

Encore!

AUGUST 2007

2006/07 Executive

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Valerie Russell

Nancy Little

Member: Cobourg &
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Registered Charitable
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Be Part of a Lasting Legacy

Charity Starts At Home

I read an article in the paper recently that revealed to me that Canadians are among the lowest contributors to charities. The article went on to state that Ontario residents give less than most provinces, with Nova Scotia ranking first - which surprised me. Apparently we are supposed to give 2% of our income to charity, which many Europeans do - I don't. I donated approximately \$420.00 to various charities including two local groups. I volunteer a great deal of my time and try hard to make sure I know that most of my money is making it directly to the cause.

I will be honest with you - the Firehall Renovation project needs your help. Like everyone else we need your financial support. I'm sure many of you donated more money than I did to charities but I am going to offer you something most charities cannot; my guarantee that **all** your dollars will go directly into the renovation of the space. The theatre will be wheelchair accessible and a safe and comfortable venue for youth while continuing to be the home of a terrific cultural gem in the community and a flexible space for new cultural events. It will finally become an intimate venue for excellent theatre productions.

Phase one, which included clean up and partial demolition, architectural drawings, a model, choice of materials and equipment, hours of number crunching, dozens of meetings with various companies and town officials, has been complete for some time. Thanks to the hard work of Jan Crane, Kevin Ward and Val Russell we were awarded a Trillium grant from the Ontario Government of \$36,000 for air conditioning. The Ontario Government has shown us they have confidence in this project. Continued page 2.....



NORTHUMBERLAND PLAYERS

213 Second Street, Cobourg, Ontario K9A 3N7

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

players@eagle.ca www.northumberlandplayers.com

Continued from page 1...

The Town of Cobourg has given us a ten-year lease and is doing everything to support us. We have been courting a major corporation for a year to fund the \$120,000 project with limited success to date.

Now it is time to shift our fundraising focus toward seeking donations from individuals and smaller business. We are still pursuing corporate donations but need each of our over 200 members to get on stage and donate \$100. *Is that thirty cents a day for the next year?* Our goal is to grow our membership within the community so that we might find new members interested in contributing to our new space. Together, we can achieve this goal. We must do this in order to grow into a viable theatre for the future.

We have put aside \$15,000 over the last year and with another \$20,000 we will complete a huge part of this project. The Firehall could be running, by Christmas, with a new look, a modular stage, better seating and yes- nicer washrooms. The Town is in the process of helping us by providing more electrical power to the Firehall and by next summer's Youth Camp program the air conditioning will be up and running thanks to Trillium. Phase two of our three phase plan will be completed.

A Wall of Names

My dream is to see a wall of over 200 names engraved for permanent display inside the theatre. For as little as \$100 (yes, we will accept more... a member recently donated \$900), your name will be on this wall. You will be a part of this legacy. Perhaps you would like to give a family member a gift or donate the engraving in memory of a loved one. Names will be on permanent display, a tax receipt will be provided and we will all be on this symbolic wall as a celebration of our achievement.

To give your support phone the Firehall Theatre at 905-372-0577 or email me at: jboyagian@sympatico.ca and I will make the arrangements to get your name on our wall.

Thanks for your support. Sincerely Jack Boyagian, President of Northumberland Players.

Being on the Board.....

Monday, November 5th, 2007, this year's AGM (annual general meeting) I will have served on this Board for one year.

Here's what I have learned:

This very enthusiastic and qualified group of 12 with the help of the Executive Director keep this organization on track.

Meeting every month for a couple of hours we discuss all issues that arise from running the Players.

Some issues and projects may include:

- 1. Maintaining the Firehall which includes liaising with the Town to make sure this is a safe place to work and perform not only for our Membership but for all those who venture in.....*
- 2. Renovating the Firehall. In the coming months we hope to transform this space into a showplace which will generate excitement for our Membership and create a venue to be proud of... on this subject I 'did' contact 'Holmes on Homes' for some help but alas this type of project was not what the current season was looking for so the producers graciously declined our request!*
- 3. Upgrading the electrical system.*
- 4. Installing an air conditioning system so our Youth Camp doesn't expire in summer months.*
- 5. Forming committees; i.e. sponsorship, play reading, membership, marketing, advertising, finance, Firehall renovation, fund raising, etc.....*
- 6. Scheduling meetings and events, such as the recent BBQ, that come out of these committees. Brainstorming for ideas on how to 1) recruit new members and 2) organize fund raisers, to name only two. (we welcome your input)*
- 7. Selecting plays for the upcoming season, then, searching our Membership and beyond for Directors, Producers, Stage Managers and others to become involved with each production.*
- 8. Along with show revenue and donations, applying for government grants and sponsorship which all help us to accomplish the above and, managing those funds so we can keep doing what we love to do.*
- 9. Coming up with new and interesting items for the monthly newsletter to keep this Membership informed.*
- 10. Soliciting our membership and audience members for feedback on our performance. Not only in our productions but as an organization too.*
- 11. Generating interest within the Community to raise our profile and increase our audience base.*
- 12. Setting up workshops to allow Membership to learn new skills and develop those skills within the Players.*
- 13. Develop a relationship with community and business to ensure and maintain a compatible working partnership.*

I'm sure there are other activities this Board is tackling that I have not mentioned but my space here is limited.....!

We encourage all members to come out and join one or more of the Committees we have in progress.

As you can see there is lots to do! Meet new people, have some fun!

Maintaining a sense of humour is key and seeing these projects through is the reward for our efforts.

As a Board Member, I am in a position to effect change, develop leadership skills, gain an understanding and have an impact on the issues. Not to mention be part of a dynamic and nutty group of people!

And, I mean that in the kindest way !!!!

I'm very glad I became involved and I think you would be too! We're not 'just' about the work!

Helen Matthew

P.S. Stay tuned for our next Newsletter for another instalment and perspective of..... 'Being on the Board.....'

We request your presence at the

Northumberland Players Annual General Meeting

Monday November 2, 2007

7:00 p.m.

Firehall Theatre

Refreshments will be served

Open to all!

Northumberland Players will be filling five Board of Directors positions this year at the Annual General Meeting (each Board Member serves a 3-year term).

Qualifications:

- Friendly
- Loves theatre
- Community minded
- Desire to be part of a dynamic group
- Willing to *get on board* our new exciting plan and take us into the future with the creation of our fabulous new theatre space!

If you are interested in putting your name on the ballot please contact the Firehall at 905-372-0577.

What Shrieking?

Submitted by Nancy Little

If you were strolling by the Firehall Theatre on the weekend of May 11, 12 & 13 and heard shrieks and screams coming from the third floor windows, you may have wondered what was going on.

It wasn't a rehearsal for a horror show or some weird warm-up – nothing so mundane! The sounds were originating from the participants in a workshop facilitated by John P. Kelly.

The workshop was presented by Northumberland Players and was open to anyone that is now, or aspiring to become, a director and/or actor and included a curriculum of Scene Development, Improvisation, Drama Sport and Theatrical Challenges.

The participants (20 in all) spent from Friday evening until Sunday afternoon honing and perfecting skills and learning some new ones. The workshop stretched and challenged the more experienced folks, yet was exciting enough for the novice actor/director.

From the moment I walked into the hall, John immediately had everyone feeling at ease and encouraged each person to participate – even the shy ones! Each days session he explained the days work ahead and then got to it. John's easy manner and lilting Irish accent had the group riveted to his every word. I personally enjoyed the Drama Sport (that was the shrieking bit), although I honestly loved all of the sessions. Some of the work was challenging but that is what I came for—particularly the task of directing a scene with two actors in only ten minutes—phew!

I came away with such perspective and some great new ideas—both acting and directing. This was the first time I had ever participated in such a workshop and the price was right! Thanks to Val for arranging it and I can hardly wait until the next one!

*Think you are ready to try a workshop? You are in luck...look on the next page for the announcement!
I will definitely be there!*

NOTICE
ACTING WORKSHOP!
FACILITATED BY HEATHER DICK
ARE YOU INTERESTED IN
AUDITIONING FOR PARTS THIS
SEASON?
THIS WORKSHOP IS FOR YOU!
WHEN: SEPTEMBER 29 & 30
10:00AM - 5:00PM
WHERE: FIREHALL THEATRE
3RD FLOOR
COST: \$50.00 FOR MEMBERS*
\$80.00 FOR NON MEMBERS

2-day workshop consists of 4 segments as follows:

Saturday a.m. - focus on the 5 physical senses

Break for lunch (not provided)

Saturday p.m. - focus on character development
(using the physical senses, costume pieces, simple props)

Sunday a.m. - focus on playing comedy (timing, simple physical comedy, punch lines)

Sunday p.m. scene work - comedy material - so that all participants will be able to apply as much of the workshop material as possible to a comedy scene.

Coffee & cookies provided

**The actual cost of the workshop is \$80.00 per person. The Northumberland Players will cover \$30.00 of the cost for members.*

Heather Dick—Bio

Heather, a veteran actor, director and acting instructor with over 28 years in the business, has taught for a number of theatre schools and community arts organizations including: Ryerson Polytechnic University, The New School of Drama, Theatre Ontario's Summer Program, Bramalea Little Theatre, Uxbridge Players and the Glenvale Players. She currently teaches workshops on Acting Techniques; Scene Study; Monologue and Audition Technique; and Presentation Skills through the Sirius Theatrical Company and her popular community theatre workshops: An Introduction to Acting; Exploring the 5 Senses; and Comedy Is Seriously Fun! have been delivered across southern Ontario. Since 2001, Heather has directed, co-ordinated or assisted with the direction of three major multi-dimensional / multi-artistic community arts projects in Etobicoke: Swimming For Shore (for Lakeshore Arts), Food For Thought (for Lakeshore Arts) and Dreamweavers (for the Sirius Theatrical Company).

WE NEED DIRECTORS / PRODUCERS / STAGEMANAGERS

The Players 2007/08 season is planned now. The first dinner theatre (Maggies Getting Married) has been cast (and stars Rebecca May, Whitney Lake, Brenda Worsnop, Greg Curtis, Bill Taggart and one more man in his late 30s yet to be cast.) There are many production jobs ready to be filled ...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

Youth Theatre Auditions for Papas Angels

The Firehall Theatre

Saturday September 8th 2007 10:00 am to 12 noon

Wednesday September 12th 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Saturday September 15th 10:00 am to 12 noon

Parts for 6 adult males

2 adult females

15 children 10 years and older

Please come prepared with a short audition monologue. There will be a vocal component to the audition.

Papa's Angels is directed by Victor Baitley

*Excitement laughter and tears. All these emotions are heard from great actors to be—our youth theatre participants, at the Firehall Theatre 3rd floor throughout the season at theatre camps and youth productions. These creative minded children are the future of the Northumberland Players and have sprouted from little seeds into great actors and have participated in the full company productions. Young thespians even go on to pursue a career in theatre. **Actual Production dates are Nov 21 22 23 24 (incorrect in brochure)** Please come out and audition. - Vic Baitley*

We turn regular kids into theatrical stars!

THE OASIS BAR and GRILL PRESENTS : DAVID MAMET'S DUCK VARIATIONS

Directed by Jack Boyagian

David Mamet's funny and witty comedy about life.

Five people from all walks of life discover friendship in fourteen chance meetings in a park.

Starring Terri Jo Ashton, Dave Clark, Emlyn Clark, Dave Glover and Tim Russell. Enjoy Dinner and a one act play under a giant canopy on the patio.

Dinner, show and gratuities only \$30.

Tuesday August 21 7:30

Thursday August 23 7:30

Friday August 24 9:00

Saturday August 25 9:00

Tuesday August 28 7:30

Wednesday August 29 7:30

Seating is limited. Call the OASIS for reservations & show times 905.372.6634

Tickets Now On Sale MAGGIE'S GETTING MARRIED

A comedy by Norm Foster

Directed by David Glover and Valerie Russell

Production dates October 19 to November 4 2007

Best Western Cobourg Inn call 905-372-2105 for tickets

ENCORE! AUGUST 2007

BOARD BIOS

Adrian Sirett

I have been a participant of the Northumberland Players since 2003, and ever since, have been involved in several musicals and plays. I had the privilege of being introduced to the Northumberland Players through Valerie Russell. I was a dialysis patient, and Val a Dialysis Nurse, was administering my treatment. A conversation soon was struck regarding music and her involvement in the Players. This was something that reached me and made me curious.....next thing I knew I was participating in the Rocky Horror Show....I was lucky enough to meet extremely dedicated and talented people....I have been onstage or in the pit bands playing guitar ever since.

My background consists of a BA in English and a BA in Music. I have been involved in the Rocky Horror Show, Assassins, Man of La Mancha, Best Little Whorehouse...and looking forward to participating in Urinetown.

The Northumberland Players is more to me than just a theatre company. It has brought a sense of community to my life. I have met wonderful people and will continue to look forward to a long and entertaining relationship with all the members.

In my personal life, I have been married almost a year now, have recently bought a new home and am currently embarking on a new career with Ontario Power Generation. My wife and I have a new member in our family to go along with Rocky (big fat cat), Marbles (big fat cat), Thumper (big fat bunny)....RUFUS!!! our baby Basset Hound (not big or fat but, cute with big paws and massive ears!)

Todd Davis

Todd Davis has been a member of the Northumberland players Board of Directors for 2 of the past 3 years. He has participated as a cast member in Steve Martin's comedy Underpants, the first successful dinner theatre production in the newly renovated Best Western space. His passion for theatre developed in high school in Toronto and got him involved with the Players when his family relocated to Cobourg in 1992.

Todd is a member of Loyalist College faculty in the School of Business, Biosciences and Justice Studies. When not sharing his enthusiasm for education with others or going to school part-time himself Todd and his family own and operate a successful restaurant in Cobourg. His families business, The Oasis Bar and Grill is considered to be an industry leader in its marketplace and has been recognized two times in the past 14 years as business of the year by the local chamber of commerce. Focusing on customer service, quality, innovation and marketing have made the Oasis a strong brand in Cobourg and throughout south eastern Ontario. Features in the Toronto Sun, Toronto Star and on City TV's Breakfast television this past year are testaments to the dedication and vision shared by his family and their commitment to the hospitality industry.

His family is also very involved in the community with the local Rotary Club and is proud to be an original sponsor of the Shelter Valley Folk Festival.

On a personal note, Todd has been married to his wife Amber for four years and is thoroughly enjoying being a father for the first time to their one year old son Noah.

PLAYERS STARS OF STAGE AND SCREEN

As some of you may know I went to Collingwood in July to perform as an "Elvis Tribute Artist" and it was a blast!

I had an amazing time for my first year there, and it was great meeting all the wonderful fans and other tribute artists - thank you, thank you very much...

The fan feedback was great - and that's what counts. As far as how I did... well..... I did fine for the first year out there, and am determined to keep going with this, and the other competitions during the year. There were some elements to the competition that I wasn't aware of, I didn't perform at any "venues", and I think the judges really look at that....

I didn't make the top 10 of my category, but made top 15 (I am supposed to get scores back and I'll see if I was 11 or more like 15...) There were 143 contestants overall.

p.s. I'm going to the Brantford Elvis Festival in August and King of Kitchener event on Sept 14-16...

Thanks, Bruce Stewart



We hope you caught the recent release of HAIRSPRAY THE MOVIE - not only does our own Shannon Oliver get to cavort with JOHN TRAVOLTA but she has about 10 seconds of just her on the big silver screen!

Congratulations to Matt Boden and Lauren Russell- on the creation of their new production company called **C Theatre Works**, and mounting two one-act plays by Beau Dixon (of *Players Full Monty* fame) at the factory theatre in Toronto February 2008. We will forward details of this inaugural production. You can also check out the website at www.ctheatreworks.ca

THANK YOU NOTES

We would like to sincerely thank Marie Anderson for working with NP musicals for the last 6 years. Since *Jesus Christ Superstar* Marie has been the vocal director and orchestra conductor for our yearly musical and also for our two summer productions *Forever Plaid* and *Dames at Sea*. Marie has brought a high level of excellence to our musicals with her extensive background in vocal training, choral conducting and her love of harmony. Who can forget how many times we sung the opening Requiem in *Evita* until it was perfect...or the many brilliant 4 part harmony numbers in *Forever Plaid*... or more recently the chorale in *The Full Monty* five part male harmony dressed only in jockey shorts. Many members have greatly improved their vocal skills under her direction. In September Marie is moving to Kingston to attend Queens University to earn a Masters in Education...we wish her well.

And a special thank you to Sheila Blainey who has been a valuable member of our Board of Directors for the last 2 years...Sheila has moved to China to teach...we will miss you.


Urinetown Auditions

Urinetown, the musical, is a great piece of theatre with catchy tunes and an absurd premise: a town with no private toilets forced to pay to pee at public bathrooms. The show parodies several musicals and it is a challenge for leads and chorus. The chorus is comprised of two groups really; the good guys who are the poor proletariats and the bad guys, the *Urine Good Company* who are in cahoots with the police.


Actors will enjoy being part of either group. They will have terrific harmonies and great dance and movement numbers including a hilarious slow motion chase scene. The play has 3 male leads, Bobby age 20-35, Officer Lockstock, age 30-50, and Mr. Cladwell, age 50 and up; all need strong voices. The female leads are Ms. Pennywise 50s strong soprano, Hope, in her 20s or needs to look young with a strong voice and Little Sally a girl in her late teens—good voice. The chorus consists of 15 speaking parts, the rebels and cops ranging from ages 14 to 75. The chorus makes this show. Members must be willing to have fun with quirky movements and eccentric character traits. We will be casting 30 people with 21 speaking parts.

Come out and challenge yourself with a most unusual show.

We are still looking for a co-producer and backstage people. If you want to get involved in the production team please e-mail me at jboyagian@sympatico.ca



NORTHUMBERLAND **P**LAYERS
Auditions For



URINETOWN
THE MUSICAL

by Mark Hollmann & Greg Kotis
directed by Jack Boyagian
choreography by Alina Adjemian

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 23 at 11:00am
at the FireHall Theatre 213 Second St. Cobourg
Open Audition

Please be prompt/ Please come prepared with a vocal audition and TWO copies of your music/ There will be a cold read portion to the audition and as well a choreography portion.

Show Dates Feb. 22 to Mar. 1, 2008
Please call 905-372-0577 for more information.

BBQ Thank You!

A thank you to everyone who attended the Northumberland Players barbeque at Lynne McCalls in July. Great food, great conversation and meeting new members made for an enjoyable evening.

Lynne still has a pair of salad tongs...please call her to claim them. Also...someone took the Mathew's black fold up chair and left a dark green one at Lynne's...so could you check your fold-up in a bag chairs and call her...Lynne McCall 905-342-9645.

Urgent notice!

Our director for the January show *Not Now Darling* by Ray Cooney is not able to undertake this project. If you've ever thought you would like to direct—here is your chance. You could be mentored by an experienced director. Scripts available at the Firehall.

NORTHUMBERLAND PLAYERS ARE HOT! HOT! HOT!

An article by Jan Crane.

Now before you start thinking that I'm going to be banging my chops about our current air conditioning problems again, let me share some great news with you.

The 2007-2008 season includes the mounting of one of Canada's most wildly raved about "Women's" shows since "Vagina Monologues". Selling to sold out audiences all over the Country, "Menopositive, the Musical" will be performed at Victoria Hall, Cobourg for 5 performances over one weekend next April.

Now guys! Before you go thinking that this is another one of those "in-your-face women's shows" that you'll have to sit through for your wife's sake, or as I heard one guy say to his wife during the performance of "Vagina Monologues"....."Now I know what you feel like when I talk about golf all the time!".... let me assure you that this show is fun!

With a loose story line about 3 women returning to their high school for a 35th re-union (haven't we all been to one of those) and one of them being asked to write a show for that occasion, she, (Kate Phillips, aspiring writer from the graduating class) pens a little ditty about Menopause.

Two women attending this reunion, Marnie the career tycoon and Cynthia the dutiful housewife are dragged into this charade while a fourth women written into it suddenly can't make the re-union. Enter a cleaning lady from Hungary no less who just used to be a former star in her native country before the Communist regime forced her out and into a life of lowly paid servitude. Of course she bulldozes her way into the vacant part and proceeds to take over.

But before I go simplifying things so much that you think it predicable and boring, let me say the original music is great and reminiscent of many musicals you've seen..... And I mean the best parts.

With a wide range of musical styles, from Latin Rhumba, Country and Western, Ballads, Gospel, Disco and a Flamenco guitar spoof, the audience can expect to enjoy a night of celebration with top class performances from some of our best local actors. In the words of the author, Canadian playwright J.J. McColl, this musical has "heart".

And truly, opening night at this show will be a "Celebration of Womanhood" with a special Champagne opening night package being offered. With an extended half hour intermission, (providing sufficient time for all menopausal women to manage their bladder control) Champagne (or sparkling mineral water), strawberries and chocolate will be served. The show on this night will start at 7.30pm. Other nights the show starts at 8.00pm with matinees at 2pm. There will be dinner and show packages offered in conjunction with the Oasis Restaurant... so look on our website for details as they become available.

The show will run Thurs 7 April till Sunday 10th April with Matinees Sat and Sun. Ticket price is \$25 and \$35 for opening night. Group discount prices are available. For details phone 905 372 0577.

AUDITIONS! AUDITIONS!

Please anyone wishing to audition for this show (we are looking for 4 women in early fifties or able to play that age) contact Val Russell at the FireHall, 905 372 0577. You should be able to sing in a broad range of styles and have exceptional (only kidding!) comedic talent. We have scripts and scores for you to take for limited periods. Auditions will be held sometime in November with rehearsals starting in early January, so check our website for details as they become available.

Any further information can be obtained from either the producer, Val Russell at 905 372 0577 or the Artistic Director, Jan Crane at 705 9241670.

ENCORE! AUGUST 2007