



ST LUKE'S PLAYERS

63rd Season. No. 3

February 2012

Executive 2011-12

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St Luke's Players'
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www.stlukesplayers.org

President's Message

Jane Guy

WOW! What an incredible turn out we had for the panto, *Alice in Wonderland*. Even with the extra two performances we were completely sold out and even had a full house on the free preview night! Congratulations to **everyone** involved for making it such a success and special thanks to the Directors, **Dave and Helena Hitchcock** - this may well have been their best panto ever (from hearing what folk around said). Here is an excerpt of an e-mail received by one of our patrons, and it sums it up.

"I enjoyed Alice. It was my fifth Panto by the St Luke's Players and as always I found it entertaining and funny. This year I had a vested interest in the play: my granddaughter was in the cast and had a blast. Through her I found a bigger appreciation of the time and effort the Panto requires of everybody involved in its successful production. Of course that goes for the directors, the cast, and the supporting crew. But also for the people responsible for the music, publicity, ticket sales and distribution, and all hard-working in costumes, make-up, set design and painting, and many others. My hat off to all."

Rehearsals are well underway for our next production, the thriller by Peter Colley, *I'll Be Back before Midnight*, directed by **Jon Scheer**. This promises to "scare us to death". The set construction crew are working hard and are looking for more helping hands - so please contact Neville at 250 592 4285 if you would like to

help. Opening night is March 14 and tickets go on sale on February 14 at the usual outlets, and will be available at the door.

Please refer to page 4 of this newsletter for more information on auditions for the last production of the season, *Murdered to Death* by Peter Gordon and directed by **Neville Owen**.

We are also happy to promote other productions around town and post audition notices so please check these out later in the newsletter.

After the tremendous success St Luke's Players achieved in last year's BC Senior Games, we are very excited about sending another entry later this year in Burnaby from August 21 - 25. If anyone 55 and over is interested, please contact Neville or any member of the Executive. Visit the website www.bcseniorgames.org.

We continue to enjoy a warm and close relationship with St Luke's Church and all SLP members have been invited to their next Pub Night on Friday February 10 at 6:30. See more information later in the newsletter. In order to help cater, please let them know if you plan to join - call 250 477 6741.

With February 14 just around the corner, I'd like to wish you all a Happy Valentine's Day!

Jane



I'll Be Back Before Midnight - a thriller by Peter Colley

Directed by Jon Scheer



St. Luke's Players

presents

Peter Colley's

I'LL BE BACK



**BEFORE
MIDNIGHT**

Directed by Jon Scheer

March 14 - 17 & March 21 - 24, 2012 at 8 pm
Matinees: March 17, 18, 24 & 25 at 2 pm

Rehearsals and set construction are well under way for the March production *I'll Be Back Before Midnight*. This thriller is directed by **Jon Scheer** and has a cast of four: **Mur Meadows**, **Michelle Mitchell**, **Michael King** and **Jo Barnes**. Jon is assisted by a large production crew including producer **Mike Chadwick** and Stage Manager **Susan Nicholl**.

Tickets go on sale on February 14 at the usual outlets.



In rehearsal: Mur Meadows, Michelle Mitchell & Michael King

The Plot:

A young woman, Jan, is brought to a lonely farmhouse by her husband Greg to recover from a nervous breakdown. But frightening things start to happen almost as soon as they arrive. Then Greg's lustful sister, Laura, with whom he seems to have an unnaturally close relationship, appears unexpectedly. There is also George, the rather strange old farmer who lives nearby, with his tales of murders and ghosts in the neighbourhood. And then there are the flickering lights, the mysterious heartbeats, the hand at the window, the blood on the floor, the corpse in the hallway . . . a nightmare, with twist after twist.

Tickets: Adults \$15 Seniors & Students \$13 Children under 5 yr \$5:
Amica at Douglas House; Ivy's Book Shop; Petals Plus Florist; Russell Books

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



AMICA[™]
at Douglas House

Amica at Douglas House is pleased to sponsor St. Luke's Players' 2011/2012 season.

For more information go to: www.amica.ca

Alice in Wonderland

A traditional panto by Kate Parry & Karen Dolan-Smith

Directed by Dave & Helena Hitchcock



Well the panto is over for another year - make-up removed, the costumes washed, props returned, lights & sound switched off, dressing rooms & kitchen cleaned, chairs stacked, surplus programs & song sheets recycled, scenery taken down and stored under the stage, and our panto family dispersed around Victoria.

While this sixth annual St Luke's Players panto followed the traditional British format, incorporating lots of singing, dancing, silly jokes, crazy chases, outrageous costumes, colourful sets, audience participation, and children invited up on to the stage, there were many "firsts" for *Alice in Wonderland*:

- *Alice* was the first St Luke's Players' production for many of the Production Crew and about half of the Cast, including the actors playing the principal roles of the March Hare (Julie Gray), Princess Euthanasia (Jennifer Dechka), the Queen of Hearts (Jan Manchur), the White Rabbit (Janine Longy) and Alice (Rebecca Lawrence.)

- This was the first panto with Connie te Kampe as Musical Director.
- It was the first time that a St Luke's Players' panto used video technology, capturing the puppetry of Tim Gosley as the Cheshire Cat.
- This was the first panto to run for 12 performances, although it continued to be totally "sold out" weeks before it opened.

So, all that remains for us to do is to say a BIG THANK YOU to all of the Cast (of 25), Production Crew (of 50) and Audience (of almost 1,700, including the Preview Performance), for another most enjoyable, successful, and fun panto.

Dave & Helena Hitchcock
Directors



Notice of Auditions

St Luke's Players' OPEN AUDITIONS Murdered to Death

at St Luke's Hall,
3821 Cedar Hill Cross Road

**Friday March 2 at 7:00 pm or
Saturday March 3 at 1:00 pm**

5 women & 5 men of various ages

12 performances: May 23 – June 2, 2012

For more information contact Director Neville Owen
at nevowen@shaw.ca or 250 592 4285

a comedy/mystery
written by Peter Gordon

Set in 1930's England



An hilarious spoof of Agatha Christie's Miss Marple and Blake Edwards' Inspector Clouseau, this "whodunit" twists and turns with side-splitting antics and ever-increasing merriment and confusion, with an assembled cast of characters guaranteed to delight. The play introduces the inept and bungling Inspector Pratt, who battles against the odds to solve the murder of the house's owner.

But will the murderer be unmasked before every one else has met their doom, or will the audience die laughing first?

CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS

MILDRED BAGSHOT - late 50's. Wealthy widow. Can be quite assertive.

DOROTHY FOXTON - mid 20's. Mildred's long suffering niece, knows the value of money, a fairly normal person.

BUNTING, the butler - in his 60's. Something mysterious in his past, perhaps not the perfect butler. Could or should have a distinctive walk.

COLONEL CHARLES CRADDOCK - 50-60's. A retired Army soldier. Has a blustery manner, lots of 1920's English slang, not much in love with his wife.

MARGARET CRADDOCK - 40-50's. The Colonel's wife, a bit prim and proper, speaks sharply, not very loving to her husband.

PIERRE MARCEAU - 30's. A French art dealer and painter, needs a French accent, as in old time movies, drops the 'h'. But in Act II speaks with his natural English accent.

ELIZABETH HARLEY-TRUMPINGTON - mid 20-30's. Attractive, very high-society. Snooty affectations, inclined to over dramatize everything. But in Act II speaks with her natural Cockney or similar accent.

JOAN MAPLE - 60's. Always calm, makes obvious, glib statements and does knitting. We all know who she is modeled after, don't we Agatha?

INSPECTOR PRATT - 40-50's. An inept, posing, and clumsy walking disaster. We all know who he is modeled after, don't we Blake?

CONSTABLE THOMPSON - 20-30's. A young village constable, intelligent.

Peninsula Players' AUDITIONS How the Other Half Loves

at the Mary Winspear Center in Sidney

Thursday February 9 at 7:30 pm

Saturday February 11 at 2:00 pm

Thursday February 16 at 7:30 pm

3 men & 3 women

For more information contact the Director Sid Clarke
at 250 656 8975

www.peninsulaplayers.bc.ca

Earthly Delights

by Elisabeth Wagner

April 19 to 22

at Berwick house, Royal Oak

*A story in music and words of the writer
Sidonie Gabrielle Collette who wrote Gigi.*

Help required for backstage, lights, sound and set-up.
Please e-mail maninvic@yahoo.com
if you are interested.

What's Happening Around Town

<p>Richard Gauthier and Matthew Mathiason are acting in VOS's <i>Brigadoon</i>, May 4 to 16.</p>	<p>Zoe Brimacombe will perform in Reynold's High School's production of <i>Bye Bye Birdie</i> in March.</p>	<p>Michael Romano is in the chorus for <i>The Drowsy Chaperone</i>, Langham Court Theatre's current production.</p>
<p>Mike Chadwick has been cast as a dirty old Frenchman, one of Sidonie's ex-lovers, in <i>Earthly Delights</i> at Berwick House, Royal Oak, April 19 - 22. Rumour has it that he is growing a beard and moustache for the part.</p>	<p>We are always interested in what our members are doing in the theatre arena around town - if you know "who is doing what", e-mail the details to jane-guy@shaw.ca for inclusion in our newsletters.</p>	<p>Ryan May has a project <i>Bach with Nature</i> which involves "crossing Canada planting apple trees and playing Beethoven". For more information go to: www.bachwithnature.com or ryan@bachwithnature.com.</p>
<p>Jo Barnes is involved with the Four Season's show <i>Charlotte's Web</i> in May.</p>	<p>Geli Bartlett performed in Theatre Inconnu's <i>A Day in the Life of Joe Egg</i> in December.</p>	<p>Gerald Shieven is in the chorus for the Pacific Opera's upcoming show <i>Carmen</i>.</p>
<p>Caroline McKenzie de Korte and Mitch Barnes are involved with <i>She Stoops to Conquer</i>, the Readers' Theatre at Langham Court Theatre on Feb 18.</p>	<p>Elizabeth Brimacombe is acting in Peninsula Players' next production, <i>Murder at the Howard Johnson's</i> in March.</p>	<p>Gerald Shieven is Artistic Director in <i>Seasons of Love - A Musical Valentine & Dine</i> at the Muse Winery & Bistro on February 11 & 14; Michelle Mitchell is performing.</p>

Muse Winery & Bistro Present

Seasons of LOVE



A Musical Valentine & Dine

Feb 11 & 14 at Muse Winery

11195 Chalet Rd, North Saanich
 \$55 for an unforgettable evening of delectable dining and enrapturing entertainment.
 Wine & appetizers start at 6pm
 Tickets from Stonestreet Café at Muse Winery
 or call 250 656 2552 or 250 655 9295
 Make it a date with your sweetheart or your friends!



Friday February 10

6:30pm - 9:30?pm

Beer & Wine
(\$reasonable)

Soft Drinks

Snacks

Games, Music




Come and relax with your friends!

To help us prepare, let us know how many will be in your party. Please call the office, 250-477-6741.