

# 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."

October 2009

## Our 81<sup>st</sup> Season Opens on a high note!!

*Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living In Paris*  
Until October 10<sup>th</sup>



Sean Baker

Alf Small

Sarah Carle

Debbie Robinson

## ARTS HOW

*(Ed. Note: Last month we could only offer a brief synopsis of the artists' resumes. So, even though the art show has been up for several days, we now have slightly more detailed biographies of the three women whose works are on display until October 10<sup>th</sup>)*

### Haley Marshall

Grew up in Victoria in a creative environment and was encouraged by her family to explore painting and drawing from an early age. In her mid teens she became fascinated with photography, and eventually travelling became a lifestyle. All of the constant moving forced her to minimize her possessions and supplies, which led her to the discovery of graphic design - a new and exciting medium that could be transported neatly and easily in a laptop wherever she goes.

Haley has spent the last ten years living between Whistler, Pemberton and Tofino. Although surrounded by the natural beauty of the rugged west coast, her work reflects a more eclectic and urban upbringing.

### Emily Robb

Believes that people are products of their environment. Born and raised in Vancouver, Emily has lived on the west coast of Vancouver Island for the past seven years. She feels that the beauty of the surroundings has enhanced her life and plays a large part in her lifestyle. She attended the University of Victoria and British Columbia and is currently embarking upon her final practicum in order to complete her aspiration of becoming an Elementary School teacher. She enjoys making jewellery for family and friends as well as selling it at the Market in Tofino. She believes that inspiration and passion are closely connected and that her creativity can be expressed through her artwork.

### Heather Johnston

Is freelancing as a Designer, Illustrator and Photo Stylist in Victoria. She grew up in the Comox Valley and Victoria from where she established a foundation of influence based in the beauty of the coastal BC environment. After graduating from the Victoria College of Art in 1996, Heather ventured to San Francisco. The streets of the big city, with its many cultures, murals, tastes and fast pace only served to broaden her creative pool. She focuses on trying to convey her feelings for the plight of the environment and the human ego. In doing so she works in many mediums in an attempt to harness the influences in her life. Painting in acrylics with brush and stencil, manipulating personal photos with digital tools, layering paint, photos and drawings onto small places, she communicates a convoluted planet.

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## NOTES FROM THE EDITORS' DESK

Once again, apologies are in order. I received an e-mail from **Peta Mackenzie** telling me that the list of volunteers who worked their tushes off at the Costume Sale was incomplete. An important name was omitted – **Garth Taylor**. I am so used to seeing Garth around the theatre working hard at a variety of tasks that it might have appeared that I took his presence for granted. Not true. So I will take this opportunity to say a big thank you to Garth for the many hours he puts in working on behalf of **Langham Court** both at the theatre and at the Bingo Hall. And thank you to **Peta** for taking the time to let me know in the nicest possible way that I goofed.

Again, my thanks to all those who helped me produce the newsletter: **Kai Hansen** our webmaster for putting the newsletters on the website each month, **Paul Bertorelli** who does amazing things with archive photos, **John Gilliland** whose eagle eye can spot a misplaced comma at twenty paces and **Craig Mracek** who takes the time to organise the

snail mail-out, and finally to all of you who supplied articles, letters, and information, particularly **Dick Newson** who contributed the user-friendly article explaining the new ticketing system.

It was encouraging to see such a large turnout at the Front-of-House orientation. **Rita Humphreys, Pearl Arden** and **Marilyn Samis** presented material that was interesting and informative. A lot of ground was covered after the crowd had munched on tea and biscuits thanks to **Lillian Trigg**, and everyone departed knowing a lot more about fire exits, first aid, and how to deal with emergencies than they had before the orientation began.

I thought the following statement by **Mary Desprez**, General Manager of the **Belfry Theatre** taken from the September 19th edition of **Ian Case's** Giggling Iguana e-mail was well worth sharing:

“The BC Liberal government is cutting arts and culture funding from approximately \$47.8 million in 2008/2009 down to \$3.7 million in 2010/2011, while they are increasing taxes with the HST. Our funding from Gaming revenues is in jeopardy and they have decimated the BC Arts Council budget.

These cuts are devastating, and will throw the future of many organizations in the arts and culture sector into doubt. This is a sector that actually grows our economy. For every \$1 invested in the arts they pay back \$1.38 in taxes. Every other jurisdiction in Canada, even those dealing with much bigger deficits than BC’s, have either increased or maintained their support for arts and culture.

They know the creative economy matters, and works.

In these troubled times there are many arts organizations, managers, artists and supporters working hard, publicly and behind the scenes, to reverse these decisions – including our colleagues at the BC Cultural Services, the staff of the BC Arts Council and the members of ProArt (Professional Arts Alliance of Greater Victoria). If you would

like the latest information regarding the cuts or would like to offer your support during these difficult times please contact Scott Walker, ProArt Coordinator at [info@proartalliance.ca](mailto:info@proartalliance.ca)

If you wish to protest the cuts to the arts in our province please send your thoughts to **Rick Coleman**, Minister responsible for Gaming and **Kevin Krueger**, Minister of Tourism, Arts & Culture and/or directly to Premier **Gordon Campbell**.”

When you’ve finished writing your letters protesting the cuts, come to **Langham Court Theatre** and enjoy *Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris* on until October 10<sup>th</sup>. Then, on the 15<sup>th</sup> come to the **Target Theatre** fund-raiser starting at 6:15 pm and two nights later on the 17<sup>th</sup> you’ll be all set for the **David Essig** and **Rick Scott** concert. And don’t forget the two one-act plays being performed by our **Readers Theatre** on October 24<sup>th</sup>.

**C.G.**

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## SEAT RENOVATIONS AT LANGHAM COURT

Our auditorium seats will finally be replaced after seventy years of service to the Guild. These renovations are anticipated during the summer of 2010. In response to member inquiries, the following is a brief Q&A on the anticipated renovations:

*I thought we just had our funding cut by the BC government. How can we afford this?*

The cost of renovating our seats is estimated at \$70,000. Upon the recommendation of the finance committee the board committed to replace our seats once we had all the money in the bank. I am happy to report that we now have all of the funds required for this renovation. Every dollar we raise will help offset what we have already set aside for this project.

*I am a previous seat sponsor. What will happen to the plaque on the current chair I sponsored?*

To recognize the contributions of previous sponsors, a commemorative display will be erected in an area yet to be determined. Everyone who sponsored a seat in the past will have the opportunity to sponsor the same seat again until December 31<sup>st</sup> at which time these seats will be available for general sponsorship.

*How can I sponsor a seat and who should I contact?*

Contact your general manager, Craig Mracek at [gm.langhamcourt@shaw.ca](mailto:gm.langhamcourt@shaw.ca) or 250 589-7323 any time. Seats are now available and going fast! A tax receipt will be issued for all donations.

**Craig Mracek**  
*General Manager*

# Introducing “The Brel Lighting Hang” Starring

Lighting Designer **Roger Carr** with **Kevin Cahill**, **Nic Hume**, **Diana Keating**, **Carol-Anne Moore** and lighting apprentices **Rachel Brown** and **Justine Raffaelle**



Roger & Carol-Anne review the plot



The Players consider their parts



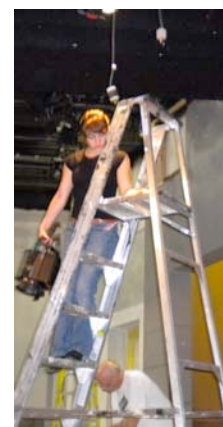
Nic instructs Justine & Rachel



Kevin up on the grid



Diana on the catwalk



Justine on the ladder



Justine & Rachel hang lights



Carol-Anne sorts gels



Roger checks for colour

**You too can be part of a lighting hang!**

If you want to get involved in the *Picnic* hang contact Lighting Designer **Carol-Anne Moore** at [tothe4winds@gmail.com](mailto:tothe4winds@gmail.com)

## Second Show Underway!

*Picnic* by **William Inge** is cast and in rehearsal. It previews Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup> and runs from Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup> through to Saturday, November 28<sup>th</sup>.

### Production Team

Director: **Sylvia Rhodes**  
Producer: **Vinnie Chadwick**  
Stage Manager: **Sarah Innes**  
Set Design: **Dan Thachuck**  
Lighting Design: **Carol-Anne Moore**  
Sound Design: **Joan Patrick**  
Costume Design: **Susan Ferguson**  
Asst. Costume Design: **Diane Madill**  
Asst. Stage Manager: **Joan Emery**  
Set Dresser & Props: **Sally Crickman**  
Props: **Jean de Cartier**  
Set Builder: **Bill Adams**  
Choreographer: **Diana Keating**

### Cast

Millie: **Kimara Brillling**  
Madge: **Marina Lagaca**  
Flo: **Kathy Macovichuk**  
Hal: **Liam McGuigan**  
Rosemary: **Linda O'Connor**  
Howard: **Randy Parker**  
Alan: **Matthew Mathieson**  
Mrs. Potts: **Lesley Gibbs**  
Bomber: **Alex Rand**  
Teacher Christine: **Charlotte Anderson**  
Teacher Ima: **Caroline Mackenzie**

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## Electronic Ticketing at Langham Court Theatre

*By Dick Newson*

Finally, it's here! Many of you may have noticed the new tickets we are issuing this season. We obtained a computer-based ticketing and accounting system from a community theatre in Qualicum Beach. Thanks to **Ian Taylor** and the staff of **ECHO Players**, I have been able to take their system and adapt it to **Langham Court Theatre's** needs. It was not a quick and easy process but I was confident it was the right system for our theatre.

Getting the seating configuration to match our auditorium was fairly easy. Setting up our shows was also straight-forward. But then I had to make many changes for special pricing days and to handle our Season Voucher sales and processing. I also changed the main control panel to make it easier for the box office staff to answer your questions about seat availability for any of the sixteen performances of the current show. From there it was a simple step to order and print tickets.

We have printed all the GSO (Guaranteed Seating Option) tickets for more than 200

Customers and we have processed many Season Voucher orders for the first show. By the time you read this we will have sold to the General Public as well.

The ticket printing is handled by a thermal printer that prints on special ticket stock. It's fast -- one ticket per second!! And we purchased a new PC dedicated to the box office operation. That means, from the time we take a phone call or take your order at the box office until we print your ticket and give it to you it's about 30 seconds.

Okay. So other than printing tickets, what else can this system do and why is it better? Well, for one thing we now know the name of everyone who buys a ticket and attends a show. And where they are sitting! It's very much like an airline where the occupant of every seat is known. We also know when and how you purchased your ticket. This gives us valuable information about sales and about you, our customers. Suppose you lose your tickets, or arrive at the theatre to find you have forgotten your tickets. No Problem. Just tell us your name and we can find your

order and re-print the tickets! Lost your Season Vouchers but want to buy some tickets? Again, no problem. We have a record of your voucher purchase and usage. Each time you use a voucher we reduce your voucher count. You can continue to bring in your vouchers for payment but we'll probably change that next year. Instead of a sheet of six vouchers we'll give you a single "ticket" stating the number and type of vouchers you have purchased. It will be a receipt and a reminder that you have to call to purchase your tickets with vouchers.

But it is important to remember that Season Vouchers are designed to be used by the purchaser. That is, the customer of record for those vouchers. If you give a voucher to a friend as a gift that friend should purchase the ticket in your name so it can be accounted for. For that reason if a person wants to use a voucher that they did not purchase we ask that they present it in person so we can verify the voucher. In this day and age of identity theft we want to make sure there is no fraudulent use of these valuable items. But this new system supports the purchase and use of Gift Certificates and this is a feature we may introduce at a later date.

GSO and regular customers will also find this system easier to use. There is more information on each ticket including your last name and phone number as well as detailed performance data. We know that conflicts arise sometimes for many customers. But this system makes it easier for you (and us) to make changes. We ask that you bring in your tickets for exchange so we don't have more tickets floating out there than we have seats!! But once you present your tickets for exchange it is a simple matter to pick another performance and we'll issue new tickets for you immediately. We cannot guarantee that you'll have the same seats of course but we'll do our best to accommodate you. This is a service that you won't find at many theatres. Usually once you have purchased a ticket there are NO exchanges allowed. We have had several GSO exchanges already this season. We try to discourage that because it can disrupt normal ticket sales but we know

that sometimes it just can't be helped. Things happen.

To make this system work well we need to capture customer information. That was easy for all the GSO and Season Voucher holders and our current members. But we'll be doing that on-the-fly for new customers and for the general public. The minimum we need is first and last name and phone number. This is to identify you in the system. There is more than one Smith, Johnson and Jones out there and we want to sell to the right person. We'll also know if you are a GSO or Season Voucher holder and if you are a member or not. That makes it easier for us to control ticket sales. Members can purchase two weeks prior to general ticket sales and Voucher holders one week prior to general sales. We also encourage GSO holders to make any changes three weeks before the start of a show. This is to maximize our sales (by re-selling your previous seat) and to improve your chances of getting the seat of your choice for your alternate performance.

Inevitably there will be some glitches with this system as there are with any new system. Some GSO customers may have noticed that their phone number was shown as 555-1212 on the ticket stub. (Sorry!) Rest assured we do have your correct phone number. It was due to correcting a problem where a phone number was invalid. But for a while it thought ALL phone numbers were invalid. If you notice any other data errors please let us know and we'll fix them. It is important for us to have accurate information and there is no excuse for incorrect names and phone numbers.

However, I am VERY confident that the assignment of seats, voucher usage, ticket pricing and show information is solid. Our friends at **ECHO Players** in Qualicum Beach have been using this system for several years and have found it an invaluable tool for their theatre management and a huge benefit for their customers as well. We hope that you like what you see and that the improvement in box office service will add to your theatre enjoyment.

# *Good Night Uncle Joe*

by Mia Walker



Picture by Sylvia Lindstrom

“Plays Russian Roulette with six full chambers and your heart.” (*The Plank*)

“It’s a pleasure.” (*Four Stars - Monday Magazine*)

“... spot-on acting and a well-packaged performance.” (*Times Colonist*)

*Good Night Uncle Joe* debuted to widespread acclaim at the recent Victoria Fringe Festival. This brand new drama was written and directed by local playwright and Langham Courtier, **David Elendune**. The play relates the explosive events of the evening leading up to the death of Soviet dictator, Joseph Stalin, the eponymous ‘Joe’ of the show’s title.

David wrote *Good Night Uncle Joe* specifically for the Fringe -- a one-act play with one set and just two actors, both on stage continuously for more than an hour. Even he could not have hoped for the response his play received from critics and he remains astounded: “. . .with Uncle Joe we had really quite amazing reviews – and all these stemmed from the first night of the first run of a brand new production . . . And by the end of the run – wow – I mean **Christine (Karpiak)** & **Dennis (Eberts)** were just wow.”

Langham Court Theatre sponsored *Good Night Uncle Joe* at the Fringe and the play’s Producer and Head of Publicity, Jane

Greenall-Scott believes that support to have been essential: “We all know how arts funding is being cut so to have an organisation that goes out of its way to back a brand new play, it’s fantastic!” Leading lady and well-known **Langham Court** actress, **Christine Karpiak** is also full of gratitude: “I was very happy that the theatre graciously let us use the rehearsal space, props and costumes.”

Christine was delighted to be involved, “It was a pleasure... I was honoured to have the chance to challenge myself in making enigmatic ‘Anna’ come to life, especially within the framework of the Fringe Festival.”

Stage Manager and **Langham Court** treasure, **Sylvia Lindstrom** echoes this last sentiment: “Three cheers for the Fringe which brings together an eclectic group of audience members to see a wide range of theatrical offerings, including new material by locals such as David.”

**Dennis Eberts** played KGB enforcer, Lavrentii Beria and found it highly rewarding: “I’ve played a few big roles in my life, but I’d be hard pressed to name one that was more challenging than Beria in *Good Night Uncle Joe*... A great experience. And some new friendships that I will cherish forever.”

So what’s next for *Good Night Uncle Joe* after such a great start? David is currently expanding the script into a full-length play. The original one-act took just over a year from conception to stage. But with all the momentum helping to push the project on, he’s hoping it won’t be long before the next instalment of Uncle Joe takes its bow in Victoria and beyond.

## Welcome

A warm welcome to the following new Victoria Theatre Guild members: **Sylvia von Schuekman, Margery Hurley, and Wayne and Shirley Wood**

# The Peacemakers: Tommy Mayne and Len McCann.

By John & Corinna Gilliland

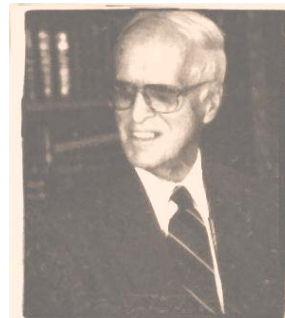
**Tommy Mayne** joined the then **Victoria Little Theatre and Dramatic School** in 1945 and **Len McCann** in 1947. It was shortly after, as men and women settled back into a peaceful post-war existence, that the Little Theatre was ripped apart by rival factions. Things came to a head in 1949 when half the society walked out, including Tommy, and formed a new organisation--the **Victoria Players Guild**. The competing groups both lost money--a lot of it. However, before becoming completely bankrupted, they were persuaded to join forces back at **Langham Court** just in time to prevent the mortgage from being foreclosed. That was when the building was named **Langham Court Theatre** and the newly amalgamated company was called **Victoria Theatre Guild and Dramatic School**. Peace was maintained for a while but in 1951 there developed an "us versus them" mentality as the two groups became more and more divided. As the friction developed, President **Percy George**, Vice-President **Tommy Mayne**, and Secretary **Len McCann** worked hard to pull the fragmented Society together again until finally the enmity between the warring factions ceased and peace reigned over **Langham Court**. Although harmony was achieved, for the next thirty years **Percy George**, **Tommy Mayne**, and **Len McCann** (even though he had moved to Vancouver) were the first to be called upon whenever anything went wrong.



Enhanced by Paul Bertorelli  
Tommy the Peacemaker



Tommy at the Harbour



Enhanced by Paul Bertorelli  
Tommy the Life Member

As far as theatre was concerned, **Tommy Mayne** could take on any task and fulfil it with skill and verve. He was a successful administrator as President, Vice-President, and as a member of many committees over the years. He was instrumental in rewriting the Guild by-laws to include the position of Past-President on the Board. His willingness to turn his hand to any task made him an obvious choice for Life Member in 1975.

He was also an accomplished Director and Stage-Manager as well as working backstage with Props, Running Crew, and doing makeup. Although seldom seen on stage he did appear in supporting roles in shows such as *I Remember Mama*, *The Late George Apley*, and *Born Yesterday*. A much beloved drama teacher at Vic High, Tommy has been a well-respected member of the Arts Community for many decades. In 1991 he was given an **Arts Person of The Year** award and just this year the **Victoria A.M. Club** had a statue dedicated to the members of the **Meet and Greet Program** and it is no coincidence that the face on the statue is that of our own **Tommy Mayne**.





Enhanced by Paul Bertorelli  
Len the Peacemaker



Len the Life Member

**Len McCann**, the other surviving member of the three Peace Makers, began his association with **Langham Court** as a member of the Little Theatre's Junior Board. He later took on the role of Treasurer for the Little Theatre, while helping out the rival Players Guild by taking over a part in *The Barretts of Wimpole Street*. Len was the **Victoria Theatre Guild's** first Secretary when elected in 1950. Apart from a two-year period in which he worked with the Provincial Community Drama Office, Len remained as Guild Secretary and Archivist until his departure to Vancouver.

Between 1948 and 1957 Len was involved in at least 37 productions with the **Victoria Little Theatre**, the **Players Guild** and the **Victoria Theatre Guild**. He directed, acted, stage-managed, designed and built sets, and worked as a lighting technician. All of which gave him a head start when he left Victoria in 1955 to become a Crew Leader for CBC-TV in Vancouver.

Before he left, Len was made a Life Member and even though his move to Vancouver was permanent, he has maintained his connection to **Langham Court** to this day. In 1957 he returned to design the set for *Anastasia* and he has been back many, many times since.. It is thanks to Len, in his role as archivist, that we have such a complete record of Guild activities between 1948 and 1965.

# Party Time

Hallowe'en will soon be here! Its time to head on up to the Loft and pick your costume for **Langham Court's** magnificent Hallowe'en bash. That's on Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup> at 7:30 p.m. in the lounge. Don't forget: the period is Victorian, the setting, an English Pub, the characters, your choice (and there will be prizes for the most imaginative), and the food, whatever you want to bring and share!

## Help Wanted

Can you spare a little time to help organise **Langham Court's** fabulous October 31 Hallowe'en Party? If you can, please contact Entertainment Chair Lillian Trigg at 250 385-8336 or [toodaloo222@live.com](mailto:toodaloo222@live.com)

# We Got Mail. . .

To: The President of the Board of Control and members of **Langham Court Theatre**.

I wish to give my sincerest thanks for my nomination as a Life Member. I spent many happy years at **Langham Court** and was amazed to see that I had put in sufficient time to warrant this lofty position. I guess time really does fly when you are having that much fun!

If life and time were different and one could be in two places at once I would choose to be in that lovely theatre doing this and that. I learned some very interesting lessons at **Langham Court**; one of them being that it didn't really matter what one does; it is all necessary to the whole!

Good luck with the coming season and thank you once again. I hope to see you in the fall.

**Peta Heald**  
Life Member

With another Fringe in the record books, I offer a reflection or two.

When are too many of the actors and directors we saw this year going to get the message that (1) the audience (and the script) are better served if one can hear clearly what's being said or sung, and (2) can thus clearly understand what's going on.

Of the six shows we saw, three largely failed this test -- Mumbling, facing away from the audience, racing unintelligibly. Simple basics were forgotten or ignored. Diction, pacing, and the sacred contract every actor has with the writer, director and audience to "show up, stand up, speak up" and do all the above with focus, belief and clarity.

On a more positive note, what a fabulously heartening show of support for Intrepid from all the performers who did extra benefit performances, all the people who came out and paid to see them, and all the punters who

threw extra notes and coins into the collection boxes to help Janet and Ian through a very tough spell.

**Phil Gibbs**  
**Production Chair 2009-2010**

P.S. A week or so ago writing to a theatre friend in Toronto I included one of our season brochures. The reply came back "Most impressive! Much better than the (professional) Canadian Stage Company's brochure here in Toronto."

## 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 Rita Humphreys at [prhumphreys@shaw.ca](mailto:prhumphreys@shaw.ca)

## Help Wanted

### Costume Loft Assistants

Halloween is coming and it's like a carnival ride in the costume loft. Want to help? Call Ned at 475-1418 or 384-2025 and leave a message if I don't pick up. All through October and November we'll need an extra pair of hands every Monday from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., Wednesday and Friday from 12 noon to 5 p.m. and on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Pick your day and time, call me, I'll schedule you, first callers scheduled first!

### Treasurer Needed

Evan Roberts our present treasurer will not be running for that position again at the AGM in January. If you are at all interested in taking on this most important job, now would be a good opportunity to start learning the basics from Evan while he is still here. Please email Evan, [evanr@uvic.ca](mailto:evanr@uvic.ca).

## Target Theatre--A Company with an Aim

By Corinna Gilliland

Judith McDowell, former **Victoria Theatre Guild** President and currently Artistic Director of **Target Theatre** has been a member of **Langham Court Theatre** since 1990 when she performed in her first role as an adult--Conjur Woman in *Dark of the Moon*. She had come to the theatre with the idea of helping out behind the scenes and ended up on stage. Now a Life Member, Judith has acted in a number of productions including *Les Belles Soeurs* and has directed five plays including one of the Millennium Classics--*Death of a Salesman*--chosen in the season when she was Production Chair. With a background in Political Science plus two years in the Directing Programme at UVic, it is not surprising that Judith was happy to put her talents to work for a group such as **Target Theatre**.

**Target Theatre** takes aim at issues of concern to the older population. The Company creates and performs in plays around topics such as Senior Drivers, Alzheimer's, Elder Abuse, Loss of Mobility and Diminishing Independence. Stated baldly, these topics may sound depressing. However, in the hands of Target, the finished product will move audiences but will in no way depress them. The actors perform plays that, as Judith points out, "put a dramatic frame around real life to allow a particular aspect to be revealed." Although some of the plays are serious, there is always room for humour, even if it is of the wry kind. As Judith commented, "humour in a play helps to get the message across and to get through to an audience."

Formed in 1986, participation in **Target Theatre** is restricted to those 60 and older, dedicated to the ideals of the troupe, and prepared to work long and hard. There is a minimum commitment of three hours a week plus performances over ten months of the year. Troupe members have varying degrees of theatrical experience and some are also members of the **Victoria Theatre Guild**—

**Alan Venn** (*Midsummer Night's Dream*), Target President, **Jane Krieger** (*Cemetery Club*), and **Madeleine Mills**. According to Judith, "lack of experience is no bar to participation because Target also offers training to newcomers."

**The Langham Court-Target Theatre** connection is also evident in that Target members use the theatre rehearsal room every Wednesday morning for their meetings. Judith pointed out that, "the relationship between the two groups is really good, the Target people are made to feel welcome whenever they come to **Langham Court**."

Judith's first brush with **Target Theatre** was twenty years ago when she did some free-lance work for them. Her present involvement goes back two years. At that time, the company was going through a period of re-organisation, and their previous Artistic Director, **Heldor Schaeffer** had left. It was then the troupe asked Judith to come and help. Although she is in fact Artistic Director, Judith sees herself more as a facilitator working in the background. She made it very clear that the focus is always **Target Theatre**, its mission, and its players.

The Company seldom appears before the general public, performing instead for specialised audiences such as seniors' groups or health-care workers. They tend to acquire their audiences through word of mouth. At present, however, they are attempting to create connections with schools and youth groups with the idea of reaching younger people. They feel that their plays can help teens gain insight into some of the difficulties faced by older parents and grandparents.

While their plays do not always provide answers to the problems raised, they do lend impetus to discussions that occur after performances. If the play speaks to their own experience, members of the audience will

often contribute extremely acute and insightful observations.

Although most of the plays are created in-house, the troupe does perform licensed work such as *I'm Still Here*, a script developed in Toronto and work-shopped in Victoria. The most successful in the **Target Theatre** repertoire, *I'm Still Here* is one of the plays chosen for the October 15th fundraiser at **Langham Court Theatre** which also includes *I'm Herbert* an extremely funny look at the "lighter side of memory loss."



**Target Theatre** Actors: Back row (L to R) Alan Venn, Madeleine Mills, Madge Craig, Jane Krieger, Lou-Ann Edgar, Fred Storgeoff. Front Row (L to R) Fred Mabey, Dorothy Mabey, Judith McDowell, June Boston

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## SCENE AND HEARD

. . . **Janet Munsil** welcoming a huge crowd of **Fringe** volunteers including **Toshik Bukowiecki, Lorene Cammiade, Rich Cook, John Gilliland** and **John Wiley**.

. . . At the *Jacques Brel* Meet and Greet as well as Director **Stephanie Geehan**, the cast and crew, (including brand new Guild members **Sara Carle**--Woman 1--and **Yanik Giroux**--Music Director), there was a small group of Life Members who came in response to President, **Sylvia Rhodes'** written invitation. These included **Jutta Woodland** who debuted on Langham Court's Stage in 1972 as Natalia Landaur in *I Am A Camera*, and **Toshik Bukowiecki** who played Jutta's lover Fritz Wendel in the same production. Other Life Members who came to the Meet and Greet included **Ginny Carter, Antoinette Church, Alan MacKenzie** (our hardworking T. D.) and archivist **John Gilliland**.

. . . **Wendy Magahay** taking a break from her usual role managing contracts at Camosun College to join the 2009 United Way campaign as a Loaned Representative (LR). LRs are people whose time is donated by their employers for the four months of the campaign to support the regular United Way staff in maximizing the campaign's efforts. In 2009, The United Way of Greater Victoria touched the lives of 1 in 3 people in Victoria.

Chances are they have helped someone you know. There's a way to change the future for thousands of people in Greater Victoria and the southern Gulf Islands, and make our community a better place for all of us to live. To learn more or to donate, visit [www.uwgv.ca](http://www.uwgv.ca).

From **Thelma Midori** we received the following happy item: On a cloudy afternoon in early September, four women responded to **Michael Utgaard's** call for a "Potting Party". With pots generously donated by **Sylvia Lindstrom** and **Barb Latham** (master gardeners both), and with flowers from our Props Room (we have a lot!), the Parisienne street set for *Jacques Brel* was transformed by the addition of a well-stocked, and colorful flower stall. Thanks to **Carol-Anne Moore, Sylvia Lindstrom, Andrea Pite, and Thelma Midori** for your floral talents. Well, Thelma washed the pots. . .but still. . .

We also received a not so happy item: *Brel* is **Michael Utgaard's** last show at **Langham Court Theatre**. He and Elizabeth are moving to Nanoose Bay within the next few months. Michael is a set dresser/props manager *extraordinaire* -- there is nothing he cannot find or make. Most recently, you will remember his incredible sitting room for *Waiting in the Wings*, and his detailed and most correct Titanic dinner for *Scotland Road*. Directors

and Producers were always thrilled to have Michael on their production team -- his research, creativity, connections, and diligence! Best Wishes to both of you, Michael. And if you get bored and want to commute for a show - we're here!

From **Hetty Clews** we learned the following: At the Annual Canadian Medical Association Installation and Awards Ceremony on August 19<sup>th</sup>, husband **Alan Clews (*Uncle Vanya*)** received an Honorary Membership to the AMC for his dedicated work as a medical practitioner focusing on the treatment of drug and alcohol, as well as for his research into life-style related illnesses in First Nation's communities. Congratulations Alan – the last GP in Victoria to make house calls!!



Heather Jarvie & Erin Rogers: two of our eager hosts at the Arts Fair.

. . . At the **Victoria Arts & Culture Fair** on September 13<sup>th</sup> just about everyone one had ever known within Victoria's lively arts community. There were booths galore including a prominent display featuring **Langham Court's** 2009-2010 Season.

Also at the Arts Fair, the Jacques Brel quartet plus **Yanik Giroux** providing a spectacular finale to the afternoon's entertainment with two numbers from the show. What a fabulous promotion for our Season's opener!!



Standing: Sara Carle & Debbie Robinson  
Seated: Alf Small & Sean Baker

From **Roger Carr** comes the following: **Langham Court** has long been a place where people have conquered stage fright. Recently we expanded our aversion repertoire. **Carol-Anne Moore** has long been scared of heights. In fact, she has been unable to stand on the cat-walk in the grid. During the hang for Jacques Brel she raised her game and spent a considerable period of time suspended upside down in the cat-walk working on the cyc-lights. Next show, spiders.  
*(Ed Note: Good on you! Carol-Anne – its more than I could do*

## 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 20<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month, i.e. the deadline for the October issue will be September 20 and so on. Please send your information by e-mail to either Corinna Gilliland ([catfael@shaw.ca](mailto:catfael@shaw.ca)).

Langham Court News welcomes news from other groups too. Let's support each other's endeavours in our theatre community

## LANGHAM READERS' THEATRE

### Second Season

Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup> at 7pm  
in the Lounge

We begin our second season with an evening of two one-act plays:

*The Shadow of the Glen*, by John Millington Synge, directed by Peter McNab, and *The Craigdarroch Claret*, written and directed by Hetty Clews.

Please join us – it's an excellent way to spend an evening with friends. Coffee and refreshments are served at intermission.

Come early to be guaranteed a seat. Our last performance was Standing Room Only!

## TARGET THEATRE SOCIETY PRESENT

An Evening with Target  
Thursday, October 15, 2009  
6:15 – 9:00 PM  
Langham Court Theatre

Victoria Target Theatre Society welcomes you to a rare opportunity to see two of Target's most popular plays in public performance – *I'm Still Here*, a research-based piece on living with dementia which weaves several real-life stories together to present a moving and ultimately hopeful look at dementia, and *I'm Herbert* a hilarious look at the lighter side of memory loss. At intermission you will be invited to support Target by attending the silent auction and reception.

**ADMISSION BY DONATION**

## ST. LUKE'S PLAYERS PRESENTS

The first play of St Luke's Players upcoming season is *The Chalk Garden* by Enid Bagnold, directed by Rita Humphreys, featuring several Langham Court members. The cast includes Wendy Cornock, Rosalind Coleman, Mitch Barnes, Kate Boutilier, Jo Barnes, Alan Ormerod, Deb Taylor and Elaine Lewis.

Performances at St Luke's Hall, 3821 Cedar Hill X Road, run between Wednesday, October 14 and Saturday, October 24. Tickets available at Ivy's Books (Oak Bay Village), Petals Plus Florist (3749 Shelbourne St.), from members of the cast and crew and at the door. For further information, please call 250 884-5484.

## DAVID ESSIG AND RICK SCOTT IN CONCERT

If you love Jacques Brel, don't miss legendary Canadian singer/songwriters David Essig and Rick Scott with Shelley Brown on bass at Langham Court for one night only, Saturday October 17 at 7:30 pm,. This acoustic concert celebrates release of their new CD *Double Vision*.

Each a highly celebrated solo performer, together they combine guitar, Appalachian dulcimer and vocal harmonies to produce finely crafted songs of life, love and loss that are seasoned with a gentle wit and grace. It is roots music with a mix of blues, R & B and country.

Essig and Scott truly offer two for the price of one. Tickets are \$20 at Lyle's Place, Gordie's Music and at the door, if available. For info and reservations email [info@rickscott.ca](mailto:info@rickscott.ca) or call 250-740-0047.

# Auditions

## *The History Boys*

Auditions for *The History Boys*, by **Alan Bennett** and directed by **Roger Carr**, will be held at **Langham Court Theatre** on Saturday, October 3 and Sunday, October 4, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. both days.

You will be asked to read scenes for the following roles: Boys, Teachers. All boys need to be able to play 16–19 years old (in other words, you do not need to physically be within that age range). Rather than define the boys and limit your audition, the director suggests you read the script and make your own choices.

The Boys: Posner, Dakin, Scripps, Rudge, Lockwood, Akthar, Timms and Crowther.  
The Teachers: Irwin (male, early 20s), Hector (male, late 50s/early 60s); Headmaster (male, middle-aged); Lintott (female, late 50s/early 60s); Director (male/female - small role with one scene).

The History Boys has won numerous awards including the Olivier (1995) and the Tony (1996). It is a play of great compassion and humor. British accents are necessary but will be worked on during rehearsals. Scripts will be available at the theatre box office. For more information, please contact: [rcarr@shaw.ca](mailto:rcarr@shaw.ca)

## *Sylvia*

Auditions for *Sylvia*, by **A. R. Gurney** and directed by **Rita Humphreys**, will be held at **Langham Court Theatre** on Saturday, December 12 and Sunday December 13, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. both days.

The cast includes:  
1 male: late 40's to 50's  
1 male: over 30  
2 females: over 30  
1 female: late 40's to 50's  
1 female: 20's

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## Help Wanted

**Light and Sound Operators**  
***Picnic***  
**(November 11<sup>th</sup> to November 28<sup>th</sup>)**

*Picnic* Lighting Designer **Carol-Anne Moore** and Sound Designer **Joan Patrick** need people to operate the sound and lighting boards during the run of *Picnic*. If there is more than one volunteer for each position the load can be shared. Want to be a part of the show? Want to see *Picnic* from the best seats in the house? Want to develop new skills? If you want to be part of the *Picnic* Company contact Producer Vinnie Chadwick by email at [vinniechad@hotmail.com](mailto:vinniechad@hotmail.com)

## Production Chair Report

On behalf of the 2010 reading committee I'd like to thank the numerous **Langham Court** members who have submitted scripts for consideration in our next season. We are reducing the pile from mountains to mole hills and are all excited by the wonderful choices we have. If any prospective directors have a script they are interested in, please forward the information to me ([rcarr@shaw.ca](mailto:rcarr@shaw.ca)). However, please realise that even if the

committee does choose the script you have proposed the selection of the directors for all the plays remains with the Production Chair.

*Roger Carr*  
*Production Chair 2010-2011 Season*

## Mark Your Calendar

Thursday, September 24 - Saturday October 10 *Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris*

Friday, October 2 7:30 p.m. Audition for St. Luke's Players *Jack and the Beanstalk*

Saturday, October 3 2:30 p.m. Audition for St. Luke's Players *Jack and the Beanstalk*

Saturday, October 3 1 - 4 p.m. Auditions for *The History Boys*

Sunday, October 4 1 - 4 p.m. Auditions for *The History Boys*

Wednesday, October 14 Opening Night for St Luke's *The Chalk Garden*

Thursday, October 15 An Evening With Target Theatre 6:15 - 9:00 p.m. at Langham Court Theatre

Saturday, October 17 8 p.m. David Essig & Rick Scott in Concert at Langham Court Theatre

Tuesday, October 20 Deadline for submissions to the November 1 issue of *The Langham Court News*

Saturday, October 24 7 p.m. Readers' Theatre Presents two one-act plays in the lounge at Langham Court Theatre

Saturday, October 31 Langham Court's *Weird and Wonderful* Hallowe'en Costume Party

Wednesday, November 11 Preview of *Picnic*

Thursday, November 12 - Saturday, November 28 *Picnic*



## 2009/2010 Board of Directors

President:	Sylvia Rhodes
Vice-President:	Diana Keating
Secretary:	Sarah Innes
Treasurer:	Evan Roberts
2009-10 Production Chair:	Phil Gibbs
2010-11 Production Chair:	Roger Carr
Past President:	Wendy Magahay
Members-at-Large:	Mike Miller, Fran Patterson, Karrie Wolfe

Membership Chair & Volunteer Co-ordinator:  
Front-of-House Co-ordinators:

Rita Humphreys, [prumphreys@shaw.ca](mailto:prumphreys@shaw.ca)  
Pearl Arden, [reader8@shaw.ca](mailto:reader8@shaw.ca)  
Marilyn Samis, [irisheyesmts@shaw.ca](mailto:irisheyesmts@shaw.ca)  
Wendy Magahay, [Magahay@shaw.ca](mailto:Magahay@shaw.ca)  
Gary McLaughlin

Bar Managers:

Archivist:  
Archival Assistant

John Gilliland, 250 592-0319, [dogfael@shaw.ca](mailto:dogfael@shaw.ca)  
Paul Bertorelli, [berto8@telus.net](mailto:berto8@telus.net)

Costume Co-ordinator:  
Small Props Co-ordinators:

Ned Lemley, 250 384-2025, [cloft@telus.net](mailto:cloft@telus.net)  
Jean Topham, 250 592-7270, [jtopham@telus.net](mailto:jtopham@telus.net)  
Carol-Anne Moore, 250 592-2497, [tothe4winds@gmail.com](mailto:tothe4winds@gmail.com)  
Sally Crickman, 250 598-1706, [sjcrickman@shaw.ca](mailto:sjcrickman@shaw.ca)

Large Props Co-ordinator:

General Manager:  
Box Office Manager:

Craig Mracek, 250 384-2025, [gm.langhamcourt@shaw.ca](mailto:gm.langhamcourt@shaw.ca)  
Denise Brown, 250 384-2142,  
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Newsletter address changes or deletions: please contact Rita Humphreys at [prumphreys@shaw.ca](mailto:prumphreys@shaw.ca)

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