's Players who were most recently in *The Hollow*, and are now involved in Langham Court's *Casting for Murder* by Elizabeth Elwood.

Top: Nadia Graham and Dave Baron
Middle: Tess Wiens, Megan Sawatzky
Bottom: Dave Baron and Ben McFee



*Fresh Ink
A Festival of
Short Plays*

The Fresh Ink Festival is a celebration of bold, original theatre by local playwrights. Across six evenings, audiences will experience eight short plays, each offering a distinct voice, style, and perspective. From heartfelt and humorous to provocative and unexpected, Fresh Ink showcases the creativity happening right here in our community.

This festival is dedicated to developing and sharing new work. Each play has been written by a local playwright and brought to life by local artists. Each performance will showcase three or four of our new works, with a unique line up every night. All of our plays are PG 13

Performance Dates & Times

Friday, February 27 – 7 PM
Saturday, February 28 – 7 PM
Sunday, March 1 – 7 PM
Friday, March 6 – 7 PM
Saturday, March 7 – 7 PM
Sunday, March 8 – 7 PM

[Details and tickets](#)

ARTS Spaces Forum

is happening Sunday, February 22nd
— and we'd love you in the room!

Join us from 12–4pm at Other Guise Theatre (716 Johnson Street) for an infrastructure-focused gathering bringing together arts, civic, and community leaders. The forum will feature a panel of local arts champions reflecting on what it takes to create, secure, and steward space for the arts in Victoria.

Reserve your spot today!

**Lunches must be reserved by Feb 8th.*

Program Highlights

12:00 - 1:00 PM | Networking Lunch (by donation)

1:00 PM | Poem and welcome by Victoria's Youth Poet Laureate, Shauntelle Dick-Charleson

1:15 - 1:45 PM | Presentation: Arts & Community Infrastructure Foundation — vision and progress to date

Break

2:00- 3:30 PM | Panel Discussion: Reimagining Ownership: From Tenants to Stewards | Local arts and community organizations share real-world experience navigating space, infrastructure, and stewardship.

3:30 – 4:00 PM | Q&A and informal networking

Panelists will include:

Jenny Farkas from MakeSpace North Park, a new neighbourhood hub offering access to tools, skills and community

Logan Ford from Vancouver Island Visual Arts Society (VIVAS), operator of the artist studios at 780 Blanshard

Jordan Deck from Haus of Owl, our local co-working hub for creators,

And more to be announced!

Event Details

Location: Other Guise Theatre, 716 Johnson Street

Time: 12:00 – 4:00 PM

Lunch:

A light lunch will be served from 12–1 PM (suggested donation). Please RSVP by Feb 8 to reserve your meal. Vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free options available.

Accessibility:

716 Johnson Street is a ground-level, step-free venue with automated entry doors. There is one gender-neutral, wheelchair-accessible washroom on the main floor.

P.S. We're looking for volunteers to help out on the day -- please let us know if you're interested!

Reserve your spot today!

About the ACI Foundation

Founded in 2024, the Arts and Community Infrastructure (ACI) Foundation is a registered charity advancing a new approach to space stewardship—one that stabilizes rents, restores lost cultural spaces, and secures long-term access for arts and community use.

Our work prioritizes stability, shared accountability, and long-term security of tenure—so creative spaces can remain affordable, resilient, and community-serving for generations to come.

Join our email list!

Stay connected — join our email list to follow our progress and learn about future engagement opportunities.

Warmly,

Jenn Neilson & Erin Lannan

Co-Founders ACI Foundation ACIFoundation.ca

Arts and Community Infrastructure Foundation
1023 Tolmie Avenue Victoria, BC V8X 2H2 Canada

MISCELLANEOUS NEWSY THINGS

The cast and crew for the upcoming play *Waiting in the Wings* would like to give a Heartful-Shout-out to our colleague Jon Scheer, at home in Denver Colorado. He fully intended to direct our play, but his health prevented him from continuing on with us at this time.



We thank him for his dedication to our production and we send our wishes for his full recovery.

PLEASE NOTE:

The phone number for St. Luke's Players Community Theatre has been changed. The new number to leave your messages at is: **250-986-1632**

PLANNING FOR THE NEXT SEASON

The **SLPCT Play Reading Committee** has worked diligently to find us three new plays and a new Panto for the next season. We've got a thumbs up from the Church, Susan is securing the Performance Rights, and then we'll be putting out an Expression of Interest to potential directors. So stay tuned for more info to come!

RECRUITING

We always welcome new people to our troupe. Whatever you already have to offer, or whatever you'd like to learn, we would love to find a place for you on the stage or behind the scenes. Just give us a shout, we'd like to hear from you!