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boardpresident@langhamtheatre.ca

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Langham Court News is published 11 times a year. **Deadline for submissions is the 22nd day of the month preceding the month of publication.** Send submissions to Kathy Macovichuk at newseditor@langhamtheatre.ca

For newsletter address changes or deletions, send them to the General Manager at gm@langhamtheatre.ca

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Prop Rentals and Donations

props@langhamtheatre.ca

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APRIL 17–MAY 4, 2019

QUARTET

A COMEDY BY RONALD HARWOOD

DIRECTED BY JON SCHEER

“NO SELF PITY”

SUBMITTED BY JON SCHEER

Cecily, Reggie and Wilfred reside in a home for retired opera singers in England. Each year, on the tenth of October, the residents of the home give a concert to celebrate Verdi's

birthday. Jean, who used to be married to Reggie, arrives at the home and disrupts their equilibrium. The four of them were renowned for their performance of the *Quartet* from Verdi's *Rigoletto* but Jean, acting like a diva, refuses to join the others to reprise their performance. Yet the show must go on.

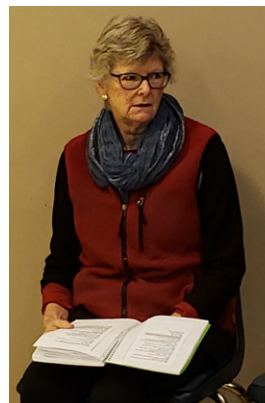
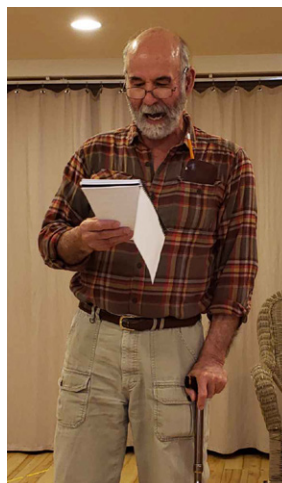
The play is about relationships and reminiscences of past glories. With basic blocking complete, the very experienced members of this four person



cast – Fran, Tony, Alf, and Elizabeth – are moving on to draw from their own memories and past performances to bring to life these delightful characters. When reality is far from

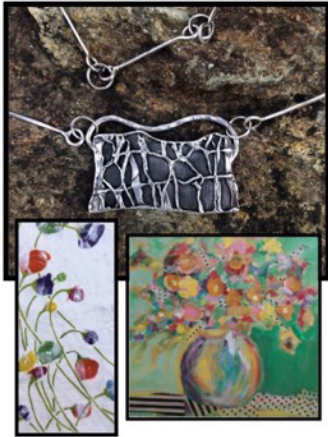
the dreams the characters once had, what can they do except what Reginald says, “Make the best of it.” Old friends with the old jokes help them all make peace with what time is left to them. It is a story we all are or will be facing one day.

Join us for the humor and uplifting humanity amidst the angst.



PLEASE NOTE: During the run of *That Elusive Spark*, the normally scheduled Panel @ Langham has been replaced with three opportunities for discussion with members of the creative team. Please see page 7 for more details.

Langham Court Theatre is proud to present an exhibition of fibre art, jewellery and mixed media work by Dee Storey and Jeani Reynolds



STICKS & STONES & PRETTY THINGS

Please join us for the Art Show Reception
Sunday, March 3, 2019
1:00 to 3:00

The Exhibition will run in conjunction with the play
That Elusive Spark
Written by Janet Munsil & directed by Mercedes Bátiz-Benét

Readers' Theatre
presents

THE DIARY OF A YOUNG GIRL

SATURDAY, MAY 11 AT 8 P.M.,
AT LANGHAM COURT THEATRE

The next Readers' Theatre production will be a bit different from our usual play fare.

On Saturday May 11, 8 p.m., we will do selected readings from *The Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank.

The production will be directed by Wendy Merk. We will need readers, a Stage Manager, front-of-house people, and backstage assistants for this production.

Everyone who is interested in performing will be asked to select a passage or passages from Anne's diary.



All who are interested in performing must attend the following, all to be at Langham Court Theatre:

First organizational meeting: Sunday, March 17, 7 p.m., in the Lounge

Rehearsals: Sunday, April 28, 7 p.m., Sunday, May 5, 7 p.m. and Tuesday, May 7, 7 p.m.

Tech rehearsal: Saturday, May 11, 5 p.m.

Performance: Saturday, May 11, 8 p.m.

N.B.: We need non-acting assistance as

well, including board operators, administrative help, front-of-house workers, and stage management.

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Wendy Merk via email: coventrycarollers@gmail.com

The full text of Anne's diary can be found at [this link](#).



JUNE 5 – 22, 2019

NOISES OFF

A COMEDY BY MICHAEL FRAYN
DIRECTED BY DON KEITH

THE SHOW IS CAST

SUBMITTED BY DON KEITH

Congratulations to everyone who tried out for *Noises Off*!

You are all wonderful, and your well prepared auditions were a joy. We had such fun over four days of auditions. We could have cast this show twice!

There are some newcomers, veterans and returning "after a break" actors.

We are on our way – let the hilarity begin!

Our team is delighted to present the cast of *Noises Off*.

THE CAST

Dotty Otley/ "Mrs. Clackett"	Jan Streader
Belinda Blair/ "Flavia Brent"	Kristin Pickup
Frederick Fellowes/ "Philip Brent/Sheik"	Jeff Kerrie
Timothy Allgood	Jon Hunwick
Selsdon Mowbray/ "Burgler"	Toshik Bukowiecki
Lloyd Dallas	Alan Penty
Garry Lejeune/ "Roger"	Andrew Wietzel
Poppy Norton Taylor	Tess Wiens
Brooke Ashton/ "Vicki"	Melissa Cudworth

COSTUME LOFT REPORT

SUBMITTED BY COLLEEN BLUNT

While the snow took over the island, the Costume Loft was busy getting ready for the summer sale! Our volunteers have been sorting through boxes and racks, and processing constant incoming donations in order to stock the Giant Annual Costume Sale with a huge amount of fabulous finds.

If you would like to volunteer for the costume sale this year, and haven't in previous years, please don't hesitate to reach out by email at costumeloft@langhamtheatre.ca. We would love to have you join our fun, hardworking team as we try to make this year the most successful yet!

For their recent donations, the Costume Loft would like to thank Bill Vallevand, Dianne Walls, Paul Sullivan, Pearl Arden, Bernice Cherney, St. Aiden's Thrift Shop, Anne Pope on behalf of Ruth Gongos, W. Walsh, Christina Stoehr, Phil and Ruth Neroutsos, and Susanna Crofton on behalf of Sharron Spriggs.



A CLASSY BIRTHDAY BASH

The Honourable Janet Austin, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, accepted our invitation to host Langham Court Theatre's 90th Anniversary Season Birthday Celebration on Friday, February 8, 2019, at Government House where we came together to meet, greet and eat cake.

It was a truly special evening celebrating "one of the coolest 90-year-olds we know."

PITCH YOUR PLAYS AND IDEAS FOR DIRECTING

SUBMITTED BY JON SCHEER, PLANNING PRODUCTION CHAIR, AND SYLVIA HOSIE, ASSISTANT PRODUCTION CHAIR

We are still interested in hearing from potential directors as part of our play selection process for the 2020/21 season.

If you are interested in directing during that season, please pitch us a show that you would love to direct for Langham Court Theatre. Include in your pitch a brief analysis of the show including cast size and female/male composition, complexity of

set and costumes, how it meshes with what our audiences expect, and what time of year you would be available to direct.

Send your pitch to jonscheer@shaw.ca by **March 10**. We will make an appointment for you to present your show to the Play Selection Committee and listen to your suggestion.



St Luke's Players Auditions
THINGS MY MOTHER TAUGHT ME

A funny and heartwarming comedy written by Katherine Di Savine and directed by Penelope Harwood

Production Dates: May 22 – June 2

Audition Dates:
 Sunday, March 10, 2 – 4 p.m. and
 Tuesday, March 12, 7 – 9 p.m.

Callbacks will be on March 17 at 7 p.m.

No appointments are necessary, just show up promptly at the start time. The audition

AUDITIONS

will be comprised of selected readings from the script.

Please contact the director at psharwood@telus.net if you cannot attend auditions on these dates.

Auditions are held at St. Luke's Hall, 3821 Cedar Hill Cross Road

For more information about the play synopsis and characters, please visit www.stlukesplayers.org.

LANGHAM COURT'S NEXT SEASON ANNOUCEMENT

SUBMITTED BY ALAN PENTY

I am pleased to announce the plays for the 91st season. Firstly, I would like to thank my reading committee and especially Quinn Mactavish for all their help.

Our season begins in September with a heart-warming comedy about family and personal decisions, *Over the River and Through the Woods* by Joe DiPietro. Directed by Jason Vikse.

Next in the season is a suspenseful play based on the 1924 murder case of Leopold and Loeb, *Rope* by Patrick Hamilton. This will be directed by myself (Alan Penty).

Our musical offering will be *Company* by Steven Sondheim. This is a mature and thoughtful look at relationships in our modern society. This will be directed by Heather Jarvie-Laidlaw.

Next will be very thought-provoking play about the life of Leni Riefenstahl, a ground-breaking film director, who was also an associate of Adolph Hitler. *The Blue Light* by Meiko Ouchi leaves us wondering if we can separate the artist from the content of their art. It will be directed by David Elendune.

Our play in the Spring will be *Silent Sky* by Lauren Gunderson, a beautiful lyrical story about a woman who changed the scientist's perception of the stars and the

universe. Sadly, a woman most of us have never heard of. This will be directed by Wendy Merk.

We will close our season in June 2020 with a Canadian comedy about a gay couple and their traditional parents, *Mambo Italiano* by Steve Galluccio. This hysterical romp offers something for

every generation. This will be directed by John Manson.

I am excited about this season, my last one as Production Chair, and I hope it will welcome, engage, amuse and stimulate you.

LANGHAM COURT THEATRE
2019/20 SEASON

<p>SEP 2019 Over the River and Through the Woods A Comedy by Joe DiPietro Directed by Jason Vikse</p> <p>NOV 2019 Rope A Thriller by Patrick Hamilton Directed by Alan Penty</p> <p>JAN 2020 Company Music & Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim Book by George Furth Directed by Heather Jarvie-Laidlaw</p>	<p>FEB 2020 The Blue Light A Drama by Mieko Ouchi Directed by David Elendune</p> <p>APR 2020 Silent Sky A Drama by Lauren Gunderson Directed by Wendy Merk</p> <p>JUN 2020 Mambo Italiano A Comedy by Steve Galluccio Directed by John Manson</p>
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LANGHAM COURT THEATRE

Kids Spring Break Theatre Workshop

MARCH 25 – 30, 2019
AGES 10-15 \$350

Our week-long workshop is an introduction to building and working with basic puppets and performing an original short play intended for younger audiences.

Students will perform *The Mouse and the Sea* written by Brian Quakenbush, who is also one of the instructors.

PERFORMANCE DATES FRI, MAR 29 6PM SAT, MAR 30 2PM

To learn more and register, visit langhamtheatre.ca



Island Playwrights

SCENE & HEARD PLAYWRIGHTS AND ACTORS NEEDED

WRITING A PLAY? Want to hear your characters come to life (rather than just hear them in your head)? Submit an excerpt of 10 to 12 pages to Scene & Heard, a play-reading event held four times a year in Victoria. **Next deadline: March 27, 2019.** Contact: info@playscripts.ca

ISLAND PLAYWRIGHTS present Scene & Heard, an evening of play readings from works-in-progress by west coast writers. Four scenes will be voiced on stage by local actors on **April 10, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at James Bay New Horizons (234 Menzies Street)**. This is a free event. Audience feedback is encouraged. For more information visit island-playwrights.weebly.com or www.facebook.com/IslandPlaywrights.

ACTORS WANTED for cold play-readings. Be part of our stable of experienced actors who read short scenes from new plays by Vancouver Island writers in front of an audience at our Scene & Heard events. Bolster your acting CV, while at the same time helping local playwrights listen to their characters come to life. Phone 250-999-0306 or email info@playscripts.ca

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

February 27–March 16

Langham's production of *That Elusive Spark*

March 2 & 9

Talk-Back Session at Langham with Janet Munsil and Mercedes Bátiz-Benét, after the matinee

March 3

Art Show Reception in the Theatre Lounge, 1–3 p.m., featuring the work of Dee Storey and Jeani Reynolds

March 4

Langham Court Theatre Board meeting

March 10 & 12

St. Luke's Players' auditions for *Things My Mother Taught Me*

March 16

Talk-Back Session at Langham with Mercedes Bátiz-Benét and *That Elusive Spark* design team, after the matinee

March 29 & 30

Kids Spring Break Theatre Workshop performances of *The Mouse and the Sea*

NEW BOARD MEETING DATE

Due to the weather in February, the Board meeting was postponed and will be combined with the March Board meeting. The February/March Board meeting will be held be March 4.

Interested in reading the approved minutes of Langham Court Theatre's Board meetings? Check out the posted minutes at www.langhamtheatre.ca/members/board-minutes/

A CREATIVE CALL

Interested in graphic design and helping to lay out our monthly newsletter? Please contact Kathy at newseditor@langhamtheatre.ca for more information.



THE BIG CLEAN

SUBMITTED BY JEAN DE CARTIER

The area stage right, used for props and set dressing, was overdue for a cleanup and cull. A date had been booked but, as it happened, there was a call for snow in the weather forecast on that day.

However, Merry Hallsor, Jackie Stewart, myself and Finn Archinuk (who got roped in) managed to get the job done. All the bins were pulled out by Jackie and Finn. Jackie then vacuumed the area. This was a horrendous job as so much dust had accumulated there. Meanwhile, Merry and I sorted and culled the bins before they were returned on the shelves.

A very special thank you to all who helped; you are very much appreciated.



THE PASSING OF ELSIE FARR

SUBMITTED BY MARILYN KUSS

Life Member Elsie Farr passed away February 11, at the age of 103. She joined Langham with her husband Bert in 1962. Elsie was never as visible a member of Langham as the rest of the family as she never appeared on stage.

Offstage, Elsie did set construction, décor, book, wardrobe, membership and publicity committee work, newsletter assistance, as well as being a regular Bingo volunteer and Langham donor.

In the 1980s, Elsie and Bert put together a slide show about all the Langham shows they had worked on together. Elsie toured this slide show to various clubs around town, promoting our theatre and encouraging people to buy

Seasons Tickets and to join the Society. In recognition of her service, Elsie was made a Life Member in 2000.



MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

SUBMITTED BY MICHELLE BUCK

Despite the unusual snowy weather, we had a wonderful evening at Government House marking the milestone of our 90th Season and celebrating with wonderful music, yummy food and birthday cake. Thank you to The Late Boomers, and especially Angela Carter, for providing music, Andrea Cross for the photos, Shelley Slawow and Connie Lynn for helping welcome our guests, to all of those at the Government House that helped make this event happen and finally to the 90th Anniversary Committee of Vinnie Chadwick, Sally Crickman, Jean de Carter, Drew Wavervyn, Quinn MacTavish, Pearl Arden, Marilyn Kuss and Toshik Bukowiecki (chair). A special nod to Marilyn for her extraordinary efforts to put together a 90th Anniversary Season Commemorative book for Her Honour, Janet Austin (there is also a copy to check out in the lounge) and to Toshik, who had the vision to ask Government House to host this event as well as the perseverance to see it through.

And to all of you on the occasion of our 90th Anniversary Season I offer the following:

According to Wikipedia, volunteering is often intended to "improve the quality of life". Since 1929, more than 50,000 Langham volunteers have come together to tell stories and in doing so have, without a doubt, improved Victoria's quality of life.

Story connects us all and storytelling is one of the most basic and effective forms of communication. In sharing the stories of others on our stage, we have written and continue to write our own story in our community.

Canadian writer Gabrielle Roy observed: "Could we ever know each other in the slightest without the arts?"

More than ever, our world needs to know each other. Sharing stories can do that. Going forward, I am confident that Langham will continue to grow, adding new voices and continuing to create stories worth telling.

Everyday when I walk into the theatre this is what I see. People working together, learning from each other, and always in the end figuring things out. It is amazing to me just how much people commit of their time, their skills, talents and their passions to make Langham the place that it is, a place people want to be.

So on this, our 90th Anniversary Season, please join me in remembering those that have brought us to this moment in time.

And to each of you, our patrons who support us, our members, and all those that contribute everywhere in the theatre to make it the vital, vibrant, and extraordinary community it is, please accept my gratitude for all that you do each and every day. Langham Court Theatre, and Victoria, are better places because of you.



LANGHAM COURT AND ATTITUDE THEATRE PRESENT VERN THIESSEN'S

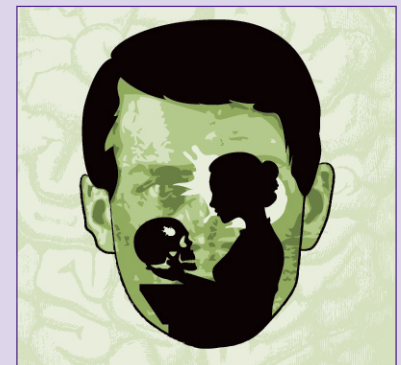
SHAKESPEARE'S WILL

Starring Rosemary Jeffery as Anne Hathaway
Directed by Tony Cain and Michael Gosselin

After a successful run at the Craigdarroch Castle, it is by popular demand that we are delighted to reprise Rosemary Jeffery's compelling and riveting portrayal that defines a most vivid and humanized revelation of Anne Hathaway's intimate and poignant reflections as the wife of William Shakespeare.

April 20, 21 & 22 at 7 p.m.
April 22 at 2 p.m.
Tickets are \$25

Tickets will be available soon through the Langham Court Box Office and at the door before performances.



COME TO A TALK-BACK SESSION!

SUBMITTED BY ANGELA HENRY

March 2 and 9 at 4:30 p.m. in the Lounge

Playwright Janet Munsil and director Mercedes Bádiz-Benét discuss the story of *That Elusive Spark* taken from archival records.

March 16 at 4:30 in the Lounge

Mercedes Bádiz-Benét, the director, along with the show's designers, will talk about creating the beauty of *That Elusive Spark*.