

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 2010

Our 82nd Season Takes off with the Female Version of *The Odd Couple* By Neil Simon

Directed By **Sylvia Rhodes**, this uproarious comedy will have audiences rolling out of their brand-new seats at the antics of an impressive cast of characters that include **Christine Karpiak** as the hypochondriac and ultra neat-freak, Florence, newcomer **Shelley Superstein** as her friend, flat mate and super-slob, Olive, with **Jo Barnes** (Renee), **Kathy Macovichuk** (Sylvie), **Fran Patterson** (Vera), **Colleen Sullivan** (Mickey), and playing the two Spanish gentlemen, **Brian Adams** as Jesus and **Wayne Yercha** as Manolo.

The Odd Couple – Female Version is produced by **Vinnie Chadwick**, with Set Design by **Tony Hubner**, Props and Décor by **Sally Crickman** and Lighting Design by **Craig Mracek**. **Anne-Marie Arneson** is the Costume Designer and **Corinna Gilliland** the Sound Designer with much help from our resident Technical Guru **Alan MacKenzie** and from **Diana Keating** who is also Assistant Director. The show is Stage Managed by **Nick Stull** with **Joan Emery** as ASM.

The Odd Couple – Female Version previews on Wednesday, September 29th, opens Thursday, September 30th and runs until Saturday, October 16th. Season and single tickets are already on sale, so if you want to enjoy an evening of laughter while reclining in the most comfortable theatre seats in town, book early either in person (from 12 noon to 4 p.m. during the weeks leading up to performance and 12 noon to 8 p.m. during the run), or by phone at (250) 384-2142, or on line at langhamcourtheatre.bc.ca.

Art Show

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

Louise Monfette is a painter and a sculptor both. Louise's love of colour and texture is reflected in her recent mixed media work and in her sculptures. She has exhibited in galleries in Victoria and Vancouver, and has won juror's

awards from **The Federation of Canadian Artists**, **Sooke Fine Art Show** and **Look show**. Louise studied at both the **Victoria College of Art** and the **Ontario College of Art**, graduating from **VCA** in 2003. Her art can be viewed at: www.louise-monfette.blogspot.com

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

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

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

The Non Profit-Organisation

The non-profit organisation for *The Odd Couple – Female Version* is the Victoria Branch of the **Canadian Diabetes Association**.

Victoria hosts the **Regional Leadership Centre** of the **Canadian Diabetes Association** for Vancouver Island. It is a non-profit, charitable, volunteer organisation whose mission is to lead the fight against diabetes by helping people who have diabetes live healthy lives while working to find a cure.

More than 300,000 British Columbians have diabetes,

54,000 of them on Vancouver Island, with approximately 25,000 in Greater Victoria alone.

The **Vancouver Island Regional Leadership Centre** is located at: #276- 2950 Douglas Street Victoria, BC V8T 4N4 . . .

. . . and houses programme offices, a resource centre and lending library, as well as one of the association's two dedicated Diabetes Supply Stores in Canada

Editor's Notes:

Once again, I have a whole team of individuals to thank for helping me to bring the newsletter from my computer to your eyes. First, I want to thank **Kai Hansen**, who has postponed his retirement yet again to enable this month's Newsletter to go up on the web site. It seems that Kai is the exception to the rule that no one is indispensable!! For organising the snail mail-out of the Newsletter, I have to thank our new General Manager, **Denise Brown**, who also sent me information about the non-profit organisation for *The Odd Couple-Female Version*. Bouquets also go to **Ned Lemley**, who gave us a lively and informative report on the Giant Costume Sale, which was a rip roaring success from both a financial and a fun perspective! Thank you's too to Peter McNab for reviewing *Sweeney Todd* and to **Lisa Leighton**, **Roger Carr**, **Joan Patrick**, **Pearl Arden**, **Cynthia Pronick** and **Keith Digby**, **Jon Scheer**, **Dave Hitchcock**, **Luke Krayenoff** and **Antoinette Church** for their contributions, and in Antoinette's case for the cups of coffee at her kitchen table. I am also extremely grateful to **Alex Rand**, our newly appointed London Correspondent. Finally, humungous hugs to **Paul Bertorelli**, who manages to come through with photographs in response to last-minute whimpers from Yours Truly and to **Danda**

Humphreys who is so generous with her time and talent as the Newsletter's eagle-eyed proof-reader. Thank you all.

Speaking of our London Correspondent, I have word that **Langham Court** Alumni **Alex Rand** (*Picnic*, *The History Boys*) and **Lindsey Alley** (*Midsummer Night's Dream*) are definitely making waves in London Town. Alex has been and will be until October, working on the next **Steven Spielberg** epic *War Horse*, about which he is allowed to say very little. When that is wrapped up, Alex will fill in the time taking classes before auditioning for drama schools next spring. I predict that everywhere he auditions will be begging him to enrol. Meanwhile, **Lindsay Alley** has been accepted into **LAMDA's** two-year acting programme (that is **The London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art**, an extremely prestigious theatre school). Kudos to both these talented young alumni, and here's to wishing them every success in what has to be one of the most precarious professions.

When you read this, the 2010 Fringe Festival will be well underway and I'm sure that most of you will be spending time waiting in line-ups to get into the best shows. Don't forget *Spin*, one of the two shows playing at **Langham Court Theatre**. Yes, for the first time in the history of the **Victoria Theatre Guild** and the **Fringe Festival**, these two will be joining forces so that the home of the **Victoria Theatre Guild** will be Venue 13 home to *Spin*, *History of*

the Lost and Found and *Happily Ever After*? I predict a happy and successful marriage between these two Victoria theatrical institutions.

After a hectic summer at **Langham Court**, during which a lot of people spent a lot of time doing a lot of hard work, we are being catapulted into an equally hectic autumn and winter. First, there are the auditions for *The Memory of Water* (performance dates November 17th to December 4th) on September 8th and 9th followed by the party to celebrate the new seats on September 11th. Then on September 29th *The Odd Couple- Female Version* begins its two-week run and we're into our 82nd season which also includes: *The Laramie Project* (January 12th to 29th), *The Lady in the Van* (March 2nd to 19th), *A Month in the Country* (April 20th to May 2nd) and we close with *Goodnight Desdemona, Good Morning Juliet* (June 8th to 25th). As well as the Main-Stage productions, **Readers' Theatre** has an interesting season ahead, starting with three short one-act plays: *The Processional* directed by **Tony Hubner**, *Impromptu* directed

by **Hetty Clews**, and *The Monkey's Paw* directed by **Toshik Bukowiecki**. The **Readers' Theatre** auditions will be on Monday, September 13th with the performance on Saturday, October 23rd.

If you can't find enough to do around **Langham Court**, the **Friends of The Greater Victoria Public Library** are having a book sale at **Nellie McClung Library** Saturday, September 25th from 5p.m. to 8p.m. and Sunday, September 26th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.. Then **St Lukes'** will be holding auditions for their annual Christmas pantomime, *Robinson Crusoe*, on Friday October 1st and Saturday October 2nd followed on October 13th by the first production of their season, *Arsenic and Old Lace* (which is rife with **Langham Court** members). So you can enjoy a busy and productive autumn or stay at home and see what the new season on television has to offer – it's your choice – enjoy!

Notes from Aloft

The Giant Annual Costume Sale

Many thanks to everyone who made our Costume Sale a success: the Volunteers (see below), those who made donations (see past and present Newsletters), the Courtiers and members of the public who came and spent.

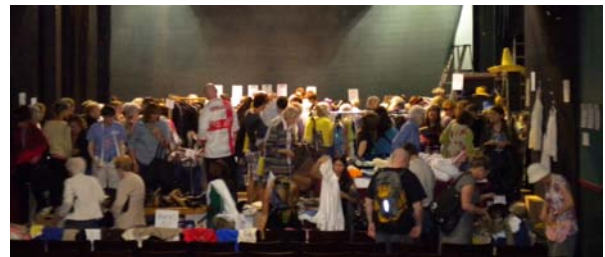
The Volunteer List in no particular order:

Alf Small, Eilene Bennett, Erin Rodgers, Vinnie Chadwick, Sally Crickman, Penelope Harwood and her daughters **Lyn and Laura, Garth Taylor, Mary Goodspeed, Peta and Alan MacKenzie, Wendy Magahay, Jacqueline Dunsmore, Jill Groves, Tammy Regier, Antoinette Church, Jacqueline Fraser, Jean de Cartier, Lori Smith, Franklin Porter and his mom Judy, Jane Kreiger, Madeleine Mills and her daughter Kate, Ann-Marie Arneson, Mary Standall, Heather Jarvie and her dad Nick, Kate Mooers, Brian von Prong, Corinna Gilliland, Cynthia Pronick, Keith Digby, Fran Patterson, Janice Cadrain and her daughter Laura, Diane Madill, Susan Ferguson, Beth Webster, Rich Cook, Simon Skey, Geli Bartlett, Lisa Leighton**, and probably others who never signed in!

The volunteers fell into two categories: the repeaters and the newbies. The repeaters noticed the newbies, and from all reports I've had so far the newbies felt welcomed and want to become repeaters.

I've done the math as they say.

On the day of the sale, 33 volunteers put in a total of 192 hours. From Monday Aug. 2nd to the end of the day on the 8th, 417 were put in. Prior to August but in preparation for the sale, 75 hours were spent. My grand total of person hours spent on the sale is 492 hours, but I suspect I don't have a complete record.



The public who came and spent

The earnings for the sale are (unofficially) \$4,727.59. We do not have to subtract the rack rentals because **Saanich Rentals** did not charge us...perhaps due to the influence of **Alf Small**, who has an account and who paid for the

delivery and pick up of those racks. Thanks Alf, you are a true Courtier.

We do have to subtract the \$161.00 that goes to the **Costume Workshop** account for the yardage **Lisa Leighton** prepared and sold, and the cost of feeding a light lunch to the volunteers (Thanks Vinnie and Sally, it was delicious and inexpensive!), and then we still have more than we got last year!

Under the heading of OTHER

A great deal more culling of the Loft by volunteers was done this year during June and July. Hats off to **Susan Ferguson, Di Madill, Madeleine Mills, Jane Kreiger, Antoinette Church, Jean de Cartier**, and who am I forgetting at the moment?

Many buyers said things to the cashiers like, "I didn't have to wait long at all this year." "Because you have more people helping, it was a treat." "Even in the crush at the beginning everything was calmer and more pleasant." The pre-sale (meaning the shopping by volunteers before the public came in) netted a surprising amount. Thanks again volunteers. Call me next June to get in on **The Giant Annual Costume Sale 2011**.

While we had quite a lot more items to display, sell, dispose of at the end, we had fewer so-called "High End" items for sale. Several repeaters made comments to this effect, and I agreed.

More than one volunteer said, "I didn't think we were as busy as in earlier years." I think that was because of having twice the number of floor-walkers as in earlier years, but next year I want to count how many attend. I want to know what the Fire Marshall will allow on the main floor and I want to consider how to let the right number of persons in at any given time.

Speaking of disposing of things: During the one hour and a half it took to take almost everything down significant contributions were made to **Hospice, Our Place, and Big Brothers and Big Sisters**. A few items went back to the loft and a few others went into storage for next year.

Several suggested that structuring the lunch break a little more was a better idea and no one felt rushed back into the fray. Having a greeter in the lane was a good idea and **Fran Patterson** who spent most of the day there (with **Madeleine Mills** spelling her off) has some recommendations I'll be glad to receive.

Something I forgot to say when I exhorted the troops to smile and help and welcome the public: I failed to mention that The Loft (a significant source of income for Langham Court) now has enough traffic during the

months of October/November and April/May that volunteers are needed to provide better service than I can provide alone. I am prepared to train persons interested in helping people find what they are looking for and how to fill out invoices and receive payment and file the information appropriately.

During those four months we will be open for business not only on Wed. and Fri. afternoons and Sat. mornings but also on Monday from 4 p.m. to 7 or 8 p.m.

I will need at least two assistants during those times. I believe this mirrors the arrangement in the Box Office that Denise manages and volunteers provide services in addition to hers. The Loft has never advertised (except for the annual sale), but word of mouth and the fact that many more people are involved in performances has led us to a great deal more traffic and increased income for the theatre. It behooves us as an organisation to provide better service to our community in exchange for monies we no longer receive through gaming.

If you think you might be interested, please contact me and let's talk about it some more.

One more thing: In a spirit of transparency and because I was asked, let me tell you that my contract with the board pays me for 16 hours a week (except in high-traffic months when it is 18 or 19 hours a week) and I am given a bonus of 5% of gross receipts. The rest of the time I volunteer, just like so many of you, and I'm glad to do it as you are.

I think that about wraps up **The Giant Annual Costume Sale for 2010** which, according to Jill Groves, is our 20th. Please direct questions or comments to me or to our wonderful editor who is not only a repeater for many years but put in almost as much time as I did!

Yea team! Yea Courtiers!

P.S. Here are the names of people who donated items since last report:

Oh heck! That list is in a large black leather wallet containing all my notes about the sale, etc. that has been missing since the day after the sale, along with the hat I bought at the **Giant Annual Costume Sale 2009**, the one I wore to India last November. I've looked at **Langham Court** and I've looked at home, they are probably on a bus. Anyway, as Ellen says, I'll list the donors in the next issue. All the best.

Ned Lemley
Costume Co-ordinator

. . . And from the Costume Workshop

Thank You!

Thanks, once again, are due to **Corinna Gilliland** for generously donating more of **John's** things to our Costume Department. The Annual Clothing Sale in early August was richer for some of John's formal shirts and collars (which were snapped up immediately), as well as four large bags of fabric scraps – much of it vintage – for crafters and quilters. The Costume Loft is the beneficiary of two of John's naval uniforms and peaked cap, his set of tails and



Missing!

Two of our sets of small sewing scissors have wandered off from the Costume Workshop in the last few months. They have blue and black rubberized handles and about 6-inch blades. We purchased three sets new when we stocked the room 18 months ago. If a set or sets have managed to make their way into your things by accident, please return the to to replace notions or equipment we have already bought is a great shame. Thank you.



two tuxedos, as well as some of his vintage formal white waistcoats, ties and collars. All of those pieces will be cared for with special consideration in John's memory. Corinna also donated more than half a dozen bags of John's clothing and outerwear directly to **Big Brothers and Big Sisters** through the theatre.

New 'Scrapbook'

While sorting through the many boxes and bags of fabric lengths and scraps that Corinna donated some time ago to the Costume Workshop, it was hard to let go of all the great vintage bits and pieces. None are individually large enough to be usable for costume sewing, but the scraps are a wonderful actual resource for our designers on fabric style, pattern and content from the 1940s through to the 1970s. So I have started a genuine 'scrap book' – a collection of vintage fabric swatches. If anyone else has unused pieces of real vintage material (even small ones), please consider donating them for this new collection. It has been inspired (and seeded) by John and Corinna. Thanks to them both.

the Workshop or leave them with **Denise Brown** in the Box Office. We are on an extremely tight budget, so having

Clearing out the Attic?

We happily accept donations of costume/fashion-related books, and of sewing patterns, notions and fabrics. Please contact **Lisa Leighton** at 250-595-5523 or leighton@islandnet.com.

Lisa Leighton
For the Costume Workshop

News, Views, Reviews and Thank-you's

A Super Sweeney

By Peter McNab

On a lovely night in late July, Elana and I slipped over to **Langham Court** Theatre to catch the **Roger Carr** directed, two nights only *Sweeney Todd*, a Sondheim classic. To our chagrin, it was sold out; we scooped up two of the few remaining tickets for the second night.

How lucky we did.

In the two weeks between July 3rd and their opening, the **Comox Youth Musical Centre (CYMC)** created a wonderful production of this horrifying but comic award-winning revenge play. The plot centres on Sweeney Todd, (**Adam Kozlick**) returning to London after fifteen years transported to Australia on false charges. Sweeney opens a barbershop on Fleet Street, determined to wreak revenge on all who had wronged him, including Judge Turpin (**Nathaniel Gordon**) who stole Sweeney's wife and infant daughter. His revenge is to slit the throats of his wrongdoers and drop their bodies off his chair into the waiting arms of Mrs. Lovett (**Alison Roberts**), who converts them into meat pies so delicious they become the talk of London. Gordon and Roberts in their roles are themselves deliciously evil and somehow endearing. The play ends with the stage littered with corpses, including Sweeney's and Mrs. Lovett's, but they all come back to life to sing the rousing finale.

I struggled to find weak moments during the two-hour evening. The pacing flagged a little at the beginning of the pie making and the energy dipped. But that would be

expected in an ensemble cast that had just finished runs in Courtney and Duncan and had almost no time to get used to the **Langham Court** stage.

That said, we were impressed with the set design, which brought nervous laughter from the audience when the bodies slipped from Sweeney's barber chair down to Mrs. Lovett's oven. The choreography was a highlight with upwards of twenty young actors operating as a Greek chorus, all focused on their spot and reactions as the murderous or at times love scenes went on behind them. In fact, at times, 35 actors and four musicians occupied the stage – in tune, on time, and absorbed in their roles.

The chemistry among the director **Roger Carr**, the musical director **Kristopher Epps**, and vocal director **Ashley Daniel Foot** was obvious. *Sweeney Todd* has memorable, yet difficult music. These are not hum-along songs. Kudos go to all the performers for pulling off such a score in such short time. There was not one weak performance in the entire cast. **Adam Kozlick's** Sweeney sustained palpable menace and grief from the first moment. **Alison Robert's** Mrs. Lovett was remarkable; she was poised and filled the stage with a charming and nuanced performance. The rest of the cast provided a fine balance for these two.

Congratulations to **CYMC**. This Centre is making a lasting contribution to the development of talented young actors and musicians.

. . . And from the Director of Sweeney Todd

This summer the production team for *Sweeney Todd* had the mad idea of squeezing our 36 cast members, 7 musicians and large rolling set pieces onto the **Langham Court** stage and to initiate the activity at 9:00 a.m. on the morning of opening night! Well we made it but there is absolutely no doubt that *Sweeney* would have been the play that finally self-combusted had it not been for the indefatigable help of the **Langham Court** stalwarts. In particular, **Craig Mracek**, **Chad Laidlaw** and that newcomer **Alan Mackenzie** embodied what has kept me at **Langham Court** for many years. **Toshik Bukowiecki** and I spoke to the assembled young actors and I know they got

it. They understood that theatre is not just the lead role or an Equity card. They understood what **Langham Court** embodies – a creative family that makes magic happen night after night because we celebrate our art. Thanks to all those people who made this happen. And now, on to the next season.
Thanks.

Roger Carr
Production Chair 2010-2011 and Director of Sweeney Todd

Front of House Report

Volunteer Training

The August training was held on the 22nd for newcomers or who had not yet attended a session. This was a time of social networking (who are you all?), getting up to date on safety issues (what would happen if...?), and going over general guidelines (is a sombrero suitable head attire?). A good time was had by all. Snacks helped as well. The next session will be held in January 2011 for those who couldn't make this one.

If you have not yet attended a Session this is how requests for ushers and FOH are done: those who have attended the volunteer training session are on what could be termed the "A" list and are called to see if they want to usher for the current show. If there are spaces to be filled after the "A" list have all been contacted, it may be necessary to form a "B" list...those who have not been trained but have demonstrated interest in working Front of House. This ensures that the Front-of-House is staffed with as many as possible that have the training and that those who have not are given support from those who have. I hope this all makes sense. We are still endeavouring to get everyone trained and ready for the very important job of greeting our patrons and watching over their safety while they are with us.

Volunteers: please get back to us as quickly as you can if we leave you a phone message about ushering. The phoning takes a considerable amount of time and we are slotting people into the performance dates. We can't wait too long to hear back from you if we offer a certain night. We understand that you may be out of town but if you are here we ask that you give us a quick call back to let us know your availability. **Marilyn Samis** is coordinating the Front of House for *The Odd Couple*, *The Memory of Water* and *The Lady in the Van* and **Pearl Arden** is looking after *The Laramie Project*, *A Month in the Country* and *Goodnight Desdemona*, *Good Morning Juliet*. Volunteers are strongly encouraged to make note of this and if they need to make changes to contact the appropriate Coordinator. Thank You.

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

Production Chair 2011-2012 Update

Our Play Selection Committee, consisting of **Phil** and **Lesley Gibbs**, **Andrea Pite**, **Sylvia Lindstrom**, **Eric Grace**, **Diana Keating**, **Roger Carr**, and ourselves, has been diligently reading a vast array of scripts. Well, except for Roger who only showed up when we announced we would be serving wine and cheese. Teasing; we all know Roger has been tremendously busy this summer. The wine and cheese was just a happy coincidence...

We will be having one more meeting before we leave for France on September 5; however, the Committee has graciously offered to reconvene in Limoux. Troopers, all. We will continue winnowing from approximately 22 scripts under consideration down to 10 before reassembling on our return at the end of November.

We are keen to include an education component to the 2011-2012 season in our role as Production Chair. This may include workshops for actors, directors, technical crew, stage management – whatever skills Langham Court's membership wants to hone or diversify. We encourage feedback and take requests. Keith does a decent job of Feelings...

Cynthia Pronick and Keith Digby
Production Chair 2011-2012

Box Office Information

The Box Office will be open;
Mondays to Fridays 12 Noon – 4:00 p.m. **Non-performance weeks**
Tuesdays to Saturdays 12 Noon – 8:00p.m. **Performance weeks**

Box Office Contact Information:

Phone Number: 250 384-2142

Web Site: <http://langhamcourttheatre.bc.ca/>

Email Address: boxoffice.langhamcourt@shaw.ca

Denise Brown
General Manager

Antoinette Church: Fun loving dynamo with the impish grin

By John & Corinna Gilliland



Photo by Bonnie Groening

A life member since 1997, **Antoinette Church** has been involved in practically every aspect of theatrical production both on stage and behind the scenes. Not afraid to try new things, Antoinette believes that anything is worth doing as long as she can have some fun while doing it.

Born in Bristol, Antoinette's family eventually moved to London while Antoinette was still an infant. While living in London, the family suffered the loss of their elder daughter who, at age six when she died, was a year older than Antoinette. Shortly after that the war came, forcing the family to leave the city and move to Buckinghamshire where they lived in a four-hundred-and-fifty year old cottage. Plans to send Antoinette and her brother to Canada for the duration of the war were aborted. Just as well! The ship they were to sail on, which was filled with evacuees, was bombed and sank leaving few survivors. Instead, Antoinette remained in Bucks where she went to St. Bernard's Convent School run by nuns from Belgium who spoke French amongst themselves, which their English students found very frustrating. Due to war-time shortages, Antoinette had to wear the same school uniform from age eleven until she was sixteen (so that's why the sixth form at St. Trinians had such skimpy uniforms!!).

After the war, and her schooling completed, Antoinette's family returned to London where Antoinette studied fencing, ballet and speech training and joined the **Ealing Little Theatre** (founded by **Laurence Olivier**). Her love of theatre was perhaps a legacy from her mother, who before the War had performed regularly in musicals. At this time the family lived near Denham Studios and Antoinette and her brother were given the grand tour while Olivier was filming *Henry V*.

In 1958, Antoinette moved to Canada on her own as the girlfriend supposed to come with her was forced to cancel her plans. The intrepid youngster sailed from Tilbury Docks via France and Scotland to Halifax. From Halifax she took the train to Toronto then moved to Sudbury, which she hated and on to Winnipeg, which she liked because the people were so friendly. She then hitchhiked to Vancouver (not daring to tell her parents) where she met journalist **Jurgen Hesse** who invited her to join him in Williams Lake. It was there that she married Jurgen, met her first cowboy, and had her first child, **Esther**. From Williams Lake the young family moved to Toronto, where **Rachel** was born.

From Toronto the family moved to Vancouver, where Antoinette became involved in the productions at the **York Theatre**, home of the **Vancouver Little Theatre**. Because of time constraints, Antoinette remained behind the scenes, concentrating mainly on Costumes.

In 1975, no longer with Jurgen, Antoinette and her two little girls moved to Victoria. It was then that Antoinette joined the **Victoria Theatre Guild** and became a vital member of our Company. In her first production in January 1976, *Mixed Doubles*, Antoinette worked on props. Then in February she worked on costumes for *Lloyd George Knew My Father*. In the first production of the next season, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, Antoinette took on the role of Costumes Designer. For several years Antoinette was either designing costumes, working on props, stage managing, or producing on practically every show at **Langham Court**. Between 1976 and 1983, she worked on more than 20 productions. In that time she appeared on stage once as Thalestris in *The Rape of the Belt* in April 1978. In *Joseph Andrews*, which opened September 1983, Antoinette offered to step into the role of Mrs. Andrews as the actress originally cast had disappeared leaving director **Judy Treloar** in a bit of a bind, to say the least.

From then on Antoinette spent more time on stage even though she was still working back stage designing costumes, doing set décor and producing. During the next 15 years she appeared in more than twenty **Theatre Guild** productions including *Harvey*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Breath of Spring*, *Hadrian the Seventh*, *42nd Street*, *The Suicide* and *Fool's Paradise*. Her last appearance on stage at **Langham Court Theatre** was in *School For Scandal*, in which she refused to be upstaged by the largest and most flamboyant hat ever created.

Although no longer willing to take on major roles on stage, Antoinette is an active participant in **Readers' Theatre** productions and appears regularly in the annual Christmas Panto at **St. Lukes** in which she is surrounded by old friends and is given roles that don't require huge chunks of memorization.

As well as all her work both backstage and in front of audiences, Antoinette has been a regular at the Costume Sales, has worked on several Production Committees, organised Club Nights, worked on both the Producer and Costume Designer manuals for **Langham Court**, and was the **Victoria Theatre Guild** representative at a **Theatre B.C.** conference in Nanaimo in November 1990.

One of **Langham Court's** most active members, Antoinette has also worked extensively outside the

confines of the **VTG**. A member of **IATSE**, she has worked backstage at the **McPherson Theatre** for out of town productions, at the **Newcombe Auditorium** doing costumes for the **Hosie** family productions, and she has performed in film, television and radio. A busy woman, also a generous one: there have been innumerable occasions when Antoinette has opened her house to **Langham Court** members when a rehearsal space or meeting place has been needed. In spite of raising two children and holding down a demanding job at the **Victoria Art Gallery** for nineteen years, Antoinette has willingly shared her limited time and her unlimited talents with **Langham Court** and with other theatre companies in Victoria.

Auditions

The Memory of Water

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

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

Production Dates: November 18th to December 4th, 2010

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

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

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

Characters:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Readers' Theatre Auditions

Three One-Act Plays

Monday, September 13th at 7:00 p.m. in the Lounge

1. *The Monkey's Paw* – director **Toshik Bukowiecki**
Narrator, plus 1 woman and 4 men
2. *Impromptu* – director **Hetty Clews**
Narrator, plus 2 women and 2 men
3. *The Processional* – director **Tony Hubner**
Narrator, plus 2 women and 3 men

There will be 4 rehearsals: September 20th and 27th, October 4th and 20th, followed by the performance on Saturday, October 23rd. This is an excellent way to get your feet wet ... or keep you hand in ... without the pesky issue of memorising the lines.

The Readers' Theatre is essentially radio, therefore casting is not restricted by age, size, sex, or any of the usual conventions. On occasion our cast have played more than one role.

St Luke's Players

Robinson Crusoe Directed by **Dave** and **Helena Hitchcock**

St. Luke's Players annual Panto opens Boxing day and runs for 10 performances.

Auditions will be held at **St. Luke's Hall** (3821 Cedar Hill X Rd.) Friday, October 1st at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, October 2nd at 2:30 p.m.

For a copy of the script and further information contact Directors Dave and Helena Hitchcock at hitch@shaw.com or 250 370-1291 for a copy of the script and further information

What's On

Langham Court Theatre Presents

The Odd Couple--Female Version

By **Neil Simon**. Directed by **Sylvia Rhodes**.

And with an all-star cast. An evening of laughter at the antics of the two most incompatible roommates you could hope to meet. *The Odd Couple* previews on Wednesday, September 29th and runs Thursday, September 30th to Saturday, October 16th. To purchase your tickets, call our Box Office at 250 384-2142, 805 Langham Court, Victoria or go to www.langhamcourtheatre.bc.ca.

The Friends of the Greater Victoria Public Library

Bring you

A Big, Big, Big Book Sale

Opens Saturday, September 25th from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (\$3.00 admission) and Sunday, September 26th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. (admission free). Then from 1:45 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. It's all the books you can take away for \$5.00.

Langham Court Theatre Presents

The Renovation Celebration

Saturday, September 11th at 7:00 p.m.

Come and celebrate the wonderful renovations performed over the summer by **Toshik** and his gang of hard working artisans. Bring your favourite appetizer and your party spirit to **Langham Court Theatre**.



St Luke's Players Present

Arsenic and Old Lace

By **Joseph Kesselring**. Directed by **Jon Scheer**

This classic comedy stars **Langham Courtiers Rita Humphreys, Alan Ormerod, Danda Humphreys, and Mitch Barnes** and opens on Wednesday October 13th. Performance dates: October 13th to 17th and October 20th to 23rd at 8 p.m. October 16th, 23rd and 24th at 2 p.m. at St Luke's Hall, 3821 Cedar Hill X Road.

Tickets \$15, Students and Seniors \$13. Tickets available at **Amica House, 50 Douglas St., Ivy's Book Shop, Petals Plus Florist and Russell Books**.

The 24th Annual Victoria Fringe Theatre Festival to September 5th at:

Langham Court Theatre, Metro Studio, Victoria Event Centre, Market Square, St. Andrew's School, Wood Recital Hall and other downtown locations. A non-stop explosion of comedy, improv, drama, performance art and dance from around the world including *Spin* starring **Dick Stille, Eric Holmgren, Naomi Simpson and Katya Delancey** performing at Venue 13, **Langham Court Theatre**. All venues are downtown, some pay-what-you-can shows at the Fringe Club, random 'happenings' (FringeKids Fest, Fringe Block Party, Pick of the Fringe Pancake Breakfast) and commissioned projects. Ticketed venues \$9 or less! Contact information: 250 383-2663 or www.intrepidtheatre.com

Life Members Welcome!!!

The President and Board extend an invitation to all **Victoria Theatre Guild** Life Members to attend the Meet and Greet that precedes each Production. The Meet and Greet for *The Odd Couple – Female Version* is on Wednesday, September 1st at 6:00 p.m. Life Members, please join the cast, crew, Board members and new members in an evening of eats, drinks, and interesting conversation

Do you have something to say?

This is your newsletter, and we welcome your news, comments, letters and ideas. The deadline for each monthly issue is the 20th of the preceding month, i.e. the deadline for the October issue will be September 20th and so on. Please send your information by e-mail to **Corinna Gilliland** (catfael@shaw.ca). *Langham Court News* welcomes news from other groups too. So let's support each other's endeavours in our theatre community.

Mark Your Calendar

Thursday, August 25 – Sunday, September 5

24th Annual Victoria Fringe Theatre Festival

Wednesday, September 1

Meet and Greet for *The Odd Couple – Female Version*. Life Members welcome.

Wednesday, September 8

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

Thursday, September 9

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

Saturday, September 11

7 p.m.-11p.m. Langham Court Renovation Celebration

Monday, September 18

7 p.m. Reader's Theatre Auditions for *Requiem, The Monkey's Paw, and Processional*

Saturday, September 25 & Sunday, September 26

Friends of the GVPL Book Sale

Wednesday, September 29

Preview of *The Odd Couple – Female Version*

Thursday, September 30 – Saturday, October 16

The Odd Couple – Female Version

Friday, October 1 & Saturday, October 2

Auditions for St. Luke's Panto *Robinson Crusoe*

Sunday, October 3

2 p.m. - 4 pm. Sunday Art Show in the Lounge

Wednesday, October 13 – Sunday, October 24

St. Luke's Players Presents *Arsenic and Old Lace*

Monday, October 18

***The Memory of Water* tickets on sale to Members only**

Tuesday, October 19

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

Wednesday, November 17

Preview of *The Memory of Water*

Thursday, November 18 – Saturday, December 4

The Memory of Water

2010/2011 Board of Directors

President:	Toshik Bukowiecki
Vice-President:	Fran Patterson
Secretary:	Joan Patrick
Treasurer:	Jon Scheer
Junior Member Co-ordinator	Amber Bonner
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2011-12 Production Chairs:	Keith Digby and Cynthia Pronick
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Members-at-Large:	Alan Penty, Brent Sawlor, Wayne Yercha

Membership Chair & Volunteer Co-ordinator:	TBA
Front-of-House Co-ordinators:	Pearl Arden, reader8@shaw.ca Marilyn Samis, irisheyesmts@shaw.ca Laura Clutchey clutch_L@hotmail.com
Bar Manager:	

Webmaster:	Kai Hansen, info@relocatecanada.com
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Large Props Co-ordinator:	Sally Crickman, 250 598-1706, sjcrickman@shaw.ca

Theatre Manager:	Denise Brown 250 384-2142, gm.langhamcourt@shaw.ca
Box Office	boxoffice.langhamcourt@shaw.ca

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 Archival photos enhanced by Paul Bertorelli

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

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

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