

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.”

November 2010

The Memory of Water In Rehearsal: Opens November 17th



Rehearsals at Langham Court can be fun. *The Memory of Water* six get to rehearse in bed!
From the back L to R. Elizabeth Brimacombe, Lorene Cammiade, Mur Meadows, Melissa Blank,
Odile Nelson, Rob Cruse

Art Show

The art show for *The Memory of Water* will present the works of **Pam Campbell** and **Fatima McCarthy** and will run from November 17th to December 4th. If you wish to meet Pam and Fatima they will be at the theatre Sunday, November 21st from 3:00 to 5:30 p.m.

From paintings on silk, personalized watercolour mandalas to curating monthly art-shows at the **Spiral Café** and singing in the award-winning ensemble **Balkan Babes**, **Pam Campbell's** career reaches across the spectrum of the arts. Her joyful, richly layered works explore the bounds of friendship, family, love and longing, and the exuberant release which music provides.

Pam's art experience includes studies at the **Alberta College of Art**, the illustrations for the children's book *Thanks Crow* by **Sara Cassidy**, and the business **Freehand Designs**, which landed her painted-glass objects in collections around the world.



Born in Brazil, **Fatima McCarthy** travelled much of the world

before finding her home in Canada.

Fatima is a passionate and spontaneous artist who sees art as a tool for personal empowerment. She applies this belief in both her professional and personal life.

Watercolours have been Faty's main medium. Her vivacious personality, which is reflected in her art, is blazed by the transitions of life; people; and the pursuit of happiness. Recently she has developed a curiosity for using acrylics and painting landscapes. She lives in Victoria, B.C.

The Non Profit-Organisations

For *The Memory of Water* the Non Profit Organisation is the **OCTA Collective Society** and for *The Laramie Project* it is the **South Island Pride Community Centre**.

The **OCTA Collective Society** is a Victoria-based charitable organisation with the mission of providing programs and services that educate, support and inspire individuals to effect positive change within our community. It has been bringing theatre and visual art workshops to economically marginalised children in the Capital Region since 2005 through its **artsREACH** programs.

South Island Pride Community Centre (or **SIPC Centre**) was established in July of 2009 as an answer to a need in the **LGBTQ** Community of Greater Victoria to have a front door and a communal meeting space. In addition to general community programming and services, the vision includes creating particular programs and services for the more marginalised members of our community such as our homosexual youth, elders, ill, and disabled. Although there are other agencies that address some of these needs, the

SIPC Centre wishes to meet the special social needs not addressed by those agencies.

Additionally, we would like to create an **LGBTQ** library to house the many collections (books, periodicals, movies, and music) existing in our community in one location so that those resources are accessible to the whole community, and meeting space for other **LGBTQ** organisations.

Although we are building queer space, what we create will always be accessible to our straight friends and allies. To date, the **SIPC Centre** has developed a successful queer youth drop-in program for ages 14-19 that runs in space donated by the **Fairfield Community Place**. The Executive Director, **Joan Kotarski** and the staff at Fairfield have been wonderful in their support. This year we would like to expand the program to other areas of the city. We have also run several successful programs that address other age groups in the community and will continue to grow this aspect of our programs as well. We are busy creating a network with other agencies such as the **Youth Services Providers Network**, **Antidote**, and **LifeCycles** to create solutions to intersections of needs.

Editor's Notes:

Once again thanks to all those who contributed to the production of this monthly opus: to **Danda Humphreys**, a real pro and so very generous with her time and her talents, to **Denise Brown** who works flat out to maintain the smooth running of our theatre yet finds time to ensure that the newsletter goes out on-line and by mail, as well as sending me invaluable information about our Non-Profit organisations and about our fantastic Box Office Volunteers. Thanks also to our many contributors such as **Lisa Leighton**, whose articles provide a touch of class that would otherwise be lacking, and thanks to all those who let me know what's happening at **Langham Court** and around town. That includes **Bill Adams**, who gave me the good news about **Bob Clark**, **Roger Carr**, **Keith Digby** and **Cynthia Pronick**, our Production Chairs for this year, and next, our outside reporters: **David Hitchcock** at **St. Luke's** and **Terry Roswell** at **Four Seasons**.

Speaking of thanks, there are many individuals in and around **Langham Court** who deserve thanks from each and every one of us. They are the theatre's secret elves who work hard at a variety of essential tasks without receiving payment, applause or program acknowledgement. Without them, our theatre would at best be less efficient and less pleasant a place to come to, at worst would grind slowly but inexorably to a halt.

In the Box Office, Denise has a team of dedicated, hard working elves who are on the front line dealing with the public, ensuring the right people get the right tickets, taking reservations, and above all showing the theatre goers that **Langham Court** is not only a friendly community theatre but also professional in its attitude and presentation. At the top of the list is **Dick Newson**, whose work on the ticket program has made it the most efficient and user friendly in the city. Next there's someone who is at the box office so often that I think she's stapled to the stool – **Alexis Kuss** who, along with her mother and father, **Marilyn** and **Michael Kuss**, have been invaluable volunteers. Not only did the Kuss family work through the summer on the renovations, but since then Alexis has demonstrated her indispensability in the Box Office and as Denise's right-hand woman. Marilyn and Michael were not far behind their daughter, as they signed up to help back stage with *The Odd Couple*.

Others who work hard in the Box Office for little or no thanks include **Gigi Fladgate**, **Penny Werle**, **Michael McLandress**, **Brent Sawler**, **Amber Bonner** and **Carolyn Saint-Denis**. Backstage, **Bill Adams** has a number of helpers building and painting sets as well as working in the scene shop. The set construction elves include **Julius Maslovat**, **Bob Clark**, **John Smith** and **Barry Grimshaw**. In the corridor before each show goes up you'll find **Wendy Merk** working hard on the photo display, trying to find

past photos of present performers, and in the lounge **Jeani Reynolds** arranging the art displays for each production as well as organising the artists and collecting and dispensing the fees.

Then there are the numerous elves who serve behind the bar and do Front of House duties. Without them the theatre would be chaos and we are so grateful that there are so many volunteers willing to take on these tasks and to do them so brilliantly. A great big thank you to all those who work so hard to make Langham Court a wonderful place to be and for many a second home.

Congratulations to **Bob Clark** one of our stalwart set construction and an avid badminton player. Bob recently competed in the **B.C. Seniors' Games** in Campbell River and, along with his partner **Jim Dewberry**, won Gold for the men's doubles and Bob also won Bronze in the mixed doubles. There were 120 competitors in the badminton section of the Games and Bob played ten matches over four days. To quote Bob: "I have been playing badminton for over 60 years and I think I am finally getting the hang of it. At this rate, I should know about set construction in another 50 years!"



Gold Medallists **Bob Clark** and **Jim Dewberry** (L)

Congratulations too, to **Craig Mracek** who interrupted designing lights for *The Odd Couple* long enough to run the half marathon as a fundraiser for **Big Brothers and Big Sisters**. Well done, Bob and Craig, living proof that theatre and sport are compatible!

Remember to reserve your seats or pick up your tickets for *The Memory of Water*, a wonderful play by **Shelagh Stephenson** that won the **Laurence Olivier Award** for Best New Comedy in 2000.

Welcome!

Langham Court Theatre extends a warm welcome to **Elizabeth Brimacombe**, **James Carmichael**, **Shelley Superstein**, **Linda Thompson** and **Anita Winters**.

An All Round Good Sport: Jane French

By John and Corinna Gilliland



Jane French began life on the northeast coast of Yorkshire in the middle of World War II. Soon after she was born, Jane and her family were forced to move inland due to the incessant bombing along the Eastern Seaboard.

Until 1945, when the family returned to the coast, Jane spent several idyllic years on the Yorkshire Moors, in the very centre of *Heartbeat* country. It was there that the athletic little girl learned to ride, a sport she thoroughly enjoyed and at which she became extremely adept.

However, it wasn't long before Jane's theatrical side came to the fore. As a child, she dressed herself and her sister in her mother's clothes and put on plays in the family garage for the neighbourhood children, who were charged a penny each by our embryonic producer.

With the end of war, Jane and her family returned to the coast to set up house at Saltburn-by-the-Sea. While at school there, Jane continued as a regular performer in productions and won a Gold Medal for her poetic recitations. She also spent much of her time demonstrating her skill in a variety of sports. Arts and athletics were Jane's twin loves, both in school and after.

At age seventeen, Jane went to secretarial college in Middlesborough, and after graduation began working for **British Steel**. While there, Jane continued to act in community theatre productions until she got married at age twenty and produced three babies within five years. With so much to do at home, Jane was forced to give up theatre for a while to concentrate on her family.

In 1966, Jane's husband, an officer in the **RAF**, was posted to Singapore; so Jane and the children went out there with him. While in Singapore, Jane had the luxury of a live-in baby-sitter who enabled her to return to acting. There was a beautiful little theatre on the RAF base that raised money for the local charities through their productions, and in the three years that the family was stationed in Singapore, Jane became one of the most active members of that **RAF** base theatre community.

In 1970, the British vacated Singapore so Jane and her family returned to Yorkshire. Once more, Jane became involved in the productions at the local community theatre. As well as acting, directing, and producing, Jane had a full time job and was still having to cope on the domestic front. Then, in 1977, Jane's husband joined the **Canadian Armed Forces** and the family was posted to Victoria.

Jane's first priority upon arriving here was to find a theatre in which she could become involved. That's how she happened to walk in on the auditions for *The Killing of Sister George* and to end up with the part of Mrs. Mercy Croft. The show opened in June 1978 and, on being told what part her daughter had agreed to take on, Jane's mother wrote from England in horror "You are not doing that play, are you!!?"

Jane also began working as Office Manager for the Chief of Obstetrics at **Royal Jubilee Hospital**, a job she held for eighteen years until her employer retired; at which time Jane decided to work at **Chapters** where she would be surrounded by books, an idea that appealed to someone who loves to read as much as Jane does.

Meanwhile, at **Langham Court**, Jane followed her performance in *The Killing of Sister George* by taking on the role of Assistant Director for *Boeing Boeing*. Since then, Jane has starred in several productions including *Rose* (January 1988), *Hobson's Choice* (October 1992), and *Ring Around the Moon* (March 1994). She has also produced a number of plays including *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Breath of Spring*, *Salad Days*, *The Real Thing*, *The Diviners*, and most recently, *Midsummer Night's Dream*. As well as acting and producing, Jane has worked on props and costumes and has been on the running crew for several productions including *Pride and Prejudice* and *Foxfire*. Jane also served on the Board for several years and recalls board meetings that went on all day. While on the Board, Jane did publicity for **Langham Court**, and remembers typing up press releases then delivering them by hand around the city. She has also been an invaluable volunteer at all the Costume Sales and at the Open Houses and at our First Annual Garage Sale held this past summer.

With eight grandchildren, Jane finds life to be quite hectic but she considers **Langham Court Theatre** her second home, and still finds time to remain actively involved.

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 Laramie Project* is on Monday, December 6th 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.

News, Views & Reviews

National Theatre Live, yes Live!!

By *Phil and Lesley Gibbs*

A fabulous treat for stage-struck blokes like us is the not-to-be-missed **London National Theatre** productions being broadcast LIVE to cinemas around the world - including Victoria's Silver City.

By 'live' they mean you are watching an actual stage production performed live in front of an appreciative theatre audience and filmed for later transmission offering the best of both stage and filmic techniques.

Believe me, you are there!

The last few weeks we've seen **Racine's Phedre** with **Helen Mirren** and **Dominic Cooper** plus a riveting performance from the explosive **John Shrapnel**. Last week came a production absolutely tailor-made for **John Gilliland**, *A Disappearing Number*, a story around mathematics which made the subject 'comprehensible', would be a stretch for a math dummy like me, a piece of cake for John, with staging that was breath-taking and some brilliant performances. I remember a dressing room conversation with John one evening in which I unguardedly asked him what he could tell me about "string theory."
Well!!

Coming up at National Theatre Live between now and June next year will be *Hamlet*, *FELA!*, *King Lear*, *Frankenstein* and *The Cherry Orchard*, also *The Tempest* from this year's **Stratford** with **Chris Plummer**.
Google www.cineplex.com and/or www.ntlive.com for information.
Don't miss 'em.

Still Missing!

We left a large brown and rust coloured earthenware platter 3" deep by about 20" diameter which we love dearly and use as a salad bowl.
Last seen in the kitchen in August on top of the microwave.

We miss it terribly!
We've searched all over. If anyone knows its whereabouts, please let us know.
Thanks again,

Keith and Cynthia
digby_keith@hotmail.com

Are you receiving us???

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

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 December issue will be November 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.

Front of House Report

The next Volunteer Orientation will take place on Sunday, January 9th, 2011 from 2 to 4 p.m. This orientation is for all those who are new to **Langham Court** and are interested in ushering.

It is also for those, regardless of whether new or seasoned, who have not yet had the orientation. This is a mandatory training session. It is a time to familiarise yourself with the safety concerns of ushering at **Langham Court**, to discuss the duties of an usher, to meet your fellow volunteers and to ask any questions that you might have about the position. Treats will be served.

You will be phoned closer to the date to remind you of the meeting.

Pearl Arden
Marilyn Samis
Front of House Co--ordinators

Box Office Memo

Members can book their tickets two weeks before the general public. Tickets for *The Laramie Project* go on sale to members only starting Monday, November 29th.



News from the Costume Guild

On October 2, **Ann-Marie Arneson** led a

terrific **Costume Guild** workshop in the Lounge on creating a basic personal sewing pattern template (or sloper) for a bodice. Aply assisted by **Chris Stusek**, Ann-Marie kept **Toshik Bukowiecki**, **Lynn Cadrain**, **Lisa Leighton**, **Jean de Cartier** and **Karen Harper** focused on measurements, drafting theory and practice for a full three hours. Interest was so high, and there were so many questions, that we only completed the front half of our slopers.

Therefore, our next meeting will be the second part of the sloper workshop, on Sunday, November 28th, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Lounge. If time permits, we will also try to create a muslin (a fabric “draft” bodice made from the sloper).

If you couldn't make the first workshop, or if this is all news to you, you are as welcome as any of the Guild members who attended the first workshop.

Creating a sloper is a fundamental sewing skill, and at the heart of being able to translate an existing design into a sewing pattern, or creating an original design. Even if you don't aspire to designing, the basic knowledge you will acquire in making a sloper will inform all aspects of your sewing.

If you are interested in participating, please wear an old top, as we will be marking the muslins with permanent markers, and please bring the following materials (if you have them ... don't worry if you don't):

- sewing kit (scissors, straight and safety pins, measuring tape, etc.)
- yardstick
- pencil and eraser
- small or large T-square
- French curve
- medium-tip permanent markers in at least two colours (large tips won't work)
- muslin, old sheeting or other plain cotton or firm cotton-blend woven fabric for the fitting (enough to fit a bodice front and back)
- heavy paper, Bristol board or non-corrugated cardboard big enough to transfer the bodice muslin onto ... this will become your template or sloper

If you would rather just watch or help someone else with their sloper, no need to bring supplies.

We will have tea and coffee. Please feel free to bring treats to share.

Please RSVP to Lisa Leighton (leighton@islandnet.com or 250-595-5523) by Friday, November 26. Thank you!

Lisa Leighton
For the Costume Workshop

Production Chair Report

Nothing odd about the opening to our 82nd season. *The Odd Couple* brought in the audiences that we hoped it would and sent them away smiling. Congratulations to **Sylvia Rhodes**, her cast and crew. It's not every show that pauses while an ambulance crew carries out a patron with an injured knee then pauses again while police look for a missing audience member (false alarm)! It's difficult to imagine how the gang for *The Memory of Water* will top that but I have faith. Our second play, *The Memory of Water*, is now on deck and *The Laramie Project* is underway in the rehearsal room.

We are a delightfully busy place. Don't miss out on any of the plays in this terrific season, and if any of you want to take that extra step and volunteer to work on one of our productions, just let Denise in the office know and we're certain to find a fun job for you.

Roger Carr
2010-2011 Production Chair



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Auditions

(Langham Court Theatre auditions are posted on our web site at: www.langhamcourtheatre.bc.ca/auditions.html)

The Lady in the Van

By Alan Bennett,
directed by Keith Digby and Cynthia Pronick

The Lady in the Van is a wonderfully bittersweet comic diary of the years in which a lethally dotty and very smelly old bat parked her unroadworthy vehicle in Bennett's Camden garden.

Auditions: December 4th and 5th, 2:00-4:00 pm in the downstairs rehearsal room.

English accents are required for all cast. Cast requirements with playing ages:

Lead Roles: Miss Shepherd (the Lady) – 60s

Alan Bennett - 40s

Alan Bennett2 - late 50s

Supporting Roles: Rufus (neighbour) – 40-50s

Pauline (neighbour) – 40-50s

Social Worker – 30-50s

Mam – 60s

Underwood – 60s

Interviewer/Doctor/Ambulance

Man/Fairchild – 50-60s (may be played by 1 or 2 actors)

Readers' Theatre Christmas Programme

Monday, November 8th at 7 p.m. in the Lounge
The three one-act Plays are:

Many Moons directed by Sylvia Rhodes

Narrator plus 5 women and 5 men

Note: there are two roles for young girls 8+ should you know of someone who would like to audition.

The Baker's Dozen (a St. Nicholas Tale). Director TBA

4 Narrators (either M or F) plus 1 woman and 1man.

The Christmas Truce (A true story). Director TBA.

Narrator plus 4 men

There will be 4 rehearsals: November 22nd, 29th, December 6th and 13th followed by the performance on **Saturday, December 18th**. This is an excellent way to get your feet wet... or keep your hand in ...without the pesky issue of memorising 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.

Four Seasons Musical Theatre

is on the "Up and Out!" to quote Willy Wonka, and is pleased to bring *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*, *Forgetful Elf and the Golden Christmas Key* and *Treasure Island* to their 2010-2011 theatre season. They are always looking for directors, musical directors, choreographers and producers, and are holding auditions for *Treasure Island* on

November 6th at **Spencer Middle School**.

Please see www.fourseasonsmusicaltheatre.com for details on these and other exciting **Four Seasons** happenings. As well, folks can sign up for their **Four Seasons** email list at info@fourseasonsmusicaltheatre.com to keep in the loop.

What's On

Langham Court Theatre Presents

Memory of Water

By **Shelagh Stephenson**. Directed by **Angela Henry**.

An award-winning comedy in which three sisters are reunited at their mother's funeral. It is a play of laughter, tears, secrets and love.

Memory of Water previews Wednesday November 17th and runs from Thursday, November 18th to Saturday, December 4th.

To purchase your tickets, call our Box Office at 250 384-2142, 805 Langham Court, Victoria or go to www.langhamcourtheatre.bc.ca.

St. Luke's Players Present

The 5th Annual Panto *Robinson Crusoe*

By **John Morley**. Directed by **Dave** and **Helena Hitchcock**

Matinees: 2 p.m on December 26th, 27th, 28th, 31st and on January 1st and 2nd. Evenings: 8 p.m. on December 27th, 29th, 30th and January 1st at St. Luke's Hall, 3821 Cedar Hill X Rd, at Cedar Hill Road. Tickets: Adults \$15, Seniors and Students \$13, and Children age five and under \$5. Opening Night is 2 for 1. Tickets are available at: **Amica at Douglas House, Ivy's Bookshop, Petals Plus Florist and Russell Books**. For information call 250 884-5484 or go to our website at www.stlukesplayers.org.

Christmas Party!!!

With Hallowe'en just finished and American Thanksgiving still on the horizon, it is obviously time to start planning for the annual **Christmas Party** at **Langham Court**. If you are new to the **Theatre Guild**, you'll not want to miss this event, and if you are a seasoned Guild member, you'll recall what a great evening you are in for. The **Christmas Party** is a little more than a month away and our President Toshik and the rest of the Board want to make sure we all have the date marked in our calendars.

When is the party? Saturday, December 11th

What kind of party is it? It is casual or dressy, your choice. It's a chance to dress up, or not, to eat, drink and be very merry with your friends and fellow courtiers. It is also a chance to enjoy some splendid entertainment.

Where is the party? At **Langham Court** (where else?)

What do I bring? A salad, dessert, munchies or something to go with the turkey.

How can I help make it happen? By volunteering to decorate the lounge and stage and turn them into a winter wonderland and by setting aside non-perishable items to donate to the food bank.



Mark Your Calendar

Monday, November 8

7 p.m. Auditions for Readers' Theatre's three Christmas plays

Wednesday, November 17 – Saturday, December 4

The Memory of Water

Saturday, November 20

Submissions for the December Newsletter due

Sunday, November 21

3 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Sunday Art Show in the Lounge

Sunday, November 28

p.m. Part 2 of the Costume Guild Sloper Workshop

Monday, November 29

Tickets for *The Laramie Project* on sale to members only

Saturday, December 4

2 p.m. – 4 p.m. Auditions for *The Lady in the Van*

Sunday, December 5

2 p.m. – 4 p.m. Auditions for *The Lady in the Van*

Monday, December 6

6 p.m. Meet and Greet for *The Laramie Project*. Life Members Welcome

Saturday, December 11

6 p.m. Christmas Party

Saturday, December 18

7 p.m. Reader's Theatre Christmas Productions

Sunday, December 26

2 p.m. Opening of St. Luke's 5th Annual Panto Robinson Crusoe

Sunday, January 9

2 p.m. – 4 p.m. Front-of-House Volunteer Orientation

Wednesday, January 12 – Saturday, January 29

The Laramie Project



2010/2011 Board of Directors

President:	Toshik Bukowiecki
Vice-President:	Fran Patterson
Secretary:	Joan Patrick
Treasurer:	Jon Scheer
2010-11 Production Chair:	Roger Carr
2011-12 Production Chairs:	Keith Digby and Cynthia Pronick
Past President:	Sylvia Rhodes
Members-at-Large:	Alan Penty, Brent Sawlor, Wayne Yercha, Luke Krayenhoff

Membership Chair & Volunteer Co-ordinator:	TBA
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Bar Manager:	

Webmaster:	TBA
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Large Props Co-ordinator:	Sally Crickman, 250 598-1706, sjcrickman@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 **Decemberr1st issue is November 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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