



GREASEPAINT

Volume 33 Issue 4, December 2002

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



From the President's Corner



On returning from a holiday in Arizona, Jim and I were greatly saddened to hear about the passing of Tony Bryant. I have heard that the Memorial Service was standing room only, which is a wonderful tribute to a fine person. Tony and Elsie were the greatest supporters of our Preview nights and I am sure that they have rarely missed a KT general meeting over the years right back to the origins of Kanata Theatre. Our thoughts are with you, Elsie, and with your family.

I have been hearing wonderful things about Rumpelstiltskin and it's Preview Night. This is a must-see and if anyone would like to help, please call Sheryl Bell. Remember the dates are Dec 26, 27 and 28th, 2 performances per day. See page 2 for details.

This was in the Citizen today in *Dear Abby*:

"What do you want for Christmas? What can we give this year? If we say 'We want nothing' you buy something anyway, so here is a list of what we'd like; believe now what we say:

Pyjamas for a little child, food to feed the poor.
Blankets for a shelter, and we ask but little more-
Perform good deeds and let us know or volunteer your time. These last are worth a fortune, and they need't cost a dime.

We have too many things now, vases, candles, tapes and clocks. We have our fill of garments, ties, underwear and socks. Candy is too fattening, crossword books we've more than 20. We don't need trays or plates or cups, and knickknacks we have plenty.

We have books we've not yet read;
So please take what you'd spend on us and help the poor instead. Just send a Christmas card to us and tell us what you've done; We'll open them on Christmas Eve and read them one by one.

It won't cost as much for postage as a package sent would do. You'll need no wrapping paper, ribbons, ink or glue. And we'll thank God you listened to what we had to say, so we'll be the instruments to help someone this way."

From our house to your house, we wish you Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

~ Cheers, Joan.

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Coming Events

Sat. Dec. 21: Pre-auditions, "The Snow Ball", by A.R. Gurney, directed by Gwen Knight. 1:00 pm, KT Rehearsal Hall @ RMP. See p.2 for details.

Dec. 27-29: "Rumpelstiltskin". KT's annual Holiday production for children. **Volunteer for Front of House:** contact Producer Sheryl Bell, 592-1239 or sabell@bigfoot.com.

January 6, 4 and 20: Ballroom Dancing Workshops. 7:30 p.m., RMP Rehearsal Hall. All KT members are welcome to register, and those interested in auditioning for "The Snow Ball" are encouraged to attend. Info: Gwen Knight, 828-2241 or e-mail pjjefferson@igs.net. See p. 2 for details.

Friday, Jan. 10, 2003, 3 p.m.: Deadline for submissions to Jan. issue of Greasepaint - email plain text (.txt) to Amy at dc.adams@sympatico.ca, or call 592-6547.

Feb. 5-8 and 10-15: "I Hate Hamlet" by Paul Rudnick, directed by Dorothy Gardner. **Gala Benefit** for the Ottawa Heart Institute Telethon: Sat. Feb. 1, tickets \$20, purchase information to follow. *Note: season's tickets not transferable for this event.* Performance in memory of Annie Adams, who once directed this play at Oakham House Theatre Society (Ryerson University, Toronto).

Announcements/Thank Yous

Kanata Theatre announces with deepest regret the sudden passing of Tony Bryant in hospital on Sunday Dec 8. As a long-time member of Kanata Theatre he will be fondly remembered by many of the "old-timers". The wake was at Tubman's Garden Chapel on Saturday, Dec.14. A memorial service was held at 11 a.m. Part of the eulogy, delivered by KT member Earl McLaughlin, is reprinted in this issue of Greasepaint on pp.3-4.

Thanks to all the intrepid souls who put themselves out for *Air Pump*. I thanked many personally at the cast party but not those who weren't there (obviously) or whom I forgot in the pressure of things, so I'll take the opportunity to fill those gaps now.

Thanks to Melissa for her enthusiastic work on set dressing. Thanks to the wonderful seamstresses who produced the gorgeous gowns and suits. Thanks to Rick Cote for the innovative experiment with a new form of scenery. I hope we utilize the form in future (with the better software you suggested). Thanks to Nancy for her terrific painting. Thanks also to the army of crew helpers who seemed to be a different bunch every time I saw them, which is why it was hard to thank them all.

Thanks to Gwen and Dorothy in the box office and to all the helping hands who worked with you. And thanks to the FOH for setting the rotweilers on the patrons who dared to think of leaving! Considering all the ups and downs we had to contend with, this was one hugely fun show to rehearse and to be involved in. It's a kick-ass play from an actor's standpoint, with many very important themes to chew over. Like the reviewer, I'm proud that KT put it on. Thanks to everyone.

~ Bev Brooks

Lost during the run of *Experiment With an Air Pump*: one black eyeglasses case containing a pair of magnetic clip sunglasses. If found, please call Christine Walton at 592-1172.

Long time Kanata Theatre Member Marianne Wilkinson is seeking the Provincial Liberal nomination for Lanark-Carleton, which includes Kanata, West Carleton and all of Lanark County. Marianne's fondest memory in Kanata Theatre was playing the Mayor in *The Pied Piper of Hamelin* while she was Mayor of Kanata! If you want to know more about her campaign, call Marianne at 592-4834.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year KT!

- from your *Greasepaint* editorial/production team:

Amy, Gerry, Martin and Helen.

Urgent Request for Volunteers!!

We need 6-8 people to help with front of house duties for each of the public performances of *Rumplestiltskin*. The dates are Friday December 27, Saturday Dec. 28 and Sunday Dec. 29.

Hours are 12:00 - 2:30 p.m. and 2:30 - 5 p.m. daily.

If you can help, please contact Sheryl Bell at 592-1239 or sa.bell@bigfoot.com

Auditions: The Snow Ball

A reminder that a pre-audition for *The Snow Ball* will be held in the rehearsal room on December 21st at 1:00 p.m. We will be auditioning for the roles of Jack and Kitty, both young and old. Young men and women in their late teens or early twenties and older men and women in their mid forties to early fifties are invited to audition at this time. Some dance experience, especially in ballroom dancing, would be helpful.

General auditions for all other characters will be held January 26th at 1:00 p.m. in the rehearsal room. All other characters (all 29 of them) will be auditioned on this date. The cast includes actor/dancers, non-dancing actors, and several non-speaking roles which will double as stage crew. Ages range from twenties to fifties with a few 60+ men. The cast is fairly evenly divided between male and female roles.

A synopsis of the play and character profiles may be found at www.ott.igs.net/~pjjefferson/kt. Click on "What's New". Call Gwen at 828-2241 for further information and Anne-Marie at 253-2500 to obtain a script.

Ballroom Dance Workshops

As announced in last month's *Greasepaint*, a Ballroom Dance Workshop will be held to get us in the mood for *The Snow Ball*. The dates have now been confirmed as January 6th, 14th and 20th. All classes will be held in the rehearsal room beginning at 7:30 p.m. and will last approximately two hours. The cost is a modest \$15 per person for all three classes. Come out and learn how to "trip the light fantastic" without tripping!

Claire Mills, our instructor, has seen dance from many perspectives: as a dancer, performer, competitor, instructor and judge. Claire has taught ballet and modern theatre dance for eight years and competed in amateur ballroom dance for five years. Today she instructs ballroom at *Let's Dance Ottawa* where she has been teaching and performing for the past eight years. In 2001 she attained her

Associate Diploma which allows her to judge ISTD International Latin up to the Pre-Champ level.

At the workshop, Claire will be concentrating on the waltz, fox trot, rumba and swing. We are delighted that she has also joined the production team for *The Snow Ball* where she will be acting as choreographer and dance instructor. At that time she will be teaching the tango as well as several other ballroom dances.

We have a list of those who have indicated their interest in the workshop, but there are a few openings left for couples. We are also in dire need of men to partner the many interested ladies who hope to take part. So ladies, lend us your men and gentlemen, surprise your lady with a new skill!

To register or to obtain further information, call Gwen at 828-2241.

“I HATE HAMLET” - But I LOVE it Backstage!

Calling all “BACKSTAGE PLAYERS”
NEEDED: CREW FOR “I HATE HAMLET”

Rehearsals for *I Hate Hamlet* have begun and Producer Anne-Marie Davies is waiting to hear from you.

Positions Available:

Props, Assistant Stage Management/Prompting, Make-up, Costume sewing, Green-Room, Stage Crew Chief and Stage Crew.

Please give Anne-Marie a call at 253-2500.

More Opportunities:

If you would like to assist with Set Construction and Set Painting, call Paul Gardner at 592-0314 or send him an email at paul_gardner@sympatico.ca.

~ Dorothy Gardner

KT Membership Dues

1 yr. individual \$10; 1 yr. family \$20; 1 yr. student \$5;
5 yr. individual \$40; 5 yr. family \$80.

For membership information, contact Helen Weeden at 832-3787. Send cheques to 2856 Old Maple Lane, Dunrobin ON K0A 1T0; or drop it by the RMP, addressed “Attention: Membership and Training”.

Eulogy for Tony Bryant

11:00 a.m., Saturday, December 14, 2002.

Editor's note: This is the text of the eulogy delivered at Tony Bryant's funeral by longtime friend and fellow KT member Earl McLaughlin. It is printed here as a tribute to one of KT's most beloved and longtime members. To Elsie and her family, KT expresses its deepest condolences and keeps you in our thoughts and prayers during this most difficult time.

We are here this morning to celebrate the life of Tony Bryant. Elsie, Peter and Roger have asked me, on their behalf, to share with you some events of his life, particularly those events which influenced him on his journey.

Tony was born and raised in London, England, about 10 miles north of where Elsie lived. His school days came to an abrupt end when the school was bombed and closed. So since this was nearly the end of his expected schooling anyway, he went to work in a radio factory. Then he worked in a furniture factory which, amongst other products, made plywood parts for the Canadian *Mosquito* bomber aircraft. It was from these two jobs that he developed an interest and knack for woodworking.

The war was winding down when his National Service date arrived. Although he had been in the Air Cadets, he was somewhat surprised when the British Government made him an offer he couldn't refuse. He was assigned to a coal mine. Leaving that occupation as soon as he could, he joined the London Metropolitan Police.

Elsie's parents were good friends with a family who lived next door to the Bryants. The younger daughter of that family encouraged Elsie to meet the young policeman who usually came home next door on weekends. One Sunday Elsie spied this chap from the friend's upstairs window as he read in his garden. Tony had spied Elsie as well and asked his mother to arrange a meeting. At the arranged meeting several weeks later, Tony invited Elsie to a Policeman's Outing. They have been together ever since, marrying in October 1949, 53 years ago.

At the start of their courting, Tony traveled by public transportation. Occasionally he would miss the last bus and would have to walk home to his parents' house. Elsie's father finally took this lad aside and told him to get a bicycle, which the undeterred Tony did!

Soon after setting up house, Tony and Elsie got into the photography business as a sideline. They arranged film drop-off and developed picture pick-up with a local shop. Tony then developed the films around his police shifts. To

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do the enlarging, Tony manufactured his own equipment using a barrel, tin cans and wood. Elsie picked up the films and delivered the pictures; they did weddings as well. Expecting just a few films, they were astounded to get 77 films on their first pick up. They advertised a 24-hour service, so Elsie said that it was a busy evening.

In 1957 the Canadian Air Force was recruiting policemen for their military police. Elsie had worked with Canadian Air Force personnel during her time in the Royal Air Force. They seemed not a bad lot, and considering the pay and prospects in the Met police, Elsie and Tony decided to apply. They came to the Ottawa Rockcliffe base, then served in France and Germany where they took the opportunity to tour Europe with their two sons and a tent. Their last posting was in Val d'Or, Quebec.

After 10 years in the RCAF, Tony joined Mutual Life and settled in Kanata. He then moved to Crown Life. His sales volume there qualified him for many years to attend the Crown Life international conventions. In 1977 they attended a Crown Life Convention in London, England, where they won the door prize - a 12 place setting of Royal Doulton China. Crown even delivered it to Kanata.

In 1968 Elsie saw a local ad inviting people interested in starting up a theatrical group to a meeting. She liked what she saw and became one of the founding members of Kanata Theatre. In about 1970 my wife Joan was invited by Gwen Knight to a Kanata Theatre meeting. Shortly after, Elsie asked Joan to do props for a one-act play she was directing. They have been the best of friends ever since. We husbands came along to carry the props, or what ever, and so began our own friendship. We had much in common: we had both been in the Canadian military, Joan and I had spent 3 years in the United Kingdom and we both liked scotch.

The Bryants had no extended family in Canada whereas Joan had plenty to share. So we adopted the Bryants, which meant that they got to celebrate holiday events with 25 to 30 Ottawa Valley folk. That may or may not be a blessing, but they kept coming. In fact, they shared members of their family with us when they came to Canada. On one of Tony's mother's visits she was picked up at the Ottawa airport and driven directly to Renfrew to a packed house party at Joan's parents. Imagine, if you will, coming from a quiet house in London, to a Canadian party already well under way at about midnight Renfrew time, or 5 a.m. in London!

In the 80s employers began including life insurance in employee benefit packages. Tony decided to switch to the general insurance line, eventually setting up his own brokerage in Stittsville. I helped him set up and maintain financial books which he did first manually, then by computer. Eventually he did the necessary work himself with the occasional question to me.

Tony took an active part in the groups to which he belonged. He has been in front of the lights of Kanata Theatre as well as working back stage. He was St. George in a Kanata Mayfair play, complete with shield which, on the back, he had pasted his lines. Well they had just returned from Nassau on one of those Crown Life Conventions and Tony said that the distractions there prevented him from learning his lines.

He helped Jim Keneford with the licensed bar, later organizing and running the soft drink bar at performance intermissions for many years both at the Earl of March High School and in the Ron Maslin Playhouse. He was Treasurer for a few years and, with Elsie, volunteered at the box office.

While Elsie was getting involved in the Theatre, Tony became a founding member of the Kanata-Carleton, now Nepean-Kanata, Rotary Club. Tony introduced me to his club and I too was a member for a few years. Our mutual friend Ed Bellman will be telling us about Tony's activities in Rotary. Through Rotary he became involved in the Ottawa-Carleton Trailway Community Committee, about which Steve Malcome will be saying a bit more.

In 1998 Tony was diagnosed with leukemia. Shortly afterwards a cancerous kidney was removed. Since then he and Elsie had made numerous trips to the Queensway-Carleton hospital to stabilize his blood count. Last Saturday they thought that they were going to the hospital to do same thing again, but it wasn't.

In summary, through his life Tony developed high work ethics and moral values. He adored Elsie and spoke fondly of the success of his sons, his relationships with their partners and his grandson, Matthew. Peter does admit that growing up as a teenager, sometimes it was hard to meet the expectations of an ex-policeman.

Now, Tony is at peace. If someone up there is looking for a helping hand, you can bet that Tony will join in to do what ever needs doing.

~ Earl McLaughlin