

Encore!

March 2010

2009/2010 Executive

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Encore! Editors

Garth Holloway
Maureen Holloway

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The Importance of Membership

What does it mean to belong to Northumberland Players? From reading the minutes dating back to 1976 when the Players were first formed, I have learned that membership may have been difficult to define, but that members have always been crucial to the running of The Players for 35 years. In 1981, membership fees were raised from \$2 to \$5 to cover the cost of printing and mailing frequent newsletters to members to inform them about the activities of the Northumberland Players. It was decided that the membership year would run from the Annual General meeting until the following Annual General Meeting. It was reported that membership was frequently used as a measure of the importance of an organization within a community for grant applications. In 1981, there were over 70 members. In 1985, 75 memberships were registered at the AGM alone. By 1987, membership had grown to 196, and in August, 1991, there were 264 members of Northumberland Players.

At the end of the 2009-2010 membership year, there are only about 70 members. Yet, there are well over 300 people who take advantage of the opportunity to perform or participate in all aspects of community theatre productions with the Northumberland Players.

Membership continues to have benefits both for members and for the Players. Membership enables us to think of the Players as "We". Members receive the newsletter by email or by mail. The newsletter contains the first notices of our upcoming performances, of the all-important auditions, and information about valuable workshops we can attend. The newsletter also highlights the behind-the-scenes stories of our members as we participate in the productions. Members will be called when there are opportunities to participate in all areas of production. Members have a voice in decisions about the productions and the business of the Players. Members can attend the Annual General Meeting to vote for, or stand for election to, the Board of Directors. Membership has never been a requirement, only a voluntary choice, for participation. However, beginning in 2010-2011, actors will be expected to become members.

Membership is valuable to The Northumberland Players. Membership indicates a commitment to participate in community theatre in Northumberland. The nominal membership fees help in a small way to keeping an office open, with staff, telephone and Internet connections, so that the Players can exist year round. More importantly, membership numbers are used by governments and foundations as a measure of the importance of not-for-profit groups within the community. As we apply for grants to cover the extensive costs of completing the Firehall Theatre, it is important that the membership list reflects the commitment of hundreds of people to The Players so that we can continue to be the county's premier not-for-profit community theatre company.

Be a Player! Become a member when you receive the membership letter, or call 905-372-05777.

Maureen Holloway has been a member since 2007.

THANK YOU TO THE
CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS
NEWSLETTER:
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GREG WADDEN
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The Northumberland Players
'Kick Off' their 2010-2011 Season with a marvelous night for

'MOONDANCE III'

a fundraising event to support the renovation of
the Firehall Theatre, Cobourg,
Home of the Northumberland Players

An evening of music, dancing, and entertainment
with the amazing musical talents of

'PHLO'

a great local band
playing all your dance favourites.

Kick off your shoes and join the fun!

A silent auction, raffle, and door prizes, too!

Snacks, desserts, coffee and cash bar

Saturday, September 18, 2010

8:00pm – 1:00am

Victoria Hall, Cobourg

Tickets on sale NOW!

Victoria Hall Box Office: **905-372-2210**

Only \$35.00 each.

*Please call and
purchase your
tickets today,
and encourage
your friends and
anyone you
speak to to do
the same.*

Desserts Needed for Moondance III

By Helen Matthew, Chair

We want this fundraiser to be a success so that, with your help, the completion of the Firehall renovation will become a reality.

We need volunteers to make desserts as in past years to be served with coffee at 11p.m. Call Beth Hunt at 905-372-7658 (eve.) or 905-372-2210 (day) to volunteer your baking.

There are only 200 tickets being sold so call now to get your tickets for a fun filled evening of music, dancing with friends old and new.

Thanks to all for your support!!!

Opening Soon - Having Hope at Home

Having Hope at Home by David S. Craig opens Northumberland Players' dinner theatre season at Best Western Cobourg Inn on October 22, 23, 24, 29, 30, November 5, 6, 7, 2010 and is directed by Brenda Worsnop and produced by Doreen Page. The cast of Having Hope at Home went all out to experience the atmosphere of rural Ontario recently as rehearsals began.



Back row: Jody Ledgerwood, John Rolston, Sam Maple (Holstein at Cam Davidson's dairy farm), Honor Sylvester, and Jennie Ryan. Front row: Greg Curtis, Chris Worsnop

Wanted

A mattress
for a $\frac{3}{4}$ bed
for the set
of **Having
Hope at
Home.**
Call the
producer,
Doreen Page,
905-377-8590
if you have
one to lend.

According to producer Doreen Page, *Having Hope at Home* is a very clever, funny and heartwarming look at a family learning to love each other again through hope and forgiveness. Modern medicine meets midwifery at full speed when the daughter of a gynecologist insists on doing things her own way. All the action takes place in the kitchen of the grandfather's old farmhouse ... somewhere in Canada. Bringing the action from the farm to the dinner-theatre stage at the Best Western Cobourg Inn is the challenge for director Brenda Worsnop and set designer Marg Hilborn. The set construction crew, led by John Matthew, has started work on the innovative set.

The play has been entered into the Eastern Ontario Drama League (EODL) Spring Play Travelling Festival, a first for any dinner-theatre production. This means that this production of *Having Hope at Home* will undergo a public adjudication process after one of the performances (Oct. 30 or Nov. 6) and, should it be selected, will have an opportunity to enter the festival in competition next year in Richmond Hill. If *Having Hope at Home* enters the festival in competition and does not win the best production award, it is still eligible for all other awards such as best set, best actor, or best direct, etc. Cast and crew are euphoric at the prospect of learning and, possibly, competing.

Call Producer, Doreen Page, at 905-377-8590 if more information is required.

Summer Camp

By Marg Hilborn, Youth Theatre Coordinator

The highlight for all of the young actors and their families was the performance at the end of each session. As you might expect there was standing room only.

For six weeks this summer the Firehall was the place to be for those between the ages of 6 and 14. This year, 108 fantastic campers attended the NP's 8 Summer Boot Camp sessions under the direction of the marvelous Shannon Oliver. Shannon and her great team of counselors programmed daily activities which delighted the campers and also allowed them to experiment in theatre skills, build confidence, or become better team players.

Each of our counselors has been a camper in previous years, or volunteered for NP in past productions or camps. We were thrilled to have Claire Russell, Kate Weygang, Tory Vansickle, and Justine Benteau on board this summer. To add to the fun, space was at a premium as the second floor meeting room known to many as the Blair Room was rented out to the Shelter Valley Folk Festival and was out of bounds to us for July and August. However, creative staff and the fine weather allowed us to make use of green spaces close to the Fire Hall.

Again this summer, we continued our partnership with Community Living. We provided space and offered theatrical activities to young people who are involved in Community Living programmes. They came to the Firehall 2 days a week and, under the direction of Shannon, built on their experiences initiated last summer with Meghan Quinn. Their Firehall visits culminated in 2 productions in the Firehall theatre. What super shows they put on.

We have had a fantastic summer at the Firehall. Thanks to all those who played any part in making it such a successful summer camp.



Campers perform on the stage in the Firehall Theatre.

Audition Notices

*The Firefall
Theatre*

reopens on
February 4,
2011, with a
production
of *The
Elephant
Man*.

The Elephant Man

Written by Bernard Pomerance
Directed by Dave Clark

Performances: February 4, 5, 11,12, 13, 18 and 19, 2011.

The Elephant Man is the first show being mounted in the Firehall Theatre for over four years. The award winning show requires 6 men ranging in age from 30-60 and 3 women ranging in age from 30 to 50.

When: Audition September 21, 7-9 p.m.
Call backs September. 22, 7 p.m.

Rehearsals start the following week.

Where: Firehall Theatre /First Floor
213 Second Street, Cobourg ON (behind Victoria Hall)

Actors will be asked to participate in a workshop setting where they will be provided with a partner and a script to work on a scene. The scene will be presented in a group setting. Actors should wear something comfortable and be prepared to stay for 2 hours.

Contact director Dave Clark at dclark40@cogeco.ca if more information is required.

Director and Producer Needed; Auditions TBA

The Trouble with Richard

Written by Canadian playwright L. E. Hines.

Northumberland Players still need a director and a producer for ***The Trouble with Richard***, a comedy by Canadian playwright L. E. Hines. The play has been chosen by the play selection committee as the January/February 2011 dinner-theatre production.

Contact Doreen Page, chair of the Play Selection Committee, at 905-377-8590 if you are interested in directing or producing this play, or if you have someone to recommend. There are many experienced directors who can provide support and advice for new directors.

Auditions dates for ***The Trouble with Richard*** will be chosen by the director and producer. Check the website, www.northumberlandplayers.com/auditions for dates and times.

Audition Notices

A Christmas Carol

Adapted from the Charles Dickens story by Milena Janda
Directed by Mary Doig

Performances at Victoria Hall for school audiences on November 24-26, as well as for family audiences on November 27, 2010.

When: September 9, 2010, 2 sessions at 5-6:30 p.m. or 7-9 p.m.

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

Parts for 5 girls and 5 boys, between the ages of 12 and 18 years, and 4 men and 4 women of all ages. Simple singing required for some parts.

Rehearsals will take place Tuesdays and Thursdays 6:30 -8:30 and Saturdays 10:00 - 12 noon starting Tuesday Oct. 12, 2010.

If you are interested and unable to attend the audition, please call the director Mary Doig at 905-349- 2831.

ANNIE

Written by Thomas Meehan, Music by Charles Strouse
Directed by Val Russell, Choreography by Alina Adjemian

Performances: February 25-March 5, 2011 at the Cameco Capitol Arts Theatre, Port Hope

Auditions for adult roles. The children's parts have already been cast.

When: Saturday September 18, 2010 at 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

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

There are parts for 5 major roles: Oliver (Daddy) Warbucks, Miss Hannigan, Rooster, Lilly, and Grace. There are 12 parts for chorus people who will all be playing multiple roles.

Please have a prepared vocal audition and a copy of the music for the pianist. There will also be a dance portion to the auditions.

Call Garth Holloway at 905-372-9122 for more information.

*108 campers
appeared on
stage at the
Firehall
Theatre this
summer.
What a
show!*



Workshop

VOICE WORKSHOP FOR ACTORS COMING TO THE FIREHALL

One of the issues that constantly challenges us in our productions is that of voice. We try various remedies with microphones and such which help make voices louder, but the issues of making the voices clearer and stronger need other remedies. Even the most experienced actors regularly attend voice classes to develop and protect their instrument - the voice.

With help from Theatre Ontario, we have succeeded in hiring the man who is one of the most respected voice coaches in North America to run our actors voice workshop later this year. David Smukler supervises the Voice Teacher Diploma in the MFA Acting Program at York University and spends his other hours coaching and teaching for professional theatre, film and TV companies around the world.

He will run a 6 hour workshop for a maximum of 18 actors in the FireHall theatre between 10.00 am and 5.00 pm on Saturday, 4 December 2010.

Final details of content, costs and registration are not available yet. When they are determined, an announcement will be sent to members, giving them a window of two weeks to register and confirm with their payment before unconfirmed spaces in the workshop are made available to other community theatre groups.

You can read more about David Smukler at this site:

<http://www.theatre.ubc.ca/vi/davidbio.htm>

Garage Sale Raises Money for Renovation Fund

Funds for the renovation fund came in quarters, loonies, and toonies as NP held a garage sale alongside the Cobourg Farmers Market.

On Saturday, August 28, the Firehall Theatre was opened up for our first garage sale in many years. Under the leadership of Mary-Lou Secord, donations of gently-used items were accepted and arranged on risers in the theatre space. When the doors opened on Saturday, visitors and shoppers at the Cobourg Farmers Market flocked in to browse for bargains. You never know what will sell at a garage sale! Among the many purchases that morning, happy shoppers left with 3 pairs of assorted army boots, a homesick Newfoundlander bought a set of Newfoundland souvenir glasses (for Skreech, he said), and visitors from Italy found a Canadian souvenir plate with the crests of the 10 provinces.

Leftover treasures were red-donated to Beyond the Blue Box and Horizons of Friendship. But sorry folks, when you finally give up your old television or computer, nobody wants to buy it. However we did deliver them to the hazardous waste collection point in Bewdley for you.

At the end of the hot and humid morning, \$860.00 had been collected for the Firehall Renovation Fund. Thank you to Mary-Lou and her set-up and sales crew: Gill Kassela, Brenda Worsnop, Marg Hilborn, Helen Matthew, Norma Connors, Lynne Templer-McCall, Maureen Holloway, and Carol-Anne Caswell; to Garth Holloway and Greg Wadden for building the tables; and to Anne Park, Doreen Page, and Chris Worsnop who joined in for clean-up duty on Monday morning.



Left: Norma Connors
Above: Mary-Lou Secord,
committee chair
Right: Brenda Worsnop,
Norma Connors, Carol-
Anne Caswell, Helen
Matthew, Lyne Templer-
McCall, Maureen
Holloway and Mary-Lou
Secord



A Great Season : How Plays are Selected

The selection committee understands that comedies need to be entertaining, interesting, and even moving, but must also make selections based on the realities of budget, costume, and set building.

The 2010-2011 season is our most ambitious in over a decade. The Players are mounting two musicals, three dinner-theatre comedies, a Christmas show and two award-winning shows to open the refurbished Firehall Theatre. Two committees reviewed dozens of plays to arrive at this year's fantastic season.

The play-selection team, comprised of Doreen Page, Ron Tollett, Helen Matthew, Dave Clark, Brenda Worsnop, Nancy Little, and John Scharb, met regularly to read and discuss plays. Three Canadian plays, ***Having Hope at Home*** by David Craig, ***The Trouble with Richard*** by L.E.Hines and ***Looking*** by Norm Foster will challenge actors and delight the dinner-theatre audiences.

A second group, including Jack Boyagian, Caitlyn Hayes, Chris Sharp, Antonio Sarmiento, Helen Matthew, Beth Hunt, Carol Ann Caswell, Heather Jopling, and Cindy Barr, created a short list of 10 musicals in several categories which would be appropriate for the Capitol and Victoria Hall venues. The proposals of two directors also made it into the final ten. Another goal of this second committee was to make recommendations for two Firehall shows.

The Board selected ***Annie*** for the Capitol Theatre and ***The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*** for Victoria Hall. The Board decided to mount a popular, family musical to attract a wider demographic than past shows and also to provide an opportunity for the young talent in the Cobourg area. ***Annie*** will be directed by Valerie Russell. ***Spelling Bee***, on the other hand, is a "hip" award-winning adult musical comedy. It will draw audiences in their twenties but also satisfy seniors. The show is fast-paced and involves audience participation. Shannon Oliver is directing.

The Elephant Man will be mounted in the Firehall Theatre in early February, the first production there in five years. Director Dave Clark is no stranger to this venue. The committee wanted an "edgy" drama and a popular award winning show. There is a real buzz about this show already.

We are still waiting for the rights for the 2009 Tony Award winning show, ***The God of Carnage*** by Yasmina Reza. We hope to cater to the summer theatre audience by placing a comedy/drama in June and during the Waterfront Festival early July. The new air-conditioning will be a "cool" addition. Helen Matthew and Jack Boyagian will be directing.

Last, but not least Mary Doig will be directing ***A Christmas Carol***, adapted from Charles Dickens' story by Canadian Milenda Janda. This classic will delight audiences of all ages. We wanted children and families to fill Victoria Hall at the beginning of the holiday season.

I thank all the members of the various committees for the hours of work. The audiences will benefit from your thoughtful and informed selections.



See Kassy Gray and some of the other orphans on stage at the Cobourg Fall festival, September 18, 2010.

ANNIE

Cameco Capitol Arts Theatre, Port Hope
February 25 - March 5, 2011

Annie is a Broadway musical based upon the popular Harold Gray comic strip, Little Orphan Annie. The musical opened in 1976, ran for nearly six years on Broadway, and won the Tony Award for Best Musical. It was made into a hugely successful movie in 1982. The musical's songs "Tomorrow", "It's the Hard-Knock Life", and "Maybe" are its more popular pieces.

The Northumberland Player production is directed by Valerie Russell, produced by Garth Holloway, Marg Godawa and Jack Boyagian, and choreographed by Alina Adjemian. Steven Baric will be the vocal director and accompanist.

Our Annie is 12-year old Kassy Gray. Kassy attended Baltimore Public School and this September will be a grade 7 student at Dale Road Public School. Kassy is a member of the La Jeunesse Choir and dances with the Competitive Dance Team at Cobourg Dance Alliance. She has won many talent competitions for singing including Northumberland's Got Talent.

Along with some of the other remarkably talented girls in the cast, Kassy will be performing 3 songs from the show at the Cobourg Fall Festival on September 18th. They will be on stage at 11:30 a.m.

Encore!, the newsletter of the Northumberland Players, is published 5 times a year, in January, March, June, September and November.

Auditions notices, articles, photos, reviews, and announcements for the November newsletter can be emailed to Garth and Maureen Holloway at zaria@cogeco.ca
Deadline: November 5, 2010.

Members will receive the newsletter the week of November 8. Look for the current newsletter, and for back issues, on the website, www.northumberlandplayers.com