

Encore!

June 2009

2008/2009 Executive

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Valerie Russell Resigns As Executive Director

by Jack Boyagian, President

News travels fast so I'm sure most of the Members know that Valerie Russell has resigned her position as Executive Director of The Northumberland Players. When Val took on this position several years ago she was working part time, directing and producing plays, running summer camps and even a couple of summer seasons, while running the office. When she went to full-time work, Val continued in her official position while working hard as a volunteer. There wasn't a week Val didn't put in more than the fifteen hours a week designated for the job. During the two financially challenging years, Val often would not take the allotted salary. The Board of Directors would like to thank her for her relentless work ethic and her loyalty to an organization she has been involved in for over thirty years. Val assures me that she is not quitting, but would like to focus on creative aspects of the Players and would like to commit time to her next project, Ten Thousand Villages, which will open this fall in Cobourg.

The past month has been a challenge for many people who are trying to fill the void as Val educates us on the many facets of her job. Helen Matthew, Brenda Worsnop, Marg Hilborn, Deborah Wilson and I have been trying to continue the duties, with extensive help from Val who continues to work with Meaghen Quinn on the summer camps. What we have learned is that she will be hard to replace. Val has an amazing understanding of all aspects of the organization. The Board has realized that we need to create an Office Manager position and a Marketing position. Our goal is to have someone at the Firehall for regular hours for about 16 hours a week. We are presently working to fill these positions and we will keep the membership posted.

The Status of the Renovation

This sounds like a broken record, but feel I must keep you up to date. We hired Ted Wilson to submit drawings to Heritage Ontario and we are awaiting permission to continue to install air conditioning in the Firehall. The painting has begun and the theatre bathrooms are nearly completed. The inside equipment of the air conditioners have been installed. The entire experience has been very frustrating, but it will be worthwhile. We need some members to chip in with some painting in the next few weeks. If you can offer a few hours of help, please email me at jboyagian@sympatico.ca.

NORTHUMBERLAND PLAYERS

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players@eagle.ca

www.northumberlandplayers.com

Seeking Young Theatre Enthusiasts for Mentorship Program

The Northumberland Players Summer Theatre School is seeking high school students to join a mentorship program that will allow the participants to gain leadership and teaching skills, as well as an opportunity to work with theatre and film professionals.

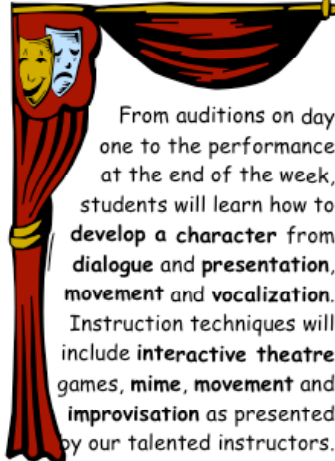
High school students may use this experience to fulfil their community volunteer hours, as well as to gain a teacher's assistant credit for their résumés.

We are seeking students that can make a minimum commitment of one week; however, volunteer hours can also be obtained by taking on production responsibilities during School Performances.

For more information, please contact program director, Meaghen Quinn, at meaghenquinn@hotmail.com.

Sign up now for the exciting summer drama programs for children and teens.

**1 WEEK
DRAMA
BOOT CAMP**

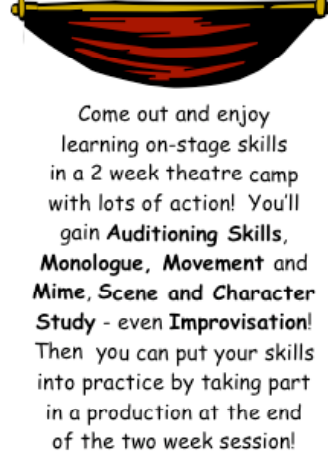


From auditions on day one to the performance at the end of the week, students will learn how to **develop a character** from **dialogue** and **presentation**, **movement** and **vocalization**. Instruction techniques will include **interactive theatre** games, **mime**, **movement** and **improvisation** as presented by our talented instructors.

For Students 7 to 10 Years

9:00 am to 4:00 pm,
Monday through Friday
July 13 - 17
July 27 - 31
August 3 - 7
Cost: \$160.00 for 1 week

**2 WEEK
I LOVE BEING
AN ACTOR!**



Come out and enjoy learning on-stage skills in a 2 week theatre camp with lots of action! You'll gain **Auditioning Skills**, **Monologue**, **Movement** and **Mime**, **Scene and Character Study** - even **Improvisation!** Then you can put your skills into practice by taking part in a production at the end of the two week session!

For Students 10 to 13 Years

9:00 am to 4:00 pm,
Monday through Friday
July 6 - 17
July 20 - 31
August 3 - 14
Cost: \$300.00 for 2 weeks

**1 MONTH
THEATRE
INTENSIVE**



By popular demand! This 1 month program is ideal for graduates of the Northumberland Players' introductory courses and promising actors with a little background and a lot of interest! Designed to build on existing skills and encourage personal creative expression, this program brings out the best in you!

For Students 13 Years +

9:00 am to 4:00 pm,
Monday through Friday
July 6 - 31 only
Cost: \$550.00 for 1 month

Northumberland Players Summer Theatre School

*Attention,
student writers!
Submit your
new play by
July 10.*

Seeking Playwrights of all Ages

Northumberland Players Summer Theatre School is currently accepting submissions for its New Play Festival. The school is seeking adventurous and creative new plays that will be exciting for today's young actors.

The scripts should be 10-40 minutes in length. Cast sizes can vary; however, plays with 16-20 characters will be considered for camp productions. The scripts should be suitable for one of three age groups; elementary school (7-11), middle school(12-14), or high school(12-16).

We encourage playwrights of all ages to submit their work. The submission deadline will be July 10th.

Please send scripts to The Northumberland Players, 213 Second Street Cobourg Ontario K9A 3N7. Clearly mark 'New Play Festival' on the front of the envelope.

For more information, please visit www.northumberlandplayers.com or email meaghenquinn@hotmail.com.

New Play Festival

Five plays will be chosen for a community play-reading event. The New Plays reading event will give the playwrights an opportunity to hear their work as well as to collect feedback. Depending on the number of submissions, the school would also like to workshop two plays during its summer season.

The playwrights will be invited to selected rehearsals, and will be encouraged to submit rewrites throughout the process.

Topics/Themes

Everything is welcome.... the dramatic, the comical, and of course the ridiculous!

We are specifically looking for plays that will be COOL for kids. We encourage the playwrights to think "outside of the box" by creating fun, adventurous, and clever work while still incorporating characters, relationships, and situations that are relevant to young people.

Summer Barbeque

Mark your calendars for Sunday, July 26,
for the annual summer barbeque
at Lynne McCall's house.
Details and phone calls will follow.



Workshops by Chris Worsnop

There are three workshops in preparation for next season so far. With luck, all three will take place before the end of 2009.

Producing

The first, a one-day workshop to take place on either September 13 or 20, will be for producers. The leader for the workshop has not yet been confirmed, but a number of people have been approached. The role of producer is rather like that of a project manager and anyone who has done project management in another life would be well suited to this position. Northumberland Players needs new producers, so if you have any interest in that area, or know of someone else who might be, please send an email expressing your interest to me at cworsnop@cogeco.ca.

Play-Writing

We are toying with a couple of different models for this initiative, from a single day workshop to an intensive, ten-week on-line course with a professional. We could even form a group within the Players to meet regularly to work together on their writing, rather in the manner of the present “play-reading group”. Again, it would help to know who and how many would be interested in joining any of these sessions, so please, if you are one such person, let me know by email at the address above.

Stage Management

This workshop will take place in November, on one of, November 15, 22, or 29. Arrangements for this workshop are almost complete but cannot be confirmed until August. As with the other workshops, NP members can contact me by email to let me know of their interest.

The exact hours, locations and costs of the workshops will be announced as soon as we work out the details. Depending on work at the Firehall, we will meet either there or at the Cobourg Public Library. Most workshops operate from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm. Costs vary depending on our own expenses, and there is a standard \$10.00 plus tax added for refreshments and lunch. Don't forget, a paid-up NP member will get a 30% discount on the registration cost of any workshops taken with the group.

To organize workshops we need to know how many NP members would like to take part. So please, don't sit back and wait for another invitation to join in. Send off that email today expressing your interest in any of these workshops to cworsnop@cogeco.ca.

*Workshops
focus on
behind the
scenes roles
this fall.*

Northumberland Players Auditions

Actors, aged 8 and up, needed for the annual Christmas production.

Northumberland Players Christmas Production of

Santa's Big Sleep

Written by Lee William Fairbanks

Directed by Victor Baitley

Show dates November 25 to 28, 2009
at Victoria Hall, King Street, Cobourg

Auditions will be held September 9 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
and September 12 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

at The Firehall Theatre, 213 Second Street, Cobourg.

There are 15 actors needed, male and female parts, ages 8 and up.
Please come prepared with a short memorized paragraph.

STEEL MAGNOLIAS

Written by Robert Harling

Produced by Garth Holloway

Directed by Chris Worsnop

Dinner theatre performances at the Best Western, Cobourg,
January 22 - February 7, 2010

Auditions at the Firehall at 7:00 pm on
Tuesday, September 8 and Thursday, September 10, 2009.
Callbacks 7:00 pm on Sunday, September 13

There are parts for 6 females:
two aged 20-30, two aged 40 - 55, and two aged 60+

More information in the August Newsletter, or call Chris Worsnop at 905.372.2126

Calling All Crazy Hats!!!

Northumberland Players will be hosting the Community Living Special Needs Drama Camp this summer. We are going to explore character development and role-playing by using crazy hats as inspiration.

If you have a funny or interesting hat that you'd be willing to donate, please drop it off at the Firewall or the Victoria Hall Box Office, sometime before July 3rd. If you can't get a hold of anyone, call Carole at 1-905-372-7073.

Thank You!



The National Music Camp of Canada

The National Music Camp of Canada is a summer camp for kids having completed grades 3-12 offering programs in Band, Orchestra, Strings, Jazz and Musical Theatre. This residential camp runs out of Camp Wahanowin in Orillia.

Once again, veteran Jenn Worsnop-Sellers will be the Musical Theatre Director working with a fabulous team of faculty and staff. The musical theatre program is designed to teach campers all aspects of theatre, including Voice, Dance, Acting, Set Design, Props, Costumes, while ensuring campers have the time of their life. While kids are at camp they spend 4-6 hours a day in their selected discipline and also have the opportunity to take part in activities such as: Water Skiing, High Ropes, Rock Climbing, Sailing, Water Trampoline and much more!

Camp dates this summer are:

Junior Camp (campers having completed grades 3-8) August 16-22

Senior Camp (campers having completed grades 8-12) August 23-30

Registration is in progress. Please see the attached flyer for details of how to register, don't wait you don't want to miss out on this amazing camping experience!

You can learn more about the camp by visiting www.nationalmusiccamp.com

Job Opportunity: Dance Faculty

The National Music Camp of Canada is looking for a Dance Faculty for this year's camp from August 15-30. This two-week camp is a camp that is specialized for students who are interested in music. We put on a musical in a week and are looking for a qualified choreographer for the camp.

We are looking for someone who has 3-5 years post-university choreography and dance experience and who is comfortable choreographing for a wide range of dancer abilities.

The camp works on an Honorarium system, and faculty are paid \$750.00 for the first week and \$800.00 for the second.

Anyone interested in the position for this summer should send a resume to jenn@aerialaddictions.com

More Camp experiences for children interested in musical theatre.

Summer job: dance faculty.

Articles, photos, reviews, and announcements for the August newsletter can be e-mailed to Garth and Maureen Holloway at zaria@cogeco.ca

Deadline: August 22, 2009. Watch for the newsletter on the website on August 28, 2009.