

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."

SEPTEMBER 2009

OUR 81ST SEASON OPENS WITH THE MUSIC OF JACQUES BREL

Jacques Brel is alive and well and appearing in Victoria - or rather his music is. Our 81st season begins on a high note as we present the magic of **Jacques Brel's** songs in the cabaret-style production *Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris*. The show is directed and choreographed by **Stephanie Geehan** and produced by **Thelma Midori**. **Yanik Giroux** is Music Director and **Nick Stull**, Stage Manager. **Bill Adams** designed the set and **Lise Bardon** and **Pearl Arden** the costumes. Lighting design is by **Roger Carr** and sound design by **Diana Keating**. The four talented performers who will interpret the music of **Jacques Brel** are: **Debbie Robinson**, **Alf Small**, **Sara Carle** and **Sean Baker**. Others helping to bring this production to life include **Jennifer Le Fleur**, **Jay Nefsky** and **Andrea Pite**.

Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris previews September 23, opens September 24 and runs to October 10. Get your tickets early! Member bookings begin August 31, Season Voucher bookings begin September 7 and Single Ticket/General Public bookings begin September 14.

Who is Jacques Brel?

By Corinna Gilliland

He is, or rather was, **Jacques Romain Georges Brel**. He was born in Schaarbeek, Belgium in April 1929, and died of lung cancer in Bobigny, France in October 1978. He was married with three children. In the English-speaking world, he is known primarily as a song-writer; however, amongst Francophones he is remembered as an actor and director, as well as an interpreter of his own music.

Although Brel was born in Belgium, he lived most of his life in and around Paris. His father was co-owner of a cardboard factory, and Brel began working there as a young man. He had little interest in the family business, however, and it was not long before he joined the Catholic-humanist youth group *Franche Cordée*, with whom he acted and sang. It was there that he met his wife, *Thérèse*, whom he married in 1950.

During the early 1950s, Brel achieved limited success performing his own songs in Belgium, and in 1954 released a 78 rpm record. Shortly after, he quit the cardboard factory and moved to Paris, where he gave

guitar lessons to pay his rent. His first show was at the Olympia, where he had to change into his costume behind the bar. He soon began singing the songs he had written in a variety of Parisian cabarets and music halls. By 1956 he was touring Europe and appearing in shows with **Maurice Chevalier** and **Michel Legrand**.

Under the influence of musician friends, Brel's style altered. He started writing and singing darker songs "about love, death, and the struggle that is life." **Edith Piaf** said of Brel that "he goes to the limit of his strength because, through his singing, he expresses his reason for living and each line hits you in the face and leaves you dazed."

His roots were Flemish and the Flemish countryside but he disliked Flemish Nationalists - the Flamings. Later in his career, he vocalized his loathing for the Flamings with the words "Vive les Belges, merde pour les flamings." Nine years later, in 1977, he sang: the Flamings are as "*Nazis durant les geurres et Catholiques entres elles, vous oscillez sans cesse du fusil au missel*" (Nazis during the wars and Catholics between, you constantly swing from rifle to missal). The insulted Flemish banished that song from their radio.

Brel starred in the musical *L'Homme de la Mancha*, which he both translated into French and directed. He also acted and directed and co-wrote a comedy called *Le Far West*, which competed for the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival in 1973. That same year, his plan to sail around the world in a yacht was cut short by lung cancer. He returned to Paris for treatment, then continued with his ocean voyage. In 1975 he reached the Marquesas Islands and stayed there until 1977, at which time he recorded his final album in Paris. He subsequently died in 1978 at age 49 and was buried on the Marquesas Islands, a few yards from the grave of **Paul Gauguin**.



During the run of *Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris* the following artists will have their works displayed in the lounge for all of you to enjoy: **Emily Robb**, a Vancouver born school teacher who creates jewelry out of natural materials when on a break from lessons; **Heather Johnston**, an artist who works in acrylics with brush and stencil; and **Hayley Marshall**, a Tofino artist who is submitting "a series of surrealistic graphic media blended with photography". We will have more about these artists and their work in the October Newsletter.

HELP WANTED

Light and Sound Operators for

Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris

(September 23 – October 10)

Come and be part of this heart-warming musical revue! Lighting Designer, **Roger Carr**, and Sound Designer, **Diana Keating**, require light and sound operators for the run of the show. If interested, please contact **Thelma Midori** at 250 472-0427 or tmidori@shaw.ca

NOTES FROM THE EDITORS' DESK

Our first issue has received a lot of positive feedback for which we are very grateful. However we did make at least a couple of quite serious errors. Most important, we neglected to credit **Sylvia Lindstrom**, who took the delightful photo of **Jean Topham**, **Wendy Merk**, and **Geli Bartlett** at the post-production party for *The Measure of Love*. Also, it was pointed out that on the back page the years listed for the two production chairmen were incorrect. We apologize to **Sylvia** and to **Phil Gibbs** and **Roger Carr**.

We are continually amazed at **Rick Underwood's** achievements. Close to twenty years he spent editing this newsletter. How did he manage for so long, dealing with deadlines, computer glitches and layout hassles? That's approximately 200 editions! What's your secret, Rick? Oh well, only 198 to go!!!

I hope you are all doing your best to keep the Box Office busy by ordering your tickets or exchanging season ticket vouchers for *Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris*. Don't forget, members can buy their tickets at least two weeks before they're available to the public.

From **Alan MacKenzie**, we learned that the Sound Workshop was a great success. There were at least six potential sound operators and designers crowding into the small booth eagerly asking questions as Al demonstrated how to operate the mixer and the mini-disc recorders. The audiophiles were also given a tour of the speaker locations around the stage. The three-hour workshop ended very satisfactorily with coffee and Timbits for all.

Unfortunately we don't have the cast list for *Picnic* yet, but watch this space on October 1. Meanwhile, check out the auditions for *The*

History Boys with **Roger Carr** in the Director's seat; for the G & S production of *The Sorcerer* directed by **Wendy Merk**; and for the St. Luke's production of *Jack and the Beanstalk* directed by **Dave** and **Helena Hitchcock**.

Congratulations to **Caroline McKenzie** (*Artichoke* and *Midsummer Night's Dream*) and **Osiris de Korte** (*Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*) who were married on July 25. Here's wishing you both a wonderful life together both on and off stage. The question is: how did Mr. and Mrs. De Korte connect? Was it through the **Victoria Theatre Guild**? or through St. Luke's Players? Please let us in on the secret, you two. Meanwhile we want to hear from other couples who got together through their theatre connections (yes, we do mean you, Gloria and Kevin - that's **Gloria Snider** and **Kevin Stinson**).



Bride and Groom's first kiss

When you come to pick up your tickets for *Jacques Brel*, do check out the newly painted lobby - all down to **Gil Henry** and **Toshik Bukowiecki**, both of whom are obviously experienced decorators. It really does look terrific! Thank you , Toshik and Gil.



There's good news and there's bad news. The good news: we will be going back to the 20th of the month deadline for newsletter submissions, thus giving us all a bit of breathing space in September. The bad news: **Danda Humphreys** is leaving the newsletter team as she has a major book project on the go and her publisher is snapping at her heels to get it finished. We will really miss her, and not just because she's a damn good editor, she is also a great team player. However, before we let her go, we insist that we be the first to know when her new book is on sale in the local bookstores. In the meantime, good luck, Danda. Also, good luck to our layout artist **Judy Bogod** who has left us to tackle bigger and better endeavours.

Finally, the newsletter team wishes to thank all those who helped us produce and distribute our first issue. **John Gilliland**, who not only shared his vast knowledge of Langham Court and its members but also helped with the proof-reading and the editing; **Kim Furley**, who xeroxed, stuffed, and addressed all the snail mail copies

with remarkable speed; **Kai Hansen**, our brilliant webmaster, who had the newsletter on our website right on the first of August even though it was a long weekend; and **Craig Mracek**, who managed to e-mail the newsletter link to everybody in spite of dealing with major computer glitches at the theatre that lasted for a number of very frustrating days.

Also, we wish to thank all of you who sent in your news, your views and your reviews. We thank you all.

CG
DH



Gil about to climb the shaky ladder

Welcome

A warm welcome to the following new Victoria Theatre Guild members:
Dr Tim Wynn-Williams, Marion Davis, Valeri Oliver, Gregory Smyth.
(Thanks to **Rita Humphreys** for information supplied)

We Got Mail. . .

I didn't have a chance to peruse the newsletter before I left for Santa Fe and have just read it. Sincere congratulations and thanks for this splendid affair. It's exactly what we need to improve our sense of community: it's informative and fun. I hope that you continue to receive enough contributions to make it fun for you as well as the rest of us. This morning I have already had a comment from a member saying that because of the newsletter, he felt that the Guild was "moving forward" and that he really enjoyed and appreciated your work. I hope you will continue to get such recognition. Many thanks to you all.

Sylvia Rhodes
President

I really enjoyed reading the newsletter. You and your team did a great job. And I think the tone and organization are both improved. I have one complaint, however. In your coverage of the Blue Bridge Theatre production of *Death of a Salesman*, there is no mention of Langham's earlier production in September 1999, featuring a very brave and talented Ned Lemley as Willy Loman. What a fantastic job he did with a monumental part! Though not boffo box office, it was a critical success, still memorable to those who saw it. I think we should acknowledge our own and pat ourselves on the back for (once again) being out ahead (by 10 years) of the "professionals" in reviving this classic theatre masterpiece.

Judith McDowell

[Ed. note: look elsewhere in this issue for a profile on Life Member Ned Lemley.]

Costume Sale Nets Over \$3,500!

Our Giant Annual Costume Sale brought in gross receipts of \$3,521.23, and even though expenses have not all been paid, it's safe to say we (those who were able to work the sale day) were pleased with the results of our efforts.

This year's volunteers (in the order in which they signed up) were: **Jean de Cartier**, **Mary Goodspeed**, **Wendy Magahay**, **Corinna** and **John Gilliland**, **Toshik Bukowiecki**, **Antoinette Church**, **Carol Ann Moore**, **Vinnie Chadwick**, **Jill Groves**, **Jane French**, **Peta** and **Alan MacKenzie**, **Thelma Midori**, **Beth** (didn't leave her last name), **J. L. Cadrain**, **Tammy Regier**, **Penelope Harwood**, **Alf Small**, plus myself and my daughter **Camille Kim** and two grandsons, **Gabe Kim** and **Dante Lemley**.

Over 160 volunteer hours were spent in the theatre between Monday, July 20 and Monday, July 27. Special thanks to **Mary Goodspeed** for contributing the MOST HOURS!



and they came by the hundreds. .

I also want to mention that at the end of the sale a representative from C.A.R.T.S (Christian Actions Reflecting The Spirit) was very happy to take away a number of bags of items our volunteers helped select. C.A.R.T.S.' mission is to feed, embrace and inspire others with the spirit of God. They encourage people to contribute financially, through items of food and/or clothing, or through their time and/or talents. Their website: www.cartsvictoria.ca. Also, Animal Rescue received the remaining bed and table linens, and more than two dozen bags of random garments were given to Big Brothers, Big Sisters. Nothing was wasted. As a final note, I want to say that I think the largest factor contributing to our success this year was the donation list. So many people thought of us when it came time to clear out a closet, and the quality of the goods they brought was so high that we had lots to offer our customers. I had a lot more fun this year and I hope all of you who worked with me did too. Let's do it again next year!



Ned models a designer donation as Vinnie looks on

I am often asked, “What can I donate? What do you take?” So here's the Compleat List: As long as it's clean, we'll take any garment whether it's costume or contemporary and accessories (see below), jewellery (broken or not), feathers, fabrics, towels, bed linens, kitchen linens, yard goods, furs, Diva dresses (we had a lot of those this year), gloves, glam, cigarette lighters and cases, flasks, masks, collar buttons, collars and shirts of all descriptions, hankies, hats, holsters, helmets, head gear, medieval fetters, shoes and clothes, kilts (two of them)....call Disguisethelimit for the real Scots Wear. We're looking for

an Elvis outfit, Michael Jackson outfit, John Travolta outfit from “Saturday Night Fever.” We now have a pair of white Go-Go Boots.



The people in our community who contributed items from their recently deceased relatives, people who cleaned out a closet, or went through an annual purge, or simply emptied a drawer... we thank you all, because the quality of your cast-offs helped us buy light bulbs and toilet paper for a few months and maybe a couple of seats in the drive that will be kicked off soon. I want at least one New Chair with my name designated for it. I'm a LIFE MEMBER and buying a seat is the least I can do. I've had sooooo much fun here since *The Little Foxes* in 1976.

Ned Lemley
Costume Co-ordinator
cloft@telus.net

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Appreciation for a job well done . . .

Another excerpt from my monthly report to the Board of Directors: The theatre positively sizzled throughout July even though our new A/C kept things cool inside. A big thank you goes out to **Ned Lemley** and all the volunteers who helped with a very successful costume sale! Thanks to **Denise Brown** for her continuing hard work and dedication in the box office as well as to **Gil Henry** and **Toshik Bukowiecki** for giving our lobby a fresh coat of paint. Thanks also to the Publicity Committee for tackling our public image and everyone on the Fund Development Committee for establishing a draft of our development plan for the upcoming year. Finally, welcome to *Good Night Uncle Joe*, who used our rehearsal room as a Langham Court sponsored Fringe production.

Seat Sale . . .

That's right, our beautiful yet dilapidated auditorium seats will be heading out the door in the summer of 2010. The good news is that you can sponsor a plush new seat of your very own! To find out how you too can become a sponsor, tune in to next month's newsletter or contact Craig at gm.langhamcourt@shaw.ca

Craig Mracek
General Manager

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP AT THE CURRENT RATE

A reminder to all members whose membership is due for renewal before the end of this year: if you renew now, you will have your membership extended until the end of 2010 at the current rate. New rates will begin in January 2010, so renew early and you will be set for another wonderful year with Langham Court Theatre.

Please email me if you have changed your address, phone number, email address, etc., as well as if you wish to be involved as a volunteer at the theatre, and have not been called upon over the past year. My email address is: prhumphreys@shaw.ca.

Rita Humphreys
Membership Chair and Volunteer Coordinator

PLAY READING COMMITTEE INVITES SUGGESTIONS

The Reading Committee for the 2010 – 2011 season has been formed. Thanks to everyone who expressed an interest, but we topped out at 11 bodies. Nevertheless, any suggestions for plays would be most welcome. Please forward your thoughts to me, rcarr@shaw.ca. If you have access to a copy of the script, that is a huge bonus for the committee. Thanks to **Phil Gibbs** for his invaluable guidance as we get started.

Roger Carr
Production Chair, 2010-2011

HELLO FROM OUR FRONT OF HOUSE CO-ORDINATORS

Thank you to all of you who have helped out in the past with Ushering and Front of House

positions. We look forward to working with you again.

This season there will be two Front of House Co-ordinators: **Marilyn Samis** and **Pearl Arden**. Marilyn will be in charge of FOH for *Jacques Brel*, *Sylvia* and *Silver Dagger*, while Pearl will cover *Picnic*, *The History Boys* and *Perfect Wedding*.

We will be calling on all you Front of House volunteers to discuss your availability and we'll be sure to give you a quick reminder-call one or two days before it's your turn to 'ush' or house manage.

Although we may be able to accommodate some requests for specific shows or specific nights, in the interests of everyone having several turns during the season we regret that we cannot guarantee every request.

We were delighted to meet those of you who attended the orientation session on August 30, and eagerly anticipate working with you during the coming season.

Pearl Arden, 250 385-7690, reader8@shaw.ca
Marilyn Samis, 250 380-2266,
irisheysmts@shaw.ca

COLOUR CODING EASES KEY CHAOS AND IMPROVES SECURITY

We have a new process for distributing keys to production teams. With your cooperation, this new system will supply team members with ready access to the keys they need to put on their show and will also improve theatre key security.

Two sets of 16 keys have been prepared – a purple set for Shows 1, 3 and 5; a pink set for Shows 2, 4 and 6. Producers will be asked to distribute the keys to their team, collect them at

the end of the show, and pass them on to the next relevant producer, e.g. the producer from Show 1 will pass the keys to the producer of Show 3, etc. The producers of Shows 5 and 6 will leave their keys with the General Manager, so that both complete sets will be in the office by the end of the season.

If extra or replacement keys become necessary, the producer can have them cut and charge those costs to the show's budget. Please remember to pass a **complete set of keys** on to

the next producer and – although it adds to the bulk of the keys – **please keep all the tags on.** It's grim to receive untagged keys and have to try them in each door.

Let's give this a try, to ease the current Key Chaos!

Thelma Midori
"The Key Lady"

THANKS TO SUMMER CELEBRATION SPONSORS AND ARTISTS...

By Barbara Strachan

The Summer Celebration of the Arts, a July event which raised approximately \$6,500 for Victoria Women's Transition House [reported in our August issue], owed its success to several sponsors and volunteers.

Langham Court Theatre provided the venue for three performances of *The Measure of Love*, written by Canadian playwright **Nicolas Billon** and starring Langham Court members **Geli Bartlett** and **Jean Topham**. Each performance was followed by a reception in the theatre lounge featuring delicious food sponsored and catered with great pizzazz by the Ambrosia Conference and Event Centre, live music and an art show. **Ann Wortmann** of RBC Dominion Securities co-sponsored the Friday evening reception. Artists **Agnes Ananichuk**, **Frances Baskerville**, **Mary Giordano**, **Louise Monfette** and **Jenny Waelti-Walters** displayed their fine work. Musicians **Peet Vuur** and **Elies van Sommeren** (Friday evening), **Angela Carter** and friends (Saturday evening), and **Ben Fast** and **Joel Durkovic** (Sunday matinee) added greatly to the fun.

Thanks to **Sharon Glowach**, who looked after ticket sales and all things financial. The event was organized by **Jayde Farand** (VWTH staff member), **Jean Topham** and me (VWTH board member).

This event allowed some new people to enjoy the ambience of our charming theatre. Thanks to the **Victoria Theatre Guild** for hosting it without charge, allowing the most money possible to go to Transition House in these difficult financial times.

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 October issue will be September 20 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. Let's support each others' endeavours in our "community theatre community."

Audition

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 be physically 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

Party Time

Summer not even over and already the shops are stocking up on Hallowe'en candy and costumes. Speaking of Hallowe'en, you'd better get your costume sorted for the magnificent October 31 Hallowe'en bash at **Langham Court Theatre**. The period: Victorian. The locale: an English Pub. So, think of the characters you might run across in a pub in London's East End, or perhaps Mayfair or along the Kensington High Street. Maybe you'd like to be Nancy, or Bill Sykes. Maybe you fancy yourself as Sherlock Holmes or Oscar Wilde, or how about Jack the Ripper or Mrs Patrick Campbell, or what about G.B.S. or J. M. Barrie or even Sarah Bernhardt? Whatever your secret Victorian fantasy, I'm sure Ned's Costume Loft will help you fulfill it. And please, bring something to munch on while you're mixing with the men and women of the *Fin de Siècle*.

HELP WANTED

Goulies, ghosties and long-leggity beasts are needed to help organise Langham Court's fabulous October 31 Hallowe'en Party. Please contact Entertainment Chair Lillian Trigg at 250 385-8366 [or toodaloo222@live.com](mailto:toodaloo222@live.com)

LIFE MEMBERS ALOFT

By John & Corinna Gilliland

This month we celebrate the achievement of our two lofty lifers: **Jill Groves** and **Ned Lemley**



Photo by David Lowes

Jill Groves

Jill Groves joined the **Victoria Theatre Guild** in September 1985, having been introduced to our theatre by **Ned Lemley**. From the moment she walked through the door, Jill demonstrated her ability to work twice as hard as anyone else. Whenever there was a call for help in the theatre, Jill would be among the first to respond. In 1987, she was voted in as Secretary and remained in that position until 1993, thus winning the record for longest-running Guild Board Secretary ever. In the autumn of 1987, Jill decided to clean up the Costume Loft. That was the start of her 20 years as our much-loved, much-respected Costume Loft Manager. For the first five years, she filled the position as a volunteer. Finally, in 1992, the Board woke up to the fact that this volunteer was single-handedly raking in a small fortune for Langham Court. As a result, Jill began working on contract and remained as Costume Loft Manager until her retirement in 2007. In that time, as well as making our loft the go-to place for fancy dress costumes and Hallowe'en outfits, Jill masterminded 20 Monster Costume Sales which brought in increasingly large sums of money for **Langham Court Theatre**.

As well as her many hours running the Costume Loft, Jill worked hard on numerous committees, and from 1991 to 1993 served as Assistant to the Administrator. One of her tasks was to maintain an archive of each production, which she did meticulously and with attention to detail. Jill also worked the Box Office during the run of most productions over the past twenty years.

A tireless worker on the administrative side, Jill has also been seen back-stage and on-stage in more than twenty shows including *Lady Windermere's Fan*, *Abigail's Party*, and *The Curious Savage*. In 2001, Jill was made a Life Member, and in 2007 there were more than a few tears when she retired as Manager of the Costume Loft. However, Jill is still busy helping at the Costume Sales, and was last seen making the audience laugh in a performance for **Langham Readers Theatre**.

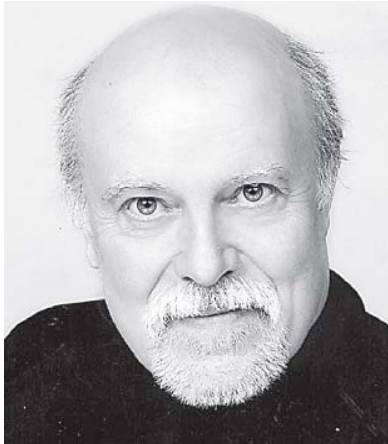


Photo by David Lowes

Ned Lemley

Ned Lemley has been a member of the **Victoria Theatre Guild** since 1976, at which time he was speech advisor as well as playing Horace Giddens in *The Little Foxes*. Several parts and five years later, Ned performed the monologue in *Newfoundland*, which comes in the middle of **Tom Stoppard's Dirty Linen**. It was a virtuoso performance, and quite possibly the best acting that has ever been seen at Langham Court. As well as performing more than thirty roles over the years, including "Sir" in *The Dresser*, Maitland in the 1985 revival of *The Chalk Garden*, Peter Abelard in *Abelard and Heloise*, Mordechai Weiss in *A Shayna Maidel*, and Willy Loman in *Death of A Salesman*, Ned has produced, directed and designed sets and assisted the Costume Designers for countless other productions. His most recent directorial assignment was *Communicating Doors* in 2005.

Ned served on the Board as a Member-at-Large from 1984 through 1986. At the same time, he was our Membership Chairman or as he put it "...the Club Night Chairman, since my main function seems to be keeping members happy once they've joined." And, indeed, he was extremely successful with his innovative, fun-filled club nights, which included hilarious games of Charades and competitive games of Trivial Pursuit (without the board). Ned also developed the idea of the Sunday Club Night to celebrate the completion of a set strike. This worked particularly well for the October and May/June productions. As soon as the strike was finished, the barbecue would be brought out and the party would begin. It was also Ned who, in 1984, created the tradition of the barbecue following the Summer General Meeting.

After Jill retired from her stint as Costume Loft Manager, Ned took over, and following a brief period of adjustment made the job his own. His leadership during the 2009 Mammoth Costume Sale was a major factor in the sale's increased earnings. Ned continues to run the Costume Loft and will be glad of any volunteer help he can get during the period before and after Hallowe'en.

Are You Receiving Us?

Do you receive *the 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 **Craig Mracek**, General Manager, at 250 384-2142, gm.langhamcourt@shaw.ca

SCENE AND HEARD

... in thunder, lightning and pouring rain at the Luminara Lantern Festival (whose Artistic Director is our own Art Show Coordinator **Jeani Reynolds**), **Sylvia Rhodes**, **Diana Keating**, **Phil** and **Lesley Gibbs** and daughter **Denbigh** stopping in a wooded grove to admire **Julius Maslovat's** huge Rubik's cube and Sudoku lantern installations. Julius's side-kick was a very soggy **Danda Humphreys**, and the lantern displays in his area were ably managed by site coordinator (and our own Box Office Manager) **Denise Brown**.

... at a very busy Costume Sale, **Erin Rogers** and **Alina Krogstad** lined up at the cash desk to buy the very dresses they had worn on stage in *Isn't It Romantic* and *That Summer*.

... also at the Costume Sale, a very organized **Ned Lemley** ably assisted in the Green Room by **Toshik Bukowiecki** (who was down preparing a fantastic feast - including extremely sinful raspberry tarts - for all the volunteers), and in the lounge, on stage and in the lobby by **Lynn Cadrain**, **Vinnie Chadwick**, **Antoinette Church**, **Jean De Cartier**, **John Gilliland**, **Jill Groves**, **Penelope Harwood**, **Wendy Magahay**, **Peta MacKenzie**, **Carol Anne Moore** and - doing the work of three or four people at least - the dynamic **Mary Goodspeed**.

... at Symphony Splash, **Peta** and **Alan MacKenzie** and **Judy Treloar** enjoying the 1812 Overture (or what could be heard of it above the chattering teenagers seated nearby).

. . . And from Michael Tyler we received the following . . .

Next time you're down at Ogden Point, look for a statue of a Town Crier with a familiar face. That face belongs to our very own **Tommy Mayne**.

As well as being a **Victoria Theatre Guild** Life Member, Tommy is also a long-time member of the Victoria A.M. Association, a volunteer group that works hard to promote tourism in our city. Dressed in Edwardian or Victorian costumes, members greet disembarking cruise ship passengers when they emerge from the Immigration Shed at Ogden Point.

In honour of its 25-year anniversary, Victoria A.M. erected a statue of a Town Crier, sculpted by Armando Barbon and based on the face of **Tommy Mayne**, outside the Immigration Shed. The inscription lists the Association's volunteer Town Criers, including: "Tommy Mayne, 1990 to present." The statue was dedicated on June 19, 2009.

Tommy Mayne may well be the first VTG member to be immortalized in this way. Congratulations, Tommy! Watch out for seagulls.

[Ed Note: Look for a profile of **Tommy Mayne** in an upcoming issue of Langham Court News]

ST. LUKE'S PLAYERS PRESENTS

By David Hitchcock

The first play of St Luke's Players upcoming season, *The Chalk Garden* by **Enid Bagnold** and directed by **Rita Humphreys**, features 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 in early September from Ivy's Books (Oak Bay Village), Petals Plus Florist (3749 Shelbourne St.), members of the cast and crew and at the door. For further information, please call 250 884-5484.

CONCERT COMING UP!

Get ready to enjoy an evening of music at **Langham Court Theatre** on Saturday, October 17, when Roots music legends **David Essig** and **Rick Scott** grace our stage for an acoustic concert celebrating the release of their new Double Vision CD. Two of Canada's most beloved singer/songwriters, Essig and Scott combine guitar, dulcimer and vocal harmonies in finely crafted songs of life, love and loss seasoned with literate wit, the grace of grief, and considerable kindness. David and Rick will be joined by **Shelley Brown** on acoustic bass. Fans of Jacques Brel will enjoy this show! Tickets \$20 at the door. Reservations info@rickscott.ca or call 250-740-0047.

AUDITIONS AROUND TOWN...

Victoria Gilbert & Sullivan Society

The Sorcerer. The G&S Society is holding auditions on Saturday, September 26 and Sunday, September 27 from 1-5 p.m. Director

is **Wendy Merk**. The cast includes 9 principals (5 men, 4 women) and 20 chorus members (5 on each part). Performance dates are March 13, 14, 20 & 21, 2010 at the Charlie White Theatre in Sidney, and March 27 & 28, 2010 at the McPherson Playhouse in Victoria. To book an audition and for more information, please phone Joy at 250 384-6707. www.gilbertandsullivanvictoria.ca

St Luke's Players

Jack and the Beanstalk. Open auditions will be held for St. Luke's fourth Christmas Pantomime on Friday October 2 at 7.30 p.m. and Saturday October 3 at 2.30 p.m. at St Luke's Hall, 3821 Cedar Hill X Road. The cast includes 14 principal characters and a villagers' chorus. Dave and Helena Hitchcock will direct. The panto runs from Boxing Day to January 3, 2010. For more information contact **Dave** or **Helena Hitchcock** by e-mail: hitch@shaw.ca or phone: 250 370-1291

Who's Who Answers

How well did you do with our August issue quiz??? Did you manage to match up the right people with the right occupations? Test your knowledge of your fellow members by checking the corrected list below!

Jean Topham (Paper Conservator), **Danda Humphreys** (Radio Broadcaster), **Bill Adams** (Arctic Seabird Biologist), **Dick Newson** (Software Engineer), **Julius Maslovat** (Potter), **John Gilliland** (Geophysicist), **Corinna Gilliland** (Advertising Copywriter), **Karrie Wolfe** (Barrister), **Thelma Midori** (College Dean).

Quiz compiled by **Danda Humphreys**. If you know of a VTG member with an unusual present/former occupation please let Danda know: dandah@shaw.ca

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday, September 7 | Start of Season Voucher bookings for <i>Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris</i> |
| Monday, September 14 | Start of single ticket sales for <i>Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris</i> |
| Sunday, September 20 | Deadline for submissions to October 1 issue of <i>The Langham Court News</i> |
| Wednesday, September 23 | Preview: <i>Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris</i> |
| Thursday, September 24 - Saturday October 10 | <i>Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris</i> |
| Saturday, September 26 | 1 - 5 p.m. Audition for G & S Society's <i>The Sorcerer</i> |
| Sunday, September 27 | 1 - 5 p.m. Audition for G & S Society's <i>The Sorcerer</i> |
| Friday, October 2 | 7:30 p.m. Audition for St. Luke's Players <i>Jack and the Beanstalk</i> |
| Saturday, October 3 | 2:30 p.m. Audition for St. Luke's Players <i>Jack and the Beanstalk</i> |
| Saturday, October 3 | 1 - 4 p.m. Audition for <i>The History Boys</i> |
| Sunday, October 4 | 1 - 4 p.m. Audition for <i>The History Boys</i> |
| Wednesday, October 14 | Opening night for St. Luke's Players <i>The Chalk Garden</i> |
| 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 <i>The Langham Court News</i> |
| Saturday, October 31 | Langham Court's Weird and Wonderful Halloween Costume Party |
| Wednesday, November 11 | Preview of <i>Picnic</i> |
| Thursday, November 12 - Saturday November 28 | <i>Picnic</i> |

2009/2010 Board of Directors

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| President: | Sylvia Rhodes |
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Membership Chair & Volunteer Co-ordinator: Rita Humphreys, prhumphreys@shaw.ca
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Marilyn Samis, irisheyesmts@shaw.ca

Costume Co-ordinator: Ned Lemley, 250 384-2025, cloft@telus.net
Archivist: John Gilliland, 250 592-0319, dogfael@shaw.ca

General Manager: Craig Mracek, 250 384-2025, gm.langhamcourt@shaw.ca
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Layout Artists: Judy Bogod, Corinna Gilliland

Deadline for submissions is the 20th day of the month preceding the month of publication, e.g. the deadline for the October 1 issue is September 20. Please send submissions by e-mail to Corinna Gilliland (catfael@shaw.ca) or by mail to the Victoria Theatre Guild.

Newsletter mailing address changes or deletions: please call 250 384-2142.
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