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."

March 2014

It's Time to meet *The Graduate*: March 6th to 22nd



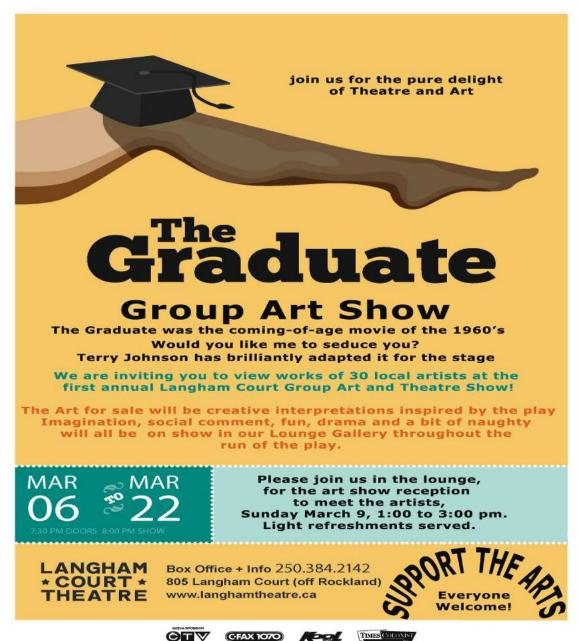
Benjamin (Montgomery Bjornson) eyes the legs of Mrs Robinson (Odile Nelson) Photo By David Lowes

and Mrs. Robinson, too . . .



Art Show





Life Members Welcome!!!

The President and Board extend an invitation to all Victoria Theatre Guild Life Members to the Meet and Greet for each Production. The Meet and Greet for *The Penelopiad* is on Thursday, March 27th at 6:00 p.m. Life Members, please join the cast, crew, Board members and new members in an evening of eats, drinks, and interesting conversation.



A Note from the President regarding the AGM

Do you remember in gym class when they gave you a fitness test at the beginning so they could see how much you improved later on? If you didn't perform as well as you hoped, anything you did beyond that looked good. That's how I'm thinking now about my first AGM as President. While my vision was for an informative and *Downton Abbey*-respecting meeting, the result was one where some people felt that their right to express themselves was impinged upon for the sake of expediency. The general meetings are the few opportunities for the members to express themselves. In the future I will loosen my grip on the stopwatch to permit a freer flow of debate.

The motion that was presented regarding next season was also a surprise. It took some on-the-fly discussion to determine whether it was legal and/or appropriate given the Board's mandate under the Bylaws. In fact, the motion was legal and, although it was withdrawn, it brought to light the need to examine some aspects of the type of plays we choose as well as how we choose them.

The discussion regarding a multi-year Production Chair/Artistic Director has been on-going for a few years, and the Board wants to take another look at it. As well, we have been having discussions about an Artistic Vision, i.e., what type of plays we stage.

For example, the **Belfry Theatre's** Artistic Vision is: "focused on Canadian work, including premiere productions, recently premiered plays, and scripts from the canon of Canadian classics. Once per season we produce a non-Canadian play."

Blue Bridge Theatre has a mandate of: "providing fresh classics from the past while utilizing a connection between established artists from across Canada and young and emerging artists in all areas of theatre."

Without it being written down, we seem to have known our artistic vision in the past. However, we need to determine what we want to do in the future; some want classic plays while others want more modern, culturally relevant works. Some want a blend of the two.

The third aspect is the decision-making around the selection of a new season. The membership cherishes its role in selecting the Production Chair. The Production Chair works very hard with his or her committee to select a balanced and entertaining season. In the end, the Board has a duty to ensure that the financial health of the theatre is maintained. While we'll never have a system that is perfect, it's time to look at whether we need to clarify or adjust how we do things. The Board will be busy looking at this and other questions in the months to come, and if we feel we need to make changes, we will bring them to the membership for discussion and input.

At the end of the day, this is your theatre. While the Board and the Production Chair are elected to make decisions, we need to ensure we are in step with how you feel. Stay tuned!

Luke Krayenhoff President

Editor's Notes . . .

Hooray, my trusty Proof Reader, **Danda Humphreys**, has returned and has gone over the Newsletter with her magic red pen. Thank you Danda, and thank you **Dick Newson** for your efforts in transporting the newsletter onto the web site. Thanks also to all those who contributed, including my two regular columnists, **Lisa Leighton** and **Ned Lemley**. Thanks also to **Jeani Reynolds**, who does a fantastic job curating the Art Shows in the Lounge and wrestling the necessary information from the artists for inclusion in the newsletter each month. A grateful salute also to **Luke Krayenhoff**, **Denise Brown**, **Mike Kuss**, **Drew Shand**, **Kathy Macovichuk**, **Cynthia Pronick**, **Sheila Doak**, **Madeleine Mills**, **Janine Longy**, and of course our remarkable photographer, **David Lowes**.

Your editor has been preoccupied with rehearsals for **The Penelopiad** and is completely overwhelmed and impressed by the number of talented newcomers to **Langham Court Theatre** in the cast, including our Dance Captain, **Leah Moreau**, who writes down **Sylvia Hosie's** remarkable choreography along with the accompanying dialogue or lyrics and sends us copies so we can rehearse the moves as we learn the lines.

Meanwhile, opening night of *The Graduate* will be upon us very soon. I hope you all have your tickets, as it looks to be a fantastic production, one not to be missed! Also, there are the auditions for *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* on March 22nd and 23rd. Then on the weekend of April 4th, 5th and 6th, **ACTivate** will be filling our theatre with all kinds of plays, workshops and discussions guaranteed to entertain as well as educate.

Have a happy spring, dodging the raindrops.



Au Revoir Doug Anderson







Head Scenic Carpenter **Doug Anderson's** last set build will be *The Graduate*. He is resigning to focus on building an addition to his family's home. When he has completed his project, he wishes to return to **Langham Court Theatre** as a volunteer member of the set construction crew.

Doug started with us by volunteering on the set of *39 Steps*. He began as head carpenter with the set for *Better Living*, followed by *Calendar Girls*. He also put up the black box for the Fringe and took out the old revolve so that we could switch to air castors. His time here could be best summed up by his "we can get it done" attitude. He has been a great instructor for the crew, always willing to share the practical knowledge he gained from his years of experience. He has also been extremely frugal on his builds. We have, thanks to his decision to switch away from door skin plywood, been able to recycle almost all of our set materials. (That alone would guarantee **Julius Maslovat's** approval.)

Doug has also been very accommodating to our set designers and production crews. He cheerfully made numerous adjustments as the creative winds blow, and did a lot of backstage set-up work, especially for *Harvey*. We are definitely lucky to have had him and to have his assurance that he will be back, as a volunteer, next season. We are grateful for Doug's hard work and devotion, and are sad to see him exit as Head Scenic Carpenter, but we wish him all the best and look forward to his return as a member of our remarkable construction crew

Board of Directors and staff





Hooray For Langham Court!

If you believe the **Times-Colonist**, there was one memorable theatre event in Victoria in 2013, it was at **Langham Court Theatre**, and it was *That Face*. It's too bad that **Adrian Chamberlain** didn't mention **Wendy Merk** as well for having the courage to include it in her season.

After the jeremiad in the December newsletter about the potential loss of income from presenting "difficult" plays, perhaps mention of this accolade wouldn't go amiss in the next issue, if only to remind us that we are a theatre.

Drew Shand Life Member

Ed Note: - Unfortunately Drew's letter was misdirected and I only received it a short while ago. As a reminder, here is what Adrian Chamberlain had to say about That Face:

Langham Court regulars didn't exactly come out in droves to *That Face*. **Polly Stenham's** gritty and disturbing drama

looks at the lives of a damaged British family. It's far from light viewing; you leave feeling you've been flattened by an emotional steamroller.

This was a fine production. The show was well directed by **Judy Treloar** (who selected the play) and performed with great vivacity, with actor **Michael Bell** offering a particularly raw, accomplished performance as a mixed-up young man.

Yet what made this a season highlight for me is the fact the **Victoria Theatre Guild**, a community theatre company, took such a brave chance. This company has increasingly added adventuresome fare in reason, often with excellent results.

Good for them and the bold-hearted few (**Theatre Inconnu** is another example) who champion such worthy and artistically uncompromising endeavours.

— Adrian Chamberlain

Notes From Aloft

A Thought at Bedtime

Several years ago, when GNS was doing their annual Gallery of Fame, in which each student chose a person from history, dressed like them, and delivered a biographical presentation, a young man elected to be a Spartan (don't know which one). We provided a chiton, sash, and maybe, sandals. The young man himself created his armour which consisted of a breast plate, back plate, greaves and shin guards. He also created a Spartan helmet from an aluminium roasting pan. When his father brought his rental back and I heard what the boy had built, I offered to buy the armour and the helmet (I think I offered to cancel his rental which was \$10 or less, in exchange). The helmet looked like Sparta to me. Since then, I've rented the armour many times. The helmet, however, was fragile to start with and crumpled and bent very quickly. However, I've offered the idea to other renters wanting helmets that we didn't have and they seemed receptive and glad to learn how to make their own helmets. I offer this anecdote as an example of Langham Court fulfilling its mandate to teach. And as an example of how our community interacts with us. They give. We give. Until I began to work in the Loft, I was unaware of our connection to a much broader community.

A Brief Respite for the Inventory Project

The **Schweitzers** are taking a much-deserved vacation in a southerly direction until April, so the Inventory Project is on hiatus.

A Thank you to My Volunteers

I continue to appreciate my volunteers. It takes many hands to make lighter work in the task of maintaining the collection and serving the public and the productions over a large area. My currant band of stalwarts includes: **Eileen Bennett**, who comes on Wednesda, and **Alton Cole** who comes on Fridays (she also came on Wednesdays while Eileen was a dresser for *Cabaret*. What a great show! The set changes alone were worth the price of admission). Also, **Ariel Glidden** who mostly handles Saturdays on her own while I'm on the end of the phone. I don't pay her nearly enough, but she is worth her weight in precious jewels. The **Schweitzers** are there much more than I am, photographing items, entering a description (e.g. 'period shirt, or 'vintage morning coat', etc. **Lisa Leighton** and I,

(mostly Lisa) are vetting this), entering the cost to rent and cost to replace and putting **Langham Court** labels in them that include a bar code, a number, a size, and cleaning instructions. I knew the Inventory Project would be big but I didn't know how big it would become. I may have previously reported that the programme we purchased to do this work does not perfectly suit our needs, but with Lisa as the go-between to the programme developer, some adjustments have been made, and we hope that relationship will continue.

Message From Aja

I recently heard from **Aja Young**, who used to be the Saturday student (**Vic High**) volunteer. She was the one with so much savvy. Now, she is in school in Vancouver and needs a Victorian Costume in which to be photographed. We can do it!

Gallery of Fame Again

The Gallery of Fame is once again happening at Glenlyon Norfolk School. As I mentioned previously, students pick a person from history, dress as them and deliver a biography. I look forward to this time every year, because I see young people and often their parents, and they are all excited by what we have to offer and they leave eager to get on with their project. We know that putting on a costume often adds to the performance. I often say, "One of our mandates is to make costuming for young people in performance possible, and we have one price list for all based on that. "With the advent of the Data Based Inventory, it may be time to revisit that. Eileen Bennett was wonderful yesterday helping a girl dress as a WWII spy in Paris.

Donations Desired

Clean out your closets. We now have storage space and can accept anything clean.

Ned Lemley Costume Loft Co-ordinator

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 theatremanager@langhamtheatre.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.

Notes from the Costume Workshop

Thank You!

Many thanks to **Linda Grimm** for donating a lovely wool crepe dress by way of **Ann Marie Arneson**, for the Costume Loft collection.

Costume Guild Workshops

Our January workshop on **grading** (resizing) commercial patterns was shifted to February 15th, but unfortunately, all those eager graders out there were too busy to attend, so we had to cancel that one.

The next event is **identifying fitting issues**, scheduled for **Saturday**, **March 8**th, **12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m.** in the Costume Workshop. Have a fitting issue that you just can't figure out? Bring it to this workshop! We will sort out wrinkles, puckers, smiles and frowns, gaps, pulls and all manner of fitting gremlins. Recommended for sewers who are comfortable deconstructing and reconstructing garments. Please **RSVP by Monday**, **March 3**rd.

Our April workshop will be a presentation of the Lutterloh system, scheduled for Saturday, April 26th.

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

St. Luke's Players' Call for Directors

St. Luke's Players is happy to announce our 2014-2015 season and invite you to submit an application as a Director for our 66th Season. More information about this can be found on the **St. Luke's Players** website (www.stlukeplayers.org). For questions, scripts and submitting your application, contact **Kathy Macovichuk** at 250-360-2286 or by email at kmacovichuk@hotmail.com. **Deadline for submission is March 31**st. We are also accepting applications for Producers and Stage Managers.

Steel Magnolias by Robert Harling

Performance Dates October 8th – 19th, 2014

Synopsis: Revolving around Truvy's Beauty Parlor in a small parish in modern-day Louisiana, *Steel Magnolias* is the story of a close-knit circle of friends whose lives come together there. Filled with humor and heartbreak, these "Steel Magnolias" make us laugh and cry as the realities of their lives in tiny Chiquapin Parish unfolds.

Snow White and the Magnificent Seven Dwarves by TLC (Panto)

Performance Dates:

December 22nd, 2014 - January 3rd, 2015

Synopsis: Take a trip to the Wild West in this innovative reworking of the classic fairy tale! Snow White, heiress to the 'Happy Ever After Cattle' ranch, is the fairest girl on the prairie – but her wicked and jealous stepmother, Widow Blackheart, plots to separate her from her fortune!

Victoria's House by Fred Carmichael

Performance Dates:

March 11th - 22nd, 2015

Synopsis: This mysterious ghost story takes place at the turn of the century when a murderer thinks he has committed the perfect crime – or has he? He is haunted in this masterpiece full of twists and surprises that will keep you on the edge of your seat until the eerie plot spirals to its gripping conclusion.

Barely Heirs by David Lassig

Performance Dates:

May $20^{th} - 31^{st}$, 2015

Synopsis: Jane is about to inherit a fortune. The only stipulation is that she was to be married for six months, and all would have gone without a hitch had Jane really been married. With the help of her neighbour's husband, Tom, she just needs to keep the truth from the lawyer, Tom's wife, Claire, Jane's ex-boyfriend, Jane's mother and a cop. It sounds as if things are about to get a little complicated...!

Auditions

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

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead

By Tom Stoppard
Directed by Keith Digby and Cynthia Pronick
Production Dates: June 12th to 28th, 2014

Tom Stoppard's *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* tells a story of two minor characters from *Hamlet*, highlighting the fundamental incomprehensibility of the world with his typical witty existential repartee. It is also very funny.

REQUIREMENTS: 3 Males (30s), 3 Males (40-60), 4 Males (12-80); 1 Female (45-60), 1 Female (30s). The play relies on actors who have wit, energy and, with rehearsal, the ability to speak Shakespeare's language comfortably. (For complete cast breakdown, see February's newsletter.)

AUDITIONS will be held in the **Rehearsal Room** Saturday, **March 22**nd and Sunday, **March 23**rd from 1:00-4:00 p.m. Call backs will be on Wednesday, March 26th from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.. Please note the change in audition dates.

There will be no cold readings or readings from the script. Auditions will be conducted individually; and audition pieces are available (along with the scripts) at the theatre. Choose a piece you feel you can deliver with energy and clarity, and prepare it for your audition. Memorisation is not necessary. *Interpretation is vital*.



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 April 2014 issue will be March 20th 2014, and so on. Please send your information by e-mail to Corinna Gilliland <u>catfael@telus.net</u>. Langham Court News welcomes news from other groups too. Let's support each others' endeavours in our theatre community.

What's On





The Graduate

Adapted by **Terry Johnson** based on the novel by **Charles Webb**, Screenplay by **Calder Willingham** and **Buck Henry**Directed by **Judy Treloar**

The Graduate is the iconic coming-of-age movie of the 1960s, and Terry Johnson's adaptation expertly brings the film's sense of humour and longing to the stage. A must see!

Audience Advisory: Nudity, Coarse Language. Mature Themes. Recommended for ages 15+.

The Graduate previews Wednesday, March 5th and runs to Saturday, March 22nd. To purchase your tickets, call our Box Office at 250-384-2142, 805 Langham Court, Victoria, or go to www.langhamtheatre.ca.



Presents Welfarewell

Written by Cat Delaney, Directed by Michael King

Esmerelda Quipp is 80. Her meagre government pension is insufficient to support her. When arrested for attempting to bury her dead cat in her landlord's yard, she finds free room and board in prison. She devises a plan to get sent back to jail (by robbing a bank), but a well-meaning public defender gets the charges against her dropped. Esmerelda Quipp is undeterred! Will she convince the legal system she should be incarcerated, literally, for life?

Evening Performances: March 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 19th, 20th, 21st, and 22nd at 8:00 p.m.

Matinees: March 15th, 16th, 22nd, and 23rd at 2:00 p.m.

Tickets: Adults \$15.00. Seniors and Students \$13.00. Available at the door, St. Luke's Hall, 3821 Cedar Hill Cross Road, or at **Ivy's Book Shop**, 2188 Oak Bay Avenue; **Petals Plus Florist**, 3749 Shelbourne St.; **Russell Books**, 734 Fort Street and **Dig This**, 480--777 Royal Oak Drive.

For more information call 250-884-5484 or go to www.stlukesplayers.org.



presents:

What Happened Was ...

By Tom Noonan Runs to March 8th

Happy Valentine's Day! Originally written for the stage, the film version of *What Happened Was* won the **Sundance Grand Jury Prize** at the **Sundance Film Festival** in 1994. The rarely performed stage adaptation is every bit as quirky, insightful, and humorous as the acclaimed film. This is a first-date encounter story like no other, in which two co-workers find unlikely common ground in what at times is more of a surrealistic joust than a date. The "real-time" progression of the story draws us into the awkwardness and openness of each second. There is a heightened theatricality about this piece that makes ordinary life magical, offering an irresistible perspective on those confounding moments when we feel inspired, desperate, or obligated to make connections with others.

"What Happened Was uses romance as a lens through which to view that modern affliction, the cosmic self-doubt that reduces us to shadows of what we might have been and could still be." Entertainment Weekly

Directed by Clayton Jevne, and starring Catriona Black and Michael Romano.

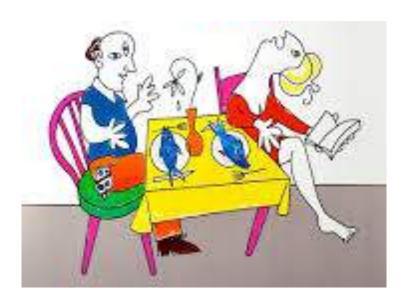
8:00 p.m. Performances: March 1st, 4th, 6th, 7th, 8th.

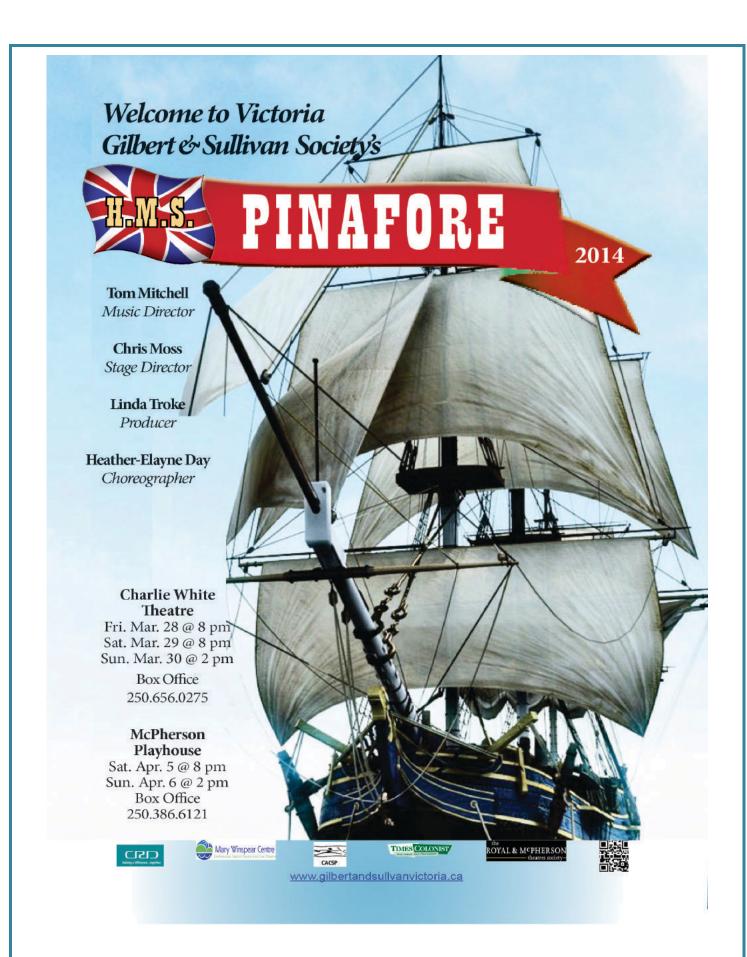
2:00 p.m. Performances: March 1st and 8th.

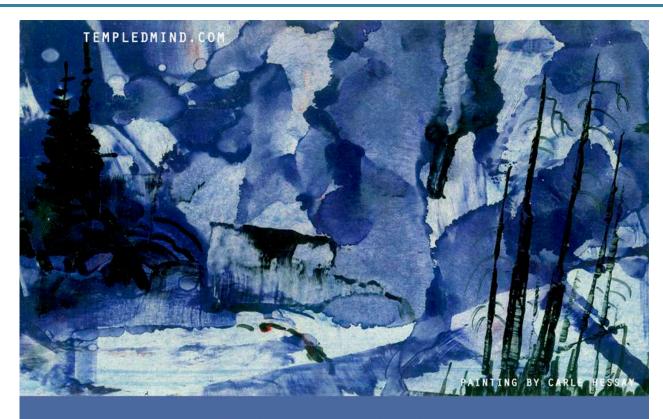
Reservations and Ticket Sales through Ticket Rocket: <u>ticketrocket.org</u> or 250-590-6291 (price will include a \$2:00 surcharge) Regular priced tickets are \$14.00. Studenrs, Seniors and the Unwaged \$10.00. Tickets purchased at the door must be paid for by cash or cheque.

Theatre Inconnu is located at 1923 Fernwood Road (across the street from the **Belfry Theatre**). For parking, we suggest the side streets west of Fernwood Road, as these do not have parking restriction signs.

www.theatreinconnu.com







MARCH 5: 7-10PM

ART SHOW + POETRY READING BOOK LAUNCH:

"FOR KELLY, WITH LOVE: POEMS ON THE ABSTRACTS OF CARLE HESSAY"

11-5PM

MARCH 8/9: OPEN DOOR GALLERY CARLE HESSAY SHOWCASE

POETRY + SPECIAL PRESENTATION

(SUNDAY: KATHRYN KERBY-FULTON REMEMBERS KELLY PARSONS) MANDOLIN: GRAY SUTHERLAND

READINGS BY: KAREN BALLINGER, DOROTHY FIELD, PATRICK FRIESEN, CORINNA GILLILAND, EVE JOSEPH, BARBARA COLEBROOK PEACE, JUDITH HERON, LINDA ROGERS, GRAY SUTHERLAND, PATRICIA YOUNG, TERENCE YOUNG

Target Theatre Joins Belfry's SPARK Festival

Target Theatre is thrilled to announce their participation in the Belfry SPARK Festival beginning in March. Target is the Belfry's first "senior" Incubator Project. Our play Firewall was written by the Target Company and directed by Geoff Ewart.

Show Previews March 19th at 8:00 p.m., opens March 20th at 8:00 p.m., and runs, Friday, March 21st at 8:00 pm, Saturday March 22nd at 400 and 8:00 p.m., and Sunday, March 23rd at 2:00 p.m.

Come on out and see us!

Mark Your Calendar

Saturday, March 1

Saturday, March 1

Sunday, March 2

Wednesday, March 5

Thursday, March 6 – Saturday, March 22

Saturday, March 8

Wednesday, March 12

Wednesday, March 19 - Saturday March 22

Saturday, March 22

Sunday, March 23

Thursday, March 27

Friday, March 28

Friday, April 4 - Sunday, April 6

Saturday, April 26

Saturday, May 10

1:00—4:00 p.m. Auditions for St. Luke's Players *Prepare to Meet Thy Tomb*

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

9:00—3:15 p.m. Friends of the Library Book Sale

Preview of The Graduate

The Graduate

12:00—4:00 p.m. The Lutterloh System – Costume Workshop

Opening Night for St. Luke's Production Welfarewell

Target Theatre Production at the Belfry SPARK Festival

1:00—4:00 p.m. Auditions for Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead

1:00—4:00 p.m. Auditions for Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead

Meet and Greet for The Penelopiad

Opening of G & S Production HMS Pinafore

ACTivate at Langham Court Theatre

12:00—4:00 p.m. Making Leather/Vinyl Overboots – Costume Workshop

12:00—4:00 p.m. Zippers – Costume Workshop





2013/2014 Board of Directors

President: Vice-President: Secretary: Treasurer:

2013-14 Production Chair 2014-15 Production Chair

Past President:

Members-at-Large to 2015: Members-at-Large to 2016:

Membership and Volunteer Co-ordinator:

House Manager: Technical Director: Facilities Maintenance: Head Scenic Carpenter:

Webmaster: Archivist:

Archival Assistant: Art Co-ordinator:

Programme Co-ordinator

Costume Co-ordinator: Small Props Co-ordinators:

Large Props Co-ordinator:

Custodians:

Theatre Manager:

Box Office Supervisor

Luke Krayenhoff Karrie Ayotte Andrea Pite Andrew Lee Odile Nelson Angela Henry Toshik Bukowiecki

Rosemary Henry, Vinnie Chadwick Michael Miller, Monty Bjornson

Vinnie Chadwick, <u>Vinniechad@hotmail.com</u> Emma Morgan-Thorp, <u>volunteers@langhamtheatre.ca</u>

Alan MacKenzie, <u>petabob@shaw.ca</u> Dick Newson, <u>dicknewson@telus.net</u> Doug Anderson, <u>dra1149@telus.net</u>.

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Sheila McKenzie, 250-595-1788, s.g.mckenzie@telus.net Sally Crickman, 250-598-1706, sjcrickman@telus.net Tanya Towns and Angela Winteler - T & A Cleaning

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Langham Court News is published 11 times a year

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

Newsletter address changes or deletions: please contact Denise Brown, theatremanager@langhamtheatre.ca

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