



ST. LUKE'S PLAYERS

COMMUNITY THEATRE SINCE 1948!

NEWS

September 2024

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2024-25 EXECUTIVE

President Malcolm Harvey
 Vice President Beverly van Druten-Blais
 Treasurer Mike Chadwick
 Secretary Susan Nicholl

MEMBERS AT LARGE:

Geoffrey Davidson
 Steven Lewis
 Sheila McKenzie
 Jim Rabb
 Bronwyn Taylor

St. Luke's Players News

Editor: Beverly van Druten-Blais
 Submissions for the Newsletter:
SaltchuckStudios@gmail.com

Memberships
 & Season Tickets
 Bronwyn Taylor &
 Susan Nicholl

Graphic Design & Website
 Saltchuck Studios
 Beverly van Druten-Blais

For information:
www.stlukesplayers.org
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This is my first opportunity as President of St. Luke's Players Community Theatre to thank all of you for your support and encouragement. I hope I will be the kind of President

this wonderful group of people deserves.

Your new Executive has a number of challenges ahead (as well as a wonderful season!) and principal among them is rising costs. You'll all be aware of this in

your daily lives so I don't need to detail it, but I think there's something we can all do to help without spending money. Our single largest cost is advertising; paid advertising rates have risen sharply and we know that probably half of our expenditures are wasted....we just don't know which half! We also know that word of mouth is our best method which is why, for most shows, our audiences grow as the run goes on.

So, what I'm asking of you is two things; first, attend show performances early in the run so you can tell your friends and family about them and secondly, spread

the word to the other clubs, associations and meetings you attend by forwarding SLPCT's social media posts, printing off the posters and handing them out, or simply by letting others know about St. Luke's Players Community Theatre.

Too many people don't know about St. Luke's Players Community Theatre, but when they do find us, they are usually very surprised at the quality of performances we present. Encourage Greater Victoria to get to know us!

~ Many thanks,
 Malcolm Harvey



Our new executive: Back Row: Malcolm Harvey, Mike Chadwick, Jim Rabb
 Front Row: Sheila McKenzie, Steven Lewis, Beverly van Druten-Blais, Susan Nicholl
 Missing: Geoffrey Davidson, Bronwyn Taylor





The weather cooperated for our 2024 AGM, in spite of early morning rain. Many thanks to those members who were able to join us in support of our troupe, and to enjoy some good food and great company! We were able to give a sizable cheque to St. Luke's Church as per our business agreement. Unforeseen sickness forced us to cancel some performances of our hilarious final show. Heavy sigh... Otherwise we had a good season with another great one coming up! Woo Hoo!

What have we been doing?



Julie Gray is in a play at Theatre Inconnu called *Significant Other* "A lovely, bittersweet comedy... [Sept 18– Oct 5] She plays the grandmother of a young man who is experiencing loss in his life.



Alan and Peta McKenzie spent two months in Europe looking after a total of six dogs, three cats, half a dozen chickens and Gary, the Tortoise! While in London we saw *Kiss Me Kate* and *Tina the Musical*. Came home via Toronto with a side trip to Stratford to see 'La Cage aux Folles' and *Something Rotten*.



Now gearing up to work on the VOS fall production of *Sweeney Todd*.



Bill Tolsen is currently helping construct the set for the Jury Room. In September, he hopes to audition for the panto, Camelot.



Jan Streader – We had so many good wishes after people saw us in the Oak Bay Tea Party Parade on CHEK TV and in the Times Colonist.

ZuZu the clown (Jan) loves walking with the St. Lukes Players' Alice in Wonderland entry, celebrating Community Theatre since 1948. The Tea Trolley was only

finished on Friday; one of the ladies had the giant tea pot in her basement. It is quite a stretch to walk but the music drives you on, plus smiles all the way. At the end I had a lovely sit and a cuppa in the Girl Guides Tea Tent. We were so lucky with the weather.

It was wonderful to wear one of my all-time favourite costumes at Victoria's Pride Parade. I call it Suzannah Banana, and it has danced me into the Edmonton Caribbean and International Street Performers Festivals and many Pride Parades.

On Sunday I danced the entire parade from Fisgard to the finish. It is actually much easier than the Oak Bay Tea Party Parade, which is mostly up hill.

The costume design is based on a market woman from Salvador de Bahia in Brazil. The fabric was chosen to "read" from 30 feet; the skirt is a complete circle, made to be danced. It was fashioned by my talented costumier friend Geri Dittrich of Edmonton who works in film, theatre and for the International Stilt Walkers Society.





Janine Longy – Joey, Tracey and I did our annual trip to the Flying U Ranch. Also I have been meeting with a great crew to plan for my play at Langham Court Theatre, *The Wickhams: Christmas at Pemberley*.



Beverly and Guy – made our summer getaway trip to a cabin on Quadra Island. For a week

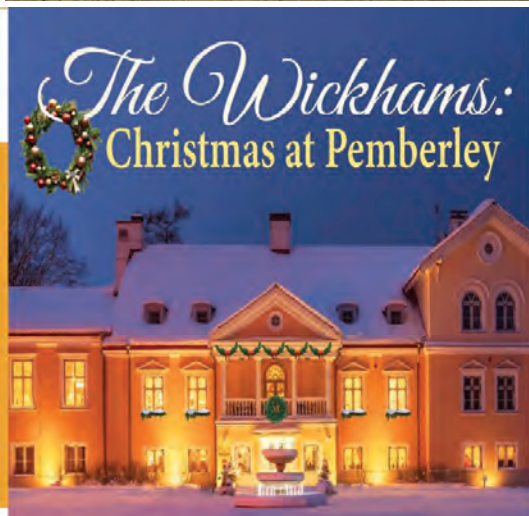


we shared the gorgeous surroundings with 4 other friends. We swam, paddled, sailed, ate and played the very cool games that are there, as well as those we brought. No television, but 4 out of 6 were on their phones a little too much for my liking!

This photo was taken from the deck of the cabin of me gleefully sailing across Hyacinth Bay in my kayak the SS Minion—which has since been fatally injured by a parkade. :(

Meanwhile, I've been rehearsing with my old and new friends for Langham's season opener, *Ravenscroft*. Wendy Cornock, Danielle Greschner and I are treading the boards with James Johnson, Georgia Tooke and Lexi Redding in this psychological drama, a thinking person's Gothic thriller, a dark comedy that is both funny and frightening. [September 25 – October 13]

In a scene when the 'Inspector' (James) is threatening to arrest a character, he gropes around for his handcuffs. Well, he found them and promptly locked one half on his left wrist. No key. Trip to police station to be released. Too funny!



The Wickhams: Christmas at Pemberley

OPEN AUDITIONS

Friday, September 6 & Saturday, September 7

Written by **Lauren Gunderson and Margot Nelson**

Directed by **Janine Longy**

A companion piece to the delightful *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley*, as the story unfolds upstairs at Pemberley, the servants downstairs find themselves in the midst of a holiday scandal. An unwelcome visitor has stumbled into the hall in the middle of the night – Mr. Darcy's nemesis and Lydia's incorrigible husband, Mr. Wickham. This story delves into class, privilege, family, and forgiveness.





Steven Lewis –

There I was, taking it easy on Canada Day when an email arrived at 3:30 in the afternoon from Gettin' Higher Choir director, Dick Jackson.

Urgent Request for Singers This Evening

Call for Singers July 1, 2024

Canada Day Celebration at Legislative Buildings

Dick writes: I got a phone call out of the blue, from the recording artist named MAUVEY ("moh-vee")

asking for singers to join on two very easy songs on stage at 7:30pm tonight. (His choir's travel plans were disrupted by the WestJet labour action). I'd like to help him out, so if you are available to:

- come to the Embassy Inn on Belleville for 5:00pm for organizing and rehearsal
- be at the stage in front of the Legislative Building for 7:00pm setup
- ready to go on at 7:30pm

We ended up providing backup for 3 songs.

I have sung for sold out houses at the Royal Theatre, and as back up for La Nef at Symphony Splash, but I think this is the biggest audience I have performed in front of.



ST. LUKE'S PLAYERS
COMMUNITY THEATRE SINCE 1948

AN ENGAGING DRAMA

JURY ROOM



Written by C.B. Gilford

Directed by Jacquollyne Keath

Evenings 7:30
Oct 9–12 & 16–19
Matinees 2:00
Oct 12, 13, 19, 20

Twelve jurors gather to decide the fate of a lovely young girl. Did she stab her uncle in cold blood? Eleven jurors say yes. One, a student actress says no. She begs them to act out the testimony, and see if it looks true. Furniture is rearranged, props are brought in, including the real murder weapon. As the jurors lose themselves in their roles, the play-acting murder threatens to become real. Will it? If the girl didn't do it, who did?

Jury Room is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com

Tickets \$18.00 available via eventbrite, at The Papery, 734 Fort St. or at the door
All performances are held at St Luke's Hall, 3821 Cedar Hill X Rd • Like us on Facebook
Website: www.stlukesplayers.org • Phone: 250-884-5484 • Email: stlukesplayers@yahoo.ca

*Members and supporters
You are invited to join us for*

*The Grand Opening of
The Vinnie Chadwick Lounge*

*Saturday September 21, 2024
5-8pm*

Langham Court Theatre

*Please dress in your most elegant attire
to honour Vinnie's timeless elegance.*

*RSVP to gm@langhamtheatre.ca
By September 13, 2024*

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The Vinnie Chadwick Lounge

**Grand
Opening
CEREMONY**



Is THAT a new STAGE FLOOR?

For many of those reading this, it may come as a surprise that the stage at St Luke's has a new floor!

As an actor, you're likely more aware of your fellow actors, your lines, your blocking, your costume, your props, the set and even the audience. The floor is something that you walk on and try not to fall down on. As an audience member, because the seating is below stage level, you really don't see the stage floor, although you may be aware of any carpets or rugs that are laid on it.

However, as set builders, painters, set dressers and others who spend much time kneeling and working close to the stage floor, we have become increasingly aware that the tiles are cracking, breaking and coming up in large chunks!

The set for "The Outsider" on the old floor



What to do?

With immediate support from the Church Wardens, a meeting was quickly arranged to discuss the situation. The Church brought in a couple of professional flooring experts to recommend the best course of action and provide estimates.

It was confirmed that the existing crumbling tiles were, indeed, asbestos, but could be effectively sealed by covering them with new vinyl boards, together with a shallow transition strip at the curtain line to avoid creating a tripping hazard.

As the set for *The Outsider* was under construction at the time, it was decided to schedule the laying of the new floor for early July, after the final performance and the set had been struck.

At the same time, the SLP Executive agreed that the Players would contribute towards the cost of the new floor.

This project meant clearing absolutely everything off the stage floor, as the new vinyl would extend out to the perimeter walls. Therefore, our stock of stored wall flats, door flats, archways, ladders, saws and other set building "stuff" would have to be temporarily moved down into the hall, so that the work could take place on the stage.



Stage totally bare — ready for new floor to be laid

The call went out for volunteers to help clear the stage before the work and then replace everything after the new floor was laid.



New vinyl floor laid and flats returned to the wings

Great response!

So, during early July, a very enthusiastic and efficient group from the Players (and the Church) completed each move in less than half an hour. Thank you to everyone involved.

Now we will all have to be extra careful not to spill paint on the new floor or, at least, not to be the first person to do so! No pressure!! But we've bought more painting drop sheets, just to be sure!

So, when you are next "treading the boards", or watching a performance at St Luke's, please pay particular attention to the new stage floor!

~ Dave Hitchcock
Set Builder



With sad hearts we share that Ron Rubin, who has served on the SLPCT Executive and worked on the Play Selection Committee, is now in hospice.

Our best wishes go out to him and his family.



"Clean Up the Joint Project"



The call went out for able and willing peeps to come together for planning and working to go through all manner of the troupe's props, costumes and miscellaneous stuff and toss, recycle and catalogue with labels.

Over 5 days we had several volunteers chip in and we got the job done. Unfortunately we were too busy to take many photos. We were able to join the *Jury Room* set building crew for tea breaks.

Malcolm Harvey and Katy Johnson went through the set paint. They sorted, labeled and set aside expired paint that Katy took to the recycling depot—twice! Merry Hallsor, Deb Taylor, Janet Grogan, Jude Somers, Geli Bartlett and Beverly van Druuten-Blais dug in and cleaned up the bins in the dressing rooms. Janet took a few carloads home for sorting to recycle etc. Beverly sorted and tidied the makeup and hair accessories collection. Helena Hitchcock and Beverly went through all the Panto props. They sorted, photographed and catalogued the items and re-stored them under the stage in labeled bins. And Wendy (bless her heart) immersed herself in the Panto costumes and accessories cupboard and sorted, culled and tidied up the bottomless mess there.

What a wonderful group of people we have in our troupe! Thanks so much. You all rock!





Written by Ben Crocker

Directed by Heather Lee

Sat Sept 14 • 2–4pm

Play runs Dec 12–30, 2024

Sun Sept 15 • 4–6pm

Rehearsals are on Mon, Weds and Fri evenings, following a fun Meet & Greet

Callbacks TBA

Located at St. Luke's Community Hall,
3821 Cedar Hill X Road

Auditions are open to enthusiastic folks of all ages and experience.

Please see our website for more details.

Register your audition with:
Heather Lee heather280@hotmail.com



A 2025 VICTORIA GILBERT & SULLIVAN SOCIETY PRODUCTION

AUDITIONS

HMS PINAFORE

2024 Principal Auditions and Chorus placement:

Sun Nov 17 • 1–4pm

Thur Nov 21 • 7–10pm

Location:

James Bay New Horizons, 234 Menzies Street

Contact Linda Troke to book a time:

(250) 882-2093 or lindyloowho@hotmail.com

Rehearsals:

- Mondays 7–9pm starting Jan 20 for full company
- Thursdays 7–9pm starting Jan 23 for principals

Early Additional Rehearsals:

- Thurs Jan 9 and Thurs Jan 16 for full company
- Mon Jan 13 for principals only

2025 PERFORMANCE DATES

Sat Apr 5 • 7:30pm

Sun April 6 • 2:00pm

Dave Dunnett Community Theatre,
Oak Bay High School

Sat April 12 • 2:00pm

Sun April 13 • 2:00pm

At Charlie White Theatre,
Mary Winspear Centre Sidney

Music Director: Peter Butterfield

Stage Director: Heather Lee