

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."

February 2012

Sold Out!!!



Photo by David Lowes

The Man in the Chair (Kyle Kushnir) and Miss Janet Vandergraf
(Alison Roberts) swarmed by a barrel-load of monkeys
(Sarah Murphy, Kate Eldridge, Peter Gatt and Michael Romano)



Art Show



During the run of *The Drowsy Chaperone*, the art show will feature the work of **Lil Dobson** whose work will be in the lounge until Saturday, February 11th.

From March 8th to March 24th, during the run of *Rabbit Hole*, the Art Show will feature the works of **Bob St. Cyr**, who will be in the lounge on Sunday, March 11th from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Bob St. Cyr

Bob was granted the **Canadian Association of Photographic Arts** Maple Leaf and Associate Fellowship Awards for photographic achievement, service and exceptional contributions to photography in 2010. Bob has also won national and international awards for his photography and photo exhibitions. Although Bob is familiar with digital photography and employs it from time to time, he prefers to work primarily with medium and large film format lenses and pinhole cameras. He also enjoys the challenge of constantly working to better himself not only as a photographer but also as a darkroom craftsman from processing film to black and white printing.



How I Met the Drowsy Chaperone

By
Karrie Wolfe

Roger Carr pulled me aside more than a year ago, a devilish twinkle in his eye. “I’ve got a play,” he said. “A musical... Dunno if you’d know it... It’s a great little Canadian show...” He unfurled the script just enough for me to see one word – “*Drowsy*”. It was enough...

The summer of 1999 was my second year working the **Toronto Fringe Festival** and my first as head venue technician at the **George Ignatieff Theatre** at the **University of Toronto**. I worked at the **GIT** all year, so the Fringe was mostly just a busier extension of what passed for normal. Until that year...

The Fringe operated on a strict schedule – shows were limited to one hour, with a 30-minute turn-around to get the audience out, strike one production, and set for the next. In the last 10 minutes of that “turn-around”, the

doors opened for the next audience (so we really only had 20 minutes). Pre-Fringe, each company got 2 hours to do tech set-up, cueing and, if possible, a run. As a result, most shows had small casts, avoided live music, and didn’t have many sound or lighting cues.

Right away, I knew the *Drowsy* folks were different. For starters, they were a huge cast for the **GIT**’s lack of backstage. The company – including the highly recognizable “Gilbert Blythe” from *Anne of Green Gables* (really **Jonathan Crombie**), **Bob Martin** as the Man, and **Don McKellar** as Adolfo – had an energy that comes only with experience. They handed me cue lists and told me to “go ahead” and program the lights while they set up the three-piece band on stage. As the Stage Manager and I worked through the cues, he told me the story of the show.

You see, **Bob (Robert) Martin** really did marry a girl named Janet, and asked his friend Lisa to be his “best man”. To cover the “entertainment” for the bachelor party, she enlisted her theatre friends to mount the first production of *Drowsy* at the **Rivoli Club**. It was such a hit the company - **Best Man Productions** – secured a Fringe spot, and that’s how *The Drowsy Chaperone* walked into my world.

The show had all the right elements – flapper dresses and dancing gangsters, a suave lover, live musicians playing catchy show tunes, “creepy guy Bob” narrating from his chair and an endearing ability not to take itself too seriously. In short, it was just plain fun.

After the first show, word spread like wildfire and ticket lines began forming hours in advance. The famous Mirvish folks even came to see it, and so began its rise to fame. I certainly never would have guessed, as I frantically taped down mic cables and double-checked the lamp by Bob’s chair, that a show I worked on in the Fringe would go that far.

While it’s come a long way from that first incarnation in Toronto more than 12 years ago, its charm endures. I can still hear some of the original lines (long since cut) in my head as I watch rehearsals at **Langham Court**. I suspect I’ll still know those lines 40 years from now.

So when I saw that script – that magic – in Roger’s hand, I beat him to it. “*The Drowsy Chaperone*? Are you kidding me? Yes – I’m in and have I got a story for you . . .

The 2012-2013 Season

The Plays You’ll Enjoy:

84 Charing Cross Road by **James Roose-Evans**. Directed by **Sylvia Rhodes**
Lady Windermere’s Fan by **Oscar Wilde**. Directed by **Angela Henry**
Better Living by **George F. Walker**. Directed by **Wendy Merk**
The 39 Steps adapted for stage by **Patrick Barlow**. Directed by **Keith Digby and Cynthia Pronick**
That Face by **Polly Stenham**. Directed by **Judy Treloar**
Calendar Girls adapted for stage by **Tim Firth**. Directed by **Michael King**

Many thanks to **Wendy Merk** and her production team which consisted of: **Lorene Cammiade, Pippa Catling, Heather Jarvie, Michael King, Odile Nelson, Andrea Pite** and **Kevin Stinson** for choosing a first rate season that we can all look forward to.



Celebrate “Down with Valentine’s Day”



If you’ve ever been spurned, rejected, rebuffed, turned away, given the cold shoulder, slapped in the face or kicked in the teeth by someone you thought you loved, then this party’s for you. Of course, it’s also for you even if none of those things have happened and your love life has been total bliss. Whether or not you think love is a four-letter word, come and join us in an evening of fun, frolic and Karaoke. No cinnamon hearts or love songs allowed!

When: Friday, February 17th at 7:00 p.m.

Where: The Lounge at Langham Court Theatre

There will be prizes for the best voice, best performance and the most innovative performance.

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 *Rabbit Hole* is on Monday, February 13th, 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.

A Word from our Board

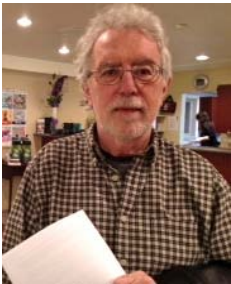
Last fall, the Board decided to update its strategic plan with a view to developing new goals and objectives in the following areas:

1. Review staffing needs.
2. Membership development and volunteer management.
3. Fund development.
4. Publicity development.
5. Theatre development, i.e. the physical plant.
6. Education development.
- 7.

Volunteer Victoria has kindly 'lent' us **Ken Stefanik**, a retired **Air Canada** executive to help us through this process. The planning committee is meeting with Ken weekly and we hope to have a document to present at the Summer General Meeting. We will update you as we progress.

Luke Krayenhoff
Vice President

Our Newest Life Member—Dick Newson



Dick has been an active member of **Langham Court Theatre** for many years. At present, he is the Facilities Manager, a job that involves everything from overseeing major renovations to changing light bulbs and sweeping leaves. Dick also designs and builds sets, has worked with props and has acted in many productions. As if that were not enough to qualify him for the Rogues Gallery, it was he who acquired the software for the Box Office ticketing system and worked on the programme until it was exactly right for the needs of our theatre. According to our Box Office Monkey, **Wes Borg**, a computer expert himself, the system Dick developed is absolutely the best and most efficient it could possibly be. We are delighted to add Dick's name to the list of Life Members.

Victoria's 150th Birthday Celebrations

On September 8th, Rockland Avenue will be celebrating the City of Victoria's 150th year by having a giant Block Party cum Street Fair. This event will involve **Government House**, the **Art Gallery of Greater Victoria** and **Langham Court Theatre**. At present we are not sure how we will be involved but there is talk of a fashion show, a showing of silent movies in the theatre or a series of theatre tours. However we decide get involved in the city's birthday bash, we will need a number of volunteers to help make it happen. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Toshik Bukowiecki at toshik@pacificcoast.net



Market Place



Wanted – Producers for Our 2012-2013 Season

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

Producer and Stage Manager Wanted for G & S Production

The **Gilbert and Sullivan Society** is producing *Ruddigore* (one of **Gilbert and Sullivan's** lesser-known works) in the spring of 2013 at the **Mary Winspear Centre** and **McPherson Playhouse**. **George Corwin** is the Music Director and **Chris Moss** the Stage Director. However, the production is in need of a Producer and a Stage Manager. If you are interested in filling one of these vital roles please contact Barbara Knoop at ed@gilbertandsullivanVictoria.ca or by phone at 250-298-0644 or 250-516-2013 (cell)

With Sympathy

It is with sadness that we at **Langham Court Theatre** learned that **Drew Wavryn's** mother recently passed away. Even though she was 82 years old, she had been in relatively good health so her sudden death was

unexpected. All of us at **Langham Court** send Drew our sympathy and our best wishes at this difficult time.

Editor's Notes . . .

Once again, there are a lot of people to thank for making this issue of the Newsletter possible. To start with, **Danda Humphreys** and her impressive red pen that never runs out of ink. Next, Denise Brown who gets the newsletter up onto the website, who lets me know if I've missed an important date, and who keeps me posted as to who's doing what and to whom. I also want to thank those columnists who send material in month after month. Bless you all for it is you who make this Newsletter come alive, bless you **Lisa Leighton**, **Ned Lemley**, **Jeani Reynolds** who regularly sends the artists' biographies and **David Lowes** whose pictures give such pizzazz to the front page. Also, in this issue I want to thank **Elizabeth Brimacombe** and **Barbara Knoop** for their contributions from **St Luke's Players** and **the G&S Society**. I am always delighted when other theatre companies send us their audition notices or let us know what's happening within their organisation. I also want to thank **Toshik Bukowiecki**, **Peter McNab** and **Cynthia Pronick** for keeping us informed with what's happening within our own organisation and finally, **Karrie Wolfe** for the delightful account of her long time love affair with *The Drowsy Chaperone*.

Speaking of *The Drowsy Chaperone*, congratulations to the entire Company! Not only is the holdover a certainty, it sold out almost before it was announced. Wherever I go, I hear remarks such as "I laughed so much I cried," or "I haven't had so much fun in ages," or "That's the first time I've seen my husband enjoy a musical!" or "I particularly loved the Man in the Chair." Those comments and others as favourable came mainly from the Friday night **Friends of the Library** audience who, without exception, fell in love with the production and want to come back. Well done, cast and crew!

While the members of the cast in a production receive their plaudits every night from the audiences, and the running crew get their thank-yous (I hope) from the cast and director, there is a group of people who are seldom around to receive their plaudits when others are at the theatre. I am referring to the small company of set builders who, for *The Drowsy Chaperone* were as follows: **Gardiner McDermot**, who built the aeroplane, **Charlie Encell** and **Gordon Alexander**, who built the Murphy bed and kitchen cabinets as well as creating the scrim wall, **Barry Grimshaw**, who worked on the red throne and together with **Mike Kuss**, built the giant fridge, **William Andringa**, who made the record stand, **Naomi Ashdown**, with the help of **John Smith**, who did all the painting, including the “wallpaper” which was Naomi’s brilliant creation, and **Julius Maslovat** who, along with the others, built everything else. The set was designed by **Bill Adams**, and enhanced by **Sally Crickman’s** set-dressing and props, **Karrie Wolfe’s** lighting design, **Susan Ferguson** and **Di Madill’s** costumes and **Alan MacKenzie’s** sound design. All of which goes to prove that there’s as much talent backstage as there is on at **Langham Court**. Thank you, **Bill Adams**, for providing the names of the carpenters, builders and set painters and letting us know what each one did for *The Drowsy Chaperone*.

As well as our sold out musical (if you are lucky enough to have tickets, that is), you can enjoy the **Langham Court** “Anti-Valentine and Karaoke Party, on February 16th, and the **Readers’ Theatre** production of *She Stoops to Conquer* on February 17th. Let us hope that the heavy snows and howling winds are in the past, and that we will soon experience warm sunshine and gentle breezes as we gradually move from winter to spring, from *The Drowsy Chaperone* to *Rabbit Hole*. Meanwhile, get better quickly, **Carol Anne** – we miss you.



News from Aloft

Donations Received

Donations were received from **Jean deCartier, Alice, Eileen, Karen Leves, Marian Aberdeen, Daphne Baldwin, Barb Strachan, Mrs. Fredrica Kissinger** (cousin of the famous **Henry A. Kissinger**) via **Anne Geddes, Karen Hughes** via **Barb Waldner, Joan Robertson** via **Brenda Morton, Jill Sidney-Smith** for **Salt Spring Island Players**, **Carol Williams** for **Mount Doug High**, **Mike McCullagh, Shea Sweeney, Anonymous, Jessie Gulston** via **Maryann Jackson, Dr. Dorothy McWatters** via **Pearl Arden, Richard McKeown, Erica Schweitzer, Patty Grant, Jane Kreiger, and Peta MacKenzie**.

Volunteer News

Since the last report, the following individuals have donated their time and energy to the Costume Loft: **Koichiro Ito, Aja Young, Mary Stendal, Madeleine Mills, Jane Kreiger, Eileen Bennett, Kate Mills, and Pearl Arden**. Our Big Boxing Party was on January 23rd and 24th and went on all day. More about that in the next issue.

Adopt-a-Rack

Remember the Adopt-a-Rack initiative? **Peta MacKenzie** and **Eileen Bennett** have adopted most of Rack F, specifically the evening gowns, day dresses, and ladies lounge wear. **Jane Kreiger** and **Madeleine Mills** have

adopted most of Rack A, which holds Ladies in Time, encompassing dresses from the present back to Greco-Roman and Biblical times. There are many areas left to choose from, so get together with a partner or a small group and sign up soon. Call Ned at 250-475-1418 for more information.

Our Costumes in Action

Our costumes were used for two Charity *Christmas Carol* readings, one in Port Alberni that supported the **Bread of Life food bank** there, and the other here in Victoria for **Our Place**. Donations were made to both causes for a total of \$75 to match the cost of the costume rentals.

According to **Jo-Ann Roberts** of **CBC’s All Points West** the costumes looked wonderful, and they managed to dress up three people for the second event: **Bob MacDonald** of *Quirks and Quarks*, **Arthur Black**, formerly of *Basic Black* and *Planet Saltspring* and **Jo-Ann Roberts** herself. According to Ms. Roberts, if we ever decide to sell the morning coat, **Arthur Black** is very interested.

Ned Lemley
Costume Loft Manager



Notes from the Costume Workshop

Next Costume Guild Workshop: Sure-Fit Designs, Part 2

This issue of the newsletter will be out just after our January workshop on the 29th, so please mark your calendars for the next one: **Sunday, February 12th, 1 to 4 p.m.** in the Lounge. We had originally planned a workshop on Edwardian fashion in February, but the consensus seems to be that the Sure-Fit Designs workshop on creating and fitting custom patterns is best done over two sessions. (Edwardian fashion will probably move to April or May.) If you would like to attend, even if you didn't attend Part 1, please contact me for details of what to bring, and **please RSVP no later than Tuesday, February 7th**. Hope you'll join us.

The 1912 Project

To commemorate the 100-year anniversary of the sinking of Titanic on April 14th, 1912, the Vintage Pattern Lending Library (VPLL) has created **The 1912 Project**. The VPLL (www.vpll.org) will reproduce about 150 patterns from the 1912 issues of *La Mode Illustrée*, the French fashion journal, between late winter and December of this year.



The Vintage Pattern Lending Library preserves, archives, and replicates historic fashion and needlework patterns from 1840 through 1950, as well as vintage sewing publications and fashion prints. (Members may borrow pattern reproductions at no cost, and they receive discounts on purchases. Non-members may purchase, but cannot borrow patterns.)

As of mid-January, **Janyce Hill** of the VPLL, who is organizing the project, reported that 345 sewers had volunteered to test and make up the men's,

women's and children's patterns as they are transcribed. She expected to begin mailing out patterns by the end of January. As sewers work on the garments, they will photograph and blog about their progress either to the VPLL blog ([Vintage Fashionista](http://VintageFashionista.com)), or to their own blogs. Construction and cutting information for these patterns

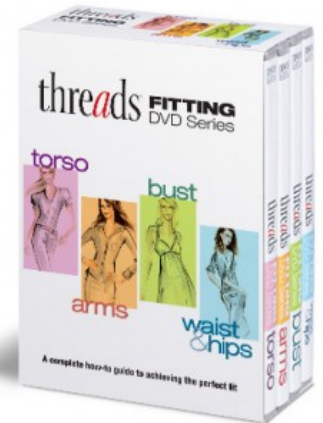
were usually very vague, so one of the project goals is to have the testers clarify and expand on them. Hill hopes that sewers will be able to commit to blogging at least once a month, and to get through all 150 patterns by December.

Sewers may either make a fully wearable costume piece in fashion fabrics, or just a 'test' version (a muslin) that is not wearable. The test sewers will receive the patterns at no cost. The patterns will also be made available for purchase on the VPLL's website.

Karen Harper and I have volunteered to be test sewers. Depending on what patterns come our way, we may talk with Ned about producing wearable costume pieces for the Loft. Otherwise, we will make muslins. Either way, blog reports to come, and possibly a future workshop opportunity.

New Acquisitions

For the Costume Workshop, we have just taken advantage of January sales to purchase two **Threads DVD collections** from Taunton Press. The **Threads Fitting DVD Series** is a four-disc boxed set that focuses on fitting challenges for the torso, arms, bust, waist and hips. The **Threads Industry Insider Techniques DVD Volumes 1 and 2** offer specific tips and techniques for lapels, seams, mitred corners, interfacings, collars, etc. The sets will be available for borrowing as soon as they arrive, in early February.



Reminder: April Workshop Change of Date

As mentioned in last month's issue, our April workshop, which had been scheduled for **April 14th**, has been **moved to Sunday, April 29th, from noon to 5 p.m.**, in the Costume Workshop and the Rehearsal Room. We will be work-shopping a complete costume as a continuation of the March session, or TBD. Please mark your calendar!

Lisa Leighton
for the Costume Workshop
250-595-5523 and leighton@islandnet.com

Auditions

(Langham Court Theatre auditions are posted on our web site at: www.langhamtheatre.ca/support/auditions/)

1959 Pink Thunderbird Convertible

by James McLure

at Langham Court Theatre (805 Langham Court--off Rockland Ave & Cook St):

Saturday, February 18th from 1-4 pm

Sunday, February 19th from 1-4 pm

Production Dates: April 25th to May 12th, 2012

Two Plays in One! ...

Lone Star

Directed by **Paul Terry**

Outside a small town Texas bar, Roy regales his brother, Ray, with stories about his three loves: his country, his wife, and his beloved 1959 pink Thunderbird convertible.

Cast of characters: Roy; Ray and Cletis

Age Range/Requirements: Need 20s, 30s men to play uneducated southern dudes from Texas. Bumpkins, if you will, but with an edge. Accents mandatory from the lone-star state, but can be developed in rehearsal (think 'Bottle Rocket' or 'Blood Simple').

Laundry and Bourbon

Directed by **Heather Jarvie**

Bourbon and gossip flow while Elizabeth waits for her wayward husband Roy with friends Hattie and Amy Lee. As the bottle empties, past indiscretions and present fears bubble to the surface.

Cast of characters: Elizabeth, Hattie and Amy Lee

Age Range/Requirements: Mid 20s to mid 30s. Southern accents are a must, but will be developed during rehearsal. All three women have extremely strong characters and personalities (no soft spoken Southern Belles here!) Elizabeth has a strong, quiet resilience. Hattie is loud, obnoxious, and a true friend. Amy Lee is a self-righteous busybody.

No audition bookings needed – cold reading only. The directors highly recommend that all those who audition read the script(s) beforehand. Scripts are available for sign-out in the box office during box office hours. For more information, please visit <http://www.langhamtheatre.ca/support/auditions/>

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 March issue will be February 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 others' 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

What's On

Langham Court Theatre Presents

The Drowsy Chaperone

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

A five-time Tony Award-winning Canadian musical comedy that 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 runs to Saturday, February 4th with a hold over from Wednesday, February 8th to Saturday, February 11th **No more tickets available!!**

Readers' Theatre Presents

She Stoops to Conquer

an 18th century comedy of manners/romantic comedy/satire that remains a favourite today.

Written by **Oliver Goldsmith**.

Directed by **Luke Krayenhoff**.

When: Saturday, February 18th at 7:00 p.m.

Where: In the **Langham Court Theatre Lounge**

Admission is by donation.

Nibbles and liquid refreshments are available.

Langham Court Readers' Theatre also welcomes actors both experienced and new to the stage to audition for upcoming presentations. Remember that **Readers' Theatre** is essentially radio with a friendly audience. No need to be "off book". There is a need to relax and have a lot of fun.

Please join Luke and the cast for an evening of fine entertainment.

St Luke's Players Present

I'll Be Back Before Midnight

By **Peter Colley**. Directed by **Jon Scheer**

St. Luke's Players' first production of 2012 is a thriller filled with gripping plot-twists, eerie happenings and just the right dose of comic relief to take the edge off the spine-tingling drama of this cleverly-written play. Actors **Jo Barnes, Mur Meadows, Michael King, and Michelle Mitchell** bring to light **Peter Colley's** complex and compelling script centred on an intriguing set of characters and events. Director **Jon Scheer** says "be prepared to be scared when the heartbeats start, there is a scratching at the window, and then the lights go out... Hailed by the **Globe and Mail** as the most popular stage play in Canadian history, *I'll Be Back Before Midnight* runs March 14th – 25th. Additional information: www.stlukesplayers.org

The Victoria Gilbert & Sullivan Society Present

HMS Pinafore in Concert.

For performances at 2:00 p.m. on March 24th and 25th at the **Mary Winspear Centre**: you can book online <https://tickets.marywinspear.ca/TheatreManager/1/tmEvent/tmEvent374.html> or call the Box Office at 250-656-0275.

For performances at 2:00 p.m. on March 31st and April 1st at **Oak Bay High School**: Tickets will be available in the new year from **Ivy's Book Store, Long & McQuade, Munro's Books, Larsen Music, Lyle's Place and The Shieling Cards & Gifts.**



Mark Your Calendar

Wednesday, February 1 – Saturday, February 4	<i>The Drowsy Chaperone</i>
Wednesday, February 8 – Saturday, February 11	HOLDOVER for <i>The Drowsy Chaperone</i>
Saturday, February 11	2:00 p.m. Holdover Matinee for <i>The Drowsy Chaperone</i>
Sunday, February 12	1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Costume Guild Workshop
Monday, February 13	6:00 p.m. Meet and Greet for <i>Rabbit Hole</i>
Friday, February 17	7:00 p.m. Down With Valentine's Day Celebration
Saturday, February 18	1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Auditions for <i>1959 Pink Thunderbird Convertible</i>
Saturday, February 18	7:00 p.m. Readers' Theatre Presents <i>She Stoops to Conquer</i>
Sunday, February 19	1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Auditions for <i>1959 Pink Thunderbird Convertible</i>
Wednesday, March 7 – Saturday, March 24	<i>Rabbit Hole</i>
Sunday, March 11	1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Art Show in the Lounge
Wednesday, March 14	St Luke's Players opens with <i>I'll Be Back Before Midnight</i>
Saturday, March 24	G & S Society opens with <i>HMS Pinafore in Concert</i>
Wednesday, April 25 – Saturday May 12	<i>1959 Pink Thunderbird Convertible</i>
Sunday, April 29	12 Noon – 5:00 p.m. Costume Creation Workshop
Friday, May 4 – Sunday, May 13	Four Seasons Musical Theatre Presents <i>Charlotte's Web</i>





2012/2013 Board of Directors

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1-year Member-at-Large:	Michael Kuss, Peter McNab

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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 **March 1st issue is February 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, theatremanager@langhamtheatre.ca

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