

# Encore!

The Newsletter of Northumberland Players

213 Second Street, Cobourg, Ontario K9A 3N7

Tel. 905-372-0577 / Fax 905-372-3662



*Northumberland Players Annual General Meeting*

You are invited to join us for the Northumberland Players Annual General Meeting and Celebration of the Re-Opening of the Firehall Theatre!

**Where: Firehall Theatre, 213 Second St in Cobourg, ON**  
**When: Wednesday November 9, 2011 at 7pm**  
**Why: To participate in YOUR Northumberland Players**

This year we will be presenting new by-laws to be passed by the membership. We are also looking for new board members. For more information on the new by-laws and the positions for the Board of Directors, please visit [www.northumberlandplayers.com](http://www.northumberlandplayers.com).



*Come and celebrate with us and preview our 2011-2012 season!*



### Are you eligible to vote?

The Annual General Meeting is next week! You are eligible to vote if you are an adult member and you have paid your fees for the 2011-2012 year. The membership year is September 1 to August 31.

If you have not renewed your membership yet, you will be able to do so before the meeting on November 9. Be sure to arrive early as there is usually a line-up to renew.

Members will be able to collect their membership cards at the door.

### Welcome New Members

The Board of Directors accepted the following for membership in Northumberland Players at their November meeting:

- |                       |                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Peter Duck            | Lynn Hilborn    |
| Linda Hutsell-Manning | Gill Kassela    |
| James Manning         | Susan McTavish  |
| Thomas Payne          | Grace Price     |
| Orville Price         | Shelagh Stewart |
| Patricia Torpey       | Greg Wadden     |
| Ruby Whitehouse       | Elaine Winger   |

### Audition Notices

The Dining Room  
January 11 and 12, 2012

Page 2

### Doubt: A Parable

Opening November 4  
at the Firehall Theatre

Page 4

### A Month of Sundays

Final weekend!  
"Life can only be endured if treated like a comedy"

Page 3

## The Dining Room

### Auditions January 11 and 12, 2012

Dinner Theatre at the Best Western Cobourg Inn and Convention Centre  
April 20, 21, 22; 27, 28, 29; and May 5, 6, and 7, 2012

Possibly the most challenging of all our dinner theatre productions, ***The Dining Room*** will surely test the talents of veteran director Chris Worsnop and his cast. Make a note of auditions on Jan 11/12 and callbacks on Jan 15, 2012. Performance dates are set for April 20 – May 6, 2012. Rehearsals will be at the Firehall on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and Sunday afternoon or evening (at the cast's preference). Rehearsals will begin in early-mid February.

Playwright A. R. Gurney wrote *The Dining Room* in the mid '80s and it has enjoyed huge success ever since. Certainly, the play tests the cast of six who act out dozens of defined roles of all ages with overlapping scenes and dialogue in the same setting. No test there, it is set in one traditional dining room in a large New England home, but the story spreads across half a century. Someone is going to have fun with costume accessories, lighting and properties with this one!

Producers Doreen Page and Ann Dobby are well on their way in finding a magnificent (yes, magnificent) team. Sharon Rathbone and Grace Price for stage management, Pam and Cam Perrault head up a property team of 4-5, Leslee Argue, Mary Lou Secord and Maggie Hilborn are charged with locating a traditional dining room set at absolutely no cost whatsoever. Brenda Worsnop has the set design ready to go.

More about this in the next newsletter... Meantime, please note dates for auditions...hope to see you there January 11 and 12, 2012.

## Cinderella Christmas

*The palace is in an uproar preparing for the annual Christmas Ball. The Queen has declared that the Prince must choose his bride!*

***Cinderella Christmas*** is this year's Youth Theatre production for the schools and families in and around the Cobourg area. Written by Milenda Janda, and adapted for the Players and directed by Mary Doig, ***Cinderella Christmas*** is a musical performance for children and the child-at-heart that adds the "spirit of the season" to a classic that we all know so well.

***Cinderella Christmas*** will run for 3 weekdays, with 2 performances a day, on November 23, 24, and 25 at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. at Victoria Hall. There will be a performance at 2 p.m. on Saturday for the public, also.

Bring the kids to Victoria Hall (if their teacher hasn't already done so) to see a humorous rendition of the classic Cinderella story. Tickets are very reasonable at \$6 and \$8 and the children, and the adults who attend with them, will enjoy the nonsense and pandemonium at the castle. Tickets are available at the Victoria Hall box office, 905-372-2210.

northumberland players present  
**A MONTH OF SUNDAYS**  
 A Comedy by Bob Larbey

**Final Weekend**

Directed by Jack Boyagian  
 Produced by Leah McMullen

Starring:  
 Dave Clark, Claire Russell  
 Angela Main, Peter Kedwell, Stacy Main  
 Judy Down

DINNER THEATRE AT  
 BEST WESTERN COBBOURG INN  
 AND CONVENTION CENTRE

Tickets \$49  
 October 21, 22, 23, 28, 29, 30  
 November 4, 5, 6, 2011  
 For Tickets Call 905.372.2105

Produced by Special Arrangements with Samuel Productions

## First Dinner Theatre Leaves You Laughing, Crying ...

***A Month of Sundays*** tells the story of two residents of a nursing home, Cooper and his friend Aylott, both on the verge of some "geriatric embarrassment". They cope with the predictable routines of nursing home life - lack of privacy, fixed meal times, the demise of bodily functions, and uncomfortable monthly family visits with humour and wit, aware that life can only be endured if treated as a comedy.

Dave Clark, who is never off the stage, excels in the physically and dramatically challenging role of Cooper. At times charming, witty, or provocative, Cooper's underlying nature is revealed in his relationships with the other people in his life. Peter Kedwell portrays his friend Aylott with such humour as he comes to terms with Alzheimers' that it seems we have his permission to laugh. Young Nurse Wilson, played skillfully by Claire Russell, balances her caring professionalism with affection for Cooper. Mrs. Baker, played with great humour by Judy Down, challenges Cooper at his own games while she vacuums. Angela Main (Julia) and Stacy Main (Peter), portray Cooper's daughter and son-in-law, yet Cooper even finds humour in the awkwardness many of us have experienced visiting relatives or friends who are shut in.

Jack Boyagian, as director, has chosen an excellent cast for this challenging play. They have succeeded in encouraging us to laugh as we realize that the challenges of aging, which are different for each of us, do not change our personal humanity. We leave the theatre with a new, and perhaps optimistic, perspective on aging that we all, inevitably, face with apprehension. As Aylott guffaws in Act II:

"I hope I look as lively as you when I'm your age." Nobody means that. They think, "Oh God, is that what I'm going to become?"

## Doubt: A Parable Opens November 4

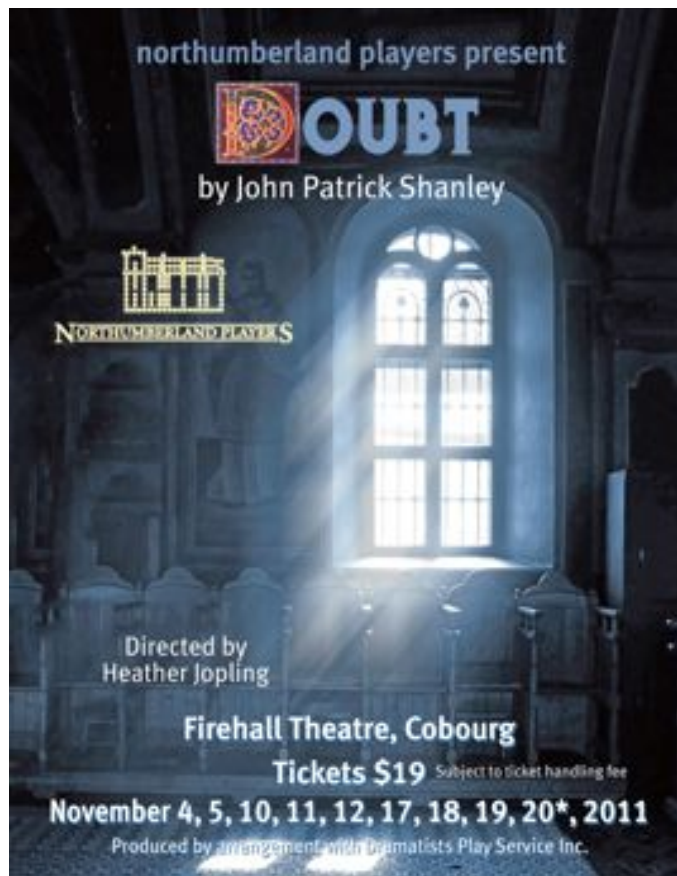
We shouldn't have been surprised. After all, in 2005 it won the Tony Award for best new play and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama. And yet, when we sat at our first table read for John Patrick Shanley's *Doubt: A Parable*, the five of us present found ourselves astounded. We kept saying things along these lines: "This is unbelievable!" "Did she actually say that!" "Listen to this line again!"

Although *Doubt* is a One Act play, there is a second act and it is in the hands of the audience. It runs a mere 90 minutes in length, but the discussions that happen afterwards can last hours while the audience grapples with their reactions to the play. Did the priest do it? Was the nun paranoid? Was the mother right?

In the midst of all this moral drama – this is after all, a play about whether or not a priest has molested a student – we were surprised at the amount of humour we found in the script. There's a fair amount. Sure, a lot of it is dark and cynical humour, but it's there. While in rehearsal I found myself laughing out loud several times at the brilliant writing and the characterizations brought to life by our able cast.

*Doubt* is subtitled **A Parable**. Harken back to Sunday school. A parable is a short story that often involves a character facing a moral dilemma or making a questionable decision and then suffering the consequences. The play as a whole is a parable, but throughout the text we found many, many more. We started counting the parables we found in the play. It became a game of sorts at rehearsal. "There's another one!" "Found one!" "Parable!!"

*Doubt: A Parable* is about the unexpected. Unexpected behaviours, unexpected humour, unexpected reactions. Our cast and crew look forward to sharing all of these with the audience.



*Doubt: A Parable* opens Friday, November 4 at the Firehall. It is directed and produced by Heather Jopling, and stars Greg Curtis, Starr Olsen, Amber Mackey and Eugene James, all veteran actors with Northumberland Players.

### Theatre you have been waiting for

*Doubt: A Parable* will be performed at the Firehall Theatre that re-opened in January, after five years of renovations, with sold-out performances of *The Elephant Man*. This intimate theatre now has comfortable theatre seating with excellent sight lines.

Tickets for *Doubt: A Parable* are available from the Victoria Hall box office. Call 905-272 2210 to reserve your tickets now.

## 2011 One-Act Play Festival, Perth

**Friday, November 11**  
7:30 p.m.

Studio Theatre Production, Perth  
***Mail Order Annie***  
by Carl Cashin

Theatre Night in Merrickville  
***This is a Play***  
by Daniel MacIver

Kempville Players  
***Trifles***  
by Susan Glaspell

**Saturday, November 12**  
afternoon 1:30 p.m.

Valley Players of Almonte  
***Those Who Can, Do***  
by Marianne Mullan

Ottawa Little Theatre  
***The Third Life of Eddie Mann***  
by John Spurway

Tara Players, Ottawa  
***Bedtime Story***  
by Sean O'Casey

**Saturday, November 12**  
evening 7:30 p.m.

Highlands Little Theatre, Haliburton  
***Gosforth's Fete***  
by Alan Ayckbourn

Peterborough Theatre Guild  
***House***  
by Daniel MacIver

Studio Theatre Production, Perth  
***The Christmas Tree***  
by Norm Foster

Adjudicated by Chris Worsnop. Awards Brunch, Sunday, November 13 at 11:00 a.m.  
For more information, see the EODL website, [www.eodl.org](http://www.eodl.org)

### Chris Worsnop - Northumberland Players Volunteer Extraordinaire



**Chris Worsnop** has been connected with community and student theatre for more than 50 years. He made his acting debut in a 1955 church youth club play in Blackpool in the U.K. It is now forty-some years since he played his first adult role with Ottawa's Phoenix Players. Chris has done almost everything theatrical in that time. He has played all kinds of roles on stage in both dramatic and musical productions. He has directed, written scripts, worked in numerous technical roles, presented play-polishing workshops, and organized and hosted festivals. He knows and understands community and student theatre from the inside. He has been invited to adjudicate at various levels of the Sears Drama Festival over the past twenty years, has adjudicated the Meadowvale Music Theatre Festival and the 2007/08 comedy category for the Association of Community Theatres - Central

Ontario (ACT-CO). In 2006/07, he was the adjudicator for ACT-CO's drama category. He is the proud winner of two ACT-CO acting Thea awards, and has awards also from EODL, the Eastern Ontario Drama League, and (somewhere) one from that 1955 performance in Blackpool!

Since Chris and his wife Brenda moved to Cobourg in 2005, Chris has acted, directed and provided technical support for many of our productions. Most recently, he directed ***Steel Magnolias*** and played the role of "Russell (Gramps)" in the EODL adjudicated ***Having Hope at Home***. Chris also served as a Board member for three years for the Players and has been the organizer of all our workshops in recent years. This season Chris is directing the third dinner-theatre play, ***The Dining Room***. Chris is also adjudicating this month's EODL's 2011 One-Act Play Festival in Perth Ontario. He has also been active in Cobourg's ***Vintage Film Festival*** and will be chairing the organizing committee for the Fall 2012 festival. He also presents a weekly film afternoon at the Cobourg Public Library. (Where does he find the time?)

Chris is an extraordinary role model for community theatre volunteers. Northumberland Players, and Ontario community theatre, have benefitted tremendously from his passion and his efforts.

## Willkommen, Bienvenue to Cabaret

Rehearsals are now underway for the musical **Cabaret**. With a strong cast and production team in place, it's full steam ahead. Tickets are on sale at the Capitol Theatre box office and would make great Christmas gifts – always the right size and colour!! Call 905 885-1071 to reserve today.

Everyone is welcome to **Cabaret!** We welcome some new people to the cast and crew and it is our goal to make this a positive experience for all involved.

Speaking of involved – the cast consists of Michael DeFruscio as the Emcee; Antonio Sarmiento as Cliff; Jan Crane as Fraulien Schneider; Alyssa McCallum as Sally; Chris Sharp as Ernst; David Bryson as Schultz; Tanya Wills as Kost; Amber Mackey (the busiest woman in show business – don't miss her in **Doubt**), Elspeth McCall, Cara Jack, Angela Main, Anne Marie Bouthilette, and Leah McMullen are the Kit Kat ladies; Chris Pelletier, Stacy Main, Paul Weber, and Peter Poyser are the male ensemble; and Carol Anne Caswell and Christine Sharp are the female ensemble.

We are looking for a few good men – well actually only two – aged 20 - 40 for the male ensemble and a couple of women 40 & over for the ensemble. If you are interested, please call Beth Hunt at 905 372-7658.

The production team is also extensive: Valerie Russell and Beth Hunt are producers; Jack Boyagian is director; Susan Tanner is musical director and vocal coach; Alina Adjemian is choreographer; Angie Fazekas is stage manager; Shannon Oliver is director's assistant; Delphine White is costume designer; Nancy Kerr is costume mistress; Joe and Diana Flynn are props; David Hoare is light designer; Joe Tanner and Sara Tanner are lighting assistants; Jacob Hamayda is sound designer; Tony Walker is set construction supervisor; Meaghan Macdonald and John Fazekas are assistant stage managers; Greg Curtis is set painting and poster designer; Sherwood McLernon is photographer; Antonio Sarmiento is program designer; Muriel White is make-up and hair supervisor; and Erin Walsh is make up consultant. This list does not include yet the set builders, the sewers, and many others.

Welcome to all those who will volunteer their time and talent to make Northumberland Players' production of **Cabaret** a success!

We could not do this without you.

### Wanted for the Firehall

As the renovations near completion, we need more furniture for the Blair Room, used for meetings, rehearsals, and for refreshments during intermission during performances, and for the actors' Green Room. In particular, we would welcome donations of the following:

- easy chairs
- end tables
- table lamps
- floor lamps

Please call Maureen at 905-372-9122 to donate.

**ENCORE! IS PUBLISHED 6 TIMES A YEAR  
BY NORTHUMBERLAND PLAYERS.**

**DEADLINE FOR THE JANUARY 2012  
ISSUE IS JANUARY 2.**

**PLEASE SEND YOUR ARTICLES AS  
UNFORMATTED TEXT AND YOUR PHOTOS  
AS JPGS TO GARTH AND MAUREEN AT  
zaria@cogeco.ca.**