

# Encore!

## The Newsletter of Northumberland Players

213 Second Street, Cobourg, Ontario K9A 3N7

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

### Behind the Scenes

My name is Marg Hilborn (aka Maggie) and I am succeeding Jack Boyagian as President of Northumberland Players. Forgive me -- I came from "away". But I feel very much at home in this community, and especially with the Players, so I don't consider myself from "away" any more. During the 6 years since my transplant to a kinder and gentler life I have learned a great deal about this amazing organization for which we volunteer and I continue to learn new things every day.

I will begin by saying thank-you to Jack for his tireless efforts in his role as President to lead the Players through some financially-challenging times while we still managed to bring top-notch theatre productions to our audiences. Jack would be the first to acknowledge the strength of the Board members who helped manage the Players during this time as well. A huge thanks goes out to them, as well, for their countless hours attending meetings and events, and suffering a few nights of disturbed sleep when tough decisions needed to be made.



We are a totally volunteer-run organization. As you read in the last newsletter, we have gone through a restructuring and no longer have paid employees. Volunteers, ordinary folk like you and me, are doing anything and everything that needs to be done to keep the Players on stage as a successful, vibrant theatre in Northumberland County. As I write this report, the Firehall is undergoing the last stage of renovation, with a removal and replacement of walls to allow for the maximum flexibility in the use of the new seating in the theatre space and access to washrooms from the foyer and not the theatre.

Like Jack, I feel very lucky and grateful for those who have stepped forward as the Board of Directors to assist me with my duties for the next year at least. We are an 11 member team, and each one of us is learning his/her position and responsibilities. It has been an exciting few months working with these enthusiastic and energetic people.

Part of our job as a Board is to plan for the future of the Players for next season as well 4 or 5 years down the road. To this end we will be having a strategic planning meeting later in the year. There will be more information on this in months to follow. If you are interested in being involved, or want to share ideas or opinions about our plans, call us at

....page 2

#### **Audition Notices**

6 Dances in 6 Weeks  
February 28, 2012

**Page 3**

#### **Here on the Flight Path**

Opening January 20, 2012  
Dinner Theatre at the Best Western

**Page 5**

#### **On a lighter note...**

The 10 Commandments of Theatre

**Page 8**

905-372-0577 to speak to one of the Board members.

We intend to be communicating with you using internet technologies - website, [www.northumberlandplayers.com](http://www.northumberlandplayers.com), e-mail, Facebook, Twitter - as much as possible so that you can know instantly what we're doing. Share this info with your friends. Tell them about our upcoming productions or invite them to a play at the Firehall. The best and the cheapest advertising is word of mouth. If you have any experience with Twitter, or if you're a techie and want to help us out in this area, please call the office 905-372-0577 and let us know.

The members of the 2012 Board of Directors of Northumberland Players and their responsibilities are:

Marg Hilborn	President
Brenda Worsnop	Vice -president
Garth Holloway	Treasurer
Leslee Argue	Secretary
Jack Boyagian	Artistic Director
Elaine Winger	Executive Producer
Christine Sharp	Director of Membership and Communications
Anne Parks	Director of Marketing
Jennie Ryan	Director of Fundraising
David Hoare	Director of Physical Plant
Amber Mackey	Member at Large

Finally, I would like to thank Gayle Malenfant, Norma Connors, Helen Matthew, Lynne Templer, Leslee Argue and Brenda Worsnop for doing office duty over the past 4 months. Thanks as well to Maureen Holloway who worked through the past several months to make our membership and volunteer lists current. If you'd like to help us out in any capacity, please give us a call and we'll get you busy doing things you like to do in front of the curtain or behind.

Cheers,  
Maggie

## Welcome New Members

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

Carol Branigan	David Hoare	Rissa Jopling
Amber Mackey	Hannah Mackey	Ronon Sherwin
Tom Pickering	Lynda Hart	Mark Chard
Jody Ledgerwood	Alison Demoe	

Northumberland Players now have over 80 members. If you would like to become a member, drop in to the Firehall between 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. or contact the office at 905-372-0577.

## Audition Notice

### 6 Dances in 6 Weeks

Written by Richard Alfieri

Produced by Shannon Oliver, directed by Leah McMullen, and choreographed by Alina Adjmenian

**6 Dance Lessons in 6 Weeks** is a comedy with a realistic twist – and a whole lot of dancing: the Swing, Tango, Waltz, Foxtrot, Cha-Cha and Contemporary

Two Actors:       1 female – 50 and up  
                          1 male – early 30s-45

When: Tuesday, February 28, 2012  
      7:00 p.m. acting audition  
      8:00 p.m. dance audition  
      Callbacks Sunday, March 4, 2012 at 2pm,

Where: Firehall Theatre, 213 Second Street, Cobourg (behind Victoria Hall)

Performances will be at the Firehall Theatre on weekends June 15 and 16; 22, 23, and 24; 28, 29, 30 and July 1, 2012.

Please email [leah0005@gmail.com](mailto:leah0005@gmail.com) for a copy of the script.  
Be prepared to workshop 2 separate/contrasting scenes in a group environment.

Produced by arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

## Children's Programs

### March Break Camp March 12-16

**March Break Camp 2012** is coming once again to the Firehall in Cobourg from March 12 to 16. An active and diverse combination of drama, theatre, and visual arts activities will be offered to children between the ages of 6 and 12 years of age.

The cost is \$160 for the week. Space is limited to 12 campers.

For more information call 905-372-0577.

Registration forms can be found on line at [www.northumberlandplayers.com](http://www.northumberlandplayers.com).

### It's also time to start thinking about Summer Camp!

July and August 2012.

Registration forms will be available on our website after the March Break.

## Producing by Fire: *Here on the Flight Path*

How did I get here? Who would have thought that I would be doing this when three years ago I agreed to volunteer to help paint a set? In the three years that I've been involved with the Players I have painted sets, decorated sets, tried ASMinG and now here I am producing *Here on the Flight Path*. OMG! I'm in flight!

A producer's life is full of OMG moments. It is fulfilling, full of adventure and learning curves. I have discovered that a producer is a coordinator, a delegator, a mediator, a budget monitor, and a leader.

You might think at first that the producer's role is a lonely one and extremely demanding but I'm here to tell you that the truth is a little different. Being new at this task, I was a bit overwhelmed at first but tremendous support from a myriad of experienced people has allowed me to breathe a sigh of relief. Rather than feeling all alone, I have engaged and had fun with a lot of different people in different roles who have taken on responsibilities that have lightened my load.

northumberland players present  
**HERE ON THE FLIGHT PATH**  
by Norm Foster

Tim Houghton is John    Meaghan Keating is Angel  
Lisa Cowan is Fay      Christine Stone is Gwen

Produced by Leslee Argue    Directed by Helen Matthew

**Dinner Theatre at**  
**BEST WESTERN COBOURG INN AND CONVENTION CENTRE**

**Jan 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29, Feb 3, 4, 5, 2012**

Staged by arrangement with Pam Winter, Gary Goddard Agency,  
10 St. Mary St. #305, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M4Y 1P9, goddard@canadasthe.com, www.garygoddardagency.com.

After expending energy in getting this started my job has become one of coordination. Coordination is a euphemism for visiting numerous coffee shops in Cobourg and Port Hope and having meetings to discuss progress. If you prefer you can substitute pub for coffee shop.

One of the first meetings for any producer is with the director to determine the style of the show and identify a potential team. Then a meeting with the marketing team is in order to get a jump on posters and advertising.

It is most important to name the stage manager and the design team before all others. The design team consists of set, costume, lighting, and sound designers. Later, these areas will be expanded with other personnel who will build, paint, and decorate the set, find props, sew or locate costumes, hang and operate the lights, and set up and operate the sound system.

Some of these same people will stay on to work backstage on the show during production, but others may need to be recruited to help them depending on the complexity of the production. Some examples would be backstage dressers, assistant stage manager(s), set crew for moving furniture and set, props assistants, and makeup and hair artists.

We are now nearing move-in date for *Here on the Flight Path*. The Director, Helen Matthew, has been extremely helpful and resourceful in getting and keeping me on course. She had all the designers in place before I even started, making my job much easier. Marketing is at cruising altitude and all the production personnel are ready for lift-off.

The cast has been working very hard to bring this Norm Foster comedy to life. Between jets passing overhead, Tim Houghton has enjoyed flirting with his on-stage neighbours, Lisa Cowan, Meaghan Keating, and Christine Stone.



Tim Houghton rehearsing with Meaghan Keating



Lisa Cowan is getting into her character



Tim and Christine Stone share a moment



The set painters in their colourful glory are Gayle Metson, Mary Lou Secord, Lynda Hart, Ann Dobby, Doreen Page, and Kimberly Ellery. Seated is Brenda Worsnop.

The behind the scenes work has been done and we are ready to build the set at the Best Western. Then we have a few final rehearsals with the technical people to make sure we get the sound and lighting adjusted. We are ready for opening night, Friday, January 20, 2012.

I hope to see you there!

*Leslee Argue, Producer*

## Cinderella Christmas: Sold-Out Fun

We had a fantastic group of talented young people perform in a lively and humourous tale of Cinderella and the Christmas Ball. ***Cinderella Christmas*** was written by Milenda Janda adapted and directed by longstanding Player, Mary Doig, who has a great talent for adapting stories into musical-comedies for young actors. The Youth Theatre actors, aged 10 to 17, were accompanied by 3 intrepid adult actors, 2 of whom have appeared in many Players productions and 1 newcomer to our company. The 3 adults were Jennie Ryan as the Queen, Honor Sylvester as the Stepmother, and Tiffany Wolters as the fumbling Fairy Godmother.

There were hoots of laughter as shoes flew in from the wings when Fairy Godmother cast her spell when dancing slippers were needed to clad Cinderella's bare feet. More hilarity ensued as the stepsisters repeatedly chased each other around the stage at the least sign of disagreement.

Once again the Ladies of the Arcade gathered together wonderful costumes for all of the characters, making many return visits to the Firehall during rehearsals to ensure that all actors were suitable attired -- no mean feat when you are dealing with assorted children and teenagers.

We were thrilled with the response from teachers and students and only wish we were able to offer more performances so that a larger number of children had the opportunity to experience live theatre. As one adult patron remarked, "That was great fun." As a bonus, the audience at the public performance on Saturday donated \$250 for the food bank.

If you would like to be a part of next year's production, or any Players production for that matter, just call 905- 372-0577 and we'll be glad to help you become part of the fun.

Marg Hilborn, Producer



Cinderella watches as her Ugly Stepmother and her Ugly Stepsisters receive invitations to the Christmas Ball at the palace. And so the fun began for the sold-out audiences of school children in December.

## The Renovations Continue at the Firehall

In this phase, walls are being moved so that the washrooms are entered from the south entry foyer rather than from the theatre. One washroom will be wheelchair accessible. Now, with no exits along the west wall of the theatre, there will be much more flexibility in the seating and stage arrangements in the theatre.

Dave Clark, who initiated the Firehall renovation plans over 6 years ago, is heading up this renovation phase. Volunteers from the construction crew have been hard at work for two weeks so far, carefully demolishing the old walls. When the electricians finish moving all the wiring to the new walls, and the inspectors has called, they will finish the drywalling and door installations. After yet another inspection, the last step will be painting, so if you want to help, call the Firehall to see when to painters will be starting.



Back: John Matthew, Tony Walker, Dave Clark, Dave McTavish, Peter Duck.

Front: Jack Boyagian and Ken MacDonald



Dave Clark proclaims the vision?



Dave Clark and Dave McTavish remove the wall to create a new washroom hall.



Electrical wiring in the walls makes them think!

## The Ten Commandments of Theatre

1. The Director is God. Thou shalt not take notes from friends nor family, coaches nor critics.
2. Thou shalt not take the name of thy producer thy angel in vain, for he shall sign thy checks.
3. Remember thou keep holy the half-hour; keep in mind that an actor is never on time, an actor is always early.
4. Honor thy author and thy composer, for in the beginning were the words and the notes.
5. Thou shalt not kill laughs nor step on lines; still, thou shalt pick up thy cues.
6. Thou shalt not adulterate thy performance, for thy stage manager is always watching.
7. Thou shalt not steal scenes nor focus nor props.
8. Thou shalt not bear false witness in thy bio nor résumé; indeed, thou shalt be truthful in thy entire performance.
9. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's lines; for truly, there are no small parts, only small actors.
10. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's good fortune; for in fact, all actors must pay their dues.

Anonymous



### Still wanted for the Firehall

The renovations are finished. Now, we need more furniture for the Blair Room 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 the Firehall at 905-372- 0577 to donate.

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

**DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH 2012 ISSUE  
IS MARCH 3.**

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