



# ST. LUKE'S PLAYERS

COMMUNITY THEATRE SINCE 1948!

66<sup>th</sup> Season. No. 4

April 2015

## Executive 2014-15

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St Luke's Players'  
Newsletter is published quarterly

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Beverly van Druten-Blais

For information about  
St. Luke's Players go to:  
[www.stlukesplayers.org](http://www.stlukesplayers.org)

## President's Message

*Bronwyn Taylor*

Dear Members:

Staging a period piece such as *Victoria's House*, is always a challenge for community theatre costumers, set decorators and those responsible for procuring properties appropriate to the time. Many sound and lighting effects added to director **Jon Scheer's** artistic vision for the show. It was very well received by our audiences, some saying it is the best show we have ever done! This is all thanks to the excellent cast and hard-working crew that brought the show together.

**Graham Thomson's** last contribution to SLP before he passed away at the end of January was to design the wonderful set for *Victoria's House*. Donations to the Players in his name continue to come in. If you wish to make a donation, cash or a cheque made out to St. Luke's Players can be sent to P.O.Box 50044, 1594 Fairfield Ave., Victoria, V8S 5L8

Our final show of the season runs May 20-31 and is the comedy/farce *Barely Heirs*, by David Lassig, directed by **Neville Owen** and **Sharon Sutherland**. Tickets go on sale April 20 at the usual outlets, and will be available at the door during the run.

It is becoming increasingly difficult to find enough volunteers for Front of House and Concession and I am not sure why, so if you have volunteered before and can do so again, why not enlist a friend to come with you for company and to learn the ropes? You will get a comp ticket to see the show on another night/afternoon so you won't miss out seeing the show be-

cause you are helping in the kitchen. If you are interested in getting involved with SLP in other capacities, you can see what we have to offer by checking the updated version of our Production Manual on the website: <http://www.stlukesplayers.org>

Please think about ordering Season Tickets for 2015-16. You will save over buying individually for each show, and have reserved seats in the front few rows. The sooner you send in your application, the closer to the front your seats will be. If you are attending as a group, please send in all applications in one envelope. That way we can be sure to seat you with your friends.

Season Tickets can be ordered for the full season (4 shows) or for just 3 shows (excluding the panto). Application forms will be available at the venue during the *Barely Heirs*, or on line: <http://www.stlukesplayers.org>

The Play Selection Committee has been hard at work for several months reading and choosing plays that they recommended to the Executive for its approval for the 2016-17 season, a full year ahead. The committee also advertised for, and has chosen, directors for the up-coming season.

SLP continues to participate on the church's Building and Maintenance Committee. We are still pursuing the feasibility of creating a proper lighting and sound booth for the technical crew at the back of the hall.

Best regards,

Bronwyn



# Barely Heirs

a comedy  
by David Lassig

Directed by Neville Owen  
& Sharon Sutherland



Preparations are well under way for *Barely Heirs*. As the title suggests it is a comedy/farce. One definition of farce is it presents realistic people in an unrealistic situation and that certainly fits this play!

Jane will inherit a large sum provided she can show she is married. Of course she isn't, so "borrows" her best friend Claire's husband ... unknown to Claire! When the lawyer shows up to present the cheque, chaos and confusion ensue as a series of unexpected obstacles arise, including the arrival of Jane's ex-boyfriend and the police. As things become increasingly convoluted, the ruse gets harder and harder to hold together in this fast-paced farce. Will Jane lose everything, or just barely pull it off?

The talented cast comprises: **Natalie Munro, Nicole Locke, Kevin Barreca, Robert Leather, Brian Thibodeau, Janine Longy** and **Gary Johnson**.

The Production crew, led by **Susan Nicholl** as Producer and **Dave Hitchcock** as Stage Manager, are working hard and we are confident that the production will uphold the Player's high standard.

Interestingly, this recent 2010 American play has been performed in BC at Armstrong and Keremeos to enthusiastic reviews.

Neville Owen



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are looking for Front of House and Concession volunteers for *Barely Heirs* from May 20 to 31. If you are available for any shifts during the run, please contact Monike Hawkes-Frost at [monikeh65@gmail.com](mailto:monikeh65@gmail.com)

Evenings: May 20, 21, 22, 23, 27, 28, 29 & 30 at 7:30 pm

Matinees: May 23, 24, 30 & 31 at 2 pm

# Victoria's House

by Fred Carmichael  
Directed by Jon Scheer



Lisa Taylor, Jane Guy, Rob LeBlanc, Colleen Davis, Ken Yvochuk, Matt Mathiason, James Hunter, Gail Straughan, Kasia Karczewska

I want to thank the cast and crew of *Victoria's House* for all of their hard work in helping to create what I consider the finest production I've ever directed. I especially want to thank the often overlooked crew that kept each scary performance going - Stage Manager, **Bronwyn Taylor**, Assistant Stage Manager, **Susan Nicholl**, Sound Operators **Trisha Tonkin** and **Joanne Frappell**, and Lighting Operators **Carol-Anne Moore** and **Miles Provencher**. The sound and light concepts made all of their work that much harder with 80 sound cues and 60 lighting cues. They worked smoothly as a team to support those on stage. It would have been a far less dramatic show without them.

I also want to reflect on the passing of **Graham Thomson** who designed the set for *Victoria's House* which he never got to see in its finished state. Graham was always a joy to work with. His talents as a carpenter were in constant demand for the specialty constructions no one else could create. He will be missed.

Submitted by Jon Scheer, Director

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

[www.stlukesplayers.org](http://www.stlukesplayers.org)

*Hello Bronwyn,*

*On behalf of myself and Graham's family, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many St. Luke's Players friends of Graham who shared stories, condolences and support on the occasion of his passing. Our huge thanks to Dave Hitchcock for a truly entertaining tribute to the wonderful man. He was able to illustrate and share "the man who was Graham" with many who did not know this aspect of Graham's life. It was fun and uplifting and perfect for the tone of a Celebration of Life.*

*I am pleased to advise that I have a cheque for \$50 from one of Graham's friends, payable to St. Luke's Players, as well as a cash donation of \$20 from someone who asked me to pass it along anonymously to St. Luke's Players.*

*On behalf of Marilyn Rose, Garry Thomson, Jen Harlow, Deanne Young, Brian Young, Cameron Young and Emily Young, thank you once again for enriching Graham's life.*

*Marilyn*

## Our Members Around Town

**Hillary Allan** is playing Aunt Maddie Fae in Langham Court's *August Osage County* from April 23 to May 9.

**Kathy Macovichuk** will be portraying Aunt Julia Tessman and **Beverly van Druten-Blais** will be playing the housekeeper, Berta in Henrik Ibsen's *Hedda Gabler* with workingclass theatre, from April 28 to May 6.

**Allan Haynes** is writing and directing Peninsula Players' panto, *Jack and the Beanstalk*; auditions will be at the end of August/early September, with rehearsals starting soon after.

**Virginia Landucci, Sandy Weinmeyer, Jean De Cartier & Merry Hallsor** were dressers at Langham Court's *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*.

**Adam Tait** performed in *Addams Family* and next will be in *Into the Woods* with Fighting Chance Productions, both in Vancouver.

**Elaine Lewis** danced the hula and **Neville Owen** ran the sound for Monterey Senior Players' *The Best of The Best* in March; **Neville Owen** directed their production of *The Ferris Wheel*.

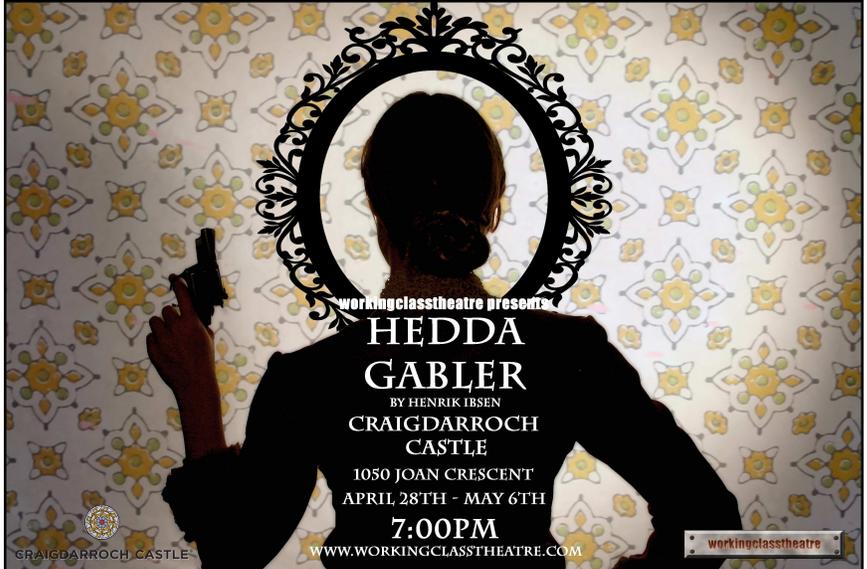
**Penny Pitcher** has been busy with Target Theatre's recent fundraiser, *I'm Still There*, and in their upcoming comedies.

**Wendy Cornock** and **Beverly van Druten-Blais** are totally enjoying "Acting Classes" with Wendy Merk at Intrepid Theatre this month.

**Lucille Proulx** became a member of Monterey Senior Players 4 years ago without any experience, as playing in a theatre group was one of her 'bucket list' wishes. At 83 years old she is still able to memorize lines and be an active player. Her next role is that of Karen, Bert's wife who is celebrating a birthday in *Happy Birthday Sweet Sixteen*.

### Did we miss you?

Please contact Julie Gray at [parameduck@shaw.ca](mailto:parameduck@shaw.ca) to update us on news of members around town.



Workingclasstheatre, established in 2009 in Vancouver, is excited to bring it's unique brand of theatre to Victoria for the first time this year with a mandate to produce the works of emerging artists, stage new Canadian work and provide training opportunities for performing artists. Our 2015 season ends with *Hedda Gabler* by Henrik Ibsen, set amidst the beautiful architecture of Craigdarroch Castle. In a city saturated by the arts, workingclasstheatre strives to define itself through a commitment to the ensemble and sustainable business models. We work hard, we play hard - and it shows. Thank you, from the bottom of our hearts for supporting our dream!

Tristan Bacon

## VOLUNTEERS WANTED:

Someone with **videoing experience** to create short interview clips with the cast/director to post on our website and facebook pages.

Someone who is **savvy with social media** and can develop our social media presence through YouTube, Twitter, Instagram, etc.

Contact Susan if you are willing to take on either, or both of these roles:

[susan\\_nicholl@shaw.ca](mailto:susan_nicholl@shaw.ca)



Peninsula Players and the Mary Winspear Centre proudly present

## Neil Simon's



The Berwick Royal Oak  
(next to Howard Johnson Inn)  
Friday, May 8 and Saturday, May 9  
at 7:30 p.m.  
Sunday, May 10  
at 2:00 p.m.

The Charlie White Theatre  
(Mary Winspear Centre)  
Friday, May 15 and Saturday, May 16  
at 7:30 p.m.  
Sunday, May 17  
at 2:00 p.m.

Tickets for all venues are available online at [ThePeninsulaPlayers.ca](http://ThePeninsulaPlayers.ca) or at [Tickets.MaryWinspear.ca](http://Tickets.MaryWinspear.ca), or at the Winspear Centre Box Office (250-656-0275). Tickets for the Berwick Royal Oak Theatre are also available at Dig This in the Broadmead Centre Mall.

[www.thepeninsulaplayers.ca](http://www.thepeninsulaplayers.ca)

[www.marywinspear.ca](http://www.marywinspear.ca)



## ANNOUNCING OUR 2015-16 SEASON

### Opening Night

A comedy by Norm Foster  
Directed by Geoffrey J. Davidson  
(October 14 to 25, 2015)

**Synopsis:** The antics begin as Jack and Ruth Tisdale celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary with an evening at the theatre. It's a dream come true for Ruth and an imposition for Jack who would rather be at home watching the World Series. However, after the events both on and off the stage that fateful night, their lives and those of all involved are irreparably altered.

### Mother Goose

A traditional panto by Sheila Coultish, Peggy Harris and Ian Matthews  
Directed by Merry Hallsor & Dave Hitchcock  
(Dec 18, 2015 to Jan 2, 2016)

**Synopsis:** Mother Goose, her large family and their goose Priscilla are happy living in their big old boot, but the King's evil Chancellor plots to evict them all and take their land. Will his wicked plan succeed or will good triumph over bad?? This traditional Christmas pantomime tells the tale with singing, dancing and plenty of laughs along the way.

### Cliffhanger

A comedy/thriller by James Yaffee  
Directed by Penelope Harwood  
(March 9 to 20, 2016)

**Synopsis:** Mingling suspense and humor, this ingeniously plotted thriller follows all the unexpected twists and turns which result when a seemingly mild-mannered professor of philosophy is driven to apparent murder to protect his reputation and career. Thereafter, as the professor and his wife plot a foolproof way to dispose of the body, complications arise in the form of a rather sinister young student who is about to flunk out of school (unless his grade is changed) and who happened to witness the professor's violent action.

### Bull in a China Shop

A mystery/comedy by CB Gilford  
Directed by Michael King  
(May 18 to 29, 2016)

**Synopsis:** Six old ladies – presumed sweet until they prove otherwise – have a unique solution to the problem of getting that handsome homicide detective, Dennis O'Finn, to pay them a visit. You'll find that a nice genteel homicide, with a cup of tea as the murder weapon, is all it takes. However, when Detective O'Finn discovers he's the motive for this murder, and he decides to distance himself from the ladies, what are the sweet dears to do?

### Preliminary Panto Preparations Proceed

To all of you lovers of panto, this is a (very, very) early warning that preparations for this year's *Mother Goose* have already begun.

"Oh no, they haven't  
"Oh yes, they have!"

The script is being adapted for our local audiences, suitable songs selected, and the production team assembled.

Actors will be able to audition in the middle of September (stay tuned for dates and times!) for a variety of interesting roles, including Mother Goose (the Dame), her children (nursery rhyme characters), Priscilla (the goose), Jack (Principal Boy), Jill (his twin sister), Old King Cole, Queen Cole, Princess Connie Cole, Fairy Good Heart and Pom Pom (her apprentice), not forgetting the evil Chancellor and his bumbling henchman.

So, if you are a seasoned panto performer, an actor who has never been in a panto before or someone who simply enjoyed watching a previous panto, please consider auditioning in September. We will be looking for actors of all ages (8 to 80!) and experience (none to lots!) who want to be part of this annual tradition at St Luke's. Please help to spread the word.

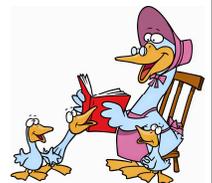
Copies of the script will be available in a couple of months, but to be sure of receiving yours, or if you have questions, please contact us at any time.

Rehearsals will start in September and performances run from December 18 to January 2.

We guarantee a lot of hard work (anything worth doing, always is!), but with lots of fun and satisfaction, for all involved in the production.

"Oh yes, we do"  
"Oh no, you don't"  
"Oh yes, we do!"

Merry Hallsor ([rmhallsor@shaw.ca](mailto:rmhallsor@shaw.ca))  
and  
Dave Hitchcock ([hitch@shaw.ca](mailto:hitch@shaw.ca))  
Co-Directors



### SAVE THE DATE

St. Luke's Players AGM/BBQ on Sunday July 26  
at 3 p.m. at  
1741 Barrie Road. More details to follow.