

LANGHAM COURT

NEWS

Langham Court has been the home of the Victoria Theatre Guild since 1935. Its Mission Statement:
"To foster and celebrate the art and practice of sustainable community theatre."

May 2011



Presents

**The final evening of its 2010-2011 season
Saturday May 28th at 7 p.m.**

The Ugly Duckling by A. A. Milne, directed by Luke Krayenhoff
and
A Brief Encounter by Noel Coward, directed by Nick Stull

Art Show

for *Elizabeth Rex*

The art show for *Elizabeth Rex* offers the works of **Ken Horn** and runs from Wednesday, June 8th to Saturday, June 25th. If you wish to meet the artist, he will be in the theatre on Sunday, June 12th from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Ken Horn writes that he was born and raised in Scotland he then spent a few years waffling in art colleges in Sweden and England. Fortunately nothing was learned or lost there.

About 10 years ago, he started painting what had been percolating in his noggin for the last 40 years.

The style that emerged has changed little in the last decade and he finds that he's a narrative painter who is drawn to the ancient and mystical.

He paints mostly people, for only people really interest him.

The Non Profit-Organisation for *Elizabeth Rex*

The Business and Professional Women's Club of Victoria

The **Business and Professional Women's Club of Victoria**, otherwise known as **BPW Victoria**, strives to encourage and support women in becoming leaders in our business and professional communities. The Victoria chapter of this organisation is also part of the national and international **BPW Associations**, and enjoys consultation status with the UN while helping women realise their full potential around the world. **BPW Victoria** has a long history and was one of the founding Canadian clubs, but was dismantled in 2008 due to a dwindling membership. Under new leadership, **BPW Victoria** re-chartered in 2010 thanks to the hard work and dedication of a core group of women in the Victoria community.

The club holds monthly meetings (for members and non-members) at the **Union Club** of Victoria where we have various female speakers as a way to facilitate our initiative to support women in businesses and professions. Through shared stories, experiences and seminars, we feel that **BPW Victoria** helps to encourage women in their own business professions and also to take on and become aware of leadership positions in our community. The local club has

several initiatives including a mentorship program, a scholarship fund, and several other less formalized fundraising and support initiatives. We are actively trying to recruit new members as our club has just re-established itself, so please consider coming to one of our events and bringing your female friends and colleagues to share in the encouragement and support we offer and can provide to one another. Our group does encourage networking, but we see ourselves as fundamentally different from other women's groups in Victoria, as our main objective is to give back to the community and actively pursue a direction of social consciousness in relation to women's issues.

If there is a women's issue that we can help to provide support on, or you have an interest in contributing to or becoming a member of the **Business and Professional Women's Club of Victoria**, please contact info@bpwvictoria.com or visit our website: www.bpwvictoria.com.

Laura MacLean, BPW Victoria - Vice President



Prepare to ACTivate at Langham Court

By Erin Hoyt

Over the last few months you have heard the buzz about **ACTivate : A Festival for Inspiring Theatre**, and we are proud to announce that the time has finally arrived for new and veteran thespians to take the stage and flaunt their talents. This month, on the weekend of the 13th to the 15th of May, talented local performers and budding young theatrical technicians will come together to put on two full evenings of theatre for the love of learning and the viewing pleasure of Victoria audiences. We are looking for your support and would love for you to take advantage of this **FREE** event, by coming out to view and encourage the work of your local theatre community.

ACTivate was created with the goal to inspire and educate artists, as well as to encourage active participation in the Victorian 'amateur' theatre community. It is with these goals in mind that we have gathered an eclectic group of performers, who will not only take the stage for the public, but will also be participating in free workshops all weekend

long. These workshops are also taught by dedicated volunteers. All in all, love for local theatre abounds, and you will get a chance to experience this when you attend one (or even both) of the performance nights at no cost to yourself!

On both Saturday and Sunday evening starting at 5: p.m., the curtain rises, and you as the audience will not only get to enjoy quality original and previously written works, but you too can take part in the educational experience by watching a panel of experienced volunteer adjudicators and learning a few tricks of the trade for yourself. We also want your feedback and opinions of the performances you see. Come and offer your 'two cents' to the collective creative discussion. This is guaranteed to be a festival of discovery that will only be made richer by the addition of your voice!

You as the audience and commentators are invited to attend both nights, and the following is a line-up of the performances that you have an opportunity to experience.

Saturday Performance Schedule:

Canterbury Cocktails Presented by **Scrumpy Productions**,
Starring **Julian Cervello**

The Anger of Ernest and Ernestine, Presented by **Where's Noonan?**, Starring **David MacPherson** and **Melissa Blank**

Death and Other Friends, Presented by **Victoria High School**, Featuring performances by the Students of **Vic HighSilver Linings**, Presented by **St. Luke's Players**, Starring **Mitch** and **Jo Barnes**

Sunday Performance Schedule:

Dot Con, Presented by **Target Theatre**, directed by **Judith McDowell**

The Smell of the Kill, Presented by **Dragon Monkey Theatre**, Directed by **Wendy Merk**.

Sonnets for an Old Century, Presented by **Holly Johnson**, Starring **Holly Johnson**

Deliver Us Not!, Presented by **Esquimalt High School**, Starring Students of **Esquimalt High**

This promises to be a very exciting event that should not be missed! The doors open both nights at 4:30 p.m. with a start time of 5:00 p.m., but both evenings have an open-door policy, which means the audience can come and go as it pleases. So even if you can only spare an hour to show your support, you can show up at any time and are guaranteed admittance. Our goal is to make this as easy as possible for you the public to come and encourage the artists and technicians that have worked so hard to put on something that is worthy of your time. Let us entertain and educate you!

Just in case you missed those dates and times here they are again:

Saturday, May 14th and Sunday May 15th. Doors open at 4:30 Shows run from 5:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

Open theatre format : You can arrive and leave at ANY time during the evening.

For more details and information, you can email **Erin Hoyt** at erinmusic@live.com, or check out the Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=191312464240360>.

If you would like to volunteer (goodness knows we could use the help) please call **Erin Hoyt** at **250-634-4906**. Your support and encouragement is appreciated!

Fiery Students Fuel ACTivate Behind the Scenes!

A little known fact about the **ACTivate Festival** is that it is entirely run by volunteer teenage technicians. As those of you in the theatre community know, the work of a backstage crew often goes unsung, at least with those that simply view the production from the outside. It is for this reason that we would like to give a special shout-out to the students from the **Victoria** and **Esquimalt High Schools**, who will be coming in to take a crash course in running a show behind the scenes over the **ACTivate** weekend, only to then be thrown into operating, stage managing, and set changing immediately after they have learned a few tricks. These students are precious to the Victoria theatre community, as we know how hard it is to get people to do this important “limelight-less” work.

It is vital that we show them our support and acknowledge that their efforts are appreciated. Our local theatre community is always scrambling for volunteers, so please come on the 14th and 15th of May to pat one or all of them on the back and give them the thanks they deserve. We even encourage you to let loose your inner ‘theatrical vulture’ and scoop up their talents for your next upcoming production! No one likes to be forgotten, and your thanks and recognition of their efforts could be just the thing to encourage them to continue contributing to our theatre community. Do your part: A smile and a word of gratitude is little price to pay to add to our tired volunteer base!



Would you know which button to push? No?--- Well then, come thank the kids that do!

Editor's Notes:

Once again a whole host of individuals have contributed to the creation of this month's Newsletter. Thanks to the efforts of the following, you can read the most up-to-date news and views around **Langham Court Theatre**: First thanks go to **Danda Humphreys** and her ubiquitous red pen. Danda is also the mastermind behind the theatre recollections series that continues this month with a tale from **Tony Hubner**. Next, **Denise Brown** who provides the

material from the Non-Profit organisations. Denise also ensures that I have the dates and times correct in the calendar as well she takes the Newsletter and magically transports it onto our web site.

This month, I have to thank **Erin Hoyt** for providing a detailed article on the upcoming **ACTivate Festival**, which runs Saturday and Sunday, May 14th, and 15th. It is

definitely a must-see event! I also want to thank **Lisa Leighton** and **Ned Lemley** for once again providing delightful and fascinating glimpses into the workings of the Costume Departments.

Thanks also to **Joan Patrick** for keeping us in the know about Readers' Theatre. Joan will be heading for Ottawa shortly after the final performance of one-act plays on May 28th. We will miss Joan, whose energy, enthusiasm and technical know-how have been a great boon to **Langham Court** over the past few years. We all wish you all good things in Ottawa, Joan.

I also want to thank **Marge Bridgeman**, **Martin Kava**, **Ned Lemley** and **Barbara Knoop** from the **G&S Society** who took the time to send letters to us, and **Dave Hitchcock** and **Darlene Arsenaault** who have let us know what their organisations are up to.

Congratulations to **Susan Ferguson** and **Diane Madill** for their gorgeous costumes and to **Bill Adams** for his amazing revolving set for *A Month in the Country* and to **Toshik Bukowiecki** and his cast and crew for their masterful evocation of 19th century Russian country life.

A Month in the Country runs until Saturday May 7th, so if you haven't seen it yet, you'd better hurry and get your tickets now!

May is a busy month with *A Month in the Country* winding down on May 7th, the **ACTivate Festival** winding up on May 14th and 15th followed by the final **Readers' Theatre** evening on May 28th and the Life Members Celebration on May 29th. Then on June 8th *Elizabeth Rex*, the final production of the 2010-2011 season opens and runs until June 25th. As well as the busy schedule at **Langham Court**, there are auditions on May 7th and 8th for **Raving Beauty Productions**, and **St. Luke's Players' On Golden Pond** runs from May 25th to June 5th.

As you can see there'll be plenty to do and see during the month of May, so enjoy it all.



News, Views and Reviews

Remembering When . . .

(An occasional column in which members reminisce about happenings and mis-happenings on stage, back-stage or in the wings at **Langham Court** or any other theatre. And now over to Tony . . .)

The Egg and I

By *Tony Hubner*

The time was the mid-1960s; the play was the panto *Aladdin*; the venue was the then- new **MacPherson Theatre**. I was cast as the Emperor of China. **Cliff Clarke** was the Dame.

We had some business in the knock-about laundry scene, where I had come in to complain about my underpants. Or something. Widow Twankey and Wishy-Washy set about my come-uppance by producing a (blown) egg, placing it with great ceremony in the top of my turban, then smashing it. I, in turn, produce another egg, present it to the audience like a magician, then exact a similar punishment, only this time in the Widow T.'s ample bodice.

So now it's closing night, after a successful run. Tony Burton, the director, has assembled the cast before curtain, to run through his stock speech about the un-professional nature of closing night pranks - you know the form, "Not fair to the audience... paid the same as any other audience... etc. etc."

While this is going on, his wife, Audrey, is across the road at Quon Lee's buying eggs.

Word of this got round, so I was in full knowledge of my fate when I made my entrance to the laundry. There was Cliff, magnificent in his bizarre get-up and a gleam in his eye that can only be described as satanic. I stoically accepted my raw egg shampoo, with shell, knowing that soon sweet vengeance would be mine! I made a *bravura*, and that night totally honest, expression of disgust, then with a grin even more satanic than his, I plunged my wonderful, loaded egg into his bosom.

There, nested snugly in his considerable *embonpoint*, the damn thing was **ENDWAYS ON!** Now, if you know anything about structural engineering, or even kitchen folklore, you will realize that an ovoid shape, i.e. an egg, possesses enormous strength when a force is applied along its longitudinal axis. I simply could not get the damn thing to break! Here was I, on-stage at the **Mac** in front of a full house, alternately pressing and hammering on the Widow Twankey's tits! Cliff showed everyone the bruise afterwards.

I've no idea what the audience made of it. All I know is that I had egg on my face and he didn't.
A truly sobering lesson to all last-nighters who substitute rum for tea, and cause stage phones to ring. But I think this particular "fun" seems to have left the theatre in these more serious times. Perhaps a good thing, perhaps not.

Do YOU have a stage-related story to share? Your most unforgettable role, perhaps? Worst nightmare? Most embarrassing moment? We would like to include your funny/outrageous/shocking/ touching tale in our Newsletter. Questions? Comments? Need a few general guidelines? Write to Danda Humphreys, dandah@shaw.ca today!

News from the Costume Guild

Workshop Donations

Many thanks to **Marge Bridgeman** and to **Peta** and **Alan MacKenzie** for their recent donations of steam irons to the Costume Workshop. Our irons get a lot of use and wear out quickly, so these are welcome, indeed.

Thanks also to **Hedly Goldsworthy** for donating a bag of fabric recently, and to anonymous donors for some boxes of fabric that were left in the Workshop.

We love donations! And after a recent reorganization of our fabrics, it's apparent that we have an embarrassment of riches, so space is starting to become an issue. If you have fabrics to donate, please contact **Lisa Leighton** (250-595-5523 or leighton@islandnet.com) before dropping them off. Thank you!

Recent Additions

We have recently purchased a professional-grade steamer for the Costume Workshop. It is available for all shows and the Loft, but it does require a bit of finesse, so if you plan to use it, please read the instructions first about filling, heating, steaming and shutting down/draining.

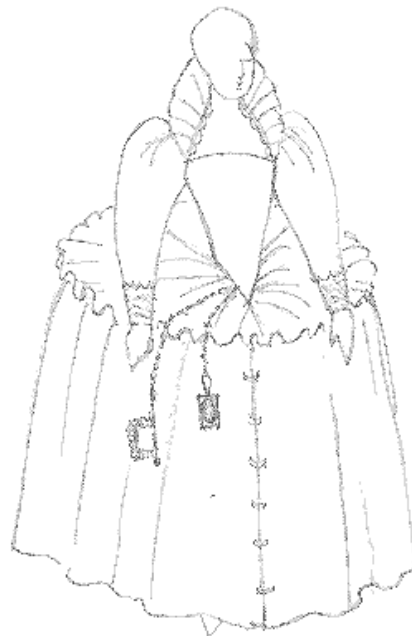
If you have been in the lower reaches of the theatre lately, you may have seen the wonderful new light table built for us by **Bill Adams**, for tracing sewing patterns (and anything else). It's getting lots of use right now on *Elizabeth Rex*.

Mark Heine and I have donated our washing machine to the laundry downstairs. It's a top-load agitator, primarily for use in distressing and dyeing fabrics/costumes. It may also be handy for high volumes of washing on shows, if it doesn't get too badly stained. Thanks to **Dick Newson** and **Julius Maslovat** for moving it and finding a way to sort it into the existing configuration.

The Riches of *Elizabeth Rex*

In looking for costumes for *Elizabeth Rex*, it quickly became apparent that the costume team would need to create most of them. So when the show comes down late in June, the Costume Loft will take possession of some amazing new pieces that are pretty much guaranteed to be popular rentals. The Costume Workshop will also have two new books on constructing Elizabethan clothing, and a treasure trove of Elizabethan sewing patterns, including a set of reproduction patterns for men's wardrobe, women's wardrobe, women's underpinnings, and accessories (hats, ruffs, bags, etc.). Best of all, the costume team will have (a lot more) experience in constructing pieces for this period.

Lisa Leighton
For the Costume Workshop



Notes from Aloft

Recent Donors

Thanks to **Jean Kopec** via daughter **Anita Fownes**, **Marilyn Whitehead**, **Eric Grace**, **Sylvie Lindstrom**, **Karen Levis**, **Ryan Levis**, **Theresa Kott**, **Phyllis Rands**, **Maxine Briggs**, **Wayne Yercha**, **Mrs. Brennan**, **Dorothy Sullivan**, **Muriel Neal**, **Jean Little** via daughter **Diane Walle**, **K. W. Symons** via daughter **Diana Symons**, **Ian Firth**, **Mr. and Mrs. William Hollick** via **Jean Hollick-Gagnon**, and several individuals who have elected to remain anonymous.

Storage space is **full** until after May 7th.

I've received many calls asking when the **Giant Annual Costume Sale** will be. There are factors, but my best guess is late July or early August. Ask me again in June. In the meantime I am building a roster of volunteers for the following:

(A) Day of Sale

(B) Eight or more hours during the week before the sale

(C) Teams of two or three to help cull all areas of the loft during the month before the sale.

Call me and get in on the fun!

New Initiatives

Revision of **Jill Groves'** "Bible" continues, thanks to **Madeleine Mills**.

A suggestion from **Madeleine Mills** put into practice:

Up to now, the policy as been that a day or six weeks costs the same for all renters. The new policy is that renters attending a 'one-night-only' event only have the costume three weeks.

Have you any ideas for better service etc.? I'll listen!

Ned Lemley

Costume Co-Ordinator

Help Wanted

Langham Court Readers' Theatre

Is looking for Producers and Sound Designers

An excellent opportunity to experience production and sound design without the stress and long commitment of a stage production. **Readers' Theatre** requires producers and sound designers for next season. **RT**, like the old radio shows, performs before an audience. We rehearse on 4 Monday nights, with a performance the following Saturday. Ideally:

- producers should be computer literate and well organized.
- sound designers should have an interest in music and sound effects, be computer literate, familiar with iTunes and comfortable with technology.

For more information, contact **Peter McNab** at

petermcnab@shaw.ca

Bartenders Wanted!

Langham Court is looking for volunteers to staff our bar during the last play of the season (and next season as well). The shifts are approximately 4 to 4.5 hours long. You get to meet a lot of fun folks, including your fellow bartenders. And of course you would be working at one of the most popular venues in the theatre.

In order to serve alcoholic beverages, you must have a **Serving It Right** certificate. If you are interested in bartending but don't have **Serving It Right (SIR)**, you can take the course online. It takes only a few hours and the fee of \$35 will be reimbursed when you log a shift at the **Langham Court** bar.

If you do have **Serving It Right**, why not sign up now to tend bar for **Elizabeth Rex** which runs from June 8th to 25th? As a thank you for volunteering, you will be given a comp ticket to see the show.

To volunteer, or if you want more details, please contact the Front of House & Bar Manager, **Sylvia Lindstrom**:

e-mail: slindstrom@shaw.ca

phone: 250-383-4912

Sylvia Lindstrom

Front of House & Bar Manager

Raving Beauty Productions

Is looking to build our company. Check out our Facebook page at [Raving Beauty Productions | Facebook](#)
Stage Manager and **Lighting Designer/Techie** needed for upcoming **Fringe** show *Love Letters to Georgia*

Please call **Darlene** at **250-588-8171** to book an interview



Life Member Celebration



A Celebration of Life Members inspired and hosted by **Tommy Mayne** will take place on **Sunday, May 29th** from **2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** in the lounge.

All Life Members are invited to attend and celebrate your contributions and participation at **Langham Court Theatre**.

Please come to eat, drink and be merry. Reminisce by sharing your experiences and stories.

RSVP by May 20th to **Peter McNab**: petermcnab@shaw.ca or phone 250-298-9189.

We Got Mail

Happy to see that **Sylvia Lindstrom** is House Manager. My husband, Len, and I arrived late for the last matinee of *Lady in the Van*. I was so upset about being late, but I have to learn more patience as Len struggles with his handicap and everything is at a very slow pace. Sylvia saw us arrive and came out into the parking lot with one of the ushers and helped us into the theatre, as Len has a walker and we have to go through the back way. We then went through the lower door and to our seats, on the aisle. There was a man in our seats who refused to move, so Sylvia shifted Len to the seat in front and I moved the man over to the next seat. It caused some noise to the other folks, for which I do apologise, but Sylvia and her usher did all they could to minimize the situation. Thank you for your kindness and consideration Sylvia. We also enjoyed the show.

Marge Bridgeman

Maureen Cusack, a good friend and long-time thespian of the **Victoria Theatre Guild**, and winner of the provincial Best Actress award last summer at **Theatre BC's Mainstage Theatre Festival**, will next be appearing in **The Petition** by **Brian Clark**, produced by **Thin Ice Theatre**.

Maureen will be playing opposite professional actor, **Gordon May**. The production is directed by **Ann Gates**.

Maureen is enthusiastic about the show. She advises, "It is a FABULOUS script! I have the distinct privilege of working with one of the best directors on the Island, and I

am convinced this is so – what an amazing woman! The play is a two-hander and my partner in crime is **Gordon May**, a professional, who has kindly agreed to work with me. Wow, I'm so excited! I sure hope you see it – I know you'll love it!"

The Petition will be presented at 7:30 p.m., May 6th, 7th, 12th, 13th, 14th in the **Joe Cunningham Gallery, Oceanside Community Arts Facility**, 133 McMillan Street, Parksville, BC, V9P 1K7, telephone 250-248-8185. Tickets will be available at the door. For a location street map, please input the address online via www.mapquest.com.

The production is also an entrant in the May 22nd-28th **Theatre BC North Island Zone Festival**. The festival of plays will be presented at the **Capitol Theatre**, Port Alberni. More information about the **North Island Zone festival** is available at www.theatrebc.org.

Martin Kava

We have just finished our wonderful spring production, *The Mikado* (and I am not biased!) We had a very appreciative audience of over 2600. You might know that the costume designer and constructor was **Susan Ferguson**, who did an outstanding job!

Barbara Knoop

Executive Director

Victoria Gilbert and Sullivan Society

Dear Courtiers,

If you missed the party, you missed a good time. I wasn't the only one greeting old friends, laughing, being entertained (thanks to **Hetty Clews**, **The Nedettes: Angela Henry**, **Susan Wilkie** and **Lynda Raino**, as well as the spectacular **Marilyn Monroe** aka **Erin Hoyt**), eating great tastes (yea, Cheetos, too!)

I was so moved I can't begin to say it all. Thanks for being there and adding to my joy of it. I'll never forget. And thank you, Gil and Angela!

Ned Lemley

Auditions

(Langham Court Theatre auditions are posted on our web site at: www.langhamcourtheatre.bc.ca/auditions.html)

Raving Beauty Productions

Casting for

Love Letters to Georgia

Saturday, May 7th from 3-5 p.m. and Sunday, May 8th from 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Raving Beauty Productions was originally based in Vancouver BC, had a hit Fringe show there, and was selected as a as a holdover. We've brought our talent to Victoria and we are looking for:

- Older woman to play Georgia, a woman at death's French doors
- Two women-30's-40's-to play snarky Saints Elizabeth and Mary
- One woman 30's-40's-to play an incoherent mountaineer
- One woman late 20's-early 30's-to play Amy, Georgia's granddaughter
- One man 30's-40's-to play a helpful half naked man

Please Call Darlene at 250-588-8171 to book an audition

What's On

Langham Court Theatre
presents

A Month in the Country (After Turgenev)

By **Brian Friel**. Directed by **Toshik Bukowiecki**

A hot summer month in the Russian countryside. A bored wife seeks happiness and diversion through romance. As she juggles three lovers, sub-plots and deceptions swirl around her.

A Month in the Country runs to Saturday, May 7th. To purchase your tickets, call our Box Office at 250-384-2142, 805 Langham Court, Victoria or go to www.langhamcourtheatre.bc.ca.

Langham Court Theatre
presents

Elizabeth Rex

By **Timothy Findley**. Directed by **Judy Treloar**

"If you will teach me how to be a woman, I will teach you how to be a man." Thus speaks Elizabeth I, the queen who ruled like a man to an actor specialising in women's roles as they engage in conversation in **Timothy Findley's** award-winning play, which takes place in a barn the night before the Earl of Essex is executed.

Elizabeth Rex previews Wednesday, June 8th and runs from Thursday, June 9th to Saturday, June 25th. To purchase your tickets, call our Box Office at 250-384-2142, 805 Langham Court, Victoria or go to www.langhamcourtheatre.bc.ca

Langham Court Reader's Theatre Presents

The Ugly Duckling

by **A.A. Milne**, directed by **Luke Krayenhoff**

A comedy that has nothing to do with a duck!

A Brief Encounter

by **Noel Coward** and adapted by him as a radio play for a 1946 episode of **Academy Award Theater**, starring **Greer Garson**. Directed by **Nick Stull**

When: Saturday May 28th at 7:00 p.m. Where: **Langham Court Theatre**.
There will be an intermission with refreshments!

Hope to see you there! Bring a friend(s)!

St. Luke's Players Presents

On Golden Pond

By **Ernest Thompson**, directed by **Geoffrey Davidson**

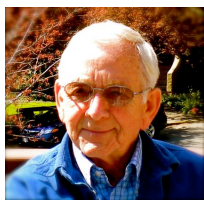
The cast includes well-known **Langham Court** members: **Geli Bartlett** as Ethel and **Dick Newson** as Norman, with **Catriona Black**, **Rich Gautier**, **Alex Bannister**, and **Rob LeBlanc**.

The play will be presented at **St Luke's Hall**, 3821 Cedar Hill X Road from **May 25th to June 5th**.

Tickets (Adults \$15, Seniors & Students \$13) can be obtained at: **Amica** at **Douglas House**, 50 Douglas Street; **Ivy's Book Shop**, 2188 Oak Bay Ave; **Petals Plus Florist**, 3749 Shelbourne Ave.; **Russell Books**, 734 Fort Street; and at the door.

For more information, please call **250-370 1291**

Our own Pooh-Bah – Life Member Barry Grimshaw



Born and raised in Leeds, **Barry Grimshaw** began his theatrical career at age 10, as the youngest member of a concert party that toured around Yorkshire. After his successful audition, the husband and wife who ran the concert party came to his house.

While there, they asked if he had a pair of black shoes or boots. Unfortunately, Barry's wardrobe didn't stretch to black footwear so the Concert Master gave him a pair of his own. As a result, at the next concert, the diminutive ten-year old, who was to perform a solo musical rendition of **Joyce Kilmer's** "Trees," was forced to clump onto the stage in a pair of enormous, oversize black boots. As well as performing with the concert party, Barry was a member of the choir at St. George's Church in Leeds. At school he would often be asked to sing "Onward Christian Soldiers" at the morning assembly, and when the boy's section of the school were putting on *The Merchant of Venice*, 13-year old Barry was handed the part of Portia. Unfortunately, two Days before the opening, Barry lost his voice completely and was unable to perform. When his voice did recover it was several octaves deeper. It wasn't until several years later that the young boy realised he'd been cast in a girl's part.

The following year, at age 14, Barry, who had been working part time as a newsboy and a butcher's assistant, left school to work in the butcher shop full time. Barry stayed at the butcher shop until he, his brother **Paul**, his mother and stepfather emigrated to Canada in late November 1950. At that time Barry was 16. The family's first stop in Canada was to Barry's stepfather's brother who lived in Griffin, a tiny hamlet in Saskatchewan approximately 16 miles from Wayvern. When our lad from Leeds got out of the truck, it was so cold he wondered whether it would be safe to breathe. While in Griffin, the whole family went to a Christmas show at the village hall. Barry and Paul both had trouble keeping straight faces when a group of dancers in paper costumes performed on stage with their paper suits rustling and crinkling in time to the music. That was bad enough, but worse was to come. When the dancers had finished, the Master of Ceremonies called on a **Mr. Beard** to come and do a recitation. **Mr. Beard** walked slowly up the aisle from the back of the hall and as he passed the two young English boys, they could see he was sporting facial fur down to his knees. Their helpless laughter did not go down at all well with their **Uncle Lloyd**. In spite of that, Barry remembers Griffin with fondness. He recalls the wonderful people who were so friendly and generous to the

newly arrived émigrés. The whole family agreed that coming to Canada was the “ultimate.”

In January 1951, the family moved on to Victoria. The first thing Barry did was to look for work. He tried to get a job as a meat cutter, as that was the trade he had learned in England, but no one in the butcher trade seemed to take the youngster seriously. So Barry finally found work in a laundry. During the time he worked there in sauna-like conditions, Barry sweated off several pounds so that after two years he emerged from the laundry in fighting fit condition. His next job was on a weather ship serving meals to the engineers and cleaning their cabins. According to the Chief Engineer, the November voyage was the worst the weather ship *Stonetown* had ever taken. The seas were extremely turbulent and Barry’s seasickness was twice as bad as it had been on the *HMS Franconia* two years earlier. The weather ship was intended to stay put in a limited area in the ocean; however the storm was so bad, the crew who had been out for four weeks, were woken at midnight having been washed out of their cabins. They were dispatched to rescue an American ship, the *SS Pennsylvania* carrying a cargo of grain that, due to a leak in the hold, had become damp and swollen. As a result, the *Pennsylvania* was sinking. The weather ship, which had to travel 30 miles, was unable to go at speed. Barry recalls the ocean heaving and rolling, the surface littered with flares dropped from US planes and the water filled with “junk.” Barry has vivid memories of that night and the desperate hope that they could rescue somebody, anybody, off the *Pennsylvania*. Unfortunately, there were 42 lost lives that night. Barry felt sick and tired, and the next morning he and a friend refused to get out of their bunks at the usual time. Their refusal lasted only until a very large member of the crew threw a bucket of water on them.

Shortly after his experience on the weather ship, Barry finally got a job as a butcher at **Avonlea Meat Market** on Douglas Street. He stayed there until he was made Manager of the Meat Department at **Lewis’s** on Foul Bay Road. From there, Barry made specialty meat pies at **Lundines** until he opened his own pie shop in the Strathcona Block.

Barry’s first stage appearance in Victoria was as Pooh-Bah in the **VOS** production of *The Mikado* in 1962 at **Oak Bay Junior High**, a role he reprised in the 1985 **VOS** production at the **MacPherson Playhouse**. This was followed by roles in several **VOS** and **Bastion Theatre** productions including *The Winslow Boy*, *The Red Mill*, and *The Merry Widow* directed by **Allan Purdy**, *Murder in the Cathedral* directed by **Audrey Johnson** and *Blood Wedding*, *Carnival* and *Lock Up Your Daughters*, under the direction of **Peter Mannering**. Barry’s first role at **Langham Court Theatre** was as the Burgomaster in the 1975 production of *The Visit*. Since then, Barry has performed in more than 20 productions for the **Victoria Theatre Guild** including *The Sunshine Boys*,

Cause Célebre, *Go Back For Murder*, *Spider’s Web*, *The Boy Friend*, *Bus Stop*, *42nd Street*, *Money and Friends* and, most recently, *The Lady in the Van* in which he strode on stage looking very much like a benevolent Bill Sykes. At the same time, he has been active with **VOS** in musicals such as *My Fair Lady* (in which he played Alfred Doolittle in both the 1978 and 1990 productions), *South Pacific*, and *Guys and Dolls* among others, and he has been seen on stage with other groups around Victoria and on Saltspring Island.

Although he had a limited amount of training in carpentry, Barry has become an invaluable member of the set construction crew at **Langham Court Theatre**. He joined the set-building team in September 2000 and has been working alongside **Bill Adams**, **Dick Newson**, **Julius Maslovat**, **Bob Clark** and others ever since. When not working with a hammer or a script, Barry reads to the residents of **James Bay Lodge**, who all enjoy the stories from **James Herriot’s** books, stories that remind Barry of the glorious months during World War II when he and his brother were evacuated to a farm near Malton in North Yorkshire.

Are you receiving us???

If you do not have an e-mail address, could you please arrange to pick up your copy of the Newsletter from the theatre during Box Office hours. If there are any concerns about this please, contact Denise at gm.langhamcourt@shaw.ca. We will have Newsletters available in the theatre lobby on the first of the month in a limited amount. Because we are trying to be ‘green.’ please ask someone in the Box Office if you need a hard copy. We thank you for your understanding.

Life Members Welcome

The President and Board extend an invitation to all **Victoria Theatre Guild** Members to attend the Meet and Greet that precedes each production. The Meet and Greet for *Elizabeth Rex* is on Monday, May 16th at 6:00 p.m. Life Members please join the cast and crew of each production as well as Board members and new members in an evening of eats, drinks and interesting conversation

Do you have something to say?

This is your newsletter, and we welcome your news, comments, letters and ideas. The deadline for each monthly issue is the 20th of the preceding month, i.e. the deadline for the June issue will be May 20th and so on. Please send your information by e-mail to **Corinna Gilliland** (catfael@shaw.ca). **Langham Court News** welcomes news from other groups too. So let's support each other's endeavours in our theatre community

Mark Your Calendar

Wednesday, April 20 – Saturday, May 7

A Month in the Country

Saturday, May 7

Auditions for Raving Beauty Productions

Sunday, May 8

Auditions for Raving Beauty Productions

Friday, May 13 – Sunday, May 15

ACTivate, The Amateur Thespian One-Act Festival

Monday, May 16

6:00 p.m. Meet and Greet for *Elizabeth Rex*. Life Members Welcome.

Wednesday, May 25 – Sunday, June 5

St. Luke's Players presents *On Golden Pond*

Saturday, May 28

Readers' Theatre presents an Evening of One Act Plays including *The Ugly Duckling* and *Brief Encounter*

Sunday, May 29

Life Member Celebrations

Wednesday, June 8 – Saturday, June 25

Elizabeth Rex

Sunday, June 12

2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Art-show in the lounge



2011/2012 Board of Directors

President:	Toshik Bukowiecki
Vice-President:	Luke Krayenhoff
Secretary:	Andrea Pite
Treasurer:	Jon Scheer
2010-11 Production Chair:	Roger Carr
2011-12 Production Chairs:	Keith Digby and Cynthia Pronick
Past President:	Sylvia Rhodes
2-year Members-at-Large:	Kevin Stinson, Alan Penty
1-year Member-at-Large:	Michael Kuss, Peter McNab

Membership Chair & Volunteer Co-ordinator:
House Manager:
Technical Director:
Facilities Maintenance:
Head Scenic Carpenter:

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Langham Court News is published 11 times a year
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Archival photos enhanced by Paul Bertorelli

Deadline for submissions is no later than the **20th day of the month** preceding the month of publication, e.g. the deadline for the **June 1st issue is May 20th**. Please send submissions by e-mail to Corinna Gilliland (catfael@shaw.ca) or by mail to the Victoria Theatre Guild.

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