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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 Transitional Manager of Operations at boxoffice@langhamtheatre.ca

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Prop Rentals and Donations

props@langhamtheatre.ca

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The Prez Sayz

Submitted by Toshik Bukowiecki

Greetings all! Here we are a month into 2021, already. I recently heard someone say that 2021 should start with the month of February as January has been an equally trying time as last year, both here and internationally. Let's hope that with the release of COVID19 vaccines, the rest of 2021 will be more positive and we can get back to the art of theatre and creating stories on the stage.

Administration Update

There have been some changes around the theatre and the Board continues confronting the issues at hand. Colleen Maguire has resigned as Transitional Manager of Operations and Costume Loft Manager. We wish her well in her future endeavors. Dick Newson has volunteered (with no extra pay) to fill in as temporary administrator, in addition to continuing with his duties in the box office and implementing a new computerized box office system. Linda MacNaughton and Wendy Henderson have volunteered (not paid) to take on the management of the costume loft. Huge thanks to Dick, Linda and Wendy for their support and good will during these financially challenging times for Langham.

Transition Committee Update

The Board has considered several recommendations from the Transition Committee and recently adopted updated Mandate, Mission and Vision Statements with a list of Values. [These statements are posted on our website.](#) We have also adopted a survey that has been developed by the Transition Committee as a tool for community outreach. This survey will be going out to our membership first, and the data reviewed before going out to the broader community. There is no date of release as of this publication time.



Membership Update

Because of the need to shut down operations this past year, the Board has adopted a motion to extend memberships that will be coming up for renewal until October 31st of this year. Thanks to all who have renewed their memberships since the AGM and, of course, new memberships can still be purchased.

Technical Update

Our application to the BC Arts Council for funding to purchase equipment to enable us to "live stream" programs from Langham has been turned down. We are not in a financial position to purchase the equipment so we will have to look for funding elsewhere or put the idea on hold for now.

Thanks to the members of the Membership, Artistic Direction, HR, Transition and Finance Committees for their ongoing work. The Strategic Planning Committee is expected to have their first meeting soon.

If you have Board inquiries, please email me at: boardpresident@langhamtheatre.ca General inquires can still be sent to: operations@langhamtheatre.ca

Thank you to everyone who is supporting Langham through these unprecedented times. Hopefully we can get back to doing theatre in the not-too-distant future.

What's Happening In and About Langham

Submitted by Dick Newson

Hi! My name is Dick Newson and many of you know me as the Box Office Manager. I'm still in that role even though the activity here is much reduced due to the ongoing health crisis. But I'm letting you know that since January 15, when Colleen Maguire resigned her position as Costume Loft Manager and Transition Manager of Operations, I volunteered to take over some of the duties of the General Manager.

So, I am now assuming those duties which are also much reduced since we are not scheduling a full season – at least not yet!

Let me start by assuring you all that your theatre is in good hands with our staff and volunteers, ably guided by our Board under President Toshik Bukowiecki. As I now receive the emails for gm@langhamtheatre.ca, I handle as many of these as I can, policy questions are forwarded to the Board, and bills and financial correspondence are sent to our Treasurer, Mike Chadwick.

The Costume Loft will now be managed by volunteers Linda MacNaughton and Wendy Henderson. They will be doing some tidying and open it up on a demand basis for donations, then limited rentals for scheduled productions only, not the general public.

Jackie Early, our Facilities Manager, has been keeping the whole theatre, and I mean all of it – inside and out, in spotless condition and being rigorous about ensuring that health protocols are being followed by all who enter and use our space.

Jason King has kept our technical equipment (lighting, sound, and projection) up to snuff and is in charge of helping renters with this equipment as desired. If we do some live streaming, Jason's our go-to expert.

The Victoria Academy of Dramatic Arts has been renting the Lounge four days per week to run courses for budding actors. The students are a

diverse and enthusiastic bunch and even put on a reading of *The Laramie Project*. VADA has extended their rental until the end of May so many more students will benefit from expert instructors like our member Jason Stevens. And I even saw Amanda Lisman teaching there one time.

Theatre SKAM rented our lounge and stage last summer for their intensive program for school-age thespians. They were very clever to do the instruction with each participant in their own "bubble" marked out on the floor. It was very successful, so much so that they have requested the same facilities for this coming summer.

Central Middle School has a drama class in their French Immersion section, ably instructed by Allison Balabuch. Like the last three years, they write, produce, and direct their own show – in French. They rehearse in our Rehearsal Room and Stage three afternoons a week and just finished this year's production. Usually they put on a live show with other schools in the audience and a closing with invited parents. This year they could not do that so they made a video (with the help of Jason King and Perry Burton) which they plan to stream for their usual audiences. Some of that revenue will be donated to our theatre. We also supplied them with special costumes and Mike Kuss, our Scenic Carpenter, helped them with some stage structures.

I have also recently been in contact with Andrew Pirie of LOST (Lawyers On Stage Theatre). They rented our theatre for the last four years around Christmas, performing plays as fund-raisers for local charities and mental health support. They are tentatively asking to rent our theatre again this year for the same reason, only this time doing 10 shows instead of

the usual six. This all depends upon the guidelines from Dr. Bonnie Henry about the allowed size of indoor gatherings. Let's all hope that there will be relief by then, especially if the plan to vaccinate all willing B.C. residents is completed by the end of September.

Meanwhile, Tony Cain and Jon Scheer are looking at suitable plays that can be presented through live-streaming as a staged reading at Langham. Jon is still our Active Production Chair, assisted by Sylvia Hosie, so he has good ideas about what will work in this situation. Tony also produced and directed a play last year starring our Board member Rosemary Jeffery. We'll let you know what they come up with for a fall presentation, and we might even have limited live audiences by then.

When I came in last Friday, the gardening ladies were enjoying a coffee break in the sunshine at the free mini-library. Pearl Arden, Geli Bartlett, Corinna Gilliland, and our wonderful neighbor Lise Chartrand have been busy getting ready for spring. Days are getting longer so it can't be far away, right?

So, as you can see, your theatre is alive and well. This time last year, we were running the terrific musical *Company*, which was well received. Then came an alternate production *I and You*, which was a fabulous two-person show with a surprise ending. And then – BOOM. The COVID19 pandemic hit and things have not been normal since.

But we are working diligently to get back to live theatre. It might have a different look and feel than prior seasons. We are striving to open our space even more to be more inclusive of community members that are marginalized culturally, racially, or socially.

We have a fabulous space here that we want to share with open arms and help others in any way we can.

Stay safe out there, and we'll see you soon.



Remembering Alan Ormerod

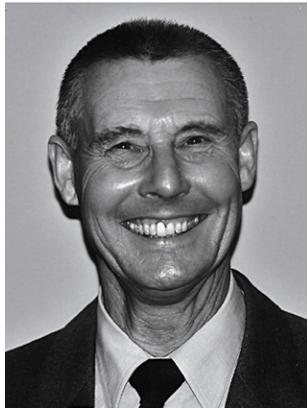
Submitted by Marilyn Kuss

Alan Ormerod passed away on December 22, 2020. He had been an active member at Langham Court Theatre since 1985 when he acted in *Pride and Prejudice* and was set construction assistant, set painter and on the lighting crew for *Foxfire*.

In the following approximately 10 years, Alan acted in seven Langham plays: *Light Up the Sky* (1986), *Murder by the Book* (1987), *Abelard and Heloise* (1988), *And a Nightingale Sang* (1988), *Wind Between the Houses* (1991), *Hobson's Choice* (1992), and *Breaking the Code* (1994).

Alan returned to the Langham stage in 2005, acting in *School for Scandal*, followed by *The Noble Spaniard* (2006), and *Midsummer Night's Dream* (2008). Alan's bio in the program for *School for Scandal* mentions Alan's acting before Victoria as well as his acting here for Masques Theatre and St. Luke's Players.

Alan's last two acting performances at Langham were in 2012 and 2013. The *84, Charing Cross* program joked "Alan has graduated -- over 20 years ago he was the voice of a parrot off stage. Now he is on stage. Yes!!" and in the *Heroes*

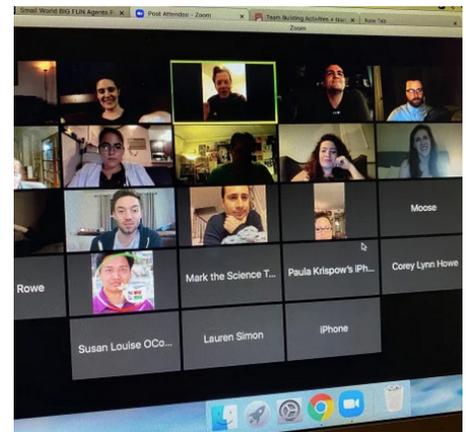


program Alan thanked everyone involved with the production, saying "they have been so supportive in our 'heroic enterprise' – an example of, as Alan's obituary commented on, "his enthusiasm, warm personality, his never-ending supply of jokes and his terrible puns."

Alan was also active backstage – he was responsible for Properties in *You'll Get Used to It: The War Story* in 2005. Alan said it was his first time being involved in finding props as opposed to using them. Working with Alan was his wife, Pat, in her first venture in being involved in a production. In 2007, Alan was responsible for the backstage properties for *Waiting in the Wings*.

Alan was born March 1, 1934 in Lancashire, England. He emigrated in 1969 when he and his family went to live in Fort McMurray, Alberta where he taught mathematics in the high school for the following 15 years. In 1985, Alan moved to Victoria. He taught math at Glenlyon Norfolk school.

Langham will miss Alan.



Calling all Members: Langham Reads a Play

Submitted by Kathy Macovitchuk

We've all been missing theatre and our theatre family, so the Membership and Volunteer Committee would like to invite Langham's members to a series of virtual table readings over Zoom, in which all attendees will have their names placed in a hat. As we go through the character list, whoever's name is drawn will be reading for that character. If we're choosing for a male character and any one's name is pulled from the hat, they get to read that part – a true blind casting.

Our first play reading will be a short play, written by our very own Wendy Merk. This will also be a co-production with Theatre Carpe Diem. *Letitia* is a Jane Austenesque comedy with 12 characters and a narrator.

The reading will take place Thursday, February 11, starting at 7 p.m.

Please email me at kmacovitchuk@hotmail.com to let me know you'd like to be a part of this evening. I will send you the Zoom link information and a copy of the script to read ahead of time so you're familiar with the story.

If this is successful, the Membership and Volunteer Committee hope to organize more of these in the near future.

ST. LUKE'S PLAYERS
COMMUNITY THEATRE SINCE 1948!

Role Play
by Mitch Barnes

It's Opening Night and not all the drama takes place on stage!

One Performance
Saturday, March 13 at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom

Tickets \$5 (plus donation option)
available at Eventbrite

A link to the Zoom production will be provided with ticket purchase.

Check out this new drama premiering as an online production

Other Theatre Happenings



OUT OF THE BOX PRODUCTIONS

Pondering the agency of humanity in an increasingly digitally mediated existence

Out of the Box Productions was formed in the fall of 2003. We believe that by combining drama, dance, music and interactive technology in unique multidisciplinary works, and presenting in more intimate venues, we have created a powerful way to tell stories that are meaningful for our whole community.

Further, in our last three creations, *Chromesthesia*, *Disrupting Solitude* and *Rallentando*, we have investigated diverse methodologies of immersive, digital interactivity; pondering the agency of the human in an increasingly digitally mediated existence while aiming to disseminate the ecological and social influence of a natural setting on the creative process.

www.outoftheboxproductions.ca

Take the Indigenous Canada Online Course for Free

Indigenous Canada is a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) from the UofA Faculty of Native Studies that explores Indigenous histories and contemporary issues in Canada.

From an Indigenous perspective, this course explores key issues facing Indigenous peoples today from a historical and critical perspective highlighting national and local Indigenous-settler relations.

[Registration is now open.](#)



Casting Call

Mountain Dream Productions are looking to cast three male adult actors for our production of *Newsies* which is slated to be performed June 17 to 20 at the Mary Winspear Centre in Sidney.

Newsies is a musical, and you would be welcome to join the company in singing the Finale Ultimo. Don't sing? That's okay, too.

The actors will play policemen and/or thugs and will be involved in some stage fighting. One actor would also play the speaking role of the Mayor of New York.

Time Commitment: Rehearsals are on Tuesdays from 6 to 8 p.m., starting on March 2 and 9, and then picking up on March 30. A rehearsal schedule will be published, and you only have to come to rehearsal when you are called but are welcome at any time. Show week starts Monday, June 14 with a tech/dress rehearsal; two full dress rehearsals on Tuesday/Wednesday and then it's show time.

We are following COVID protocols during rehearsal, but fully expect that we will be able to have a live audience in June. We can discuss what we are doing in this area when we talk.

If you are interested, please contact Producer Rob Forbes at 250-858-1053 or info@mountaindreambc.com so that we can arrange a coffee meeting.