



ST LUKE'S PLAYERS

61st Season. No. 1

September 2009

Executive 2009-10

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Vice President: .. Dave Hitchcock
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..... Mike Chadwick
..... Wendy Cornock

St Luke's Players'
Newsletter is published quarterly

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For information about
St. Luke's Players go to:
www.stlukesplayers.org

Website created and maintained
by Steve Sturgess

President's Message

Jane Guy

This is our first newsletter of the 61st season and we are very excited about the upcoming year. Several members have been busy over the summer getting everything ready for the start of the new season. Much needed new flats have been constructed and new floors have been laid in the dressing rooms. Many thanks to all the volunteers.

To date, 136 season's tickets have been ordered and 67 memberships have been sold. A reminder that memberships expired on June 30 so please renew yours to continue receiving this newsletter. The Membership Application form is attached. At \$5 a year this is a great deal!

As we begin our new season, work has begun on planning for our **next** season. Neville Owen & Wendy Cornock will be co-chairing this year's Play Reading Committee. Anyone interested in serving on the committee can contact:

Wendy 250-598-9951
wcornock@shaw.ca or
Neville 250-592-4285
nevowen@shaw.ca

Directors interested in submitting specific plays for consideration to the committee are encouraged to do so. If you have ever thought that a particular play would be great for St. Luke's Players or wondered how the season is chosen, here's your chance to contribute. This will likely

involve 4 or 5 meetings over the next six months and lots of reading!

Thanks are extended to Jon Scheer who conducted an audit of our "books" over the summer. The Executive has met with Jon to go over his findings and recommendations for the coming year.

During the final production of last year the audience were asked to complete a survey. We received 357 completed surveys and these have been collated and summarized (see Page 3). Many thanks to our audience members for this valuable feedback, and to Elaine Lewis and Mike Chadwick for their hard work in make sense of the results.

Not all our news is good, though! We applied for a community gaming grant from the BC Government to purchase a wireless back stage intercom system. As you will have heard, funding for support of the Arts has been severely cut for this year and our grant was denied. We will now have to put our heads together to see how else we can replace our current system which is seriously problematic. Any suggestions would be greatly appreciated.

Jane



The Chalk Garden - by Enid Bagnold

Directed by Rita Humphreys

A reminder that our first show of the season, *The Chalk Garden*, opens on **October 14**.

This psychological drama is about family, relationships, and our basic needs for love, attention and control. It portrays an upper middle class dysfunctional family where the lonely, ageing grandmother is looking after her wild and uncontrollable teenage grandchild Laurel, a dying butler, and an unresponsive garden, with assistance only from an inexperienced but willing manservant.



Alan Ormerod, Rosalind Coleman, Mitch Barnes,
Wendy Cornock, Kate Boutilier



Miss Madrigal, who is engaged without references as governess for Laurel, seems to have an instinctive understanding of both her mixed-up charge and how to make flowers grow in the garden.

Murky pasts and intrigue abound as two other visitors bring their own revelations and problems. The wistful, yet witty, story tells of a chaotic household surrounded by failing relationships and an unforgiving chalk garden.

Jack & the Beanstalk - by John Morley

Directed by Dave & Helena Hitchcock

Preparations for St. Luke's Players' fourth annual Christmas production, *Jack & the Beanstalk* are well underway.

The panto opens on Boxing Day and will run for a total of 10 matinee and evening performances until Jan 3.

There is a cast of 14 principal characters (including Jack, his brother Billy, his mother Dame Trot, a Princess, a King, a Good Fairy, an Evil Fairy, a pantomime cow and, of course, the Giant!), as well as a chorus of Villagers.

For information contact:

Dave and Helena at hitch@shaw.ca or 250 370 1291

REMINDER - AUDITION NOTICE

Auditions for *Jack & the Beanstalk*

Friday October 2 at 7:30 pm or
Saturday October 3 at 2:30 pm

in the Lounge at St. Luke's Hall,
3821 Cedar Hill Cross Road.

Actors of all ages are needed from young
children (6 years old +)
to teenagers to adults to seniors!

Summary of our Audience Survey

At our last show, *Nightmare*, 357 audience members (of whom 84 were season ticket holders) completed a survey designed to help us understand more about the kinds of people who come to our shows and what they like (and dislike) about what we do.

Thanks very much to all of you who participated. The results both educated and provided good advice to the Executive. Many thanks to Elaine Lewis and Mike Chadwick who collated and summarised all the data. Ironically there were very few differences in the responses of a similar survey conducted 10 years ago. Here is a brief summary of our findings.

We discovered that for 30% of the respondents it was their first time at a St Luke's Players' production. The average number of shows people saw in a season was 2.65 out of 4 so it would seem that the regulars are very loyal to the Players. We learned that our audience are nearly all regular theatre goers and attend shows at many other places – mainly Langham Court and the Belfry as well as about 20 others.

We also learned that 71% of our audiences are over the age of 60 and 88% are over 50. One older member gave us hope that the average age will go down as she just brought her 55 year old daughter for the first time.

There is an overwhelming demand for Comedies, Murder Mysteries, Dramas and Thrillers. We were provided with a suggested list of 20 plays, types of play, or playwrights which will be passed on to the Play Reading Committee.

We learned that the main way that people find out about our shows was through the Times Colonist and other newspapers, and an almost equal number found out through a cast or family member, which would indicate we are quite a cosy group of theatre lovers.

There were lots of new ideas, some of which can be addressed by the Executive (how and where to advertise, different food in the concession etc.) and some which can't (liquor bar, unlimited free drinks.....).

The biggest complaint was seating. The current seating arrangements had many comments - generally that the seats were uncomfortable and it would be better to have sloping seating. A related suggestion was to seat tallest at the back and shortest at the front! Seating is a difficult one to solve but the Executive are considering ways to deal with it and welcome any suggestions.

If you want a copy of the detailed survey then just e-mail St. Luke's Players and we will send you one via e-mail. It is too many pages to mail - sorry.

<p><i>If you know who's who and what's what in the lives of our members, and want to share it, please e-mail Deb Taylor at debratw@shaw.ca for inclusion in the next news letter</i></p>	<p>JANE KRIEGER & MADELEINE MILLS ARE INVOLVED IN A FUNDRAISER AT LANGHAM THEATRE FOR THE TARGET THEATRE GROUP WHICH IS A SENIORS HELPING SENIORS GROUP - SHOW IS OCT 15/09</p>	<p>CHER OWEN HAS A NUMBER OF PIECES IN THE STUDIO 30 ART CLUB SHOW AT HILLSIDE MALL OCT 12-18/09</p>
<p>DANN SHERMAN IS THE STAGE MANAGER FOR G&S "MIKADO IN CONCERT", OPENING NOV 7/09</p>	<p>WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND OUR TOWN WITH OUR MEMBERS</p>	<p>PENINSULA PLAYERS, OPENS OCT 29/09 WITH GERALD SCHIEVEN IN "GODSPELL"</p>
	<p>VOS OPENS NOV 20/09 WITH "GYPSY" WITH JON SCHEER AS ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER</p>	<p>CAROLINE MACKENZIE APPEARS IN "PICNIC", WITH LANGHAM COURT THEATRE, OPENING NOV 12/09</p>
	<p><i>Victoria Arts & Culture Fair on Sunday Sept 13 at the conference center was well attended by the arts world. Features from past productions and future programs were displayed. Chris Harris is shown (on left) performing a scene from Victoria Shakespeare Society's "Twelfth Night".</i></p>	<p>THE FOLLOWING SLP MEMBERS RECEIVED AWARDS AT THE THEATRE BC SOUTH ISLAND ZONE FESTIVAL : LYNNEVE STEWART; <i>best supporting actress.</i> KATYA DELANCEY & ELAINE LEWIS; <i>honourable mention in the best actress category</i></p>

No summer break for some

For many at St. Luke's Players the summer is a time for taking a break from theatre, staying away from 3821 Cedar Hill X Road and re-charging those batteries for the coming season. Not so, for a group of dedicated enthusiasts who just couldn't stay away from the place!

Dressing Room Floors

For some time now, concerns have been expressed about the state of the carpets in the dressing rooms. The carpet was old, starting to wear and tear and was difficult to keep clean. So, thanks to money being available from two generous bequests from Bernard Rain and Alec Cumming, it was decided to rip up the old carpet and replace it with vinyl tile. Glenn Wright, Jon Scheer and Dann Sherman answered the call for volunteers to replace the flooring. Thanks guys!

Now our dressing rooms are not only more spacious and functional after the purchase earlier in the year of plastic storage bins for all the props, but they are much cleaner and fresher. All in time for *The Chalk Garden*.



Don Lambton, Tony Gilseman and Neville Owen



Dann Sherman and Jon Scheer work on the floor

Scenery Flats

Last year the Players received a grant from the provincial government of \$1,500 to buy materials to replace our ageing and increasingly dilapidated stock of stage flats. These are the pieces of scenery that are used to build the walls and backdrops for our box sets. During the season, the striking of one set is closely followed by the construction of the next, with virtually no time in between to create new stock and get rid of the old flats. With the pre-school on its summer break, the basement at St. Luke's Hall provided a cool location to complete this task. Therefore, during August approximately 20 new flats were built, including doors and windows.

Involved in this task were Tony Gilseman, Graham Thomson, Don Lambton, Ian Grant, Neville Owen and Dave Hitchcock. Thank you to the hard-working construction crew! Their reward will be the satisfaction of being able to create even better looking sets - starting with *The Chalk Garden*!!

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Memberships expired on June 30 2009. Many thanks to those members who have renewed their membership. If you still wish to renew your membership, please complete the attached form and mail it to the Treasurer along with the very reasonable \$5.00 annual membership fee and a self-addressed stamped envelope so your membership card can be mailed to you.

This is the last newsletter that will be sent to non-members.

You know you work in community theatre if
....your kids know your lines better than you do.
....you get home from rehearsal and have to go back to the theatre because you forgot your kids.

Refer to St. Luke's Players' website for more information on upcoming plays and to look at photos of your favourite productions from the past.

www.stlukesplayers.org