



Kanata Theatre's Monthly Newsletter

GREASEPAINT

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

From the President's Corner

"You Can't Take It With You"? Well I think that we certainly did take it with us, with 102% seat sales. We are going to have to get permanent "This Performance Sold Out" signs!

"Stillborn Lover" is coming soon, so please get involved and remember the "Members Night"/ "Preview Night" on March 26th. This is your chance to see the play for free and give the cast and crew your support. We also always need people for Front of House, so give us a call.

There were over 40 people auditioning for "Rumours" and Shelagh and Lorraine had a difficult time choosing just one cast. In fact, several casts could have been chosen, there was such a great deal of talent available. Congratulations to all.

Our friends are getting older: they are at the stage where they can hide their own Easter eggs... ☺ See you in and around the theatre.

~ Cheers, Joan

"RUMORS" CAST!

Wow, what a turnout! The Rehearsal Hall was packed on Wednesday, February 27, with everyone dancing to the music and having a blast. Oh, we also had an audition for Neil Simon's "Rumors".

As producer, I was expecting a good turnout but made the mistake of only printing 40 audition forms. I ran out long before the crowd stopped coming through the doors. Amazing!!

I am also delighted to say that many, many new men, all the right ages, and many talented gals turned out. I didn't envy Shelagh and Lorraine the job of making the final decision. Nevertheless here it is, the long awaited cast list:

Gotcha... see "Rumours cast" p. 2

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 Helen Weeden at 832-3787. Cheques can be sent to 2856 Maple Lane, Dunrobin ON K0A 1T0; or drop it by the RMP, addressed "Attention: Membership and Training".

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Coming Events

Closing Mar 16: "Present Laughter" by Noel Coward. Citadel Theatre, Edmonton at the National Arts Centre. This was the very first full-length play that Kanata Theatre ever presented, at Stephen Leacock Public School. Ron Maslin directed, and played the principal role. Info: NAC Box Office, www.nac.ca or Ticketmaster 755-1111.

Mar. 20: Fundraiser for "The Feral Man", a film by KT's own Brett Kelly. Babylon Nightclub, Bank Street. Admission \$5. Bands: Fuse, Spankdriven and Johnny Ballistic. Come out and howl in support of our own wild man. Info: dudezprod@hotmail.com or check out <http://www.angelfire.com/on3/dudezmovies/fundraiser.html>.

Mar. 27-Apr. 6: "The Stillborn Lover" by Timothy Findley. Directed by Gwen Knight and Peter Jefferson. Members' preview Mar. 26. Performances 8:00 pm @ RMP. Info: Producer Anne-Marie Davies, 253-2500. **To volunteer for Front of House**, call Jim Ritchie, 592-5775.

Friday, Apr. 5, 2002, 3:00 p.m.: Deadline for submissions to the April issue of Greasepaint - email plain text (.txt) to Amy at dc.adams@sympatico.ca, or call 592-6547.

Announcements/Thank-Yous

WE NEED YOUR BIO: We're updating everybody's bio on the KT website. Could you please write a short (under 100 words) bio on yourself and email it to me. It will go on Kanatatheatre.com next to your picture.

You can email your bio to webmaster@kanatatheatre.com
~ Steve Duncan

HAVE A WILD TIME WITH BRETT KELLY: He's acting in and directing a movie from a script he wrote called "The Feral Man". It's about a man with a lycanthropy problem (*a prize to the KT member who emails Amy first with the correct definition!*) A fundraiser will be held on March 20th at The Babylon Nightclub on Bank Street. Three bands will perform at the event: *Fuse*, *Spankdriven* and *Johnny Ballistic*. Admission - five bucks. Party animals can e-mail Brett at dudezprod@hotmail.com or check out his webpage at <http://www.angelfire.com/on3/dudezmovies/fundraiser.html> for more information.

It seems like ancient history now but I want to thank everybody who worked so hard on "You Can't Take It With You". As I write this, it is "set destruction day", which is always sad but also tempered by the great satisfaction of a successful production. We could not have done it without a terrific cast and a wonderfully dedicated production crew. So many people worked on this show, it would be dangerous and more than my life is worth to single anyone out for fear of omission! Suffice to say everyone was a star, both onstage and backstage!!

~ Brooke

ABSOLUTELY FABULOUS! To everyone who came out to audition for "Rumours", we want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your tremendous support and enthusiasm. The response was quite overwhelming, and the depth of talent that showed up for this play was astounding. We want you all to know what a great privilege it was for us to be able to sit back and be entertained by so many gifted actors.

You made it extremely tough to come to some final decisions, and we could definitely have cast this play a few times over. To those who did not get roles on-stage, we would love to have you come and help us backstage. Together we will make "Rumours" a hilariously successful finale to this season. Well done everyone!

~ Shelagh and Lorraine

Two actors got very upset when they felt they were falling. They did not realize it was just a stage they were going through.

~ from the Globe & Mail

"Rumours cast", from p. 1...

Chris Gorman	Melissa McCallum
Ken Gorman	Steve Duncan
Claire Ganz	Shann McGrail Duncan
Lenny Ganz	Gordon Walls
Ernie Cusack	Mike Hammond
Cookie Cusack	Carrie Owen
Glen Cooper	Alain Chamsi
Cassie Cooper	Elsa Richards
Officer Welch	Mark Bazerman
Officer Pudney	Lee Ann Smith

Congratulations to everyone!! It's great to see so many new faces on the Kanata Theatre stage: welcome to Kanata Theatre.

~Dorothy Gardner

Children's Christmas Play 2002

With the help of a small committee, the children's Christmas play for December 2002 has been chosen. Barbara Kobolak will be directing "Rockin' Rumpelstiltskin" by Winn Bray and Tom Doyle. Please see Barb's article on p. 3 for details.

Public performance dates are December 27, 28 and 29 for two showings each afternoon. Corporate dates in the playhouse will be December 14 and 15. If you would like to help with the show please contact Barb at 591-1773.

~ Wendy Wagner

Membership and Training

Workshops

The workshop on "Improvisation and Expressionism" took place on Feb. 23 with 18 attending. Our instructor, Jen Jarvis, commented to me that she "found it very refreshing to work with a group that included a wide range of ages, and yet age seemed not to be factor in ability, attitude, comfort level or performance. Everyone there seemed to get along well and to really enjoy themselves and one another". The "morning of Improv" was especially fun and we all had a very good laugh. We shared a yummy lunch with the lighting crew for "The Stillborn Lover" and then moved onto something quite different with an afternoon of Expressionism. I have received many good comments on the workshop and repeat here that I am always willing to receive ideas for future workshops - just say the word and we'll put another group together to learn and have some fun too. If a director would like a topical workshop put together that pertains to their play, give me a call and I will help with contacting instructors, all the logistics, advertising and so forth.

Continued, see "M&T", p. 4

NO, IT'S NOT TOO LATE!!!!

There is still time to sign up and become a **Backstage Player** for “Rumors”, but don’t procrastinate.

- If you want to Assistant Stage Manage/Prompt, contact Yvonne Leduc at yvonne@excalibur.com.
- How about assisting with Lighting? The lady in charge of lighting is Nancy Warner at warnerna@scsc-scc.gc.ca.
- It’s always fun to play with Props!! Get in touch with Anne-Marie Davies at anne-marie.davies@alcatel.com.
- Get dressed with the best! If you have a notion to dress (or undress) our actors, send a message to Lucyanne Greenman at lgreenman@netcom.ca or Megan Prevost at meganp@magma.ca.
- How about making faces? We get to throw some blood around this time, too. Contact Diane Cote at diane@aks.ca.
- Is Sound your thing? Don Pidgeon at pidgeud@sympatico.ca is the guy to call.
- How about helping build a gorgeous two-storey set designed by Kim Gardner? Contact Paul Gardner at paul_gardner@sympatico.ca or Bob Carey at careyr@sympatico.ca.
- We are looking for a carpenter/handyperson to build some furniture, too. Some simple tables and a wall unit/bar. Any carpenters out there? Remember, Harrison Ford got his start as a carpenter and look where it took him. Let Paul know at paul_gardner@sympatico.ca.

If you’re not connected to the cyberworld, then give me a call: Dorothy at 592-0314. The more the merrier!!!

Rock with Rumpelstiltskin!!

Why am I rooting for “Rockin’ Rumpelstiltskin”? What struck me about this fairy tale, and this adaptation, is that at first everyone appears to belong to a particular “type” or stock character. But, when there is a sudden change in circumstances, each character shows that there is more to them than you would have imagined. I hope to carry this emphasis throughout the play (“Everyone can be more than what they seem”) not only in relation to the characters, but also in the technical elements as well. Let me stimulate your imaginations. For example, I have in mind bringing on and off several portable pieces of setting and props. A tradesman’s stall in the village market square turns around and becomes a side-board at the palace. A tradesman’s wheelbarrow transports fish, and later on will bring on part of the machine that turns straw into gold. A bridal veil is then wrapped around a sleeping baby in a bassinet. And, as in the best of fairy tales, the plan to save the day is devised by an unlikely character.

This is a musical with a large cast, about 11 male and 8 female characters, but this is flexible (some of the male roles could be played by females). Several of the characters are older, and a couple can be played by children. In between these ages, the casting will depend on who comes out (think ages 16-25 - young people’s theatre). There are 13 songs, some choreography, and large patches where characters simply act! Singing ability isn’t critical for some of the parts, but as we have all seen, energy and enthusiasm count for a lot in children’s theatre! The auditions will probably take place in early August. Keep your eyes upon for the call in a future edition of Greasepaint.

What I am looking for now is help on the production and technical ends of this play. The three people I am especially looking for are

1. A **producer** (to help me stay organized);
 2. A **musical director**, because I can’t sing; and
 3. A **choreographer** (although I can be of some help as to what I am looking for throughout the show).
- Audio tapes of the music will be made soon.

To bring both your obvious and hidden talents to this production contact me at home, 591-1773, via e-mail at tkobolak@magma.ca, or at the box office during “The Stillborn Lover”. So come on, rock with Rumpel if you dare!

~ Barbara Kobolak, director

Calling all Hopefuls

Kanata Theatre has a long tradition of putting on One-Act Plays as a means of filling gaps in our season, providing teaching opportunities and giving first-timers a chance to strut-their stuff. This year the tradition continues, but with a couple of twists. Three One-Act Plays will be performed on each of three evenings in July (18, 19 and 20) for a total of **three runs for each play** (instead of one, as in the past). In addition, the event will be advertised as a **Summer Studio Workshop Series with tickets being offered to the general public** (including KT members of course).

By April 20 I need to hear from all members who are interested in directing one of the plays. Preference is given to those who have **not** directed at KT before or who have only a little experience. If you have a play that you want to do, great. If not, then we will provide help in finding something agreeable and suitable. All plays should be no more than 45 minutes long.

Naturally, we are also calling on members to volunteer as producers, for lights and sound and props, crew, stage managers, furnishings etc. as we need to fill all the jobs associated with any full-length production. Some people may be asked to work on more than one play, especially if we run short of staff. Now is your chance to join in, have some fun, learn a job you haven't done before and advertise your talents to directors of the regular season mainstage plays!

The casting for actors will be restricted to "in house": only paid-up members will be eligible. There will be no outside advertising for the auditions, so keep an eye on your Greasepaint newsletters. Actors should also be ready to help in some crew/technical capacity on one of the other plays.

This is a worthwhile and challenging target for developing the One Act Plays into an integral part of KT, and we hope members will join us for some early-summer fun. Remember this event could also become a good training drill for when **we host the Eastern Ontario Drama Festival in Spring 2003.**

Theatre Ontario

As a group, Kanata Theatre belongs to this province-wide organization devoted to promoting theatre in Ontario. Check out the Theatre Ontario web-site at www.theatreontario.org to learn more about them and to read about other theatres, groups, workshops etc. I post bulletins and mailings I receive from T.O. on the bulletin board outside the green room at RMP: for example an adult and student workshop will take place at Brock University in St. Catharines from August 11 to 18. Individuals can also join Theatre Ontario. Check the web-site or call 416-408-4556.

Membership Changes

Please update your latest membership list:

NEW

Alain Chamsi: 728-0917; alain_chamsi@mitel.com
 Jason Holmes: 325-8315; jasonholmes@telusmail.net
 Vivian Hembruff: 592-5453; vivianeh@sympatico.ca
 Katie Aitken: 592-9216; aitken_family@rogers.com
 Raluca and Serban Dragnea: 231-4660; rsdragnea@sympatico.ca

CHANGE

McCrae, Lucia: new e-mail luckymcrae@hotmail.com
 Shaw, Dorothy: new e-mail dorothyshaw@sympatico.ca
 Lively, Kareen: new e-mail kareenlively@sympatico.ca
 Eric Schmidt: correct e-mail eschmidt@pt.com

RENEWED

Smith, Lee Ann: 838-2774; lasmith@cyberus.ca

That's all! If there are any questions or comments on M&T, please give me a call at 832-3787.

~ Helen Weeden

What does it mean to be a volunteer?

At a conference of theatre operators hosted recently by CentrepoinTE Theatre, Paddy Bowen, executive director of Volunteer Canada, spoke on the importance of volunteers. The following are a few of the key points from her talk, used with permission. We should all think about this when we are deciding how much time to commit to our own theatre group.

To open, some statistics: there were 1,000,000 fewer volunteers in 2000 as compared to 1997; the donation value (\$) stayed the same; volunteering is down in all age groups; those that do volunteer, give more hours than before; 25% of Canadians volunteer; 7% do 73% of the work; one in four young people volunteer; 18% aged 65 and over volunteer.

If volunteers are truly a resource, then they should have some say in an organization. Money is raised, but the people are often taken for granted.

Time and motivation are major problems in the volunteer sector these days. The idea of volunteering because you believe in what you do is outdated – there needs to be a win-win situation. It is harder to attract volunteers to the Arts because the immediate benefits to other people are not as obvious, as they are in the case of volunteer response to events like September 11, for instance.

Next issue: Steps organizations can take to ensure good volunteer relations.

Comments? How can KT improve/preserve/encourage its volunteers? Send your comments to Amy at dc.adams@sympatico.ca for a "Response" feature relating to this article!