

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."

December 2011

Our Beauty Queen Reigns Until Saturday December 3rd



**Naomi Simpson as Maureen & Paul Wiebe as Ray
Photo by David Lowes**



Art Show



From November 17th to December 3rd, during the run of *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, the art show will feature the works of **Brianna Darlington** and **Haley Marshall**. During the run of *The Drowsy Chaperone*, the art show will feature the work of **Lil Dobson** who will be at the theatre from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday January 22nd.

Lil Dobson

Lil was born and raised in the north-east of England before emigrating to Canada. In Canada, she settled first in rural Alberta then moved to urban Victoria. Over the years Lil has studied art and has taken instruction from established local and international artists. Well travelled, she uses a multi-faceted approach to her art, using many sources of inspiration. Landscapes, seascapes, pets, portraits, all are subjects for Lillian's work.



A Word From The Ticket Wicket

Single tickets will be on sale for *The Drowsy Chaperone* Monday, December 12th at 12 noon. Please make sure to book your tickets early!

The box office will be closed from December 26th, 2011 to January 2nd, 2012. Monday, January 2nd, 2012 is a statutory holiday so we will be back in the office on Tuesday, January 3rd at 12 noon.

Looking for a Christmas gift? We have gift certificates and a '3-pack' Flex Pass available! Call or email the box office at 250-384-2142 or boxoffice@langhamtheatre.ca for more information.

Denise Brown
Theatre Manager



Christmas Party!!!

Another year has passed and it's time for the **Langham Court Theatre Christmas Party!!!** If you haven't been before, this is a great event. Plus a wonderful opportunity to bring your family and friends to see your home from home!

What You Need to Know:

Date: **Saturday December 10th, 2011**

Time: **6 p.m. Appetisers and Cash Bar**

7 p.m. Pot Luck Dinner

8 p.m. Entertainment

Dress: "Holiday" attire

About the Pot Luck Dinner:

The Board provides and prepares the turkeys, hams and hot veggies. **Please bring a contribution for the potluck** (appetiser, salad/side or dessert enough to serve at least eight people). If your food should be served warm, please make sure it's warm when you bring it, as there is no way to reheat at the theatre.

Christmas Donation:

Please also continue a Langham Court tradition and bring non-perishable food item(s) to donate to **the Mustard Seed Food Bank.**

Entertainment:

Entertainers are needed. Would you like to entertain us with a comic song or skit, show your prowess with a musical instrument or otherwise strut your stuff for five minutes on stage. Be a sport, throw caution to the wind and have a go. We'll all love you for it!

Email Michael King at errege@telus.net or phone him at 250-388-0637.

Setting the Scene:

Want to help set the scene? To decorate the theatre? Or come up with great ideas? Contact Michael King at errege@telus.net or give him a call at 250-388-0637.

Friends and family are very, very welcome! Come celebrate Christmas at Langham Court Theatre!



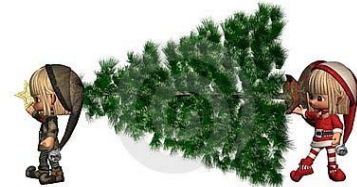
Editor's Notes. . .

Once again my thanks to all you wonderful contributors to the December Newsletter: to **Danda Humphreys** with her seasonally red pen, to **Ned Lemley** whose column came in serialised form this month, to **Lisa Leighton** with her usual elegant informative page on the doings of the **Costume Workshop** gang. Also, once again I have to thank **Denise Brown**, who not only gets the newsletter up on the website in an amazingly short amount of time, but also lets me know what's happening in the Box Office and around the theatre. As well, she provides tactful reminders when I have something wrong such as the title for **Sylvia Rhodes** production *Rabbit Hole* (last month an erroneous 'the' made its way into the title) which is auditioning on the 4th and 5th of December. Thanks too to **Michael King** for supplying information about the **Christmas Party** on December 10th, to **Peter McNab** with his update on **Readers' Theatre**, to **Wendy Merk** with her request for producers for our 2012-2013 season, to **Elizabeth Brimacombe** and **Dave Hitchcock** on behalf of **St Luke's Players**, and to **Toshik Bukowiecki** with his reminder that we need to bring non-perishable food items to the **Christmas Party** for the food bank.

I received word from **Gil Henry** and **Thelma Midori**, the hard working Producers of *The Drowsy Chaperone*, that the Meet and Greet for that production has been postponed to Monday, December 12th. So all you Life Members, come out on Monday, December 12th and meet the amazing cast of actors, singers and dancers who will be entertaining us from January 19th to February 4th, 2012.



Just a reminder that an event such as **Langham Court Theatre's** annual **Christmas Party** doesn't happen by magic (even though in past years we have seen magic on our stage at the **Christmas Party**). It requires a lot of effort on behalf of a lot of people. But helping to make it all happen is one of the best ways to get into the spirit of the season and have a lot of fun in the process. So check out **Michael King's** ad in The Market Place and email him at errege@telus.net or give him a call at 250-388-0637. I know you'll be glad you did.



Finally, I wish all of you a very merry, safe and fun-filled Christmas and a happy, successful 2012. And I'll see you all at the best **Christmas Party** Victoria has to offer.

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

Are you receiving us??

If you do not have an e-mail address, could you please arrange to pick up your copy of the Newsletter from the theatre during Box Office Hours. If there are any concerns about this please, contact Denise at theatremanager@langhamtheatre.ca

We will have Newsletters available in the theatre lobby on the first of the month in a limited amount. Because we are trying to be 'green,' please ask someone in the Box Office if you need a hard copy. We thank you for your understanding.

Readers' Theatre Season Opener a Winner

The first **Readers' Theatre** of the season, *Mrs. Moonlight*, directed by **Michael King**, again showed why this type of theatre is a beneficial addition to **Langham Court's** programme. We had a small but most appreciative audience. Two members of the audience who have never been on stage, averred that they are going to audition for the next show; this reflects one of the goals of **Readers' Theatre** to involve new and active members. This is very gratifying.

Please look for the next audition notice in the January Newsletter. Our next show will be mid-February, featuring readings from the works of **John Steinbeck**, interspersed with stimulating poetry. And in April, **Luke Krayenhoff** is looking forward to directing *She Stoops to Conquer*.

Peter McNab

Producer, Readers' Theatre

Notes from Aloft

Marilyn Whitehead – Volunteer Extraordinaire

For almost 15 years **Marilyn Whitehead** has been the Costume Loft's main mender of all items in a state of disrepair. She has also been a frequent donor to the Loft. Although a professional who has been paid for her work, she has received very little, as she has always given us a special rate as her contribution to our cause. Recently Marilyn decided to retire from mending for us (except for leather or jewellery). So now is a good time for all of us to thank her for her many years of pitching in at the **Langham Court Theatre Costume Loft**.

Marilyn was born in 1948 and grew up on a mink farm on the Saanich Peninsula. At age five she created her first hat, a Davy Crockett made from an old mink pelt. At age six, she began to make pictures inspired by her rural surroundings and by her grandfather. (A painting by her is in our prop room today.) Other early inspirations were **Emily Carr, Fenwick Landsdowne**, and the **Group of Seven**. She worked in many media at an early age: pencil, pen and ink, oil, charcoal, clay, and wood. At age ten, she appeared (dancing) on stage at **Langham Court** in a production of *Wind in the Willows*, directed by **Cliff Clark**. Also involved in the production was the well-known Victorian sculptress and artist **Peggy Walton-Packard**. Marilyn was already an artist and now her involvement with theatre had begun. At fourteen she exhibited two water-colours at the **University of Victoria** Gallery. She studied wheel-thrown pottery and began designing clothes and accessories. Her sensitivity and compassion for animals and nature led her to produce many paintings and sculptures in the years following, most of which are in private collections around the world.

In 1979, while living in Alberta, her pottery and ceramics took top honours in major competitions. Returning to B.C. in 1984, she exhibited in the **Maple Ridge Art Gallery**, taught pottery, continued interior decoration, and garment and accessory design. She also held a one-woman exhibit of masks and bird sculptures in Coquitlam. Many of her works were donated to auctions for Multiple Sclerosis and for Ducks Unlimited. While in Maple Ridge, she went back to the theatre, working on props and costumes for the pantomime *Rumplestilskin* and for a comedy called *A Turn for the Nurse*, among other productions.

Upon returning to Vancouver Island in 1992, Marilyn settled in Errington and taught herself to make baskets and furniture from local flora. She shared her love for these ancient arts with her students.

The story of how she got connected to **Langham Court Theatre** after moving to Victoria is worthy of a short story or novelette. She was living in a tiny basement apartment when she had a dream one night that featured a parquet floor and a quiet, conservative man. As she said to your reporter, "In the dream I was led into a room and I sat at a table. This kind man named Bill set me a job which was to paint many small tiles with flowers and I said, 'Yes, I can do that.'" I woke up and after breakfast went for a walk. My feet led me to **Langham Court** and I remembered dancing there when I was ten and I went in. There was some kind of meeting going on. **Ginny Carter** approached me and welcomed me and introduced me to **Alice Bacon** and I got a tour. The show *Loot* was being struck. There was a parquet floor I recognized and a calm conservative man came up to me. He seemed friendly and I said, "You must be Bill." He was surprised. I felt welcomed and was, and after that I had ten years of involvement. At one point I did ten shows back to back.

During that decade, I did approximately one-third of the costumes for *Tartuffe*. I did a show with **Howie Siegel** in

it. For *Night of the Iguana* I did lots of props and masses of plants. For *Jitters*, I did costumes. I also worked on *A Flea in Her Ear*, *Of Mice and Men*, *Mother Courage*, *The Heiress*, *Dancing at Lughnasa*, and others."

Marilyn also had an encounter with our theatre's ghost. I'm paraphrasing but here is her story:

I was in the theatre at night by myself. I think it was *Dancing at Lughnasa*. I'd heard there was a resident ghost, a female, very beautiful in a long turn-of-the-century dress. I had learned how to set the alarm when I was the last to leave. When I finished whatever I was doing back-stage I turned off the stage work lights and then the lights in the scene shop, the lounge, all of it, and when I came out of the hall into the house the stage lights were back on. I retraced my steps and turned everything off again, and when I got back to the house all the stage work-lights were on again. Because I'd worked in a funeral home for a while, I wasn't worried. I just stood and looked. Then I heard a woman laughing behind the set. It was a quiet, tinkling laughter. I retraced my steps again and turned off everything again, and when I got back to the house all the lights on stage were off. I closed up and went home, and that was my meeting with **Langham Court Theatre's** ghost."

I've only known Marilyn for three-and-a-half years. She's been a great help to me and to all of us. She leads the independent life of an artist, milliner, seamstress, tailor, jeweller and more. She has a spiritual sensibility and a live and let live core value and she always looks like a million dollars.

Send any messages you may have for Marilyn to me at 250-475-1418 or l.n.lemley@gmail.com.

Special Rates for Non-Profits

It may or may not be news to you that the board and the loft have long had a policy of waiving the rental fee for non-profit organisations and theatre groups putting on a fund-raiser. I thought you might like to see a list of recipients of our largesse/community spirit from the past few months: **The Victoria Foundation**, **Mount Douglas High School's** 80th Anniversary, **The Fairfield Community Association**, **Craigdarroch Castle Steam Punk Festival**, **The Art Gallery of Greater Victoria**, **Victoria German School**, **Theatre Inconnu** "Send Clayton to New York City," **The National Association of Teachers of Singing**, **The Victoria Francophone Association**,

Kaleidoscope Theatre Fund Raiser.

There is a Free Lunch

On November 20, I hosted a lunch for twelve of our volunteers who worked through the gruelling months of October and November. Attending were: **Eileen Bennett**, who also acted as my communicator emailing and phoning, **Koichiro Ito**, a student at UVic, **Barb Waldner**, **Madeleine Mills**, **Mary Stendell**, **Pearl Arden**, **Jane Kreiger**, **Aja Young** and her mother **Jenny Lalonde**, and **Jill Groves** who didn't volunteer this Autumn but I wanted her to come along to say Thanks to **Marilyn Whitehead**, who is retiring after 15 years as our main mender. We ate Chinese food and had a great time. Although one of our stalwart Hallowe'en volunteers, **Peta MacKenzie** was not at the lunch as she had to attend a rehearsal for *The Drowsy Chaperone*.

Calling All Tenors

Are you a tenor? I'm in a great *a cappella* choir that could use you. Call me at 250-475-1418.

Soldier Suits On Parade

I need help from someone who knows military garments to help me decide what to keep and what to pass on?

On Nov. 19, I arrived at the Loft to find a cardboard box outside the exterior entrance. I could see it was military gear. Later, taking a closer look I found a canteen with a cork that has to be from the First World War. There was also a number of canvas containers of varying sizes such as would be attached to belts for carrying ammo or who knows what, and several dozen shell casings. There was no note attached to tell me where or who it had come from. Later, I was putting it all into the right boxes in the collection, and I came across six live large bullets in a clip. Help! Does anyone have any idea where I take the live stuff?

Ned Lemley
Costume Loft Manager

Life Members Welcome!!!

The President and Board extend an invitation to all Victoria Theatre Guild Life Members to each Production. The Meet and Greet for *The Drowsy Chaperone* is on Monday, December 12th, 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 From the Costume Workshop

Thank you!

Heartfelt thanks to **Louise Osselton** for her recent donation of a big bag of fabulous books and magazines on costuming, sewing, fashion, history of dress, etc. Louise donates on a regular basis to the Costume Loft, and has kindly donated to the Costume Workshop before, as well. We are delighted to add these lovely resources to our growing library. Thank you, Louise!

Thanks also to **Roberta Fournier** for donating notions and trims to the Costume Workshop in November, to **Ann-Marie Arneson** for her donation of a beautiful piece of fabric, and to **two other anonymous donors** for fabric donations, as well. We appreciate your generosity in thinking of us and making the effort to donate. Thank you all.

November Workshop: Getting Your Pattern to Fit YOU

Our latest workshop, on Saturday, November 5th, was small but mighty. In reworking a commercial pattern to fit one of the participants, we started with the importance of taking accurate body measurements, then assessed the sizing and styling of the pattern. To customize it, we explored increasing/decreasing seam allowances and armholes, shifting darts and closures, changing shoulder caps on sleeves, and adjusting lengths. The result was a 'new' pattern customized for a perfect fit. This workshop was a good refresher on basic fitting techniques, and a great chance to apply those to a commercial pattern – both extremely helpful in costuming. Thanks to **Ann-Marie Arneson**, **Chris Stusek** and **Lynn Cadrain**.

Our Next Workshop is No Work at All – Come for Tea and Vogue!



Our next “workshop” is really a tea, on **Sunday, December**

11th, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the Lounge.

Thanks to **Dana West**, we have a fabulous collection of 164 issues of *Vogue Pattern Magazine* dating from the 1970s to 2004.

Amid the holiday hustle and bustle, take a breather and join us for a relaxing cup of tea to chat and look through the issues. I will bring my laptop and create an electronic archive of interesting articles as we find them. Everyone is invited to bring treats to share. **Please RSVP to me no later than Wednesday, December 7th.**

Hope to see you!

Lisa Leighton

for the Costume Workshop

250-595-5523 and leighton@islandnet.com



The Market Place

Wanted: The Producers!!!



No, not the Broadway hit, we mean the people who make sure each **Langham Court Theatre** production is on track. It's a very important job, and a great way to learn all about the ins and outs of making theatre happen. Produce solo or as a partnership with a buddy. If you'd like to volunteer, contact **Wendy Merk**, Production Committee Chair, coventrycarollers@gmail.com

Wanted: Volunteers for the Christmas Party

Michael King, Elf in Command, is desperately seeking help in the following areas:

Individuals to set the stage and decorate the lobby and lounge

People to cook the turkeys and hams

Stuffing makers

Bar tenders

And last but not least, Michael wants entertainers. He needs people who can perform for five minutes, and who will let him know what they are performing,

If you can help in any of these areas, please contact Michael by email at errege@telus.net or by phone at 250-388-0637.

Wanted: Dressers for The Drowsy Chaperone

The Drowsy Chaperone is a fast-paced production with a number of costume changes that have to be done with speed and accuracy. The Producers, **Gil Henry** and **Thelma Midori** are looking for teams of dressers to assist the actors and dancers. If you are interested in being a part of one of **Langham Court's** most exciting productions with a fantastic company of performers and stage crew please contact **Gil Henry** by email at gilhenry@shaw.ca or by phone at 250-361-1895 or **Thelma Midori** by email at tmidori@shaw.ca or by phone at 250-472-0427 as soon as possible.

Auditions

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

Rabbit Hole

By **David Lindsay-Abaire**. Directed by **Sylvia Rhodes**

Audition Dates: Sunday, December 4th from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. and Monday, December 5th from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Production Dates: March 8th to March 24th, 2012.

Cast Required: one woman 30-40, one woman 25-30, one woman 50-65, one man 30-45, one young man 17-20

Scripts are available to be signed out for one week in the lobby of the theatre. If you are unable to attend at either of these times please phone Sylvia at 250-727-2677 or email, rhodes@shaw.ca for an appointment. Rehearsals will begin January 3rd.

St Luke's Players

I'll Be Back Before Midnight

Directed by: **Jon Scheer** Tel: 250-665-7683

Audition Dates: Friday, December 2nd, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., Saturday, December 3rd, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Production Dates: Mar 14th to March 25th, a total of 12 performances

Review Scripts: Mike Chadwick through maninvic@gmail.com

Cast: 2 women; 2 men

For further details go to the **St Luke's Players** website at: www.stlukesplayers.org/auditions.htm

What's On

Langham Court Theatre Presents

The Beauty Queen of Leenane

By **Martin McDonagh**. Directed by **Judy Treloar**.

Secrets, deceptions, and betrayals abound in the Irish backwater of Leenane. Oppressive, fiery Mag will stop at nothing in her attempts to keep her long-suffering daughter, Maureen, from leaving home and finding love. Suspense interweaves with high drama and black comedy in this four-time award-winning West End and Broadway hit.

The Beauty Queen of Leenane closes on Saturday, December 3rd. To purchase your tickets, call our Box Office at 250-384-2142, 805 Langham Court, Victoria, or go to www.langhamcourtheatre.bc.ca.

Langham Court Theatre Presents

The Drowsy Chaperone

Written by **Bob Martin and Don McKellarson**; Music & Lyrics by **Lisa Lambert and Greg Morrison**. Directed by **Roger Carr**, with Choreography by **Jacques LeMay** and Musical Direction by **Donna Williams**.

This five-time Tony Award-winning Canadian musical comedy takes us back to the golden age of musical theatre. A lonely man escapes his drab existence by listening to a recording of his favourite musical. As the needle falls, the fourth wall shatters and the musical comes to life around him.

The Drowsy Chaperone previews Wednesday, January 18th and runs from Thursday, January 19th to Saturday, February 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

Alice in Wonderland

By **Kate Perry and Karen Dolan-Smith**.
Directed by **Dave and Helena Hitchcock**.

When: Evenings: December 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 27th, 29th, 30th and January 1st at 8:00 p.m. **Matinees:** December 26th, 27th, 31st and January 1st and 2nd at 2:00 p.m.

Where: St. Luke's Hall, 3821 Cedar Hill X Road.

Ticket Prices: Adults \$15.00, Seniors and Students \$13.00, Children 5 and under \$5.00. Opening show is 2 for 1.

Tickets available at Amica at Douglas House, 50 Douglas Street; **Ivy's Bookshop**, 2188 Oak Bay Avenue; **Petals Plus Florist**, 3749 Shelbourne Street, and **Russell Books**, 734 Fort Street.

Last year's panto was sold out two weeks before the opening performance, so don't aim to buy your tickets at the door – you could be disappointed!!!!

For more information, go to www.stlukesplayers.org or telephone 250-884-5484.



Mark Your Calendar

To Saturday, December 3	<i>Beauty Queen of Leenane</i>
Friday, December 2	7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Auditions for <i>I'll Be Back Before Midnight</i>
Saturday, December 3	2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Auditions for <i>I'll Be Back Before Midnight</i>
Sunday, December 4	1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Auditions for <i>Rabbit Hole</i>
Monday, December 5	7:00 to 10:00 p.m. Auditions for <i>Rabbit Hole</i>
Saturday, December 10	Christmas Party
Sunday, December 11	1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Tea and Vogue in the Lounge with the Costume Workshop
Monday, December 12	Single tickets go on sale for <i>The Drowsy Chaperone</i>
Monday, December 12	6:00 p.m. Meet and Greet for <i>The Drowsy Chaperone</i>
Saturday, December 17	Four Seasons opens with <i>Bulby, the Christmas Jackalope</i>
Wednesday, December 21	<i>Alice in Wonderland</i> opens
Monday, December 26 – Monday, January 2	Box Office Closed
Wednesday, January 18 – Saturday, February 4	<i>The Drowsy Chaperone</i>
Sunday, January 22	2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Art Show in the Lounge
Wednesday, March 7 – Saturday, March 24	<i>Rabbit Hole</i>



2011/2012 Board of Directors

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Small Props Co-ordinators: Jean Topham, 250-592-7270, jtopham@telus.net
Carol Anne Moore, 250-592-2497, tothe4winds@gmail.com
Large Props Co-ordinator: Sally Crickman, 250-598-1706, sjcrickman@telus.net
Custodian: Pauline Quinlan, vmaxgal@hotmail.com

Theatre Manager: Denise Brown, 250-384-2142
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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 **January 1st issue is December 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, membership.langhamcourt@shaw.ca
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Web Site: www.langhamtheatre.ca