



GREASEPAINT

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

President's Message

I'm Back! As Amy let you know in last month's Greasepaint, I was having computer problems. Not only did our computer crash, but we lost everything on a defective hard drive. I now sympathize with the "Luddites" as I consider our dependence on modern technology. The two weeks spent without my husband's "mistress" in the house were really rather pleasant, as we read and talked as we did in the "old" days before every home had a personal computer. I know that ages me but it's a segue into another concern that has surfaced in the last few weeks.

I know that you have all heard, or read about, the City's decision to consider reducing Arts funding by 80%. Although we do not receive City grants, many of our fellow Community Theatres do as they are not as fortunate as we are in having our own performing space and the unpaid volunteers who run it and produce the shows. Other groups, (except the OLT) pay rent for a performing space and frequently must offer honoraria to the producers and technical people needed. Although we are not dependent on the City for funds, we must remember that we might not have the Playhouse today if it weren't for the assistance and support of the former City of Kanata in applying for the federal - provincial grant which enabled us to build the Playhouse. Community theatres such as Lakeside, Goya, Savoy, Vintage Stock and the Greely Players, as well as the professional GCTC and Odyssey all receive some funding from the City of Ottawa. For the most part, these groups are well established and will probably "survive", but some of the newer groups that have sprung up in the last few years and who now receive some funding may not.

A recent article in the "Citizen" written by Clive Doucet, a councillor and champion for the arts in Ottawa, recalls the time in 1953 when Charlotte Whitton, the mayor, "saved" the city money when she turned down the Canadian Repertory Theatre's request for \$50,000 to help them find a permanent home in the Capital.

I can remember the theatrical scene in Ottawa at the time when I was a very young teen. The Ottawa Little Theatre, (which until 1951 was called the "Ottawa Drama League"), and Orpheus Operatic Society were virtually the only non-professional groups, and the Canadian Repertory Theatre was, to the best of my

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Coming Events

Mar. 23-27 & Mar. 30-Apr. 3, + EODL performance April 14, 2004: "Over the River and Through the Woods", by Joe DiPietro. Directed by Rosemary Keneford. Information: Rosemary Keneford, 592-3453; keneford@aol.com. **EODL details:** see p. 2&4

Friday, Apr. 2, 2004, 3 p.m.: Deadline for submissions to the March issue of Greasepaint - to accommodate EODL news well prior to Festival dates. Email plain text (.txt) to Amy at dc.adams@sympatico.ca, or call 592-6547.

April 14 to 18: Kanata Theatre hosts the Eastern Ontario Drama League Festival. Series Pass at \$50 for all four plays. Single ticket price per play is \$15. Ticket/Event Order Forms are available in the lobby or from Dorothy Beak (592-5787). Many Festival events await, see p.2 for details.

April 29 to May 2: Lakeside Players, "The Melville Boys", by Norm Foster. Kanata Theatre's own Alain Chamsi appears in his first foray away from the nest. Tickets \$9 (\$7 for students and seniors), contact Alain at alainchamsi@netscape.net or 728-0917. See p. 2 for details.

Announcements/Thank You

Betty and Tony Francis are thrilled to announce the arrival of Claire Diana Clapham on 14 February 2004. Big Sister Brianna, and parents Jane and Clapham, are over the moon.

The Lakeside Players are pleased to present "The Melville Boys", written by Canadian playwright Norm Foster. **Kanata Theatre's own Alain Chamsi** appears in a lead role in his first foray away from the nest. The show runs from April 29 to May 2 (the Sunday show will be a matinee). Tickets are \$9 (\$7 for students and seniors) and are available by contacting Alain at alainchamsi@netscape.net or at 728-0917. Thanks for your support -Alain

Joan and I were overwhelmed by the response to help with front of house for the run of "Rock and Roll" The attendance was 2658, and we took in a total of \$524.26 in the cloakroom. I think that is a record! I want to thank all who helped. We had a few new people working, and our audience enjoyed having Jeremy Hoos open the door for them on many of the nights. Melanie Wood and Alex Frizzle did a fine job while working on their credits for Community Service. Michele Oberoi, Jeri Van Leuwen Boomkamp joined us as well. Thank you all.
~ Jim Ritchie.

And now for the "hit"! We have "positions available" for Front of House for the run of "Over the River" which runs from March 23 to April 3, and for the Eastern Ontario Drama League festival which in on from April 14th to 17th. We need people for taking tickets, handing out programs, checking coats, and greeting at the door and curbside. Please call Joan or myself at 592-5775 or email jcritchie@sympatico.ca to volunteer. Once again, I am House Manager, the position from which I retired last June, for this production.
~ Jim Ritchie

As producer of "Over the River..." I just wanted to mention that KT members should feel free to pop into a rehearsal as we are starting full runs as of March 2nd and with a comedy it is nice to get reactions. It is exciting to watch the process of a play in development.

As for Front of House, Jim is in charge again for this play and also for the E.O.D.L Festival, so if you would like to help please get your name in early so you won't be disappointed.

Call Jim or Joan at 592-5775

Come One, Come All

By the time everyone reads this month's Greasepaint, the Festival will be only one month away. Please contact the members listed below if you can offer some time to help during the Festival.

Festival Special Events

- Barry Caiger will be leading us on a bus tour of Ottawa and a guided tour of the NAC on Thursday April 15, 2004. The bus will leave the playhouse parking lot at 11:30 am sharp. Cost is \$10 per person and seating is limited.
- The second event is a Director's Workshop/Reading given by the Festival adjudicator Allan Stratton. It will take place on Friday April 16 at 2:00 pm in the playhouse lobby. There is no cost. **However**, preference will be given to those KT members who purchase a "Series Pass" AND seating is limited so first come, first served.
- The final event is the Awards Brunch being held at the Holiday Inn Select on Sunday April 18 at 11:00 am. Tickets are \$25 per person.

All Kanata Theatre members are encouraged to purchase the Series Pass at \$50 for all four plays. Single ticket price per play is \$15. Ticket/Event Order Forms are available in the lobby or from Dorothy Beak (592-5787).

Volunteer Opportunities

- Front of House – contact Jim Ritchie at 592-5775.
- Refreshments – contact Jane Maslin at 592-1045.
- Backstage Work Crews – contact Paul Gardner at 592-0314 or Karl Wagner at 599-4476.
- Hospitality Crew (day and evening spots need to be filled) – contact Joan Ritchie at 592-5775.
- Miscellaneous "go-fers" – contact Wendy Wagner at 599-4476.

The festival promises to be a busy and fun-filled 5 days. Come and be a part of this historic event!

Wendy Wagner
EODL Festival Chair, 2004
599-4476
wwagner@rogers.com

Backstage Crew for EODL Festival

To support the three visiting companies at the EODL festival, we need several more volunteers to work on the technical crew. Many of the usual techies have put in their name already, but we still need more help. Wednesday is a free day for set up, since our own production will already be in place, but we have to supervise the tear down and make sure the theatre is ready for the next group on Thursday.

We then have three days straight, from 7 a.m. until long after midnight, which means several shifts. I would like to have at least three helpers in place all day for load in and setup, and two at night for tear down and load out. Jobs could include anything from helping hang lights and programme the board, to helping the costume people arrange their dressing room, to helping the construction crew find a replacement for that missing part over at Home Depot.

Please call to volunteer, paul_gardner@rogers.com or 592-0314.

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recollection, the one and only professional company. When their request for funding was turned down, they moved en masse to Stratford to work in the tent. The group included Christopher Plummer, Lorne Greene, William Hutt, Martha Henry, Amelia Hall and others who had been performing in Ottawa, as well as experienced directors and technical staff. Ottawa's loss was Stratford's gain.

With the exodus of the C.R.T. from Ottawa, it wasn't until the late 1960s and the building of the NAC that professional theatre returned to Ottawa. GCTC joined the professional scene in the early 1970s. Community groups kept theatre alive in the intervening years and now we have many successful groups that bring "theatre" to all ages and interests.

In an age dominated by technology, the spoken word of the theatre and the interaction of the actors onstage with the audience which laughs, cries and applauds on cue, is our way of maintaining the "good old days" of communicating without machines. Although we certainly make use of the technical advances in lighting, sound, etc., we are still basically "talking" and "listening". Let's hope that Ottawa City Council continues to support and encourage the "Arts" in Ottawa.

~ Gwen Knight, President

Kanata Theatre 36th Season

1. **Proof**, by David Auburn, directed by Sandy Wynne.
September 21 to October 2.

Winner of 2001 Pulitzer prize and Tony Award for Best Play. On the eve of her 25th birthday Catherine, a troubled young woman, has spent years caring for her brilliant but unstable father, a famous mathematician. Now she must deal with her own volatile emotions and the discovery of a mysterious notebook that draws her into romance and the most difficult problem of all: how much of her father's madness - or genius- will she inherit.

2. **Ethan Claymore**, by Norm Foster, directed by Brett Kelly.
November 16 to 27.

Just before Christmas struggling egg farmer/artist Ethan Claymore meets a woman who could turn his life around, and receives a visit from his estranged, and recently-deceased, older brother. Blends the softness of a Norman Rockwell winter scene with a touch of "Seinfeld" - a truly affectionate comedy. A story which warms the heart, coaxes the occasional tear, and paints the kind of world we think we deserve. A play which could become a Christmas classic.

3. **Through the Looking Glass**. Adapted by James DeVita, music and lyrics by Bill Francoeur, directed by Helen and Martin Weeden.
December 27, 28 and 29.

A wild and wacky version of the classic story.

4. **Dancing at Lughnasa** by Brian Friel, directed by Tom Kobolak.
February 1 to 12

Winner of 1991 Tony Award for Best Play. A haunting play- Friel's tribute to the spirit and valour of the past and its people. A son remembers the five women who raised

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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 Tom Kobolak at 591-1773 or tkobolak@magma.ca. Send cheques to 5 Riding Way, Kanata ON K2M 1C3; or drop it by the RMP, addressed "Attention: Membership and Training".

The Carrolls Discovered

Editor's note: Thanks to Earl McLaughlin for submitting this piece.

About 565 kilometers west north west of Mexico City is the city of Guadalajara and about 30 minutes drive south of that is Chapala on Lake Chapala. There we discovered Terry and Pat Carroll former members of Kanata Theatre (remember Pat blowing his horn in "Arsenic and Old Lace"). They moved to Chapala in 2000 but still have a basement apartment in their son Christopher's house in Winnipeg. They still spend a few months in Canada each year.

Both are very involved in the local, "Lakeside Little Theatre". Terry is involved in wardrobe and helping in the box office and bar ticket booth. Pat is currently treasurer, bar manager and is nominated for President for their annual meeting to be held on March 24th. Pat has been president before.

"Lakeside Little Theatre" puts on 7 productions a year, one being a musical. They have a quaint little theatre which is quiet successful both artistically and financially. There are approximately 10,000 English speaking people in the area many of whom support "LLT". In fact they are doing "My Fair Lady" at present and we were able to attend the special performance on Sunday, February 29th.

The cast tended to have many years experience in the entertainment field including stage, TV and films. George Lugg, cast as Colonel Pickering, is a current member of the Screen Actors' Guild and the American Foundation of Television and Radio Artists. Terry was busy in the box office, while Pat appeared in the cast as Alfred P. Doolittle. Pat was terrific. His interpretation of the character, as well as his dancing and singing, was most enjoyable.

~ Joan and Earl McLaughlin

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him, his mother and four maiden aunts. The sisters acquire their first radio, whose music transforms them from correct Catholic women to shrieking, stomping banshees. And he meets his father for the first time, a charming Welsh drifter who sweeps his mother away in an elegant dance across the fields.

5. **Caught in the Net** by Ray Cooney, directed by Rosemary Keneford.
March 29 to April 9

This hilarious farce, the sequel to **Run for Your Wife**, finds our bigamist taxi driver, John Smith, still keeping both his families (one in Wimbledon and one in Streatham) happy and blissfully unaware of each other. But his teenage children - a girl by one wife and a boy by the other - have met on the Internet and are determined to meet in person, since they appear to have much in common. John lunges into a hell-hole of his own making in order to keep them apart.

6. **You'll Get Used to It -The War Show**, by Peter Colley, directed by Jim Holmes, music direction by Lorraine Gorman.
May 24 to June 4.

We mark the 60th Anniversary of VE Day and the opening of the National War Museum with this look at Canada at war as experienced by six soldiers and the women in their lives. Comedy, drama and song create the distilled memory of an era when life was made more precious by the realization that it could end at any moment.

Kanata Theatre Hosts EODL 2004 April 14 - 18, 2004

Highlights

- Performances each night of Festival entries, including KT's own production of **"Over the River and Through the Woods"**.
- Plays adjudicated by Allan Stratton
- Director's workshop with Allan Stratton April 16
- Guided tour of NAC led by Barry Caiger April 15
- Awards Brunch Sunday, April 18 at Holiday Inn Select

Volunteer

- Front of House – contact Jim Ritchie at 592-5775.
- Refreshments – contact Jane Maslin at 592-1045.
- Backstage Work Crews – contact Paul Gardner at 592-0314 or Karl Wagner at 599-4476.
- Hospitality Crew (day and evening spots need to be filled) – contact Joan Ritchie at 592-5775.
- Miscellaneous "go-fers" – contact Wendy Wagner at 599-4476.

Tickets

Get your \$50 **Series Pass** today! Single ticket price per play \$15.
Ticket/Event Order Forms available in the RMP lobby or from Dorothy Beak (592-5787).