



ST. LUKE'S PLAYERS

COMMUNITY THEATRE SINCE 1948!

NEWS

February 2025

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2024-25 EXECUTIVE

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For information:

www.stlukesplayers.org

www.facebook.com/stlukesplayers.com



Recently I took a few minutes to read some of the history of St. Luke's Players Community Theatre which is on our website. It's well worth a read since

some of it will sound very familiar to today.

Interestingly, I noticed that, while the first plays were organized in 1948 by "Nicky" Nicholson, the driving force behind early SLP, they were produced as the Doncaster Players, and performed at Doncaster School.

In 1950, when the school decided they didn't want to continue to host plays, Canon Pike of St. Luke's church invited them to perform in the church hall under the name of St. Luke's Players. The first play under these auspices was apparently *Our Hearts Were Young and Gay* performed February 7 & 8, 1950.

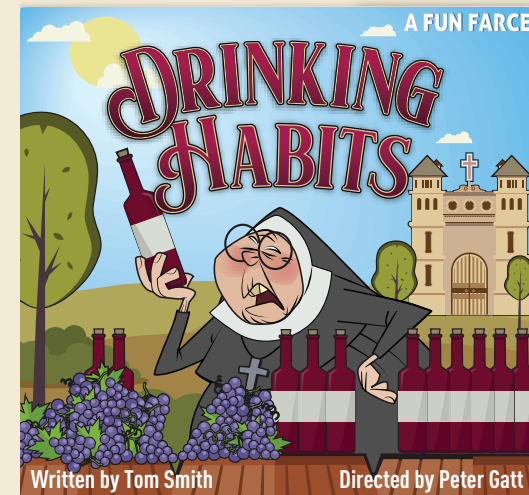
So, 2025 is the 75th anniversary of the actual founding of St. Luke's Players and our association with St. Luke's church. Something worth celebrating I think.



The Players have always been a very active bunch and have attracted some great talent over the years. Some years only 2 or 3 plays were done, and some were performed at other sites, but in 1952 the group put on 10! Participating, and winning in regional drama festivals was also part of the action. Runs of plays were often much shorter, some having only a handful of performances, but things were never really quiet. It is our hope that we are continuing the traditions and successes of the past years of the Players.

We have a great productions lined up with a lovely mix of mirth and murder. Get your tickets now! ~ Many thanks,
Malcolm Harvey

AUDITIONS!



**Fri Feb 28, 7-9pm or
Sun Mar 2, 2-4pm
Callbacks Mon Mar 3, 7-9pm**

We encourage all actors experienced and new to the stage.

Play runs June 11-22, 2025

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

Auditions are cold reading from the script.

Please check our website for details.

Questions: Peter Gatt pgatt73@gmail.com

Scripts may be borrowed as from Oak Bay Flower Shop,
102-2187 Oak Bay Ave, 250-595-242



ST. LUKE'S PLAYERS

COMMUNITY THEATRE SINCE 1948

What have we been doing?



This sign made me smile the other day on my morning walk.
~Penny Pitcher



"And now for something completely different"
I am looking for several Newsweek magazines or Times or even Capitol

Times magazines for our upcoming play. Setting is sometime in 1980. As long as the cover doesn't have a very time specific face, any date will work. Please contact me via debratw@gmail.com
~ Debra Taylor Wright

We are looking for a person into Social Media to help with our publicity team and a sound designer for our next play. stlukesplayers1948@gmail.com

Coming to a THEATRE near you:

Rehearsals are in full swing—literally—for Victoria Gilbert & Sullivan Society's HMS Pinafore. And who do we find there singing and dancing and having a jolly good time? Seven of our SLPCT members, and more specifically, from our recent Panto: Camelot; that's who:



Beverly van Druten-Blais and Shannon Demers (front left) will be warbling away as Sir Joseph Porter's relatives. Kaidyn Robertson (top left) enthusiastically plays the Boatswain, Joe Schuebel (far right) is crushing it as Captain Corcoran, while Vincent Scholefield and Steven Lewis are his jaunty sailors. All under the tutelage of Heather Lee (centre) as our stage director/choreographer and Peter Butterfield as music conductor.

Like our last semi-staged concert (Pirates of Penzance) there will be minimal stage furniture and sets. All the cast will be present on stage. But unlike the last concert, we will be performing on the more spacious and grander venues of Dave Dunnett Theater and Charlie White Theatre in Sidney. Tickets are on sale now. Don't miss this wonderful romp!

VICTORIA
G&S
Society

Victoria Gilbert and Sullivan Society presents a semi-staged production of:

HMS PINAFORE

Or the lass who loved a sailor

Peter Butterfield
Music Director

Heather Lee
Stage Director

Robert Jan Dukarm
Accompanist

Elizabeth Sly & Linda Troke
Producers

SAT APRIL 5 at 7:30
SUN APRIL 6 at 2:00
Dave Dunnett Theatre
Oak Bay High School

TICKETS
via Eventbrite
or Cast/Crew

SAT APRIL 12 at 2:00
SUN APRIL 13 at 2:00
Charlie White Theatre
Mary Winspear Centre,
Sidney

TICKETS
via Winspear
Centre

Tickets: Adults \$40 Students w/ID \$20

AN UNUSUAL MURDER MYSTERY COMING UP!



Evenings
7:30
Mar 12-15
& 19-22

Matinees
2:00
Mar 15, 16,
22, 23

What would you do if figments of your imagination were out to get you? Peter Knight, a mystery author, is sent by his agent to a Victorian mansion in Vermont where a famous mystery author, Norman Napier died under 'peculiar' circumstances. While Peter is writing on one dark and stormy night, there is a crack of lightening, and suddenly Peter's characters start materializing into real life! They are now free and one of them wants to stay that way! They will stop at

nothing, including bumping off their own author! But who? Could it be the older, sensuous gold digger? The ever-stalwart butler or possibly the old character lady? How about the hearty juvenile or the pretty ingenue? It could be anyone!

With a hilarious twist on the Murder-Mystery genre, *Out of Sight... Out of Murder* by Fred Carmichael offers a fun and thrilling ride for mystery lovers to guess 'who dunit'. Put on your sleuthing hat and join us in the fun!

All tickets \$18.00

- TICKETS AVAILABLE VIA EVENTBRITE • THE PAPERY-734 FORT ST.
- OR AT THE DOOR •

Out of Sight... Out of Murder is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com



While the set building/painting team are hard at it, the cast is not having any fun at all. Actually, all of them are enjoying themselves a great deal!

What's On After Next

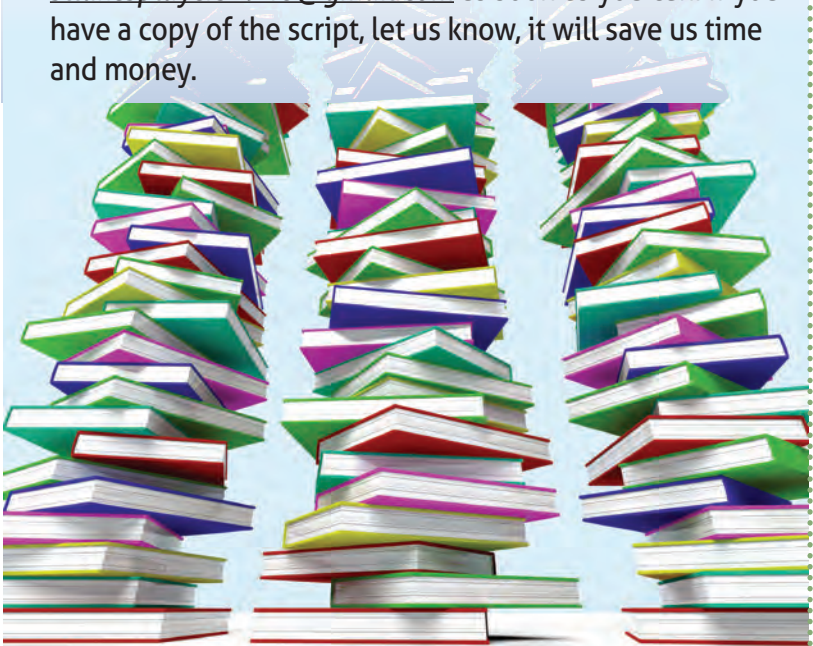
The plays for our 2025/26 season are already in the works and you will soon know what's on for later this year and next spring.

Meanwhile, behind the scenes several people are looking at possible plays for the 2026/27 season. Do you have a play that you and your friends would love to see on stage?

We want to hear from you with suggestions for murders, mysteries, mayhems or emotional dramas that will be suitable for our audiences.

Perhaps there is a play that you would like to direct, act in or help with. No guarantees about appearing on stage, but we would love to see you and your friends in the audience, or helping out with set construction, costumes, lighting, sound, production, props and front of house. Check out our web site, <https://www.stlukesplayers.org/> for lots of information about us, what we do and how to do it.

If you have a play suggestion send an email to stlukesplayers1948@gmail.com as soon as you can. If you have a copy of the script, let us know, it will save us time and money.



Jimmy Dean: "You gotta try your luck at least once a day, because you could be going around lucky all day and not even know it."

Ellie Kemper: "I have noticed that timing and luck sometimes line up in such a way that you can catch a break."

Alex Levine: "Only Irish coffee provides in a single glass all four essential food groups: alcohol, caffeine, sugar, and fat."

Irish Proverb: "May your heart be light and happy, may your smile be big and wide, and may your pockets always have a coin or two inside."

Richelle E. Goodrich: "Imagine if we were all magical leprechauns, and every wish ever made on a four-leaf clover obliged us to help others obtain their wishes. Now imagine if people simply lived like this were true."

Irish Blessing: "May you live as long as you want but never want as long as you live."

The Role of a Producer

I have been producing SLPCT shows for several years, have enjoyed meeting with the talented people needed to bring a show to the stage, and have made many new friends along the way. What I have found in the years since Covid restrictions were lifted, it is increasingly difficult to find volunteers to fill some positions. So, we are always looking for volunteers for all aspects of our production teams.

The Producer is ultimately responsible for the whole production: attending auditions, assembling the production crew as soon as possible, ensuring the lounge or hall is booked for the necessary times, setting a pre-production meeting with the production crew to present a proposed budget to discuss, and subsequent production meetings before opening and more.

If you are at all interested in getting involved with community theatre, St. Luke's is a wonderful place to start. We welcome new members of any experience level, and there are always mentors willing to help newbies find their niche. The Production Manual found at the 'Get Involved' tab on our website gives you an idea of the myriad experiences to be had by joining our happy band of volunteers. Sometimes the manual makes the job sound more daunting than it really is, so don't be shy.

If you, or someone you know, has a knack for organization and has an interest in some aspect of community theatre,



let us know and we'll team you up as a "shadow" to one of our more experienced crew so you can find out if this is really for you. One thing we can promise you, you'll meet some lovely people.

~ Bronwyn Taylor

How about a One Act Independent Play Festival?

Submitted by Lorne Seifred

I am attempting to formulate a plan to create a 'One Act Independent Play Festival' in Duncan.

I am looking for anyone that can help me in the endeavour.

There are multiple performance opportunities—one being at the end of May or the other being the end of September, beginning of November. I have also tentatively secured a 2nd venue, in which to perform at as well. Initial performances to be held in Duncan—with opportunities to perform at other venues as they arise. It is my goal to provide opportunities for contributors to have multiple performance opportunities if they wish.

I have already secured a couple of original one act plays to possibly be a part of this. My goal is to have at least 5 different plays participating with the chance to perform over a few nights. Plays can be submitted from theatre groups or from independent directors / producers.

When people put so much effort into producing a play, I feel it is important to have multiple opportunities to showcase their work at different venues.

Proceeds will be used to assist the host group with adding to their building fund as they are currently seeking a new performance space.

I am looking for a few things. First of all, anyone who has experience putting something like this together from scratch.

One act plays from directors with or without experience. Of course, we will also need to dip into the acting pool of various groups to be sure we have the talent to pull this off. Original scripts are strongly encouraged as well as any participation from First Nations communities—but all will be considered. I would strongly suggest that any production have a small cast and minimal set requirements.

I am looking to have discussions with anyone interested so we can work out the details. I have reached out to a few groups who have shown some interest and offered feedback.

The play is the thing —let's get out and do this!

Anyone wishing more information, can reach out to me at: 604-916-7963 or email: lorne.seifred@tlrv.ca



"Queen Maeve" opens FEBRUARY 20!

By Judith Thompson

A searing, often hilarious tale, featuring an ordinary woman in a drab nursing home who—when triggered—transforms into Queen Maeve: Irish Warrior Queen; confronting her cherished grandson, and her complicated, dramatic daughter. The play asks the questions: Is forgiveness ever impossible? Will we know when we need to make amends? Is it ever too late to find true empowerment? This is the Western Canadian premiere of this new work.

Directed by Diana Budiachenko

Cast:

Nolan Fidyk, Karmen McNamara, Gloria Snider, Deirdre Tipping

Tickets and info:

<https://www.theatreinconnu.com/queenmaeve/>

Content Warnings:

This production contains references to dementia, addiction, and suicide.



IN TIMES OF DISTANCE

The unexpected always happens this way

The unexpected has always occurred:
While we are doing something else,
While we are thinking of altogether
Different things—matters that events
Then show to be every bit as unimportant
As our human concerns so often are;
And then, with the unexpected upon us,
We look at one another with a sort of surprise;
How could things possibly turn out this way
When we are so competent, so pleased
With the elaborate system we created—
Networks and satellites, intelligent machines,
Pills for every eventuality—except this one?

And so we turn again to face one another
And discover those things
We had almost forgotten,
But that, mercifully, are still here:
Love and friendship, not just for those
To whom we are closest, but also for those
Whom we do not know and of whom
Perhaps in the past have been frightened:
The words brother and sister, powerful still,

Are brought out, and dusted down,
Found to be still capable of expressing
What we feel for others, that precise concern;
Joined together in adversity
We discover things we had put aside:
Old board games with obscure rules,
Books we had been meaning to read,
Letters we had intended to write,
Things we had thought we might say
But for which we never found the time;
And from these discoveries of self, of time,
There comes a new realization
That we have been in too much of a hurry,
That we have misused our fragile world,
That we have forgotten the claims of others
Who have been left behind:
We find that out in our seclusion,
In our silence, we commit ourselves afresh,
We look for a few bars of a song
That we used to sing together,
A long time ago; we give what we can,
We wait knowing that when this is over
A lot of us—not all perhaps—but most,
Will be different people,
And our world, though diminished,
Will be much bigger, its beauty revealed
afresh.

Alexander McCall Smith
From In Time of Distance and other poems
Published 2020

Submitted by Jan Streader
"Dear Friends, These words may be helpful in the
light of the latest moves by the Administration
down south."

Come and find the quiet centre

*Come and find the quiet centre
in the crowded life we lead.
find the room for hope to enter.
find the frame where we are freed.
clear the chaos and the clutter.
clear our eyes, that we can see
all the things that really matter.
be at peace, and simply be.*

Traditional Mennonite hymn

Come and Find the Quiet Centre

Join the Linden Singers and guests for an afternoon
of music to fill your heart and soothe your soul,
including works by:

- Samuel Barber
- Ola Gjeilo
- Stephen Paulus
- Jon Washburn
- Gabriel Fauré
- Morten Lauridsen
- Brian Tate,

With guests, the Mittwoch String Quartet and
organist Amiel Elfert

3:00 PM, Saturday March 9, 2025

First Church of Christ, Scientist
1205 Pandora Avenue Victoria, BC

Venue is accessible

Tickets: \$25 from choir members, at the door or
through Eventbrite Audience members under 25
admitted free