



Kanata Theatre's Monthly Newsletter

# Greasepaint

Volume 31 Issue 2, October 2000

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

## Message from Madam President

How proud I was to experience two separate productions at the end of last month, staged back-to-back by Kanata Theatre. Although quite different, they were exceptionally well received and enjoyed equally by the audiences and participants.

First, my heartiest congratulations to the talented and hardworking director, cast and crew of "Sylvia" – a play which indeed contains some of the worst language I have ever heard, and yet was executed so beautifully that even the most prudish of our patrons found the whole thing hilarious and totally inoffensive. *That*, I am quite sure, took some doing!

Secondly, the so-called KT "Skit-ish Players" were given the somewhat unenviable assignment of warming up the crowd to kick off *Mayor Merle Nicholds' Roast* at the Corel Centre. After an enormous amount of research, planning, hard work, and definitely a touch of scriptwriting genius (both written and directed by Dewi, Eufon and Andrew Williams), "The Skittish Players" roasted Merle royally! Merle has told me that her guests were amazed at, and impressed with, this talented bunch of fools and she has received countless accolades regarding the show (and her fabulous dress!) ever since. So bouquets and thanks go to all concerned, and particularly Joan Ritchie, whose expertise and organizational skills won her the huge job of *Producer Extraordinaire* for the whole glitzy affair. Needless to say, it all went off like clockwork.

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## Wanted: Four "Wise" Men!

For the Children's Christmas Play - "The Haunted Castle", by Beth McMaster. Director Bob Lackey desperately requires 3 males age 16-30 (approx.), AND one male age 30+. Please call Bob at 836-5187.

Also needed: a production crew! Sets, lights, sound and costumes all need attention, so don't be shy, step right up to get involved in this fun, kid-friendly production! Contact producer Sheryl Bell at 592-1239, [sa.bell@bigfoot.com](mailto:sa.bell@bigfoot.com), or contact Joan Ritchie at 592-5775.

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## Coming Events

**Mon. Oct. 16, Wed. Oct 18: Auditions, "Communicating Doors".** Directed by Brooke and Rosie Keneford, produced by Joan Ritchie. 7:30 p.m. @ RMP. Information: Brooke or Rosie, 592-3453.

**Sat. Oct. 28: KT Do Your Own Thing Night!** Onstage @ RMP. Join fellow members for our annual Hallowe'en celebration. Sing, dance, present a monologue or scene, make shadow puppets... show us your hidden talents! Contact Tracey Gardner, 592-0314 or [tracey.gardner@alcatel.com](mailto:tracey.gardner@alcatel.com) for more information.

**Friday, Nov. 3, 3:00 p.m.: Deadline for submissions to the November issue of Greasepaint** - email plain text (.txt) to Amy at [dc.adams@sympatico.ca](mailto:dc.adams@sympatico.ca), or call 592-6547.

**Nov. 15-18; 21-25: "To Forgive, Divine"** by Jack Neary. Co-directed by Susan Monaghan and Gerry Thompson. 8:00 p.m. @ RMP. To get involved in the production of KT's second show of the season, contact producer Julie Clayton at 836-4980, [jfclayt@attglobal.net](mailto:jfclayt@attglobal.net).

## Wanted: "Divine" Intervention!

For "To Forgive, Divine: One "Deacon's Bench". Length between 3-4 feet, dark brown colour preferable but not absolutely required. Also needed: one Boston Red Sox jacket (size Large). Please contact producer Julie Clayton at 836-4980, [jfclayt@attglobal.net](mailto:jfclayt@attglobal.net) if you can help.

## Announcements/Thank You

**My special thanks** to Dewi, Eufon, and Andrew Williams for producing such a great skit for my roast. Thanks too to all the cast members for putting on such a great show. I have had so much feedback from the audience that night. They were incredibly impressed with the performance. You surprised and “wowed” them. It was very special for me to have Kanata Theatre show their stuff at my farewell event. Thank you again.

~ Merle Nicholds.

**“Sylvia” has now been put to sleep** and it is time for all 40 members of the production team to get some well earned rest (at your own homes!). Thank you so much to each and every one of you for your dedication, efficiency and all around sense of fun! Anne-Marie headed up a wonderful group of KT members, both old and new, and I have enjoyed the company of all of you for the last three months.

In addition to the KT members, “Coco” arrived at the beginning of the rehearsals and “Ella” came on board rather late in the production - both provided inspiration to the cast and crew!

A very special thank-you to the cast. You have demonstrated that your “biophilic genes” have not atrophied! Your receptiveness to “suggestion” and “observation”, not to mention “direction” has been truly remarkable! Thank you also to Dorothy for getting the “bums into seats”. We had a record number of sold-out performances!

~Gwen Knight

### Auditions:

#### “Communicating Doors”

Auditions for “Communicating Doors” will be held at 7:30 p.m., Monday October 16 and Wednesday, October 18 onstage at the RMP.

Directed by Brooke and Rosemary Keneford, produced by Joan Ritchie, the show will run from January 24-27, 2000 and January 30, 2000 - February 3, 2001.

The cast is three women and three men of varying ages. Accents are not important. It’s an Alan Ayckbourn “time-travelling comedy thriller” and promises to be lots of fun! For more information, call Brooke or Rosie at 592-3453 - and come out to the auditions!

**It was with profound sadness** and shock that we received news of the recent death of Alan Dawson, brother of long-time Kanata Theatre members Annmarie Copple and Rosemarie Lawless. It was in the early years of Kanata Theatre that Alan could often be found at a KT party on a summer evening, sitting around a late night camp fire while strumming on his guitar as we all sang along. Happy memories indeed.

Our most sincere condolences are sent to Alan’s children and family here and in Toronto and particularly to his mother, Eileen Dawson. Our thoughts are with you all.

**BIG BK NEWZ!** I’ve got my first gig in Toronto lined up and believe it or not it’s playing the same three roles I just finished in “Sylvia”. I’ll reprise them for the East Side Players. The show goes up in November and December. Details to follow, but in the meantime interested parties can check out stage-door.org and look for East Side Players.

~ Brett Kelly

**Community Theatre reviews to be dropped** from Ottawa Citizen Arts coverage! Write to the letters page of the Citizen at: [letters@thecitizen.southam.ca](mailto:letters@thecitizen.southam.ca). As a concerned KT member put it so well, “Whatever we think of the reviews, it is good to have all the community theatre productions included in our city paper. Culture starts at the grass roots and should not be ignored as inconsequential”. Stand up for community theatre - make your voice heard!

### *President’s message, continued from p. 1*

It would seem by the sweat on Dorothy’s brow of late, and the size of our audiences over this past couple of weeks, that Kanata Theatre must be doing something right. I hope this season will continue as successfully as it has started. I am not just referring to the two above-mentioned successful productions, but I’m also thinking of the sheer enjoyment experienced and expressed to me by the players involved. Now *this* is what it’s all about ... right?

All for now - don’t forget to get your act together for *Do Your Own Thing* night!

I’ll see you soon, in and around the Playhouse, but in the meantime, hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving .... no more turkey ‘til Christmas!

~ Cheers, Jenny

**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”.

## Publicity Notes

It seems like I'm always thanking people, but it's because those who assist are invaluable to KT's publicity.

Wendy Wagner and Tom Stovicek have been wildly busy, planning and executing designs for posters, flyers and ads, not just for the first production, but for the entire season. Dewi Williams has redesigned and produced an attractive program for our new season. Susan Phillips has produced eye-catching posters for front of house which advertise the season. Stephen Duncan and his website committee have collated survey results in an effort to make the website responsive to members' suggestions. Many thanks go to Colin Williams for personally hosting and maintaining KT's original official website. It has been a huge job for a single person. Steve and his committee are putting together a plan to involve more people in maintaining the site.

Dorothy Beak and the box office staff continue to be critical front-line workers in promoting the theatre. Dorothy is busy signing invitations to Tuesday performances, to encourage new community members to try us out; the Welcome Wagon will help deliver these. Nedra Nash schmoozed with the seniors who attended the 55+ Expo and signed up several new subscribers. As always, I need volunteers to deliver our posters and flyers around Kanata and area. Many thanks to Al Quirt, Carrie Owen, Betty Francis, Michelle Baddoo, Laura Trach, Nedra Nash, Bob Lackey, Mary Holmes and Christine Walton, who squeeze this task into their already busy schedules. Even if you can only spend ½ an hour, I can use your help. Please call or email me.

Subscription sales are up and the number of bums in seats for "Sylvia" holds promise for a very active season. Thanks to all of you who encourage friends and family to come out and enjoy the live entertainment we so love to provide.

~ Sandy Wynne, Director, Publicity: 599-1382, sandy\_wynne@hotmail.com

### Do-Your-Own-Thing Night

- The traditional Kanata Theatre Do-Your-Own-Thing Night returns Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup>. This is an opportunity for each and every one of you to get up in front of your friends and sing, dance, tell stories (tasteful only please) or whatever else you like to do.
- The evening will be a cabaret style setting, onstage in the playhouse, with snacks and drinks provided at reasonable cost.
- If you have an act for the show, please confirm it with Tracey Gardner ASAP. Please indicate any special technical requirements (ex. lighting effects, musical instruments, etc.) Chairs and card tables are needed for the audience. If you have any to loan for October 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, please let Tracey know.
- Please contact Tracey Gardner either by email ([tracey.gardner@alcatel.com](mailto:tracey.gardner@alcatel.com)) or phone (592-0314) if you are interested in performing or can help out with the show.

### Refreshment Services Notes

Nedra Nash and husband, Harry Kowalik, did the refreshments for "Sylvia" and enjoyed it very much. We heartily thank all those who assisted, especially those that arrived for the second week on Tuesday & Wednesday, very much in the dark - and ended up baptised with Coke.

We will not be doing refreshments again until one of the plays in the new year BUT if anyone wants help we will tell you how easy it was and what a fine fitness exercise t'is, heaving boxes of soft drinks into the theatre, the fridge and out into the cooler. And That was Good For Us.

We got lovely oatmeal and ginger/hazelnut cookies from the Stittsville Bakery and love/loverly decadent chocolates from Decadent Delights in Stittsville and made a fortune (for KT) selling all. "Cookies on a napkin" are fast and fuss-less. We hope some other person(s) of hidden (or exposed) entrepreneurial spirit will take on the next play ("To Forgive, Divine" - Nov. 15-18, 21-25). If such should step out bravely, "such" will find the front-of-house people and others more than willing to help. Of course, Harry and I will cast a dab hand, especially at the debut.

~ Nedra Nash

## Thanks to the "Skit-ish" Players of KT!

Eufon and Dewi Williams and Andrew Williams would like to thank all those who contributed to the success of the skit presented at the Merle Nicholds Roast on September 27.

We billed ourselves as the "Skit-ish Players of Kanata Theatre" and we earned a thank-you from Merle in her rebuttal. The Players included: Don Bell, Doreen Boss, Barry Caiger, Andrea Fajrajsl, Bob Lackey, Kareen Lively, Nedra Nash, and of course Andrew Williams, Eufon Williams and Dewi Williams.

## Dear KT...

Well, if Paul Gardner can change his mind about the plans for the new addition to the RMP (and we do agree with him on the Foyer issue), perhaps others can too!

Ian and I have been quietly moaning and complaining about the minimal wheelchair access at "our" theatre. Yes, it may meet the Ontario Building Code, but anyone using a wheelchair will tell you that this code has not been upgraded for years. When it was written, people using wheelchairs were hidden in attics and basements!

The wheelchair seats in our theatre are at the back. The response when we question this is: "it is only a small theatre, so what is wrong with a back seat?" If there is nothing wrong with a back seat, why do so many of our patrons prefer centrally located seats, towards the front? Why should those using wheelchairs have no choice? Front row access accommodates those who are both visually impaired and have mobility problems. The number of such individuals is increasing as the population ages.

We observe other theatres we attend with accessibility in mind, and the RMP and the NAC theatre stand out among the least accessible. Neither of these "modern" theatres allows for front-row accessibility (although on one memorable occasion, our party included two wheelchair users who were wheeled over and carried off the stage so that they could sit at the front of the NAC theatre!).

A commitment from those on the KT Board and Expansion committee to improving accessibility is possible, if enough members communicate that this is a priority. Please help make the RMP accessible to all - contact a

member of the Board or Expansion committee and let them know that this is important.

Perhaps we can issue a challenge to those who downplay the situation. Please attend the next play sitting in a wheelchair, or manipulating a walker, and sit in our wheelchair seating at the back. Smear Vaseline on your glasses to simulate failing eye-sight, or plug your ears with a little cotton to simulate failing hearing (no loop yet either, we notice!). Note how much (or little) you get out of the experience. Then try the front row. There, things are larger, louder AND you can use your other senses, including smell and directionality of sound. It makes a huge difference.

Ian has suggested a way of adapting the new plans to allow increased accessibility to row E - not as good as the front row, but certainly better than the back. He observes that such changes are more easily incorporated during the planning stages of the project - and are virtually impossible to do in retrofit. I know it's already late in the planning stage, but surely not too late if we want it to happen. It's also more feasible, if we are also to revisit the idea of incorporating the foyer extension now (per Paul's implied request).

Well, Board and Expansion committee members, how about it?

~ Chris Lowrie

P.S. It should be noted that architects are experts in designing beautiful buildings and following codes. Peter Smith is certainly no exception. However, architects are generally NOT experts in accessibility!

P.P.S. We are looking forward to the new season without the rush to put the coffee on!!!

*Editor's note:* The KT Board and Expansion committee welcome your feedback. If you have comments to offer or would like to get involved in the expansion plan, please contact a member of the Board - they are all ears and eager to hear your ideas!

## Membership Notes

Please update your Membership list with the following corrections. These changes will be included on the soft copy when it is sent out.

*Moved:*

|                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| Ann Dubras       | Michelle Sissons    |
| 419 Sheila Court | 697 Exceller Circle |
| Kingston, ON     | Newmarket, ON       |
| K7K 7C7          | L3X 1P4             |
| T: 613 531 8074  |                     |
| F: 613 531 1821  |                     |

*E-mail address change/new:*

|                |                                                                              |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sheryl Bell    | <a href="mailto:sa.bell@bigfoot.com">sa.bell@bigfoot.com</a>                 |
| Colin Bell     | <a href="mailto:cbell@penguinpowered.com">cbell@penguinpowered.com</a>       |
| Jane Clapham   | <a href="mailto:jfrancis@nortelnetworks.com">jfrancis@nortelnetworks.com</a> |
| Julie Clayton  | <a href="mailto:jfclayt@attglobal.net">jfclayt@attglobal.net</a>             |
| Tracey Gardner | <a href="mailto:tracey.gardner@alcatel.com">tracey.gardner@alcatel.com</a>   |
| Bob Lackey     | <unknown>                                                                    |
| Erin Ryan      | <a href="mailto:richplaz@magma.ca">richplaz@magma.ca</a>                     |

*Phone Number change:*

|               |          |
|---------------|----------|
| Doug McMillan | 592-0966 |
|---------------|----------|

## Set Construction: "To Forgive, Divine"

Set construction for "To Forgive, Divine" will be on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings from 7:30 to 10:30 in the workshop, starting next week (Oct 15). We may work on weekends too.

The set goes on stage Sunday, Oct 29. A full crew is needed that day. Please contact Paul Gardner (592-0314 or [paul\\_gardner@mitel.com](mailto:paul_gardner@mitel.com)) if you can help. Of course, you can just drop in at the Playhouse to lend a hand, but it is probably best to check before you come out, in case the schedule changes.

~ Paul Gardner