



The decidedly unofficial newsletter of the Victoria Theatre Guild

“Isn’t it Romantic”

Janie Blumberg and Harriet Cornwall are struggling to escape from lingering parental domination in order to establish their own lives and identities in New York City in the 1980’s. Their story is told in a fast moving series of scenes, both hilarious and touching, resulting in maturity and self-assuredness for all concerned.

The fourth show of the season is by Wendy Wasserstein and is directed by Wendy Merk. S.M. is Sharon Sutherland; Producer is Lorene Cammiade with Set Design by Bill Adams, Lighting Design by Chad Laidlaw, Costume Design by Susan Ferguson, Sound Design by Corinna Gilliland assisted by Alan McKenzie. Set Décor by Julie Newson and Lissa Reimer, Andrea Pite is A.S.M. and Set Construction is by Bill Adams. Hair design is by Melanie Cummins and Dance and dialect coach is Rita Humphreys. Properties Manager is Sarah Innes, lighting ops are Kevin Cahill and Carol-Anne Moore, sound ops are Diana Keating and Rich Cook, crew are Paulo Moolman, Rod Hogg and Morgan Cranny, and painters are Bill Adams and Jean Topham. Bill is head carpenter, assisted by Paulo Moolman, Bob Clarke, Dick Newson and Barry Grimshaw. Dressers are Sam Norton, Sandi Norton, Carol Foote and Jean de Cartier.

The cast is made up of Heather Jarvie, Erin Rogers, Debbie Robinson, Jeff Shultis, Mur Meadows, Fran Patterson, Andrew Copeland and Morgan Cranny. Lorene Cammiade, Corinna Gilliland, Morgan Cranny, Erin Rogers and Andrew Beckerman supply various voices.

“Isn’t it Romantic” opens on March 5 and runs to March 21. Tickets are now on sale and members are encouraged to attend Opening Night to support the cast and crew.

“Hitched” The Art Show

Karin Knowlton began her love of illustration at an early age. Self taught, her drawings are whimsical with a uniquely funky edge. She has designed graphics for commercial businesses, T-shirts, custom wedding invitations as well as illustrated storyboards. On her creative list of accomplishments Karin would like to add her aspiration to illustrate children's books. Currently Karin can be found in her own shop "Kay's Korner" in Cook Street Village where you can buy her line of yoga inspired art cards.

Ten years ago, Jill Rockwell had a personal wish to “reinvent” her life. She had lived in Florida for 40 years, although she was born in Vancouver, and decided to try a complete regrouping of herself by moving back to the Pacific Northwest. After many years of painting, her work was becoming more textural, more abstract, and she was consistently looking for ways to augment the canvases. An interest in jewelry was sparked, particularly silver metal clay, because it seemed to hold the most creative possibilities. Instead of adding to the canvases, the pieces of clay became tiny canvases for her. Jill’s work was chosen for the 1st guild annual cover, and in the second issue, two works appear in the annual. Jill’s curiosity has led her to further explore metalworking and cold connections. This past year she worked in France and Italy. Metal is a medium she never dreamed of using, and now cannot get enough of it.

Langham Courtiers are invited to the Open House on Sunday, March 8 from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

New Board for Langham Court

A new Board was elected at the Annual General Meeting in January. Please welcome President: Sylvia Rhodes. Vice President: Diana Keating. Treasurer: Evan Roberts. Secretary: Sarah Innes. Production Chair 2008-09: Penelope Harwood. Production Chair 2009-10 Phil Gibbs. Junior Coordinator: Margaret Kirk. Members-at Large: Mike Miller, Fran Patterson and Karrie Wolfe. Past President: Wendy Magahay.

“Pack of Lies”

"Pack of Lies" by Hugh Whitmore, directed by Keith Digby and Cynthia Pronick, production dates are from April 23 to May 9th. Rehearsals will begin on March 2nd. The cast is Charlotte Anderson, Bill Adams, Paul Bertorelli, Melissa Blank, Wendy Magahay, Samantha Norton, Naomi Simpson and Paul Terry. The Production Team is Producers Sylvia Rhodes and Peta Mackenzie, S.M. Sylvia Lindstrom, Set Designer Toshik Bukowiecki, Lighting by Adam Wilkinson, Sound by Alan Mackenzie, Costumes by Lisa Leighton with A.S.M.s Stephen Beugeling and Joan Emery and Props by Sheila McKenzie and Garth Taylor.

Newsletter Contributions

Your editor has been very pleased with newsletter items from Langham Courtiers. Feel free to submit items to Rick Underwood at undermusic@shaw.ca. Please remember that I am merely the compiler and editor of the newsletter and its success is dependent on contributions from our many, many members and readers. . Deadlines for future newsletters are Saturday, April 11, 2009 and Saturday, May 30, 2009. Some of the contributions do not reflect the opinions of the Board of the Victoria Theatre Guild. If you have any feedback about the newsletter, the editor is most appreciative of any and all input.

A Note From Marge Bridgeman

January 11th saw the passing a gentle wonderful woman; Ann Purdon. It had been my pleasure to act with Ann many years ago. She was gracious to everyone and encouraging. Even time spent in the dressing room was fun with Ann's unusual expletives. Noel Coward should have met Ann. She was perfect in any of his plays. She was the only person I knew who could drape gracefully, without any effort, on any chair or settee and moved on stage so beautifully. I adored watching this lady and she will always be in my memories. Goodbye and God bless to a true lady.

Grand Reunion Party

We are planning a Grand Reunion Party for Saturday, February 28th at 7pm. Bar is Open. Bring Potluck Appetizers to share. Although all members and their guests are welcome, it is especially planned to give those who were involved in anyway in last season's plays and the first 3 plays of this season, an opportunity to meet up with all the people we bonded with during a production and have lost touch with. So come and reminisce about all the flubs, dropped lines, and minor disasters you experienced together over a glass of wine or beer while listening to a song or a witty ditty now and then. Put it on your calendar!

Art Gallery and Langham Co-Production Great Success!

If you didn't see this production in our theatre on Saturday, January 31st, you missed a real treat. "The Responsibility is Shared By All the People Here" directed by Judith MacDowell and produced by Jennifer Pritchard was a series of dramatised interviews of 15 Rockland residents played by mostly Langham Court actors and ably supported by our crew. THEY DID US PROUD! Not only was it very entertaining, it brought in a great number of people from the area and also art gallery devotees who were experiencing our theatre for the first time and the response was very, very positive. We met a lot of the local residents portrayed on stage by our actors some of whom had an opportunity to meet the person they were portraying at the reception after. It's just a great pity that more people didn't see it. Congratulations to all those who organised this and to the whole production team!

Outpost 31

Langham Courtiers David Greenall-Scott & Toshik Bukowiecki are proud to announce the formation of Outpost 31: a brand new theatre company dedicated to premiering challenging new works for a wide-reaching audience. Their first production will be "Good Night Uncle Joe": a cold war spy story concerning the last few hours of Stalin's life, and is slated to dominate this year's fringe festival. Theatre BC calls this: "A thrilling and educational piece of theatre... thought-provoking stuff... that grips us with mystery." Casting of the female lead (early 30's femme fatale) is due to begin in the spring. Those interested can contact David at davidgreenallscott@hotmail.com.

Volunteers Needed

The Membership Committee is looking for more volunteers to assist with various activities that will help Langham Court Theatre run more smoothly. These include: putting up posters, stuffing envelopes, emailing members with

renewal reminders, etc. Please contact Rita Humphreys at prhumphreys@shaw.ca if you are able to help.

“Pirates of Penzance”

The Victoria Gilbert & Sullivan Presents “Pirates of Penzance” at the Charlie White Theatre in Sidney Mar 21 & Mar 28 @ 8pm, March 22 & 29 @ 2pm and at the McPherson Theatre in Victoria April 4 @ 2pm & 8pm
www.gilbertandsullivanvictoria.ca

“A Shot In The Dark”

The final play of the 2008-2009 season is using a mentoring system for many of its key production people. Simon Skey and Rich Cook are first time producers: Thelma Midori is mentoring them. David Larsen is designing the set: Bill Adams is his mentor. Carol Anne Moore is the Lighting Designer and Karrie Wolfe is her mentor. ASMs will also be mentored in this production.

The guild is a wonderful place to learn new roles, especially much-needed expertise in technical areas. If you are interested in working under a mentor next season, please get in touch with the 2009-2010 Production Chair, Phil Gibbs.

Props and Furniture Under New Management

As of January 29th, Carol Anne Moore and Jean Topham have taken on the job of looking after the Langham Court Theatre props and furniture. Our thanks to John and Pamela for giving us such a well organized props system and props room to ‘step into’.

Following are some new aspects to the position of props and furniture management. We will be available to help locate props from the props room, to offer advice as to where props can be acquired within the Victoria community, to help and advise on the building of props, to instigate a system for the props team on each production, to use props during the rehearsal process and the show, to offer help and advice on the running of props during a show and to receive props after a strike.

We would be available at all times either by telephone or email to answer questions from the props team working on the current production or subsequent productions (we will attend the Meet and Greet, in order to introduce ourselves) and members of the Victoria community who wish to borrow props. One of the things we plan to do is to compile a list of where props can be acquired in town or elsewhere. We would like to request that if anyone has any ideas as to where props can be acquired to please let us know.

A deposit of \$10.00 will be required from nonmembers when borrowing props or small pieces of furniture. Large pieces of furniture and specialty items will require a \$20.00 deposit.

Please bear with us during the transition period, from what was to what we envision the new management can provide for the theatre community. We will be making some changes to the inventory handling of properties and furniture, and will liaise with individuals using the treasures we have at your disposal.

Jean Topham 250-592-7270: email jtopham@telus.net. Carol Anne Moore 250-592-2497: email tothe4winds@gmail.com

The 2009/10 Season

1. Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris, directed by Stephanie Gill
2. Picnic by William Inge, directed by Sylvia Rhodes
3. The History Boys by Alan Bennett, directed by Roger Carr
4. Sylvia by A.R. Gurney, directed by Rita Humphreys
5. Silver Dagger by David French, directed by Angela Henry
6. Perfect Wedding by Robin Hawdon, directed by Penelope Harwood

Archives

It is most important that John Gilliland gets help with the archives. If you are interested in history or helping out in any way organizing these, please email Sylvia rhodes.s@shaw.ca

Notes From A Loft

Many thanks to Mary Goodspeed, Jill Groves (she's a happier more laughing and joking person than I have know before so retirement must be good), Marge Bridgeman, Nan Long, Alix Cowie, and Bill Adams for their labours on behalf of Langham Court on Feb. 2 and Jan. 26.

Thank you donators: Mrs. Helen Ellis (deceased) via Sheila MacDougall, Mrs. Anne Green via Diana Chown, Phyllis Dover (deceased) via her niece Chantelle (who was in School For Scandal), Geneva Chiswell (deceased) via her son Graham Dragushan, Eric Holmgren (congrats on your nomination as best actor in Monday!). Marnie Olchowecki, Heather Truswell, Susan Ferguson, Lisa Leighton, Laura Kofler, Keri Lane at the Royal London Wax Museum, J. Forget, Martin Kava and sister, Sandra Anderson, Richard Hicks, Sally Taylor, Sheila Sandys-Wunsch, Marian Olsen, Sylvia Lindstrom, Diana Keating, Lisa Pynn, Beth Roger, Maria Turner and now I think I've caught up since last summer....or maybe repeated some.

If you or any of your friends are culling your wardrobe please consider handing it to us. We accept clean garments of today or yesterday. We also collect, rent, and sell accessories such as watches, jewelry (broken also), compacts, hankies, glasses, cig holders, lighters, ties, shawls, fabric stuff such as table clothes and napkins and bedding.

Last year we earned about \$2000 for the theatre and in years gone by it's been twice that. This is significant income for the theatre. Call me if you have questions or wonder if what you've got can generate income for Langham Court.

All the best,
Ned Lemley, Costume Co-ordinator

Happy Times Are Here Again!

We are happy to announce that we now have an Entertainment Chair, Lillian Trigg. Lillian did a wonderful job for us some years ago but moved away for a few years. She is now back and hopes to organize a few celebrations for us, among which will be, a special Summer General Meeting, a Hallowe'en Party and, of course, our not to be missed Christmas Party. If you would like to be involved in helping to organize these frivolities please let her know. Her email is theblonderootset@hotmail.com
Welcome back Lillian!

Auditions Notice

"A Shot in the Dark" by Harry Kurnitz (adapted from the play "L'Idiote" by Marcel Achard), and directed by Penelope Harwood will take place on Saturday and Sunday, April 4th and 5th from 10am to 2pm on Saturday and 1pm to 4 pm on Sunday in the Lounge at Langham Court Theatre.

Production dates are June 11 to June 27. Rehearsals will begin on week of 13th April and will take place on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and Sunday afternoons with extra rehearsals as required.

Required are 4 men and 2 women as follows:

Paul - Male - 30ish – Serious, bookish, straight-laced. Morestan - Male - 40 to 60 – Paul's Clerk. Cynical, rumples.
Mr. Beaurevers - Male -50 to 60 - Elegant and suave. LaBlache - Male - 50 to 60 - Judge. Josefa – Female – 20s – captivating, innocent yet street smart. Mme Beaurevers – Female – 50 to 60 - Elegant, snooty.
Please note that the part of Paul's wife, Antoinette, has been cut. French accents are not necessary. Scripts are available in the desk in the lobby with a sign-out sheet. Please read and return within a week. If you have any questions please email Simon Skey at sskey@shaw.ca or Rich Cook at g7r13c@gmail.com

Play Reading Group Auditions

In the Lounge on Monday March 16th: 1. At 7 pm for the one act play "Clara's On The Curtains". This play requires the voices of 10 women: 1 teenager; 2 youngish women and 6 middle-aged on up.
2. At 8 pm for "Philadelphia, Here I Come", an Irish play. This play requires the voices of: 1 woman in her sixties, one who is late 20's - early 30's, two men early 30's and 3 men in 60's.
Keep in mind that these are play-reading performances - think of the old radio dramas. We are pretty flexible with regard to matching age to role. We've even been flexible in matching sex to role.