



GREASEPAINT

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

President's Message

"Another month has ended and once again it is Newsletter time. While some people are basking in southern climes, most members of Kanata Theatre continue to brave this latter-day ice age known as "Winter in Canada". For the majority of our members, those of you who actually decided to come to Canada, my admiration knows no bounds. So much for a "native's" look at the land of her forbears!"

I wrote the above in the winter of 1979. Last month, I thought Spring was in the air. Was I fooled! I have now resigned as a weather forecaster and I promise to stick to subjects theatrical.

You may be surprised to know that in the early days of Kanata Theatre most of our members came from "across the pond" and we were fortunate that many of them had theatrical experience in some form or other. We numbered 10 in the beginning but by 1972 we had sufficient numbers to consider publishing a Newsletter to inform members of the group's activities. At the June, 1972 Executive Meeting "there was a discussion on the feasibility of circulating a newsletter to members to inform them of upcoming activities and/or important events. The general opinion was that this was better done by telephone since it was a more definite and personal contact."

The "Call Girls" took on the task of communicating with the membership but the newsletter followed soon after. Marg Allen and I were co-editors and wrote most of the copy. We soon had to charge a \$2 membership fee (\$1 for students) to defray the mailing costs. To put that into perspective, our ticket prices were \$1.50 for adults and \$1.00 for students. A season subscription for four plays cost \$5 (\$3 for students). How times have changed!

Finally, here is one other quote I would like to share with you from the February 1979 edition: "Beth McMaster, editor of the E.O.D.L. newsletter, opens the most recent issue by commenting on the variety of excuses I make for tardiness. She comments

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Coming Events

Mar. 29 - Apr. 9: *Caught in the Net*, a farce by Ray Cooney, directed by Rosemary Keneford. 8 p.m. @ RMP. Members' preview Mar. 28. Information: Rosie Keneford 592-3453, Joan Ritchie 592-5775. **Volunteer for Front of House:** Jim Ritchie, 592-5775, jcritchie@sympatico.ca.

Continuing, Mar. 10 - Apr. 3: EODL 2005. Awards Brunch Apr. 3, National Press Club, Ottawa. See <http://members.aol.com/yodler1/> and p. 4 for details.

April 7: *Let's Pier Into the Past*, a musical co-written by Joy Forbes and Helen Weeden. 1 p.m. & 7 p.m., St. Paul High School on Draper Ave. Performed by students of St. Elizabeth Anne Seton School. Tickets at \$6.00 each can be purchased by calling Joy Forbes at 592-6099 or St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School at 825-3596. See p. 4.

Friday, Apr. 8, 3:00 p.m.: Deadline for submissions to the April issue of Greasepaint - Email to Amy Adams, editor, at dc.adams@sympatico.ca

April 23 & 24: Workshop with Theresa Sears & David Switzer. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day, cost \$55. A not-to-be-missed opportunity to learn from these well-respected theatre instructors. For information contact Gerry Thompson, 599 8638 or GreasePaint@rogers.com. See p. 2

Get Caught Helping at Front of House!

Jim Ritchie will be managing Front of House for the run of "Caught in the Net" March 29-April 9. If you are available to help with FOH during that time, please give Jim a call at 592-5775 or email jcritchie@sympatico.ca

Announcements & Thank-Yous

Brett Kelly's new movie, SPACEMEN, GO-GO GIRLS AND THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS, will be screening March 12th at the University of Ottawa's Alumni Auditorium as part of the OTTAWA STUDENT AND INDEPENDENT FILM FESTIVAL showtime is 7pm and admission is a donation. go to <http://osiff.spiderisland.net> for more info.

To the Production Company of *Dancing at Lughnasa*: I just wanted to take a moment to thank, acknowledge and applaud all the people who gathered together over this long winter to do *Dancing at Lughnasa*.

Community theatre productions, in part at the very least, are meant to showcase the creativity, talents and hard work of everyone involved and that is what pleases me the most. Our audiences saw the contributions of many individuals all dedicated to portraying one piece of Donegal countryside, one cottage, one family, but many, many interwoven stories.

We shall all have to do this again soon. Until then, have a sip of wine, and keep dancing...

~ Affectionately, Tom

Green Room Thanks: *(Editor's note: this message from Helen Weeden arrived in my inbox this week - I think all members would heartily agree, so...)*

"Not sure if anyone else has passed the word on about how wonderful the Green Room looks these days. Julie Clayton, Jim and Mary Homes (and I'm not sure of who else) have done a superb job of redecorating the green room. Fresh paint with washed and waxed floors, the whole bit! I feel they should receive a collective "thank you" from all the members., who I hope will continue to keep it as neat and tidy as it is at present."

Well said, Helen, and thank you to Julie, Jim, Mary and all who participated.

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".

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"the originality of her excuses is really impressive". After such an accolade for ingenuity, I spent days trying to think up an impressive excuse for this month with the result that I nearly missed the deadline altogether. On the other hand, nothing changes!

I've spent so much time looking back over material from the "old" days, that I may have neglected what's happening today. As most of you are aware, my mind's been elsewhere this past month. However, I do know that our next play, *Caught in the Net* is coming along beautifully and I look forward to seeing many of you at the March 28 preview. All the best to Rosie and her cast and crew.

Jim, Lorraine and company are also well into rehearsal for the final play of our 36th season. Sandra and her cohorts have the subscription renewals ready to go and Jenny and her "Pub Team" are making exciting plans to promote the 2005-06 Season. Kanata Theatre has not changed!

~Gwen

Sears & Switzer at KT!

On **April 23 & 24** weekend, KT is pleased to offer an acting workshop with **Theresa Sears & David Switzer**. This high-intensity workshop is for actors moving beyond beginner level and will build on basic/intermediate skills. Actors will work on sections of a variety of scenes by the world's most challenging contemporary playwrights. Participants can expect to learn:

- Improving scene interpretation skills
- Making choices to move up the "experience" ladder
- Skills for successful auditions, including cold reading
- Extensive feedback to explore strengths and weaknesses in the art of the audition

For more information on Theresa Sears & David Switzer see <http://www.searsandswitzer.com/>

This is a workshop not to be missed! Theresa Sears & David Switzer are well known and respected in theatre circles and their workshops are always in high demand.

The cost of the course is \$55. Snacks and coffee will be available but participants will need to provide their own lunch (there are also several restaurants close by). The course will be held at Ron Maslin Play house and will run from 9am to 5pm each day.

The workshop is intended for Kanata Theatre members, but if we do not fill the course by the end of March the workshop will be opened to other theatre groups in the city. Enrolment is limited and participants will be selected on a first-come, first-serve basis.

For information contact Gerry Thompson, 599-8638 or GreasePaint@rogers.com

Notes from the Pub (Team!)

The KT Pub Team spent a very productive two hours on a recent Saturday talking-up various ideas on how to boost our ticket sales.

One of many great thoughts that sprung from the creative minds present was to distribute “virtual flyers” to the members of KT who use email, prior to each production. This way, each KT member will then have a short press release they can “virtually” email their arts-oriented friends and family to encourage them to come on down and experience the joy of live theatre at the RMP.

So, watch out for the upcoming *Caught in the Net* virtual flyer arriving (via GreasePaint@rogers) directly to your “Inbox” soon! When you receive it, please send it without delay to at least 10 people in your address book who you think might like to come.

Encourage them to buy tickets for Opening Night and enjoy a glass of bubbly on us. There are also plenty of great seats available on the 2nd Tuesday. How about gathering a bunch of friends and family together, and having supper before the show? It will make a great night out for all, and new patrons will be pleasantly surprised at the inexpensive, memorable and wonderful night out they enjoyed at Kanata Theatre.

Publicity photos will be posted on the website and Box Office will take reservations on the phone. If each member of Kanata Theatre encourages at least 4 (or more!) new people to attend, we shall hit the jackpot in no time.

Watch this space for updates and, on behalf of my great Pub Team, “Bottoms Up and Cheers” to you all!



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“Let’s Pier into the Past”

April 7, 2005 at 1pm & 7pm
St. Paul’s High School Auditorium
Draper Ave. (Greenbank & Baseline)

In the summer of 2003, I had the opportunity to meet Dr. Ruth Goldbloom, the woman who was instrumental in raising nine million dollars to set up a museum at Pier 21 in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Her stories about the people who passed through Pier 21 moved me. Since one in five Canadians has some connection to Pier 21, I felt I should teach my students about this part of Canadian history.

In 2004, Helen Weeden and I co-wrote this musical about Pier 21. According to Dr. Goldbloom, we are the first people to do so. *Let’s Pier into the Past* is about a group of students who visit the museum to learn more about their past. Various groups of people – Immigrants, Refugees, Home Boys, War Brides, Soldiers, Volunteers and Staff of Pier 21 are portrayed throughout the play.

Pier 21 is the last existing immigration shed in Canada. Between 1928 and 1971, it witnessed the arrival of one million immigrants, wartime evacuees, refugees, returning troops, war brides and their children. In 1998, it was declared a National Historic Site. It has now been transformed into a testament to Canada’s profoundly emotional immigration experience.

One hundred and twenty-seven students, parents and grandparents from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School in Ottawa are performing *Let’s Pier into the Past* and fifty-five others are helping or have helped behind the scenes.

Tickets at \$6.00 each can be purchased by calling Joy Forbes at 592-6099 or St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School at 825-3596.

Helen and I would also like to thank Kanata Theatre for the loan of several costumes and props.

-Joy Forbes

SURF to Pier 21!

Pier 21 has a terrific website at
<http://www.pier21.ca/?home>

You’ll find:

- A Story Collection you can browse online
- Interactive features like the Resource Centre’s question form, for submitting questions about Pier 21
- Share Your Story - you can submit your own Pier 21 story, to add to the online archive.
- Check out pictures and event information also - this is really something to see when you visit Halifax!

From the Wardrobe Mistress

Our wonderful collection of costumes, built-up over the years, has expanded to the point where we are bursting at the seams in the Wardrobe Room. As a result we have a problem accepting some very generous and useful offerings.

Our days have been spent carefully culling the inventory and dreaming of ways for better storage methods. An idea to use the little room off the Rehearsal Hall to store the textiles and notions was warmly received, but the hauling of these hundreds of fabrics, draperies, curtains and tablecloths was beyond our small group of volunteers, who viewed the stairs and the weight of these articles as daunting.

Well, our dream came true when the cast and crew of *Dancing at Lughnasa* came to the rescue. Everything was removed from the shelves upstairs and lugged downstairs into our new Fabric Storage Room. We owe this group a great round of applause, not only for the excellence of their production, but for their readiness to participate as cargo carriers. Many thanks from those of us working in the Wardrobe Room but also from those participating in the making of costumes and set designs. It is so much easier now to locate what we need at a moments glance.

While we have only done a preliminary sorting and folding of these fabrics, you are invited to use them immediately from this room. We will point out however that the very nature of these slippery and sometimes cumbersome lots, makes them difficult to reshelve. So please, take an extra minute when going through them, to replace them refolded and returned to their current pile.

In the latter part of March, the Merrickville Theatre Group is producing *Moon Over Buffalo*. Knowing that we produced this play some time ago, they have asked to

borrow costumes. As yet, their numbers have not been determined. You might want to keep their production in mind should you want some extra theatre entertainment!

~ Jeri Van Leeuwen, KT
Wardrobe Mistress



EODL Festival 2005

Detailed information about EODL 2005 can be found on the Web at <http://members.aol.com/yodler1/>

Following is the schedule of remaining adjudications, and the date of the Awards Brunch:

Adjudication Schedule

Thursday, March 10: Domino Theatre, Inc.

Squabbles, by Marshall Karp

Domino Theatre, Kingston

370 King Street West

Friday, March 11: Outside the Box Theatre

Dancock's Dance, by Guy Vanderhaeghe

Baby Grand Theatre, Kingston

216 Princess Street

Saturday, March 12: Tara Players Theatre of Ottawa

Red Roses and Petrol, by Joseph O'Connor

Bronson Centre Theatre, Ottawa

211 Bronson Avenue

Saturday, April 2: Theatre Night in Merrickville

Moon Over Buffalo, by Ken Ludwig

Merrickville Community Centre, Merrickville

Sunday, April 3: Awards Brunch

See EODL site for details

National Press Club, Ottawa

Note: Ticket information available from individual theatre groups.

