

Encore!

April 2007

2006/07 Executive

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Jack Boyagian

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Jan Crane

Todd Davis

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Liaison Youth Theatre

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FireHall Theatre

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Valerie Russell

ENCORE Editors

Valerie Russell

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Message From the Chairman of the Board

Exciting Times

These are exciting times for the Northumberland Players. A dedicated group of people have worked hard to gut the theatre space of The FireHall Theatre, clean up the space, organize a plan, create an architectural drawing and a model, get estimates and apply to two sources for financial support.

The FireHall renovation originally involved a four phase plan over several years to restructure the existing space in order to create more seating, allow for flexible modular staging, update the washrooms, foyers and interior space which will create a rewarding and aesthetically pleasing environment for our audiences. During Phase 1 several events occurred which lead to a more ambitious timeline: The Town renewed our lease for ten years, we applied for a Trillium grant for air conditioning which looks promising and are presently involved in pursuing Zircatec's corporate support which we hope will cover all costs of the renovation. How far we get with the renovation in the next six months depends on these grants, but thanks to a very successful season this year we should be able to afford Phase 1 to at least have a clean workable space for the summer youth program and a show in the late fall.

I would personally like to thank Dave Clark for his hard work, initiative and organization of the project, Bruce MacNeil for creating the architectural drawings, Greg Curtis for his wonderful concept and model, Ted Wilson for his consultation in the planning process. Also a special thanks to the "Get Down and Get Dirty" crew of John Matthew, Helen Matthew, Garth Holloway, Maureen Holloway, Don Young, John Nevin, Chris Nevin, Lynne McCall, Ellie McCall, Lois Skyvington, Dave Clark, and the many people who did several dump runs and shared their dump passes during the clean-up stage.

A special thanks to Jan Crane for her hard work on the first Trillium Application, Kevin Ward for his hours of work on the second Trillium Application and his creation of the proposal for the Zircatec Sponsorship and Val Russell for hours spent gathering information for the various committees. Thanks to Ron Swallow, Rodger Henderson, Dugald McDonald, Lynne McCall who provided feedback at various stages of the Grant and Sponsorship projects.

This initial stage has required hours of work. Several members have e-mailed or phoned me volunteering their time for the next phase: The Build. We still need you. We presently have 15 volunteers for the project. We need at least 10 more. Step up a be a Player in this project. I promise you a rewarding experience. Be part of the building of a theatre space of which the entire town of will be proud. 905- 373-4481 or email jboyagian@sympatico.ca

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NORTHUMBERLAND PLAYERS

213 Second Street, Cobourg, Ontario K9A 3N7

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

players@eagle.ca www.northumberlandplayers.com

Upcoming Shows & Opportunities

Northumberland Players Summer Theatre Camp

Northumberland Players has run Summer Theatre Camp for kids ages 8 to 16 for the past 4 years. Positive feedback from parents and participants have helped us to continue and build on past summers' experiences. Theatre and performance skills help to enhance a child's creative process, develop new imaginative outlets, learn teamwork and increase self confidence.

Our classes are for all levels of experience...whether your child is just stepping on to the boards for the first time, or brushing up on performance skills learned during other youth theatre classes.

Parents are invited "half-way through" to get a glimpse of what their kids are learning at theatre camp...dates for this will be announced at the beginning of each session.

JOB OPPORTUNITY!

The Players are seeking to hire University students enrolled in Musical Theatre or Drama programs for summer employment
July 1 to August 11, 2007 (Mon. to Fri 9am -4pm)
Please send resume to FireHall Theatre, 213 Second St. Cobourg K9A3N7

Northumberland Players present

Sylvia

By A.R.Gurney

Produced by Moira Cascone

Directed by Shannon Oliver

*Starring Nancy Little,
Jim West, Howie McCourt
and Camille Stopps*

In Dinner Theatre

The Best Western Cobourg Inn

April 20,21,22,27,28,29, May 4,5,6

Tickets are selling well

Opening night for Players members is \$30.00

Newsflash: The Best Western is offering OPENING NIGHT DISCOUNT!!!!

To any players members... \$30.00 for dinner and Sylvia....

please book your tickets NOW for April 20th

Just call 905-372-2105 and tell the front desk you are a Players member

Congratulations

To the cast and crew of THE FULL MONTY for a fabulous show which was both creatively and financially successful. This past weekend we were awarded 4 major prizes at the Eastern Ontario Drama League Awards Brunch. The Players won **Best Visual Presentation, Outstanding Contribution by a Student (Alex Roy in the part of Nathan), Best Overall Production, and Best Director (Val Russell).**

Bravo to all...a job well done!

Board Member Bios

Jan Crane

Jan Crane has called Canada “home” for the past 25 years after leaving her native Australia at the age of 35 to discover the world.

Her experiences in Australia were colourful to say the least. After a stint in the Armed Forces during the Vietnam War, she traveled around Australia working at odd jobs from fruit-picking to being a self-employed messenger service van driver. She ran a Government “betting shop” and then managed the advertising of the entertainment pages of a major daily newspaper. Obviously there were “perks” then, such as free tickets to lots of local theatre as well as to Opera and Ballet.

Her interest in live theatre remained and while traveling and living in England in the late seventies, most weekends were spent at Leicester square in London, watching the buskers in the street and taking in at least one matinee and one evening performance of live theatre.

In 1980, she arrived in Canada for a two week visit and the rest is history.

Entering college with a high school education at the age of forty, she studied engineering technology in mechanical drafting and discovered just how she had been able to run that betting shop all those years ago. She had just always thought “everyone could do math!!!”

Over the years she has worked in engineering design for all the major aircraft companies. For the past five years she has designed test rigs for landing gear; and now works part-time from her home near Warkworth.

She stumbled on to Northumberland Players a few years ago while taking a course in scene study at the Capitol Theatre conducted by; you guessed it, Tammy Duncan and Tim Russell. When a fellow student by the name of Dave Clark mentioned he was putting on a play at the FireHall Theatre and that there was a part in it for an old lady she didn’t hesitate to audition. After that portrayal of “Halie” in *Buried Child*, Jan performed for Northumberland Players in *Vagina Monologues* and *Chalk Garden*. Thinking she would never be able to perform in a musical because she didn’t sing, she auditioned for and won the part of the narrator in “*Rocky Horror*”. After an experience with a musical, she took singing lessons from Marie Anderson, who could get a donkey to bray in key, and performed in *Man of the Mancha* and *Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*.

She joined the board of Directors three years ago and after suggesting the George F. Walker plays “*Suburban Motel*” be considered, found herself directing one of them.

In preparation she took a directing course at theatre Ontario Summer School with support from Northumberland Players. It was a tremendous experience and one that she would fully recommend to other members.

Since then, her board’s activities have included assistance with the preparation of the recently submitted Trillium Application. A bit of a maverick, she never-the-less hopes her contributions to the board are of some significance in ensuring a lasting place for live theatre in our Community.

Shannon Oliver

" come and meet those dancing feet" were the first words Shannon sang on stage in a Northumberland Players production of *42nd Street*. That was 11 years ago, today Shannon is still heavily active with the Players. She has performed in, stage managed, produced and directed numerous productions over the past years.

Shannon has also helped to run and get our Summer Theatre Camp for children started. This past summer was her 3rd year being involved and she really enjoyed watching the children develop and learn.

Shannon also has 2 agents in the city, which has allowed her to do some television and film work. Most recently she worked on the set of *Hairspray* for 3 weeks., (this will be out in theatres early summer.)

Shannon has been on the board for 3 terms and is starting her 4 year. She looks forward to the challenges in the coming year for Northumberland Players. Shannon is currently directing our production of *Sylvia* at the Best Western.

Nancy Little

I have been an active member of the Northumberland Players for about twelve years. After re-locating to Cobourg from Ottawa I decided the best way to meet new people was to get involved in something fun. I had previously been a member of The Bethany Outdoor Theatre in Bethany, Ontario (also sat on their Board) and had done one or two small things with the Ottawa Little Theatre. I saw an audition call in the local Cobourg paper for *Odd Couple – The Female Version* and decided to give it a try; I got the role of Vera. It was my first foray into a small dinner theatre setting and I loved it. Since those early days, I have been fortunate enough to land roles in over 30 productions, most of them being dinner theatres. I have also performed on the Capitol Theatre stage and at Victoria Hall. But acting isn’t all I have done.

I believe that to be a part of a theatre group means to get involved in all aspects of that group so, I have been a dresser, applied make-up, helped with props, been a stage hand, a stage manager, an assistant director and a producer, and of course have contributed some of my own furnishings from home to dress a set! All those experiences have been rewarding in their own way and have helped to make me a dedicated *Player*. So when I was approached about becoming a Board member it seemed like a natural part of the progress in my involvement. I am presently in my second year of a three year term and I appreciate the chance to contribute to the further development of this group.

Chairman's Message Cont.

High Temperature

On behalf of the Board I would like to thank Director Mary Doig for a hilarious production of High Temperature. It was the second highest attended dinner theatre in our history. Cyd Demming's Art Deco set design, set decoration and costume design complimented the terrific directing; resulting in a very entertaining evening. Thanks to the production crew for running a tight ship. The cast, Vic Baitley, Joe Flynn, Brendan MacDonald, Jody Ledgerwood, Ron Tollett, Dugald McDonald, Bruce Stewart, Claire Russell, Susan Amos, Nancy Little, and Christian DeKolver didn't miss a beat.

Thanks to Roger Tessier and the Best Western crew for a well run and pleasing dinner experience.

The Full Monty

I would personally like to thank all those involved in making The Full Monty a great success. Val Russell, Heather MacMillan, Marie Anderson, Linda Tonkin, Alina Adjemian, Bruce Tonkin, Lynne McCall, David Hoare, and Tim Russell spent hours organizing, building, designing, directing and teaching a large cast of actors and production crew. Thanks to all of you behind the scenes that made this show the winner of The Best Production and Best Visual Presentation awards in the Eastern Ontario Drama Competition. A special Congratulations to Val Russell for winning The Best Director award and Alex Roy for Best Student. Take another curtain call actors; you were a talented and hard working cast who raised the skill level of the production with each performance: you stripped down acting to its essence.

Keep up the great work Players. Be should be proud of our past and excited about our future.

Jack Boyagian

WEEKEND ACTING /DIRECTING WORKSHOP

If you are planning to audition for a show next season or you would be interested in directing a show...whether to brush up on your acting skills or learn new techniques... the Players are offering a weekend intensive workshop which you might want to consider attending. The facilitator is John P. Kelly who was the adjudicator for the EODL festival.

The Workshop will be held May 11, 12 13 at the FireHall Theatre.

Cost is \$50.00 for members for the entire weekend.

Please call the FireHall to book your space...

there are only 18 places for actors and 6 places for directors.

John P. Kelly arrived in Ottawa in 2004 after a long and varied career in theatre and broadcasting in his native Ireland. He trained originally with the famous Abbey Theatre in Dublin and his direction work has been seen in most of the major theatres in his home country.

He also worked for Ireland's National Broadcaster, beginning as a Radio Drama Director and rising to the position of Managing Editor for Features and Arts, holding responsibility for the Station's Arts output.

For 4 years, he resided in Switzerland, working in the Arts area with the European Broadcasting Union.

He is a past member of the British Association of Drama Adjudicators and a founding member of the Irish equivalent, The Association of Drama Adjudicators. On this side of the water, he has adjudicated in Eastern and Western Ontario and in Toronto, and conducted theater workshops sessions for groups from Windsor to Ottawa.

Since arriving in Canada, Mr. Kelly has directed 3 professional shows in Ottawa and

founded his own production company, *Seven Thirty Productions*. His recent production of "A Night In November" was so successful that it was remounted in March.



THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

The Northumberland Players would like to thank all the volunteers who have helped with all aspects of the Players' work in the past months. Few people realize that those involved with the Northumberland Players commit to giving their time and their effort, many for months in advance of a production's opening night. For every volunteer actor who is onstage, there are at least 2 other volunteers backstage helping the magic come alive for our audiences. So to all our directors, producers, costumers, set construction crew, front of house, those who gave their dump passes, those who lifted a hammer or moved a set piece, not to mention our volunteer cast members – THANK YOU!

As spring blossoms, we are now calling on all interested parties to become members of the Players and to share their expertise with our community. We are looking for directors, producers, set crew, lighting and sound designers – if you have a skill and would like to share it with us, please do so. If you have always had an interest in some aspect of theatre, but are uncertain about what that would entail, you can be mentored by a seasoned member of the Players and thereby add to our volunteer base.

Last fall we began extensive renovations of our Firehall Theatre. This spring we will need many able-bodied people to continue with the hands-on renovations of this studio theatre space. This is your chance to get your hands dirty and help create a fabulous theatre space that will be a sight to behold. We will need carpenters, painters, dry-wallers - any and all skills are most welcomed. Call the Players at 372-0577 to share your skills and become part of this exciting renovation!

Heather Jopling, Northumberland Players past chairman and Volunteer

OUR OPENING SHOW OF 2007.....

Maggie's Getting Married by Norm Foster

If you have ever enjoyed TV's *Seinfeld*, *Friends* or *Everybody Loves Raymond*, then you will love Maggie and her family! Join the Duncan family on the night before the big day, when Maggie and her older sister make a startling realization and give new meaning to "sibling rivalry". A hilarious, modern, adult comedy that will elicit shrieks of recognition and gales of laughter from one and all!

Norm Foster was born in Newmarket, Ontario on St. Valentine's Day. Raised in Toronto, he attended West Hill Collegiate Institute and then went on to study Radio & Television Arts at Centennial College in Toronto and then Confederation College in Thunder Bay. Upon completion of his studies, he began a radio career that would span 25 years and which would take him from Thunder Bay to Winnipeg to Kingston and finally to Fredericton, New Brunswick. It was in Fredericton in 1980 that Norm was introduced to the world of theatre.

Norm Foster is Canada's most-produced dramatist, and no wonder. His snappy dialogue, everyday situations and gently balanced characters dare to represent that great, under-represented middle of North American society." - Halifax Daily News

WE NEED DIRECTORS / PRODUCERS / STAGEMANAGERS

The Players 2007/08 season is being planned now. The first dinner theatre (above) is booked for performances October 19 to November 4th. The second show Not Now Darling by Ray Cooney and John Chapman has performances booked January 18th to February 4, 2008. The third dinner theatre (to be decided) is booked for April 18 to May 4th, 2008. As well, the Players will have the musical production February 22 to March 2, 2008 and we are looking into a smaller musical production at Victoria Hall, April 4th through 11th of 2008. There are lots of choices...lots of creatively challenging and interesting shows to get involved in...why not broaden your scope...volunteer for a production team, assist in one of the productions and be mentored by a seasoned Player...its fun and rewarding....call the PLAYERS 905-372-0577 or send your proposal to the Board of Directors c/o the FireHall Theatre, 213 Second St. Cobourg K9A3N7

Volunteer Marché 2007

Showcasing volunteer opportunities in Northumberland County

The Players are participating in this day sponsored by the United Way and Info Northumberland. It is an opportunity to showcase our organization and build our membership / volunteer base. If you could help by giving us a few hours of your time manning our booth please call Lynne McCall (membership coordinator) at 905-342-9645

Date: Tuesday April 17, 2007

Time 12-7pm

Place: Cobourg Lions Centre, Elgin St. Cobourg.

“VOLUNTEERS GROW COMMUNITY”

2007 THEATRE CAMPS

One Month Theatre Intensive

Come out and learn on and off stage skills in a 4 week intensive camp with lots of action...including: Auditioning Skills, movement and mime, scene and character study, improvisation, makeup, costuming and set design. Kids will learn how to build a show from script to opening night. Mon - Fri 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Cost: \$525.00 for 4 weeks

Age: 12 to 15 years

Dates: July 2 to 28, 2007

Performances: Fri. July 27th, Sat. July 28 (mat. & evening)

One Week Theatre Camps

From auditions on day one to performance at the end of the week, kids will learn the beginnings of how to develop a character from dialogue and presentation, to movement and costuming.

Instructors will guide participants through the performance process, through theatre games, mime and movement and improvisation.

Cost: \$160.00

Age: 8 to 11 years

Dates: July 2 - 6, or July 16 - 20 or August 6 - 10 2007

Performances: July 7, 21 & Aug 11

Two Week Theatre Camp

Learn more about perfecting performance during 2 weeks of theatre camp, with emphasis on auditioning skills, character research and development, movement and vocal performance. Participants will work on monologue presentation as well as their own production to be performed at the end of the session. Mon - Fri 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Cost: \$275.00

Ages: 12 to 15 years

Dates: July 30 to August 10, 2007

Performances: Aug. 10 & 11

We make regular kids into theatrical STARS!

ENCORE! APRIL 2007

