



Kanata Theatre's Monthly Newsletter

Greasepaint

Volume 31 Issue 4, December 2000

Website: <http://www.kanatatheatre.com> **Box Office:** 831-4435



Madam President's Christmas Message



First, I must congratulate Susan Monaghan, Gerry Thompson and the cast and crew of "To Forgive..." Once again we had sell-out crowds and great feed-back from our audience. Thanks to all who made this production such a success.

Big whoopee thanks also go to Front-of-House who bore the brunt of the refreshment bar this play, but executed it beautifully, fed and watered the audience sufficiently, and made a healthy profit to boot! Put your name down with Jim Ritchie for a night or two at the refreshment counter next play - it's fun - honest! I did it two nights with Liane - what can I tell you!

Well guys, 'tis the season to be giving, and the old adage "charity begins at home" somehow springs to mind. Jim Holmes and his team are doing a great job with the fundraising campaign, but please don't forget, every little bit helps. Each contribution will bring us closer to completing our dream. Grateful thanks to all those members who have already waved their credit cards / cheque books at Jim's beaming face!

To Bob Lackey's cast and crew of "The Haunted Castle" - have a blast both on stage and at your gigs. We look forward to joining in the fun. Cheers to our two jolly old men in red this Christmas ... Brooke and Dewi ... who will do the honours and MUST be nice to all those "little cherubs" at the RMP after the show! As Ron Maslin used to say ... "Ho bloody Ho!".

And to all of you dear members of Kanata Theatre, I wish you and your families many blessings this Christmas and good health and much happiness in the year yet to come. Happy Holidays to all!

~ Cheers, Jenny

From KT Holiday Seasons Past...

Kanata, 29 December 1972

Respected Sir,

The cast of the current extravaganza of the illustrious group of thespians sometimes and properly referred to as The Kanata Theatre Group, includes a policeman. This role, while prestigious in aspect, has the advantage of being almost mute; the exception being pleasantries mumbled at the portals of the Pennypacker Mansion.

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Coming Events

Sat. Dec. 16; Sun. Dec. 17: "The Haunted Castle" by Beth McMaster. 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. @ RMP. Directed by Bob Lackey, produced by Sheryl Bell. To volunteer for **Front of House**, contact Jim Ritchie at 592-5775;

jritchie@sprint.ca. Bring your family, friends and holiday visitors to enjoy this charming kid-friendly production - Santa will be on hand!

Mon. Dec. 11; Wed. Dec. 13: Auditions, "Departures and Arrivals" - 7:30 pm @ RMP, please use stage door. See details p. 3. For information, contact Heather Walt at 836-3644.

Friday, Jan. 12, 2001: Information session, "Pearls on Ice" - produced by the Good Companions' Centre, directed by Gary Smith and Sharon Magee Smith. See details p. 3. For information, contact Good Companions at 236-0428 or Helen Weeden at 832-3787.

Friday, Jan. 5, 2001, 3:00 p.m.: Deadline for submissions to the January issue of Greasepaint - email plain text (.txt) to Amy at dc.adams@sympatico.ca, or call 592-6547.

Jan. 24-27; Jan. 30-Feb. 1, 2001: "Communicating Doors" by Alan Ayckbourn. Directed by Brooke and Rosie Keneford. 8:00 pm @ RMP. To volunteer for **Front of House**, contact Jim Ritchie, 592-5775; jritchie.sprint.ca.

Lost and Found

LOST: 1 tool caddy. Was Millie's cleaning supplies tray during "To Forgive". Was switched for a different one - Paul would like the original one back, please. Contact Paul Gardner at 592-0314.

LOST: 1 Ricky Martin CD - boogied outa sight at Do Your Own Thing Night. Contact Tracey Gardner at 592-0314.

FOUND: 1 ring (band with small stones—costume jewelry), found in the green room—on the shelf where the mugs are kept. Contact Nancy Warner at 599-9816.

FOUND: 1 black sweat shirt with the Manotick Mill on it. 1 purple London Fog winter coat with metallic buttons. Currently residing in Mary Holmes' hall closet - please claim, contact Mary at 592-1079

To Forgive... was Divine!

If you want to build a ship, don't drum up people together to collect wood and don't assign them tasks and work, but rather teach them to long for the endless immensity of the sea.

~ *Antoine de Saint-Exupery*

I want to thank everyone who helped in the production of "To Forgive, Divine". I have been delighted and honoured to work with everyone involved, from our fabulous cast to our wonderfully talented backstage crew. I know that I have learned a lot from this experience of directing and I especially want to thank Susan for inviting me to co-direct with her. To paraphrase Antoine, I think we all "long for the smell of the greasepaint and the roar of the crowd". I know I do and I know I will be back for more. Thanks again,

~ Gerry Thompson

I couldn't have said it better myself. Thanks Gerry and Antoine. And many thanks again to the great CREW and CAST of "To Forgive Divine" for making the show such a pleasure to be part of. That "Standing O" on the final night will be ringing in my ears for quite some time to come. I hope we all can work together again soon, (and I'm sure in some way, we will!) Have a good Christmas and a great New Year!

~ Susan Monaghan

Open House a Success!

Many thanks to the volunteers who made the open house on November 26 such a success. In spite of the awful weather, we had about 20 people come through. Everyone was very interested in the theatre and the behind the scenes work.

I would like to thank Susan Phillips for preparing the information pamphlet that we handed out at the open house. Everyone found it very interesting and informative. Thanks also go out to the volunteers who came in to give tours or explain some of the different jobs including Barrie Kirk, Jim Holmes, Betty Francis, Christine Walton, Anne Marie Davies, Gwendy Tolley, and Nancy Warner. Finally, a big thank you to the cast and crew of "To Forgive, Divine" for having us in during set teardown.

~ Tracey Gardner, Director, Membership and Training

Publicity's Holiday Highlights

Scheduled performances of the holiday play, The Haunted Castle, have doubled since Greasepaint was last published. Please let area families know that it will now run on both Saturday, December 16 and Sunday, December 17 at 1 and 3 pm.

Steve Duncan is effectively keeping the website current while he and his committee, made up of Katie Betts, Tracey Gardner, Shann McGrail and Mike Hogan, are working out the design which will likely be implemented early in the new year.

I did receive a request for information about "To Forgive, Divine" from The Citizen's entertainment editor, Doug Fischer. However only a very small paragraph, which amounted to little more than a "listing", appeared in Arts section. Once again, I encourage members to contact The Citizen and its publisher, Russell Mills*, to express a desire for better coverage of the community's local theatre groups, by means of well-written previews and/or reviews.

As always, I am indebted to the many, many people who assist me in promoting this hard-working group and the creative work that is done here at KT!

~ Sandy Wynne, Director, Publicity

(*Editor's note: Ironically, Mr. Mills reportedly won a major award this year for Arts coverage in his papers! More to come on this (email Russell Mills at rmills@thecitizen.southam.ca).

~ Amy

Membership Dues: 1 yr. individual \$10; 1 yr. family \$20; 1 yr. student \$5; 5 yr. individual \$40; 5 yr. family \$80. Please check the address label on your envelope. If it is highlighted, then you owe KT some money. Contact Tracey Gardner at 592-0314. Cheques can be sent to 41 Parsons Ridge, Kanata, Ontario, K2L 2X5; or drop it by the RMP, addressed "Attention Membership and Training".

Auditions!!

- Show:** "Departures and Arrivals", by Carol Shields - directed by Heather Walt
Run: March 21-24; 27-31 @ RMP
Auditions: Monday, December 11, and Wednesday, December 13, 7:30 pm onstage @ RMP (please enter by the stage door)
Rehearsals: Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sunday evenings until close to production dates
Background: "Departures and Arrivals" is a series of vignettes, which take place in an airport arrival and departure lounge. It may be played with as few as six actors playing multiple parts or with a larger cast with speaking parts more evenly distributed.
 For our production, we hope to have six women and six men for the major speaking parts. They range in age from late teens to grandparents. For the most part, accents are irrelevant, with the exception of the grandmother, a little old lady who has lived her whole life in a small Canadian town. There are also opportunities for a number of small speaking parts, attendants, airport officials, three basketball players, an onlooker, etc.
 In addition, there will be a few walk-on parts that will help create the bustle in the activities in an airport. These people will also assist backstage.
Information: Contact Heather Walt at 836-3644
- Show:** "A Midsummer Night's Dream", by William Shakespeare, directed by Jim Holmes
Run: May 23-26; 29-June 2, 2001 @ RMP
Auditions: Sunday February 4 and Monday, February 5 with callbacks if necessary Wednesday, February 7, 7:30 pm @ RMP, please use stage door.
Update: We have a Production Manager- Anne-Marie Davies. Whoopieee! If you would like to work on this play please call Anne-Marie at 226-5040.
Information: Jim has scripts to lend, but any edition of the play will do. Call Jim at 592-1079.
- Show:** "Pearls on Ice", directed by Gary Smith and Sharon Magee Smith
Run: July 4 and 5, 2001
Place: CentrepoinTE Theatre
Auditions: January 16, 18, 19 - 2001
Information Session: January 12, 1:00 pm @ Good Companions' Centre, 670 Albert St., Ottawa
Background: Pearls on Ice - a senior showcase of talent in music, song, dance and spoken word to be performed at CentrepoinTE Theatre, Nepean on July 4 and 5, 2001. This production could be of interest to our senior KT members as it is done in affiliation with Good Companions. Written and directed by Gary Smith and Sharon Magee Smith who did the same for "String of Pearls" earlier this year.
Contact: Good Companions at 236-0428 or Helen Weeden at 832-3787

Help Build KT's Dream! Donation Form

Yes! I want to help finish the Ron Maslin Playhouse!

Here is my donation of \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

I wish to pay by:

☐ Cheque payable to "Kanata Theatre" (enclosed)

☐ One or more postdated cheques (enclosed)

OR

Please charge to my VISA

☐ my whole gift

☐ _____ (monthly) (quarterly) payments of \$ _____

Name: _____

Card#: _____

Expiry: _____

Signature: _____

Kanata Theatre values your donation of any amount. Your new donation will be added to any past donation to determine your category.

Please send this form to:

Thank you for your support.
 An income tax receipt will be issued promptly.
 Charitable Registration # 11897 7602 RR001

KANATA THEATRE
 1 RON MASLIN WAY
 KANATA ON K2V 1A7

Playhouse Extension Update

The design of the Playhouse expansion is complete and we are now entering the next phase of the project.

During November, the committee and George Nichols finalised the design of the extension; the plans were presented to the membership at the Special General Meeting on December 2. There was an excellent discussion that resulted in the identification of a couple of areas where the design could be fine-tuned.

The total estimated cost, including GST at 3.5%, is \$497,000. The Kanata Theatre funds that will be available in August 2001, net of fundraising, are estimated at \$260,000. This leaves \$237,000 to be financed through fundraising and (probably) a loan.

The ongoing schedule is:

December 2000: Start the preparation of detailed drawings and specifications for the tender process. Also this month, we expect to obtain site plan approval from the City and we will begin discussions with the City for the amendment to the lease.

March 1, 2001: Issue tender documents, with quotes due two weeks later.

April 2001: Construction contract awarded.

September 2001: Extension complete.

Thanks to Steve Duncan, the plans for the extension are now on the KT web site at www.kanatatheatre.com. If you have any questions or would like a copy of the information package handed out at the Special General Meeting, please contact me.

~ Barrie Kirk, 592-6672; bkirk@globisdata.ca

Seasons Past, from p. 1...

The tolerance shown by the transatlantic members of the group, in response to my edict concerning the ethnic qualifications of the majority of the cast, was both laudable and touching. It has thus occurred to me that as a goodwill gesture to appease the wounds of nationalism, in giving the matter my most earnest attention, I found myself want to dwell on earlier roles in which you have brought distinction to the play. The more my mind dwelt on this topic and the more I reviewed the role of the policeman, I found myself drawn to an irrevocable decision.

In wish to offer you the role; more – I will not accept refusal. It is my considered opinion that such a role, lasting approximately 2 ½ minutes, having a total of 13 words to utter and displaying a rear view for most of its duration so matches each and every one of your histrionic abilities that refusal of this offer by you would be unthinkable.

You will be required to attend each rehearsal on the attached list which includes Act III.

Yours artistically, Ron Maslin

Fundraising: Flying Start!

Our drive to finish the Ron Maslin Playhouse is underway. Based on the costs and anticipated revenue over the next year we can now restate the fundraising target as \$240,000. Almost \$15,000 has been raised so far.

Members were quick off the mark with new donations, in some cases in addition to amounts previously given.

Heather and Gord Walt become the first Kanata Theatre members to reach the Patron level (\$5000 in accumulated donations). At press time, members have given at least 9 new seats. The response from our audience has also been encouraging. Long time subscribers Meriel and Don Mills have purchased an additional 5 seats and become the first individual donors to reach the GOLD CIRCLE level.

The categories are:

GOLD CIRCLE	\$10000 and up
PATRON	\$5000 to \$9999
SEAT	\$1000 each
BENEFACTOR	\$ 600 to \$999
ASSOCIATE	\$ 300 to \$599
SQUARE FOOT	\$ 100 to \$299

When we go into the community at large we must show that our membership backs this drive. Your early donation, whatever the amount, will be strong evidence of that backing.

You still have time to make your donation for a year 2000 tax credit. Cheques should be payable to Kanata Theatre. We will take postdated cheques, but to qualify for an income tax credit this year they must be cashable in 2000. You can pledge your donation over whatever period you like. And yes, we take VISA. Use the form in this issue of Greasepaint. For information call Jim Holmes at 592-1079.

Network, network, network...

Please help your fundraising committee with one small favour. We will be asking for support from companies Kanata Theatre members work for. The Playhouse is one of the things that makes the west end community attractive to companies and their employees. Calian, Nortel, Mitel, Alcatel, Semiconductor Insights, MDS Nordion, and Microsoft are some of those employers. I need to know the person in your company whom we should approach. I would be grateful if you could call me or send me an email. 592-1079 or holmeses@sympatico.ca.

Many Kanata companies, including most of those named above, supported the original construction of the Playhouse.

~ Jim Holmes