



GREASEPAINT

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

President's Message

Hello everyone, and Happy New Year! I hope you have all recovered from the festivities and are eagerly looking forward to the second half of our season.

Before I comment on recent and forthcoming activities, I have a "*Mea Culpa*" to confess. In last month's Greasepaint, I inadvertently left out congratulations to one of the most important members of the cast of Ethan Claymore. **Anne-Marie Frigon**, the love-interest and only female member of the cast, was not mentioned in my comments. As all of you who saw the play know, Anne-Marie played the role with verve and style and was not overshadowed by all those "hunks". Congratulations are well-deserved, even if they are belated.

Congratulations are also due again this year to the Weedens. This duo directed last year's "*Aladdin*" and this year's "*Through the Looking Glass*". Over 1800 young children and their parents were treated to Kanata Theatre's Christmas presentation for children. Our very sincere thanks go out to you, Helen and Martin, for your enthusiasm and hard work in direct-

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NEW SEASON ANNOUNCED

The Board has approved the 2005-2006 season. Here are the plays and their directors:

September 20 - October 1

Drinking Alone, by Norm Foster, directed by Gerry Thompson.

In desperation Joe hires Renee to pose as his fiancée to impress his tyrannical father who is paying a rare visit. Little does he know just how flaky Renee will turn out to be. A romantic comedy with an edge.

November 15 - 26

The Beauty Queen of Leenane, by Martin McDonagh, directed by Gwen Knight. The darkly comic tale of Maureen, a plain and lonely woman, and her manipulative aging mother, whose schem-

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Coming Events

Jan. 10 & 12: Auditions, *You'll Get Used to It - The War Show* - a play with songs by Peter Colley, directed by Jim Holmes, musical direction by Lorraine Gorman. 7:30 p.m. @ RMP Rehearsal Hall. Callbacks Jan.17, 7:30 p.m. RMP Rehearsal Hall. Info: Jim Holmes, 592-1079; Lorraine Gorman 592-1582; Production managers Sheryl Bell 592-1239 and Michele Baddoo 271-7169.

Feb. 1-5 & 8-12: *Dancing at Lughnasa* by Brian Friel, directed by Tom Kobolak. 8 p.m. @ RMP. Volunteer for Front of House: Susan Monaghan, 271-1777 or monagsue@sympatico.ca

Friday, Feb. 4, 2005, 3 p.m.: Deadline for submissions to the February issue of *Greasepaint* - Email to Amy Adams, editor, at dc.adams@sympatico.ca

March or April, 2005 (TBA): Workshop with Theresa Sears & David Switzer

A weekend workshop for actors moving beyond beginner level, that will build on basic/intermediate skills. Scene study/interpretation & auditioning are topics in this high-intensity class designed to help committed actors stay sharp. For information contact Gerry Thompson, 599 8638 or GreasePaint@rogers.com

Announcements & Thank-Yous

My sincerest thanks to everyone who participated in ETHAN CLAYMORE. The audience loved the show and it was all due to the fact that they were able to see the love that you all put into the show. I am very proud to have directed a wonderful group of actors and to work with such a talented crew. Dreams do come true!

~ Brett Kelly, Director, "*Ethan Claymore*"

Martin and Helen would like to thank everyone who helped in the production of "*Through the Looking Glass*". We were very happy and proud of the show. From what we gather, the audiences really enjoyed the shows and that's what it's all about, isn't it? We'd also like to thank the play selection committee for trusting us with directing the children's play again, and we hope one day to get the opportunity to do a "straight" play - you know, no singing or dancing, and perhaps a smaller cast of older people!!

Thank you all so much, Helen and Martin Weeden.

We would like to write a few lines to thank all involved in the "*Looking Glass*" production for their utterly willing and cheery commitment throughout. It shows real grit to work on a production throughout the Christmas period when the whole world is so caught up with family gatherings and the ongoing festivities. Even Box Office opened an extra night to meet the demands of the masses! The cast and crew had the best of times, and the RMP was left spotless when all was said and done. It is truly inspiring to work with such a bunch and all we can say is THANK YOU again, Happy New Year and God Bless you, every one.

~ Jenny & Martin Haynes, Producers, "*Looking Glass*"

Thank you to the many people who helped at front of house during "*Through the Looking Glass*". I couldn't have done it without you!

~ Wendy Wagner

The Hawaiian shirts that members loaned for "*Looking Glass*" should be picked up from the theatre very soon. they will be stored in the small room at the back of the rehearsal hall for a little while only. If you want it back please claim soon. Helen Weeden 832 3787

Brett Kelly's film "THE FERAL MAN" is being released across North America from US company Tempe Video. The movie costars Eric Schmidt, Corey Stevenson, Rob Fairbairn and more KT folks. Its available from www.tempevideo.com

Tribute: Laurence Thornton

by Jim Holmes

Laurence Thornton, one of Kanata Theatre's earliest and most active members died Friday, December 3, at the age of 85. It would be hard to overestimate the importance to Kanata Theatre of Laurence Thornton.

When the group was founded in 1968, Laurence was the only member who had ever directed a play. In the next 20 years he directed 15 plays for Kanata Theatre beginning

with "*The Lady Killers*", one of two one-act plays forming part of the first production, and ending with "*Lunch Hour*" in 1988. His interests as a director ranged from dark classics like "*Hedda Gabler*" to broad comedy like "*Arsenic and Old Lace*".



(A) Mr. Laurence Thornton in the role of Rev. Augustine Jedd in "*Dandy Dick*" by Arthur Wing Pinero, performed by Kanata Theatre in January 1980, directed by Brooke and Rosie Keneford.

He was happiest on the stage. In 25 productions he enjoyed playing characters who shared his zeal for life and his bouncy energy. Although he was not physically tall, generations of Kanata Theatre audiences will remember his portrayals of expansive, larger than life roles such as General Fitzbutter in "*Halfway Up the Tree*", General St Pe in "*Waltz of the Toreadors*", Governor Dansforth

in "*The Crucible*", the Russian ballet teacher Mr. Kolenkov in "*You Can't Take It With You*", Sir Percy Shorter in Alan Bennett's "*Habeas Corpus*", and the swashbuckling hard drinking Sir Toby Belch in "*Twelfth Night*".

He held many offices on the executive of Kanata Theatre, including that of president, but he will be remembered especially for his long service as treasurer. He held this office at a time when the company was building up the reserve fund that made possible the construction of the Ron Maslin Playhouse. Kanata Theatre members of a certain age will remember Laurence in the Beaverbrook Community Centre where, in pre-computer days, he would cover the walls with huge carefully lettered spreadsheets, balance sheets and cash flow statements. Then, brandishing his telescoping pointer like an epee, he would march us through these precious statements with the enthusiasm he brought to all tasks.

Laurence Thornton initiated the longstanding Kanata Theatre tradition of training. In the early 1970's he ar-

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AUDITIONS

"You'll Get Used To It - The War Show" - a play with songs, by Peter Colley.

Our production of this play will mark the 60th anniversary of VE Day and the opening of the new National War Museum. The play uses a lot of song and music to help capture the mood of the time, but it is not in the ordinary sense a "musical". No one should be discouraged from auditioning because they feel that they are not a polished singer. The ability to carry a tune is a definite advantage, but none of the songs is an "art song" and vocal training or experience is not essential. Many of the songs will be sung in chorus.

Runs: May 24 to June 4, 2005

Auditions: Monday, January 10

Wednesday, January 12, at 7.30 pm

Callbacks: Monday, January 17 at 7.30 pm

Location: Rehearsal Hall, Ron Maslin Playhouse

Information: Jim Holmes, Director 592 1079

Lorraine Gorman, Music Director 592 1582

Sheryl Bell, Production Manager 592 1239

Michele Badoo, Production Mgr. 271 7169

Requirements: . Up to eight men and six women, various ages, of whom four of each sex should realistically be able to play characters in their twenties or thirties.

One of the cast members will have to play simple melodies on the harmonica.

Rehearsals: Choral rehearsals will begin soon after casting. Please call Jim or Lorraine for information about the material that will be used for the audition.

If you are interested in assisting with the production please call Sheryl or Michele or Stage Manager, Anne-Marie Davies 253 2500.

Cast Caught!

As producer for "CAUGHT IN THE NET" I would like to announce the cast and thank all who turned up for the auditions. The play runs from March 29th to April 9th 2005.

Gavin Smith Jon Matthews
 Vicki Smith Natasha Bourk-Wilson
 Barbarara Smith Susan Monaghan
 Mary Smith Jenefer Haynes
 John Smith Brooke Keneford
 Stanley Gardner Barrie Caiger
 Dad Geoffrey Holland

To get involved in this production, and for more information, please contact Producer Joan Ritchie at 592-5775 or jcritchie@sympatico.ca.

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 Gerry Thompson at 599 8638 or at GreasePaint@rogers.com. Send cheques to 6 Leacock Drive, Kanata ON K2K 1R8; or drop it by the RMP, addressed "Attention: Membership and Training".

FOH: Dancing At Lughnasa

There are still many (too many) spots open to assist with Front of House during "Dancing at Lughnasa".

(For you newbies it's an easy 'gig' and a good way to give something back for the help and support you have received during the first two Season shows, or during 'Alice'.)

If you have a couple of nights to spare during the February run please call or e-mail Susan Monaghan at: 271-1777 or monagsue@sympatico.ca

Looking forward to hearing from you, and Happy New Year All!

Wardrobe Notes

As a newcomer to the Kanata Theatre group, I have been constantly amazed and impressed by the enthusiasm and professionalism of the many volunteers who give so much of their time, talent and input to make this an important venue for theatre lovers. Most of all I have been impressed by the assistance and friendship demonstrated among members, and toward me.

As your new Wardrobe Mistress, new to the world of theatre, I am anxious to learn how it has functioned in the past and how I might assist you in the future. It's been

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President's Message, continued from page 1

ing this excellent and successful production. Kudos are also due to Jenny and her production personnel for the tremendous support needed to make this a "team" effort. It certainly paid off!

Now it's on to "*Dancing At Lughnasa*" with Tom and his cast and crew, and to Rosie and "*Caught in the Net*". Both plays are now in rehearsal and Jim will be auditioning next week for the final play of the season. Next year's season has been chosen and the Playhouse is humming with activity. Come out and get involved!

~ Gwen

New Season, continued from page 1

ing sets in motion a train of events that leads to tragedy. Funny, profane, and often violent, but unfailingly fascinating.

January 31 - February 11

Noises Off, by Michael Frayn, directed by Brooke Keneford. Everything goes wrong when a mostly incompetent traveling theatre company cursed by internal dissension and romantic intrigue tries to stage *Nothing On*, a conventional farce. One of the funniest plays of our time and a real physical tour de force.

March 28 to April 8

Enchanted April, by Matthew Barber, directed by Beverley Brooks. Among the wisteria blossoms and sunshine of Tuscany two frustrated London housewives and two unlikely female companions recruited to help with expenses rediscover themselves in ways they could never have expected. A play where every single element falls perfectly into place.

May 23 to June 3

Staff Room, by Joan Burrows, directed by Jim Holmes. Have you ever wondered what goes on behind the closed doors of the high school staff room? Comedy and truth come together in this play about teachers, students, and just about everyone found within school walls. Full of comic insight that could only come from an experienced teacher. Best Production in the 2004 Theatre Ontario Festival.

The Christmas show will be announced later.

~ Jim Holmes, Director of Plays

Wardrobe, continued from page 3

suggested that I share past guidelines that have kept this area of the theatre running smoothly. If I've missed any points or you wish to make further suggestions, please make them known to me.

Costumes and accessories are here primarily for productions in our theatre. But KT has always welcomed community groups in the past and will in the future, for we are an interdependent part of our community and the theatre community as a whole. Recently the St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival was loaned approximately 30 articles and we had a busy loan-out time in November and December, with All Saints High School and Theatre Night in Merrickville each borrowing approximately 25 items.

One of the many jobs of a Wardrobe Mistress is to provide some basis of accounting for our costume inventory: the flow of loans, and each item's whereabouts. To this end, we have tried using a "Sign-Out Book". This however does not address the needs of our own theatre, as certain garments might well be needed for scheduled KT productions, unbeknownst to borrowers.

It's crucial that borrowers clear the dates when items will be out of the Wardrobe Room with the Wardrobe Mistress, so contact can be made with producers of plays running at those times. It makes common sense, I believe, that the needs of our theatre be considered first. Once clearance has been given, it's necessary for the borrower to provide all information requested in the "Sign-Out Book". This book is located in the Wardrobe Room.

A major concern for me, however, is the condition in which garments are returned to KT. Naturally it's expected that they will be returned clean and in good repair, as they have been in the past.

However, our collection of period costumes, military uniforms and clothing made from expensive fabrics is invaluable. These must be protected from any alteration made by borrowers, as we might never have the opportunity to replace them. Therefore, I make a strong point with this issue and ask that it be acknowledged as long as I am responsible for the Wardrobe Room.

If there are areas overlooked in this guideline, kindly make your suggestion known to me. Hopefully the requests made here will facilitate all who look forward to "dress-up" and the fun that comes from being part of this wonderful theatre group. Thanks to all who have given me such support.

~ Jeri van Leeuwen, phone 832-5555, fax 832-0803, email: gvlb@travel-net.com

ranged for his sister Madeline Sherwood to conduct two back to back acting workshops in which most members of the group participated. Madeline is a distinguished actor and member of the Actors' Studio. She created the role of Abigail in the original production of "*The Crucible*", appeared in important roles in both the stage and film versions of Tennessee Williams' "*Sweet Bird of Youth*" and "*Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*", and played the Mother Superior in the long-running television show "*The Flying Nun*". The success of Madeline's first workshops led to Kanata Theatre's unbroken tradition of training in all aspects of the theatre.

For years Laurence worked tirelessly with Ron and Jane Maslin on the Kanata Theatre Clown Face Project that produced, one face at a time, at \$2.50 a face, much of the funding for the Ron Maslin Playhouse.

Although in his later years Alzheimer's disease kept him from entering more fully into the life of the Playhouse he was able to perform one of his famous "Albert" monologues on its stage at the opening gala. When he became less active with Kanata Theatre he devoted hours to reading aloud to the blind the Kanata Courier-Standard.

He leaves his wife Heather whom he met in England while he was on active duty during World War II, his sister Madeline, four children, Sandra, Kim, Jennifer, and Neil, as well as grandchildren and great grandchildren. A memorial service was held in the lobby of the Ron Maslin Playhouse Sunday, December 5.

The members of Kanata Theatre owe a debt to Laurence Thornton that can best be repaid by continuing with joy the art he loved so well.

Ode to the cast and crew of "Looking Glass"

Martin: T'was early in the autumn days,
We first gathered for fun in this hall,

Helen: All shy-mid were the actors,
Who joined the beckon
call,

Both: Jabberwocky, Talky, Talky,
You obviously heard what
we had to say

Martin: There's lots of work, my
son,
Do directors *really* have
jaws that bite and claws
that catch?



Helen: Beware the germ, germ bug and shun the
frumious flu attack!

Martin: Flu attack!

Helen: Flu attack!

Both: Jabberwocky, Talky, Talky
You obviously heard what we had to say.

Martin: Mary trained the fabulent voices as planned

Helen: Long time Melissa rehearsed the dance

Martin: So we could stand awhile in thought

Helen: We thank them both, now we have this chance

Both: Jabberwocky, Talky, Talky
You obviously heard what we had to say.

Martin: And, after the Christmas rush,
The audience, wired on candy cane

Helen: Came shuffling through the darkened aisles
And, burbled as they came.

Martin: Burbled!

Helen: Burbled!

Both: Jabberwocky, Talky, Talky
You obviously heard what we had to say.

Martin: One, Two,
Three, Four

Helen: Five and Six!

Martin: The show's lights and sounds went snicker-snack

Helen: You left them spellbound,
And they all went galumphing back

Both: Jabberwocky, Talky, Talky
You obviously heard what we had to say.

Martin: You have conquered the "looking glass"

Helen: You've done so well, you beamish *crew* and *cast*,

Martin: Oh frabjous day,

Both: Callooh! Callay!
We're chortling in our joy!

Martin: T'was early in the autumn days,
We first gathered for fun in this hall,

Helen: All shy-mid were the actors,
Who joined the beckon call,

Both: Jabberwocky, Talky, Talky,
You obviously heard what we had to say.