

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."

August 2010

You Are Invited!

To mark the re-opening of our renovated auditorium before the new season begins at the end of September, we are having

A PARTY
ON
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11th
from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Come and check out the new seats and help us celebrate these latest improvements to the theatre.

The bar will be open.
Please bring an appetizer to share.

Hope to see you there!



The New Seats Project

(or, the New Seats, Renovated and Safety Improved Auditorium, and Renovated Hallway Project)

By *Toshik Bukowiecki*

Anyone who has been involved in a renovation knows how the scope of the work can mushroom far beyond what was originally planned. Our work this summer at the theatre has done just that!

What started out as a plan to simply replace our seats evolved into a complete face-lift for the auditorium and then the adjoining hallway.

Here's what's happened:

We started off by removing the brass plaques from our old seats and labelling each with their row and seat number. Next came the removal of the old aisle carpets – a truly disgusting and filthy job! Then we started removing the old seats. I am very happy to tell you that the only seats that we junked were the approximately ten broken or incomplete ones. The rest went to new homes and will continue to be used. **Tim Gosley**, son of **Gerry Gosley** who produced the *Smile Show* at **Langham Court Theatre** for years in the 60's, has taken 50 seats for the theatre in his house on Fairfield Road. The Events Centre has taken 40 seats, numerous people have taken one or more seats and the rest were purchased during our Yard Sale on July 3rd. It is gratifying to know that they haven't become part of Hartland Landfill.

We decided to move the light fixtures from the hallway into the auditorium to increase our houselights and replaced the fixtures in the hallway with track lights. To improve the look of the track-lit hallway, we decided to paint the walls above the track lights black. During that discussion, someone, who will remain blameful, started picking one of the many Velcro tabs off the wall which led to someone else doing likewise and before we knew it, the walls looked diseased. As there was no going back, we had no choice but to remove all the Velcro tabs, clean up and repaint the whole hallway. It may not have been part of the original plan but the change is extreme and wonderful! The hallway no longer feels like a cavern and the new lighting not only illuminates it better but makes it much

easier to see and enjoy the photo displays. Once the old seats were removed, the wobbly stair railings were removed and the auditorium floor got new layers of plywood and hardboard added to provide a good solid surface for the new seats. The house-light fixtures and some defunct ventilation fixtures were removed; the ceiling was patched, then painted. Then the rest of the auditorium was painted as well. New railings were built (the building may fall down but the railings will stand forever!). The houselights were re-installed, as was the wiring for the aisle and stair lights. The floor got three coats of paint, and we were ready for the new seats!

The work of installing the seats, re-carpeting and finishing the electrical work will all be done by tradespeople so the volunteer portion of our reno has been completed, and I ask you to join me in thanking the following people for volunteering their time, elbow-grease and expertise:

Bill Adams (Reno Guru), **Marilyn Kuss**, **Michael Kuss** and **Alexis Kuss** (super volunteers who were there almost every day), **Andrea Pite**, **Fran Patterson**, **Diana Keating**, **Sylvia Rhodes**, **Jean de Cartier**, **Robert Cromwell**, **David Greenall-Scott**, **Phil Gibbs**, **Bob Clarke**, **Peter McNab**, **Andy Ogle** (Peter's friend), **Julius Maslovat**, **Barry Grimshaw**, **Tony Cain**, **Gil Henry**, **Christine Karpiak**, **Roger Carr**, **Joan Patrick**, **John and Sally Crickman**, **Jared Gowan**, **Eric Smith**, and **Alan MacKenzie**.
(Apologies to anyone I forgot!)

Huge thanks for a lot of very hard work, very well done!

We know its not possible to please everyone but I think the vast majority of our members and audience will like the renewed and improved **Langham Court Theatre**. But to quote **Sylvia Rhodes** – “If anyone complains, I'll slap them!” As it's just not like Sylvia to say something like that, that tells you how much she approves of what we've done. So.....you've been warned!

What a Team!

Many, many thanks to all these wonderful, hard working volunteers for helping to make the yard sale such a resounding success: **Geli Bartlett**, **Jean de Cartier**, **Vinnie Chadwick**, **Tony Cain**, **Rich Cook**, **John Crickman**, **Sally Crickman**, **Jane French**, **Lesley Gibbs**, **Corinna Gilliland**, **Mary Goodspeed**, **Jill Groves**, **Peggy Howard**, **Diana Keating**, **Peta MacKenzie**, **Alan MacKenzie**, **Peter McNab**, **Madeleine Mills**, **Carol-Ann Moore**, **Joan Patrick**, **Brent Sawlor**, **Garth Taylor**, **Wayne Yercha** and last but by no

means least, **Toshik Bukowiecki**. Not only did you make nearly \$1,500 for the theatre but you generated a great deal of interest in the theatre!

Thanks also to those who took the trouble to sort out and bring their saleable items for the sale and, of course, to those who supported us by buying stuff.

Thank you all.
Sylvia Rhodes
Past President

New Bylaws For Langham Court Theatre

By Karrie Wolfe

At the Summer General Meeting on June 27, 2010, the **Victoria Theatre Guild** passed a special resolution to repeal its existing bylaws in their entirety and replace them with a new set of bylaws. The proposed new bylaws were made available to the membership before the SGM, in accordance with the advanced notice requirements for special resolutions. Interestingly, the last set of bylaws recognized by the **Registrar of Societies** were the 1987 bylaws, therefore what the membership voted to repeal was actually the 1987 bylaws.

For the information of all members, here is a brief outline of the major changes in the new bylaws. Please note that not all of the detailed changes have been outlined here; the minutes of the SGM contain more details about changes and the discussion, and as soon as the bylaws have been accepted by the **Registrar of Societies**, they will be available at the Theatre for anyone who is interested. This is a “Coles Notes” version, if you will.

General Notes/Changes:

- **Language:** The new bylaws use modern, simpler language in an effort to make them more user-friendly. Legalese has been reduced, passive voice changed to active, etc.
- **Membership Categories:** There is now just one category of membership – the previous distinctions were distinctions without a difference, so were unnecessary (Junior and Senior members did not have different privileges, and fees are based on different criteria).
- **4th Member at Large Position:** The Junior Co-ordinator position on the Board has been changed into a 4th Member at Large. It was felt that identifying this member of the Board as ‘Junior’ created an artificial distinction between junior and adult, and efforts to ensure involvement of younger people would be better handled by the Education Committee.
- **Membership Fees:** Since membership fees are now due for everyone on January for the calendar year, the bylaws have been changed to reflect that.
- **Elections:**
- **Nominations Chair** – A Nominations Chair was previously appointed for the elections at the AGM, and the Secretary handled elections at the SGM. A Nominations Chair will now be appointed for both the AGM and SGM; it could be the Secretary, but doesn't have to be. Also, the Nominations Chair was given

the discretion to create a Committee if he or she wants but it is no longer mandatory.

Board Terms – Terms for Board Members have been changed from one year terms to two year terms, starting in January 2011. Four Members of the Board will begin their two year term as of January 2011 (President, Vice-President, 2 Members at Large) and the remaining four (Treasurer, Secretary, other 2 Members at Large) will begin their two year term as of January 2012, thereby increasing continuity and consistency by always having some experienced Board Members. January 2011 will be a transition year – 4 Board Members elected for two year terms, 4 Board Members elected for one year terms.

- **Committees:** Several committees have been removed (House Management, Play Assessment, Maintenance, Operations, Rentals, Season Vouchers), since they were listed as “mandatory” and had not been in use for some time, or their responsibilities had been subsumed by the General Manager. New committees can be created or recreated at any time.
- **Duties/Responsibilities of Staff/Contractors:** Previous versions of the bylaws spelled out the duties/responsibilities of the staff/contractors. These details are set as a matter of contract law between the **Victoria Theatre Guild** and the contractors, so it wasn't correct to put them in the bylaws. Now the bylaws merely list the possible contracted positions and details of duties and responsibilities will be set out in their contracts as established by the Personnel Committee and approved by the Board.

As a result of discussion at the SGM, a new clause was added to the bylaws to specifically recognize that, in addition to supervising the selection of plays to recommend to the Board for the next season, the **Planning Production Chairperson** is also then responsible for selecting the directors for the season of plays that has been approved by the Board.

The Special Resolution, “be it resolved that the entire text of the current Bylaws of the Victoria Theatre Guild and Dramatic School be repealed and replaced with the new version as amended by the Society at the Summer General Meeting on June 27, 2010”, was moved by **Karrie Wolfe** and seconded by **Bill Adams**, and carried unanimously.

I would like to thank all those who took the time to read and provide comments on the bylaws throughout the course of this project. In particular, my thanks to Committee members **Evan Roberts**, **Mike Miller** and **John Gilliland**; to **Lisa Leighton** and **Sylvia Lindstrom** for

eagle-eyed editing and polishing; and to **Roger Carr, Fran Patterson** and **Toshik Bukowiecki** for meeting with me

directly on behalf of the Board.

Personnel Changes To Take Effect August 1st

Those members who attended the Summer General Meeting will already be aware that **Craig Mracek** will not be returning as our General Manager once his contract is completed July 31. (Not that he will be away from the theatre for very long; he is already busy doing lighting design for *Odd Couple*.) The Board of Directors, and I'm sure the membership in general, wish Craig the best of luck in every endeavour, and especially in his goal of working for a charitable organization overseas within the next year.

Denise Brown, our present Box Office Manager, will take on the role of Theatre Manager as of August 1st, combining the duties of box office management and administration. We've all become familiar with Denise's smiling face in the box office, and the Board is delighted to have her taking on this position. We owe Craig, Denise, **Dick Newson**, and their small group of very hard-working box office volunteers, many thanks for their countless hours of work in the computerization and reorganization of the box office.

Fran Patterson
Vice-President

Cast and Crew for *The Odd Couple - Female Version*:

The Cast: Brian Adams, Jo Barnes, Kathy Burton, Christine Karpiak, Colleen Sullivan Mares, Fran Patterson, Shelley Superstein, Wayne Yercha.

Hubner, Stage Manager: **Nick Stull**, Lighting Design: **Craig Mracek**, Props and Set Dressing: **Sally Crickman**, Sound Design: **Corinna Gilliland**, Asst. Director: **Diana Keating**, ASM: **Joan Emery**.

The Production team: Director: **Sylvia Rhodes**, Producer: **Vinnie Chadwick**, Set Designer: **Tony**

Art Show

The art show for *The Odd Couple – Female Version* will feature the works of **Louise Monfette** and **Elizabeth Symons**, and will run from September 29th to October 16th. If you wish to meet the artists, they will be at the theatre on Sunday October 3rd from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Louise Monfette is a painter and a sculptor both. Louise's love of colour and texture is reflected in her recent mixed media work and in her sculptures. She has exhibited in galleries in Victoria and Vancouver and has won juror's awards from the **Federation of Canadian Artists**, **Sooke Fine Art Show** and **Look** show. Louise studied at both the **Victoria College of Art** and the **Ontario College of Art**, graduating from **VCA** in 2003. Her art can be viewed at: www.louise-monfette.blogspot.com

Exhibits include: **Place des Art**, Coquitlam, **Seymour Art Gallery**, North Vancouver, **Klee Wyck Gallery**, West Vancouver. Her work has sold across Canada as well as through **Sharli Gallery** in North Vancouver, the **Michelle Frost Gallery** and **Gallery 1248** in Victoria, **The Old Schoolhouse** and her own studio gallery, both in Qualicum Beach.

Elizabeth is a member of the **Community Arts Council of Greater Victoria**, **The Art Gallery of Greater Victoria**, **The League of Canadian Poets** and **The Writer's Federation of B.C.** Her interests include gardening, swimming and environmental issues. More of her work can be found at www.Symonsart.com or at her studio in Victoria.

Elizabeth Symons is passionate about colour, texture, and the relationship between language and landscape, poetry and the natural world. She works in inks, oils and water-colour.



Editor's Notes:

As usual, this newsletter can only happen thanks to a team of hard-working individuals who all deserve a big round of applause for their efforts. First, I want to thank Kai Hansen, our wonderful Web-Master. Alas, this will be the last time he posts the Newsletter on our website. We'll miss you, Kai. A huge thank-you to **Danda Humphreys** who has once again stepped up to volunteer her eagle eye and formidable skill as a proof-reader. Thanks too to **Craig Mracek** and **Denise Brown** who organise the volunteers who label, stuff and send the snail-mail version of the Newsletter. And, of course, this month's contributors deserve a great big round of applause for their work. Their numbers include: **Pearl Arden, Toshik Bukowiecki, Phil and Lesley Gibbs, Lisa Leighton, Ned Lemley, Fran Patterson, Joan Patrick, Sylvia Rhodes**, and our resident legal expert, **Karrie Wolfe**.

The bad news this month is that not only are we saying goodbye to Web-Master **Kai Hansen**, but also to our Theatre Manager, **Craig Mracek**. Although Craig will still be around the theatre (for instance, he's designing the lights for *The Odd Couple*), he will no longer be the go-to person, the smiling face in the front office. Since I took over as Editor of the Newsletter I have benefited greatly from the advice and the support given to me by Craig. Both he and Kai have been invaluable in helping me to deal with the pitfalls of publication. I wish them both a lot of joy in their next adventures.

The good news this month is that **Denise Brown**, our Box Office Manager, will be the new Theatre Manager as well as continuing to run the Box Office. So there'll still be a familiar, smiling face in the front office. Good luck Denise, I know you'll be terrific!

Also bad news is that **Phil Gibbs** is no longer on the Board as his term as Production Chair came to an end at the Summer General Meeting but the good news is that **Keith Digby** and **Cynthia Pronick** were voted in as the 2011-

2012 Production Chair (or is that "Production Love-seat"?). Good luck to you both!



Our New Production Team

July was an extremely busy month, not only did we have the biggest and best Yard Sale you can imagine but we also removed the old seats (which were sold almost immediately), repaired and painted the floor, the auditorium, and the corridor and put in the new seats in time for **Roger Carr's** production of *Sweeny Todd* to come into the theatre at the end of the month. It took a lot of effort on the part of a lot of people but the prize for working the hardest around the theatre this summer has to go to **Toshik Bukowiecki** and **Sylvia Rhodes**.

And the fun doesn't stop there. On August 8th we'll be entertaining hosts of customers all eager to try and buy at our Gi-normous Annual Costume Sale. For many in Victoria, the **Langham Court Costume Sale** is the highlight of the summer. So **Ned Lemley** and his band of volunteers will be working hard for at least a week before the sale as they sort, hang or fold, then price the clothes that will be sold by the bagful from 10 a.m. till 2 p.m. on Sunday the 8th.

For the first time, **Langham Court** will be one of the venues in the **Fringe Festival**, so between August 26th and September 5th our theatre will be invaded by a host of Fringe Fanatics. Let's hope they like what they see and come back for more during our fabulous 2010-2011 season.

Help Wanted!!

How Does Our Garden Grow?

Our garden has been growing apace with the warm weather and I want to thank a few people for their help. Thanks to **Jean Topham** for cleaning out and planting flowers in the bed in the circle. Thanks to **Michael Mclandress** for reclaiming the sidewalk from the periwinkle and for some much-needed pruning. Thanks to **Jean de Cartier** for taming the jungle outside the lounge windows. Thanks to **Fran Patterson** for weeding and **Dick Newson** for getting out the weed-whacker and harvesting the crops of foxtails

and crabgrass in the front of the theatre. Thanks to **Craig** and **Denise** for watering the flowerbeds.

If you can help with the gardening or would be willing to take charge of the garden and grounds around the theatre, please contact **Dick Newson** at: dick_newson@telus.net or give him a call at 250 595-3854.

Toshik Bukowiecki
President

Hallway Displays

The Guild is in need of someone to take over doing displays in the hallway. For each production, **John Gilliland** would create a display that incorporated photo boards from previous shows that the director and actors had done and a list of the Director's previous credits. We need someone to take over producing these displays for the six productions of the season. Please let me know if this is something that you could help with - it would be much appreciated. Thanks. You can reach me at 250 388-576, Or at toshik@pacificoast.net

Toshik Bukowiecki

Spreading the Good Word

The Publicity Committee is anxious to recruit enthusiastic, committed members to help spread the word about our theatre and how wonderful it is. If you have any experience in publicity or marketing, **Langham Court** needs you. Please let Denise know at: gm.langhamcourt@shaw.ca or, come to the next meeting in the lounge on Friday September 3rd at 6:00 p.m.

News, Views and Reviews

The Importance of Seeing Earnest

Oscar Wilde's Masterpiece Performed at Craigarroch Castle

By Phil and Lesley Gibbs

The setting was altogether splendid, a high-tech tent open at one end to show, beyond the drapes of the well furnished and nicely dressed set, the stolid face of **Craigdarroch Castle**. Whatever one may think of the castle as architecture, as theatrical illusion it worked just fine. Now if only someone could have muted that bright light Up Right - the one that nearly blinded us till sundown.

It was fun to see **Langham Court** luminaries **Paul Terry** (Jack Worthing), **Geli Bartlett** (Lady Bracknell) and **Kate Rubin** (Miss Prism) strutting their stuff. It must however be said that on Preview night the accolades went to **David Radford** as Algernon and **Christina Patterson** as Cecily, both of whom captured the flamboyant style of the play - and the rapid-fire dazzle of **Wilde's** lines - delivering the whole package with near-perfect joy, vigour and charm.

Thanks to **Ian Case** and **Giggling Iguana** for bringing Earnest to us this summer. It is always a pleasure to be with Oscar on a lovely summer evening.

You Got Mail

In my role as Lighting Designer for *Perfect Wedding* I would like to thank **Craig Mracek** (whose name was accidentally omitted from the program), **Chad Laidlaw** for his emergency help during the tech weekend, and **Roger Carr** for hanging the final corrective lighting for the show. You three were my saviours and I appreciate all your know-how and help. Thank you, all of you.

As Co-Props Coordinator I want to thank to Toshik for his help in sorting stuff out of the props room for the garage sale. He has a far wider knowledge of what and how many items are really needed in plays! Thank you, Toshik
Carol-Anne Moore
Props Coordinator

Front of House Report

There will be a Front of House Orientation within the next few weeks for all those volunteers keen to work as Ushers or House Managers. As soon as the date is set you will be telephoned. Newcomers, if you have not attended a Front of House Orientation and you are interested in learning the ropes, please contact **Pearl Arden** at reader8@shaw.ca or **Marilyn Samis** at irisheysmts@shaw.ca. Remember, if you are interested in working Front of House, it is important that you attend an orientation.

Pearl Arden

Front-of-House Co-ordinator

Introducing our newest Life Member: Web-Master Kai Hansen

By Kai Hansen and Corinna Gilliland



Picture by Paul Bertorelli

For the past ten years **Kai Hansen** has been maintaining, improving, enhancing **Langham Court Theatre's** image on the World Wide Web. According to Kai, who takes his role as Web-Master seriously, it takes a minimum of 200 hours a year to keep the website up to date and user friendly.

Not always glued to the computer, Kai comes from Copenhagen where he grew up a mere ten minutes away from the **Dyrehavs Bakken** amusement park, an ideal hangout for an adventurous young boy. Between the ages of ten and fourteen, Kai practically lived at the park, working as crew for **Kramer's Variety Show**. Also, being so young, he was the park's mascot and was able to go on the rides as much as he wanted. He recalls doing 40 turns on the large wooden roller coaster in one day. At age fifteen and sixteen, Kai spent his summer holidays gofering for the **Circus Marino**.

In between his life at the **Dyrehavs Bakken** and the **Circus Marino**, Kai went to a school that he remembers as having an extremely beautiful theatre. Built in 1949, the school and its theatre still look as attractive and up-to-date as they did then. Kai remembers his first acting role at age seven as Princess Golden Locks. He suffered a lot of teasing for his art but in later roles, due to his height, he was able to play the bad guys and in one Danish play he was even required to smoke on stage.

Language was always an important aspect of Kai's life. He learned to read fluently when very young, and it was this ability that ensured that he was regularly called upon to read poetry and to act in school plays. He also gained fluency in English through the written word. At age twelve his choice of English reading was **Mad Magazine**.

After high school, Kai joined the **Danish Air Force** and was stationed in the Faroe Islands for more than three

years doing ice patrols. He was part of the crew required to map the location of icebergs then radio the coordinates to the shipping lines, a task now done by satellite. It was while he was in the Air Force that Kai developed his love of flying.

In 1971, Kai moved to Zimbabwe (then called Rhodesia) for seven years to work for **Dunlop Tires** in Bulawaio. By that time, according to Kai, there was no apartheid and no English civil servants in Southern Rhodesia. From Zimbabwe, Kai and his family moved to Canada. First stop was Calgary where he remained until 1995. It was during that time that Kai became a clown – literally. A community centre near his home needed someone to dress up in clown costume for some celebration. Kai volunteered and **Dizzy the Clown** was born. Six weeks later Kai joined a course in clowning led by **Nadine Rogers**. This was followed by a second course then a week at **Clown University** held at La Crosse Wisconsin as part of the **University of Wisconsin**. He learned about props and characterization from some of the best clowns from the U.S. and the U.K. **Dizzy the clown** was a regular entertainer at the **Calgary Stampede** and when the **Grey Cup** match came to town, Dizzy was there to help make the celebrations go with a bang. As a clown, Kai became proficient at making balloon animals, and he remembers that on one occasion working a line-up of children, he made 849 animals in one afternoon – that's a lot of work, those balloons are hard to inflate.

At age 52, Kai retired from his job in Calgary and moved to Victoria and branched out into a brand new field. It was at this time that he began acquiring the necessary skill and computer savvy to create websites. In no time at all, Kai was web-master for a number of volunteer organisations and it was around this time, approximately ten years ago, that Kai met **Sylvia Rhodes** at a **Penninsula Players** gathering. They discussed the possibility of creating a website for the **Victoria Theatre Guild**. Shortly after, Kai met with **Toshik Bukowiecki** and **Bonnie Groening** and the website became a reality, with Bonnie acting as liaison between Kai and the theatre. When **Peta MacKenzie** became General Manager, she and Kai worked together to improve the web-site and again more changes and more improvements occurred when Kai began working with **Craig Mracek**.

Kai maintains that he has learned a lot and that he has enjoyed being **Langham Court's** Web-Master but is ready to move on to a more active life now he has recovered from an illness that left him hospitalised and forced to lie flat on

his back for a month in 2008. However, he will never lose his connection with **Langham Court** and with theatre in general. After all, he comes from a family that has jealously guarded season tickets to the **Royal Theatre** in Copenhagen for 150 years. It seems that the only way to get season tickets to the **Royal Theatre** is to inherit them or to wait for up to 15 years on the off chance that some become available. Kai's family have the tickets they obtained from his wife's great aunt. Those tickets are now in his sister's possession and will be handed down to his nephew. So, with a family history so closely linked to the arts, it is no surprise that Kai has been, and will continue to be a supporter of theatre in general and of **Langham Court** in particular.



Dizzy the Clown with grandson Marcus entertaining Marcus' "After School Club



News from the Costume Guild



It's All About Thanks in the Costume Workshop

In these days of the Summer General Meeting, the garage sale, the seat replacement, and the preparations for the annual clothing sale, it is more obvious than ever that **Langham Court** is a marvellous and unique place. It runs, for the most part, on the energy of volunteers. I am proud to be one of them, and delighted to be able to thank so many people, in this issue, for so many wonderful contributions recently to costuming.

First, thanks to everyone who attended the Costume Guild workshop, **The 1950s in Fashion** on May 30 in the Lounge, which we festooned with the Loft's collection of major 1950s pieces and accessories. Twelve of us enjoyed notes on the era and a great discussion about influences on fashion. Thanks to **Ned Lemley, Susan Ferguson** and **Lynn Cadrain** for making it happen, and to **Ann-Marie Arneson, Jacqueline Fraser, Jean de Cartier, Madeleine Mills, Jane Krieger, Lori Smith, Craig Mracek,** and **Janine Metcalfe** for making it a lively, educational event. Notes from that presentation will be circulated to Costume Guild members shortly.



The Lounge on May 30, 2010, dressed in the Loft's 1950s collection, for the Costume Guild's workshop, "Fashion in the 1950s."

Di Madill was unable to join us, but sent a recommendation for a great read about fashion history, women and clothing choices, by **Linda Grant: *The Thoughtful Dresser***.

Thanks to those who have volunteered to help assess and care for our collection of (now more than) 500 vintage and new sewing patterns: **Jane Krieger, Madeleine Mills, Marge Bridgeman** and **Lynn Cadrain** will start that work with **Lisa Leighton** in the early fall, and we invite anyone else who is interested to join us. Just to tempt you, we now have four ironing boards in the Costume Workshop. Irresistible, no?

More thanks, to the kind souls who have recently made donations. We are the beneficiaries of a box of great patterns and fabric from **Vinnie Chadwick's** past sewing

adventures, and some lovely batiks and a great stash of patterns from **Mrs. Ella Hicks** of Victoria, mostly in hard-to-find larger sizes. Courtesy of **1543 Décor** at 1543 Fort Street, we also have a length of ultra-sixties fabric just waiting for the right stage set. **Marge Bridgeman** also donated a big box of funky fabrics, and **Jessie Lindstrom**, by way of her daughter **Sylvie Lindstrom**, kindly donated a fabulous collection of patterns, mostly from the 1960s and 1970s. Sylvie and her sisters must have been the height of fashion in the 1970s, and probably the envy of all their friends. Sylvie also donated a stack of "Golden Hands" (and other) needlework magazines – classics.

An enormous and a special thank you to **Corinna Gilliland**. Through an unimaginably difficult time, Corinna kept us in mind as she was sorting through **John's** things. She has graciously donated a dozen wonderful books about stage costuming, theatre design, and the history of clothing, as well as a box of lovely vintage sewing patterns that came to **John** through his family. We are honoured to have all of these in our collection, and we will care for them in **John's** memory.

We have also recently purchased five new books for our library recently: three of the *Everyday Fashions from Sears Catalogues* series, covering 1909 through 1939; and the two volumes of *Blueprints of Fashion: Home Sewing Patterns*, for the 1940s and the 1950s.

Last, but certainly not least, we are delighted to add to our costuming resources the two very nice female wigs purchased by *Silver Dagger*, courtesy of **Angela Henry**. Because these are expensive, high-quality wigs, they are being kept in the Costume Workshop rather than the Loft (along with their care instructions and products), for use only by **Langham Court** shows.

There will be no meetings of the Costume Guild during the summer, but if you can't wait for more information or to get involved (bless you), please contact **Lisa Leighton** at 250-595-5523 or leighton@islandnet.com. We happily accept donations of costume/fashion-related books, and of sewing patterns, notions and fabrics, anytime. Thank you!

Lisa Leighton
For the Costume Workshop

Notes from Aloft

These are persons who donated garments and accessories since last report: **Marianne Heine, Tracy Arder, Newell Smith, Jane Krieger, Geli Bartlett, Jane French Ned Lemley, Dr. Eleanor Swallow** via **Jacqueline Fraser, Tiiu Kava** via **Martin Kava, St. Lukes' Players** via **Deb Taylor, Diane Cole, Eric Holmgren, Ian Case, Vera Watts** via **Linda Watts, Penelope Harwood, Margaret Swineburne, Laura Bird, Ian Sherman, Vinnie Chadwick, John Murray, Roger and Teresa Talletire, Susan Ferguson, Barb Strachan, Riley Nicholson, George and Connie Hoyt** via **Jean Topham, Sylvia Rhodes, Ewan Roberts, Hilary Groos, Pat Murray's Estate, Susan Wetmore, Lisa Donaldson, Angela Mitra, Jane Castleton, Jacqueline Fraser, Barb Foster, Marilyn Whitehead, Grace Wong, Paul and Carla Roberts, Jean de Cartier, Sibylle Zilcar, Gail Hozack, Lorna** via **Lisa, Elaine Brown, Chantelle, Ritva Gronstrand, Eric Grace, Ian Firth, Helen Ward** via her nephew **Jake Humphries, Valerie Marcott**.

Whew! **Langham Court** thanks all who have so generously parted with their loved-ones' garments and accessories and all who have watched Hoarders on T.V. and then gone on to decimate their closets and drawers.

Other News From Aloft: We now have three windows in the Loft thanks to the tenacity of **Toshik B.** who has pursued this since he came into office. We now have a cross breeze that makes it possible to avoid heat stroke

and to be able to see natural light which makes any work place more accommodating. I say thank you to **Toshik** and to the board for pursuing this improvement.

Word of Mouth seems to be the explanation for the continued growth of the Loft's income. Thanks to all of you who pass on the fact that we are here and renting costumes at affordable prices.

Next time I report I'll be listing the many, many volunteers who helped prep for **The Giant Annual Costume Sale** on **August 8th**. Many volunteers from the past have come forward again and there are also many new names wanting to participate. Along the way I think we may have found a couple of new Costumers to work on shows at Langham Court.

Because it's my last chance, I want to thank **Craig Mracek** for his assistance to me in the past two years. Craig, you were always a good listener and teacher (he taught me to use the credit card device and other stuff), also, **Dick Newson** and **Denise Brown** and **Bill Adams** for making my job more effective.

We are at the end of a fiscal year, we have new seats, we have a great season of scripts ahead, what's not to celebrate!

Ned Lemley
Loft Manager

Auditions

The Memory of Water

By **Shelagh Stephenson**, directed by **Angela Henry**

When: September 8 & 9, 2010 in the lounge 7:00 – 9:00 pm; Call-backs Sept 11th, from 1:00 – 3:00 pm in the lounge

Production Dates: November 18 to December 4, 2010

Rehearsal Schedule: 1st rehearsal Sunday Sept 12th, then every Tuesday, Wednesday evening and Sunday afternoon.

Looking for: 4 women who look late 30's and early 40s and 2 men who look 40-50 years.

Synopsis: Three sisters meet at their childhood home for their mother's funeral. The intensity of their grief brings up all the baggage between them and their issues with their mother. Amid this comic and poignant reunion, mother appears, dressed in her 1960s finery. The two men are the beleaguered husband of the health nut and the married doctor boyfriend of the oldest sister respectively. Lovely character roles.

Characters:

Catherine: the youngest sister, most insecure, clingy, erratic, emotionally leaky, shopaholic.

Teresa: the middle sister, health nut, tightly zipped, controlling, allergic to alcohol (of course she drinks).

Mary: the oldest sister, a doctor, unmarried, heady, driven, reflective, sharp-tongued, in a relationship with a married man.

Mike: the married doctor, afraid to commit, boyfriend of Mary.

Frank: the long-suffering husband of Teresa who would rather not be selling health products.

Vi: the mother, the ubiquitous influence on all the sisters, imperious, earthy yet ethereal. Vi appears as her 40-year-old self circa 1960.

Note: Scripts available in August at **Langham Court Theatre**. They can be borrowed for a deposit. It is to your advantage to read the script before auditions. If you are unable to make the audition times, contact Angela directly at angelahenry@shaw.ca or 250 361-1895

The Readers' Theatre

will be holding auditions for their first production of the 2010-2011 Season

When: September 13th at 7:00 p.m. **Where:** In the Lounge

Rehearsals: Sept. 20th, 27th, Oct. 4th & 18th

Performance: Saturday October 23rd

We will be casting 2 one act plays (yet to be chosen).

They will be advertised on the web site and in the September Newsletter.

Since Readers' Theatre is essentially radio, we are very flexible in our casting, and focus on the ability to 'sound the part' - so come out and give it a try.

Joan Patrick

Producer

What's On

The Victoria Shakespeare Society

Presents *Richard III* directed by **Ian Case** and *Taming of the Shrew* directed by **Barbara Pogemiller** on the grounds of the **Camosun College Campus**. Running Wednesday to Saturday until August 21st. For more information go to www.vicshakespeare.com

The 24th Annual Victoria Fringe Theatre Festival Aug 26-Sept 5, at:

Langham Court Theatre, Metro Studio, Victoria Event Centre, Market Square, St. Andrew's School, Wood Recital Hall and other downtown locations. A non-stop, twelve-day explosion of comedy, improv, drama, performance art and dance from around the world. All venues are downtown, some pay-what-you-can shows at the Fringe Club, random 'happenings' (FringeKids Fest, Fringe Block Party, Pick of the Fringe Pancake Breakfast) and commissioned projects. Ticketed venues \$9 or less! Contact information: 250 383-2663 or www.intrepidtheatre.com

Life-Members Welcome!!!

The President and Board extend an invitation to all **Victoria Theatre Guild** Life Members to attend the Meet and Greet that precedes each Production. The Meet and Greet for *The Odd Couple – Female Version* is on Wednesday, September 1st 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.

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 September issue will be August 20th and so on. Please send your information by e-mail to **Corinna Gilliland** (catfael@shaw.ca). *Langham Court News* welcomes news from other groups too. So let's support each other's endeavours in our theatre community

Are you receiving us???

Do you receive your *Langham Court News* by snail-mail? If you have recently changed your mailing address, or would prefer to receive your newsletter by e-mail, please contact **Denise Brown** at gm.langhamcourt@shaw.ca

Mark Your Calendar

Sunday, August 8

10: 00 am – 2:00 p.m. Langham Court's
GIANT COSTUME SALE

Tuesday, August 24

The Odd Couple- Female Version tickets on sale to
Members only

Wednesday, September 1

6:00 p.m. Meet and Greet for *The Odd Couple –
Female Version*. Life Members Welcome

Wednesday, September 8

7 p.m. – 9 p.m. Auditions for *The Memory of
Water*

Thursday, September 9

7 p.m. – 9 p.m. Auditions for *The Memory of
Water*

Saturday, September 11

7 p.m. – 11 p.m. Renovation Celebration

Wednesday to Saturday 'til August 21

Victoria Shakespeare Society Presents
Richard III and *The Taming of the Shrew*

Thursday, August 25 – Sunday, September 5

24th Annual Victoria Fringe Theatre Festival

Wednesday, September 29

Preview of *The Odd Couple – Female Version*

Thursday, September 30 – Saturday, October 16

The Odd Couple – Female Version

Monday, October 18

The Memory of Water tickets on sale to
Members only

Tuesday, October 19

Meet and Greet for *The Memory of Water*. Life
Members Welcome

Wednesday, November 17

Preview of *The Memory of Water*

Thursday, November 18 – Saturday, December 4

The Memory of Water

2010/2011 Board of Directors

President:	Toshik Bukowiecki
Vice-President:	Fran Patterson
Secretary:	Joan Patrick
Treasurer:	Jon Scheer
Junior Member Co-ordinator:	Amber Bonner
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Front-of-House Co-ordinators:	Pearl Arden, reader8@shaw.ca Marilyn Samis, irisheyesmts@shaw.ca Laura Clutchey clutch_L@hotmail.com
Bar Manager:	

Webmaster:	Kai Hansen, info@relocatecanada.com
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Large Props Co-ordinator:	Sally Crickman, 250 598-1706, sjcrickman@shaw.ca
Theatre Manager & Box Office Manager:	Denise Brown 250 384-2025, gm.langhamcourt@shaw.ca 250 384-2142, boxoffice.langhamcourt@shaw.ca

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Archival photos enhanced by Paul Bertorelli

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

Newsletter address changes or deletions: please contact Denise Brown, gm.langhamcourt@shaw.ca

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Web Site: www.langhamcourttheatre.bc.ca