

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."

Begin The New Year with a Look at *That Face*



Written by Polly Stenham, Directed by Judy Treloar, *That Face* Runs from
January 17th to February 2nd, 2013

Some of the new Faces of *That Face*



A trio of Langham Court newcomers strut their stuff in the award-winning drama *That Face*. From L to R: **Melissa Taylor** as Mia, **Michelle Watt** as Alice and **Kathryn Taddei** as Izzy. Photo by **David Lowes**.

Notice Of The Annual General Meeting

Memberships expired December 31st. Remember to renew before the AGM
on
Sunday, January 27th, 2013
7:00 p.m.
at
Langham Court Theatre

Business of the meeting: annual reports to the Membership and election of four (4) Board officers.

Positions up for election:

President
Vice-President
Two (2) Members-at-Large

Positions are for terms of two (2) years.

Nominations can be made from the floor or made in advance to the Nominations Chairperson:

Karrie Wolfe

contact information: call **250-589-9653** or e-mail karrie.wolfe@gmail.com

Nominations require a nominator and a seconder: the nominator and the nominee should be prepared to speak to the membership about the nomination and the contributions the nominee can bring to the Board.

Please come out and support your theatre! The bar will be open, so come and have a drink and a visit with your friends before the meeting.

The Board of Directors
Langham Court Theatre



We Welcome your Contributions

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 February 2013 issue will be January 20th, 2013, and so on. Please send your information by e-mail to Corinna Gilliland catfael@telus.net. *Langham Court News* welcomes news from other groups too. Let's support each others' endeavours in our theatre community.



Art Show



From January 17th to February 2nd, during the run of *That Face*, the featured artist will be **Nirmala Greenwell**. If you wish to meet the artist, Nirmala will be in the lounge on Sunday, January 20th from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Born and educated in Trinidad, West Indies, Nirmala attended **UBC** (Honours Eng. Lit. and Fine Arts). Nirmala paints a variety of subjects in acrylic and watercolour, both in-studio and from life. A participant in many local exhibitions, Nirmala received the Best on Canvas Award and Jurors' Award at the **Sidney Fine Arts Show** and **Sooke Fine Arts Show** respectively in 2007. Visit www.nirmalagreenwell.com to see her work.



Have Something To Say?

Want to Have a Say in the Direction of the Theatre?

Come to one of four workshops presented by **Angela Henry** and **Wendy Magahay** on February 16th, 17th, 23rd & 24th from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. These are working sessions designed to produce outcomes that will be presented to the board on the thoughts, insights, desires of the membership on the questions of 'Who Are We?' and 'Where Do We Want to Be in the Future?' and 'How Do We Get There?'

To be involved and to be heard, choose your first and second choice of workshops. There is a limit of 20 persons per workshop, a total of 80 in total. We are looking for a cross-section of the membership from directors, actors, producers, technicians, designers, administrators, front of house.

First come, first enrolled.

Each workshop is two hours long and refreshments will be served. Please note, these are not "Complaining Sessions", nor are they question and answer sessions. These are facilitated sessions where participants will be working in small groups of 4 or 5 and asked to think divergently and produce written summaries of their creative thinking. Come prepared to have fun and be a part of the future of **Langham Court Theatre**.

Reply by email to angelahenry@shaw.ca with your first and second choice of the following dates: Saturday, February 16th, Sunday, February 17th, Saturday, February 23rd, Sunday, February 24th.



Having a hard time being heard?



If you join a workshop, we'll listen.

Editor's Notes . . .

Thank you once again to all of you who contributed to this edition, of the Newsletter -- the first of 2013. To **Danda Humphreys**, who interrupted her Christmas holiday to wield her trusty red pen, to Denise Brown who sent this issue spinning into the worldwide web, to **Ned Lemley** who once again gave us the news from aloft, and **Lisa Leighton** who always contributes elegant and informative columns about what's on in the Costume Workshop. I'm also thankful to **Toshik Bukowiecki** and **Sylvia Rhodes** for passing on information about the forthcoming AGM on Sunday, January 27th, the Logo Design Contest, and the criteria for creating new Life Members. Thank you, **Luke Krayenhoff** for inviting us all to the Agnostic Valentine Karaoke Party on February 9th, **Jeani Reynolds** for sending the biographical details of our next artist, **Phil** and **Lesley Gibbs** for their letter from Australia. Thank you, **Peta MacKenzie** for letting us know about **Garth Taylor**, who died on Tuesday, December 18th. I know we'll all miss the grand old man of Langham Court Theatre. You can read more about Garth on page 7.



While I am in the thanking frame of mind, I would like to extend a big bouquet to **Michael King** for doing such an amazing job organising our annual Christmas Party. It was a real success, Michael, and the arrow on your shirt that swings from bad to good, can remain firmly attached to good for the rest of 2013. Also, thanks and

bouquets to entertainers **Ginny** and **Angie Carter**, **Toshik Bukowiecki**, **Barb Waldner** and **Phyllis Gaskell**, **Jo Barnes**, **Danda Humphreys**, **Pam Miller** and **Peter McNab**, **GG Mossman**, **Kirsten VanRitzen** and her side-kick, **Wendy Merk** and her Christmas Carol Crew: **Keith Digby**, **Cynthia Pronick**, **Geli Bartlett**, **Michael King**, **Paul Gillan**, your Editor, and **Tiny Tim** in the guise of **Kate Harter**. It was a very successful variety show that followed a sumptuous repast served to us by members of the Board. Thank you to everyone who contributed to a delightful evening and a great kick-off to the Christmas Season.

Congratulations to the winners of the 11th annual **Critic's Choice Spotlight Awards**. To the cast and company of

The Drowsy Chaperone which won Best Musical Production, Best Costume Design (well done, **Sue Ferguson** and **Di Madill**), Best Sound Design (sound of 1,000 hands clapping for **Donna Williams** and **Al MacKenzie**), and Best all-round Community Theatre Production. Also for their work in *The Drowsy Chaperone*, **Roger Carr** was nominated Best Director and **Kyle Kushnir** was a nominee in the category Best Performance in a Community Production. The winner in that category was another **Langham Court** member, **Melissa Blank** whose performances in *A Day in the Death of Joe Egg* and in *Crackwalker* made her an obvious choice to win the award. Well done all of you, and a special well done to Drowsy Producer, **Thelma Midori**.

Another round of congratulations goes to those involved in the world premiere of the stage production *Kafka, The Musical*. Although it is a **Theatre Inconnu** production, brilliantly directed by **Clayton Jevne**, a number of **Langham Court Theatre** members contributed to the success of this brilliant, quirky, surrealistic musical. Behind the scenes were Stage Manager **Gloria Snider**, Sound Designer **Kevin Stinson**, and Musical Director **Donna Williams**, who was also seen on stage playing a violin through a window. **Langham Court** was also represented on stage by **Naomi Simpson**, **Melissa Blank**, **Cam Culham** and **Kyle Kushnir**.

Next month, the theatre will be busy with rehearsals and performances of *That Face*. Be sure to get your tickets early before they are all gone. Also, rehearsals are underway for play number four, *The Thirty-nine Steps*, and auditions are coming up for play number five, *Better Living*. Finally, I expect to see all those interested in auditioning for our season's final production, *Calendar Girls*, working hard in the gym or on the running track.

Meanwhile, I wish you all a very happy, healthy, and successful New Year. **Don't forget to renew your Victoria Theatre Guild memberships before the Annual General Meeting on Sunday, January 27th.**



Langham Court Logo Contest

As part of our ongoing strategic planning, the Fund Raising Committee has identified the need for **Langham Court Theatre** to be “re-branded.” To this end, we are launching a contest to find a new and permanent logo for the theatre. The membership has told the Board that they want to be more involved in the strategic planning for the theatre so we are turning to you first; however, the contest is open to everyone. Do you have a vision for a “brand” to identify **Langham Court Theatre**? Here are the guidelines to consider while being creative:

- **The new “brand” will be launched with the 85th season brochure**
- **Use Langham Court Theatre (LCT) rather than Victoria Theatre Guild**
- **Use no more than three (3) colours**
- **Incorporate any graphics, fonts, or images that you like but no copyrighted material, please**
- **Bear in mind that the “brand” will be used as a logo and incorporated into our letterhead**

The deadline for submissions is 5:00 p.m., Friday, February 15th, 2013.

Submissions, addressed to the Planning Committee, can be mailed to or dropped off at:

Langham Court Theatre

805 Langham Court

Victoria, BC

V8V 4J3

Or

e-mailed to:

pc@langhamtheatre.ca

Subject line: Langham Logo Contest

So...what is the prize for this contest, you ask?

Two Season Tickets for our 85th Season! (Value - \$210)

Entries will be vetted and short-listed by the Planning Committee and the final selection made by Langham Court Theatre members' vote.

The winner will be announced in the April 2013 newsletter.

Get your creative juices flowing and show us how you would present **Langham Court Theatre** to the community and the world!

*The Board of Directors
Langham Court Theatre*



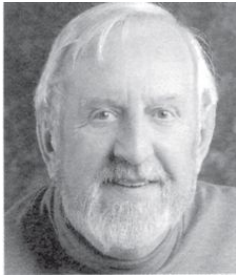
The Agnostic Valentine Karaoke Party



Whether you are in love, out of love, in lust, out of lust or you just want to enjoy an evening of music and fun, you are cordially invited to the **Langham Court Theatre Agnostic Valentine Karaoke Party** On Saturday, February 9th at 7:00 p.m. Bring some snacks, bring a friend or a partner or come along alone. Everyone welcome to join in the fun and sing-a-long.



Remembering Garth



It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of **Garth Taylor** on the afternoon of Monday, September 17th, 2012. Garth has been an integral member of the **Langham Court Theatre** Community for many years.

In 1953, Garth joined the **RCAF** and spent the next thirty-five years being posted to a variety of places across Canada from the Queen Charlotte Islands to Newfoundland and around the world. Although signed up with the **Air Force**, Garth spent most of his career with the **Navy** working in Communications. For twelve years, Garth was stationed in Whitehorse, where he spent much of his free time working with the **Whitehorse Little Theatre**, both on stage and behind the scenes. In 1958, he was one of the first to work at the newly opened station at Alert on Ellesmere Island (according to **Wikipedia**, **Canadian Forces Station Alert**, a Signals Intelligence Intercept Facility, “is the northernmost settlement in the world”). Garth’s next move was to Ottawa, where he went on a Russian language course before being assigned to translate Russian air-control tapes for the **National Research Council**. Two years later he was posted to Bermuda, where he received his commission in 1968. Next stop, The Queen Charlottes, followed by a stint in Washington where he spent three thoroughly enjoyable years working on National Security with the **U.S. Navy**. From Washington, Garth was transferred to Gander, Newfoundland, where as a member of the local theatre group, he was cast as Harry in **Edward Albee’s *Delicate Balance***. Then it was back to Ottawa, where he worked for the Director of Scientific and Technical Intelligence, evaluating and writing about foreign radar.

When he first arrived in Ottawa, Garth joined the **Ottawa Little Theatre** (Canada’s longest-running community theatre group, which even boasts a resident ghost named Martha) and each time he returned to the nation’s capital, Garth re-established his commitment to that organisation, both as a Board Member and as an actor in their Children’s Theatre, where he was called upon to play giants and ogres. One of his favourite parts was that of Glumph, a ten-foot-tall monster who sang “Will Nobody Love Me?” until one performance when a small, blonde child looked up with big solemn eyes and said, “I will.”

Garth was with the **Ottawa Little Theatre** until he moved to Victoria in 1990. Shortly after his arrival here, he became involved with the **Victoria Theatre Guild**. His introduction to **Langham Court Theatre** was as one of the volunteers who helped paint the auditorium. He then became involved in productions, starting as Lighting Operator and crew for ***Write Me a Murder*** in September of 1991. The following February, Garth worked as Assistant Producer on ***42nd Street***. Since then, Garth has been heavily involved in more than fifty **Victoria Theatre Guild** Productions including ***Hobson’s Choice***, ***This Happy Breed***, ***Arcadia***, ***The Importance of Being Earnest***, ***Gigi***, ***Blood Relations***, ***Moon Over Buffalo***, ***Shadowlands***, ***The History Boys***, and more recently, ***The Laramie Project***, to name but a few.

As well as working like a dynamo on specific productions, Garth has always made himself available whenever a volunteer was needed at **Langham Court**. For work parties, newsletter mail-outs, Open Houses and Costume Sales, Garth has been front and centre, helping as much as he possibly could. He has also been an active member of many committees, including the Play Selection Committee and the Personnel Committee, and he vied with **Nan Long** as to who volunteered the most when Guild members were required to attend sessions at the **Esquimalt Bingo Hall** in order for the Theatre to receive funding. As if the many, many hours Garth put in on behalf of **Langham Court Theatre** were not enough, he also served on the board for several years as Member-at-Large and Secretary until he was elected President in 2003.

Unfortunately for the rest of us at **Langham Court**, Garth was forced to resign his position as president due to a serious illness. Since then, ill health has forced Garth to reduce his commitment to the **Victoria Theatre Guild** although he was still a hard working crew member on several productions and was a vital member of the Costume Sale team up until last summer.

All of us at **Langham Court Theatre** remember Garth as a kindly, gentle soul with a love of theatre and a strong commitment to our organisation. He will be sorely missed by all of us, and we **Langham Court Theatre** extend our sympathies to all of Garth’s family and friends everywhere.



Criteria for Granting a Life Membership

To the Membership Committee falls the task of evaluating, and recommending to the general membership, proposed candidates for Life Membership status. The Committee wishes to share the criteria that are used to establish the threshold for consideration.

There are basically four things that must be considered by the Board when making its judgement:

- First, the candidate must be an active member when proposed
- Second, he or she must be active for the preceding fourteen years prior to nomination
- Third, the candidate must have accumulated enough service points to qualify, **or**
- Fourth, have made a contribution sufficiently unique and important that the Board feels the honour is deserved despite the fact that the candidate does not meet all of the other criteria.

Members are not, normally, considered for Life Membership status until they have accumulated at least twenty-five “service points.” Moreover, it is Board policy to grant an active member, whose accumulated total exceeds fifty service points, a Life Membership.

Individuals who meet the threshold service requirement would normally be awarded his or her Life Membership no later than his or her twenty-fifth year of active membership. Persons who maintain direct connections with **Langham Court Theatre** and the **Guild** are also counted as “active” even when their activity levels are low.

Members with outstanding “unique contributions” may be awarded Life Memberships with less than the threshold number of service points. An example of this category can be found in the case of former President (1953-55, 1956-59) and ex-Mayor, **Percy George**, who managed to both end the **VLTA-VPG** rift and retire the mortgage on the theatre while carrying through several facility upgrades and renovations. He became a Life Member in 1959 and continued to be active on the Board and as a donor until 1976, lending credence to the idea that members given such recognition usually increase their dedication to **Langham Court Theatre** and the **Victoria Theatre Guild**.

The Committee, and the Board, have an evaluation scheme which serves as a guide to past practice and as a useful and reliable method of identifying potential Life Members. This gives the Board several useful “rules of thumb,” but is essential that we note that the responsibility for recommending the award rests **entirely** with the Board. Though they can, and do, take suggestions from the general membership, and the Committee, into account. The Board can, at its discretion, override **any or all** of the guidelines above. Therefore, with that proviso, this is what the Committee bases its recommendations upon.

Evaluation Scheme

(The categories and point are the results of **John Gilliland’s** detailed research). Useful information on **Guild** members is divided into 9 general categories each with a point value assigned.

Categories

		Quantity
Required		
All categories assume the candidate met the required time as an active member		14 years minimum
Work on Guild Productions		
	Points	Multiplier Effect
A.	1. Director, or Co-Director, of Guild show	2
	2. Producer, or Co-Producer, of Guild show	2
	3. Stage Manager, or Co-Stage Manager, for a Guild Show	2
B.	1. Working as one of the Designers for a Guild Show	1
	2. Working as one of the crew team leaders on a Show	0.25
C.	1. Working as an actor in Guild Show	0.25
D.	1. Work as an Assistant: Director/Producer/Stage Manager	0.5
	2. Work as a member of a crew team (not as a leader)	0.5
Volunteer Service for the Guild – Major Executive Office		
E.	1. Board service as President, Secretary, or Treasurer	5
	2. Service as Volunteer Coordinator, Newsletter Editor, Archivist etc.	5
	3. Service as Finance Chair (not Treasurer)	5

Administrative Service – other executive office

F.	1. Service as Past President, Vice President, Production Chair or Member at Large	1	Number of Terms
	2. Service as chair of a standing committee (except Finance)	1	Number of Years
	3. Service in significant fund-raising activities	1	Number of Years

Administrative Service – committee work

G.	1. Service as a member of a standing committee	0.5	Number of Years
	2. Service as chair of a special committee	0.5	Number of years

[The committee should also take difficulty of task and achievement levels into account whenever the information is available.]

Other Volunteer Work for the Guild

H.	1. Service on work parties	0.1	Number of Shifts
	2. Services as a non-cast or crew strike volunteer	0.1	Number of Strikes

The point weightings used above are designed to mimic the records' totals of people award Life Memberships in the past.

Point Calculation Sample

Let us assume, during your fourteen years as an active member, you had one turn as a director (2points), one as a producer (2points), and one as a stage manager (2points). You designed a set (1point) and were the lighting crew leader for another set (1point). You also acted in two plays ($2 \times 0.25 = 0.5\text{point}$). You were elected to the Board and served one term as a Member at Large (1point) and one as Vice President (1point) while sitting on one committee (0.5point) and chairing the Finance committee (5points). You have worked on two summer work parties ($2 \times 0.1 = 0.2\text{point}$) and four strikes of shows you weren't involved in ($4 \times 0.1 = 0.4\text{point}$).

Your service point total is $2 + 2 + 2 + 1 + 1 + 0.5 + 1 + 1 + 0.5 + 5 + 0.2 + 0.4 = 16.6$ points.

The Committee hopes this helps you to understand the evaluation process and would like to remind everyone that our data is only as good as your reporting. So, if you are in charge of volunteers, casts or crews, we need to know who you are **and** who they were.

*Board of Directors
Langham Court Theatre*

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.



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Notes from the Costume Workshop



Thank you!

Thanks this issue go to **anonymous donors** for their recent donations of fabric. Thank you ... and please don't be shy! Let us know who you are so that we can properly appreciate your kindness.

If you find yourself with any fabric, notions, books, magazines, equipment and patterns that you don't need, please let us know.

Costume Guild Workshops: Threads videos, December 1st

Several Costume Guild members enjoyed an afternoon of *Threads sewing techniques* DVDs on December 1st. Some have already started using the techniques, particularly for fitting. The four-DVD set is available for loan.

Costume Guild Workshops: Flat-folding a 1920s Dress (and Cloche Hat)

On **Saturday, January 19th, 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m.**, **Louise Osselton**, long-time friend of **Langham Court Theatre** and co-ordinator of **Heritage Productions**, will be giving a workshop on how to flat-fold a 1920 dress. If there is time, we will also do a cloche hat. Participants will supply their own materials and complete the dress during the workshop. Enrolment was already half full in November, so if you are interested, please RSVP as soon as you can.

The schedule of Costume Guild workshops is on the theatre website. Please book early for any workshops that you wish to take!

Tour of the Theatre for New Costuming Volunteers

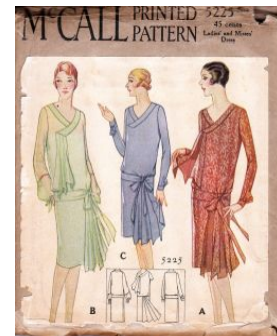
On **Sunday, December 2nd**, several new costuming volunteers took a **tour of the theatre**. We welcomed **Nicole Bobick**, who is already on board designing costumes for *That Face*; **Wendy Mirmotahari**, an accomplished sewer with particular skill in knits/stretch fabrics; **Sue McCaskill**, an experienced sewer and costume-maker who also does beading and embroidery; **Leyla Mitchell**, a sewer who is also skilled with makeup; **Hazel Wilkins**, also a sewer skilled with makeup; **Hope Campbell**, an experienced sewer; and **Erica Thomas**, a sewer with particular skill in embellishments. We hope to see them involved in productions very soon.



This Lending Thing Actually Works!

As of this writing, there are books, DVDs and patterns out on loan from the Costume Workshop to Langham Courtiers and others. **St. Michael's University School** is producing *The Secret Garden* in the early spring, and we have been able to help them with a number of period costume patterns. Several **Langham Court members** have been enjoying our various instructional DVDs and reference books, and so far, the system seems to work. Thanks to everyone who has signed out resources and returned them promptly. Karma credits are coming your way.

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



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 Thirty-Nine Steps* is on Tuesday, February 5th 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.

News From Aloft

Donations

Donations have been amazing! Out of the blue, individuals with no connection to **Langham Court Theatre** have heard of us and brought us amazing donations: a Greek wedding garment that is cobalt blue with gold thread embroidery; an amazing evening gown that is mostly carmen with gold bugle beads -- it weighs a half a ton; stunning hats and wedding dresses that are wonderful.

This time donations came from **Ian Case, Di Madill, Ruth Mossop, Joan Scott** via **Jan Long, Kerry Fraser, Ms. Murrison** and **Mr. White, Barb Walker, Judy McCartney's mother, Audrey Thompsett** via her son **Trevor** and **Michele Thompsett, Jeff Cockerell**, via **May Wong, Elena Mah, Ted Powell, Carol Ann Gutrath** via her daughter **Pamela, Paul Gillan, Denise Brown, Paulette Blais, Michael Leger, Trudy Duxbury, Glenda Plews, Drew Waveryn, Sybil Butterfield**, and many Anonymous. Thank you all.

The donations continue to pile in and as I said, we have received some very interesting items. At the same time we are facing a storage crisis. If you are thinking of clearing a closet and can wait until June, it would really help.

Remember "Adopt a Rack?"

The idea is that volunteers choose an area of the Loft they may have a special interest in, and then they visit the Loft once a month or so and go through their rack looking for things that need mending, turning hangers so they all face the same way, and so on. Some of you who adopted have been very much on top of it while others haven't been near their racks since before Halloween (many of our Loft volunteers are active in other ways at **Langham Court** and with other groups and I am not keeping track of who is diligent and whose rack is needing attention. I just keep picking up and turning hangers, etc. as I go), and still other poor racks were never adopted. Still, the regulars, the volunteers most often in the Loft, have done a spectacular job putting everything back together since the Halloween madness and period of returning which went on past Christmas. Do you want to adopt a rack? Would you like to join our fabulous band of volunteers? Contact me at l.n.lemley@gmail.com

Alas We Lack

Several requests come up from time to time that I am forced to respond with: "We don't have Elvis except for blue jeans" or "we don't have a zoot suit, but we do have plenty of are tuxes or white coats for large men."

Yay Volunteers

Many thanks to the volunteers who helped so much in October and November (seems a long time ago now, doesn't

it) and to show my appreciation I enjoyed taking them out for a Chinese lunch on December 15th. Without the help of our volunteers, the Costume Loft would be a much less successful place.

However, new opportunities to volunteer have appeared. **Pearl Arden** has been our mender for months. She gets a small remuneration for doing a great job keeping our collection in better shape. At the same time, articles needing attention are stacking up. I think the reason for the growing volume of garments needing attention is that much of our collection is aging and we are looking at the older items more often and discovering their needs. In order to make it possible for Pearl to do the big jobs (she is very good and has solved a number of very tricky problems) I am hoping some among you will volunteer to step up and help with some of the less tricky problems such as buttons, hooks and eyes, and maybe even zippers. This would make it possible for Pearl to keep up with jobs demanding more time and attention. Please contact me if you are interested.

I'm also looking for someone who can give our wig collection some help. I have the materials for cleaning them. Can you help make our wigs look their best? Call me at 250-384-2025.

Sick Lion in the Loft

Our lion costume, which is often rented out, is dying on the hanger. How about making us a new one? Create a quality lion suit after consulting with me (the Loft buys the materials) and we'll put it on our "Special Collections" rack and praise your name to the skies in the Newsletter. Also, is there anyone out there who can put a chain-link vest back in good shape?

Boxes Available

I've mentioned before that if you need boxes without lids, medium and large, for any purpose, I have a pile of them and am willing to part with them for next to nothing.

The New Face of the Loft

I'm looking forward to the renovations to the Loft. Many thanks to **Madeleine Mills, Jane Krieger** and **Lisa Leighton** for their suggestions for the changes that **Dick Newson** (thanks Dick!) will put into place in the New Year. I think we will wind up with a more productive workplace and be better able to provide service to our many customers and costumers.

Let's Party!

Plan a themed party and get all your friends to dress up for a good time. People all over the Island are doing it.

Ned Lemley
Costume Loft Coordinator

Thank You, Tommy Mayne



Tommy has been steadily at work for **Langham Court Theatre** giving us three or four hours every week all through the Summer and Fall. Tommy, a life member, has been identifying people and plays from 1947 to 1967. He is fantastic with names and faces. He has been clarifying names, nicknames, short forms, spellings and misspellings to make sure that the **Langham Court** archive database is accurate. This was a tedious (20 years x 6 plays a year x 50 cast and crew = 6,000 names!!), but essential job. He has also been identifying people in plays, quite a feat given that people change over the years and are in and out of costume and make up. In addition to Tommy's great memory, he is a willing detective and will use his powers of deduction and elimination to identify all involved with the plays. **Langham Court Theatre** has a remarkable archive, and now, thanks to

Tommy, almost all of the early plays, cast and crew, are identified in part or in whole. We expect we'll need to call on you again, Tommy, but for now, **Thank You**.

Marilyn Kuss
Victoria Theatre Guild Archivist

Readers' Theatre Update

The next two proposed projects for **Readers Theatre** are a play – *Our Own Particular Jane* – by **Joan Mason Hurley** directed by **Corinna Gilliland**, and an **Evening of Shakespeare** directed by **Peter McNab**. Please watch for audition, rehearsal and performance dates: late March and the first three weeks of April for *Our Own Particular Jane* and mid-May to mid-June for **The Evening of Shakespeare**.

Remember that only four rehearsals are required and one performance evening. Rehearsals are usually on Mondays, the performance on a Saturday. No blocking, no memorizing, just sitting on elegant stools with a music stand for your script and your love of beautiful language are the requirements. Oh, and a sound track.

So for the **Joan Mason Hurley** play, which is subtitled "A piece of theatre based on the Life, Letters and Literature of **Jane Austen**, you may audition if you recognize this line (and even if you don't): "It is a truth universally

acknowledged that a single man in possession of a fortune must be in want of a wife."

For the Shakespeare evening; search for your favourite scenes and sonnets. As Polonius emoted to Hamlet: "either for tragedy, comedy, history, pastoral, pastoral-comical, historical-pastoral, tragical-historical, tragical-comical-historical, scene indivisible or poem unlimited." Polonius was prolix and pompous. Got stabbed in the arras.

You can help me put together a script for the Shakespeare evening by sending me your favourite sonnets and scenes. No need to send me the whole scene just let me know the play, act and line numbers.

Please send your interests and information to **Peter McNab**, petermcnab@shaw.ca, 250-507-6178.

Peter McNab
Producer

A Word From the Props Room

I would like to thank all those who have used the Property Room without supervision and left it in such good order. Come January, there will be a stock-taking so we can become familiar with the donations. Thanks to those who have donated the interesting items recently discovered -- anyone know who put them there? For those involved in **Langham Court Theatre** productions, please use the clipboards provided on the wall -- it keeps things together and saves reams of paper for the check-out book. The theory is the white check-out book is for non-**Langham Court Theatre** plays and events. Best wishes to all for a wonderful holiday season and a super continuation of our theatre season.

Carol-Anne Moore
Small-Props Coordinator

Four Season's Musical Theatre Fundraiser: 24-Hour Musical

Four Seasons Musical Theatre is starting 2013 with a fun & exciting fundraiser! We are once again attempting to stage a show in 24 hours. However, this time we are attempting a fun family musical!! Join us for this exciting event on February 22nd – 23rd. There will also be a costume/clothing sale, a silent auction & a 50/50 draw.

If you are interested in participating in this event, please email us at info@fourseasonsmusicaltheatre.com (actors under 19 must have parental permission to participate).

***If you sign up to be an actor in this event, you will be required to stay up for over 24 hours. Also, if not cast in the show, please advise if you are interested in being crew for this event.

For tickets and information for this event, please go to www.fourseasonsmusicaltheatre.com



We Got Mail

Australia Day



We caught the closing night of the new comedy *Australia Day* at the **Sydney Opera House** in October. To a Canadian ear, many issues sounded familiar: “illegal” arrivals, inadequacy of government support for the arts, aboriginal rights. It quickly got more interesting on this last point, more Australian, when the aboriginal’s word “invasion” by the settlers is substituted for our milder “contact” and you sense their distress at having lived for centuries in a country that on arrival, the British labeled “terra nullis,” the empty land. Along with the familiar, of course, there is always going to be the line, lots of them actually, that had the audience doubled over and us calling for an interpreter. But in that gorgeous building with all those happy Aussies, we were delighted to suck it up and join ’em.

Phil and Lesley Gibbs
Theatrephiles Abroad

Auditions

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

Better Living

Written by **George F. Walker**. Directed By **Wendy Merk**.

When: Saturday, February 16th, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Sunday, 17th February 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Monday, February 18th, 7:00 p.m. (call backs)

Where: Langham Court Theatre Rehearsal Room

Better Living is a dark comedy about an East-end Toronto family trying to survive in an increasingly frightening world. Nora's digging a bomb shelter in the basement, Mary Ann has escaped from first-time motherhood by returning to her childhood home, Gail and Junior have sex constantly, Elizabeth tries to save her clients from unfair prison sentences, Jack drowns his troubles in alcohol, and Tom is preparing his family for the day when the "sins of imbalance come home to roost."

Characters: (All ages are approximate. All characters have Toronto accents).

Nora: in her 50s, Comes across as a bit addled. Mother of 3 grown daughters and used to be married to Tom. Eternal optimist.

Jack: early 50s. Nora's brother, a priest. An alcoholic. A realist.

Gail: could be age 20. Nora's youngest. Angry, bright, forthright.

Mary Ann: could be age 30. The middle daughter. Fearful, neurotic, a new mother.

Elizabeth: in her 30s. The eldest. Former prostitute, now a lawyer. A fighter, violent tendencies.

Tom: in his 50s. The long-gone father, now returned. The family terrorist. Believes Armageddon is around the corner.

Junior: in his 20s. Gail's live-in boyfriend. Not overly bright. Sweet, loves Gail.

Everyone considering auditioning must read the script first, as there are scenes and language that some may find offensive. Scripts available for sign-out during office hours at Langham Court Theatre. <http://www.langhamtheatre.ca/boxoffice/>.



George F. Walker

Target Theatre General Auditions

Target Theatre is holding general auditions, initially to look for some understudies for some roles. Players must be 55 years of age or older and available for rehearsals one morning a week from September to June. Auditions are scheduled for the afternoon of January 15th, 2013.

To schedule an audition, please send an email to target@islandnet.com. Sides will be sent out prior to the auditions. Please be prepared to bring a resume and photo – not necessarily a headshot. If you are interested in the back stage position, stage manager able to make and find simple props, please consider contacting us.

To learn more about **Target**, please check our website at www.targettheatre.ca.

Tony Cain
Director

What's On

Langham Court Theatre Presents

That Face

Written by **Polly Stenham**. Directed by **Judy Treloar**.

Polly Stenham's first play is a hard-hitting, intense dissection of children who become parents to their parents. Stenham's Olivier Award-winning drama will keep you on the edge of your seat for an unforgettable night at the theatre.

Suitable for mature audiences: some violence and coarse language.

That Face previews Wednesday, January 16th and runs from Thursday, January 17th to Saturday, February 2nd. To purchase your tickets, call our Box Office at 250-384-2142, 805 Langham Court, Victoria, or go to www.langhamtheatre.ca.

The Victoria Gilbert & Sullivan Society Presents

Ruddigore or The Witches Curse

Music Director: **George Corwin**, Stage Director: **Chris Moss**, Choreographer: **Heather Elayne Day**

Charlie White Theatre, Sidney, Friday, March 22nd at 8:00 p.m., Saturday, March 23rd and Sunday, March 24th at 2:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$34 adults, \$32 Seniors, \$30 Students.

McPherson Playhouse, Victoria, Saturday, April 6th at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday, April 7th at 2:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$40 adults, \$38 Seniors, \$36 Students.

The Friends of the Library

Escape-the-February-Blues-Book-Sale

At the Nellie McClung Branch Library, 3950 Cedar Hill Road (Cedar Hill Rd near McKenzie) on Saturday, January 26th, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. (\$3.00 admission) and Sunday, January 27th, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. (admission free). Then from 1:45 p.m. to 3 p.m., it's all the books you can take away for the \$10.00 admission fee.

"Books let us into their souls and lay open to us the secrets of our own." **William Hazlitt**

The Victoria Gilbert & Sullivan Society Presents

HMS Pinafore in Concert

For performances at 2:00 p.m. on March 24th and 25th at the **Mary Winspear Centre**: you can book online

<https://tickets.marywinspear.ca/TheatreManager/1/tmEvent/tmEvent374.html> or call the Box Office at 250-656-0275.

For performances at 2:00 p.m. on March 31st and April 1st at **Oak Bay High School**: Tickets are available from **Ivy's Book Store, Long & McQuade, Munro's Books, Larsen Music, Lyle's Place** and **The Shieling Cards & Gifts**.

Mark Your Calendar

Wednesday, January 2 – Saturday, January 26

Your membership is due, time to renew before the Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, January 15

Open auditions for Target Theatre

Wednesday, January 16

Preview of *That Face*

Thursday, January 17 – Saturday, February 2

That Face

Saturday, January 19

12:00 – 4:00 p.m. Costume Workshop with Louise Osselton

Sunday, January 20

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

Saturday, January 26

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

Sunday, January 27

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

Sunday, January 27

7:00 p.m. The Victoria Theatre Guild Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, February 5

6:00 p.m. Meet and Greet for *The 39 Steps*

Saturday, February 9

Agnostic Valentine Karaoke Party

Friday, February 15

5:00 p.m. Deadline for the Design our Logo competition

Saturday, February 16

12:00 Noon–5:00 p.m. Auditions for *Better Living*

Saturday, February 16

1:00–3:00 p.m. “Planning Our Theatre’s Future” Workshop

Sunday, February 17

12:00 Noon–5:00 p.m. Auditions for *Better Living*

Sunday, February 17

1:00–3:00 p.m. “Planning Our Theatre’s Future” Workshop

Friday, February 22 – Saturday, February 23

Four Seasons Musical Theatre “24 Hour Musical”

Saturday, February 23

1:00–3:00 p.m. “Planning Our Theatre’s Future” Workshop

Sunday, February 24

1:00–3:00 p.m. “Planning Our Theatre’s Future” Workshop

Wednesday, March 6

Preview of *The 39 Steps*

Thursday, March 7 – Saturday, March 23

The 39 Steps

2012/2013 Board of Directors

President:	Toshik Bukowiecki
Vice-President:	Luke Krayenhoff
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2012-13 Production Chair:	Wendy Merk
2013-14 Production Chair:	Odile Nelson
Past President:	Sylvia Rhodes
Members-at-Large to 2013:	Kevin Stinson, Michael King
Members-at-Large to 2014:	Michael Kuss, Peter McNab

Membership and Volunteer Co-ordinators:

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Alex Carroll, alexcarroll81@gmail.com
Alan MacKenzie, petabob@shaw.ca
Dick Newson, dick_newson@telus.net
Bill Adams, bill-adams@shaw.ca

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Technical Director:

Facilities Maintenance:

Head Scenic Carpenter:

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Jeani Reynolds, jeani-renoir@shaw.ca
Linda Billings, lindabillings@shaw.ca

Webmaster:

Archivist:

Archival Assistant:

Art Co-ordinator:

Programme Co-ordinator

Costume Co-ordinator:

Small Props Co-ordinators:

Large Props Co-ordinator:

Custodian:

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

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