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

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LANGHAM COURT THEATRE ANNOUNCES DEPARTURE OF GENERAL MANAGER

It is with respect and gratitude that we congratulate Michelle Buck on being selected as the new Operations Manager with the Canadian College of Performing Arts (CCPA). Michelle's contributions over the past four years to Langham, and the arts community as a whole, is immeasurable.

Her passion for the arts can be felt by everyone around her. Michelle's dedication to education will be an asset to CCPA moving forward.

"I wish Michelle the best in her new position, and am excited for the opportunities it will hold for her. Her kind spirit and creative thinking will be greatly missed at Langham, by the board of directors, staff, volunteers, and patrons. I am honoured that Michelle has given the past four years to Langham; we are a better community for it. We will miss her laugh in the hallways, but have comfort knowing she will be close by continuing to make meaningful contributions to



the arts community," said Michelle Mitchell, Langham board president.

"Being the general manager at Langham Court Theatre these past four seasons has been such an amazing opportunity. Working alongside passionate, dedicated and exceptionally

skilled volunteers to create theatre has been an absolute privilege and delight. I look forward to the future, to see what creative and innovative programming this nonagenarian organization presents to Victoria audiences in the coming weeks, months and years," said Michelle Buck.

Michelle will remain as general manager until June 30. The board has appointed Finn Archinuk as interim general manager, until a general manager posting is made.

Please join us in wishing Michelle all the best, and thanking her for her many contributions to the Langham community.

A personal note from Michelle

It is with a mixture of both excitement and sadness that share the news that I will be leaving Langham Court Theatre as general manager to take on the role of operations manager at the Canadian College of Performing Arts (CCPA). The long and short of it, I miss working with students!

Of course in an ideal world I would have bumped into many of you at the theatre to be able to share this news face to face, but I am hoping you will consider this an acceptable alternative in these COVID times.

Very quickly on, in my time at Langham, I discovered what made it a unique place to work...the people. You are what made this decision to leave difficult but I feel confident and hopeful that the friendships that have formed are about more than shared work. I will look forward to our paths criss crossing over the coming years at Langham, CCPA or over a pint/glass of wine, when those days return.

Until then please know I have been made a better person for having spent time with you and for that I am grateful.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT LANGHAM?

SUBMITTED BY SARAH HEYMAN

Hey! Are you wondering what's going on at the theatre while the doors are closed? Well, let me tell you.

Colleen Blunt, our lovely Costume Loft Manager, (Salut, ma soeur!) has come up with an out-of-the-box plan for accepting returns and new donations to The Loft. They are set up in the lounge to be sure to maintain a safe social distance and are accepting returns two times per week. Thank you, Colleen, for coming up with this smart and convenient plan to keep the motor humming in The Loft.

Jackie Stewart, our new building manager, (Hi, Jax!) is doing a deep clean of every nook, cranny, corridor and room. She has placed "POLICE LINE. DO NOT CROSS" tape over every door to prevent entrance to protect the cleanliness. (That may have been a joke, but I believe it, don't you?) So far she has cleaned the kitchen and bar, stage right stairs, dressing rooms and downstairs bathrooms and inspected the roof leak among many other tasks. Thank you, Jackie, for taking such great care to make sure Langham is spic and span!

Grateful

When players are silent,
and the curtains are drawn,
we are grateful

When tools are hung up,
and the saw blade is still,
we are grateful.

When the cloth is uncut,
and the dresses unworn,
and volunteer friendships
more strained than before,
we can't help the feeling
of wanting to do more,
we are grateful.

When the masks can come off,
and the distance is bridged,
and the purpose of us
is revealed once again,
the theatre will be there.
And we will be grateful.

Colleen Blunt

This means that our beloved theatre will be immaculate for our return, whenever that may be.

The Langham board of directors is meeting twice a month with general manager Michelle Buck via Zoom and emailing regularly to keep up-to-date on all the new developments surrounding COVID-19 and the easing of restrictions. We want to take this opportunity to say thank you to you all. Thank you for your trust in us during this time. We are watching and learning from our counterparts across Canada and the world to help better understand our options. We will let you know as soon as we



have the right plan in place for a safe, smart and doable Grand Reopening for Langham.

See you as soon as it is safe, Langham Courtiers, in our sparkling theatre.

Dear Christina,

On behalf of the board of directors, the HR committee, staff and volunteers we would like to express our heartfelt appreciation for your contribution to Langham Theatre over the last four seasons as Front of House Manager and FOH Volunteer Coordinator.



Your work ethic and vibrant energy you brought to Langham Theatre has greatly contributed to making our community a place where volunteers, staff and patrons have come to feel so welcome and valued.

Due to COVID-19 safety precautions we are unable to socially gather to celebrate your work and bid you a fond farewell. Though apart, we celebrate you collectively and want you to know how much we have valued your time with us at Langham Theatre, you will be fondly missed.

We love you...from all of us at Langham Court Theatre.

PROPS & FURNITURE NEWS

SUBMITTED BY JACKIE STEWART

As you can imagine, NOTHING has happened in the furniture or props department since March (apart from a donation of some Christmas decorations and a tree!).

We will endeavour to stow the props that were returned (and now safely quarantined!) in the next few days.

I started my role as Custodian/Building Manager on May 1



and have been working 2.5 days per week to try to get a really deep clean completed by month end.

After that I have a list of tasks that I hope will spruce up Langham Court and make everyone really happy for "when we meet again."

We will be trying to make more space and hope to clear the nooks and crannies of old dusty/unwanted stuff!

LANGHAM COURT NEWSLETTER TRIVIA QUIZ

As a bit of fun, how about a trivia quiz? The questions are here and the answers on the last page. Test your Langham Court Theatre AND your general theatre knowledge. Thank you to Toshik Bukowiecki, David Elendune, Rosemary Jeffery and Dawn Schell for the trivia question suggestions. Good luck!

QUESTIONS

1. How many seats are in Langham Court Theatre?
2. What was found in the walls of the old men's dressing room when the renovation happened in 2005?
3. What can you view only from the stairway between the basement and the main floor of the theatre?
4. Before the renovation in 2005, what happened if you plugged in a kettle and an iron at the same time in the greenroom?
5. What was found in the attic over the theatre auditorium in the 1970s?
6. Do you know who Percy George was and how important he was to The Victoria Theatre Guild?
7. What occurred in 1996 that saved the theatre from collapse?

Below are some more general theatre trivia questions:

8. How are *Cabaret*, *Mamma Mia!* and *Fiddler on the Roof* connected?
9. Only six verified copies of his signature survive – who is he?
10. Bunraku is a form of puppet theatre originating in which country?
11. What is it called when an actor unintentionally laughs on stage?
12. In 1997, it was officially declared that the entire works of Shakespeare had been produced at Shakespeare in the Park (NYC). The production of which play (with surprisingly few female lead roles) led to this declaration?

LIGHTNING ROUND

1. Which musical does the song "Big Spender" come from?
2. *Kiss Me Kate* is a musical version of which Shakespeare play?
3. Which 1950 Billy Wilder film became an Andrew Lloyd Webber musical?
4. In which Japanese city is *Madame Butterfly* set?
5. Which witty British playwright wrote *Hay Fever*?
6. In the musical *Oliver*, who was Bill Sykes' Mistress?

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

7. Which Victor Hugo novel is one of London's longest running musicals?
8. What phrase is used in theatre to describe lines improvised by an actor?
9. What word is used to describe a theatre that is closed?
10. What superstitious alternative is used in the theatre, to wish someone good luck?
11. Which musical, that opened early this year, had to cancel performances during its first week due to a broken down car?
12. Is "stage left" the left of the stage as seen from the actors or the audience's p.o.v.?
13. What name is given to part of a stage which projects into the auditorium?
14. On a stage, what are the out of view areas on the sides of the acting area called?

Answers can be found on Page 5



THE CANADIAN
play
thing

DONATE TO THE CANADIAN PLAY THING!

SUBMITTED BY SARAH HEYMAN

The Canadian Play Thing and its instigator, Janet Munsil, have provided a creative platform for artists when we are existing without theatre. I, for one, have tremendous gratitude for being able to spend a little time "on stage" with fellow actors, playwrights and theatre community. It has been such a joy!

The original news: The Play Thing has a matching donor! Langham Court Theatre has stepped forward to match donations made to The Play Thing from now until May 31, up to \$500. Just \$1,000 would cover The Play Thing overhead for four months! Thanks to Michelle Buck and the board of Langham Court for this thoughtful and generous initiative!

The update: With a generous donation of \$500 from Richard and Phoebe Heyman of Nanaimo, the first match has been made. We now have someone who has offered to match further donations up to \$500. Let's see how far we can go in support of this wonderful online stage!

At the time of this writing, the total amount, including the \$500 matching that Langham contributed, was \$1,538.55. Way to go, way to support local!

Please go to plaything.ca and scroll down to find the DONATE button.



PRODUCTION DATE: TBD

SILENT SKY

BY LAUREN GUNDERSON, DIRECTION BY ZELDA DEAN

Due to the rescheduling of *Silent Sky*, the cast, crew and production team would like to announce a shift in our universe.

The lovely and talented Kathryn Humphries, who was playing Henrietta Leavitt, will be moving to New Brunswick to attend university and pursue a career in law.

After two very successful and well received Zoom play readings in April, the cast gave Kathryn the best virtual farewell we could during a Zoom meeting...a difficult way to say goodbye and celebrate her new beginnings.

Then, with amazing luck, at the end of April we were grateful to welcome our new Henrietta, Sarah Heyman, a fine actress who is up to the challenge and will fill Henrietta's shoes in style. Sarah is enjoying the role and has been working hard at Zoom rehearsals for the past month. She and SM Jon Scheer have been doing virtual blocking sessions as well.

To Kathryn and Sarah, two beautiful, shining stars, we wish you both the best of luck and every success in your new roles.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

SUBMITTED BY MARILYN KUSS

DAUNINE BURBANK Archive Volunteer

Daunine started volunteering at Langham March 2017. Soon after helping with the strike for *Taking Leave*, Daunine joined as a regular volunteer. She worked with Archivist Marilyn Kuss during the spring and summer of 2017. That first year, Daunine worked a total of 160 volunteer hours. If you were at the Volunteer Gala that year, roses from Daunine's garden were the



centerpieces on all the tables – five hours credit, just to show you everything counts.

In Daunine's own words, "I think we have made, and continue to add, positive changes to our archive wall to make it more user-friendly." This year the poster boards in the upstairs hallway were chosen and labeled to identify actors and crew in previous shows.

"I love to research, design and update older posters. We hope this work showcases and honours the hard work that goes into the productions at Langham Court Theatre." Daunine has made all the new posters for the last two

COSTUME LOFT REPORT

SUBMITTED BY COLLEEN BLUNT

It's hard to know what to say about The Costume Loft over the last two months. I could talk about the deep cleaning of the laundry area and costume construction room, or the sorely needed update to the lighting that I can hear being worked on above my head as I write this. Instead, what I find myself thinking about the most is how privileged we are in our community. We get to close our doors, for now. Our volunteers are able to be safe at home. Our staff are staying protected and employed. I am grateful for the small opportunities of joy this pandemic has allowed the fortunate. Also, while costumes aren't being rented we can still have the carefree joy of getting dressed up at home!

As of May 12, The Costume Loft has opened for returns and clothing donations only on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. We are set up in the Lounge for maximum physical distancing. For more information on our Covid-19 response and how we are keeping safe, check out our Costume Loft page at langhamtheatre.ca/costumes

The Annual Sale is currently postponed until we can decide on the best way to host such an event. Some options include outside market style moved closer to Halloween, or hosted digitally. We'll let you know as soon as we can!

If you or someone you know needs supplies for making fabric masks or help with sewing, please don't hesitate to reach out by email: costumeloft@langhamtheatre.ca

seasons. She has also added programs to older posters as well as cast and crew identifications. Daunine has also designed memorial posters for Life Members who have passed away.

"I look forward to returning to archive work at Langham Court when it is safe for us to return during this COVID 19 setback."

ANSWERS

- 179 (177 new seats and 2 old seats)
- A number of old bottles and a wallet were found. The bottles are in a display box in the scene shop and the owner of the wallet was able to be contacted and notified of its having been found about 50 years after it had been lost.
- The last remaining bits of the exterior walls of the two original buildings that make up the theatre.
- The circuit breaker would be tripped turning off the green room plugs ... and the lights in the lobby (which was in the diagonally opposite corner from the greenroom and one floor up ... don't ask!)
- A wasp nest the size of a small car. Fortunately, it was not active.
- Percy was the Mayor of Victoria at one time: also the President and Life Member of the Guild who saved the Guild from financial ruin with a personal loan that was eventually paid back to him. Langham might not exist today without him.
- The stage house was not structurally sound and the back wall was bowing pronouncedly into the parking lot. The firm of Schick Shiner and Associates (theatre consultants) were hired to assess the problem and the result of their findings were that steel pillars at each side of the stage and a steel beam across them were installed to carry the weight of the roof and save the roof from caving in. The timing was extraordinary as the winter of 1996 saw the largest snowfall in Victoria's history. Without that renovation, the whole stage house would have come down and likely brought at least part of the auditorium roof down with it.
- They all have songs involving money
- William Shakespeare
- Japan
- Corpsing
- Henry VIII
- Sunset Boulevard
- Nagasaki
- Noel Coward
- Nancy
- Les Miserables
- Ad Libs
- Dark
- Break a Leg
- Chitty Chitty Bang Bang
- Actors
- Thrust Stage
- Wings

LIGHTNING ROUND ANSWERS

- Sweet Charity
- Taming of the Shrew

SOME OF MY EARLIEST MEMORIES OF LANGHAM COURT THEATRE

SUBMITTED BY WENDY MERK



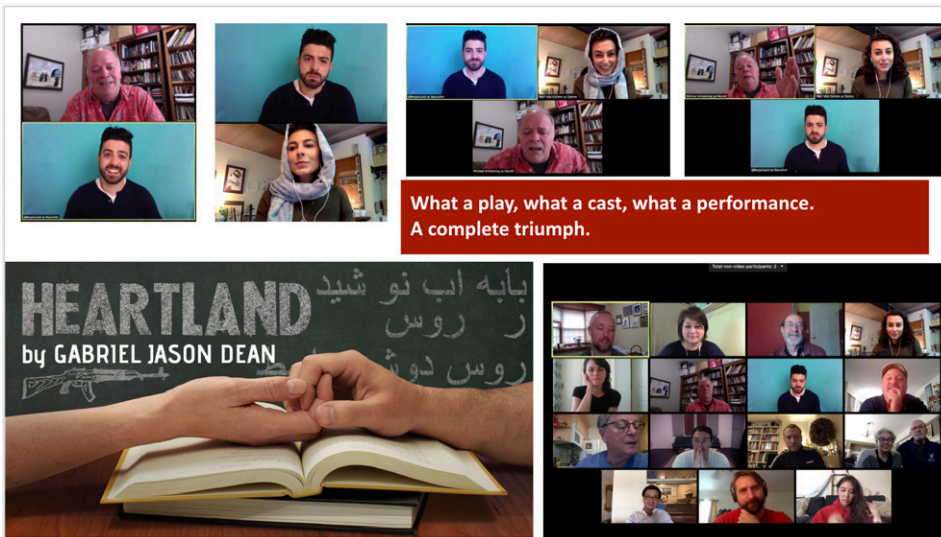
My Headdress!
My very first production with Langham, way back in 1975, was a co-production with the University of Victoria Theatre Department.

I was a student and cast as a supernumerary in the production of *Much Ado About Nothing* on stage at the McPherson Playhouse. That meant I got to wear a pretty costume and pretend to play the flute to pre-recorded music.

At that time, UVic students worked backstage, building sets and costumes, while Langham supplied all, or most, of the leading actors.

During our final dress rehearsal, the leading lady broke down in the middle of a scene; the exasperated director asking, "What NOW?" She responded in a weepy tone, "My head dress!" She didn't like her head dress. The costume designer had to design a new one immediately.

Now that's star power!



HEARTLAND

BY GABRIEL JASON DEAN (PRESENTED ONLINE MAY 18, 2020)

This play was written by the 2019 Rick Theatre Modern Tragedy Competition winner, Gabriel Jason Dean. The competition is sponsored by Edwin Wong and hosted by Langham Court Theatre. For more more information, please visit risktheatre.com

"Thank you all so much! This was BY FAR the most fulfilling and rewarding zoom theatre experience I've been a part of. It was wonderful working with you all. All my best", Mari Vial-Golden (actor).