



# ST LUKE'S PLAYERS

## NEWSLETTER March 2008

### “CINDERELLA - THE PANTO”

The panto cast and crew from Cinderella have dispersed (some now involved with other local theatrical productions, including “Rumors” at St Luke’s), the sets have been struck and stored under the stage, lights have been disconnected, dressing rooms vacuumed, costumes and props returned from wherever they were borrowed and the audiences are counting the weeks until next year’s panto! Well, maybe that last one is a bit of an exaggeration!!

Directors Dave & Helena Hitchcock were delighted with and grateful to the very talented and enthusiastic cast & crew. From the audience response, in terms of numbers and comments that were overheard as they left, the production was a success. In fact, 1,285 people (out of a total possible capacity of 1,300) saw the show during the 10 performances. One satisfied patron even went so far as to send the following email:

*“ I went to see Cinderella with my 4 year old grandson, who loves, theatre, and I just had to let you know that it was the best production I had seen in Victoria over the Christmas season. We go regularly to Four-Seasons, Kaleidoscope and Children's Symphony, and any other shows for children, so my grandson is beginning to be an expert on 'theatre'. He immediately wanted to see the show again, but we were at your last Saturday performance but I have promised him that we will see the St. Luke's Christmas Pantomime next year, along with other family members.*

*Your production was excellent with fantastic costumes and stage scenery. The cast was fun and professional - all of them. The atmosphere in the theatre was electric. Please keep up the good work and I look forward to seeing your future plays”.*

What more can be said?!!

### UPCOMING PRODUCTION -“RUMORS”

from Neville Own (Director of this great play)

As you are likely aware “Rumors” by Neil Simon is our next production, which opens Wednesday 9 April and runs until April 19. This is one of Simon’s best-loved plays, and it’s a farce - misunderstandings, doors open and close, who is who? A Deputy Mayor of New York, Charley, and his wife, Myra, are giving an anniversary party, but, due to various incidents, we never see them. It “stars”, in order of appearance, Kat Delancey, Evan Roberts, Deena Kinarthy, Justin Guthrie, Mike Chadwick, Jane Guy, Osiris Malkovich, Joanne Frappell, John Stenning-Johnson and Caroline MacKenzie. Evan, Deena, Joanne and John are all new to St Luke’s Players but I’m sure it will not be the last we will see of them at the Players. On and off stage activities have benefited from Bronwyn Taylor as Stage Manager, Sharon Sutherland as Producer, Gina as Costumer, Tony Gilsean as Set Designer, Cher Own as Set Decorator, Chris Beausoleil as Publicist and a whole host of others for the myriad other jobs that have to be done.

It’s been a delight working with this talented cast and crew and we all look forward to seeing you at the performance.

### NEXT PRODUCTION

After much” toing and froing” with Samuel French Limited, we have at last obtained the performing rights for the Agatha Christie mystery - “And Then There Were None”. Stan & Nancy Davis will be directing this production that hits the boards from June 4 to 14, 2008. Auditions for this popular play, with a cast of 11, will be announced soon - please stay tuned!

## NEXT SEASON

The Play Selection Committee, comprising Jane Guy, Caroline MacKenzie, Antoinette Church, Frank McGilly and Dave Hitchcock, has been hard at work over the past few months reading many possible plays for the 2008/2009 Season. They recently provided the Executive with their recommendations. The Executive has decided on the following season:

“The Heiress” by Ruth & Augustus Goetz	October 15 - 25, 2008
“Sleeping Beauty - the Panto	December 26, 2008 - January 4, 2009
“Random Acts” (an evening of two one-act plays): “Ways & Means” by Noel Coward (from “Tonight at 8.30”) “Exploding Love” by Joseph Coyne	March 4 - 14, 2009
“Nightmare” by Norman Robbins	May 20 - 30, 2009

Dave & Helena Hitchcock will be directing the pantomime again this year. But the Play Selection Committee is currently seeking directors for the other 4 plays, including different directors for the two One - Act plays in March 2009. (These short plays provide an opportunity for new/potential directors to try their hand at directing!) If you are interested in directing any of these plays, or know someone who is, please contact a member of the Play Selection Committee as soon as possible. This committee will make its recommendations to the Executive later in April.

## NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

As many of you will know, there is an ongoing movement of actors and production crew amongst the relatively few community theatre groups in Victoria and the Saanich Peninsula. Members of St Luke’s Players are no exception. We have heard of some of these:

**Kat Delancey** and **Caroline MacKenzie** appeared in a recent (very successful and energetic) production of “Moon Over Buffalo” at Langham Court.

**Brenda Bowcott** was on the Play Selection Committee at Langham Court and is currently Assistant Director for “Shadowlands” (about the love affair of C.S. Lewis.) **Wendy Cornock** will be playing a doctor and **Owen Searle** an Oxford don in the production.

**Kim Furey** appeared in and painted the sets for “Sword in the Stone” by the Four Seasons Musical Theatre.

**Connie te Kampe** is directing and **Kim Furey** is set painting again for a production of “Little Mermaid” by Four Seasons Musical Theatre.

**Tony Gilsean** is designing the set for “The Cemetery Club” at Langham Court later this season.

**Dave Hitchcock** and **Kim Furey** are involved with set construction and set painting respectively for the Gilbert & Sullivan Society’s production of “Patience”.

**Frank McGilly** “performed” on the ice over the New Year resulting in a broken leg. Fortunately he/it is on the mend and no encores are planned!

There is probably plenty more news that we haven’t heard about - so please let Frank McGilly [fjmcgilly@shaw.ca](mailto:fjmcgilly@shaw.ca) know about others in time for upcoming newsletters.

## “YOU KNOW YOU WORK IN COMMUNITY THEATRE, WHEN. . . . .

- “You’ve ever cleaned a tuxedo with a magic marker!”
- “You’ve ever seriously considered not doing in the murder victim because the gunshot might wake up the audience!”
- “You name your son Samuel and tell him that his middle name is in honour of the French side of the family!”

## FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

If you have material, news items or other information that you would like to appear in a future newsletter, please email it to Frank McGilly at [fjmcgilly@shaw.ca](mailto:fjmcgilly@shaw.ca)