

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."

June 2012

The Foreigner Arrives June 14th





Perry Burton and Nick Sept in a scene from *The Foreigner*.
Photo by David Lowes



Art Show



From June 14th to June 30th, during the run of *The Foreigner*, the featured artists will be **Todd M. Ayotte**, **Ken Mason** and **Chris Raines**. The three artists will be in the lounge on Sunday, June 17th from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Todd M. Ayotte

Todd has been drawing and creating for as long as he can remember. He attended the **Alberta College of Art and Design**, where he fell in love with sculpting. Since moving to Victoria in 2000, Todd has found his release through illustration and painting, and has recently begun experimenting with stone etchings. He has many muses – both real and imagined. An apprentice carpenter, Todd dreams of one day building the sculptures that exist in his head.

Ken Mason

Ken was born in Calgary. Stricken with boredom at an early age, he devoted his life to alleviating it with art and pedagogy across Canada, the U.S. and Japan. Since arriving in Victoria with his wife last fall, he has been warmly welcomed by **Langham Court Theatre** and the **Selkirk Montessori School**. He briefly explains why he uses hair at www.haircraft.org.

Chris Raines

Chris has been surrounded by photography his entire life, as his Dad and Granddad were both shutterbugs, but only recently has he truly focused on the more artistic side of photography. He enjoys capturing travel adventures, the beauty of where he lives, and the people and world around him. This display at **Langham Court Theatre** represents only his second public exhibit. He is thankful for the opportunity, and hopes you like what you see.

*****Important Notice*****

Victoria Theatre Guild Summer General Meeting and Barbecue

Sunday, July 8th
Meeting 4:00 p.m.
Langham Court Theatre

There will be several brief reports, and then the main business of the meeting will be deciding if the Guild membership supports the Board's proposal to change our current system of electing/acclaiming a Production Chair at each SGM to a system of appointing an Artistic Director (see the Strategic Planning information in the May newsletter.)

If the proposal is supported, there will be no need to select a new Planning Production Chairperson at the SGM. If the proposal is not supported, then a new Planning Production Chair will need to be selected at the SGM, as usual. Your voice and opinion are very important – please plan to attend this meeting and make your vote count.

In Brief - Under the proposed plan, as the Board is the body charged with the responsibilities of the Guild's operation, the Artistic Director would be appointed/removed by the Board (rather than elected by the membership) and required to attend Board meetings but would not have voting privileges. This would mean decreasing the size of the Board by two voting positions (Planning and Active Production Chairpersons) or adding two more Members-at-large to continue the current number of voting positions.

Details of the changes that would be required to our by-laws, if the proposal is supported, will be posted separately on our website or available at the theatre by June 8th.

The barbecue will follow the meeting.

The bar will be open.

Please bring something to barbecue and a potluck item to share.

Notice to Members of A Special Resolution at the Summer General Meeting

At the Summer General Meeting, to be held on Sunday, July 8th at 4 p.m., at **Langham Court Theatre**, a **Special Resolution** will be put forward to the membership, subject to the condition noted below, to revise the current bylaws of the **Victoria Theatre Guild and Dramatic School** by removing the elected Board positions of Active and Planning Production Chairpersons and replacing those positions with an Artistic Director who is appointed by the Board and will serve ex officio.

Note that prior to the Special Resolution being put forward, there will be a discussion about the intention and logistics of the proposed change to an Artistic Director model, and the Special Resolution will **only** be put forward to the membership if the membership supports the proposed change.

The proposed text of the changes to the Bylaws, should the change to an Artistic Director be supported, together with a tracked changes version (showing changes from the present bylaws) will be available to all members beginning June 8th, 2012.

To avoid unnecessary mailing costs, as of **Friday, June 8th, 2012**, if you wish to obtain a copy of the proposed changes to the Bylaws to review, please do one of the following:

- a) drop by the theatre to obtain one from the Box Office;

- b) visit the Langham Court Theatre website (www.langhamtheatre.ca) and click on the link on “Members” and then “Notices” for “Proposed Bylaw Changes - July 2012”; or
 c) email your request to karrie.wolfe@gmail.com and an electronic copy will be sent to you.

On June 8th, notice will be emailed to all members on the theatre's email distribution list advising that the proposed changes have been finalised and reminding members of the three ways to obtain a copy.

Questions or concerns about the text of the proposed changes to the Bylaws or the Special Resolution can be directed to Karrie Wolfe - karrie.wolfe@gmail.com or (250) 589-9653.

Questions or concerns about the proposed change to an Artistic Director model can be directed to the Board, c/o Toshik Bukowiecki - toshik@pacificcoast.net or (250) 388-5769.

A Few Facts and Figures

Looks like this year's season holds the distinction of bottom 3 plays ever and 4 in the bottom 8 (out of a total of 120 plays), and the No 1 play (also the most expensive and most Equity members in the cast). This 2011-2012 season in total is also likely to be the worst overall average in the past 20 years.

Top 15 Shows

| Title | Season | %Paid |
|---------------------------------|---------|-------|
| <i>The Drowsy Chaperone</i> | 2011-12 | 95.00 |
| <i>Pygmalion</i> | 95-96 | 94.50 |
| <i>Irma Vep</i> | 94-95 | 94.30 |
| <i>Lettice and Lovage</i> | 93-94 | 93.40 |
| <i>Maggie's Getting Married</i> | 2005-06 | 92.71 |
| <i>This Happy Breed</i> | 94-95 | 91.90 |
| <i>Noises Off</i> | 99-00 | 91.78 |
| <i>The Cemetery Club</i> | 2007-08 | 91.43 |
| <i>The Mousetrap</i> | 2002-03 | 90.20 |
| <i>Enchanted April</i> | 2007-08 | 89.88 |
| <i>Waiting in the Wings</i> | 2006-07 | 89.61 |
| <i>Private Lives</i> | 2003-04 | 89.57 |
| <i>Act of the Imagination</i> | 2006-07 | 89.34 |
| <i>Breaking the Code</i> | 93-94 | 88.70 |
| <i>Lion in Winter</i> | 2002-03 | 88.50 |

Bottom 15 Shows

| Title | Season | %Paid |
|--------------------------------|---------|-------|
| <i>A Trip to Bountiful</i> | 2002-03 | 61.74 |
| <i>That Summer</i> | 2008-09 | 61.34 |
| <i>Memory of Water</i> | 2010-11 | 61.29 |
| <i>Scotland Road</i> | 2007-08 | 60.85 |
| <i>The Long Weekend</i> | 2007-08 | 60.47 |
| <i>Goodbye Freddy</i> | 2000-01 | 60.31 |
| <i>Love and Anger</i> | 2004-05 | 58.95 |
| <i>Pink Thunderbird . . .</i> | 2011-12 | 58.80 |
| <i>Mother Courage</i> | 99-00 | 58.45 |
| <i>Night of the Iguana</i> | 97-98 | 57.80 |
| <i>Blood Wedding</i> | 2001-02 | 56.16 |
| <i>Cass Maguire</i> | 97-98 | 55.10 |
| <i>Beauty Queen of Leenane</i> | 2011-12 | 54.83 |
| <i>The Melville Boys</i> | 2011-12 | 54.14 |
| <i>Rabbit Hole</i> | 2011-12 | 44.81 |

Audience who Paid for Tickets

The Langham Court Theatre paying audience has declined by 20.2% from 85.2% in 2005-2006 to an estimated 65 percent for this season.(The Foreigner is estimated at 75 percent).

| 2005-2006 | 2006-2007 | 2007-2008 | 2008-2009 | 2009-2010 | 2010-2011 | 2011-2012 |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 85.20 | 75.12 | 80.68 | 76.48 | 74.93 | 71.08 | 64.45 |

At current ticket prices, the difference between an 85 percent season and a 65 percent represents a loss in revenue of about \$50,000 a year. Each 1percent is about \$2,500.

Finances

It is really hard to describe financial stuff without lots of “if this” and “ if you don't include that” etc. However, some of the the basic issues seem to be:

1. Audience attendance has gone down in 5 of the past 6 years. Crashed by 8 percent this season.
2. The Guild is dependent on grants and donations to pay its way. The accounts indicate that the Guild has spent more than it has earned over the past four years even including grants and donations. (With the exception of the \$100,000 bequest from **Jack Droy**.)
3. Grants and donations are uncertain, as the cancellation of the Bingo grant showed. So it is risky to depend on them to pay for operating the theatre.
4. Operating costs have increased by \$30,000-\$40,000 a year or about 20 percent over the past four years. Revenues have stayed fairly flat despite price increases.
5. It's difficult to see how the number of shows in a season or the number of performances per show can be much increased.
6. "Staff" payments may increase next year. This will add to operating costs.
7. Ticket prices increased last year. Will another increase next year bring in more revenue?
8. There is a long-term plan in progress. Will it lead to short term expectations to spend on costly renovations/improvements?

Fortunately, there is cash in the bank which usually is at minimum \$100,000 at the financial year end (Aug 31st) to meet commitments, cash flow and uncertainties for the next season. Also there is a \$100,000 bequest by **Jack Droy**. If current audience trends continue without grants and/or donations, the available funds will be depleted. Big renovations in the near future could be a risky venture.

5 years ago the Finance Committee at the time prepared a set of guidelines. They are summarised below:

1. Don't spend more than you earn.
2. Save surpluses (profits) until matching grants are available for renovations.
3. Budget to make a profit every year - and stick to the budget.

And without making any artistic judgements, I add my own:

4. Pick plays that audiences are willing to pay to see.

Mike Chadwick
Life Member

A Langham Court History Lesson

Letters From Concerned Members

To the Board of Control:

On Thursday May 10th I spent 3 hours up in the Archives at the University of Victoria. I photocopied important aspects of the following:

Sylvia Rhodes (then **Hatchman**), **Toshik** (then **Tony Bukowiecki**), **Angela Henry**, **Hetty Clews**, **Antoinette Church**, **Ginny Carter**, **Graham Thompson**, **Rube Price** (deceased), **Mary Jane Scott** (deceased), **Mary Jane Lewis**, **Denis Johnston**, were some of the people involved in what happened 35 years ago, in 1977 and 1978. Before this period, the season was chosen by The Board.

On February 14th 1977, **Hetty Clews** was President, and she recommended that the Production Chair **not** be someone on the Board, so **Mary Jane Lewis** was appointed. She resigned rather quickly, and then **Hetty** resigned, but was persuaded to come back. So **Sylvia** was appointed the Production Chair, and I have a copy of a letter of resignation she wrote on October 3rd, 1977. She resigned as Vice President, Membership Chair and

"Production Chair". Please note this all took place in 8 months.

The Board appointed Production Chairs, who resigned or were "let go," etc. **Mary Jane Lewis** was appointed by **Mary Jane Scott**, even though Hetty was President.

Helen Smith appointed **Tony (Toshik) Bukowiecki**, **Denis Johnston**, **Sylvia Hatchman (Rhodes)**. Then **Hetty** resigned again. It goes on and on, it is angry, vicious stuff and quite a lot of important things are missing.

For those of you newer Board members, if you are confused by any names, please ask Sylvia or Toshik. (I had recently arrived in Victoria in 1977, and had just started acting at **Langham Court**. Although I remember there was great concern about my desire to direct *The Killing of Sister George*, or *The Children's Hour* (both plays about Lesbians – why I'm not sure!), eventually I did direct both of those

plays, **after** the Production Chair became an “elected” position).

There was no record of the AGM of 1978, but I am sure that was when **Rube Price** had the constitution amended to ensure a Production Chair was another Board Member to be elected by the membership.

Suddenly, at the AGM of 15th January 1979, **Rube Price** was elected **by the membership** as Production Chair. Before the elections, **Tony Bukowiecki** had been chosen by **the Board** to be the Production Chair.

Rube stayed in that position for at least **three** years, voted **by** the Membership. **Mary Jane Scott** succeeded Rube, but resigned in 1983 due to ill health. **Adrian Jarvis** then became Production Chair. Since that time, the P.C. was elected by the membership at the January Meetings. An improvement came when the P.C. was elected at the June meeting, giving the P.C. more time to finalise a season and Directors.

I am deeply concerned to read about planned changes in the latest newsletter re. The Production Chair.

This new proposition is **not new**. It is 35 years old, and it didn't work the first time.

Letter to the Board of Langham Court Theatre:

As a long-time member of **Langham Court Theatre** and a Life Member, I would like to respond to the suggestion in the May Newsletter that the Production Chair be replaced by an Artistic Director for a term of two years. To be voted on at the upcoming summer AGM.

The suggestion is that this would 'allow us to plan more ambitious productions' and enable us to have a 'greater consistency in the type of productions we offer our patrons.'

My first question is: Why change a play selection process that has worked extremely well for the last 34 years?

Does the phrase 'more ambitious productions' mean large royalties and production expenses? I am not against exciting productions; however, I am concerned about overly expensive productions and their impact on the financial security of the theatre. According to the theatre's accounts, for the last three years, more money has been going out than has been coming in (not taking into account the bequest from **Jack Droy**).

Having worked on many **Langham Court** productions, as a producer and in other production capacities, it is my

I have spoken to Sylvia and Angela, but their memories are vague. Well, so are mine; after all, it was 35 years ago. We are not a “regional” theatre, we are a community theatre. I will be sending this letter to the newsletter. I am also e-mailing it to all my addresses. I am considering putting it on my Facebook page. I am asking you all to re-think and reconsider what you are proposing.

Has anyone considered a Production Chair be elected for two years as are other Board members now?

My love for **Langham Court Theatre**, the past, the present and the future, is deep. I treasure the friends I have made, the work I have done, and the young people all coming in to take over from us.

This is as it should be!

(On another point, the words Artistic Director do not apply to a community theatre. An Artistic Director is a paid position that must be applied for, complete with C.V., recommendations, interviews etc. for a professional theatre company.)

Respectfully submitted for your consideration,

Judy Treloar (Bradshaw)

Actor (retired), Teacher (retired), Langham Court Theatre Administrator (retired), Theatre BC Theatre Consultant (retired), Director (not retired).

opinion that **Langham Court Theatre** is already stretched to its limit in terms of manpower and funds. The same people get asked to work on shows over and over again, often leading to burnout and frustration. Almost everyone who works on a production is a volunteer. More ambitious productions means a greater demand for volunteer input.

What does 'greater consistency mean'? Is this an artistic or financial issue?

We are a community theatre, we are not a professional theatre or a regional theatre; therefore we depend on our volunteers to make the theatre function. We draw our volunteers from the membership; therefore, it is vital that they have a say in choosing the person who will be selecting the plays that they will be asked to work on. The Board of Control decides on most aspects of the running of the theatre. Do not take away the one opportunity the membership have to contribute to the life of their theatre. Do not take away the uniqueness that is **Langham Court Theatre**.

*Sincerely,
Jean Topham
Life Member*

Open Letter From Four Seasons Musical Theatre Society

I would like to send a big thank you to all the folks that helped make our 2011-2012 Season such a success. Without the many dedicated and talented volunteer production team members, designers, backstage folks, musicians and performers, we could not have produced the full-length musicals *Narnia* and *Charlotte's Web*, and our fun Christmas one-act, *Bulby*.

As a follow-up note to my last **Langham Court** Newsletter message, we have moved our full-length *Seussical* forward to the fall of 2013. We had received the rights to it in the fall of 2012, but due to a mix-up beyond our control, it is better for us to produce the show a year later. We have the rights, so we'll have even more time to prepare!

Four Seasons is attracting talent and has a dedicated audience. We are a family-friendly place to volunteer, so please consider joining us for our 2012-2013 Season – *Honk!*, the award-winning modern re-telling of the ugly duckling story, and *Oliver!*, a fantastic musical “Twist” on the old Dickens tale.

Please consider joining us as a volunteer, seeing our shows, and helping spread the word! We are always interested in new stage directors, musical directors, choreographers, producers, musicians and crew. For more information go to www.fourseasonsmusicaltheatre.com

Cheers,
Terry Rowsell

A Message From Jean Topham

I met young man a few weeks ago, and was captivated by the photographic idea that he has developed, and for that reason decided that I would like to share it with the membership - it might be something that some members would like to follow up on.

An individual's interests highlight his or her character and have significant meaning: Gardening, writing, reading, hiking, or having tea with a loved one. The challenge is that we often don't think about how important these defining passions are until it is too late.

Now is the time to reflect. What activities do my parents or loved one engage in on a regular basis? What does this

mean for me and for others? How will we remember this person? How will we pass on our memories of them to the next generation?

Many of us gather a history of a family member once they are gone. As important as that is, the life being lived in the present is so worth marking. Take time to reflect, share those thoughts with your loved ones and capture their lives.

The next generation will thank you.

Rob Jirucha is a photographer whose camera records the unique character of each individual. See examples of his work at www.legacybyphotography.com or call him at (250)-478-5188

A Thank You Letter From Target Theatre

Target Theatre would like to express their sincere appreciation to the wonderful professional and efficient assistance provided to them by the **Langham Court** staff and volunteers at their May fund raiser, *You Can't Take It With You*.

Special thank-yous to **Denise Brown, Peta and Alan MacKenzie, Suzanne Fossey, Ned Lemley, Bill Adams, Eileen Bennett** and last but especially not least, **Alex Carroll** who so beautifully managed the rush of sold out seats for the enthusiastic crowd. **Target Theatre** would also

like to express their appreciation of the **Langham Court** venue; the charming, clean and attractive theatre created an ideal setting for the performance and other activities such as the auction and pre/post-show gatherings.

The support and generous assistance provided by **Langham Court** makes possible the continuation of local arts and culture in an era of funding cuts and budget restraints; this is what community is all about, and **Target Theatre** is deeply grateful.

Annie Scoones
For Target Theatre

Editor's Notes . . .

First of all, I wish to thank all those who contributed to this, the final issue of the 2011-2012 Season, particularly those who submitted their material before the deadline. First on my thank-you list is my invaluable proof-reader, **Danda Humphreys** who, in spite of a book launching (yes, her latest volume, *Government Street: Victoria's Heritage Mile*, is now available in bookstores, so hurry and get your copy today) and preparations for a European pilgrimage, took the time to rid the Newsletter of unwanted colons and to chase up misplaced commas. Bless you Danda, your help and support and our monthly get-togethers help make my job as editor a whole lot more fun and rewarding. Also, high on my list is **Denise Brown**. Were it not for Denise, I could not deliver and you could not receive this monthly opus. I am also extremely thankful to those who contribute on a regular basis: **Lisa Leighton**, who produces a wonderful, elegant column each month in spite of an extremely busy life, **Ned Lemley**, who keeps us all in touch with what goes on in the Loft; **Dave Hitchcock**, who sends us all the scuttlebutt from **St. Luke's Players**, **Terry Rowsell**, who provides us with the goings-on at **Four Seasons Musical Theatre**; and **David Lowes**, whose wonderful publicity photos adorn most issues throughout the year. As well, this month, we have been fortunate to receive notices, news and views from **Joy Broomfield** who keeps us in touch with the **Victoria G & S Society**; **Annie Scoones** who does the same from **Target Theatre**; **Toshik Bukowiecki**, **Michael Chadwick**, **Keith Digby**, **Angela Henry**, **Heather Day Jeliakov**, **Christine Karpiak**, **Jeani Reynolds**, **Sylvia Rhodes**, **Jean Topham**, **Judy Treloar** and **Karrie Wolfe**. My thanks to all of you, and thank you to all of you who take the time to read the newsletter and send me feedback.

Even though there's but one play left in our 2011-2012 Season and even though we are getting closer to summer, life at **Langham Court** seems to be as busy as ever. *The Foreigner* previews on Wednesday, June 13th, opens Thursday, June 14th, and runs to Saturday, June 30th. The Summer General Meeting and Barbecue is on Sunday, July 8th. A number of issues that affect the future of our theatre are to be discussed and voted upon at this meeting, and I urge you, **all of you**, to come, get involved in the discussion and cast your ballot. Apathy is not an option!

Sunday, July 15th. Mark this date in your calendar. It is the day in which one of the major events of the **Langham Court Theatre** year occurs. I am speaking, of course, about the **Giant Annual Costume Sale** that will be run by a group of dedicated volunteers headed up by our own Costume Loft Manager, **Ned Lemley**. Later in the month, on the weekend of July 21st and 22nd, **Sylvia Rhodes** will be holding auditions for *84 Charing Cross Road*, which

begins rehearsal in August. Also in August, on the 11th and 12th of the month, **Angela Henry** will be auditioning actors for *Lady Windermere's Fan*.

As well as the events in and around our own theatre, other venues in town are keeping occupied throughout the summer. For example, the **St. Luke's** play, *Murdered to Death*, on now, will be running until June 3rd. In this production, our follows in the **Hickson**, and **Julia** in this spoof on On June 8th and will be holding production of the *Constant Wife*. **Keith Digby** and co-teaching a Workshop that June 10th. On the the **Friends of the Library** will be holding another of their mammoth book sales at the **Nellie McClung Library** on Cedar Hill and McKenzie. Then in July, from the 1st to the 14th, Keith will again be co-teaching, this time it is for a residential theatre and film workshop aimed at young performers. On July 14th and 15th, the **Pacific Tattoo** at the Bear Mountain Arena in Colwood sounds like an event worth getting involved in, and on Sunday, August 5th, the **Symphony Splash** is another event that cries out for volunteers. Finally, from August 24th to September 3rd, **Langham Court Theatre** will be one of the venues during the **2012 Fringe Festival**.



very own **Pearl Arden** footsteps of **Joan Geraldine McEwan McKenzie** in her role British mystery shows. 9th, **St. Luke's Players** auditions for their first 2012-2013 season, *The* Also on June 8th, **Brian Paisley** will be Screenwriting finishes on Sunday, 23rd and 24th of June,

Lots to do, lots to see. Your Editor is taking the month off so the next newsletter will be out on August 1st, which means the deadline for contributions is July 20th. Have a great summer everybody, and I'll see you all at the **SGM** on July 8th.



Notes from Aloft

More on the Giant Annual Costume Sale

Thanks to those of you who have contacted me re: the G.A.S. I'm glad to have your help. Also thanks to those who have been holding off bringing donations difficult to store. Bring them **now!** At the moment of this writing (May 9th) my living room looks like a scene from *Hoarders*. I've moved several donations into it and will bring in more in the next few days

Those who have responded to my request for help with the G.A.S. include: **Garth Taylor**, who will once again be taking cash on stage, **Antoinette Church**, who will take cash at the jewelry counter, **Jill Groves** will take plastic in the Loft. I think **Fran Patterson** agreed to be the greeter in the lane again this year. Call me, Fran, if I got that wrong. **Lynn Cadrain** and her -- heck I've lost it -- sister or daughter (sorry folks), will be catering the lunch. **Peta MacKenzie** will sell footwear again. She and **Alan** have really developed that back-of-the-house space into a show-place for shoes over the past several years. I expect **Lisa Leighton** will have a fabric concession with proceeds going to the Costume Construction Room. As well as these wonderful people, there are many others, both regular G.A.S. volunteers and new, stepping forward everyday.

The Culling Season is Upon Us

Those who have adopted a rack need to be culling right now. If you haven't adopted a rack or box and would like to help out, come to the Loft during business hours and be assigned your own rack or box and start culling. How many pairs of white gloves do we need, for Pete's sake? I can offer guidance if you are new to the costume-culling game.

Jill's Birthday

Jill Groves' birthday celebration was a wonderful event. Her daughter, **Joanna**, whom I had the pleasure of having in my kindergarten class when she was a child, created a wonderful party for her mother in the lounge May 2nd. It was a lavish tea and there was a large crowd of well-wishers on hand to enjoy the treats and sing Happy Birthday to Jill, who looked terrific and beatific. Even though she had laryngitis, she regaled us with her memories and wit, and responded to questions like a practised crowd pleaser. Jill was the epitome of grace and composure even when I asked the crowd to tell stories that might mildly embarrass her but allow us to laugh at her expense. I have to report that there were no such stories. Obviously Jill has always been perfect or, at least, very discreet. It was a lot of fun to be in the group that saluted her on that day.

Photo Identification Party

Talking about Jill's Birthday Party makes me think of the wonderful get together of those of us who attended the

photo identification parade. The idea was to get together Guild members from now to way back and to go through our photographic archive trying to identify unnamed actors and crews members in pictures. As I understand, since **John Gilliland's** passing our archives are to be stored at **UVic**. However, the University archives will only take pictures in which all the people can be identified. Seems fair enough, so our Archive Committee has been working on this for sometime. Thank you, **Jean Topham**, who negotiated with **UVic** to take the archives, **Marilyn Kuss**, **Toshik Bukowiecki**, **Drew Waveryn** and many others.

The ID party was terrific. Those present included: **Tommy Mayne**, as always, sharp as a tack, **Hetty** and **Alan Clews**, **Marge Bridgeman**, **Phyllis Gaskell**, **Corinna Gilliland**, **Garth Taylor**, **Nick Stull**, **Jutta Woodland**, **Ginny Carter**, **Carolyn Stephenson**, **Antoinette Church**, **Penny Devlin**, **Sylvia Rhodes**, **Jill Groves**, **Jane French**, **Nan Long** and, of course, **Toshik**, and **Marilyn**.

Donations

The Loft has received donations from the following individuals: **Barb Waldner**, **Ken Culham** via **Cam Culham**, **Terri Haggert**, **Thelma Midori** via her best friends, **Ann McEwan** via **Jean Kucy**, **Solange**, **Valerie Braunschweig**, **Angela Henry**, **Janet** and **Charles Simpson**, **Michelle Isherwood**, **St. Lukes' Players** via **Pearl Arden**, **Kirsten Van Ritzen**, **Connie Thompson** via **Iris Glen**, **Tetje Thomson** via daughter **Tetje**, **Al** and **Ann McEwan**.

150th Birthday Celebrations

Next August and September, the city of Victoria is celebrating its 150th birthday. The Rockland Street Committee is planning a number of events at locations such as **Craigdarroch Castle** and the **Art Gallery of Greater Victoria**. **Langham Court Theatre** has been asked to plan something and the part I want to address now is the proposal for a fashion show of 15 decades of dress. **Louise Osselton** of **Heritage Productions** has agreed to provide the garments and the models from 1860 to the mid-twentieth century. She is willing to combine her group with ours to bring the show to the present day. I'm looking for someone on our end who will liaise with Louise and build the more contemporary end out of our collection using our models. Louise has a commentary already written for her part. Our coordinator would have to write or have someone write one to meld with Louise's. I think it could be a very attractive event and bring people to **Langham Court** who have never been. Any takers? It's purely voluntary. If you are interested, please contact me at l.n.lemley@gmail.com.

Ned Lemley
Costume Loft Manager

News from the Costume Workshop

The Big Sort

On Sunday, April 29th, five intrepid souls took on spring cleaning the Costume Workshop. And won! From noon until nearly 5 p.m., **Barb Waldner, Lynn Cadrain, Jane Krieger, Lara Eichhorn** and I waded through piles of donated fabrics, notions and equipment, sorting what to keep, what to put into the annual clothing sale, and what was beyond redemption. The room is once again usable and organized, and thanks mostly to **Lara**, we also got a start on measuring and tagging fabric for the sale. Enormous thanks to all for an afternoon of hard work and wonderful company.

The Borrow Binder

As this issue goes out, I'll be putting a new binder into the Costume Workshop, for keeping track of what we borrow from the room. There will be sections/sheets for sewing patterns, books and magazines, the Commercial Pattern Archive DVDs, the Threads techniques DVDS, the Sure-Fit system, and various equipment. If you wish to borrow items from the room, please record the loan in the binder, going out and coming back. If there is no section or sheet for something you would like to borrow, please contact me.

Forget Models – Actors Needed

Okay, maybe the word “models” sent you all running. How about this: in the next while (schedule to come), we need actors to stand in place wearing costumes from the **special costume collection**, to be photographed. It's mostly women's costumes, but we will need a few men, as well.

No previous experience required, no lines to rehearse, and no notes. If you can lend a hand (and the rest of your body), please let me know, or let **Ned Lemley** know. **Langham Court** member **Lara Eichhorn**, who is a professional photographer, will be taking the photos for us, if we can coax anyone to volunteer.

The Saga of the Scissors

Karma apparently matters to **Langham Courtiers**. Our missing scissors have been reported returned, although at this writing, I haven't been in to see them. To whomever returned the scissors, thank you. Your karma is improved.

The Sorting Continues ...

No one has suggested a next Costume Guild workshop, for June, and everyone seems especially busy right now, so let's pick it up again in August and plan for the fall and winter. Meantime, we have a lot more fabric to cull, measure and tag for the annual sale, so I will email Guild members about getting together in June as schedules permit. If anyone is keen to help, please contact me. We will also need help setting up on July 14th and during the sale on July 15th, so if you can spare some time, it would be very much appreciated. Thanks.

Lisa Leighton
for the Costume Workshop
(250) 595-5523 leighton@islandnet.com

Market Place

Volunteers with Backstage Experience Needed for the Largest Indoor Show on Vancouver Island.

The **Pacific Tattoo** takes place on Saturday, July 14th, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. and on Sunday, July 15th, 2012 at 1:30pm and 7:30 p.m. at the Bear Mountain Arena in Colwood

Victoria welcomes hundreds of performers from around the world for the inaugural **Pacific Tattoo**, a musical extravaganza that provides exhilarating entertainment for the entire family. A tightly woven, full production spectacle of music and movement, the **Pacific Tattoo** features military bands, massed pipes and drums, 60 dancers, 55 singers, drill teams, animal acts and special skills demonstrations. Many of the performers have appeared previously at the world-renowned **Edinburgh Tattoo** and Halifax's **Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo**.

Volunteer set-up, strike and running crew are needed. Crew shirt and food provided. Please visit www.pacifictattoo.ca for more information

Wanted: Stage Manager

The **Victoria Gilbert and Sullivan Society** is looking for a Stage Manager for their March 2013 production of **Ruddigore**. For details, please phone Joy (250) 889-5962.

Costume Designer and Props Coordinator Needed

VOS needs a Costume Designer and a Props Coordinator for **The Sound of Music** in December 2012. We are also in need of sewers. If interested, please contact **Mary-Lynne Britt** at (250) 472-0907 or marylynnebritt@gmail.com.

Auditions

Langham Court Theatre

(Langham Court Theatre auditions are posted on our web site at: www.langhamtheatre.ca/support/auditions/)

First show of the 2012-2013 Season!

84 Charing Cross Road

By **Helene Hanff**. Directed by **Sylvia Rhodes**

When: Saturday and Sunday, July 21st and 22nd, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Cast: 2 women ages 35 to 45, with North American accents

3 women 25 to 45 with British accents

4 men with British accents 3 ages 25 to 50, 1 aged 15 to 18.

Rehearsals begin August 14th. Production dates: October 4th to 20th.

Anyone not able to attend auditions on those dates please email Sylvia rhodes.s@shaw.ca

Scripts available for short-term loan at **Langham Court Theatre**.

A long distance friendship develops over 20 years, between a feisty New York writer and a more prosaic bookseller and his staff surviving the problems of war-torn Britain just after World War II.



Lady Windermere's Fan

By **Oscar Wilde**. Directed by **Angela Henry**

When: Saturday and Sunday, August 11th and 12th, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Call Backs: Monday, August 13th, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

1st Read-through Act I: Thursday, August 16th, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

2nd Read-through Act II: Friday, August 17th, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Rehearsals: will begin Tuesday, September 11th, 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. and every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday evenings.

Performance Dates: November 21st to December 8th, 2012

Actors Needed: 7 men age-range 20 – 70 years approx

9 women age-range 20 – 60 years approx

English accents attempted

Notes about the play: **Oscar Wilde** draws us into the world of high society at the end of the Victorian era and pokes fun at the class system, the morality, and the rigidity of London society. Think *Downton Abbey*, first season. The characters must wrestle with issues of gender identity, marriage and appearances while seeking ways to express their passions. The dialogue is witty and acerbic. The women are either spirited & intelligent, bridled by the constraints of their time, or characters resigned to the “game” they must play. The men are searching for masculine identity and range from depressive to outrageous. There are many lovely character roles. The ballroom scene is an excellent opportunity for actors wanting a small part in a great costume. Scripts available at the theatre for perusal before auditions.



The Constant Wife

Written by **W. Somerset Maugham**. Directed by **Don Keith**

When: Friday, June 8th, 7:30 p.m. Sunday, June 10th, 2.00 p.m.

Wednesday June 13th, 7.30 p.m. (if necessary)

Where: St. Luke's Hall, 3821 Cedar Hill X Road (at Cedar Hill Road)

Director: **Don Keith**, Tel: (250) 385-4885, Email: drkeith1@telus.net

Rehearsals: Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings, starting on August 6th.

Production Dates: Oct 10th to 21st, 2012. Total of 12 performances

Cast: 5 women aged from late 20s to 55 plus

4 men aged from 40 to 60

This is a drawing room comedy, not so much of action but of brilliantly funny and somewhat cynical conversation. W. Somerset Maugham's 1926 comedy of manners requires actors with skills in standard British dialect.

What's On

Langham Court Theatre Presents

The Foreigner

By **Larry Shue**. Directed by **Toshik Bukowiecki**

What will people say to your face if they think you cannot understand a word of their language? **Larry Shue's** two-time Obie Award-winning farce with a big heart, answers this question in a hilarious two hours of challenges overcome, evil plans thwarted, and good intentions eventually triumphant.

The Foreigner previews Wednesday, June 13th and runs from Thursday, June 14th to Saturday, June 30th. To purchase your tickets, call our Box Office at (250) 384-2142, 805 Langham Court, Victoria, or go to www.langhamtheatre.ca.



Presents

Murdered to Death

By **Peter Gordon**. Directed by **Neville Owen**

An hilarious spoof of **Agatha Christie's** Miss Marple and **Blake Edwards'** Inspector Clouseau, twists and turns with side-splitting antics and ever-increasing merriment and confusion.

A strong cast, including **Pearl Arden** as Joan Maple, is under the direction of **Neville Owen**.

Don't miss your chance to join the merriment! Tickets for **St Luke's Players'** latest production of **Murdered to Death** go on sale April 23rd at **Ivy's Bookshop, Petals Plus Florist, Russell Books** and **Amica at Douglas House**.

Performance Dates: June 1st and 2nd at 8:00 p.m., June 2nd and 3rd at 2:00 p.m.

Friends of the Greater Victoria Public Library

Bring you

A Super Splendid Summer Book Sale

At the **Nellie McClung Branch Library**, 3950 Cedar Hill Road (Cedar Hill Rd near McKenzie) on Saturday, June 23rd from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. (\$3.00 admission) and Sunday, June 24th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (admission free). Then from 1:00 p.m. to 3 p.m., it's all the books you can take away for \$7.00. All proceeds support Library programs and services. To find out more about the Friends, visit their website at www.gvplfriends.ca.

Keith Digby's a busy boy...

Victoria June 8th evening to 10th afternoon, for **West Coast Screenwriting**, Keith will be co-teaching a **weekend screenwriting workshop** with **Brian Paisley**, screenwriter and father of the fringe theatre movement in Canada. Sponsored by the Victoria Film Commission.

For information, and to register go to www.westcoastscreenwriting.com

26th October for 8 nights, Keith will be leading a **London Theatre Tour** with highly experienced tour leader **Liz Smith** of Oak Bay's **Athlone Travel**.

For information and to book, go to <http://www.athlonetravel.com/index.php/-tours> or call Liz at (250) 598-5252.

July 1st for two weeks, Keith will be co-teaching **High Performance!** A residential theatre and film workshop for young people at **Shawnigan Lake School**.

For information, call Keith at (250) 743-2439.

Keep Keith out of trouble: join him on one or more of these adventures!

The Pacific Tattoo

When: Saturday, July 14th, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, July 15th, 2012 at 1:30pm and 7:30 p.m.

Where: **Bear Mountain Arena** in Colwood

Victoria welcomes hundreds of performers from around the world for the inaugural **Pacific Tattoo**, a musical extravaganza that provides exhilarating entertainment for the entire family. A tightly woven, full production spectacle of music and movement, The **Pacific Tattoo** features military bands, massed pipes and drums, 60 dancers, 55 singers, drill teams, animal acts and special skills demonstrations. Many of the performers have appeared previously at the world-renowned **Edinburgh Tattoo** and Halifax's **Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo**.

Mark Your Calendar

Friday, June 8 – Sunday, June 10

Weekend Screen Writing Workshop with Keith Digby and Brian Paisley

Friday, June 8

7:30 p.m. Auditions for St. Luke's *The Constant Wife*

Sunday, June 10

2:00 p.m. Auditions for St. Luke's *The Constant Wife*

Wednesday, June 13

Preview of *The Foreigner*

Thursday, June 14 – Saturday June 30

The Foreigner

Sunday, June 17

1:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m. Art Show in the Lounge

Saturday, June 23

5:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m. Friends of the Library Summer Book Sale

Sunday, June 24

9:00 a.m. -- 1:00 p.m. Friends of the Library Summer Book Sale

Sunday, July 1 – Sunday, July 15

High Performance! A residential theatre and film workshop for young people at Shawnigan Lake School.

Sunday, July 8

4:00 p.m. **Summer General Meeting**

Saturday, July 14

7:30 p.m. The Pacific Tattoo at Bear Mountain Arena

Sunday, July 15

1:30 and 7:30 p.m. The Pacific Tattoo at Bear Mountain Arena

Sunday, July 15

9:00 a.m. —2:00 p.m. The Giant Annual Costume Sale

Saturday, July 21

1:00 p.m. -- 4:00 p.m. Auditions for *84 Charing Cross Road*

Sunday, July 22

1:00 p.m. -- 4:00 p.m. Auditions for *84 Charing Cross Road*

Saturday, August 11

1:00 p.m.— 3 p.m. Auditions for *Lady Windermere's Fan*

Sunday, August 12

1:00 p.m.— 3 p.m. Auditions for *Lady Windermere's Fan*

Friday, October 26 – Friday, November 2

London Theatre Tour with Keith Digby and Liz Smith





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TBA
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Bill Adams, bill-adams@shaw.ca

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Jeni Reynolds, jeani-renoir@shaw.ca

Costume Co-ordinator:
Small Props Co-ordinators:
Large Props Co-ordinator:
Custodian:

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Carol Anne Moore, 250-592-2497, tothe4winds@gmail.com
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Newsletter address changes or deletions: please contact Denise Brown, theatremanager@langhamtheatre.ca

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